

Africa Improved Foods: Producing fortified foods to tackle malnutrition for over 1.5 million children and young women



The global burden of malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition (wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiencies) and over-nutrition (overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases) – affects over two billion people², with specifically 800 million people going to bed hungry³. DSM commits to help filling the micronutrient gap of 800 million people to be closed by 2030; and supporting the livelihoods of 500,000 smallholder farmers across value chains together with our partners by 2030.

Why Africa Improved Foods?

DSM supports farmers' livelihoods through Africa Improved Foods (AIF), a social enterprise building resilient food systems by sourcing locally, manufacturing and selling nutritious, affordable, and accessible foods. In 2016, DSM together with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, CDC Group (UK's development finance institution) and FMO (Dutch development bank) set up AIF, as a Public Private Partnership with the Government of Rwanda. The first factory in Kigali, Rwanda produces fortified porridges supplemented with vitamins and minerals. Its target market for their highly nutritious foods is pregnant and lactating women and children in their first 1,000 days of life, when critical nutrients are essential to avoid malnutrition and stunting, an impairment that affects around 25% of children in Africa under five. Today, AIF reaches over 1.5 million children and young women every day – a number expected to reach 2 million soon.

AIF is a scalable and sustainable solution to tackle malnutrition via local production of highly nutritious foods.

A comprehensive strategy is embedded in the business model to reduce poverty, create jobs, and address stunting and malnutrition. This is done through partnerships such as with the UN World Food Programme and governments, while making affordable commercial products for the consumer market. DSM advocated for multiplying the unique business model across the African continent, as AIF is proven to be an engine of growth and catalyzer of transformation along the food value chain in Africa. Since 2016, AIF has:

- reached 1.6 million consumers,
- contributed to over \$1Billion discounted net incremental benefits to the African economy
- created over 300 direct jobs,
- now sources from over 130,000 smallholder farmers (number increasing year on year) providing a steady and more secure income, as well as training to improve yields and climate-resilient farming

By expanding the program to additional locations in Sub-Saharan Africa, DSM and partners want to quadruple the number of farmers reached and thus contribute to equality, local economic development, and job creation.

For greater impact, we need awareness and acceptance of solutions by governments and consumers, including behavioral changes to create demand. Also, we need acceleration through complementary partnerships, private and governmental investors, and value chain collaborations. Through the AIF partnership we contribute to tackling this global challenge together and support this social enterprise to become *the* healthy foods company on the African continent. Want to know more? visit <https://africaimprovedfoods.com/> and check out this [video](#).

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¹ UNICEF, (April 2021), <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

² <https://www.gainhealth.org/about/malnutrition#1>

³ Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>