

# The Power of Nutrition and The World Bank: Our transformative partnership

## Benefits of a joint approach

### Delivering high-quality nutrition impact at scale

From FCDO Project Completion Report 2023:

*“The Power of Nutrition has an excellent track record of partnership with the World Bank that is unique in the sector and continues to offer an impactful route to programmes at scale”*

From FCDO Annual Review 2021:

*“The Power of Nutrition has established itself as a key player in the global nutrition landscape and...significantly exceeded expectations in terms of the number of women and children reached with key nutrition services”*

From Mathematica and Avenir Health, Evaluation of The Power of Nutrition Compendium, May 2023:

*“The Power of Nutrition’s investments with the World Bank have ... brought together donors and partners— particularly from the private sector—and pooled their funds, which might otherwise have been invested in smaller individual programs, to support government implementation of nutrition services at scale.”*

*“The Power of Nutrition has been a useful vehicle for some traditional donors such as bilaterals to allocate funds to nutrition-specific interventions within World Bank programmes and increase the value of their investment through additional matched IDA funds”*

*"The Power of Nutrition has built a strong relationship and model for working with the World Bank and contributed to the increased prioritisation of nutrition within the Bank...The Power of Nutrition's partnership with the World Bank brought new money and visibility for nutrition at a time when there wasn't enough attention to nutrition inside the Bank...Since then, because of the partnership with The Power of Nutrition, as well as other factors, including the focus on a human capital approach at the Bank, nutrition has become a higher priority."*

### **Pooling resources and leveraging greater financing for nutrition through an innovative match model**

From Mathematica and Avenir Health, Evaluation of The Power of Nutrition Compendium:

*"The ability to aggregate funds by leveraging the match offered by The Power of Nutrition and to potentially influence government programmes and policies through World Bank investments is attractive..."*

From FCDO Project Completion Report 2023:

*"The provision of grant financing through The Power of Nutrition that is matched by IDA financing (i.e. concessional loans) effectively dilutes the repayment terms for borrower governments and thus makes use of the IDA loan more attractive."*

*"Eight of The Power of Nutrition's 22 programmes are partnerships with the World Bank (\$423m portfolio), channelling grant financing to large-scale international development assistance (IDA) nutrition programmes. These programmes represent genuine government commitment to and prioritisation of nutrition, as there are multiple competing priorities for scarce IDA funding. The Power of Nutrition has strategically used its grant financing to incentivise the allocation of this IDA funding to nutrition; and funding from FCDO has been instrumental for this."*

## **Influencing World Bank and national government prioritisation of, and investment in, nutrition**

From FCDO Project Completion Report 2023:

*“The programme in Côte d’Ivoire leverages rigorous World Bank procurement and recruitment processes and builds on local partnerships and expertise to ensure low-cost but high quality and high relevance actors are leading the interventions. Ongoing monitoring of the programme (through existing government structures/systems, new project-specific structures/M&E systems, and one-off studies) ensures the programme is delivering efficiently and effectively. In terms of equity, the programme focuses on outcomes for the most vulnerable populations, with specific focus on outcomes for women and children.”*

From Mathematica and Avenir Health, Evaluation of The Power of Nutrition Compendium, May 2023:

*“In some investment countries, The Power of Nutrition's investments have catalysed dialogue and commitment to nutrition... In Ethiopia, its investment brought nutrition into the discussions between the government and the World Bank during negotiations around a larger World Bank PforR programme focused on strengthening health systems (which did not include payments linked to achieving nutrition outcomes). By offering grant funding of \$20 million, the investment led to IDA loan allocations of \$20 million to nutrition. Further, by linking the disbursement of \$35 million of the \$40 million to meeting targets for nutrition outcomes, the investment has led to greater prioritisation of nutrition by the MoH and budget allocations for nutrition within the MoH budget.”*

From Mathematica midline (citation):

*“The World Bank and country stakeholders uniformly highlighted that in the absence of The Power of Nutrition's funding, there would not have been a nutrition component in the programme. Moreover, The Power of Nutrition's funding (along with similar funding from GFF) contributed to increasing the overall envelope for the programme and led to the allocation of additional IDA funds, which might have otherwise gone to infrastructure projects, towards a health and nutrition programme.”*

From FCDO Project Completion Report 2023:

*“The Government of Burkina Faso developed a \$110m budget for improving health and nutrition, GFF and The Power of Nutrition raised \$30m in grant funding that enabled to GoBF to take a lower IDA loan of \$80m, complemented with \$30m of grant funding. Whilst this made the IDA loan more favourable for the Government, the grant funding terms ensured that \$30m was to be earmarked for nutrition.”*

*"In Rwanda The Power of Nutrition's initial co-investment in social protection with The World Bank has resulted in extension of the social protection programme and significant allocation of domestic resources in social protection, with the Government of Rwanda showing strong ongoing commitment to addressing undernutrition through multisectoral programming. Building on its initial investment in Phase One (2018-2022) of the World Bank and The Power of Nutrition funded programme, the Government has followed on this investment with an additional \$179million investment (\$170m IDA (\$100m for social protection), \$5m The Power of Nutrition, \$4m Early Learning Partnership Trust) in health and social protection for 2023-2025, including direct and indirect nutrition interventions. Importantly, with an expected funding requirement of \$400million to support delivery of social protection services for the period until 2025, the Government plans to gradually increase the use of domestic resources by providing at least 60% of the funding required for social protection."*

*"In Côte d'Ivoire, where there was already commitment from the government to invest in nutrition, additional funding from The Power of Nutrition allowed the government to increase the coverage of nutrition services to include additional regions. In Lesotho, \$5m of grant financing from The Power of Nutrition incentivised the Government to maintain a \$22m IDA allocation to nutrition, which may otherwise have been reallocated to COVID-19 response and resilience. In Burkina Faso \$10million from TPoN enabled an additional \$20m of IDA to be earmarked specifically for nutrition from the overall \$110m IDA loan."*

## **Learning from an innovative partnership**

From FCDO Project Completion Report 2023:

*"There are relative advantages and disadvantages to working with particular partners given their varying attributes and requirements. World Bank partnerships offer the greatest financial leverage but don't lend themselves to regular detailed progress and financial reporting and require that all funds are paid before the programme can start."*

*"Convening multiple donors and implementing partners in pooled funding arrangements brings benefits in terms of efficiency and effectiveness of programming, but can make the time from programme design to implementation lengthy."*