

EVALUATION OF THE POWER OF NUTRITION: COMPENDIUM

May 2023





Contents

1 Overview of evaluation

2 Key findings

- Fundraising efforts
- Investment portfolio
- Focus country deep dives
- Influence on nutrition landscape

3 Summary

Overview of evaluation

Background

This compendium provides a summary of the findings from the baseline, midline, and endline activities conducted as part of the evaluation of The Power of Nutrition.

- The Power of Nutrition (TPoN), launched in April 2015, is a partnership of investors and implementers committed to helping children grow to their full potential, ending the cycle of undernutrition, and enabling countries to build strong and prosperous communities. The Power of Nutrition seeks to do this by (1) raising new funds for nutrition, (2) stimulating donor investments through co-financing, (3) investing in ambitious programs that deliver results at scale, and (4) raising the prioritization of nutrition among key institutions and partner countries through commitment of domestic funds. It works toward these objectives by bringing together a network of donors interested in investing in nutrition policies and programs and by working closely with implementing partners who have deep expertise working with country governments.
- In November 2016, on behalf of The Power of Nutrition's board of trustees, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation commissioned Mathematica and its partner, Avenir Health, to conduct an external global evaluation of The Power of Nutrition.
 - In 2017, Mathematica conducted a baseline assessment of The Power of Nutrition to document its origin and early vision; the evolution of its model; early progress with regard to fundraising and investment goals; and early perceptions of its achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.
 - In 2020, Mathematica conducted a midline assessment to examine The Power of Nutrition's successes and challenges with its fundraising efforts and efforts to build a portfolio of investments, and stakeholders' perceptions about The Power of Nutrition's influence in the nutrition landscape. The midline included an early look at the progress of its first three investments (Tanzania, Liberia, and Ethiopia) in improving coverage of key nutrition interventions and beneficiary-level outcomes and raising the priority of nutrition.
 - In 2022-2023, Mathematica conducted post-investment deep dives in Ethiopia and Rwanda to assess progress made by these investments in improving for service delivery and beneficiary-level outcomes. Mathematica also conducted a web-survey to capture country-level stakeholders' perceptions about the nutrition landscape and The Power of Nutrition's role in the landscape. Finally, Mathematica used LiST modeling to estimate The Power of Nutrition's contribution to beneficiary-level outcomes through its investment in Madagascar.

Research Questions

Across the three rounds, the evaluation examined the following research questions:

To what extent has The Power of Nutrition been able to raise new funds and ensure co-financing of investments? How much new money did The Power of Nutrition mobilize, and from what sources? What are the characteristics of the new money? Has The Power of Nutrition's approach attracted new and nontraditional donors, particularly from the private sector? To what extent and how have different implementing partners met co-financing commitments? What constraints, if any, have implementing partners faced in using co-financing?

BASELINE
MIDLINE

To what extent has The Power of Nutrition been able to build a strong portfolio of investments? What are the characteristics of The Power of Nutrition's portfolio of investments? How has The Power of Nutrition's portfolio of investments evolved over time? Why?

BASELINE
MIDLINE

What are the achievements of The Power of Nutrition's early investments? What progress has been made in improving the coverage, uptake, and utilization of nutrition services and programs in the early investment countries? What are the likely program effects at the beneficiary level in early investment countries, in terms of deaths averted, cases of stunting prevented, and cases of maternal anemia averted?

MIDLINE
ENDLINE

To what extent has The Power of Nutrition elevated the priority of nutrition in key institutions and partner countries? Did The Power of Nutrition help key institutions, including the World Bank and UNICEF, realize and maximize strategic ambition in nutrition? How did this happen? Did The Power of Nutrition contribute to changing the priority of nutrition (for example, the policy environment or the allocation of resources) in the early investment countries? If so, how?

MIDLINE

Data Sources



Document Review

Background documents, fundraising & investment strategy documents, board papers, biannual reports, and country investment documents



Web Survey

Web survey of country-level stakeholders in TPoN investment countries to identify the interventions, donors, and priorities that shape the country's nutrition landscape; and describe stakeholders' knowledge and opinions of TPoN



Country-level Program & Secondary Data

Data reported by implementing partners from early investments in Ethiopia, Liberia, Tanzania, Madagascar and Rwanda; administrative data extracted from Health Monitoring Information Systems (HMIS) and data from national surveys such as DHS, MICS, and national nutrition surveys.



Key Stakeholder Interviews

Baseline: 35 interviews with early architects of TPoN, representatives from founding donors & new donors, implementing partners, and TPoN's executive & board members

Midline: 51 interviews in Q3 2019 with representatives from founding donors, new donors, potential donors who decided not to invest, implementing partners, country-level stakeholders, TPoN's executive & board members, and external stakeholders from the nutrition community

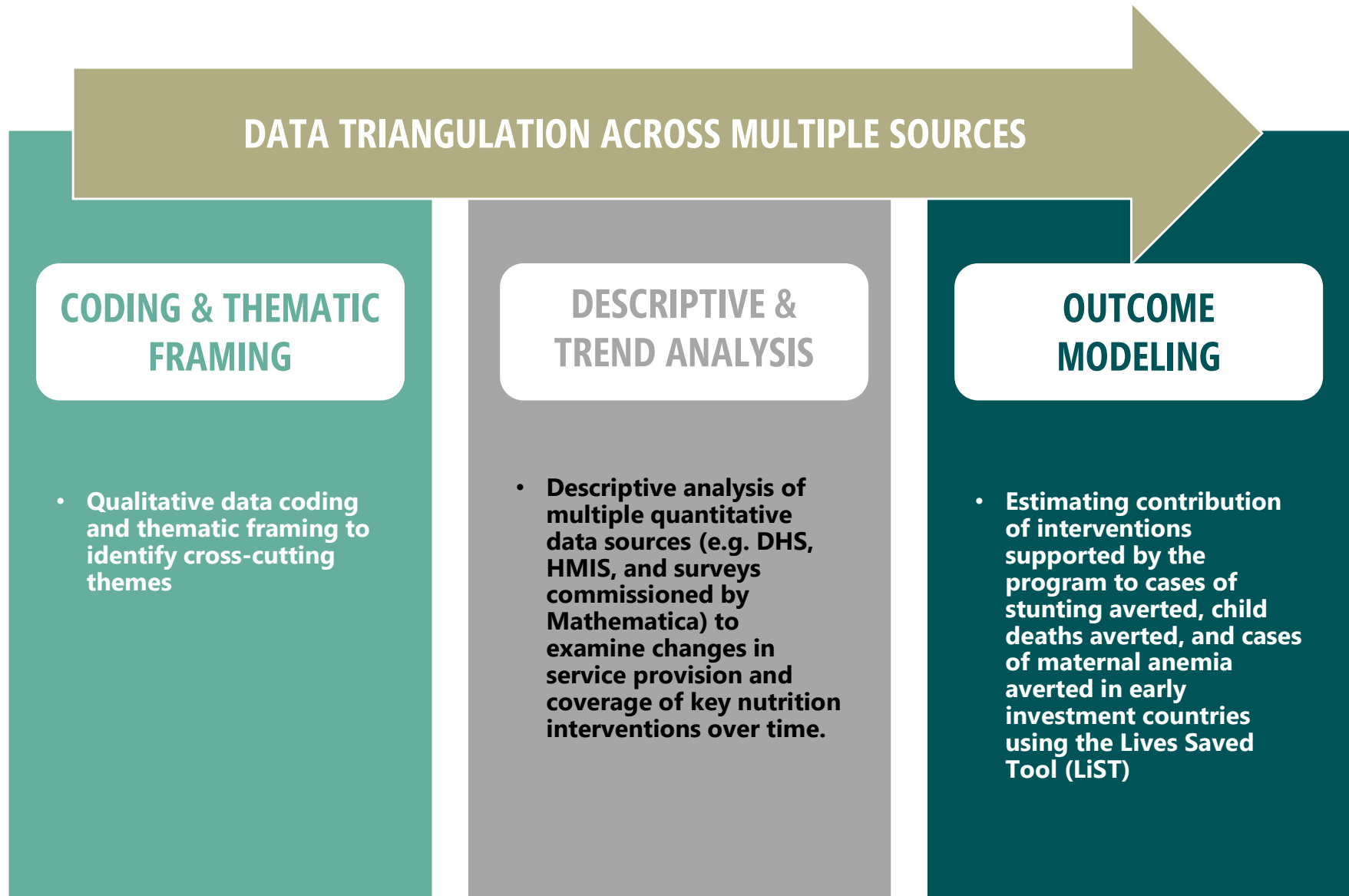
Country visit: Interviews with country stakeholders during visit to Ethiopia in August 2019



Primary Data

Surveys commissioned by Mathematica in Ethiopia (Dec 2022) and Rwanda (Feb 2023) to measure levels of service provision and beneficiary-level outcomes for children ages 0–59 months and caregivers at endline

Analytic approach



Limitations of the evaluation

External factors and aspects of the study may have impacted our analysis and the depth of our findings.

- **The complex and dynamic global nutrition landscape makes it difficult to attribute observed changes to The Power of Nutrition's investments alone.** Several key players in addition to The Power of Nutrition might influence the funding, programming, and priority of nutrition globally and at the country level. Moreover, some of The Power of Nutrition's investments focus on large national programs and systems strengthening. The multiplayer environment makes it challenging to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation that can detect changes in outcomes that can credibly be attributed to The Power of Nutrition alone.
- **Program data and evaluations at the country level influence the data available for the global evaluation.** The global evaluation was designed to draw relies on coverage data reported by implementing partners as well as independent program-level evaluations at the country level commissioned by The Power of Nutrition and its implementing partners to understand the impact and influence of The Power of Nutrition's investments. However, availability of program and evaluation data—as well as heterogeneity in the type of data collected and evaluation designs—limit the ability of the global evaluation to aggregate findings and attribute impacts to The Power of Nutrition.
- **Available national survey data infrequent and did not align with investment timelines in most countries.** The global evaluation draws on national surveys such as DHS and MICS to examine trends in coverage of key nutrition interventions targeted by the program. However, in many countries these surveys are not conducted frequently and there was imperfect overlap with the start and end dates of the investments. Moreover, occasionally there were small differences in indicators collected by different surveys making it difficult to compare data points over time.
- **COVID-19 pandemic likely affected provision of nutrition services.** Pandemic-related disruptions in service provision may have affected trends in coverage of key nutrition services in several investment countries.
- **The web survey had a low response rate.** The low response rates across all countries, particularly among government actors, limit the interpretation of the data collected via the web survey and are biased toward the few stakeholders who engaged with the survey.
- **The surveys commissioned by Mathematica (Rwanda, Ethiopia) are not directly comparable to DHS or HMIS data.** The surveys are based on carefully crafted convenience samples that can provide insight into current nutrition outcomes but are not nationally or regionally representative. For this reason, we exercised caution when comparing survey results to DHS (particularly in Ethiopia where the survey covered only three regions). The HMIS data cannot be compared directly to the survey (or DHS) because, generally, HMIS data provides valuable information on trends but tend to provide a biased assessment of indicator levels.
- **Our LiST modeling results provide conservative estimates of impact on beneficiary level outcomes:** Our models report on impacts based on program-attributable intervention coverage increases. However, not all interventions supported by TPoN could be modeled using LiST. In addition, we faced important challenges in terms of data availability (most models use DHS data to capture changes in the early investment period and make assumptions on the direction of trends thereafter) and quality (in models where we used programmatic data, we found important discrepancies between trends reported by the program and national surveys).
- **Endline did not assess fundraising efforts and influence of overall portfolio of the investment.** The focus of our post-investment assessments was to conduct a deep dive in two of The Power of Nutrition's early investment countries, Ethiopia and Rwanda, to examine the coverage of key nutrition services and beneficiary-level nutrition outcomes. As such, the endline did not address research questions related to fundraising and co-financing, strength of the overall portfolio of investments, and influence on the prioritization of nutrition (RQ 1, 2 and 4), which were covered in the midline.

Key Findings

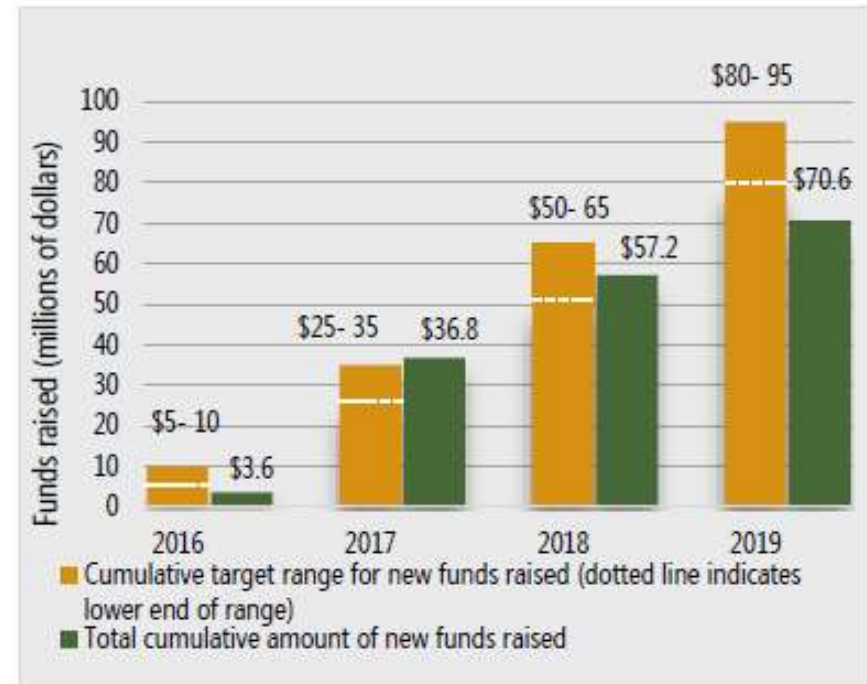
To what extent has The Power of Nutrition been able to raise new funds and ensure co-financing of investments?

Fundraising Progress (assessed at midline)

The goal of The Power of Nutrition was to mobilize up to \$1 billion of new financing for nutrition by 2022 through a combination of fundraising and co-financing.

- **As of Dec 2019**, The Power of Nutrition had **raised over \$70 million** from a diverse pool of new donors, including new bilateral donors, foundations, corporate donors, and high net worth individuals (HNWIs).
- These funds have **unlocked additional funds of over USD 65 million through the matched funding from The Power of Nutrition's platform** and been **matched by nearly USD 300 million in co-financing commitments by implementing partners**.

Cumulative targets and new funds raised



- Given the competitive donor landscape, this is an impressive achievement for a relatively new organization working with a lean team. Even donors who decided not to invest in The Power of Nutrition generally appreciated its model, and typically did not invest because The Power of Nutrition's objectives did not align with their priorities and the sectors in which they wanted to invest. Stakeholders uniformly believed that The Power of Nutrition's most important mandate is to bring new and innovative sources of funding for nutrition, and many believed that The Power of Nutrition has been quite successful in raising money for nutrition.
- Despite the strong progress, The Power of Nutrition had not met its fundraising targets. Examining fundraising targets cumulatively, The Power of Nutrition is USD 10 million dollars under the lower end of target range of USD 80 to USD 95 million through the end of 2019. The limited pool of donors interested in nutrition and difficulty in obtaining repeat funding have hindered The Power of Nutrition's success in reaching its ambitious fundraising targets.

Donor reasons for investing

Large traditional donors, particularly bilateral donors, valued The Power of Nutrition's relationship with the World Bank and its high-level political influence.

- Donors were impressed with The Power of Nutrition's ability to influence large World Bank programs and believed that its partnership with The World Bank was an important achievement.
- 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 programs and increase the value of their investment through additional matched IDA funds.

Some donors valued being part of a larger program and the influence it can bring, whereas others, particularly those with a country presence, desired having greater control and closer engagement in the details of the investment.

- The ability to aggregate funds by leveraging the match offered by The Power of Nutrition and to potentially influence government programs and policies through World Bank investments is attractive to some donors.
- However, others, particularly those with a clearly defined program strategy and presence in the country where their funds are being invested, desire greater ability to influence and engage in the program design and implementation.
- For new private sector donors and HNWI's, who often do not want to be a "drop in the bucket" of a large program/policy framework and who seek attribution of impact and influence directly to their investment, The Power of Nutrition's investments with international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) may offer more flexibility and attribution while still being aligned with government priorities and plans.

Many donors appreciated the strong monitoring and evaluation framework The Power of Nutrition brings.

- Several donors were attracted to The Power of Nutrition in part because of its rigorous M&E framework and are satisfied with the level and frequency of its reporting. Some also acknowledged that they might not get as much information as they receive from The Power of Nutrition if they were to make investments directly with large organizations like the World Bank or UNICEF.
- However, a few donors with an existing portfolio of work in the nutrition sector or a presence in the country/region where the investment was made said that, whereas The Power of Nutrition shares progress reports biannually and obtains donor feedback, interactions between reports can sometimes be limited.

Fundraising challenges

The limited unrestricted funding available, combined with competing stakeholder demands, constrain The Power of Nutrition's flexibility.

- Most of the funds The Power of Nutrition had been able to raise as of the midline, were restricted. Unrestricted funding would make it easier for The Power of Nutrition to raise funds, because it could develop investments and sell these investments down to prospective donors, instead of having conversations with donors without a concrete investment to talk about.
- Several stakeholders acknowledged that what they perceive as The Power of Nutrition's limited flexibility and bureaucratic processes stemmed from the competing interests that the executive has to balance. They believe that if The Power of Nutrition had access to unrestricted funding, it might be more nimble and agile.

While corporate donors are a potential target for fundraising efforts, sensitivities in the nutrition sector around conflicting private sector priorities can limit the opportunities with this sector.

- Corporate donors typically have a structured approach and strategy that dictates the sectors and causes in which they will invest, which are typically aligned with the sectors they operate in. This strategic focus can limit the pool of corporate donors The Power of Nutrition can reach out to. For instance, The Power of Nutrition cannot obtain funds from some corporate donors in the nutrition sector that would appear to have the most alignment with its work because of sensitivities around these companies' involvement in promoting breastmilk substitutes, as well as ethical considerations of working with industries seen as extractive.
- Given these constraints, The Power of Nutrition's corporate partnerships are notable, particularly its partnership with Unilever. Through this partnership, The Power of Nutrition and Unilever support the Government of India's initiative to address undernutrition in the country by promoting handwashing and nutrition for pregnant women and mothers, proven interventions to address undernutrition, through a mobile technology developed by Unilever-Lifebuoy (Unilever's hygiene soap brand).

Challenges related to co-financing

The Power of Nutrition and UNICEF have made significant progress in improving their relationship and signed a new partnership agreement in 2019 that provides more flexibility in co-financing requirements.

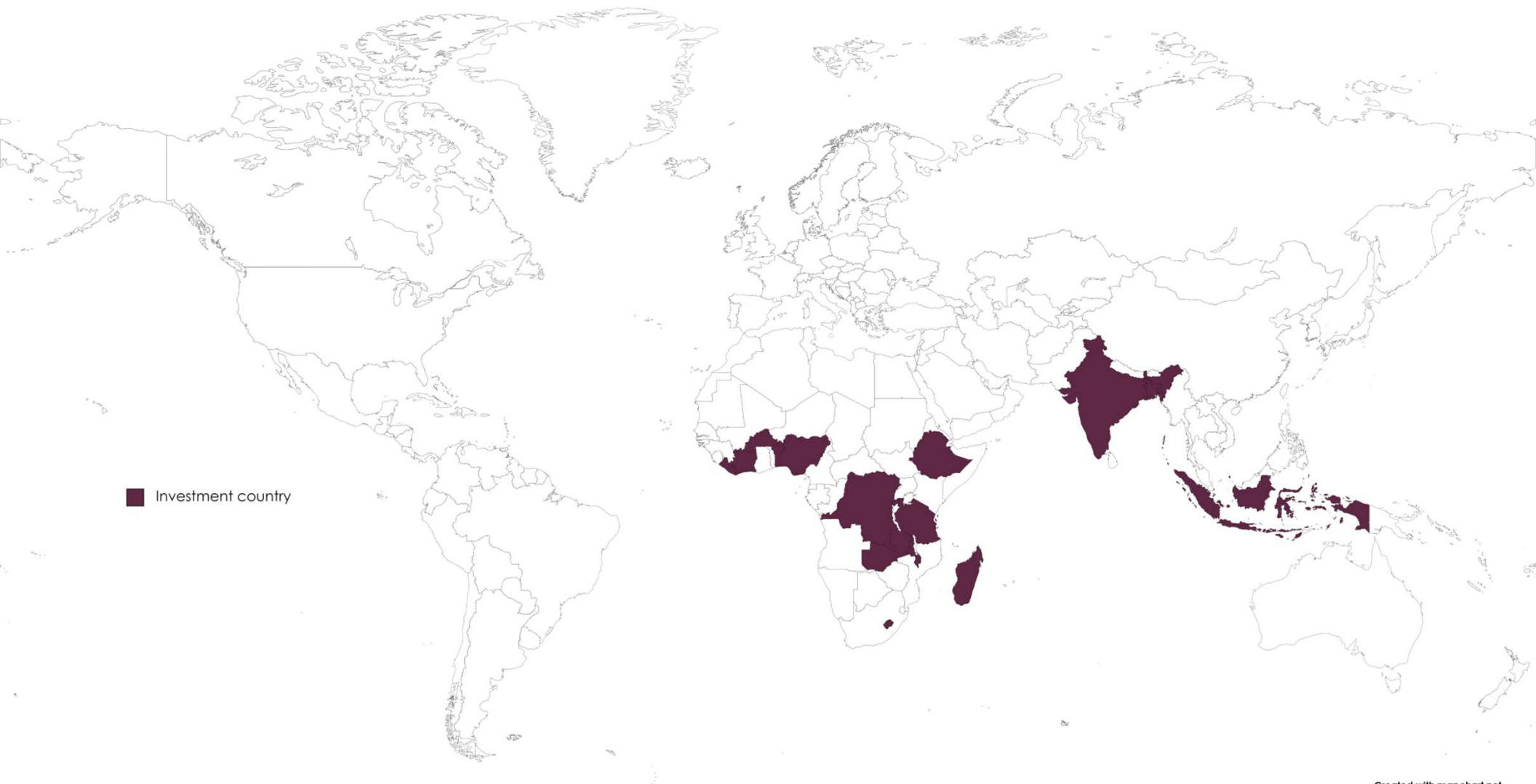
- The Power of Nutrition and UNICEF had a challenging relationship in the early days because of The Power of Nutrition's restrictions on the sources of funding that UNICEF could use for co-financing. Moreover, The Power of Nutrition required implementing partners to commit to co-financing the investments when the program was being developed, before obtaining board approval for the program. This sequencing was challenging for UNICEF, which had to identify sources to guarantee co-financing before program approval.
- The Power of Nutrition and UNICEF developed a three-way partnership agreement between The Power of Nutrition, UNICEF UK, and UNICEF Global, signed in September 2019, that enabled the co-financing to be more flexible, including allowing increased domestic resources to count toward co-financing. The engagement and commitment of senior staff from both organizations to work on a new partnership agreement greatly improved the relationship between the two organizations and gave UNICEF more confidence in meeting The Power of Nutrition's co-financing requirements.

INGOs face some challenges with co-financing The Power of Nutrition's investments because of the size of investments, competition within the donor pool, and the long process for developing investments.

- New INGO partners are not typically able to co-finance investments of the size The Power of Nutrition makes, so these investments tend to be small or have required INGOs to partner with each other to share the co-financing requirements.
- INGO partners that The Power of Nutrition had worked with felt there was a need for more clarity and transparency around co-financing criteria and sources. They felt The Power of Nutrition should be clearer early in the discussions about the donors investing in the program to avoid duplication in donor outreach and competition between The Power of Nutrition and its INGO partners, which are often trying to raise funds from the same pool of donors.
- The long process of investment development can also make it challenging for implementing partners to identify donors to co-finance investments because of uncertainty about when investments will get approved and the timing of some donors' disbursement cycles.

To what extent has The Power of Nutrition been able to build a strong portfolio of investments?

Investment portfolio



- When The Power of Nutrition was established, the vision was to make time-bound investments in 5 to 10 countries. The Power of Nutrition has made investments in many more countries than originally envisioned. As of 2022, The Power of Nutrition had 20 investments across 16 countries, including repeat investments in two of its early investment countries, Liberia and Ethiopia.
- The Power of Nutrition has partnered with the World Bank, UNICEF, and INGO partners such as Save the Children, CARE, Nutrition International, and Action Against Hunger on these investments.

Types of investments

The Power of Nutrition has focused on supporting delivery of evidence-based nutrition-specific interventions, but tailored investments to meet country needs and make complementary investments in health system strengthening for sustainability.

- Coverage of nutrition-specific interventions is still very low in several countries with a high burden of stunting and there is a need for more evidence on how to deliver these interventions at scale and reach the most vulnerable groups. Stakeholders appreciated that The Power of Nutrition is focused on supporting the delivery of key nutrition-specific interventions based on the Lancet series on maternal and child nutrition.
- While maintaining its focus on evidence-based nutrition-specific interventions, The Power of Nutrition's investments include strengthening health systems to deliver nutrition services, multisectoral nutrition programs, technical assistance and operations research to generate evidence for government implementation of nutrition interventions, and efforts to understand and demonstrate models for community-level implementation of nutrition interventions within government health systems.

The Power of Nutrition's partnerships with INGOs help diversify its investment portfolio and in-country partners and build evidence on how to deliver scalable interventions at the community level.

- When The Power of Nutrition was first established, the World Bank and UNICEF were the only implementing partners. Since then, The Power of Nutrition has expanded the implementing partners it works to include INGOs such as Save the Children UK, Nutrition International, CARE UK, and Action Against Hunger.
- Whereas investments with the World Bank have a large scale and UNICEF is a strong technical partner for governments, INGOs bring expertise in delivering interventions at the local government and community levels. Working with INGOs has offered The Power of Nutrition an opportunity to design programs at the sub-national level that align with government plans and can generate evidence for scale-up.

Challenges with approach to developing investments

BASELINE
FINDINGS

MIDLINE
FINDINGS

The proposal development process has typically been long and resource-intensive, causing some frustration among implementing partners.

- Partners noted that the process for developing and receiving approval from the board for an investment is protracted, with some investments taking over two years from initial design to approval. The proposal development process takes time partly because of The Power of Nutrition has to balance the needs of and input from the various stakeholders to which it is accountable.
- However, at midline, the partners noted that The Power of Nutrition had reached out for feedback on templates and processes, and they felt this was a step in the right direction.

Despite these challenges, partners appreciated the commitment of the Investments team to developing strong proposals.

- Implementing partners uniformly valued the rigor and quality that The Power of Nutrition brings to its investments and appreciated the team's efforts in working with them as a true partner to develop strong proposals. Country offices and technical staff at implementing partners appreciated the efforts of the Investment team, and partners felt they pushed country teams to develop and implement high-quality programs.
- Implementing partners also really appreciated the M&E focus of The Power of Nutrition and felt their emphasis on a strong, detailed results framework was a value add and set them apart from other donors.
- Once an investment is in place, The Power of Nutrition is also committed to working with partners to identify solutions to address bottlenecks and make course corrections.

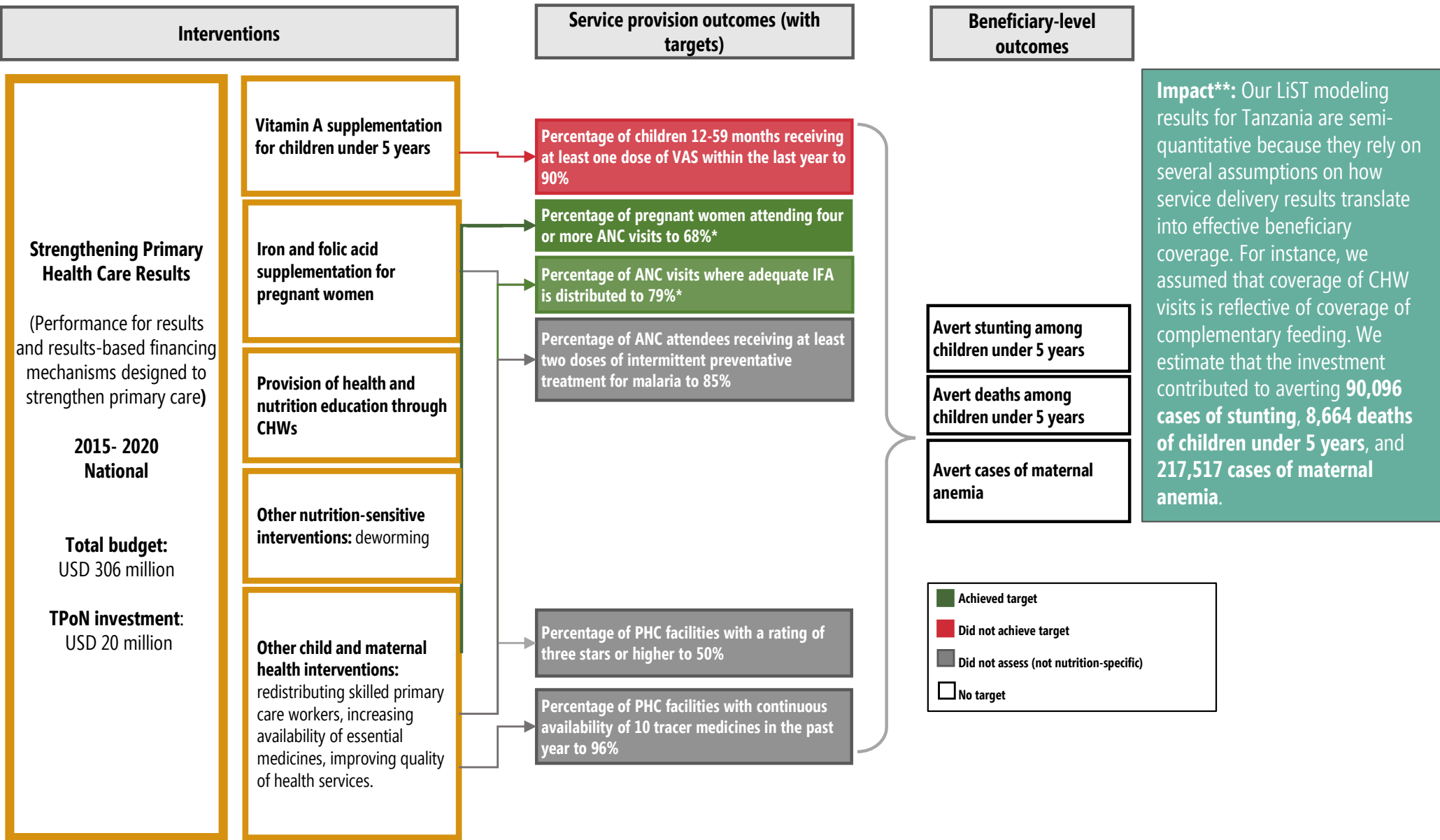
What are the achievements of The Power of Nutrition's early investments?

Overall, we find mixed results across The Power of Nutrition's early investments in terms of meeting service delivery targets and contributing to beneficiary-level outcomes.

- The Power of Nutrition's investments have made some progress in improving delivery of key nutrition services. The Power of Nutrition's early investments in Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia, and Rwanda have improved the coverage of key targeted nutrition services, although the programs have missed several of their targets.
- The early investments demonstrate a need for building the capacity of the local teams to strengthen and ensure sustainability of the investments. In Ethiopia, the government's nutrition case team has built valuable experience through its participation and engagement in program review missions and technical discussions with the World Bank, The Power of Nutrition, and other partners. However, staff turnover within the MoH and nutrition case team can threaten this progress. Similarly, in Liberia, an independent assessment commissioned by TPoN and UNICEF found a lack of trained staff in the nutrition department and lack of support from the government for capacity development programs for nutrition staff more generally. The Power of Nutrition's repeat investments in Ethiopia and Liberia may help sustain and expand on initial progress.
- Our LiST modeling results find that the investments in Tanzania and Ethiopia made significant contributions to averting cases of stunting under 5, child deaths under 5, and cases of maternal anemia. However, estimated contributions in Liberia, Rwanda, and Madagascar were more modest, and in the case of Rwanda and Madagascar did not meet program targets.

Tanzania

MIDLINE FINDINGS

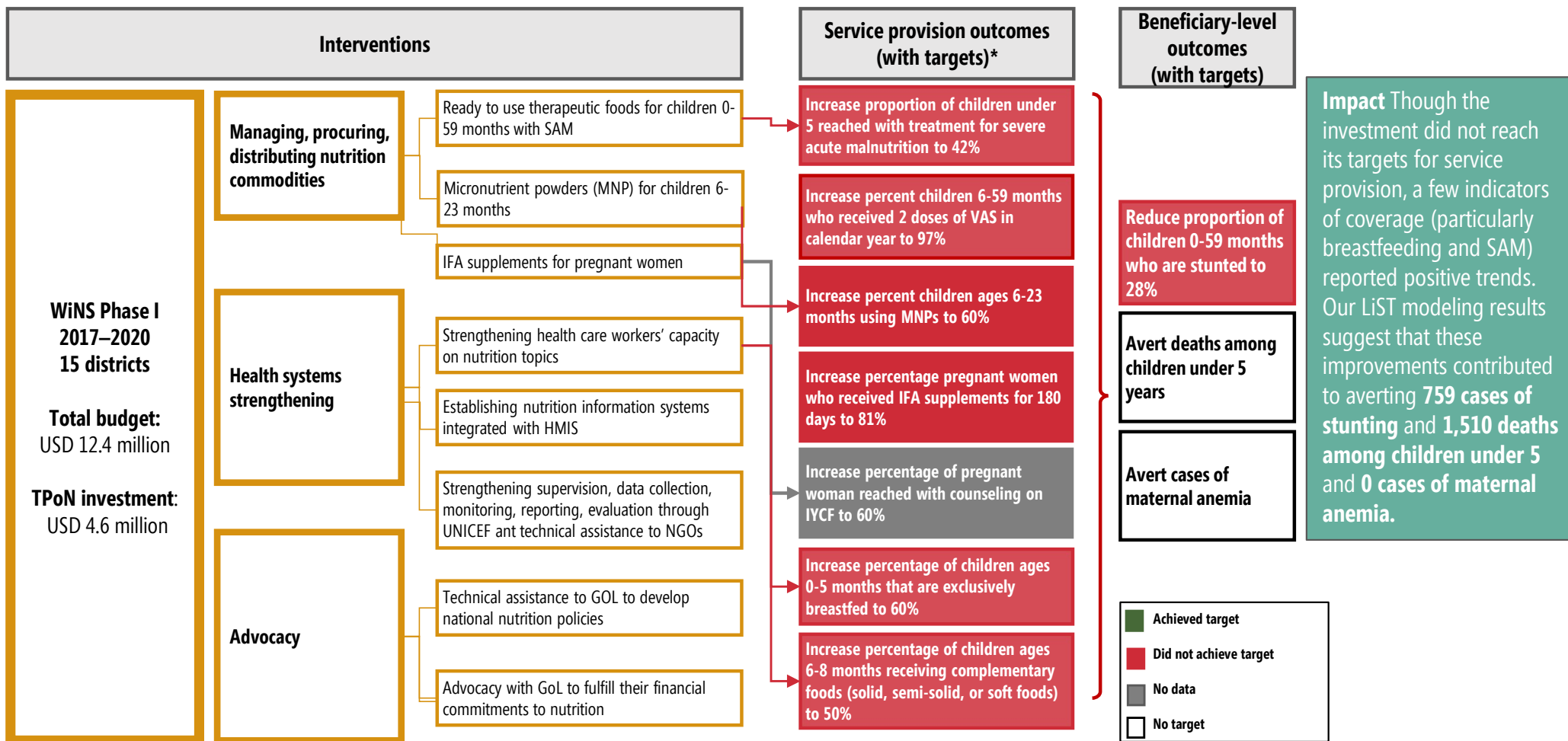


*Met targets based on program reported data. However, the Tanzania DHS 2022, reports that 65% of women received 4 or more ANC visits during the pregnancy that resulted in their last live birth in the 2 years before the survey and 81% of women took any iron-containing supplements during the pregnancy, suggesting that the ANC4+ target may have been missed although there were significant improvements in ANC4+ and IFA supplementation over this period.

** LiST modeling was conducted in 2020 before the latest Tanzania DHS 2022 data were available.

Liberia

MIDLINE FINDINGS



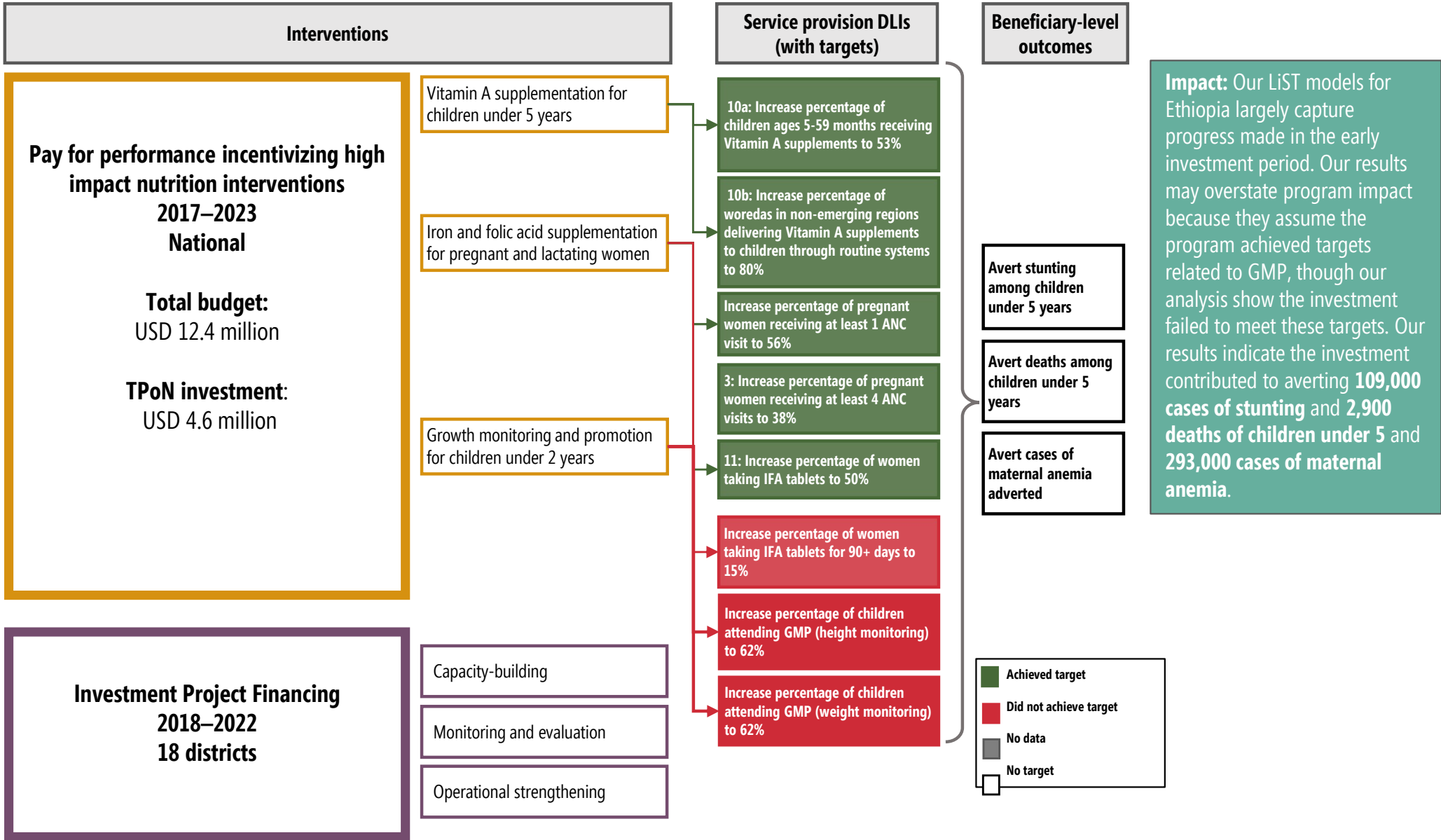
Notes: WINS= Working to Improve Nutrition at scale. The program budget breaks down as follows – TPON and its implementing partners each contributed USD 4.6 million and the Government of Liberia contributed USD 3.2 million in kind. Our investment summaries also provided information on the baseline level of indicators of interest to the second phase of the investment, including deworming, ANC, and anemia in children ages 6-59 months. and women of reproductive age. We report on LiST results for our intermediate scenario (Scenario C).

*According to the LDHS 2019, the program likely did not meet targets for Vitamin A supplementation (46%), MNP supplementation (7%), IFA supplementation (43%), exclusive breastfeeding (55%), introduction of complementary foods (45%).

Ethiopia

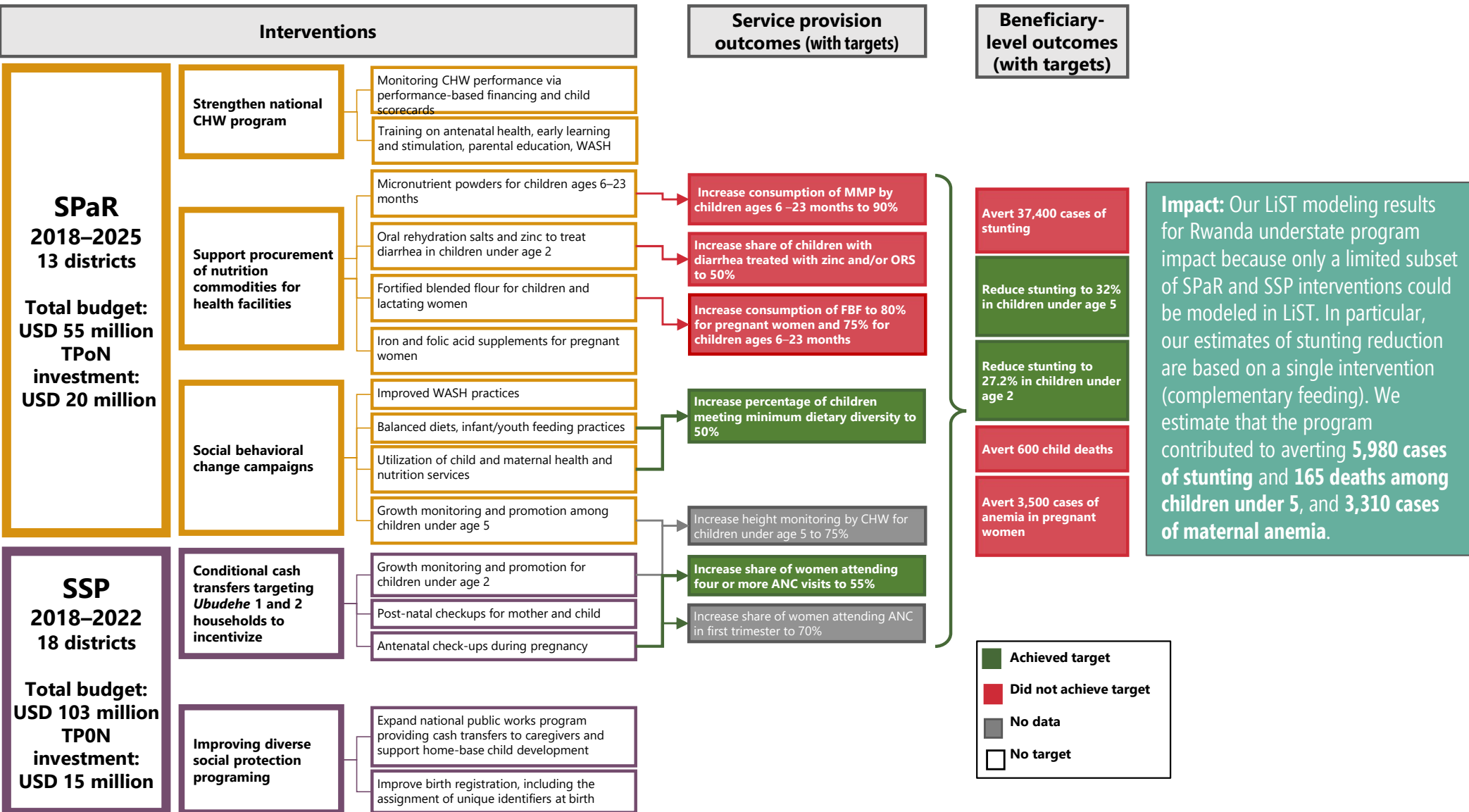
MIDLINE FINDINGS

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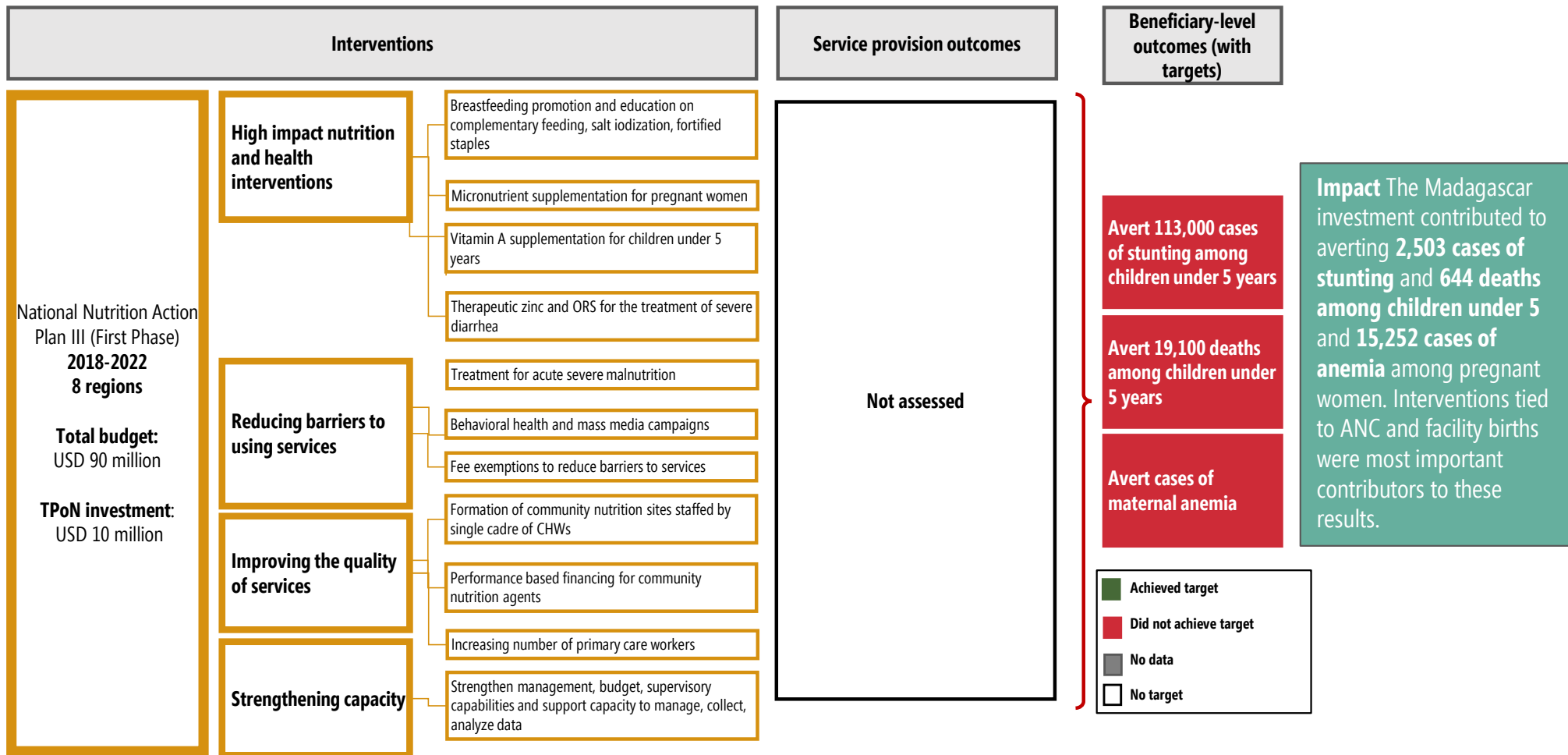
Rwanda

ENDLINE FINDINGS



Madagascar

ENDLINE FINDINGS



To what extent has The Power of Nutrition elevated the priority of nutrition in key institutions and partner countries?

Influence on donors and implementing partners

The Power of Nutrition has built a strong relationship and model for working with the World Bank and contributed to the increased prioritization of nutrition within the Bank.*

- Since its inception, the relationship between The Power of Nutrition and the World Bank has evolved and grown stronger. 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.
- The Power of Nutrition's investments with the World Bank have also 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.

Through its pooled funding model, The Power of Nutrition has been able to unify donors and partners who exist in an otherwise fragmented landscape.*

- The nutrition sector (and the development sector, more broadly) is highly fragmented, with various donors and partners working on individual projects that are relatively small in scale. The fragmentation in the donor landscape can lead to programs being conducted in isolation without common goals and cooperation, and a waste of resources.
- By offering an attractive match for their investments, The Power of Nutrition has been successful in bringing some traditional donors and partners who were working independently to align around sustainable government delivery of a common package of interventions in a sustainable way. For example, the investment in Ethiopia brings together key partners such as the Gates Foundation and Nutrition International to invest in and provide technical assistance to government implementation of a set of key nutrition services. This is an important role The Power of Nutrition can play given its reputation and its networks within the nutrition sector.

**These findings from the midline were also supported by findings from the web survey conducted at endline.*

Influence on partner countries' nutrition priorities

In some investment countries, The Power of Nutrition's investments have catalyzed dialogue and commitment to nutrition.

Many stakeholders believed The Power of Nutrition has the greatest influence and ability to move the needle in countries where it has changed the dialogue on prioritizing nutrition.

- In Ethiopia, The Power of Nutrition's investment brought nutrition into the discussions between the government and the World Bank during negotiations around a larger World Bank PforR program focused on strengthening health systems (which did not include payments linked to achieving nutrition outcomes). By offering grant funding of USD 20 million, the investment led to IDA loan allocations of USD 20 million to nutrition. Further, by linking the disbursement of USD 35 million of the USD 40 million to meeting targets for nutrition outcomes, the investment has led to greater prioritization of nutrition by the MoH and budget allocations for nutrition within the MoH budget.
- In Tanzania, The Power of Nutrition investment, which was included after the original program was negotiated by the government and the World Bank, brought a nutrition lens to the program, and has opened the possibility of a nutrition-focused program with the government in the next phase.
- In Liberia, during the period of The Power of Nutrition and UNICEF co-investment, expenditures on nutrition increased significantly; in 2016, before the program began, only 50 percent of the budget allocations for nutrition-specific programs was utilized, but during the investment period, an average of 92 percent of the budget was spent each year.
- In Benin, a relatively recent investment, UNICEF believes that The Power of Nutrition's investment has been catalytic and helped leverage other funding for nutrition, which otherwise wasn't receiving much donor attention.

Influence on partner countries' nutrition priorities (ctd)

In countries where the government was already making investments in nutrition, The Power of Nutrition has designed investments that support and strengthen the government's efforts.

- In Madagascar, The Power of Nutrition's investment of USD 10 million to support the government's long history of commitment to nutrition programming was perceived by country stakeholders as a vote of confidence in the value of what the government was doing.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, where there was already commitment from the government to invest in nutrition, The Power of Nutrition's investment contributes to filling a large financing gap in the government's nutrition plan and has brought the private sector in to support the government's efforts.
- The Power of Nutrition's investment in Indonesia is aligned with government priorities and brings nutrition experts with experience at the grassroots level together to generate evidence that can inform government scale-up of nutrition interventions.
- In addition, at endline, stakeholders in multiple investment countries highlighted that The Power of Nutrition was critical for strengthening nutrition programming, with specific mentions of health system strengthening, wasting management, and nutrition service delivery (endline web survey).

Stakeholders had mixed perceptions about The Power of Nutrition's value-add in countries like India or Nigeria whose governments are already committed to nutrition and allocate substantial funding to it.

- Some stakeholders considered The Power of Nutrition a more marginal player in these countries given the abundance of resources already available for nutrition programming and felt The Power of Nutrition should focus on other countries where there is lower prioritization of nutrition.
- Other stakeholders, particularly implementing partners and country-level stakeholders in these countries, believed The Power of Nutrition was still playing an important role filling the gap in funding of nutrition plans and supporting government scale-up of programs by generating evidence that governments are often not willing to invest in.

Summary

Key takeaways

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Established as a key player in the nutrition sector
- Diversified funding portfolio and developed relationships with new implementing partners
- Strengthened relationships with original implementing partners
- Early investments have made some progress in improving delivery of nutrition services, despite missing some targets
- Investments in Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Rwanda contributed to averting over 200,000 cases of stunting, nearly 14,000 deaths of children under 5, and over 500,000 cases of maternal anemia.
- Raised profile of nutrition at the World Bank and in partner countries

CHALLENGES

- Complex model and competition in funding space
- Resource intensive proposal development process
- Early investments did not meet some programmatic targets
- Staff turnover and limited capacity of nutrition staff in investment countries risks the sustainability of progress made by early investments.
- Extent of value add varies across investments

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Future programming should be designed using a theory of change that clearly states how interventions contribute to stunting reduction. Many interventions supported by the investment prioritize maternal and child health and survival but did not have a clear relationship to stunting reduction and are not aligned with more recent guidance on stunting reduction
- Measure progress against a broader set of indicators along the pathway to stunting as well as on systems strengthening