

Our purpose

We support mothers in laying the foundation of their children's healthy future and the development of a more sustainable and nutritious food system.

Malnutrition during the first **1,000** days of life (chronic malnutrition) is one of the most common diseases in the world, affecting **1 in 5 children** (149 million) globally, limiting their future's health and prosperity.



1 in 5 children globally are chronically malnourished



chronically malnourished earn 20% less on average than their peers

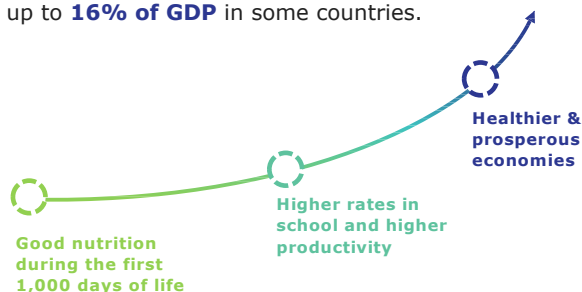


up to 16% of national GDP can be lost due to malnutrition

In the first few years of life, the brain grows rapidly: more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second.

By age 2, **70%** of brain connections are formed. To ensure healthy cognitive development, as well as strong immune systems and physical development, children must have **access to nutritious foods during the first 1,000 days of life.**

Compared with their peers, chronically malnourished struggle to do as well in school and on average **earn 20% less income** as adults. In addition to the human tragedy, chronic malnutrition is an enormous obstacle to countries' economic development. **In Africa**, where chronic malnutrition affects **1 in every 3 children**, the cost of undernutrition is estimated at up to **16% of GDP** in some countries.



Our strategic priorities

Through enablement of innovative finance models with companies, the funded projects:

1. Ensure a **sustainable and nutritious food system** leveraging **innovation and tech** when possible.
2. Focus on **women & youth** as strategic members of ecosystems to ensure their **economic empowerment** for greater and more sustainable impact.
3. Enable **the potential of human capital** and shape the **inclusive economy** of tomorrow.

Our story

Despite the irreversible consequences of this disease, the lack of investment hinders the progress in the fight against malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life. UNITLIFE was created by the **UN Capital Development Fund** and **UN Women** to address this gap. The fund is governed by a multi-stakeholder board, including **Government of France and UN Women** which are permanent seat members.

The President of UNITLIFE is **Dr. Philippe Douste-Blazy**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Health Minister of France, former Under Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Innovative Financing at the United Nations.

UNITLIFE was officially launched on 28 June 2021 with the **French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian**, and **H.E. Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates**.



UNITLIFE's mobilization model

We create a community of companies and individuals who care about fighting malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life.

UNITLIFE harnesses the power of local businesses and the digital economy by building innovative partnerships with businesses to inject expertise, innovation while unlocking financial resources.

Based at STATION F, we are leveraging the community of the **largest start-up campus in the world.**



Connecting ecosystems

UNITLIFE mobilizes businesses, civil society and the development communities to create a coalition of actors working together in the same direction.

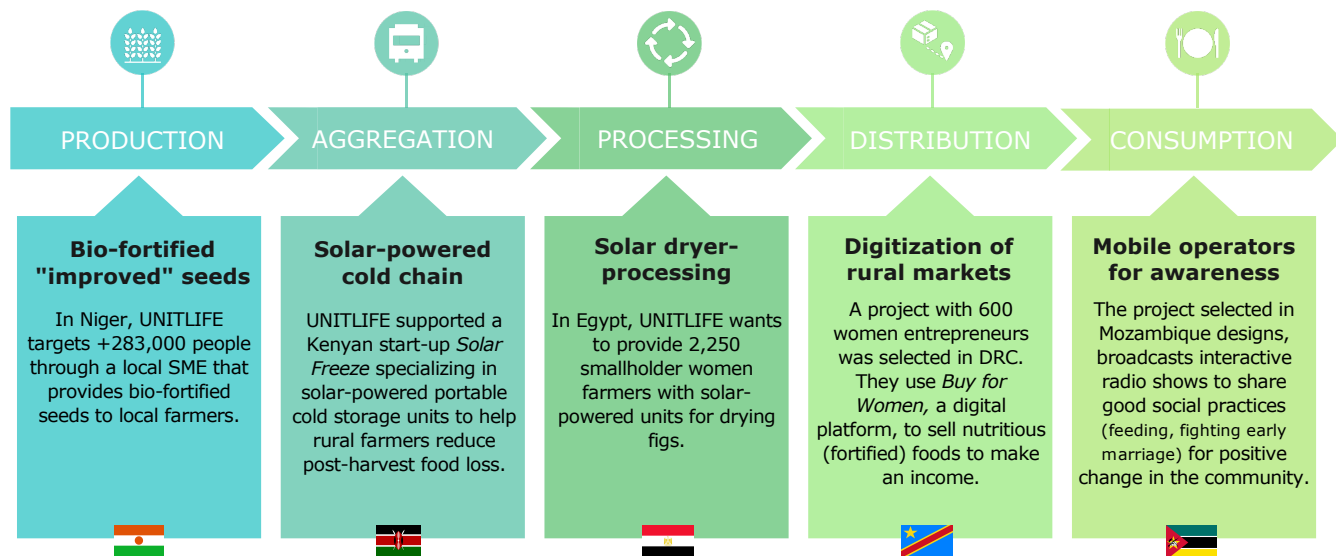
Agile & collaborative

UNITLIFE co-designs projects with our partners to meet common priorities, while **pooling** scientific and business capabilities and **injecting** the right innovation, expertise and assets.

Clear mandate to deliver local solutions

UNITLIFE serves a clear and targeted mandate to **accelerate** small-scale impactful projects through innovation and involvement of local partners, all through rigorous monitoring.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT INNOVATIONS THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS CAN FUND & SUPPORT ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM



Our end-to-end approach

Stage 1. Ideation

We work in an agile and iterative way to identify small-scale innovative projects with high impact.

Stage 2. Validation

We mobilize independent technical experts to select projects in a transparent way.

Stage 3. Execution

We continuously work with partners on the ground to ensure local and long-lasting impact.

Stage 4. Impact monitoring

We take an integrated approach to monitoring & evaluation to ensure accountability and transparency of our projects.



assia.sidibe@uncdf.org



arthur.brizou@uncdf.org



unitlife.org



@unitlifeorg