OVERVIEW

- Stunting in children below five years in India has declined to 38%
- Flagship National Health Protection Scheme announced for 500 million beneficiaries – to be world’s largest government funded healthcare programme
- Targeted Public Distribution Systems reach 800 million people
- Under National Food Security Act, India has the world’s largest food based social safety nets
- Mid Day Meals reach 100 million children
- USD 267 billion per year is needed globally to end hunger by 2030

The UNIBF thematic group on Health and Nutrition is working closely with specialists from member companies, knowledge partners, and UN agencies, to design and implement interventions that can impact health and nutrition outcomes for India, and transform service delivery for the sector. It has identified two core priorities – systems strengthening and disruptive innovations in service delivery. One of the main focus areas for this group is the elimination of stunting, with an overall emphasis on improved nutrition for millions of Indian children.

The group, comprising businesses from pharma, healthcare and UN health experts engaged in a series of consultations and devised the following core strategies to enhance health and nutrition outcomes in India: catalyzing innovation in service delivery, raising awareness and promoting behavioral change, exploring the convergence between health, nutrition, water, and sanitation for holistic programme delivery, and ensuring last mile access.
THE FINANCING CHALLENGE

In 2018, India announced its flagship National Health Protection Scheme, which will be the world’s largest government-funded healthcare programme. A first major leap towards universal healthcare, it aims to provide 100 million households with medical insurance of USD 7400 per year. However, India’s public spending on healthcare currently stands at a little above 1% of GDP. This has led to acute shortages in the healthcare supply chain with 1.1 beds per 1,000 population compared to the global average of 2.7 and a concentration of healthcare infrastructure in the top 20 cities. Out of pocket expenditure for healthcare in India, at over 60%, remains one of the biggest factors pushing tens of millions back into poverty each year. Long term options and innovations in finance for healthcare infrastructure will be needed to accelerate progress in this area and catalyze the next wave of growth.

BEST PRACTICES

India Impact Fund of Funds:
Global Steering Group on Impact Investing (GSG), Social Finance India (SF-IND) and UNDP working on a billion dollar India Impact Fund of Funds (IIFF) that will provide long term debt capital to sectors including healthcare.

Innovative financing for improved maternal care:
USAID and a consortium of partners including UBS Optimus Foundation, Population Services International, Merck for Mothers and Palladium issued the ‘Utkrisht Impact Bond’, an innovative financing instrument which aims to reduce the number of mother and baby deaths by improving the quality of maternal care in Rajasthan’s health facilities.

Public-Private Partnerships:
Piramal Foundation’s partnership with NITI Aayog for transforming 115 districts is an inspirational example of the private sector and foundations working with the district administration, state government and central ministries to improve the identified indicators by strengthening existing public systems, specifically in health & nutrition sectors. By co-creating this transformative model and establishing a framework for joint work at every level, the partnership represents a real innovation in PPP.

KEY PARTNERS:
Cadila Pharmaceuticals | BD Medical | GSK Healthcare | IBM | Kirloskar Technologies | Medtronic | Philips India Ltd. | Piramal Swasthya | Tata Chemicals | Unilever