2021 Annual Report
Progress in a New Reality
Driving Partnerships, Driving Evidence, Driving Actions
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The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and a host of other challenges created a new reality in global micronutrient nutrition in 2021, rendering ‘business as usual’ obsolete. The Micronutrient Forum (Forum) responded by ensuring our existing workstreams focused on activities that could impact change and proactively fostered new workstreams to meet new challenges. Most importantly, we collaborated with partners to ensure the field worked in harmony to achieve shared priorities and goals.

The year began with optimism for global health as COVID-19 vaccines emerged, and for global nutrition as we embarked on a historic Year of Action on Nutrition with two significant nutrition-focused events: the UN Food Systems (UNFSS) and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summits.

The year also marked a new era for the Forum. Our organization grew in staff, impact, and determination, further building and demonstrating our model of championing collaboration - with renewed commitments to work towards a world without micronutrient malnutrition.

I am proud of the Forum’s achievements in 2021 and I am honored to present our first Annual Report. This inaugural report focuses on how the Forum’s Year of Action, through evidence and partnerships, led to collective impact.

Key highlights of 2021 include:


- World Health Organization’s inclusion of Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) on the Essential Medicine’s List, resulting from collective action by the Forum and New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), which will accelerate national adoption and scale-up of MMS and improvements in maternal nutrition and birth outcomes.

- Initiating and building broad stakeholder support for an alliance for anemia actions through the UN Food Systems Summit and supporting its inclusion in a N4G commitment by WHO and UNICEF.

- Launching a Mighty Nutrients advocacy agenda with partners which inspired 160 people from over 50 countries to come together and sign a Call to Action that urges leaders and policymakers to increase investments in proven and cost-effective micronutrient interventions.
These achievements demonstrate the value of collaboration platforms: none of this would have happened in isolation. The power of evidence generation and synthesis, fruitful partnerships, common voices, and collective action by the Forum’s partners and stakeholders led to impact.

I’m incredibly grateful for the support we received this year from donors, stakeholders, and our esteemed Board of Directors and Advisory Council members. Their counsel and guidance have proven to be an invaluable resource and the Micronutrient Forum is privileged to have access to this world-class pool of expertise. And I’m especially proud of our growing team of highly skilled, capable, determined, and passionate professionals working together remotely, from different corners of the world.

Moving into 2022, I look forward to continuing our work to drive existing and new platforms, preparing for our 6th Global Conference in 2023, and advocating for these mighty nutrients that make a powerful difference to lives across the globe.

Saskia Osendarp, Ph.D
Executive Director
Our Funders

The Forum appreciates the generous support for its programs in 2021 from

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

In partnership with Canada

Children's Investment Fund Foundation

Kirk Humanitarian

vitamin angels
Micronutrient Malnutrition Today

A Solvable Scourge

The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2006 estimated that more than two billion people – 30% of the global population – are deficient in essential micronutrients- primarily vitamin A, iodine, iron, and zinc (WHO, 2006). Vulnerable populations, particularly in lower- and middle-income countries, are at higher risk for micronutrient deficiencies due to among others limited access to nutrient-rich foods such as fruit, vegetables, and meat, which are often inaccessible locally or, when available, are unaffordable.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has further increased food insecurity and nutrition challenges by disrupting food systems, reducing income sources, and widening gaps in coverage of essential health and nutrition services. The effects of the pandemic, new and ongoing crises, and climate change have made access to nutritious diets even less available and affordable (Osendarp, et al, Nature Food, 2021; Laborde, et al, Nature Food, 2021).

Micronutrient malnutrition has devastating consequences, including increased child mortality, poor child growth and mental development, increased vulnerability to infectious diseases, increased risk of diet-related chronic disease later in life, and a loss of human potential.

Today, evidence-based, cost-effective, safe, and scalable solutions are readily available to tackle micronutrient deficiencies. A host of proven micronutrient interventions, such as promoting healthy diets, bio-fortification, fortification, and supplementation exist that can transform food and health systems and improve population health worldwide.

Effectively addressing micronutrient malnutrition requires alignment and collective action across diverse stakeholders and sectors, and the Forum seeks to facilitate that action.
The Forum’s Mandate

The Micronutrient Forum serves as a backbone organization in the nutrition sector by supporting partners and fostering alignment and collective action on micronutrient-relevant issues for all aspects of health, development, and disease prevention.

The Forum brings together leading technical experts, policymakers, program implementors, civil society representatives, bilateral and multilateral partners, and the private sector who act and invest responsibly in nutrition to generate and synthesize evidence, promote alignment on shared agendas and pursue collective actions. This is achieved through hosting secretariats, convenings, conferences, and integrated advocacy among other activities. The Forum’s goal is clear: to inform and support research, policies, investments, and actions to eradicate micronutrient malnutrition.

The Micronutrient Forum aims to increase the effectiveness of the entire field and ultimately improve the lives of populations vulnerable to micronutrient deficiencies.

Our Vision

The Micronutrient Forum envisions a world where all people have optimal micronutrient status for health and well-being.

Our Mission

To promote alignment and collective action on vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients across sectors by bridging nutrition science, policy, programs, and responsible business practices for health and well-being.

The ABCs of Collective Impact

**Advocacy:** Driving actions with policy and decision-makers, elevating issues on their agenda and speaking with a common voice, to create an enabling environment for the adoption of micronutrient-related policies and programs and increased investments in micronutrient interventions.

**Brokering Knowledge:** Driving evidence by capturing, sharing, and widely disseminating existing and new evidence-based information and lessons learned on micronutrient interventions to relevant global and national stakeholders.

**Convening:** Driving partnerships of global, regional and national experts and stakeholders to build evidence-based consensus, identify and prioritize research gaps, and guide collective action on diverse technical topics related to reducing micronutrient deficiencies.
Over the past three years, the Forum has further accelerated and expanded its actions to bring together diverse actors on common agendas and collective actions. The year 2021 represented a year of action for the Forum: we made progress on several consortiums, ensured our CONNECTED conference content was widely available, and continued to work with the micronutrient and nutrition community to support collective action on pressing issues.

2021 also signified progress in a new reality where complex global challenges were threatening progress in micronutrient malnutrition, where the global pandemic continued to force us to work remotely, where working together, driving consensus, and partnerships were more important than ever.

The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Consortium (HMHB), launched by the Forum in 2021, has over 90 diverse members and aims to improve maternal nutrition, most specifically by accelerating the adoption of multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) in support advocacy of better nutritional status of the mother and healthy pregnancy outcomes across low- and middle-income country (LMIC) contexts. In its first year, HMHB’s evidence-based advocacy agenda reached new audiences in the nutrition, gender equity and health arenas with briefings led by over 30 international and national maternal health and nutrition experts. Based on an application submitted by the Forum and New York Academy of Sciences, this collective way of working is accelerating progress as evidenced by the inclusion of MMS onto the WHO's Essential Medicine List which will motivate national stakeholders to pursue research and policies to support the scale-up of MMS programs.

The Forum’s hallmark Global Conferences exemplifies our role as a backbone organization and our commitment to drive evidence, partnerships, and collective actions on micronutrient malnutrition. Connected 2020, a entirely virtual conference, united over 3,600 delegates and over 450 speakers from 72 countries to foster understanding of micronutrient science, programs, and policies.

The Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium (ST4N), a collaboration with 35 leading global nutrition experts , was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ST4N worked to address pressing concerns of the global nutrition community, alarmed by the rapidly unfolding crisis that threatened millions of mothers and children facing disrupted health and food systems across LMIC contexts. The consortium embraced a common agenda to estimate the risks to vulnerable communities unable to access essential health and nutrition services and facing rising food insecurity.
ST4N disseminated much-needed evidence on the projected impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global malnutrition levels through a publication in Nature Foods. The publication was widely circulated through social media and media outlets, like the BBC, and presented at numerous global events. This evidence helped empower policymakers to commit millions of dollars of investments at the N4G Summit.

The Mighty Nutrients Coalition, launched at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021, launched a Call to Action, which received over 160 signatures from 50 countries and included 28 organizations as signatories.

The coalition is a collective voice advocating to global leaders, policymakers, donors and national governments for increased investments and policy decisions for micronutrient-rich diets and interventions. The Forum supported active engagement through the entire Nutrition Year of Action – including leading or supporting over 25 events.

The Mighty Nutrients Coalition will build on the momentum generated from this Call to Action to leverage its advocacy agenda further in 2022 and beyond. Advocacy will be a critical step toward building a movement around micronutrient security for all.

Women’s nutrition emerged as a central theme in 2021 in light of the limited progress in reducing global levels of women’s malnutrition, notably anemia in women over the past twenty years. The Forum and a core group of nutrition partners actively pursued a new agenda for anemia. They developed a game-changing solution as part of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) policy prioritization process.

The Forum facilitated and co-convened a series of high-profile events to bring increased attention to these issues and catalyze support for a more intentional approach to addressing anemia in women, among other women’s nutrition issues.
Forum’s Year of Action

UNFSS Pre-Summit Events:
- Women Nutrition: Resilience and Recovery on the Road to 2030
- COVID-19 Recovery: Why investment in nutrition cannot wait

UNFSS Event
- Gender Equality: A Key Driver To Enhancing Food Systems and Good Nutrition

UNFSS Pre-Summit Events:
- Closing the evidence gap for food systems transformation
- Tackling undernutrition through action and accountability

Women’s Nutrition Event
- Stand up for Women: Women’s Nutrition, Economic Empowerment and Leadership

D4N Conference
- Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia

N4G Side Event
- Mighty Nutrients

OVRS Event
- Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition: Partnering to Accelerate Delivery of Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS)

2021 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting
- Taking action to end the malnutrition crisis

Towards a More Equal Future
- The Role of Gender Equality in Ending Malnutrition by 2030

N4G Side Event
- Mighty Nutrients

2021 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting
- Gender equality dimensions to iron deficiency and anemia
Global Conferences

In 2021, in partnership with Sight and Life, the Forum continued its efforts to provide more equitable access to knowledge by launching the CONNECTED Conference Open Access at no cost to the Forum’s global audience. As a result, nearly 150 hours of the proceedings from the 5th Global Conference were made publicly available to stakeholders worldwide and published in partnership with Sight and Life.

In April, the Forum hosted the virtual CONNECTED webinar Understanding the Data: Exploring the Estimates on Vitamin A and Zinc Revealed in the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Studies, chaired by Lisa Rogers, Technical Officer at the World Health Organization. The expert overview highlighted the importance of accessing valid, high-quality data on micronutrient deficiencies. It offered insights on ways to estimate the global burden of vitamin A and zinc deficiencies.
The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Consortium

HMHB brings together global and national stakeholders to improve maternal nutrition, specifically through the effective use of affordable multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS*) for vulnerable pregnant women worldwide.

* Refers to United Nations International Multiple Micronutrient Antenatal Preparation UNIMMAP MMS.
Building on the momentum of The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Goalkeepers Accelerator, hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in 2019, the HMHB Consortium was launched on 10 March 2021 with founding support from Kirk Humanitarian. HMHB welcomed additional financial support from the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Vitamin Angels Alliance, in its first year.

Driving Partnerships

Since the launch, HMHB’s membership has grown to include over 90 individuals and organizations worldwide, who have collectively worked to advance a compelling and evidence-driven new agenda on the transformative potential of MMS for pregnant women. HMHB throughout the Nutrition Year of Action actively engaged with strategic partners to virtually convene experts and practitioners to build awareness and a deeper understanding of maternal nutrition and MMS issues.

A series of seven short, interactive Coffee and Chai Chats hosted by HMHB provided stakeholders worldwide the opportunity to engage directly with global experts and ask in-depth questions about maternal nutrition and MMS. To help bridge the gap between maternal health and maternal nutrition experts, HMHB organized a scientific session, ‘The Unfinished Agenda of Maternal Malnutrition and its Impact on Birth Outcomes’ at the Federation of International Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) World Conference 2021 on the impact of maternal nutrition interventions including MMS on birth outcomes, and country experiences related to the integration of MMS in antenatal care services.

Driving Evidence

HMHB curated and synthesized relevant evidence-based knowledge and information on maternal nutrition and MMS and developed a range of helpful and easily accessible resources tailored to a broad range of stakeholders.

• **Knowledge Hub:** A one-stop shop repository of new and existing information on maternal nutrition and MMS with over 100 resources including scientific articles, reports, tools, case studies, policy briefs and videos.

• **Knowledge Bytes:** A special series of 11 short films (6-8 minutes) that feature global experts explaining specific questions related to maternal nutrition and MMS to make this information more readily accessible to a broader audience.
• **World map** on MMS: An inventory of MMS-related activities amongst HMHB partners, led to developing an interactive map depicting stakeholder activities related to MMS, such as impact studies, implementation research, demonstration pilots, cost-benefit analyses, and scaling up activities.

## Driving Actions

To support advocacy efforts for MMS inclusion in National EMLs, the HMHB secretariat and the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) developed additional knowledge tools to help foster enabling policy environments, including an [Advocacy Brief and Frequently Asked Questions document (FAQ)](#).

In October, to support global awareness of the importance of MMS in human capital development, HMHB sponsored a Devex article, “Hidden Hunger and its Hidden Cost”, authored by Dr. Hema Divakar, Dr. Anna Lartey, and Dr. Saskia Osendarp. This article, which generated tremendous interest with 10,000 views, positioned MMS as one of the most cost-effective interventions in global development.

A major policy win for accelerating the introduction of MMS was its inclusion in the WHO’s Model Essential Medicines List (EML) in October 2021, raising MMS high on government and donor agendas.

Agurash, an Ethiopian mother pregnant with her third child, is one of millions of women who eat last and least. Support, access, and information on the benefits of supplementation can improve maternal nutrition, and pregnancy and birth outcomes. Learn more in this [short film](#).

Photo by: Micronutrient Forum, Sight and Life.

## Looking Ahead

The Year of Action on Nutrition has created promising opportunities for the future. In 2022, HMHB will build upon this momentum with a greater focus on supporting national advocacy and building national leadership for MMS by engaging key influencers and empowering local champions. HMHB will work with partners to develop and widely disseminate existing and new advocacy products and knowledge resources tailored to country requirements.
Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium

The Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium (ST4N) is a unique collaboration of leading experts in nutrition, economics, gender, health, and food systems, working to address the scale and reach of COVID-19-related nutrition challenges.
In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium (ST4N) was jointly set up in 2020 by the Micronutrient Forum and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The purpose of the Consortium was to bring together global experts in food systems, nutrition, health systems, and economics to quantify the potential impact of the COVID crisis on global malnutrition, particularly in low- and middle-income (LMIC) countries. In 2021, with Global Affairs Canada’s (GAC) funding, ST4N formed a diverse and inclusive Steering Committee to lead and guide the Consortium.

**Driving Partnerships**

ST4N drives partnerships by convening expert working groups to develop policy-related evidence and supporting advocacy partners to drive evidence-based policy actions. During the 2021 Year of Action for Nutrition, ST4N brought the scientific and academic community together to speak with one voice on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nutrition.

**Driving Evidence**

ST4N developed an innovative analysis that modeled the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition outcomes for women and children. This research, published in Nature Food, and titled, “The COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate maternal and child undernutrition and child mortality in low- and middle-income countries”, was accessed over 20,000 times and cited 20 times. ST4N also published an estimate of the impact on the affordability of healthy diets in Nature Foods, titled “COVID-19 pandemic leads to greater depth of unaffordability of healthy and nutrient-adequate diets in low- and middle-income countries.”

**Driving Actions**

ST4N’s advocacy and knowledge-sharing work generated a strong media presence, with coverage from global outlets, including Bloomberg TV. ST4N leveraged global moments to effectively advocate for the inclusion of nutrition in COVID-19 recovery funding and policies through tools such as a policy brief and a social media kit.

ST4N presented at five market-specific events, including a US briefing to Congressional staff, a UK Parliamentary briefing, a Canadian advocacy event with Results Canada, and a BMGF Policy and Advocacy staff meeting.
ST4N represented and led outreach to the academic sector in the run-up to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and co-hosted a COVID-19-focused implementation conference in South Asia.

Global agencies, funders, governments, and CSOs consistently cited data from ST4N’s Working Groups as rationale for their nutrition advocacy, investments, policies, and programs. ST4N is highly sought after for its expertise, and ST4N-related speakers appeared in over 14 webinars or events.

- SOFI 2021 Report
- WHO/UNICEF/World Bank: Joint Malnutrition Estimates Report
- USAID communications across platforms
- Nutrition for Growth Summit materials
- CSO advocacy materials (e.g., Save the Children & Power of Nutrition)

Significant funding commitments for nutrition that cited ST4N data included:

- USAID: $11 billion
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: $920 million
- Global Affairs Canada: $520 million

## Looking Ahead

With the pandemic moving into its third year, there is a crucial need to understand whether measures taken by governments and households mitigated COVID-19’s impact on nutrition in the short term, especially for women and girls, and to estimate the long-term effects on the generations born after the onset of the crisis. This will inform context-specific advocacy for continued investments and interventions in nutrition for COVID-19 response and ways to strengthen community resilience in the face of future shocks.
Micronutrient Data

Improving the quality, quantity, and analysis of micronutrient data has long been a part of the Forum's work.
Driving Partnerships

In 2021 the Forum continued its engagement with the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), whose Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study is an indispensable advocacy outlet. The Forum worked with IHME to shed light on the methodology of the GBD Study to estimate the global disease burden attributable to micronutrient deficiencies and provide technical assistance and critical feedback to IHME from a nutrition perspective.

Driving Evidence

The Forum drove new insights on micronutrient data in 2021:

- Publishing a scientific article in Current Developments in Nutrition with co-authors from IHME and the University of California, Davis Department of Nutrition that describes the challenges of estimating the prevalence and related burden of disease, including a review of IHME’s methodology, as a case study. A short communication paper provided insights on the differences in the disease burden estimates due to vitamin A and zinc deficiency between the GBD Study 2017 and 2019.

- Convened and chaired the Advisory Panel for a USAID-Advancing Nutrition initiative to update the global estimates of the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency. Such technical assistance on behalf of the community exemplifies the Forum’s priorities to strengthen global micronutrient data systems.

- Examined, in coordination with the International Zinc Consultative Group, blockers and enablers for including micronutrient biomarkers in national surveys to support more robust national surveys in an LMIC setting.

- Developed a strategic plan based on the insights of an independent expert group that systemically identifies gaps in the data generation value chain and proposes actionable solutions. The extensive report was summarized and published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Driving Actions

The Forum’s articles, and papers, on the gaps and needs of micronutrient data systems generated critical awareness of the need for new and coordinated action and investments. Collectively, these partnerships inform the broader nutrition sector actors to advocate for the development and collection of more reliable, timely and usable micronutrient data.

Looking Ahead

2021 was a foundational year for the Forum’s micronutrient data initiatives, and the Forum has even bigger plans for 2022. The Forum is launching a Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance (DInA), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to align organizations involved in collecting and using micronutrient data. This alliance will support national-level decision-makers to better design, implement, measure, and optimize micronutrient programs, resulting in more efficient and effective programming.
Board of Directors

The Micronutrient Forum benefits from the leadership, guiding hand and dedication of extraordinary professionals to oversee the implementation of the strategic plan and the delivery of the biennial global conference.

Howarth E. (Howdy) Bouis, Ph.D., Chair
HarvestPlus Founding Director, Retired, Philippines
World Food Prize Laureate, 2016

Clayton A. Ajello, Dr.P.H.,
Managing Partner, Inlexo, USA

Maria Andrade, Ph.D.,
Food Scientist, International Potato Center, Peru
World Food Prize Laureate, 2016

Anabelle Bonvecchio, Ph.D.,
Director of Nutrition Policies and Programs, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

Kenneth H. Brown, M.D.,
Distinguished Emeritus Professor, Department of Nutrition and Institute for Global Nutrition, University of California, Davis, USA

Russel Hill
International Legal and Compliance Executive, USA

Klaus Kraemer, Ph.D.,
Managing Director, Sight and Life, Switzerland

Anna Lartey, Ph.D.,
Professor of Nutrition, University of Ghana, Ghana

Rajul Pandya-Lorch
Strategic and Communications Leader, Former Chief of Staff & Director of Communications and Public Affairs, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA

Jay Solomon
Certified Public Accountant, Retired, USA
Advisory Council

The Micronutrient Forum’s Advisory Council consists of distinguished researchers, policy makers, senior program managers, business leaders, and other leading professionals experienced in the issues of micronutrient nutrition from across academia, multilateral agencies, national governmental agencies, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and business.

The Advisory Council provides guidance to the Board of Directors on scientific, technical, and program implementation issues. The Council generates findings and makes recommendations to the President and the Forum’s staff members to support decision-making about scientific, technical, and program-related priorities of the Micronutrient Forum.

Kenneth H. Brown, M.D.,
Chair
Distinguished Emeritus Professor, Department of Nutrition and Institute for Global Nutrition, University of California, Davis, USA

Saskia Osendarp, Ph.D.,
Co-Chair
Executive Director, Micronutrient Forum, The Netherlands

Lindsay H. Allen, Ph.D.,
Center Director, USDA, ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center
University of California, Davis, USA

Maria Andersson, Ph.D.,
Senior Scientist, University Children’s Hospital Zurich and Lecturer, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Switzerland

Kevin Cashman, Ph.D., R.P.H.Nutr.,
Professor of Food and Health, Cork Centre for Vitamin D and Nutrition Research, School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, University College Cork, Ireland

Jennifer Coates, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Food Policy and Applied Nutrition, Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and Affiliated Faculty member Tufts Institute for the Environment, USA

Namukolo M. Covic, Ph.D.,
Director General’s Representative to Ethiopia for the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Ethiopia

Rafael C. Flores-Ayala, Dr.P.H.,
Chief, Nutrition Branch, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA
Matin Qaim, Ph.D.,
Director, Center for
Development Research
(ZEF), University of Bonn,
Germany

Daniel J. Raiten, Ph.D.,
Program Director-Nutrition,
Pediatric Growth and Nutrition
Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver
National Institute of Child Health
and Human Development,
National Institutes of
Health, USA

Marie T. Ruel, Ph.D.,
Director, Poverty, Health
and Nutrition Division,
International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI), USA

Jose M. Saavedra, M.D.,
Associate Professor of
Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins
University School of
Medicine, USA

Meera Shekar, Ph.D.,
Global Lead, Nutrition,
Health, Nutrition and
Population Global Practice,
World Bank, USA

Larry Umunna,
Regional Director,
West Africa,
TechnoServe,
Nigeria

Dominique Van Der
Straeten, Ph.D.,
Research Director, Laboratory
of Functional Plant Biology,
Department of Biology,
Faculty of Sciences,
Ghent University,

Keith P. West, Jr., Dr.P.H., R.D
George G. Graham Professor of Infant
and Child Nutrition and Director of
the Program and Center for
Human Nutrition, Department
of International Health, Johns
Hopkins Bloomberg School of
Public Health, USA
Looking Ahead to 2022 & Beyond

In 2022, the Forum will continue to work together with stakeholders toward a world where all people have optimal micronutrient status for their health and well-being. We are more committed than ever to overcome challenges in this new reality of a world facing multiple, complex global crises. The need of partnerships, building consensus and driving collective action has never been greater and the Forum will continue to live up to its principles in fostering these key values.

ST4N will continue collaborating with stakeholders to address emerging threats from global conflicts to global micronutrient status. HMHB and its partners will continue to advocate on behalf of mothers around the world for evidence-based micronutrient interventions for mothers and their infants.

The Forum will remain committed to addressing micronutrient malnutrition, women’s nutrition, prioritizing data, and micronutrient-related aspects of emerging topics. Some of the important new activities in 2022 include:

• The Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance (DInA), which will drive forward changes in the way that stakeholders collect, streamline, and utilize micronutrient data

• The Alliance for Anaemia Actions, co-hosted by WHO and UNICEF, will elevate anemia on the national and global nutrition agendas and support countries to accelerate coordinated multisectoral action toward alleviating the anemia burden of women, adolescent girls, and children

• ST4N’s evidence-based urgent recommendations to policy makers to prevent a deepening global malnutrition crisis resulting from the war against Ukraine, which comes after two years of governments and households trying to cope with the shocks from the pandemic

• Growing the Mighty Nutrients Coalition and an evidence-based and inclusive advocacy agenda to promote policies and investments for micronutrient-rich diets and interventions

• Accelerated planning for the 6th Global Conference in 2023 will also begin, which will bring experts together to discuss cutting-edge research and reporting within the field of micronutrition around the theme “Nutrition for Resilience”

The forthcoming release of a new Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 will outline the Forum’s strategic objectives for the years ahead, building on the organization’s unique role as a micronutrient expert organization, independent convener, and advocate.

And above all, we look forward to working with you – our partners, funders, Board and Advisory Council members, and engaging new stakeholders and allies to foster collective actions and impact.
## Financials

**Micronutrient Forum**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2020 and 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020 US$</th>
<th>2019 US$</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>968,042</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net assets (deficit)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets deficit without donor restrictions (See note)</td>
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<td>Net assets with donor restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>1,129,213</td>
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These financial statements were approved by the Micronutrient Forum’s Board of Directors on March 24, 2022

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America. The Forum maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and transactions are properly recorded and executed in accordance with management’s authority.

**Note: Subsequent Events**

The Forum’s 5th Global Conference, originally scheduled for March 2020, was postponed until November 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was produced digitally, rather than held in-person as originally planned. As a result, the Forum received $559,892 of insurance claim in 2021 due to the cancellation of the in-person conference. The insurance recovery received in 2021 will offset the net asset deficit at December 31, 2020.
# Micronutrient Forum
## Statement of Activity
### December 31, 2020 and 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restrictions</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenue and other support</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>75,873</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75,873</td>
<td>96,645</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>24,413</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24,413</td>
<td>75,259</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total support services</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,286</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,286</strong></td>
<td><strong>171,904</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,028,126</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,028,126</strong></td>
<td><strong>777,153</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>(377,493) (100,000)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(477,493)</strong></td>
<td><strong>59,536</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning</td>
<td>(40,464) 100,000</td>
<td>59,536</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending</td>
<td>(417,957)</td>
<td>- (417,957)</td>
<td>59,536</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
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