

The Peanut

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Locals Working to Create a Healthier Community

Project Peanut Butter employs local Malawians as Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs). They have many roles, but their primary role is that of a nurse. HSAs work in the community to improve health policy, administer vaccines, educate on various health topics, and take a routine census within a region. See page 4 for the first part of our HSA profile series.



New Projects in Sierra Leone!

One in twelve kids in Pujehun do not survive their fifth birthday due to malnutrition. Currently, the reality for mothers and children in Pujehun, Sierra Leone is grim. The rate of stunting for children below the age of five in this district is 46.4%, 8.4% above the national rate. Pujehun, the third largest district, is the most food insecure region in the country. There is currently no treatment or preventative care in Pujehun for children with moderately acute malnourished (MAM) or severe acute malnutrition (SAM). *Cont. on page 3.*



The Effect of Gender Equality on Malnutrition

The fifth Sustainable Development Goal is “to promote gender equality.” However, violence against women is the leading cause of injury for women across the globe. Women play a significant and impactful role in society, as caretakers and gatherers; domestic gender-based violence is a global concern that needs to be addressed.



- Violence against women is linked to food insecurity and a lack of investment in the household's economic resources.

About 35% of women worldwide have been victims of intimate partner violence and 38% of female murders are due to domestic violence. In sub-Saharan Africa, roughly 5-29% of women report being physically assaulted by a domestic partner.

Violence against women and gender equality have a big impact on childhood malnutrition. It has been shown that countries with higher levels of gender inequality have higher levels of hunger and malnutrition. Women play an important role in the family as the caretaker and sometimes the co-breadwinner as well. When women do not have a voice in their household, they are not able to give their children a healthy life. Violence against women is linked to food insecurity and a lack of investment in the household's economic resources.

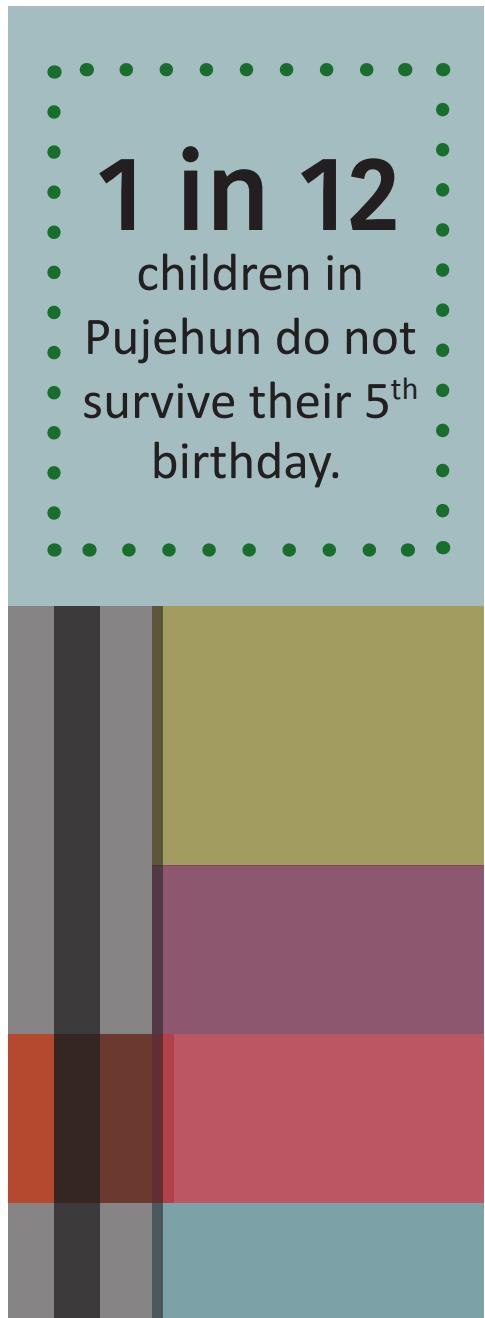
Severe acute malnutrition in children is not only the result of a lack of resources, but a multitude of factors. PPB promotes gender equality alongside delivering resources. Since the mothers and fathers do not have to go to hospitals or great distances to treat their children, they are able to focus on their households and creating a healthier environment. ●

New Projects in Sierra Leone

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A child with MAM or SAM in many parts of Pujehun cannot receive proper care due to lack of resources and geographical constraints. When this child is able to go to a hospital, there may not be room to stay and recover. The only hospital in Pujehun has one bed for every 4,433 persons.

Project Peanut Butter (PPB) would like to announce the start of two new projects in Pujehun, Sierra Leone. We are to conduct a study on comparing four different treatments for children with MAM. Also, an innovative evidence-based study that looks at pregnant women and applying an infection and a food intervention. These two studies will be conducted in a new clinic system comprised of 28 sites established by PPB in Pujehun.



The implications of these two studies are improved health in pregnant women and, in turn, improved health in their children (i.e. reduced stunting at birth). There will also be an increase in education on children's nutrition. The rise in education in caregivers and the study food for MAM children will result in fewer complications through their recovery. The clinic system will enable a mother to use a home-based therapy approach instead of taking her family to the hospital for treatment and being susceptible to other diseases. •

PPB is running a fundraising campaign for the Pujehun studies and would sincerely appreciate your donation and help to improve the lives of mothers and children in Sierra Leone. Through working with the community, our initiative can bring out a positive outcome. •

Felia and Bundu as HSAs

Felia enjoys working within the community, so she chose Project Peanut Butter for employment as an HSA to work in the local clinics. Felia takes pride in educating mothers and children about medication and sanitation. Throughout the project, she takes great joy in watching the children gain weight and become healthy through the high nutrient PPB food.

Bundu is happy to come to work everyday as an HSA because it helps the kids in the local communities, especially with Project Peanut Butter materials and immunizations. ●



Project Peanut Butter

7435 Flora Ave

St. Louis, MO 63143

Phone: +1 (314) 646-7191

Email: info@projectpeanutbutter.org

Website: www.projectpeanutbutter.org