



Terms of Reference

October 2018

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Acronyms

AA: Administrative Agent

CSA: Climate Smart Agriculture

GEWE: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

MCH: Maternal and Child Health

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MPTFO: UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

RUNO: Recipient UN Organizations

SAA: Standard Administrative Agreement

SDGs: Sustainable Development Objectives

SRH: Sexual Reproductive Health

TORs: Terms of Reference

UN: United Nations

UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Introduction

UNITLIFE is a fund which will be hosted by the United Nations dedicated to the fight against chronic childhood malnutrition (stunting). As such, its mission is carried out within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to deliver practical solutions in the fight against this silent and widespread pandemic.

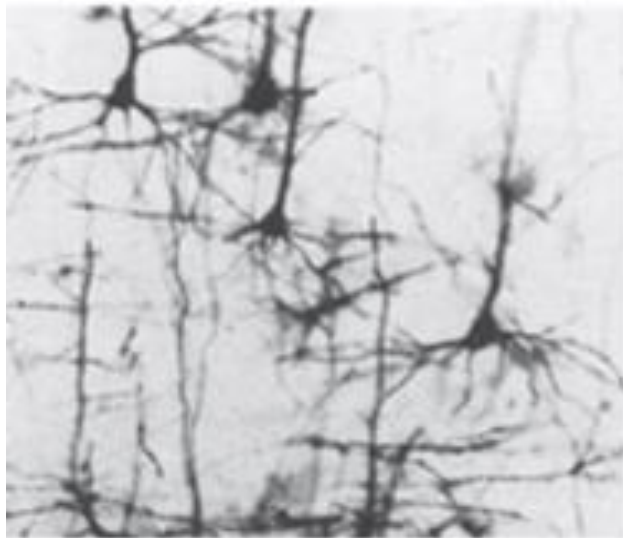
In contrast to acute malnutrition, a widely publicized illness, chronic malnutrition is one of the most common diseases affecting children globally, but the least known and therefore the least funded. Compared to acute malnutrition, which leads to rapid weight loss or a failure to gain weight normally, chronic malnutrition is much less visible, and receives less media attention than famines or starvation. Nevertheless, its effects on childhood development is largely irreversible, and have much broader societal consequences.

Approximately **35% of children under 5 are affected by stunting worldwide**, particularly in Africa and Asia. Inadequate access to micronutrients and essential vitamins during a child's early development can lead to serious and permanent brain alterations, **which negatively impact physical and mental development, as well as the wellbeing of their families and economic development of their countries**. This represents one of the major scourges of humanity.

Children impacted by chronic malnutrition in their first 1,000 days of life are likely to develop **30% fewer neural connections**, resulting in impaired brain capacity and a diminished aptitude for learning – ultimately cutting short a child's capacity to reach their full potential before their life has even properly begun (see Figure 1).

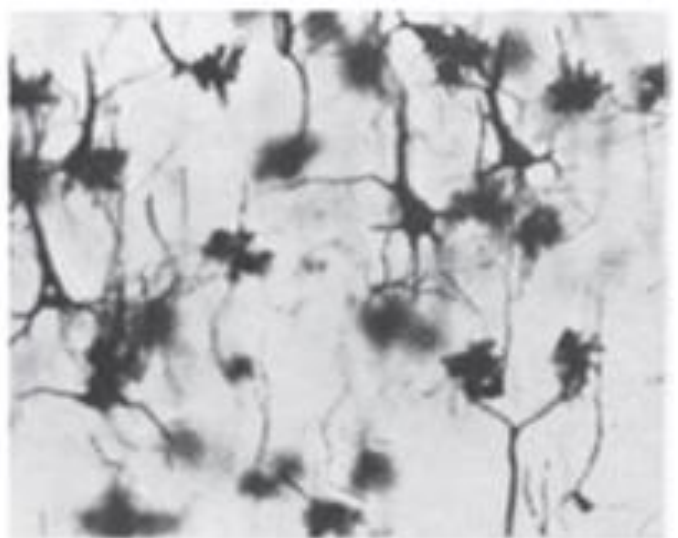
Figure 1. Effect of chronic malnutrition on cerebral development

Normal



Typical brain cells
Extensive neural pathways

Chronic malnutrition



Weakened brain cells
Limited, shorter and irregular neural pathways

Moreover, interventions to reduce stunting are among the most cost-beneficial in development, with highly competitive cost-benefit ratios. In an analysis across 40 countries, the median cost-benefit ratio of scaling up chronic nutrition specific interventions was 16, meaning that every dollar invested in stunting reduction yielded around 16 dollars in productivity gains.

Currently, investments in nutrition are minimal compared to the scale of the problem. Decades of underinvestment have led to slow and uneven progress against chronic malnutrition. Reducing stunting will require specific and targeted interventions that address the causes of chronic malnutrition. On 12 December 2017, world leaders gathered at the One Planet Summit to underscore the need for a rapid deployment of public and private finance in both developed and developing countries to strengthen sustainable development and assist nations towards achieving their national climate action plans. UNITLIFE is one of the milestone outcomes achieved at the summit, aiming to galvanize new global, regional and national level public-private partnerships to generate additional innovative financing for 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

UNITLIFE is a fund which leverages innovative financing strategies and global solidarity at the citizen level to address chronic malnutrition. UNITLIFE will be dedicated to filling this gap in funding by supporting projects that specifically target the causes and effects of chronic malnutrition, accelerating progress against malnutrition at scale.

A multi-partner fund hosted by the United Nations

A key focus of UNITLIFE is to leverage women as agents of change to address chronic malnutrition. Evidence reveals the strong correlation between gender inequality and stunting. Practices that can lead to undernutrition in children include early age of marriage/conception, poor maternal nutritional and health status, poor secondary education, domestic violence, inadequate decision-making power, and poor control over resources.

Gender inequality can affect maternal nutritional and health status before, during, and after pregnancy, affecting a child's early growth and development, beginning in the womb. Furthermore, mothers have significant influence on child care practices. Poor control over resources affect also the nutrition of women and children. Women farmers face a number of key structural barriers that limit their access to land, information, finance, infrastructure, technologies and markets. It has been estimated that equalizing women's access to resources can increase agricultural productivity by 20-30%, as a result, the number of undernourished people in the world will drop by 12-17%. Conversely, economic empowerment of women has shown positive association for better nutrition in children. Because when women exert more control over household resource allocation, they tend to invest more in education, nutrition and health of the family. Consequently, the nutrition status of the children—and everyone else—improves

In response to the gendered dimension of chronic malnutrition, UN Women took the lead in designing UNITLIFE with the Government of France. UN Women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, established to accelerate progress to meet women and girls needs worldwide. UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for

women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four priority areas:

- Increasing women's leadership and participation
- Enhancing women's economic empowerment
- Ending violence against women
- Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes

Closing the gender gap for climate resilient agriculture is one of the three UN Women's economic empowerment priority programmes. UN Women took the lead developing the gender responsive and climate resilient agriculture component of the integrated UN strategy for the Sahel. UN Women is supporting activities to close the gender gap for climate resilient agriculture in half of dozen of sub-Saharan countries. To implement these activities, UN Women leverages four comparative advantages:

- Ability to link global normative frameworks with national policy development for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The largest pool of gender equality experts in the UN.
- Longstanding partnership with women's organizations and movements to reach out to women and girls the most likely to be left behind.
- UN coordination mandate on gender to build UN-wide coalition for change (in the agriculture sector, UN Women works with FAO, WFP and IFAD and with UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS and World Bank in the health sector).

Another key feature of UNITLIFE is the establishment of a digital platform to allow for quick and easy micro-donations to be made to the programme's activities. To this end, UNCDF will host the UNITLIFE Secretariat and leverage its digital finance expertise to provide assistance for the design, establishment and functioning of the digital architecture used to accept micro donations. UNCDF is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 47 least developed countries. With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers "last mile" finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF's financing models work through two channels: financial and digital inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and by showing how localized investments - through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance - can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development. UNCDF's global team of digital finance and mobile money experts is deployed to establish, scale up or replicate sustainable mobile financial services that reach the poor, and could be used as a technical resource by UNITLIFE. By strengthening how finance works for poor people at the household, small enterprise, and local infrastructure levels, UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation. By identifying those market segments where innovative financing models can have transformational impact in helping to reach the last mile and address exclusion and inequalities of access, UNCDF contributes to a number of different SDGs.

While UNITLIFE is established by UN Women and UNCDF with the support of France, in recognition of the critical role of women as agents of change to address chronic malnutrition, it will act as a passthrough mechanism. This will enable UNITLIFE to transfer resources in a highly cost-effective manner to a broad range of UN agencies, multilateral and non-government implementing partners. In line with on-going UN Women's led efforts in agriculture, the fund will be able to benefit from the expertise of UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO and WFP specialized in child nutrition and food security to supplement UN Women's expertise in addressing gender gaps in access to services and resources.

UNITLIFE Priorities

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the case for investing in nutrition has never been greater. Good nutrition drives economic progress, development and the sustainable development of human capacities. The benefits of good nutrition have a ripple effect across generations, sustaining positive outcomes at all levels of society – from the livelihoods of communities to the development goals of nations.

The root causes of chronic malnutrition are complex and contributing factors include maternal undernutrition, disease, inadequate sanitation, insufficient supply of high-quality and diverse food, unequal access to information on nutrition, feeding, caregiving practices, and lack of access to health care services. In the absence of targeted interventions, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is likely to worsen in the coming years. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that by 2050, food production must increase by 60% in order to meet the demands of the growing world population. Furthermore, climate change could increase stunting by 30 to 50 percent by 2050 (Lloyd et al., 2011). Climate change affects malnutrition in a myriad of ways; it reduces agricultural yields and the nutritional value of staple crops, and increases the prevalence and spread of diseases, both are closely linked with malnutrition in poor communities.

Because stunting results from several household, environmental, socioeconomic and cultural factors, the reduction of stunting requires that direct nutrition interventions are integrated and implemented in tandem with broader sustainable development interventions. In its initial phase, UNITLIFE will focus on supporting programming in two of these key areas – addressing childhood stunting and other immediate effects of malnutrition and addressing the gender gap in climate-smart agriculture.

A common thread across the two programme is the key role that women play as agents of change in the fight against chronic malnutrition (the full UNITLIFE theory of change is given in Annex B). Therefore, addressing the root causes of gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment, will help to reduce barriers and improve women's capacities to address the impacts of malnutrition.

Gender inequality can affect maternal nutritional and health status before, during, and after pregnancy, influencing a child's early growth and development. Practices that can lead to undernutrition in children include early age of marriage/conception, poor secondary education, domestic violence, inadequate decision-making power, and poor control over resources. Gender inequality in access to land and other forms of property, financial services and information also affects women's income generation capacity. Women account for 70% of the farmers in regions with high prevalence of chronic malnutrition. Closing

the gender gap in agriculture in access to productive resources is a particularly effective strategy to combat chronic malnutrition.

Priority Intervention 1: Child stunting and other immediate effects of malnutrition are addressed

UNITLIFE will support the increased availability and quality of programs strengthening the capacity of government, non-governmental actors and development partners to provide treatments for stunting and other immediate effects of malnutrition.

This will include direct support for nutrition-specific intervention on pregnant women and women with young children such as: antenatal micronutrient supplementation (over half a billion of women of reproductive age and pregnant women remain anemic every year); counseling for mothers and caregivers on infant and children nutrition and hygiene practices (for example demonstrating the impact that breastfeeding can have on stunting through the reduction of diarrheal incidence); balanced energy-protein supplementation for pregnant women (reduced by a third the risk of low birthweight); and intermittent presumptive treatment of malaria in pregnancy in malaria endemic regions.

In addition, UNITLIFE will support interventions for children between age 0-2, including vitamin supplements for children, prophylactic zinc supplements and public provision of complementary food for children (that can reduce stunting by 2/3 in food-insecure populations).

Both categories of interventions will improve the food intake and health outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, which will in turn decrease child stunting incidences and other immediate effects of malnutrition.

Priority Intervention 2: Gender gap in climate-smart agriculture is closed

On average, women farmers comprise 43% of the agricultural workforce and produce 60 to 80 percent of food crops in poorer parts of the world, yet they often lack equal access to land and productive resources. As the world's population continues to grow---- reaching a projected 9.7 billion by 2050---- agricultural production will need to rise by 60% to meet the increase in demand. Studies have shown that women farmers could increase their agricultural productivity by 20%-30% if given equal access to land and productive resources in Sub-Saharan Africa.,

Furthermore, when agricultural plots produce well, there is less pressure to deforest for additional ground, and where regenerative practices replace chemical-intensive ones, soil becomes a carbon storehouse. As a result, by closing the gender gap in agriculture, deforestation can be avoided, saving an estimated 2.06 gigatons of emissions.

Moreover, evidence has shown that when women earn more, they tend to invest greater share of their earning into education, health, and nutrition for their families and communities. Therefore, closing the gender gap in land and other productive resources can provide a "triple dividend": gender equality, food security, and climate management

UNITLIFE will support the increase of women's access to land and productive resources. This will improve the agricultural productivity, revenue and decision-making authority of women farmers, which will in turn improve their capacity to positively impact the nutritional status of children, pregnant and lactating women.

UNITLIFE Theory of change

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Goal | Reduction in chronic malnutrition is achieved by addressing both the immediate effects (stunting) and the root causes of chronic malnutrition including gender inequality. | |
| Goal TOC Statement | If (1) capacity is increased to address child stunting and gender inequality, then (2) malnutrition will decrease because (3) the underlying causes and immediate effects of malnutrition are both addressed. | |
| Outcomes | 1. Child stunting and other immediate effects of malnutrition are addressed | 2. Gender gap in climate-smart agriculture is closed to benefit both men and women. |
| Outcomes TOC | If (1) the availability and quality of programs targeting the causes of malnutrition are increased; and the capacity for providing treatments of stunting and other immediate effects of malnutrition are strengthened then (2) child stunting incidences and other immediate effects of malnutrition will decrease because (3) food intake and health outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers have improved. | If (1) women's access to land and productive resources is increased then (2) nutritional status of children, pregnant and lactating women will improve because (3) agricultural productivity, revenues, and decision-making authority of women farmers are substantially improved. |
| Outputs | <p>1.1 Increased access to nutritional interventions for pregnant women and mothers of infants and young children (i.e. antenatal micronutrient supplementation, infant and young child nutrition counselling, balanced energy-protein supplementation for pregnant women, and intermittent presumptive treatment for malaria in pregnancy in malaria-endemic regions)</p> <p>1.2 Increased access to nutritional interventions for infants and young children (i.e. Vitamin A supplementation, prophylactic zinc supplementation, public provision of complementary foods for children)</p> <p>1.3 Increased access to and utilization of health services by pregnant mothers, mothers of infants and young children</p> <p>1.4 Strengthened political commitment and national capacity to legislate, plan, and budget for scaling up nutritional interventions</p> | <p>2.1 Improved and secured land tenure for women farmers</p> <p>2.2 Reduced gender gap in access to information on climate smart agriculture, including digital agriculture.</p> <p>2.3 Improved financial inclusion for women farmers (i.e. through the development of gender-inclusive financial products) and access to climate smart technologies</p> <p>2.4 Increased access for women farmers to markets through strengthened participation and leadership of women farmers in co-operatives</p> <p>2.5 Reduced time poverty to enable women farmers to adopt new farming practices through investment in basic (energy, water, health facilities) and food processing infrastructure.</p> |
| Key Assumptions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Evidenced-based implementation plans combined with doable and cost-effective technical solutions can make a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CSA policies tend to be gender-blind and lack of women's land and property rights is a structural cause of gender inequality; |

| | | |
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| | <p>difference in improving access to health services for children and women of reproductive age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resource allocation for maternal & child health is sufficient and allocated in a manner that facilitates integration of services. ○ The expansion of nutritional services to marginalized children and women alone will not yield results if not accompanied by a serious effort to invest changing social norms on gender inequality and gender biases. ○ Common understanding of human rights standards for delivering quality maternal & child health services; Governments will commit and allocate more domestic resources to SRH interventions; Policy and political environment improved. ○ Adequate capacity and human resources, with relative stability in global food and medicine prices | <p>gender responsive CSA policies and secured land tenure can facilitate women's access to finance, information and markets as women's demonstrated land tenure security or ownership is important collateral for access to finance and agricultural extension services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gender gap exists in access to affordable finance and insurance; Women are in weaker intra-household bargaining positioning, which reduces their ability to save and invest; New technologies and tools will save women time and be less physically intensive ○ Gender gaps in women's participation and access to innovative agricultural practices, information and digital technologies; and women's use of technologies is not always supported by enabling social norms and practices. ○ Gender gaps exist in women's access to markets and value chains (aggregation, processing, distribution, decision-making); greater access to markets and moving higher in the value chain will increase incomes. Connectivity and electricity are vital to facilitate agricultural and food production, processing, storage and inclusion in supply chains in remote rural areas; and women cooperative and entrepreneurs are key to accelerate decentralized electricity access |
| <p>Risk & Barriers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of political will and commitment to invest in integrated quality SRH that reach marginalized groups and key populations; weak country health systems and infrastructure; pervasive gender inequalities and associated abuses of women's and girls' human rights; sociocultural barriers; geographic factors; and barriers to access due to insecurity, particularly in humanitarian crises and fragile contexts ○ Sociocultural and legal barriers increase; higher national human resources turnover; reduced national ownership of the programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social, cultural and political attitudes are resistant to change in favor of equal land and resource rights; equal rights in laws and policies are not translated into practice. ○ Social, cultural and political attitudes are resistant to change in favor of increasing women's equal access to finance; Macroeconomic policies do not support micro-lending and financial services to the poor; Local financial institutions are under-capitalized. ○ Uncertain social acceptance of new technologies and practices; Women's unpaid care and domestic work responsibilities limit time for learning new technologies; Men resent women having access to new technologies if they do not have the same. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Social/political/trade barriers to women moving up the value chain, having preferential access to markets and creating enterprises; Private sector unwilling to pay slightly more for products from women smallholders or engage with new women distributors; Macroeconomic policies do not support women farmers in national/global value chains. |
|--|--|--|

UNITLIFE and the Sustainable Development Goals

UNITLIFE’s focus on its 2 priority intervention areas will enable it to contribute to 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 35 of the 169 SDG targets.

Figure 2. UNITLIFE’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Understanding the Impact of UNITLIFE

UNITLIFE’s social, economic and environmental impacts span across 10 Sustainable Development Goals, with the possibility of significantly contributing towards 35 of the 169 SDG indicators. The potential impact of UNITLIFE on each SDG is proportional to the size of the slices in the figure, demonstrating that the targets of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) are most closely correlated with the objectives of UNITLIFE.

Note: For additional details on UNITLIFE’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals please see Annex A.

UNITLIFE will directly contribute to SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 2 (food security), SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water and sanitation) and SDG 10 (reduced inequality) by supporting programs that aim to improve childhood nutrition and women farmers’ increased earnings, which will contribute to reduced poverty and hunger, improved access to health and sanitation, enhanced cognitive capacity and school performance, and the advancement of women’s empowerment. But it will also have a significant impact on SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable growth), SDG 13 (climate change) and

SDG 16 (peace and security). As a woman farmer who can feed, educate and clothe her children has a better capacity to ensure that they do not join a violent extremist group (UN Women, 2018).

Financing of UNITLIFE

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing global challenges such as chronic malnutrition require considerable financing. Traditional funding sources (i.e. national budgets, ODA, bilateral aid and multilateral aid) provide an important, but insufficient source of support for this new development agenda. In response to this challenge, various initiatives have been developed to increase and diversify funding sources, including public-private partnerships, pooled funding mechanisms, and others. In addition, there has been an important push to develop and implement innovative development financing, ranging from an international solidarity levy on air tickets, to international financial and currency transaction taxes, debt for development swaps, and other initiatives. Leveraging this history of innovation in financing, UNITLIFE is a fund developed to collect voluntary microdonations with the aim of addressing the immediate effects and root causes of chronic malnutrition.

The potential of micro-contributions and their impact has been demonstrated through UNITAID, which has collected \$3 billion to date by adding a \$1 solidarity levy to every air-ticket in 12 countries. This has contributed to the reduction of medication prices for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by more than 60%, thereby saving millions of lives. However, this success has been mitigated by the difficulty of introducing a tax on a global level, however minimal the tax may be. Building on this experience, UNITLIFE will therefore be funded by voluntary micro or small donations that are driven by global solidarity.

Digital finance has tremendous potential to revolutionize publicphilanthropy: with more than 5 billion bank cards currently in circulation around the world amounting close to \$30 trillion monetary transactions per year. Micro donations at the time of payment can be a powerful tool to scale up the impact of micro contributions. For example, a 0.001% donation on this volume of transactions would generate a scaled impact of \$300 million per year.

Figure 3. Sample customer experience with Ingenico microdonation app



UNITLIFE will pilot micro-donations of \$1 dollar or less in high volume/low added value businesses and small donations of up to \$ 100 in low volume/high added value businesses. Digital solutions allow the separation of donations from the company's sales revenue, which simplifies accountability and facilitates tax deduction while eliminating additional accounting work from participating partners. This streamlines the collection process and ensures that a participating customer's purchasing experience remains uninterrupted.

New digital finance solutions will make UNITLIFE-related transactions simpler for the customer and participating enterprises. UNITLIFE will leverage financial digital technologies to simplify the transfer of funds. The digital platform will ensure a seamless connection between collect and transfer of funds. It will allow all financial transactions to be 100% transparent and tracable, ensuring donors that their contributions are received by the desired beneficiaries.

UNITLIFE's comparative advantage in the field of malnutrition

UNITLIFE addresses a critical funding gap with an innovative source of finance made possible by new digital finance technologies. UNITLIFE is the first trust fund that leverages innovative financing solutions to fight against chronic malnutrition, one of the least known, and most underfunded diseases in the world. It leverages the customer-base of participating enterprises to promote global citizen solidarity for global justice. It incentivizes multi-stakeholder partnerships to address both the immediate effects and root

causes of chronic malnutrition in a cost effective and efficiency manner. Digital finance technologies enable UNITLIFE to commit to a high degree of transparency and low transaction costs.

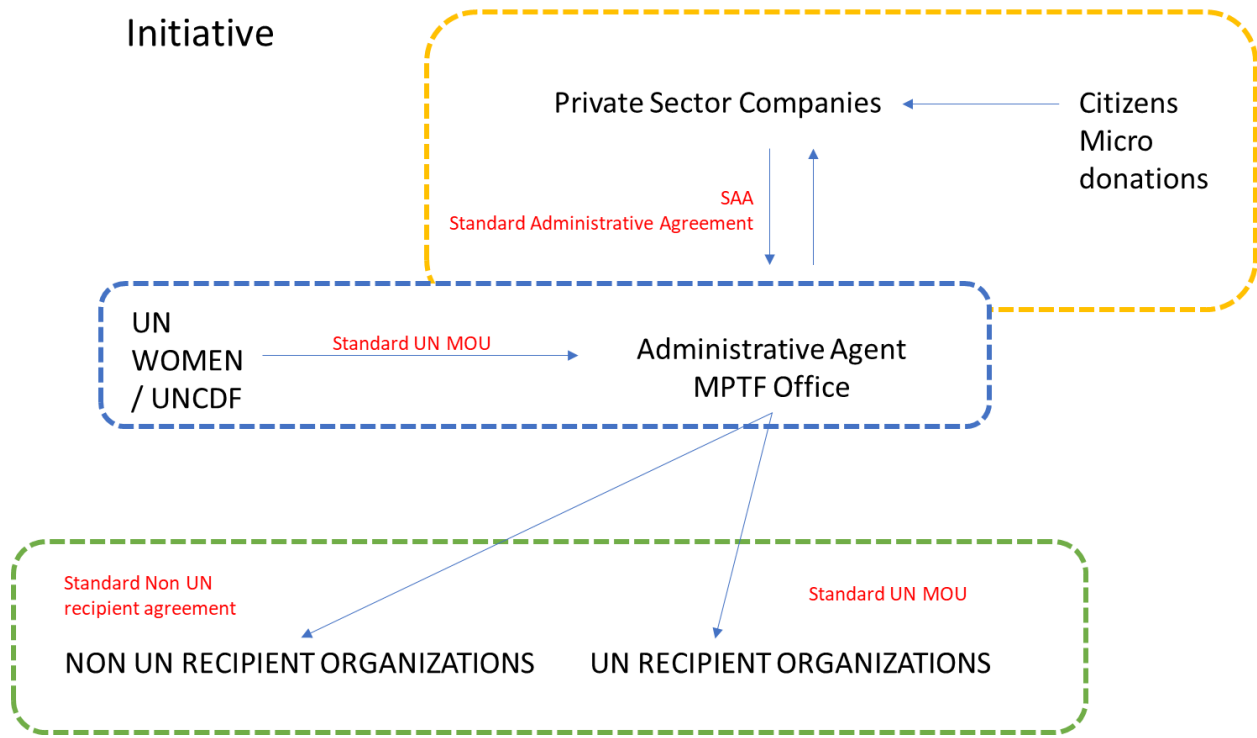
In line with its vocation as a trust fund aimed at promoting greater linkages between the public and private sector, UNITLIFE will not build a separate operational capacity. It will support the most promising efforts and build coalitions to scale up nutrition efforts in the fight against chronic malnutrition. Following in the footsteps of UNITAID, UNITLIFE will publish a semi-annual open call for proposals, at the global or regional level, to source high impact projects that, in line with its two initial priority interventions, address the root causes and immediate effects of stunting to simultaneously improve nutrition, education, sustainable food production as well as climate change (SDGs, 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 and 13).

UNITLIFE will act as a passthrough mechanism, enabling it to transfer resources in a highly cost-effective manner to a broad range of multilateral and non-governmental implementing partners. As it is established by UN Women, UNCDF and MPTFO on behalf of the United Nations, the fund will be able to benefit from the expertise of UN agencies specialized in child nutrition and food security, knowledge which will supplement UNCDF and UN Women's expertise in addressing gender gaps in climate smart agriculture.

By using the latest generation of digital finance technologies (microdonation e-payment application such as AXIS, contactless e-payment terminals with large digital screens, etc.), UNITLIFE's signature features are the absence of cumbersome procedures and total traceability. These two features are critical for an instrument that relies on the collection of micro and small donations from the public. The development of a full digital platform will also enable UNITLIFE to maintain transaction costs to a bare minimum by reducing financial intermediation needs between the donor and the beneficiary. It will also enable UNITLIFE to segregate and trace financial flows. The cost of the Secretariat will be kept to 3% after the first investment cycle (3 years). As part of its resource mobilization strategy, the fund is committed to seeking grants from foundations, which will ensure that individual donations will never be used to cover the full secretarial costs for the fund.

Legal and Funding Architecture

The Unitlife Initiative



The Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Multi-Partner Trust Funds are financial vehicles designed to support international development initiatives and partnership platforms with clearly defined programmatic purpose and a results framework based on a shared theory of change.

Multi-Partner Trust Funds can be designed in many different ways but will always involve leading actors and multiple implementing partners. They can receive contributions from a diverse set of donors and enable a collective response from all stakeholders through shared financing and joint support towards agreed goals. Resources in a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund are co-mingled in a single trust fund account.

The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) was established in 2006 as the dedicated UNDP center of expertise on the design and administration of pooled financing mechanisms. The MPTF Office has supported the UN system, development partners and national governments with the establishment of over 130 Multi-Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes since its inception.

Establishing the Unitlife Trust Fund

UN Women and UNCDF are establishing the Unitlife MPTF by appointing the MPTF Office as the Administrative Agent (AA), also defined as the “Fund Administrator.” The MPTF Office is responsible for fund design, establishment and administration. The appointment of the Fund Administrator is legally formalized by the signing of the **Fund MOU** between the UN WOMEN, UNCDF and the MPTF Office. This arrangement is the foundation act for this UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, as it describes the pass-through financial set-up. This is based on standard UN procedures, recalling operational arrangements such as receiving contributions from donors, programmatic and financial accountability of implementers, transfer funds and reporting of projects/activities.

The Private Sector Companies

The private sector companies joining the Unitlife will collect micro donation from citizens, and will in return donate to the Fund by signing a Standard Administrative Agreement (SAA). The Fund Administrator will then receive contributions twice a year from those companies.

Companies with direct involvement in armament, tobacco, violation of UN sanctions, pornography, unregulated and/or illegal sale or distribution of wildlife, gambling, violation of human rights and child labor will not be able to join the Unitlife Initiative. The Fund Secretariat will maintain a proper due diligence process for any private sector participant.

Individual donations, gifts from foundations or companies will also be accepted by the Fund Administrator and managed under the same Standard Administrative Agreement.

Eligible Receiving Organizations

Any UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies can access the Unitlife financing by signing the Fund (MoU) for UN Organizations (RUNOs) using the pass-through arrangement. The Fund MoU describes the role of the Fund Administrator and the obligation of the RUNOs, including financing and implementation matters, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, audit, fraud, corruption, unethical behavior, communication and visibility. The MoU is signed between the Fund Administrator and each RUNO once a first allocation is approved by the Unitlife governance body.

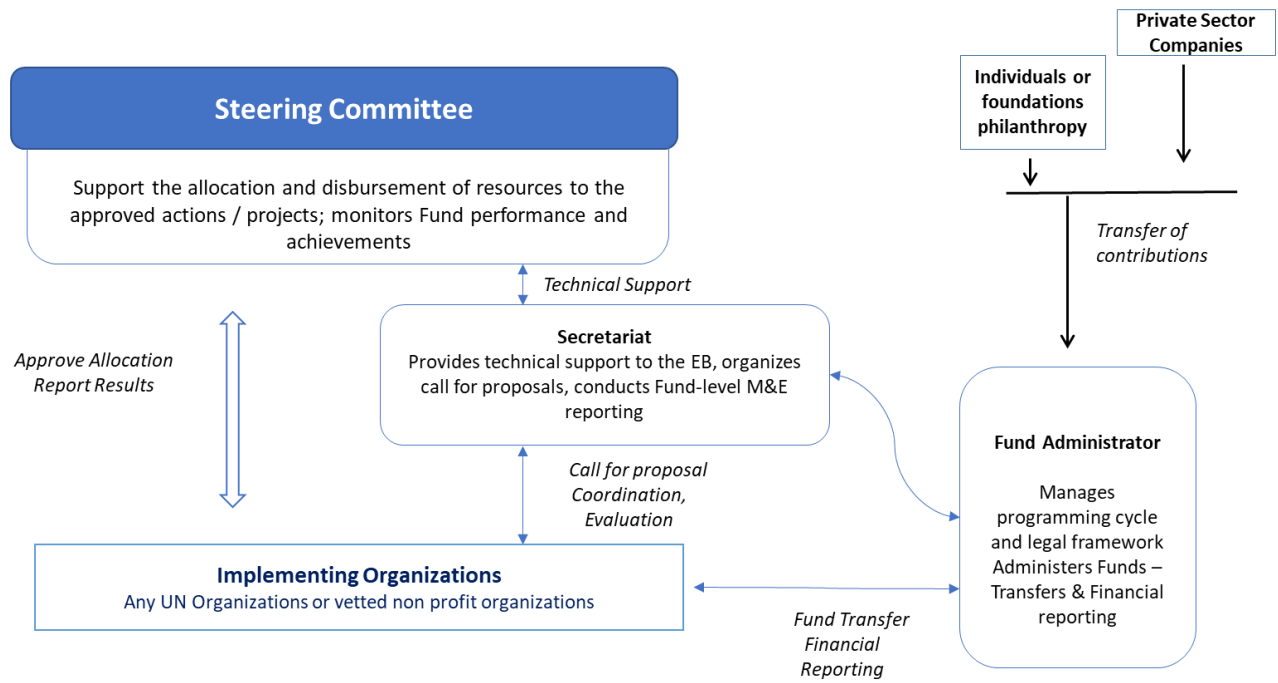
Non-United Nations entities can also directly access the Unitlife financing. Those entities need to be non-profit, non-governmental, civil society organizations with proven strong fiduciary standards similar to the UN and have a minimum of one million dollars capitalization annually. The Fund Administrator will proceed with the vetting of the Non-UN organizations and sign the Non-UN Organizations Financing Agreement, the cost for this vetting process will be charged to the Fund as a direct cost. Any specific fiduciary requirements, such as external audits and controls, will be specified on a case by case basis. Non-UN entities not eligible for direct access will be able to receive funding through a dedicated managing agent appointed by the Steering Committee and assuming full fiduciary accountability on their behalf.

Fund Governance

The management of the Unitlife MPTF comprises three levels:

- i) Fund Governance (Steering Committee)
- ii) Fund Management (Secretariat, MPTF Office)
- iii) Fund Implementation (implementing organizations; UN and non-UN entities)

Figure 1: Overall Governance Structure of the Fund



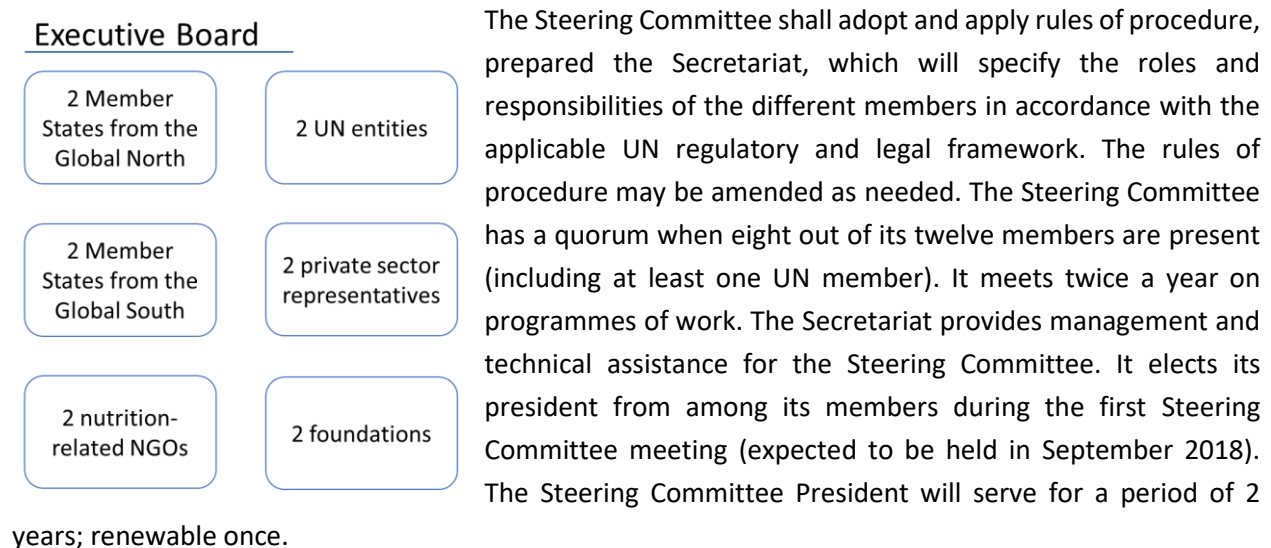
The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee in accordance with its Rules of Procedure provides overarching high-level strategic direction and advice and effective management oversight of all operational aspects of the initiative.

The Steering Committee is responsible for the following:

Strategic Oversight:

- Set the strategic direction of the initiative and exercise overall accountability for the achievement of initiative objectives;
- Oversees the implementation of the Unitlife Trust Fund, reviews overall performance and approves any revision of the portfolio, as required;
- Reviews and approves the Trust Fund policies and rules of procedure (the Standard Operations Manual) that complement the terms of reference (ToR). The rules of procedure may be amended as needed;
- Approves Investment Plans and eligibility criteria, including maximum allocation envelopes, as well as the theory of change;
- Approves direct costs budgets, specifically those related to the Secretariat and any support operations, evaluations, and audits;
- Approves projects in person at the Steering Committee meetings and/or via an online management system programme/project documents submitted by the Recipient Organizations (UN and non-UN), based on Secretariat recommendations and technical reviews. In the case of any objections, the proposal will be reviewed in the upcoming Steering Committee meeting;
- Regularly reviews the risk-monitoring matrix and provides support for risk management strategy and actions;
- Reviews annual and final consolidated narratives and financial reports submitted by the Secretariat;
- Commissions, through the Secretariat, evaluations/lessons learned exercises by an independent evaluator on the overall performance of the Trust Fund;

Figure 2 Steering Committee Composition

The Government of France and UN Women have two permanent seats in the Steering Committee. The other seats are all rotational for a period of four years. Invitations to serve on the Steering Committee will be issued jointly by UN Women and the Government of France. The criteria for acquiring the rotational seats are:

- For the private sector seats: e-payment service provider; and the largest private sector contributor
- For the Members from the North; France (who holds a permanent seat) and another Member State recognized Member State champion of innovative financing and the fight against chronic malnutrition
- For the Member States from the South: 2 recognized Member State champions of innovative financing and the fight against chronic malnutrition
- For the NGOs: 2 leading NGOs in the field of nutrition
- For the Foundations: The top two contributing Foundations to UNITLIFE
- For the UN Entity: UN Women (who holds a permanent seat) and a UN Agency starting with UNCDF.

The rotational seats are obtained at the beginning of the calendar year (January). Both the Secretariat and the Administrative Agent are ex officio members of the Steering Committee.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat will be established to support functioning of the Steering Committee and to facilitate the overall operation of the Fund.

The Secretariat holds both technical and operational expertise. A primary role of the Secretariat is to manage the approval of initiative/project/programme proposals in accordance with the Investment Plans and the allocation envelopes as agreed by the Steering Committee. The Secretariat guarantees that successful proposals have been developed in accordance with agreed-upon programme submission guidelines and criteria specified in the Standard Operations Manual.

The Secretariat is responsible for the following:

- Outreach and mobilize participating (private sector) enterprises and foundations
- Prepare the Investment Plans;
- Develop and test UNITLIFE's digital architecture
- Prepare the Standard Operations Manual;
- Manage the proposal submission and selection process;
- Provide guidance to proponents on proposal development;
- Manage the online dedicated management platform for decision making;
- Organize call for proposals and screen proposals in accordance with the funding priorities and allocations set by the Steering Committee;
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of programme implementation;
- Ensure sharing of knowledge and lessons learned through dedicated technical support;
- Ensure efficient and effective logistical and secretarial support to the Steering Committee. This includes *inter alia*; planning and preparing meetings, ensuring records of decisions through meeting minutes, and supporting the nominating and election of members and the President;
- Manage and support communication, public information and visibility;
- Ensure monitoring and control of operational risks (update the risk monitoring matrix regularly);
- Develop the resource mobilization strategy;
- Consolidate the narrative reports submitted by Recipient Organizations;
- Support coordination efforts with any relevant global initiatives to avoid overlap or duplication.

The budget required to perform the tasks dedicated to the functions of the Secretariat are agreed and approved annually by the Steering Committee and charged to the Fund account as direct costs ultimately not exceeding three percent of the overall fund capitalization.¹

Participating Enterprises

UNITLIFE is a trust fund aimed at supporting greater linkages between the public and private sectors. In addition to enabling the fund to reach out to their customer-base, private enterprises will be actively involved in the communication strategy of UNITLIFE. While the fund will provide a common set of

¹ The direct cost can be higher during the first years of operation while the Fund is reaching its targeted annual capitalization level.

information materials to partners, each participating enterprise will be able to customize the overall messaging to the specific requirements of its customer base. This will optimize the impact of UNITLIFE's communication efforts while enabling participating enterprises to align their contributions to their brand values.

In addition, some CEOs from participating enterprises might volunteer their time as UNITLIFE Champions. UNITLIFE Champions will have very high reputations for strong ethical practices, demonstrate global excellence in their field of business, offer a global reach with broad information distribution channel, and establish strong commitment towards the causes of UNITLIFE life, specifically on addressing the immediate causes and effects of stunting as well as closing the gender gap in agriculture. Using their platforms and networks, the Champions will enable UNITLIFE to broaden its range of private sector partners and promote programs that will make a sustainable impact in reducing chronic malnutrition around the world (see Annex D).

UNITLIFE Champions are our private sector partners who are dedicated supporters of the fight against chronic malnutrition. At a time when extreme poverty is receding in the world, it is necessary to continue our efforts to help the most vulnerable. UNITLIFE Champions are committed to leveraging our digital innovations to tackle chronic malnutrition on a global scale.

UNITLIFE Champions will have very high reputations for strong ethical practices, demonstrate global excellence in their field of business, offer a global reach with broad information distribution channel, and establish strong commitment towards the causes of UNITLIFE life, specifically on addressing the immediate causes and effects of stunting as well as closing the gender gap in agriculture.

Using their platforms and networks, the Champions will support the UNITLIFE Initiative through the following activities:

- Advocating for UNITLIFE's activities that aim to address the immediate and root causes of stunting;
- Raise awareness for the complex and multi-dimensional causes of chronic malnutrition, and the need to increase investment in finding innovative and effective solutions;
- Provide substantive input and expertise to the UNITLIFE initiatives;
- Use their respective platforms to encourage additional enterprises to participate in UNITLIFE.

This will support our mission to raise fund and support programs that will make a sustainable impact in reducing chronic malnutrition around the world.

The Fund Administrator

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO or MPTF Office) acts as the Fund

Administrator/Administrative Agent² of the Fund. The MPTFO provides the Steering Committee with administration and other support services, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UN WOMEN, UNCDF and the MPTFO when the initiative is established. The Administrative Agent uses a pass-through modality whereby each recipient UN and non-UN organization applies its own procedures, provided they meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and ToR in terms of safeguards and fiduciary principles.

The MPTFO is responsible for the following initiative design and administration functions:

- Execute and coordinate all administrative and management functions including the receipt of contributions and piloting the programming cycle;
- Oversee the design, development and maintenance of one integrated platform for programme design, management and reporting;
- Provide advice and recommendations on implementation performance and cash management;
- Receive contributions from donors that provide financial support to the initiative;
- Administer funds in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures;
- Transfer funds upon instructions from the head of the Secretariat following a decision by the Steering Committee;
- Provide donors with financial consolidated reports.

In addition, the MPTFO through its online portal, GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>), provides real-time financial data generated directly from its accounting system, giving partners and the general public the ability to track contributions, transfers, and expenditures.

The MPTFO charges a cost for performing the Fund Administrator functions in line with UNDG policies and contribution agreements. This is a direct fee not exceeding one percent of the overall fund capitalization. Costs incurred by the Fund Administrator in the design and set-up of the Unitlife Fund are charged retroactively as per legal agreements.

The Implementing Organizations

The Fund will be implemented by:

1. UN Organizations
2. Non-UN entities (non-profit organizations only)

Non-UN organizations refers to all non-profit organizations with a legal existence in any country. Non-profit organizations with a total annual budget of less than US\$1 million cannot be contracted as an Implementing Organization, with exception of the small grants window. Smaller organization may also access the funds as a sub-contractor through an organization that fits the criteria.

² The Fund Administrator is named Administrative Agent in all legal documents.

Each Implementing Organization shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Fund Administrator. Each Implementing Organization is to establish a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Fund Administrator. This separate ledger account is to be administered by each Implementing Organization in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Implementing Organizations are referred to as Recipient Organizations where relevant in this ToR.

Each Implementing Organization is to carry out its activities described in the approved proposal in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it, using its standard implementation modalities.³

While respecting their rules and regulations implementing organizations are to display a high-level of awareness in regard to the risk of fraud, corruption⁴ and all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Steering Committee. The implementing organizations are expected to be proactive in reporting those risks to the Fund Administrator and the Secretariat.

The Timeline for Operationalisation

The establishment of UNITLIFE in its first year of existence will take place in four phases:

1) Signing of the framework and hosting arrangements

- Launch of UNITLIFE by the government of France and the executive office of the Secretary-General after signing off on its framework and hosting arrangements have been made
- Key project documents and Rules of Procedure will be developed to move on to the establishment of the Steering Committee

2) Establishment of governing structure

- The president of the Steering Committee will be appointed during the first SC meeting
- The Steering Committee will meet and review the progress report on a regular basis

3) Establishment of management structure

- Oversee the implementation arrangements of UNITLIFE
- Oversee the collection and dispersion of funds

4) Launch of call for proposals

- Select grantees for UNILITFE
- Disburse funds to UNITLIFE grantees

³ Described in section III and VI of the RUNO Memorandum of Understanding.

⁴ Described in section VII of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Programming Cycle

Fund Allocations

The Unitlife Fund aims to have a scaled approach. A pilot phase will be in effect during the first two years or until a certain amount of capitalization has been reached (under US\$10M revenue per year). This pilot phase will include targeted small-scale interventions for clear results, seeking to piggy-backbacking on existing frameworks and well-known initiatives.

LIMITATIONS ON FUND ALLOCATIONS

The Steering Committee can set a maximum percentage of the total annual funds to be allocated to one single Recipient Organization (UN and non-UN), excluding any direct cost. Similarly, the Steering Committee can agree to set a minimum percentage of the total annual funds to be allocated to non-UN entities.

Step by Step Approach

The Fund Administrator transfers funds to Recipient Organizations based on instructions from the Secretariat, which are in line with project approvals (online management platform) and the Investment Plan allocation envelopes set by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee identifies funding priorities taking into consideration the Fund objectives, theory of change, risk appetite, and recommendations by stakeholders, among other considerations.

Step 1: Development of Investment Plans

The development of specific Investment Plans better refine the scope of the financing strategy for individual funding cycles. The plan sets specific investment objectives and proposes the adequate mix of implementation modalities. It frames a programming cycle with a clear geographic and thematic scope, timeline, expected deliverables (with indicative costed outputs) and the associated financial needs. The Investment Plans specify the allocation envelopes according to the theory of change and the three streams described above. Several Investment Plans can overlap within a financial mechanism and can be strategic tools to demonstrate needs and provide a clear and focused programmatic scope for Recipient Organizations. For the Unitlife Fund, the Investment Plans are to run over a five-year period, which makes a total of two full cycles until the year 2030. The first two years will be a direct allocation period, while the Investment Plan for the next five years (2020-2024) is under development. The Investment Plans will be made available online as a reference document for potential Recipient Organizations.

Step 2: Development of projects

Each eligible Recipient Organization can submit a brief concept note proposal to the Secretariat before set deadlines in call for proposal

Step 3: Assessment of Proposal – Concept Note Screening

The Secretariat conducts an initial screening and assessment of the concept notes. If accepted, the Secretariat requests a fully-fledged project document for further review.

Step 4: Assessment of Proposal – Technical Review of Full Project Documents

The Secretariat conducts a systematic, comprehensive technical assessment of the full project proposals. Proposals are approved by the Steering Committee through the online platform and/or in its meetings.

Step 5: Approval

If no objections are raised by the Steering Committee through the online management platform within the set time frame, the projects are approved. In case of any objections, the proposals are reviewed in the upcoming Steering Committee meeting.

Step 6: Circulation of Approved Projects

The Secretariat shares the final list of approved projects with the Steering Committee, implementers, contributors and relevant counterparts. The entire process is transparent, and all relevant documents are available online.

The overall process from the project concept clearance, full project development to approval of projects should not take longer than three to six months.

Implementation

Cross-cutting Elements

Innovation

The Unitlife supports and promotes innovation to generate new solutions. Each Recipient Organization is encouraged to develop proposals that identify, prototype, and scale-up methodologies and business practices that can be replicated. For each Outcome/Pillar, the Unitlife will demonstrate how to move away from “business as usual.” It will adopt new and innovative approaches, test prototypes and methodologies, analyze impacts, and mobilize the replication of successful practices.

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) is a programmatic principle for all UN programmes and initiatives. The Unitlife will ensure adequate attention to GEWE in all its efforts. The initiative recognizes that no development initiative is gender neutral and that the needs and realities of women, men, boys and girls must be adequately addressed and included to avoid gender-blind interventions. Although attention and action towards GEWE is expected by all partners, it is the overall responsibility of the Secretariat to support the development of gender sensitivity, expertise, knowledge and capacity at all levels of the initiative. This may include, *inter alia*:

- Ensuring gender parity among staff and representation at all governing levels of the initiative;
- Ensuring that gender mainstreaming is included in any operational guidelines;
- Ensuring that a gender analysis is included in the development of investment frameworks;
- Ensuring that the funds governing principles promote equitable access and benefits for women; and men, this includes promoting women-led or focused organizations as implementing partners;
- In project/programme implementation, advocate for the:
 - Consultation with women stakeholders in project development,
 - Inclusion of technical, social and gender expertise throughout the whole of project planning and implementation,
 - Establishment of sex-disaggregated baselines and indicators to measure effects on women,
 - Sufficient financial resources allocated towards GEWE.

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

For each project approved for funding, each Implementing Organization provides the Secretariat and the Fund Administrator with narrative progress reports and financial annual statements prepared in accordance with their accounting and reporting procedures, as agreed upon in the legal agreements signed with the Fund Administrator.

The annual and final reports are results-oriented and evidence based. The reports give a summary of results and achievements compared to the expected result in the programme document. Both programmatic and financial performance indicators are monitored at the outcome and output levels.

Output Level

The output indicators are specific to each programme and reflect changes in skills or abilities, or the availability of new products and services that achieved with the resources provided by the Fund. The evaluation of the performance against each output indicator takes external factors into account as well as the pre-identified assumptions and risks. The Implementing Organizations are responsible for the achievement of this first level of results and responsible for collecting and reporting data.

Outcome Level

The outcome indicators monitor the long-term results for biodiversity conservation and domesticated animal care. The proposed outcome indicators are found in Annex I - The Results Framework.

Every programme funded by the Fund has the responsibility to collect data for the indicators of the outcome to which they are contributing. While many factors beyond the control of the implementing organizations may influence results, it is expected that all stakeholders will uphold the mutual

commitment agreed to in the Letter of Intent and work together towards the shared outcomes of the Fund.

Performance Assessment

The Secretariat is responsible for consolidating the data reported by the implementing organizations, together with the financial reported expenditures, into a single monitoring and evaluation scorecard. The Steering Committee uses this tool to review overall progress against expected results and to assess the achievement of performance targets defined in the project document.

The Steering Committee commissions reviews and/or independent evaluations on the overall performance of the Fund at the end of each Investment Plan cycle. However, to inform the development of the next Investment Plan, the first review or evaluation may take place in 2020/2021 to inform the second Investment Plan. The aim of these reviews/evaluations are to be spelled out in further detail in the ToRs for the evaluations. As a minimum, though, they will include a review of the various performance measurements of the Fund, to confirm or to annul them, and to test the theory of the change described in the Result Fund Matrix.

In addition, the donor(s) may, separately or jointly with other partners, take the initiative to evaluate or review their cooperation with the Fund Administrator, the Steering Committee and the Recipient Organizations with a view to determining whether results are being or have been achieved and whether contributions have been used for their intended purposes. The Recipient Organizations will be informed about such initiatives, will be consulted on the scope and conduct of such evaluations or reviews and will be invited to join. The Recipient Organizations will, upon request, assist in providing relevant information within the limits of their regulations, rules, policies and procedures. All costs will be borne by the respective donor, unless otherwise agreed. It is understood by the Recipient Organizations that such evaluations or reviews will not constitute a financial, compliance or other audit of the Fund including any programmes, projects or activities funded under the Standard Memorandum of Understanding with the Recipient Organizations.

Annex A: The Unitlife's Contribution to the 2030 Agenda



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land

and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Poverty increases the risk of stunting and other forms of undernutrition by lowering households' (particularly the poorest) purchasing power, in turn reducing access to basic health services, and increasing the likelihood that members of these households will be exposed to unsafe environments. As a result, members of these households are more likely to be exposed to compromised food intake and infections – and therefore more vulnerable to stunting. On the other hand, childhood stunting is estimated to reduce a person's potential lifetime earnings by at least 10% (Shekar et al., 2017). Children who are not stunted at 36 months are 1/3 less likely to live in poor households as adults. Thus, stunting and poverty are interrelated with often mutually reinforcing effects (Shekar et al., 2017).

Moreover, food insecurity (a significant contributor to malnutrition) is an important dimension of poverty that is exacerbated by climate change. Addressing the impact of climate change on food insecurity –through the introduction of climate smart agricultural practices – is a significant strategy in the fight against this scourge. Notably, a focus on women's empowerment in this domain will amplify the positive impacts of this strategy. In fact, studies have shown that if the gender gap in climate-smart agriculture is closed and women have access to the same resources as men, total agricultural output in low-income countries will increase by 2.5-4% (FAO, 2011).

Thus, UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 1 by supporting programs that aim to reduce childhood stunting and close the gender gap in agriculture, which in turn will aim to contribute to increased household earnings and the reduction of poverty.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Hunger, the world's number one health risk (greater than HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined), is exacerbated by increasing food insecurity as a result of climate change and unpredictable weather patterns (WFP, 2012). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that by 2050, food production must increase by 60% in order to meet the demands of the growing world population (Hawken, 2017). Yet, the potential in increasing productivity in small-scale women farming remains untapped as a result of the gender gap in agriculture.

Women farmers face a number of key structural barriers that limit their access to land, information, finance, infrastructure, technologies and markets. Closing the gender gap in agriculture through informed investments that remove these barriers represents a huge opportunity for increasing agricultural output. It has been estimated that equalizing women's access to resources can increase agricultural productivity by 20-30%, as a result, the number of undernourished people in the world will drop by 12-17% (ODI, 2011).

Hunger is a result of food insecurity. Studies have shown that when women smallholders have access to the same resources as men, 100-150 million people will no longer be hungry (FAO, 2011). Thus, UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 2 by supporting programs that aim to close the gender gap in agriculture. Empowering small-scale women farmers will improve agricultural production, leading to better nutrition, a reduction in chronic malnutrition, and contributing towards an end to hunger.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

More than a third of child deaths and 11% of the total disease burden worldwide are due to maternal and child undernutrition (Lancet, 2008). Chronic malnutrition (stunting) is associated with suboptimal mental and physical development, leading to long-term impacts on physical health. These effects are often irreversible, even with improvements in nutrition after the first 1000 days of a child's life. Children with poor linear growth are also 1.5 times more likely to contract respiratory infections and diarrhea; those with severe stunting are more than 6 times more likely to contract these conditions (WBG, 2017). Thus, addressing the immediate effects of chronic malnutrition (stunting) can lead to long term benefits in the well-beings of all at all ages.

Apart from this, studies have shown that compared to men, when women's income increases, they tend to invest greater share of earning into education, health, and nutrition for their families and communities (Hawken, 2017). Closing the gender gap in agriculture will increase agricultural production of women farmers and empower them in household decision making. As a result, investment in health and nutrition will increase, which will subsequently improve health of the family overall.

UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 3 by supporting programs that aim to improve nutrition and access to health for stunting, as well as closing the gender gap in agriculture. This will reduce stunting, increase household investment in health, and promote well-being for all.



- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
 - 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education
 - 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
 - 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
 - 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Stunting before the age of 2 years predicts poorer cognitive and educational outcomes in later childhood and adolescence, which has significant educational and economic consequences at the individual, household and community levels (WHO, 2014).

Stunting is associated with poor performance on cognitive tests, including deficits in literacy, numeracy, reasoning, and vocabulary, among others (Aguayo et al., 2016). It is also associated with lower overall school achievement, and stunted children are more likely to be older at school enrollment, repeat grades, be absent from school, drop out of school, and fail at least one grade (Oot et al., 2016). It is estimated that the deficit in school grades attained, combined with the deficit in learning ability, results in a deficit of 2.91 grade equivalents (Oot et al., 2016). Among stunted children who are also poor, this rises to a total deficit of 4 years in grade equivalents because poverty compounds the risk for poor child development (Maalouf-Manasseh et al., 2016). Thus, addressing stunting will have a significant impact on educational outcome in children, especially those who are impoverished.

UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 4 by supporting programs that aim to improve childhood nutrition and access to health care, which will reduce stunting, improve intellectual functioning and school performance.



- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
 - 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
 - 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and

Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Gender inequality can affect maternal nutritional and health status before, during, and after pregnancy, influencing a child's early growth and development, beginning in the womb. Mothers have significant influence over childhood nutrition through pregnancy outcomes as well as effect on child care practices. Evidence reveals the strong correlation between gender inequality and stunting. Practices that can lead to undernutrition in children include early age of marriage/conception, poor secondary education, domestic violence, inadequate decision-making power, and poor control over resources.

Studies from South Asia show that infants born to adolescent mothers under 18 years are 1.22 times more likely to be stunted (Aguayo et al, 2016). In the case of domestic violence, its impact is not limited to psychological and physical hazards of the women, but higher incidences of low birth weight and stunting in children as well (Aguayo et al., 2016).

Investment in education for women is also inextricably linked to improvement in nutrition of children. Findings in India and Pakistan reveal that increasing level of education of women not only leads to significant reduction in stunting, but also other important determinants of women's nutrition such as early marriage, age of first conception, as well as percentage of mothers with low body-mass-index (BMI) and suffering from domestic violence (Vir, 2016).

On the other hand, economic empowerment of women has shown positive association for better nutrition in children. Because when women exert more control over household resource allocation, they tend to invest more in education, nutrition and health of the family (Hawken, 2017). Consequently, the nutritional status of the children—and other household members—improves.

UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 5 by supporting programs that aim to tackle gender issues that are both nutrition-specific and nutrition-influencing. Immediate causes of malnutrition are influenced by a number of underlying socio-economic factors, including but not limited to women's low purchasing power, low decision-making power at family level, and poor investment in nutrition care of self, children and family. Because the physical, psychological and social status of the mother directly influence the nutritional status of their children, the case on gender equality for reducing childhood stunting cannot be clearer.



Ensure availability & sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Water, sanitation and hygiene are linked to all four 'pillars' of the food and nutrition security framework: food 'availability', through water as a resource for agricultural production; food 'access', through household income diverted from food by the cost of obtaining water and ensuring adequate sanitation; food 'stability', through the economic shock of treating related infectious disease or associated inability to work; and lastly food 'utilization',

through the effect of hygiene-related enteric infections on the body's ability to utilize the available nutrients (Aguayo et al., 2016).

Agriculture is currently responsible for about 70% of global water withdrawals, with most of it being used for irrigation. Climate change will affect both rainfed and irrigated agriculture through increased crop evapotranspiration, changes in the amount of rainfall, and variations in river runoff and groundwater recharge. This has an impact on water for agriculture, making rural populations and farming systems more vulnerable to extreme weather patterns. Climate-smart agriculture has been proven to improve forestry practices and governance, as well as transform the productivity of water use to help small farmers adapt to and mitigate future climate change in a manner that ensures secure livelihoods. UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 6 by supporting programs that aim support the uptake of climate-smart agriculture through closing the gender gap in agriculture. This will help promote sustainable farming practices that are more climate-resistant and water-efficient, and accelerate progress in eliminating stunting.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Stunting is an enormous drain on economic productivity and growth, with significant educational and economic consequences at the individual, household and community levels. For example, stunting negatively impacts children's ability to learn as a result of poor cerebral development. This loss in learning among stunted children has a direct impact on their income-earning potential in the future. A study conducted in the Philippines found that stunting at 2 years old was associated with a reduced likelihood of formal employment, while a large cross-sectional study in Brazil found that a 1 percent increase in height was associated with a 2.4 percent increase in wages (Shekar et al., 2017). On a larger scale, economists have estimated that stunting can reduce a country's gross domestic product by up to 3% (Shekar et al., 2017).

Moreover, because more than 1/3 of employed women globally work in agricultural sector, empowering women farmers presents a huge opportunity for promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth overall (FAO, 2011). Women farmers comprised 43% of the agricultural workforce and play a critical role in supporting household and community food security (FAO, 2011). Studies have shown that closing gender gap in agriculture can increase production by 20-30% (FAO, 2011). In Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda, closing the gender gap in agriculture have proven to increase the country's overall GDP (EOC & UNW, 2017).

UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 8 by supporting programs that aim to reduce stunting in children and reduce gender gap in agriculture, which will help both women and men to achieve full and productive employment, improve household earning and overall economic growth.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Studies have demonstrated the interdependent relationship between inequality and chronic malnutrition. It's easy to see that stunting is more concentrated among the poor than among the well-off. A study conducted in Bangladesh shows that household economic status, maternal and paternal education, health-seeking behavior of the mothers, sanitation, fertility, and maternal stature were the major contributors to the disparity in stunting prevalence (Huda et al., 2017).

Decades of underinvestment have led to slow and uneven progress against malnutrition. Children from the poorest 20% of the population are more than twice as likely to be stunted as those from the richest 20% (UN MDG Report, 2015). This uneven distribution of hunger and nutrition reflects the unequal distribution of power in the food system. 1 percent increase in adult height results in a 2.4 percent increase in earnings (WFP, 2007). Therefore, childhood malnutrition will lead to further economic disparity as adults with negative effects carrying onto the next generation.

While unjust social arrangements and distribution of resources in societies are causes of stunting, the negative impacts of childhood malnutrition on physical health, educational attainment, employment and overall productivity perpetuates these social and economic inequalities in a vicious cycle of poverty and malnutrition, crippling individual well-beings and development of nations.

On the other hand, the negative impacts of climate change often disproportionately affect small-scale farmers. Particularly, women farmers who face additional discrimination in attaining land tenure, and accessing resources such as technology, market and finance (Habtezion, 2017). Thus, giving women farmer equal access to land and resources on climate-smart agriculture can not only increase agricultural output, but also reduce gender inequality and improve social and economic parity.

By supporting programs that aims to reduce stunting and close the gender gap in agriculture, UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 10 by reducing inequalities in accessing nutrition, health care and productive resources, thus improving household earning, eliminating gender inequality in the agricultural sector, and reducing social and economic inequalities overall.



Climate Action

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Projections show that climate change will increase stunting by 30 to 50 percent by 2050 (Llyod et al., 2011). People who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are those who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agriculture is not only their main provider of food and nutrition, but also their source of income. Climate change affects malnutrition in a myriad of ways; it reduces agricultural yields and the nutritional value of staple crops and increases the risks of extreme hydrological weather events (drought and floods) as well as prevalence and spread of diseases, which are all closely linked with malnutrition in poor communities. 795 million people are estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2014, often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, drought and loss of biodiversity (SDG).

For example, the severe drought in southern Africa in 2015 and 2016 resulted in heavy losses of livestock and significant failure of agricultural production, including a deficit of 9 million metric tons of staple crop production (Teague, 2017). There was also widespread reporting of households using unsafe drinking water, which increased the spread of water-borne diseases. Farmers in Madagascar lost up to 80 percent of crops in 2016 and nearly 50,000 children needed immediate nutrition assistance (Teague, 2017). Zimbabwe estimated that the drought would put 4.1 million people in need of health and nutrition assistance (Teague, 2017). Mozambique reported in November 2016 that 1.4 million people were food insecure and that by May 2017, 243,000 children may be acutely malnourished (Teague, 2017).

Globally, more than 1/3 of employed women work in agricultural sector; in developing countries, women comprised 43% of the agricultural workforce (Habtezion, 2017). Consequently, they play a critical role in reversing the effects of climate change by adopting climate-smart agriculture. Worldwide agricultural production has the potential to mitigate between 5.5-6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide annually (IPCC, 2007), with most of this potential in developing countries. Climate-smart agriculture can help small-scale farmers sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes, adapt and build resilience to climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Closing the gender gap in land and other productive resources can provide a “triple dividend”: gender equality, food security, and climate management (Glemarec, 2017). UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 13 by supporting programs that address the gender gap in climate-smart agriculture to improve food security, and farming practices that are much more resilient and sustainable for the environment.



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Conflict has strong and unambiguous adverse effects on food security and nutrition. It is the major driver of food insecurity and malnutrition, both acute and chronic. Via versa, food insecurity can also be a source of conflict. While building resilience through peacebuilding efforts is critical for food security and nutrition, evidences have indicated that food insecurity itself can become a trigger for violence and instability, particularly in contexts marked by pervasive inequalities and fragile institutions (FAO, 2017). For example, the sudden spikes in food prices tend to exacerbate the risk of political unrest and conflict, as witnessed in 2007–08 when food riots broke out in more than 40 countries (FAO, 2017). Food insecurity can also result in more people entering a conflict and the vicious cycle continues.

On the other hand, climate change is one of the most pervasive global threats to peace and security in the 21st century (OUPBlog, 2017). The impacts of climate change directly affect the availability, the quality, and access to natural resources, particularly water, arable land, forests, and extractive resources (OUPBlog, 2017). Weather conditions that reduce agricultural productivity- drought, floods, and warmer temperatures- seem to lead to

food insecurity and contribute to civil conflict (FAO, 2016). For example, young men find fighting a more attractive option than farm work if the latter produces low returns; or poor households may voice their grievances against inadequate government responses to their poverty and hunger. Growing competition when supply cannot meet demand can lead to instability and even violent conflict. UNITLIFE will contribute to SDG 16 by improving food security through climate-smart agriculture. This will in turn, mitigate the effects of climate change on food production, as well as potential for food-insecurity-related conflict.

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