

# INTENSIFY IN-COUNTRY NUTRITION DISCOVERY AND R&D

## Session VI: Evidence-based Program and Policy Implementation Roundtable

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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
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# ■ BMGF COMMITMENT TO NUTRITION

“This funding will help more people around the world get the nutrition they need to live a healthy life, and we hope it serves as an invitation for more donors, foundations, governments, and private-sector leaders to build on today’s investment with more bold commitments.”

– Melinda French Gates  
Co-chair of the Gates Foundation

## The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Commits \$922 Million to Advance Global Nutrition to Help Women and Children

The foundation’s largest nutrition commitment to date comes as malnutrition rates are rising while foreign aid levels are decreasing

NEW YORK (September 23, 2021) – The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today announced a commitment of \$922 million over the next five years to address global nutrition and advance its mission that all women and children have the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives. The pledge, delivered at the first-ever [United Nations Food Systems Summit](#), is the foundation’s largest nutrition commitment to date.

# OUR CROSS-FOUNDATION APPROACH TO INVESTING IN NUTRITION

Today's focus



## Nutritious Food Systems

### Goal:

Increase equitable consumption of safe, affordable, and nutritious diets year-round through evidence-driven food systems programs and policies.



## Large-Scale Food Fortification

### Goal:

Leverage food fortification to improve nutrient intake and reduce micronutrient deficiencies globally; work to deepen engagement through focused investments.



## Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition

### Goal:

Provide nutritional support to the most vulnerable populations: pregnant and lactating women, and infants and young children.

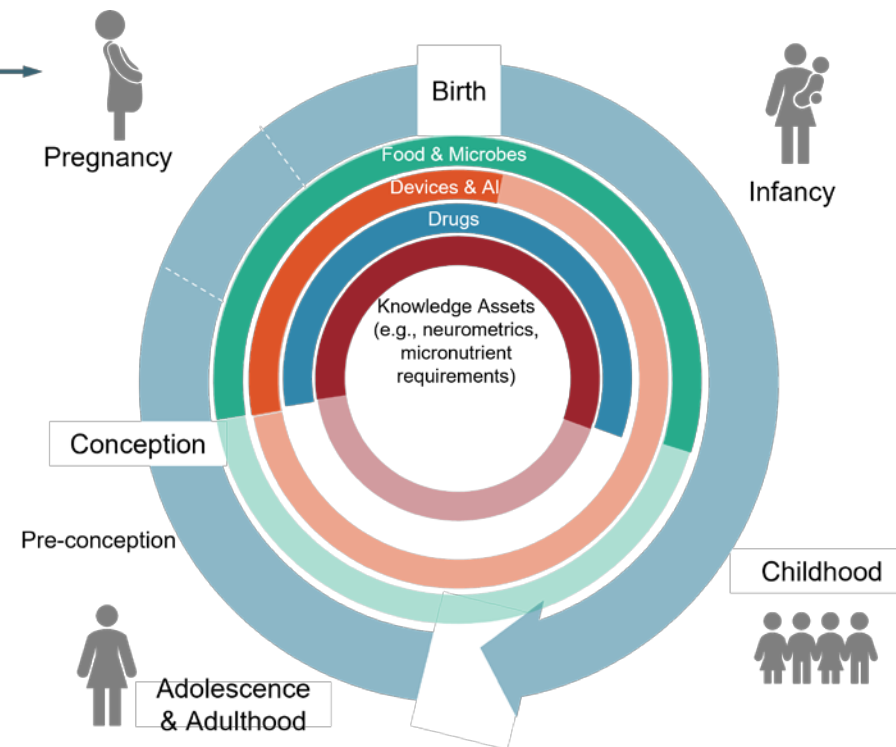
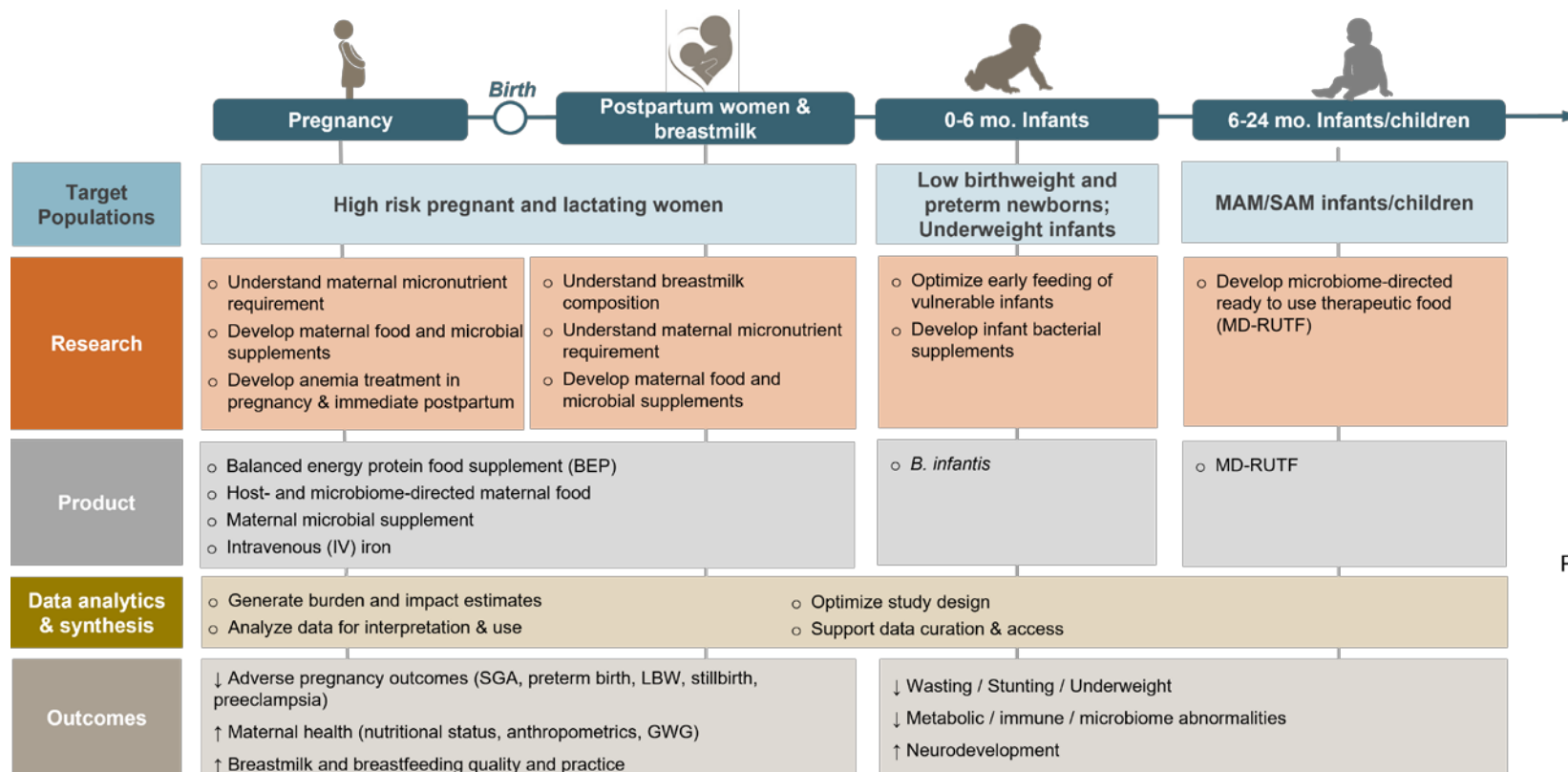


## Discovery of Nutrition Knowledge, Products & Interventions

### Goal:

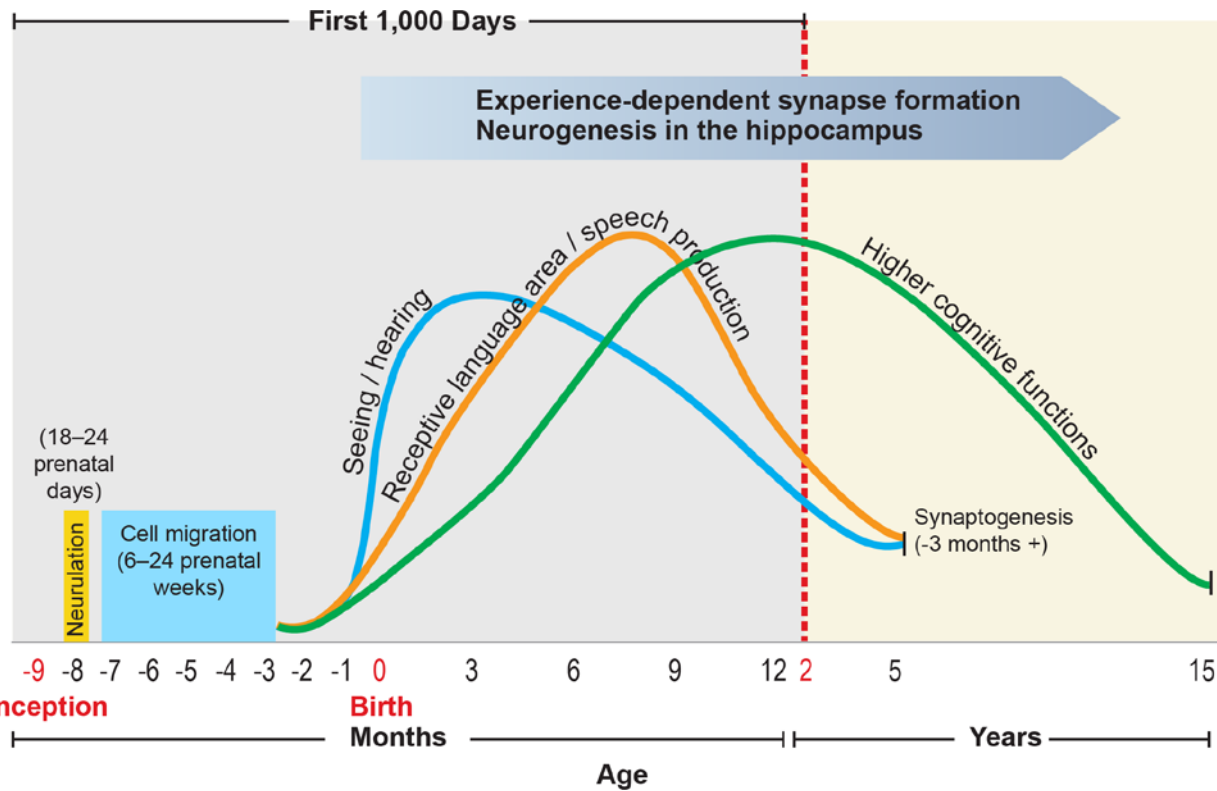
Support nutrition research and product development to optimize health outcomes of adolescent girls, women of reproductive age, and young children

# EXPANDING NUTRITION DISCOVERY AND R&D WORK FOCUS TO WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS



# EXPAND NUTRITION RESEARCH TO SUPPORT THRIVE

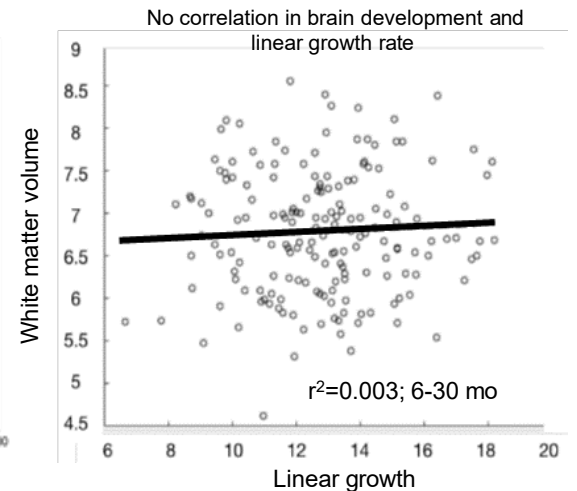
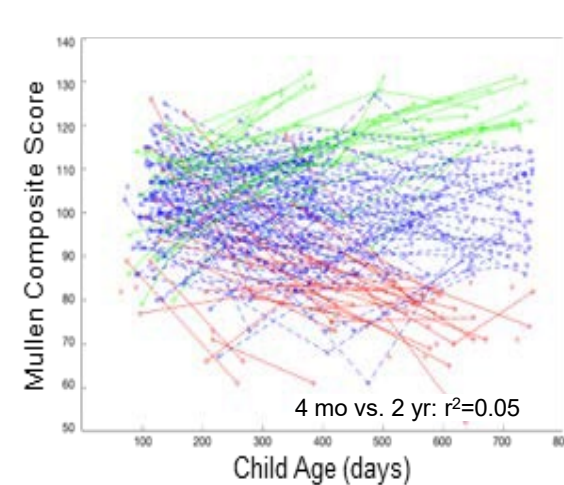
Normal brain and cognitive development is key for realizing full potential



Substantial gaps on understanding neurodevelopment exist in LMIC settings

➤ Neurobehavioral assessment tools lack reproducibility and predictability in LMIC settings.

➤ Stunting, a common proxy measure, is poorly correlated with brain development.





# MORE SUPPORT TO LMIC BASED RESEARCHERS DIRECTLY

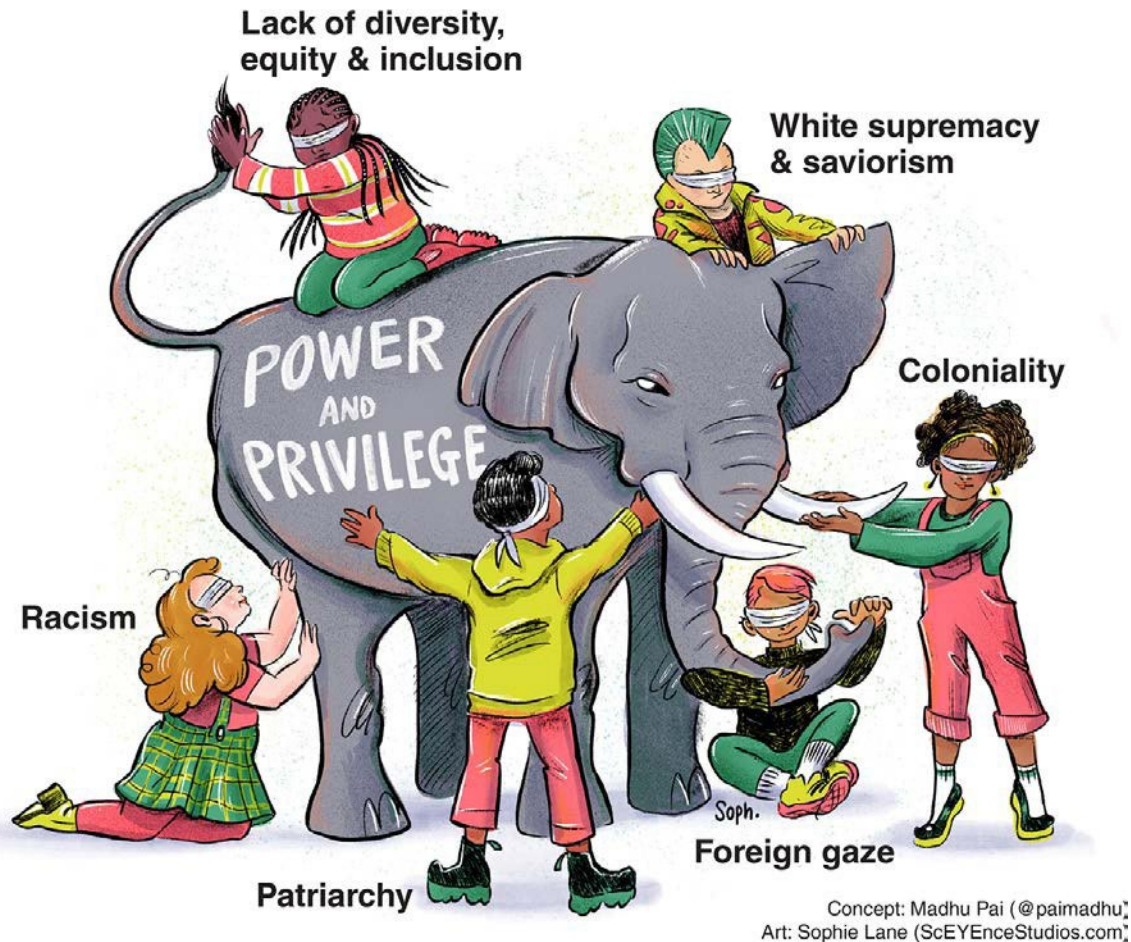


Fig 1. Global health, as currently practiced, has many asymmetries in power and privilege.

- Mindset change to address power asymmetries in global health
- Concrete actions:
  - Fund in-country researchers directly
  - Capacity building
  - South-south network
  - Public-private partnership

**Nutrition** is an investment we must all make to give every woman and child the opportunity to survive and thrive.

