



333 Seventh Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
Tel: (212) 679-6800  
Fax: (212) 679-7016  
[www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

### Malnutrition Worldwide:

- Each day malnutrition contributes to the deaths of more children than any other illness.<sup>1</sup>
- Malnutrition contributes to over half of the 11 million preventable deaths in young children each year.<sup>2</sup>
- Acute malnutrition requires immediate intervention to prevent morbidity and death.
- Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) estimates that less than 1% of the children requiring treatment for acute malnutrition have access to lifesaving ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs).
- Long-term consequences for survivors of malnutrition include stunted growth and mental retardation.<sup>3</sup>

### New developments:

- Doctors Without Borders is moving towards the use of outpatient care for all cases of acute malnutrition, except for the medically complicated cases of acute malnutrition (malnutrition and measles, pneumonia, or when the child cannot eat).
- Outpatient treatment is possible due to the new RUTFs which allow governments and aid organizations to treat more children than ever before.
- RUTFs also allow mothers to treat their children at home rather than in a hospital setting.
- RUTFs used by Doctors Without Borders are individual, sealed, pre-measured packets of peanut and milk-based food with macro-and-micronutrients that remains stable in extremes of temperature, humidity or dryness.
- RUTFs allows Doctors Without Borders to treat more children with a higher recovery rate (>90% in 2005).
- In 2007, Doctors Without Borders programs in Maradi, Niger are utilizing an RUTF formulation to prevent malnutrition in young children during the hunger gap. Preliminary results are very promising and show a new way forward to combat acute malnutrition on a massive scale.

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<sup>1</sup> Progress for Children Number 4: A report card on nutrition. Unicef 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Caulfield LE et al. Undernutrition as an underlying cause of child deaths associated with diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, and measles. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2004; 80: 193–198.

<sup>3</sup> Child development in developing countries, Developmental potential in the first 5 years for children in developing countries, Sally Grantham-McGregor, Yin Bun Cheung, Santiago Cueto, Paul Glewwe, Linda Richter, Barbara Strupp, and the International, Child Development Steering Group, *Lancet* 2007; 369: 60–70

**For media inquiries:**

Emily Linendoll

Press Officer

Direct: 212-763-5764

Cell: 646-206-9387

[emily.linendoll@newyork.msf.org](mailto:emily.linendoll@newyork.msf.org)

*Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters, and exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries and was the recipient of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.*

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