



*Nutridev*

## **Nutridev: Sustainably Preventing Malnutrition with Two Decades of Innovation**

Within the Nutridev international programme, GRET and the IRD are developing, testing and rolling out sustainable and innovative strategies to prevent malnutrition. Since 1994, the programme's actions have helped improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations in a dozen developing countries, and in particular those of children under two and their mothers. It tackles malnutrition in all its forms, especially the most forgotten and invisible—chronic malnutrition.



**GRET**



## Why this Programme?

### The Local Context

Six million children under the age of five die every year worldwide. Malnutrition is the direct or indirect cause of nearly one in two deaths. Different forms of malnutrition often coexist in a given community or individual: the acute and chronic malnutrition that affects on average 10% and 30% of children under five respectively in developing countries, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity that are on the rise in almost every country around the world.

Malnutrition is especially devastating during the first 1,000 days of life, that is to say from an infant's conception to its second birthday. Even when it doesn't kill, it causes irreversible damage lasting into adulthood (high morbidity, physical and mental disabilities), which is passed on from one generation to the next, and has serious consequences for a region's development.

The direct causes of malnutrition are inadequate food and illnesses. It is the result of the interaction between many factors such as lack of knowledge; poor breastfeeding, feeding, hygiene and care practices; a lack of high quality, nutritious and affordable complementary foods on the market; a lack of qualitative healthcare services; food insecurity; chronic poverty, etc.

As malnutrition is increasingly taken into consideration in international debates, GRET advocates for prevention as key to fighting malnutrition and especially chronic malnutrition, the least visible and most widespread form. The mobilisation of all sectors is necessary, with priority going to specific actions that improve the diets and health of women of childbearing age and young children.



### Objectives

Since 1994, GRET and the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) have elaborated, tested and improved an innovative system—the NutriDev programme—to lastingly prevent the various forms of malnutrition in vulnerable population groups, mainly children under two but also women of childbearing age and school children.

The founding principles of NutriDev's approach are to:

- **combine research with action**, test innovations suited to each context, work in urban and rural areas, and foster the discussion and dissemination of results;
- **ensure that actions are long-lasting** and inscribed in public policies; and
- **develop a preventive approach to malnutrition through coalitions of stakeholders** working in the areas of emergency and development, academia, policy, economics and the associative milieu.



### Programme Main Players

IRD  
Institut de recherche  
pour le développement



*(Institute of Research for Development)*

A public French science and technology establishment, the IRD is under the joint supervision of the Ministries of Research and Foreign Affairs. The IRD researchers taking part in NutriDev belong to the NutriPass Joint Research Unit 204 "on the nutrition and food of southern populations". They develop research on nutritional status, its determinants and consequences, and strategies and intervention policies.

# Resources and Results

## Intervention Methods

The Nutridev programme is based on three distinct and complementary lines of work:

- **Raise people's awareness** of better feeding, hygiene, and mother and child healthcare practices.
- **Support local businesses so they can provide quality fortified foods**, and notably:
  - develop and produce foods for children six months and up and future mothers that meet their nutritional needs, are appropriate to their dietary habits, comply with international quality standards, and are affordable for low income families in order to prevent different types of malnutrition and treat moderate acute malnutrition;
  - sustainably promote and distribute these products at affordable prices through diverse and innovative sales networks; and
  - structure themselves and adapt to a legislative framework that favours their mobilisation and provides oversight.
- **Improve the quality of healthcare services** by improving access to quality mother and child healthcare, training healthcare providers, supporting the implementation of national community health policies, and testing nutrition safety net programmes.

## Main Outcomes

Innovative strategies to fight malnutrition have had proven impact on improved knowledge, feeding practices and mother and child healthcare.

- **Approximately thirty fortified products** have been developed and launched on the market: instant infant flours, infant flours to be cooked, food supplements, ready-to-eat complete foods, biscuits and beverages.
- **Approximately forty companies** have received support. **A social business fighting malnutrition, Nutri'zaza**, was created with several partners in Madagascar and is receiving assistance to attain its social objective and achieve economic sustainability.
- **Innovative schemes** have been tested: awareness-raising activities and tools, social marketing, the use of new information and communication technologies, nutrition-oriented cash transfers, mobile sale of read-to-eat foods, provision of fortified foods in schools, etc.
- **Contributions have been made to public policies and the tools of national institutions and local partners:** national nutrition strategies, national nutrition awareness toolkits, quality standards on fortified infant flours defined in West Africa, the setting up and animation of technical cooperation frameworks and networks for nutrition, etc.

**GRET**  
Professionals for  
Fair Development



GRET is an international development NGO that has been fighting poverty and inequalities since 1976, working on a range of topics in approximately thirty countries to provide sustainable and innovative solutions for fair development.





## Reporting, Monitoring and Steering

The Nutridev programme is run by **an international network of approximately one hundred professional experts** from GRET who:

- define Nutridev's strategy with the IRD based on the results of scientific research;
- develop field activities with the partners concerned;
- run different studies and expert analyses for various organisations;
- contribute to development policy and practices; and
- share their experience within the programme and with the international community.

**The IRD provides its scientific expertise to the programme to:**

- identify the determinants of different forms of malnutrition;
- formulate appropriate foods using locally available raw materials that meet the identified needs of the target groups, taking into account the most recent international recommendations;
- draw up monitoring and assessment protocols and analyse their results to verify implementation and measure the impact of strategies; and
- disseminate the results among the international scientific community.

## Analysis and Documentation

GRET's and the IRD's respective mandates include disseminating the knowledge acquired during their Nutridev work:

- writing and disseminating experience capitalisation documents;
- producing courses and supervising students in educational programmes (Master's, engineering degrees, etc.) and doctoral theses;
- conducting studies and expert analyses for diverse institutions (international and local NGOs, United Nations agencies, development agencies, Ministries, etc.); and
- participating in national and international scientific meetings and working groups.

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### Programme Duration

1994-ongoing

### 2015 Annual Budget

four million euros

### Financial Partners in 2015

AFD, Cartier Charitable Foundation, CFSI-Fdf, CRS, CTA, Daniel & Nina Carasso Foundation, ECOWAS, E&D, EU, FIND, Fondation Sanofi Espoir, Kellogg Foundation, OFDA, PADS of Burkina Faso, PASADEM/IFAD, SIDA, Sight & Life Foundation, UNICEF, USAID, WFF, WFP.

### For more information

[nutridev.gret.org](http://nutridev.gret.org)

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