

PROJECT PEANUT BUTTER: ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Project Peanut Butter
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Mission

Project Peanut Butter (PPB) seeks to advance the treatment of childhood malnutrition, the greatest contributor to child mortality in the world today, using effective, locally produced ready-to-use therapeutic foods. This corporation is formed to provide needed nutritional and medical support to children and adults suffering from severe malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Programs and Activities

Project Peanut Butter was formed to treat moderately and severely malnourished children and adults in sub-Saharan Africa, and other countries as needed. We provide locally produced RUTF (Ready-To-Use-Therapeutic Food), to improve distribution through education and training of local clinical offices and health providers. Project Peanut Butter has facilities in Malawi, Sierra Leone, and a new start-up program in Mali. We have a partnership with clinics in Payatas,

Philippines. **And now, we have added Ivory Coast!** We serve as the advisor to several small programs and orphanages that produce or distribute RUTF for use in their programs. As well, Project Peanut Butter continues to contribute to the eradication of malnutrition through improved formulas for treatment of target groups, such as HIV+ Adults. Since the use of RUTF began in the treatment of malnutrition, recovery rates have skyrocket from 25-40% to 90-95%. We strive to improve this rate through improved recipes and improved distribution compliance.

IN REVIEW: 2012 was a tumultuous year for Project Peanut Butter; 2013 has been a year of resetting goals. 2014 has been a year of rebuilding and strengthening our mission. 2015 has been a year of expansion of programs for pregnant women and school-age children. In 2016, we continue to expand our school and pregnant women programs.



Sierra Leone: With increasing orders for RUTF in Sierra Leone, we faced a new hurdle, lack of peanuts that meet standards for RUTF production. To prevent substandard peanuts from being used in the factory, Project Peanut Butter added a second, hand sorting procedure, a second roasting procedure, and more

testing. This has allowed us to maintain our product quality, although adding a bit more cost. Our long-term solution is to work with the peanut farmers to show them better harvesting and storing procedures. We will offer “top value price” for peanuts that arrive properly stored, therefore making the extra work acceptable and even desirable to the farmers. We are also increasing the number of clinics and children who are treated in Sierra Leone. We said good-bye to Chelsea and Michael Beasley who began the work in Sierra Leone. After over four years of PPB service, they returned to the United States to continue their educations and for the birth of their beautiful son Michael, Jr. Stephanie and Andrew Peace, our expatriate workers in Mali, transferred to Sierra Leone to complete their time and to help with the new peanut issues. The Sierra Leone factory is now under Sierra Leonian management. At this time, the factory is producing a major order for use in UNICEF-Sierra Leone programs. In 2014, Ebola virus erupted in Sierra Leone. The government closed most clinics and schools to try to contain the disease. Also, many farmers were refused permission to work fields in Ebola stricken areas. The need to transfer already limited resources from child/maternal nutrition to the infectious disease clinics has increased the number of cases of malnutrition and with limited harvest next year, the prediction is that 2015 will have record cases of severe and moderate malnutrition. PPB provided large quantities of RUTF to the Ministry of Health for Ebola cases and for those with malnutrition. Dr. Mark Manary serves on the WFP committee for Ebola and nutrition and our Dr. Indi Trehan is running an Ebola clinic in Sierra Leone. With Partners in Health.

In 2015, Project Peanut Butter returned to Sierra Leone, setting up new clinics and rehabbing old clinics that had been used as Ebola hospitals or damaged due to neglect. Project Peanut Butter continues to increase RUTF production to cover the increased needs due to the temporary closing of malnutrition clinics and maternal-child health clinics. 2016 has allowed us to reopen all of our clinics and expand our programs.

2017 has been a busy year for Project Peanut Butter-Sierra Leone. We now have 58 RUTF clinics. As well, we have expanded our clinics for pregnant, malnourished women. We now have 30 maternity clinics.

Sierra Leone-Peanut Sorting



Malawi: in the last year, political turmoil placed great strain on the factory and clinics in Malawi, but both are staffs were able to continue to work (with a few days off during some restless events). Malawi, the mother ship continues to produce RUTF for Malawi and for other countries in need. We were able to send two additional shipments to Somalia again this year. Our peanut procurement in Malawi goes very well with much of the peanuts coming from small hold women farmers New Malawi Factory: In late 2012, the shoe company, which had rented Project Peanut Butter space for our factory, informed us that they would need the space by early 2014. So, suddenly in 2013, PPB began a new factory. We have been blessed to find two wonderful building construction volunteers; Mark Histan and Alex Caskey, who arrived in Malawi in early 2013 and have assembled a fantastic construction crew. The factory is being built on what once was a garbage-strewn field. Incredible labor, initiative and work have gone into the new factory. We will own the land so there will be no need to ever move the factory again. We thank the volunteers at General Mills who have assisted us in the design and technical decisions for this factory. We hope to begin using the factory in early 2014. In 2014, the new factory is functioning. There has been excellent production capacity and the international inspection is scheduled for February, 2015. Late year flooding led to a small increase in malnutrition cases, but the real impact of flooded fields of crops will be felt in 2015. PPB has provided RUTF to flooded areas for those showing symptoms of malnutrition. Project Peanut Butter has received funding from a private foundation to improve the peanut roasting area. This work was approved in 2014, but funds will not be available until 2015. Mark Histan and Alex Caskey will return to Malawi to oversee this project.

Malawi has need the sight of increased interest into treatment of malnourished pregnant mothers. We have had several clinics set up for the purpose of treating mothers with the hopes of preventing malnourished newborns. The results of these trials are not yet complete. In 2016, these programs continue to expand. As well, we opened not only a new factory, but our own peanut processing plant. This gives us better control of the peanut quality. In 2017, we began operation of the new peanut processing facility. We also started a large-scale trial of RUTF, utilizing testing of brain function to document the cognitive improvement children experience after receiving RUTF. In 2017, PPB-Malawi moved into larger field

headquarters and Alima Jimu, our factory manager assumed oversight of the feeding programs as well.



Maternal Nutrition Program

Ghana: Ghana is the new Project Peanut Butter country-wide program site. With a generous grant from the Milton Hershey foundation, Project Peanut Butter has begun to rehab an old factory building in Kumasi, Ghana as our factory. Megan Halterman was the first country manager for the Ghana program and we thank her for her work this year. In 2014, the factory in Ghana is completed and RUTF production has begun. Tini and Jeff Maier and Carly Edwards now oversee the completion of the set-up and the beginning of clinic work. PPB and Hershey are also collaborating on a school feeding program for primary age children at risk for malnutrition.

In 2015, Ghana had been the site of a large school feeding program in the area of Ghana most effected by malnutrition. Project Peanut Butter is closely assessing the performance and health of these students in hope of using this data to start more feeding programs. These programs have expanded in 2016. In 2017, Ghana continues to run our largest grade-school nutrition program. A new peanut roasting facility has opened in Ghana and is functioning well. Ghana

has worked with the World Food Program to produce a new supplement for children and mothers called Grownut.



Ivory Coast: In 2017, Project Peanut Butter began investigating the possibility of opening a program in Ivory Coast. We are excited to report that we have received government approval and have registered PPB as a not-for-profit in Ivory Coast.

Philippines: In 2012, Project Peanut Butter completed an expansion of the Payatas production room. This improvement allows for the extra production capacity needed for the number of cases of moderate and severe malnutrition being seen in these clinics. In 2013, Payatas reports that they have been able to increase both their feeding programs. In 2014, PPB continues to support these clinics. They are running very smoothly. Margaret Loehnig visited in August to help with increasing the clinic sites. In 2015-2017, this program is running well.

Orione Kenya: Building on our relationship with the Orione brothers, Project Peanut Butter has assisted the Orione Mission in Kenya in designing a therapeutic supplement for their center for neurologically damaged children and adults. Due to their fragile status, many of those in their care eat poorly and therefore suffer chronic malnutrition. The supplement will decrease the number of infections suffered and the other chronic illnesses these residents suffer. In 2014, PPB continues to fund this project and provide technical support. In 2015-2017, this program has been able to function without major input from Project Peanut Butter.

Somalia: While Margo Stoner of PPB was in Kenya, a group working with Dr. Hawa Abdi in Somalia met with Margo to begin the small capacity production program at the Hawa Abdi Hospital. In 2014, PPB continues to support this project with funds and technical assistance. In 2015-2017, this program has needed only financial input from Project Peanut Butter.

Financial Report: As a 501(C)3 under the IRS, Project Peanut Butter files each year a Form 990. As soon as this is completed by our accountant, it is posted on our website. As well, the private accounting firm of Martz and Wilson, St. Louis, Missouri audits the finances of Project Peanut Butter annually.

Thank you for your interest in Project Peanut Butter. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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