

Ghana Nutrition Improvement Project (GNIP)

Establishing sustainable nutrition intervention by
“Market base approach with SBCC”
through genuinely synergetic PPP



THE
AJINOMOTO
FOUNDATION

The Ajinomoto Foundation (TAF)
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The Ajinomoto Foundation (TAF)



Founded in year 2017, as Public Interest Foundation in Japan, focusing on 4 businesses related to **Food and Nutrition** to contribute **to solve Social Issues**.

Red Apron

Disaster reconstruction support project



いっしょに作って、いっしょに食べよう！
ふれあいの
赤いエプロン
プロジェクト



"KOKO Plus™"

Ghana Nutrition Improvement Project



AIN

*Ajinomoto foundation's
International Nutrition program*



VINEP

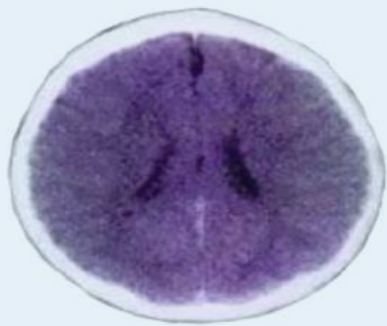
*Vietnam Nutrition System
Establishment Project*

Background Stunting Issue

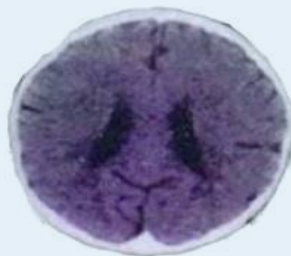
- Malnutrition causes unhealthy growth of **body** and **brain**.
- Missing “First 1,000 days” are not **irreversible**.



Brain scans of normal / malnourished
1000 Days Brain scan – two 3 year old children



Normal

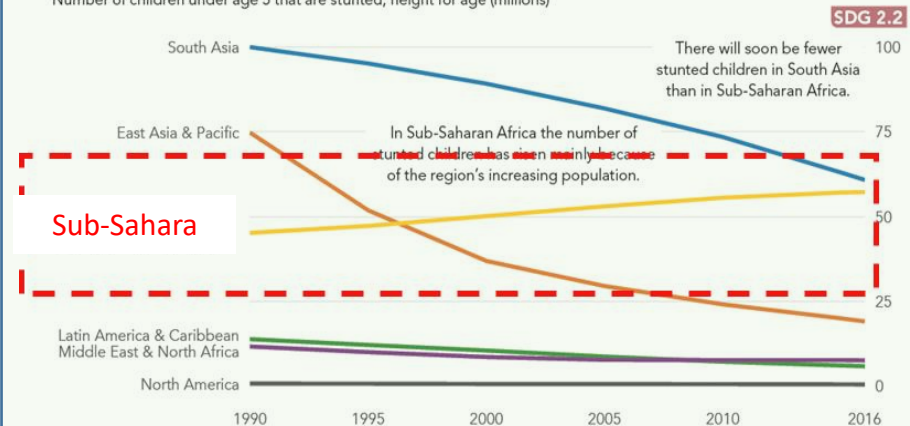


Malnourished

¹UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, 2018

No. of malnourished children under 5 years

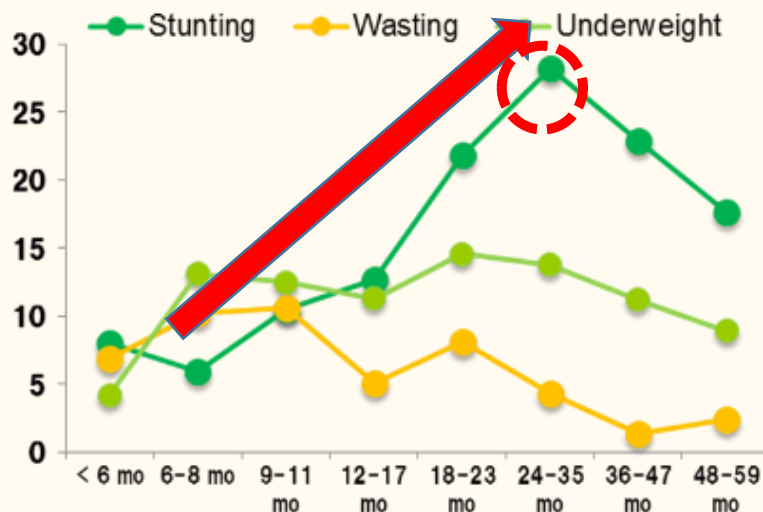
Number of children under age 5 that are stunted, height for age (millions)



Increasing only in Sub-Sahara Africa

Source: UNICEF, WHO and World Bank. WDI (SH.STA.STNT.ZS); Health Nutrition and Population Statistics (SP.POP.0004.FE; SP.POP.0004.MA).

30% of 2 years' infants are Stunted



Rapid increase **after 6 months of birth**, starting weaning period.

Reference: Ghana_Ddemographic and Health Survey 2014

Route cause of stunting



Koko (corn porridge)

Pure koko doesn't have enough nutrients

Only local ingredients cannot fill all the necessary nutrients (iron, zinc)

(Ref: Fill the Nutrient Gap Ghana / WFP)

<https://www.wfp.org/content/2017-fill-nutrient-gap-ghana>

Started project in 2009 with University of Ghana, and developed **"KOKO Plus"** to improve complementary food.

1. Concept

- (1) Supplement to balance nutrients
- (2) Improve nutrition & deliciousness

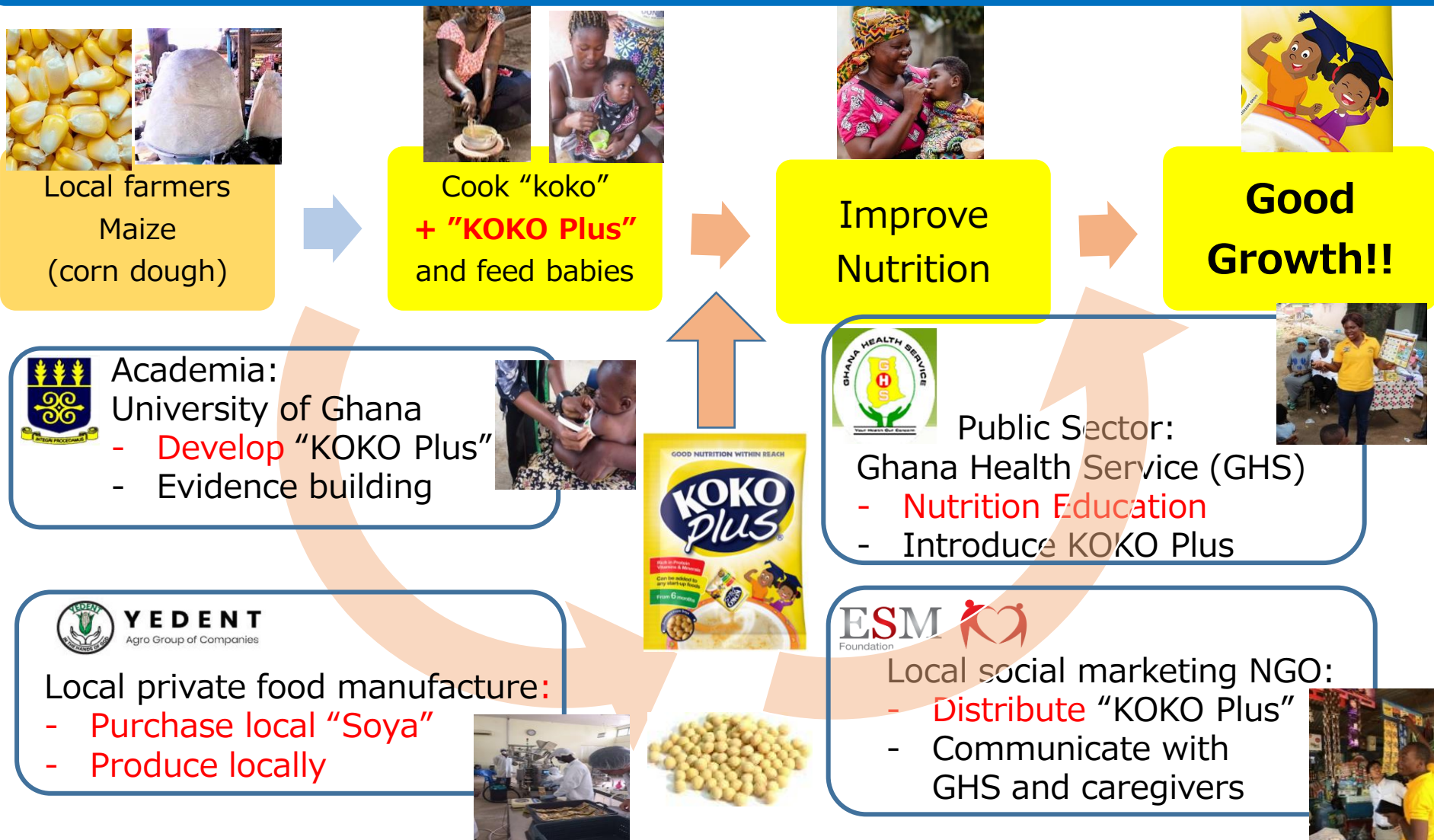
2. Feature

- (1) Affordable: 0.1\$ (**0.50 cedis**) /sachet / day
- (2) Utilize Local Food Value Chain

Local Material (soya), Local Manufacture, and Local Distributor



Nutrition Improvement through Local Food System / Value Chain



MOC signed in Sep 2018, collaborations areas with GHS has been **expanding**, currently **81 Districts in 10 Regions** (30% of nationwide), it creates **Behavior Changes** of Mothers.

1. Health check

Mothers understand conditions of babies



Public

Acknow-
-ledge

Under-
-stand

Behavior

2. Nurses'

① Nutrition education



② Introduce "KOKO Plus"

4. Utilize "KOKO Plus" feed babies



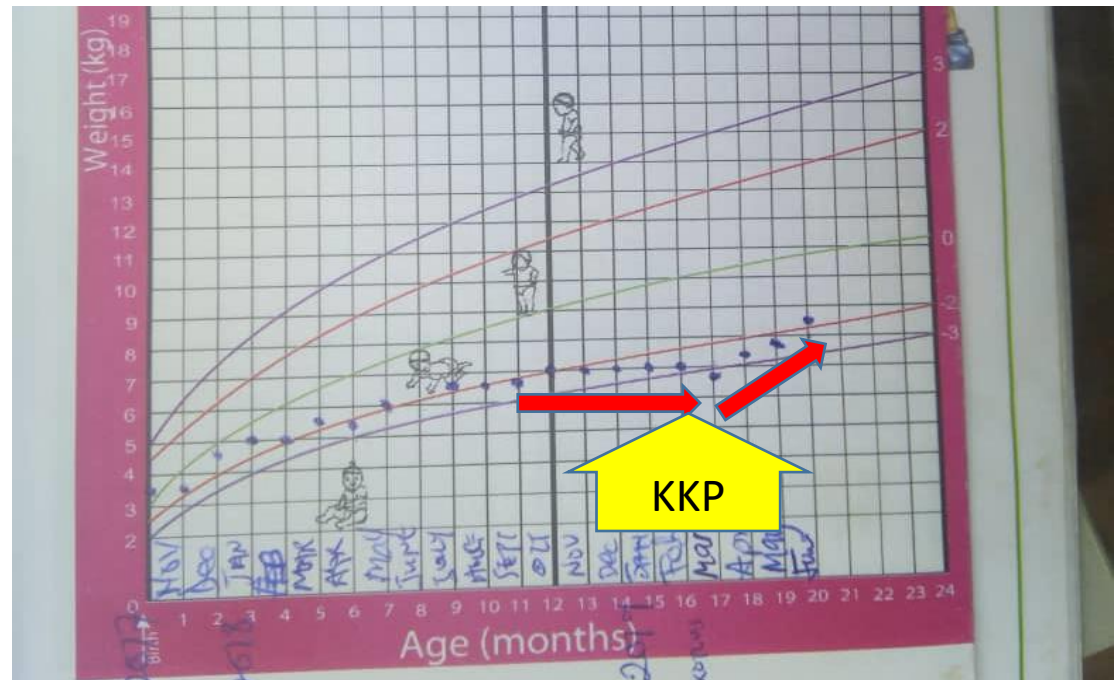
Private



3. Mothers purchase "KOKO Plus"

Best practice of KOKO Plus

Meet Regina and her 1.5-year-old son Drew from Aworowa in the Techiman North District of the Bono East Region.



She also made her checks about KOKO Plus and began adding it to Drew's complementary foods when he turned six (6) months.

Effect of KOKO Plus

Continuously accumulating evidence and endorsement



Efficacy study results1:

A macro- and micro-nutrient fortified complementary food supplement reduced acute infection, improved hemoglobin and showed a dose response effect in improving linear growth: a 12 month cluster randomized trial
 Shibani Ghosh et al, *Journal of Nutritional Science*,

Efficacy study results2:

Changes of Plasma Amino Acid Profiles in Infants With a Nutrient-Fortified Complementary Food Supplement: Evidence From a 12-Month Single-Blind Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial Results published in *Frontiers in Nutrition*, Furuta C, et al. 2021

1. Acute infection

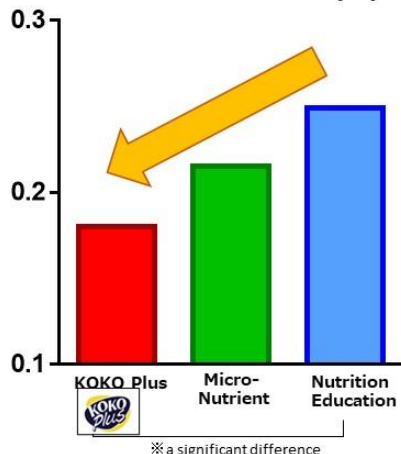
2. Adjusted Hemoglobin

3. Predicted Height for Age Z score (HAZ)

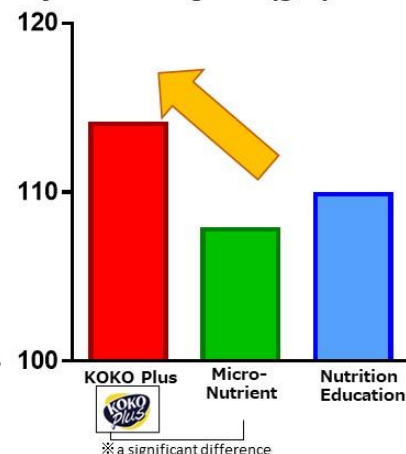
Predicted plasma branched-chain amino acid concentration from 6 to 18 months

*predicted results when 300 supplements consumed

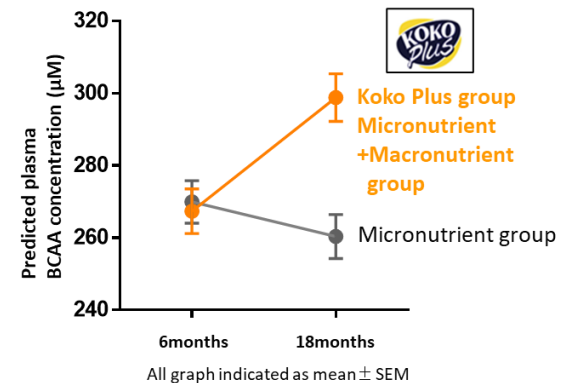
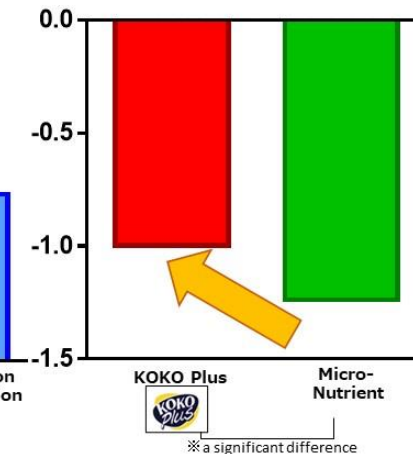
Prevalence of acute infection (%)



Adjusted hemoglobin (g/L)



Predicted HAZ at 18 months



Recipe of KOKO Plus was officially registered by WFP as "Nutritious Powder" and started collaboration project with WFP



2019 Jul



✓ Japanese Government funds WFP to start "Public Private Partnership" with The Ajinomoto Foundation



2021 Oct



The Project for Universal "Nutrition" and Health Coverage through Sustainable Systems for Nutrition Improvement

Effect of KOKO Plus

Continuously expanding partnerships of PPP for contributing U"N"HC



~Co-creation and social implementation of nutrition, testing, and ICT solutions through
"Genuinely synergistic multi-sectoral collaboration" between Ghana and Japan

