

Sanku – Project Healthy Children

Sanku – Project Healthy Children’s mission is to provide children everywhere with the simple, inexpensive, basic nutritional support they require to survive and thrive. Sanku – Project Healthy Children focuses on achieving wide micronutrient coverage for at risk communities in Africa.

Their annual demonstrated impact includes:

- Expanding operations in Tanzania with 967 micronutrient dosifiers installed at 920 mills, serving 4.2 million people every day with fortified food.
- Launching operations in Kenya with 103 micronutrient dosifiers installed at 88 mills, serving 2.9 million people every day with fortified food.
- Improving cost-effectiveness for Sanku by establishing an in-house printing facility for their flour bags and preparing a nutrient premix blending facility.

Donations above \$2 **tax-deductible**. See our global [tax-deductibility options here](#).

DONATE (CREDIT CARD)

Credit card donations attract a service fee

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

Avoid fees - see our other ways to donate

Key Strengths: Scale, Durability

Multidimensional Poverty Index Indicators: Nutrition

Other Key Outcomes: Child development

Recent Expense Budget: US\$6,000,000

Year Founded: 2013

4.5M

people reached with fortified flour

802 mills

are using Sanku dosifier technology for food fortification

The Sanku dosifier technology has been installed across

5

countries

Other ways to donate

We recommend that gifts up to \$1,000 be made online by credit card. If you are giving more than \$1,000, please consider one of these alternatives.

CHEQUE

BANK TRANSFER

STOCKS OR SHARES

PAYROLL / WORKPLACE GIVING

BEQUESTS

The problem: micronutrient malnutrition

Over two billion people don't receive the vitamins and minerals their bodies require to stay healthy, including iron, vitamin A, folic acid, and iodine. [\[1\]](#) This micronutrient malnutrition, often referred to as "hidden hunger," can lead to blindness, miscarriage, maternal death during childbirth, birth defects, compromised immune systems, and cognitive and developmental delays.

Micronutrient malnutrition is the leading cause of preventable intellectual and developmental disabilities in the world. [\[2\]](#) It also kills 3 million children under five each year — that's over 8,200 deaths per day, and nearly half of all deaths in children under five. [\[3\]](#).[\[4\]](#)

Malnutrition contributes to nearly half of all deaths in children under five.



Without proper nutrition, the poverty trap deepens: people become ill and vulnerable to disability or death, they cannot attend school or work, their families lose resources in order to care for them, and the cycle perpetuates.

The solution: cost-effective food fortification programs

Food fortification is one of the least expensive solutions to malnutrition, and has proven results. [5] Adding iron to soy sauce in China led to a 33% reduction in anaemia, and within a year of adding folic acid to wheat flour in Chile, spina bifida incidences were reduced by 51%.

How Sanku – Project Healthy Children works

Sanku – PHC is a global leader in micronutrient fortification, working with government and NGO partners to design, implement, scale, and monitor effective food fortification programs.

After they successfully designed and implemented large-scale programs in Rwanda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Liberia, and Burundi — work that continues to benefit 55 million people [6] — Sanku – PHC realized that as much as 95% of the people in at-risk communities did not have access to the centrally processed fortified food that large-scale programs provide. In Tanzania, for example, 95% of maize is produced by small-scale local mills.

In order to keep working to achieve complete micronutrient coverage, PHC formed the Sanku initiative to help small local mills fortify their food. Sanku equips millers with a machine called a dosifier, which fortifies staple foods with the correct dosage of micronutrient premix (including iron, folic acid, B12, and zinc).



The Sanku dosifier is orange. Bags with pink stripes are sold to millers by PHC-Sanku.

Sanku bulk-buys empty flour bags, which are then sold to the millers at the same price they would otherwise pay. They use the profits to provide millers the appropriate amount of premix at no additional

cost. The dosifier's proprietary technology is fully automated. Sanku monitors the miller's use of the dosifier remotely, and visits the mill if the dosifier is not in use or needs repair.

PHC's Sanku initiative currently operates across Rwanda, Malawi, Kenya, and Tanzania, reaching over two million people that do not have access to centrally processed foods. Sanku is on track to reach more than 100 million people within the decade. [\[7\]](#)

What makes Sanku - Project Healthy Children so effective

Cost-effectiveness

On average, PHC's Sanku program costs less than US\$1 to fortify food for one person for a year.

Scalability

Sanku – PHC works with 600+ small mills to give close to 3 million people access to vital micronutrients.

Targeted programs

Sanku – PHC looks at existing data and undertakes wide-ranging surveys of eating patterns to discover which foods to fortify with which micronutrients to benefit as many people as possible. They are also currently running a program in Tanzania to fortify the diets of Burundian and Congolese refugees.

Compounding impact

Food fortification takes pressure off healthcare systems by preventing illness and disease. It also helps grow developing economies. The Copenhagen Consensus estimates that each dollar spent on iron and iodine fortification could yield over US\$9 in economic benefit. [\[8\]](#)

Sanku – Project Healthy Children's accountability and sustainability

Sanku – PHC reports its metrics of success online, detailing how the organization measures impact, performance, process, and cost-effectiveness. [\[9\]](#) More importantly, Sanku – PHC's overarching mission is to ensure that they do not become a permanent part of a country's food distribution and health systems. They help launch successful initiatives and excel at finding sustainable ways for governments to continue that work without a permanent presence.

Recognition for Sanku – Project Healthy Children

Sanku – PHC has been chosen to receive a “top charity participation grant” from Good Ventures.

In 2018, they won a Zayed Sustainability Prize and a IoT Evolution Product of the Year Award. They were included in Fast Company’s list of The World’s Most Innovative Companies for 2019 and the Sanku Dosifier was named one of TIME Magazine’s 100 Best Inventions of 2019.

The PHC-Sanku dosifier is being used by USAID and the World Food Programme.

In recognition of his work to end malnutrition Rolex named Sanku’s CEO, Felix Brooks-Church, as one of five Laureates of the prestigious Rolex Awards for Enterprise.

SOURCES

All photos and videos courtesy of Sanku – Project Healthy Children

[1] Centers for Disease Control, [Micronutrient Facts](#)

[2] Copenhagen Consensus, [Micronutrient Fortification and Biofortification Challenge](#)

[3] UNICEF, [The faces of malnutrition](#)

[4] World Health Organization, [Malnutrition is a world health crisis](#)

[5] Nutrients, [Evidence Synthesis and Translation for Nutrition Interventions to Combat Micronutrient Deficiencies with Particular Focus on Food Fortification.](#)

[6] [Project Healthy Children website](#)

[7] [Project Healthy Children website](#)

[8] Copenhagen Consensus, [The world’s best investment: Vitamins for undernourished children according to top economists including 5 Nobel Laureates](#)

[9] [Project Healthy Children website](#)