Abbott Commits To Reducing Malnutrition Globally With Launch Of Abbott Center For Malnutrition Solutions

- Abbott is investing $45 million annually to help identify, treat and prevent malnutrition

- Innovation hub will focus on reducing malnutrition for the most vulnerable populations in the world

ABBOTT PARK, Ill., Sept. 30, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Abbott (NYSE: ABT) announced today the creation of the Abbott Center for Malnutrition Solutions, an innovation hub focused on reducing malnutrition around the world. The center, a collaboration between Abbott and external nutrition experts and partners, will focus on the identification, treatment and prevention of malnutrition for the most vulnerable populations in the world, including mothers, infants and young children; aging adults; and people without access to good nutrition.

The work of the center will contribute toAbbott's 2030 Sustainability Plan ambition to transform care for malnutrition, chronic disease and infectious diseases, with a goal to improve the lives of more than 3 billion people by decade's end.

"Malnutrition affects 1 in 3 people around the world, and it's not only a result of extreme poverty," saidDaniel Salvadori, executive vice president of Abbott's nutrition business. "It affects people of all ages, all geographies and all socioeconomic classes. Progress to address malnutrition is slow and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Abbott has long been focused on improving nutrition through our innovations. The creation of the Abbott Center for Malnutrition Solutions will enable us to apply our science and expertise in collaboration with others to improve systems and ensure good nutrition is accessible to more people around the world."

A worldwide problem
Malnutrition affects people in all communities around the world and takes many forms.

- Stunting: Kids who fall below a healthy height for their age. Among children under 5 around the world, it's estimated 149 million are stunted.[i]
- Underweight: Adults who are below a healthy body mass index (BMI). Around the world,462 million are underweight.[ii]
- Wasting: Kids or adults who are below a healthy weight for their height. Among kids under 5,45 million are below a healthy weight.[iii]
- Overweight or obese: Kids or adults who are above a healthy weight for their height. Around the world,1.9 billion adults are overweight or obese.[iv] Among children 5 and younger, 39 million are overweight.[v]

The problem is extremely complex. Countries are simultaneously fighting the burdens of hunger, stunting, wasting and obesity. Conflict, environmental crises and economic instability play a role. Vulnerable groups continue to be disproportionately affected by these disruptions and lack of resources, impacting access to good nutrition and ultimately, improved outcomes.

"Reducing malnutrition around the world will require genuine partnerships with grassroots organizations and local leaders to gain a true understanding of what's needed on the ground, innovation to bring forward new ideas, and multi-sectoral partners working together to deliver collective impact and sustainable solutions," said Mary Pittman, DrPH, president and CEO, Public Health Institute.

Taking a different approach
The Abbott Center for Malnutrition Solutions will follow four key principles in its efforts to reduce malnutrition:

- **Convening the experts**
  Abbott will cultivate conversations between the foremost experts in the fight against malnutrition. These conversations will look at malnutrition from different aspects, creating engaging discussions to understand the challenges, raise awareness of the problem and call on partners to work together to reduce malnutrition.

- **Co-creating solutions**
  Given the many forms of malnutrition that are contributing to the crisis, solutions cannot be one-size-fits-all. Abbott is building an advisory board made up of experts from each region of the world to help understand the needs and nuances of malnutrition at a local level and connect with like-minded partners. Abbott will work with the private sector, governments, civil society organizations, multilaterals and entrepreneurs to co-design solutions. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals — specifically No. 2: Zero Hunger, No. 3: Good Health and Wellbeing, and No. 17: Partnerships for the Goals — serve as a framework to provide goals and priorities for Abbott and its partners to reduce malnutrition and improve health.

- **Leveraging science and innovation**
  Science and innovation are core to addressing malnutrition. Abbott has a long history of success in understanding the science behind nutrition and innovating to make nutrition accessible to people around the world. The company will leverage its learnings from previous work such as Nourimanba in Haiti, Ultra Rice in India, the MUAC z-score tape, and the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) as examples to guide its ongoing work.

- **Designing for sustainability**

Making a meaningful impact on malnutrition requires solutions that are sustainable and accessible. The ability to reach the people who need it and scale and replicate beyond a single project or donation will be key considerations when designing solutions and choosing partners.

For more information about the Abbott Center for Malnutrition Solutions please seehttps://www.abbott.com/malnutrition.html.

About Abbott:
Abbott is a global healthcare leader that helps people live more fully at all stages of life. Our portfolio of life-changing technologies spans the spectrum of healthcare, with leading businesses and products in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic medicines. Our 109,000 colleagues serve people in more than 160 countries.

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[i] UNICEF; Child malnutrition. https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-report-2021/

[ii] WHO; Malnutrition. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition

[iii] UNICEF; Child malnutrition. https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-report-2021/

[iv] WHO; Malnutrition. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition

[v] UNICEF; Child malnutrition. https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-report-2021/

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