



***The U.S. Launch of The Lancet's Series on Maternal and Child  
Undernutrition***

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**Edited Transcript-**  
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I have a confession to make. I am not a nutritionist, I'm not a scientist and I'm not a researcher. In fact, I'm an ex-trade union organizer and I think one component of what's been alluded to in this great challenge that faces us globally, is where are the people who are most effective? Now, I think one of our most important experiences I can testify to is the involvement of people most effective when taking their lives and their destiny into their



Focusing on sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe.

We have also over the last four years worked very successfully with the business community in order to harness their technological, their managerial, and their distribution capacities and capabilities in order to develop new products that meet the needs of the poor at the base of the pyramid. And it is, as alluded in the report, it is precisely this innovation and amazing potential that we need to unlock in order to combat malnutrition. We are now working with over 400 business leaders at a global, national and local level to use market-based innovation



Finally, a new architecture, as the report suggested, is necessary for the nutrition sector. It is a very fractious community and I think my view has been that and the discussion within GAIN has been that we've got to involve more than the nutrition community in raising the profile of nutrition on the global radar screen. We need to make sure that in whatever we create, we also have to ensure participation of the private sector and here it will be difficult to create public agencies or institutions and then go out and seek the support of important constituencies, whether these are women's groups or whether these are the private sector. We need to bring in business and any other sector into the discussion at the earliest stages of creation of the new architecture in order to integrate their views and secure their full commitment.

Very important in all of this is the role of media and *The Lancet* series has certainly raised the media profile of nutrition. So what we need to do is take this amazing piece of work and translate it into practical, measurable results that can impact on the lives of people across the world. I am tremendously encouraged by the response we are beginning to see to the report. Finally, our action, or lack of action, can mean the difference between life or death for millions of people in our global village. Because if you look at the reality of my own country, which is relatively well-developed, we have a situation where one in 10 people today suffers from HIV, compared to a country like the U.S., where it's one in 250. As a developing country emerging from centuries of racial oppression with limited resources, we have to confront this problem.

So all I can say, arising from this report, GAIN is committed to working with the partners involved -- mentioned in the report in order to achieve the vision that we all have set: a vision of a world free of undernutrition. Thank you.