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# IPA Best Bets Webinar Series

Small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements to  
reduce stunting



# IPA Team



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# Housekeeping

- **Webinar structure:** Presentations, Moderated Discussion, and Q&A Session.
- **Q&A feature:** Submit questions through chat at any point during the webinar. Moderators and presenters will answer questions in chat or during Q and A segment.
- **Closed captioning:** Available in English. Simply click the “Show Captions” button to use this feature.
- Webinar will be **recorded** and added to IPA website with presenters’ **slides**.
- For any technical issues, please contact **Cara Vu**.

# Agenda

1. **Best Bets: Emerging Opportunities for Impact at Scale**, Karla Petersen (IPA)
2. **The case for SQ-LNS to Prevent Child Undernutrition**, Kathryn Dewey (UC Davis)
3. **The Impact of SQ-LNS on Child Growth in the ZamCharts RCT in Zambia**, Doug Parkerson (IPA)
4. **SQ-LNS Research Priorities**, Christine Stewart (UC Davis)
5. **Enhancing Young Children's Diets with SQ-LNS, integrated within a Resilient System in Gombe State, Nigeria**, Philomena Irene (UNICEF)
6. **Moderated discussion and Q&A**
7. **Call to action**, Doug Parkerson (IPA)

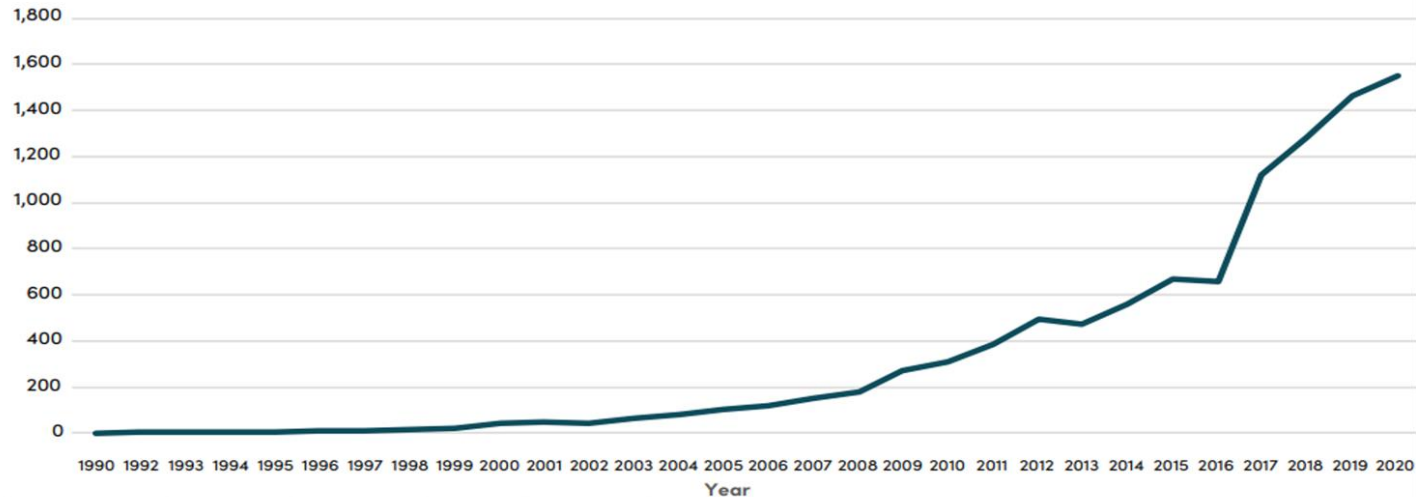
# Best Bets

Emerging Opportunities  
for Impact at Scale



# The last 20 years have witnessed significant increase in the generation of policy-relevant evidence

**FIGURE 1** Number of published impact evaluations from 1990 to 2020



Source: 3ie Development Evidence Portal (data as of March 2022).

Source: Kaufman, Julia et al. [Breakthrough to Policy Use. Reinvigorating Impact Evaluation for Global Development](#). Final Report of CGD's Working Group on New Evidence Tools for Policy Impact. 2022.

# Yet the number of evidence-based programs operating at scale is still relatively small

## Established Innovations

Well-known interventions that have proven successful across contexts and are already operating at scale



**Cash transfers and  
Universal Basic Income**



**Graduation  
approach**



**Teaching at the  
Right Level**



**Structured  
pedagogy**

# There is strong interest in identifying and investing in what works in new cause areas



Chris Smith  
@Chris\_topian

We want to hear what new cause areas we should be working on. What are the world's fixable problems and how can we spend money effectively to address them?

12:56 PM · Jul 28, 2022 · Twitter Web App

## GiveWell

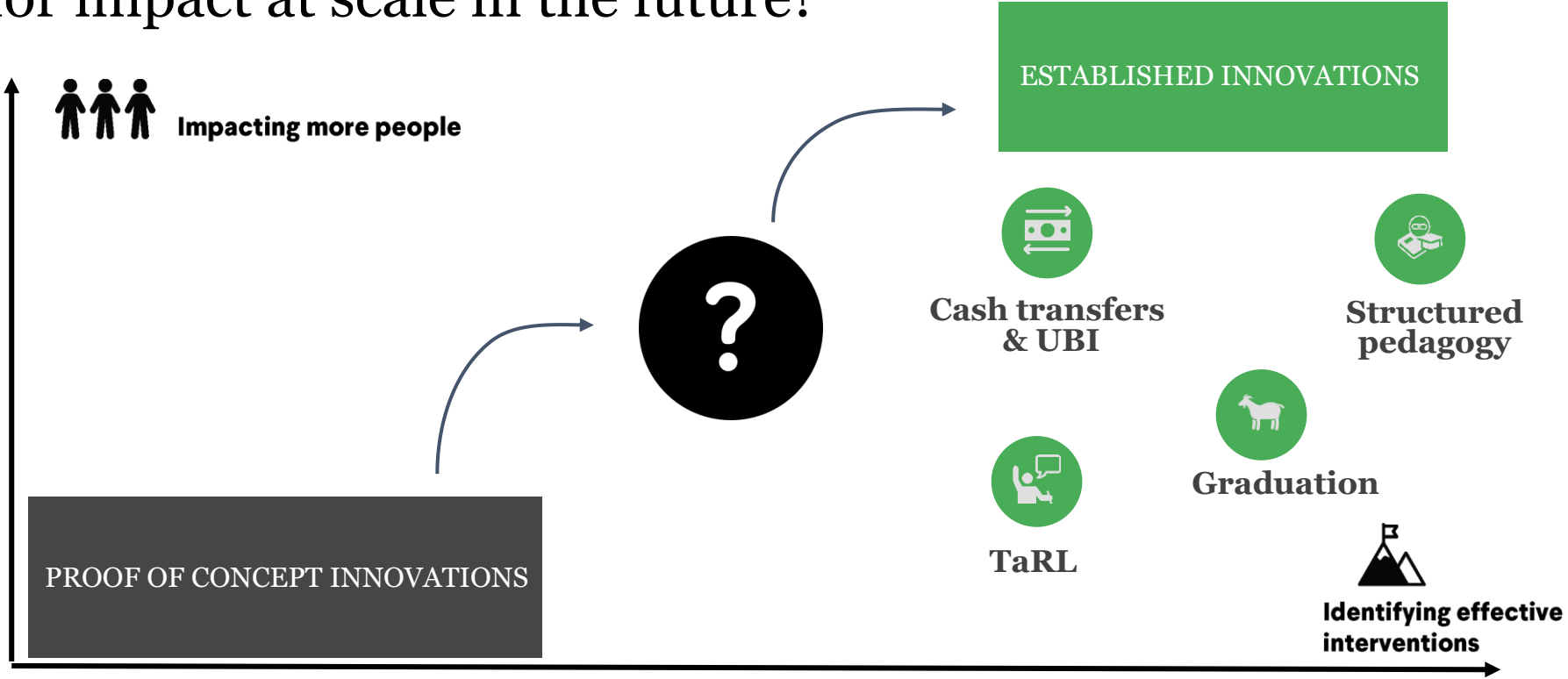
We believe there are billions of dollars' worth of annual cost-effective giving opportunities that we have yet to identify.



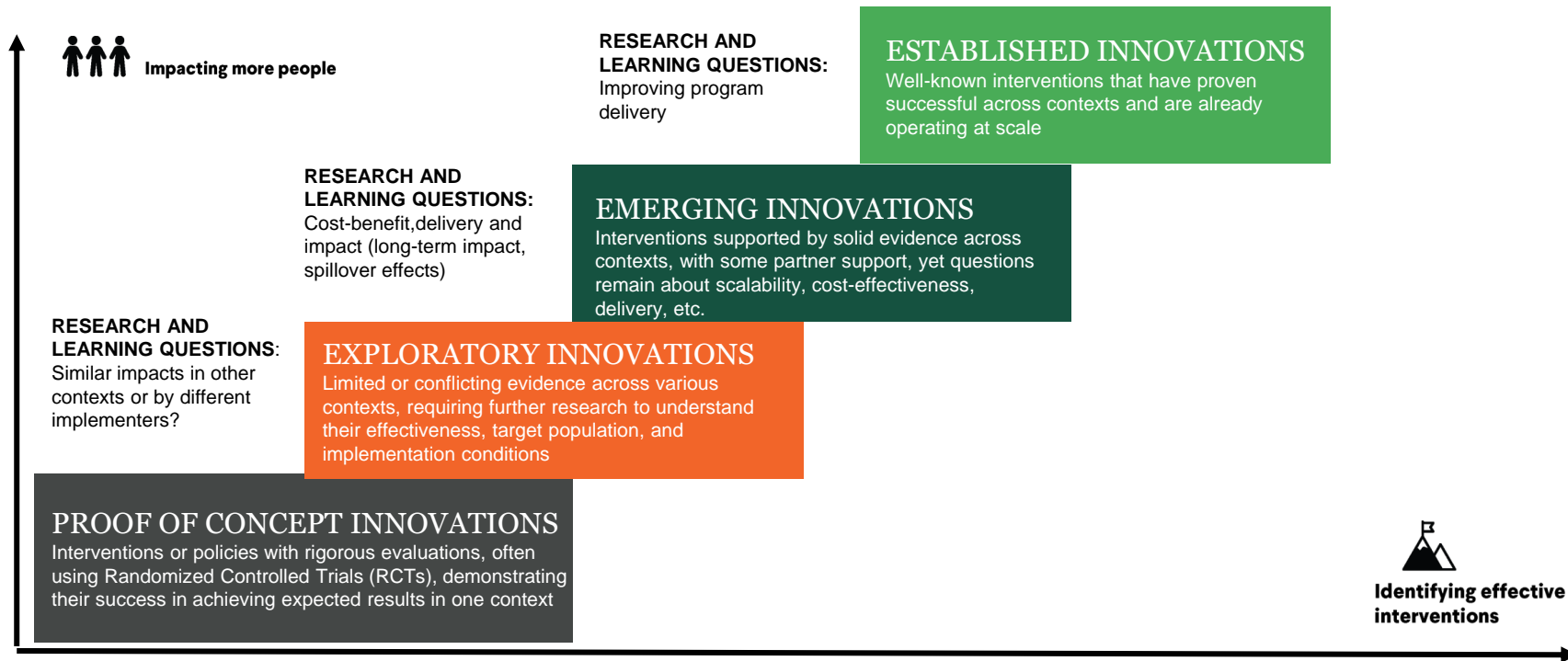
**Cause Exploration Prizes**  
We invite you to suggest a new area for us to support, or respond to our suggested questions on health, development, or worldview investigations. **We are most interested in responses to the “new area” prompt.**



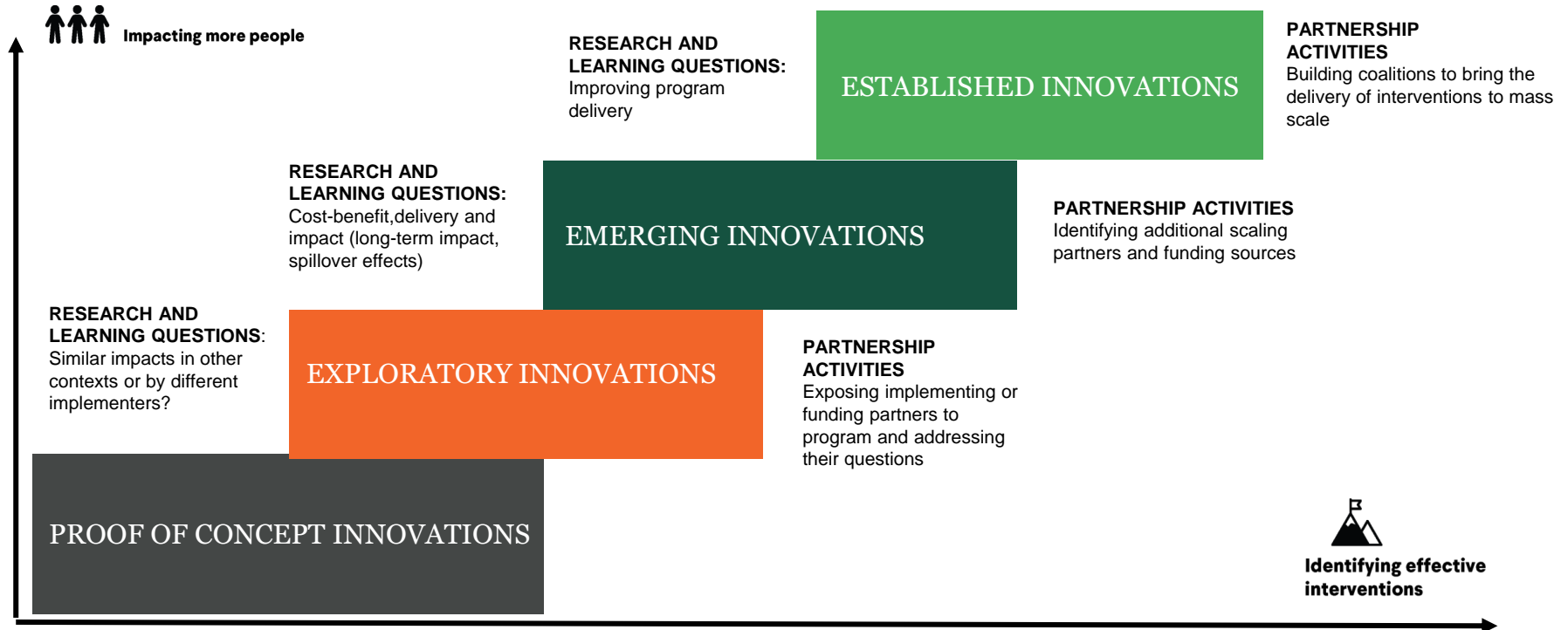
# What are the interventions that hold the greatest potential for impact at scale in the future?



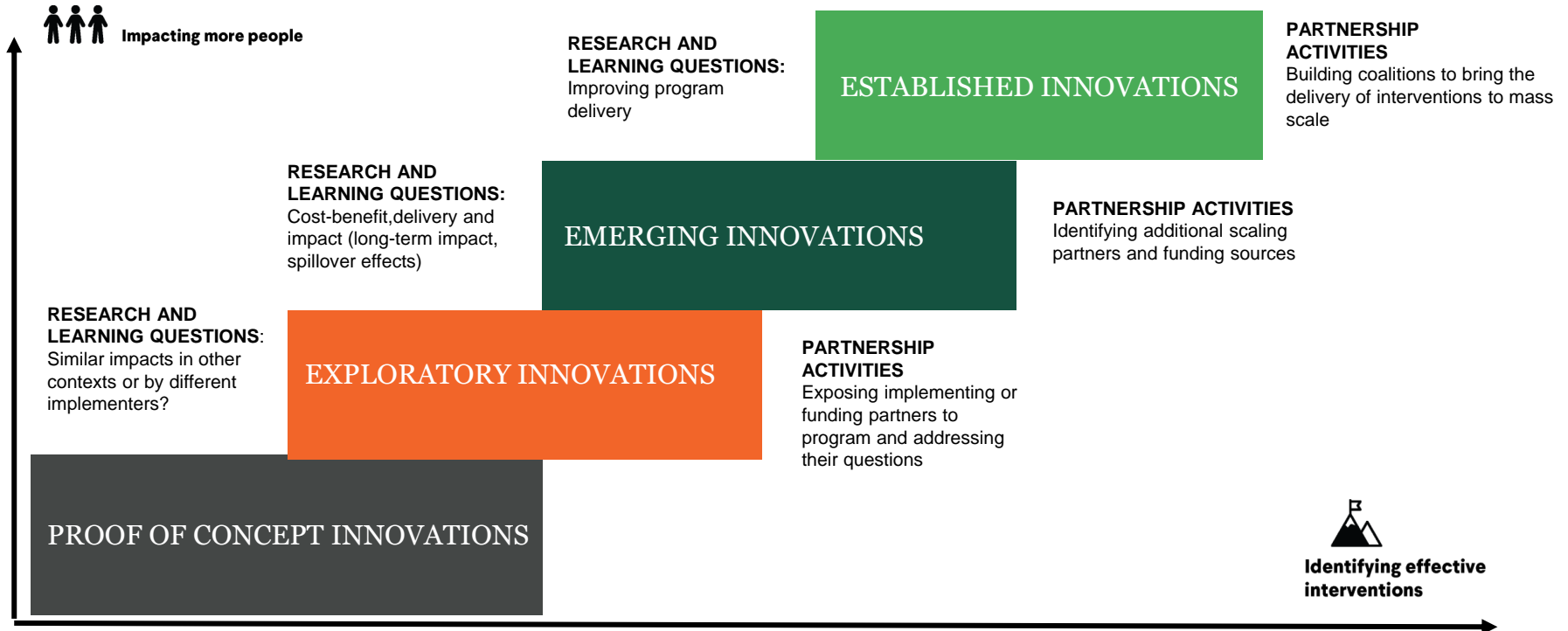
# IPA's sectoral experts and scientific advisors have identified 50 pathbreaking approaches along the path to scale



# Research and partnership activities are required to move from proof of concept to impact at scale



# Emerging Innovations are our *best bets* for future opportunities for impact at scale



# Best Bets hold the most promise for making an impact at scale...



Strong evidence



Big impact



Low-cost



Simple to implement



Committed partnerships

# ... but additional research and policy development is still needed



## **Cost-benefit**

Lowering costs  
Optimizing the intervention



## **Delivery**

Standardization  
Simplification for gov'ts  
Targeting  
Digital delivery



## **Impact**

Validity in other contexts  
Indirect effects  
Variations within target population  
Long-term impacts

# SQ-LNS to reduce stunting

Nutrient-dense products designed to complement infant diets to provide energy, protein, essential fatty acids, and a wide range of micronutrients



Strong evidence



Big impact



Low-cost



Simple to implement



Committed partnerships

- Support governments to integrate SQ-LNS with other interventions
- Improve delivery in diverse settings
- Reduce costs by targeting the most vulnerable communities
- Scale up SQ-LNS programs

# We identified 14 Best Bets leveraging our sectoral expertise and academic network (1/2)



Small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements (**SQ-LNS**) to treat **malnutrition**



Mobile phone **reminders** for routine childhood **vaccines**



**Social signaling** for routine childhood **vaccines**



Cognitive behavioral therapy (**CBT**) to reduce **crime**



**Teacher coaching** to improve **student learning**



Psychosocial stimulation and **responsive care** to promote **early childhood development**



**Soft-skills** training to boost **business profits** and sales

# We identified 14 Best Bets leveraging our sectoral expertise and academic network (2/2)



**Consulting services** to support small and medium **businesses**



Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (**ELA**) to promote **girls' empowerment** and health



**Couples' counseling** to reduce intimate partner violence (**IPV**)



**Edutainment** to change **attitudes and behavior**



**Digital payments** to improve **financial health**



**Childcare** for women's **economic empowerment**



**Payment for ecosystem** services to reduce deforestation and protect the **environment**



# Best Bets

Invitation for coalitions (implementers, researchers, funders) to:



Use existing evidence to tackle global issues effectively



Invest in resolving remaining questions



Take interventions to scale

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IPA will build and support coalitions to move Best Bets forward



# IPA's support to SQ-LNS to reduce stunting



## Research

- Build evidence base with potential scaling partners in Zambia
- Member of Operational Research WG -SQ-LNS Task Force



## Partnerships

- Deep collaboration with network of partners in Zambia for long-term success of SQ-LNS at scale
- Connect regularly with gov't, local academics, and other partners in ecosystem



## Technical assistance

- Ensure partner learning alongside research
- Training, materials, and capacity development with partners for evidence-informed implementation



## Fundraising

- Mobilize resources for learning-informed scaling
- Resource coalition to eventually implement SQ-LNS in Zambia as an evidence-based program at scale

# Interested in more?

Read the report

[poverty-action.org/best-bets](https://poverty-action.org/best-bets)

Reach out

[kpetersen@poverty-action.org](mailto:kpetersen@poverty-action.org)

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Poverty Action](https://www.facebook.com/InnovationsforPovertyAction)



**Kathryn Dewey**

# Presentation: **The case for SQ-LNS to prevent child undernutrition**

Distinguished Professor Emerita of Nutrition at UC Davis  
Steering Committee member of the SQ-LNS Task Force



**Doug Parkerson**

# Presentation: **The Impact of SQ-LNS on Child Growth in the ZamCharts RCT in Zambia**

Director of IPA's Path-to-Scale Research initiative  
Primary Investigator for the Impact of Growth Charts and SQ-LNS on Child Growth in Zambia



**Christine Stewart**

# Presentation: **SQ-LNS** **Research Priorities**

Director at the Institute for Global Nutrition, UC Davis  
Corinne L. Rustici Endowed Chair in Applied Human Nutrition, UC Davis  
Steering Committee member of the SQ-LNS Task Force



**Philomena Irene**

# Presentation: **Enhancing Young Children's Diets with SQ-LNS, integrated within a Resilient System in Gombe State, Nigeria**

Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF



# Questions for the panelists

- What is the relevance of the new WHO Guidelines in enabling the implementation of SQ-LNS?
- What do we know and what do we still need to learn about effective delivery models for SQ-LNS at scale?
- What are the main challenges to integrating SQ-LNS into government systems?

# Call to Action

- **Funders:** support SQ-LNS implementation research, and scale-up activities
  - [Child Nutrition Fund](#)
  - IPA's continued work in Zambia
- **Implementers and policymakers:** Invest in SQ-LNS programs; consider applying to the [Child Nutrition Fund](#); advocate for increased funding and support
- **Researchers:** join the SQ-LNS Task Force; focus on research that supports implementation, effectiveness and reach of SQ-LNS programs



# Contact Us

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