Thanks to the generous support of our donors, combined with continuous and growing demand from our humanitarian partners, in 2017, Edesia helped reach over 1.4 million malnourished children in partnership with UNICEF, the World Food Programme, USAID/USDA, and other humanitarian organizations, large and small. Edesia also laid the groundwork to develop and launch a new line of innovative and products for the American market that will help sustain Edesia’s humanitarian efforts.

**Edesia’s Mission**

Edesia’s mission is to help treat and prevent malnutrition in the world’s most vulnerable populations.

**Edesia’s Mandates**

**MANUFACTURE:** Supply humanitarian actors with the highest quality ready-to-use therapeutic and supplementary foods.

**INNOVATE:** Research and develop new nutritional solutions and ideas that further reduce global malnutrition rates.

**PARTICIPATE:** Advocate for policies that specifically target malnutrition; promote the power of the social enterprise business model to solve global health challenges.

**COLLABORATE:** Ensure sustainability of ready-to-use food production worldwide by lending support to manufacturers in developing countries.

For more information, please visit: [www.edesianutrition.org](http://www.edesianutrition.org)
Edesia’s ready-to-use foods reached over 1.4 million malnourished children in 2017.

In 2017, Edesia shipped its full range of ready-to-use foods to the following countries:

Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Laos, Las Palmas, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen.
Dear Donors and Friends,

Reflecting back on 2017, it was a year of contrasts. On the one hand, overwhelming and increasing need and the word “famine” declared for the first time since 2011. On the other hand, inspiring response and hope from a caring community, including all of you.

First, I want to delve into some figures and definitions. While they may be incredibly sobering, I believe that it is important to shed light and awareness because it is that light which fuels our action. Sadly, 2017 was the first year since the turn of century that the number of hungry people in the world increased. The absolute number of chronically undernourished people reached 815 million — up 38 million from 2016. The increase was largely due to the proliferation of violence and climate-related shocks. Regrettable situations, in which millions of innocent people — the majority being women and children — became trapped.

In 2017, famine was officially declared in South Sudan in February, and was nearly declared in Yemen, Somalia, and northeast Nigeria. Famine is not a term to be taken lightly. For famine to be declared, three specific outcomes are required: (1) at least 20 percent of households face extreme food shortages with limited ability to cope; (2) the prevalence of global acute malnutrition must exceed 30 percent; and (3) crude death rates must exceed two deaths per 10,000 people per day. Famine is serious and the response has to be as well.

In 2017 Edesia shipped in total enough ready-to-use foods to reach over 1.4 million malnourished children. When the world cried famine, we did not wring our hands, but together we responded.

I want to sincerely thank every one of our supporters for walking on this path with Edesia to help us make hunger and malnutrition a part of our world’s history and not our shared future. When difficulty faces us, we do not turn away, but move toward making and delivering the real-world solutions that bring life and hope to the world’s most malnourished children.

With gratitude,

Maria Kasparian

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[2] Official definition in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which was developed by eight major UN agencies and international NGOS (including WFP, FAO and FEWSNET).