

PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE NUTRITION OUTCOMES

September 20, 2017 —Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire —The Project Management Institute Educational Foundation (PMIEF) has partnered with Helen Keller International (HKI) and the Ivorian National Nutrition Council (NNC) (*Conseil National pour la Nutrition – CNN*) to fight against malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire. By strengthening project management capacity of NNC project managers as well as HKI's staff in Africa, PMIEF is contributing to improved nutritional outcomes in Côte d'Ivoire as well as in other countries in Africa where HKI operates. This, in turn, leads to healthier people and improved economic output.

PMIEF, the philanthropic arm of the Project Management Institute (PMI), is funding intensive in-person and online training for NNC project managers through a grant to HKI. PMI Registered Education Provider TenStep (represented in Côte d'Ivoire by Bah Blesson & Company) is delivering the training, which is based on PMI's *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) – Fifth Edition*. In addition, HKI is providing intensive nutrition technical training on essential nutrition and hygiene actions to these project managers. This approach looks at how to integrate behaviors like handwashing and exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of an infant's life at critical stages in the life cycle of women and children within commonly available facility and community contact points. The aim is to improve the quality of nutrition services and to promote positive changes in family-based feeding and caring behaviors.

Furthermore, PMIEF's grant provides project management training for 50 members of HKI's program management staff in Africa to further build the organization's capacity to effectively and to efficiently deliver services.

According to Nicholas Mancus, HKI's Country Director in Côte d'Ivoire, "Training in, or in some cases refreshing knowledge of, project management is imperative to strong programs. PMIEF's support to the National Nutrition Council is very welcome. We expect that better managed nutrition programs will provide better results, and that in turn will help improve the nutritional status of millions of Ivorian citizens".

"Pandemic malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire creates incredible challenges for the country that dictate highly skilled interventions," said Jeannette Barr, Executive Director of PMIEF. "We are pleased to collaborate with HKI to ensure the NNC acquires and applies project management knowledge to combat this pervasive problem. We also welcome the opportunity to help HKI's staff build the organization's project management capabilities through the training our grant provides."

National Nutrition Council

In Côte d'Ivoire, today, nearly one-third of children under five are stunted and three-quarters suffer from anemia. One quarter of Ivorian women of child-bearing age are overweight or obese and nearly two in five adults have high blood pressure. Children with stunted growth have a cognitive developmental delay that adversely affects their academic performance and permanently compromises their productivity at work and their income as adults. These children also grow up with a higher risk of becoming obese and suffering from chronic diseases that currently have increasing prevalence rates in Côte d'Ivoire. The National Nutritional Council was

established by Ivoirian governmental decree to help curb this issue. Its role is to guide massive investment in improved nutrition nationally to develop a more productive Côte d'Ivoire of the future.

Helen Keller International

HKI's programs are built on strong partnerships with governments, civil society, the private sector, and communities in 20 countries across Africa and Asia, as well as here in the United States. Reaching millions, and delivered efficiently, HKI's strategy is designed to have lasting impact by strengthening families and health systems. Respected for the range and rigor of their work, HKI is a top-rated charity, founded in 1915 in New York, New York. Its programs help the world's vulnerable see possibilities, overcome obstacles and reach their potential. For additional information please visit www.hki.org.

Project Management Institute Educational Foundation

The Project Management Institute Educational Foundation (PMIEF) is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization of Project Management Institute (PMI), the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program, and portfolio management profession. Founded in 1990, PMIEF develops, implements, and delivers innovative programs to leverage project management for social good globally. These include grants, scholarships, and awards as well as educational resources that strengthen project management knowledge of teachers, youth, and nonprofit organizations. PMIEF's vision that "all people worldwide have a better tomorrow by applying project management skills in their daily lives" comes to the life through the generosity of individual and corporate donors as well as the PMI community. For additional information, visit www.pmief.org.