

# Corporate Capability Statement



**Who We Are:** Vitamin Angels is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, incorporated in the State of California (1998) and headquartered in Santa Barbara, California.

**Where We Work:** Vitamin Angels operates globally through local field partners in approximately 60 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and North America, including the United States and Canada.

**Our Cause:** Our vision is to be a leading partner for the alleviation of micronutrient deficiency among at-risk populations. Our mission is to help at-risk populations in need – specifically pregnant women, unborn and newborn children, and children under five – gain access to lifesaving and life changing vitamins and minerals.

**What We Do:** To alleviate micronutrient deficiency or “hidden hunger”, we assist, primarily, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking to initiate nutrition services or add to their existing health/nutrition services. Starting with the premise that there are five categories of proven interventions (i.e., direct feeding, commercial fortification, supplementation, combatting childhood infections, and promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices (i.e., optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices); we assist our field partners in the above areas where we have expertise.

**How We Deliver Results:** We recognize that many organizations expend considerable effort and resources annually to alleviate hidden hunger, and attempt to coordinate with others as feasible. Vitamin Angels uses its resources first to identify organizations with whom to partner. Once applicants are qualified and selected to become a field partner, Vitamin Angels provides each with appropriate micronutrients and pharmaceuticals (manufactured to internationally accepted technical and finished product specifications), and other non-product supplies, free of charge. Vitamin Angels also provides technical assistance, with emphasis on training, needed to ensure that activation of services are consistent with accepted best practices adapted to local conditions. Our field partners must have a capacity to design, staff, and execute their own service delivery programs and agree to absorb all local implementation costs.

**Technical Focus Areas:** We focus on maternal and child supplementation programs, programs to combat childhood infections, efforts to promote optimal IYCF practices; and more recently we have begun to explore support for direct feeding programs for preschool-aged children. Our efforts are characterized by targeting efforts to reach at-risk beneficiaries who may be without access to national health services and/or those who reside in families in the bottom third of the income pyramid, encouraging local organizations to take responsibility for alleviating hidden hunger, building local capacity among networks of local NGOs, and support for initiatives that are complementary to and coordinated with existing national health services.

**Our Core Competencies:** Vitamin Angels’ initiatives are constructed around core competencies to:

- **ADVOCATE FOR POLICY CHANGE** and raise awareness to a comprehensive range of proven maternal and child nutrition interventions.
- **DELIVER SERVICES** (undertaken through field partners) focused on supplementation, combatting childhood infections and optimizing IYCF practices – to expand:
  - Numbers of infants and preschool-aged children receiving vitamin A to reduce infant and child mortality and morbidity,
  - Numbers of eligible preschool-aged children receiving albendazole where appropriate to: i) reduce the burden of intestinal worms, and ii) facilitate an improvement in overall nutritional status,
  - Numbers of pregnant women receiving multi-micronutrient supplements to improve mother health, the survival and development of the unborn children, and to improve birth outcomes, and
  - Availability of information to encourage optimal IYCF practices, with a focus on breast-feeding and good complementary feeding practices, while helping women to avoid or solve problems that cause women to stop breast-feeding.
- **PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE and resources** to partner organizations that seek to take local responsibility to alleviate hidden-hunger.