



It has been said that next to hunger and thirst, our most basic human need is for storytelling.
- Khalil Gibran

The Dutasi Documentary Project

From July 2016 through March 2017, the [Lumen Production Company](#) (LPC) will collaborate with [Dr. Mark Manary](#) from Washington University School Of Medicine and the international nonprofit [Project Peanut Butter](#) (PPB), founded by Dr. Manary, to produce a series of short, compelling documentary stories in Sierra Leone, an area with chronic poverty and a desperate need for health care support. LPC's video production and still photography will focus on children and families in the Pujehun region and the inspirational story of life-saving treatment for malnutrition.



Malnutrition And Poverty

It's estimated [that two to three million children die globally each year](#) from severe acute malnutrition. It's the leading cause of death for children under five years old. Millions more children experience moderate malnutrition and may suffer from cognitive, neuromuscular, immune, and other impairments their entire lives.

In recent years, Sierra Leone experienced civil war, severe economic challenges, and challenging health emergencies such as Ebola. As a result of these and other concerns, many families in Sierra Leone are deeply impacted by poverty and a lack of access to ample food and basic nutrition.

LPC's DUTASI DOCUMENTARY PROJECT - FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 415-694-2526

RUTFs – A Proven Solution

Dr. Mark Manary has played a central role in the development and testing of [Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods](#) (RUTFs). These powerful tools offer low cost, nutritionally dense, proven treatment for children with moderate and severe acute malnutrition. The unique mixture of high quality oils, milk powder, nuts, sugar, vitamins, and minerals allow dramatic healing and recovery in just four to eight weeks for over ninety percent of all children treated.

Project Peanut Butter

PPB manufactures RUTFs in Freetown, Sierra Leone with staff from the region and primarily locally sourced ingredients. Here, the life saving formula is called “Dutasi.” PPB is an international leader in care for malnourished children with a proven track record through more than a decade working across Africa and other areas in the world.

PPB plans to initiate a new treatment program in Pujehun in October of 2016.

Why Pujehun?

[Pujehun](#) is one of the poorest, least developed regions in Sierra Leone. 1/10th of the children die before their fifth birthday. Life expectancy is 46 years. The World Food Program estimates that 900 children enter a state of severe acute malnutrition each month in this area. Many children also suffer from malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other illnesses. At this time, there is limited access to electricity, clean water, economic opportunity, and basic health care infrastructure. 80% of the families live with food insecurity. Thus, there is a deep need for intervention.

Why Is This Documentary Project Unique And Important?

PPB’s treatment project in Pujehun, Sierra Leone is designed to save thousands of children’s lives. Through the Dutasi Documentary project, LPC will strive to:

1. Document The Regional Change Through PPB’s Early Work: PPB’s new program in Pujehun is the first treatment program using RUTF for malnutrition in this region. Thus, the first six months of this program offer a unique opportunity to document the transformative power of RUTFs and the shift in behaviors and health for vulnerable children, families, and communities.

2. Document Cognitive Testing: In addition to standard physical and other health measurements, the nutritional treatment program in Pujehun will incorporate an assessment of changes in cognitive functioning for children. PPB plans to incorporate innovative research tools into PPB’s pre and post treatment reviews. This has never been done before.

3. Document Intimate Individual Healing: LPC and PPB plan to select individual case studies and document the transformation in a child's health and vitality with photography and video footage from the early identification of need through the entire four to eight week treatment program. To our knowledge, this approach with sustained coverage through a full RUTF treatment has never been attempted before. LPC production resources are planned at Pujehun for a sustained period of months.

4. Document The Power Of PPB's Staffing, Sourcing And Manufacturing: PPB hires primarily local staff and utilizes specialized software and flexible production to incorporate locally sourced ingredients into RUTF production and treatment programs. Despite the location, PPB's RUTF plant in Sierra Leone meets international quality standards and is accredited by UNICEF, the World Food Program, and MSF (Doctors Without Borders). Documenting PPB's unique approach promotes sustainable, local economic growth and access to care for vulnerable children throughout the world.

5. Build A Further Foundation For PPB's Fundraising And Global Advocacy PPB needs to raise funds and awareness to sustain the program in Sierra Leone. This LPC documentary project is designed to give voice, visual content, and emotion to the dialog and fundraising process. The documentary work is also designed to support a broad global advocacy and awareness campaign for malnutrition and the power of RUTF treatment.

Project Location: Pujehun is in southern Sierra Leone near the border with Liberia.



This Project Builds Upon LPC's Successful Documentary Work In Malawi

In 2009, LPC and PPB collaborated to document PPB's work in Malawi, Africa. This project produced a central video story titled "Saving Lives. Saving Futures. The Story Of Project Peanut Butter." which was presented through television, web streaming, and DVDs and still photography that covered many elements of PPB's treatment programs. This content continues to provide critical advocacy and fundraising support. These documentary materials and stories are still used today with PPB's corporate partners, foundations, schools, and individual donors. Most significantly, Malawi has achieved substantial improvement in treatment for malnutrition and sustained improvement in infant mortality rates. This success is partially a result of PPB's intervention.

How Can You Help With This New Project In Sierra Leone?

Further financial resources are needed for production, editing, music licensing, final color and sound, equipment usage expenditures, travel, project planning, insurance, salaries, and other documentary costs. The "Dutasi" Documentary Project is partially funded through Project Peanut Butter (PPB), a U.S. registered nonprofit with formal 501 C3 status. Additional donations to the "Dutasi" Documentary Project may be made care of Project Peanut Butter. Donations are tax deductible and deeply appreciated. Please write checks to "Project Peanut Butter" and place a note on the donation that designates funds for the "Dutasi" Documentary Project. Thank you for any and all consideration.

Project Peanut Butter's nonprofit Federal Tax ID is: 59-3785405

Donations may be sent to:

Project Peanut Butter, 7435 Flora Avenue, Maplewood, MO 63143

Contact Information And Links To Websites:

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