Imagine an exit strategy from poverty – a generation of children who become healthy, productive and participating members of society.

The Problem:
As many as 200 million children fail to reach their full potential. Children in poverty have a higher chance of adversity that risks disrupting brain development. This is a devastating waste of human capital that leaves the next generation ill equipped to face the enormous challenges that lock individuals, communities and societies in poverty.

The Challenge:
To develop sustainable ways to promote and nurture healthy child and brain development in the first 1000 days at scale with lasting impact on human capital in low-resource settings.

Saving Brains supports bold ideas to improve early brain and child development in low- and middle-income countries. The portfolio currently includes innovations addressing three components of healthy development:

- Promote good health and nutrition
- Provide enrichment and nurturing
- Protect against maltreatment and violence

For example:
- Support exclusive breastfeeding
- Treat micronutrient deficiency
- Care for babies born too soon
- Reduce exposure to environmental toxins
- Coach parents to buffer stress
- Arm girls with negotiation skills

Saving Brains projects measure the following common outcome metrics:

- Physical growth
  - HAZ, LAZ or WAZ
- Cognitive function
  - General intelligence, executive function
- Language
  - Receptive and expressive language, literacy
- Socioemotional capacity
  - Behavioural and emotional problems, infant temperament
- Academic attainment
  - Years of schooling, school access

Total investments to date: $41 million invested in 107 projects and a Platform to accelerate progress against the challenge.

Projects implemented in 32 low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America & Caribbean.

Platform led by the TruePoint Center and the Harvard Center on the Developing Child.

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