

# THE PEANUT

*official newsletter of...*



Issue 1, September 2013

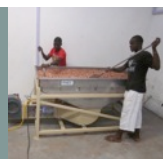
## Malawi Update



The changes in Malawi are groundbreaking...literally.

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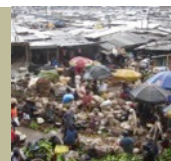
## Sierra Leone Update



Read about our factory's exciting new peanut processing machinery.

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PPB is moving into a brand new country.

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## Small Scale Projects



Follow us as we support Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation to help save the lives of malnourished children in war-torn Somalia.

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Please visit our website at [projectpeanutbutter.org](http://projectpeanutbutter.org).



This outdoor market in central Kumasi, Ghana, is allegedly the largest market in all of West Africa.

## Introducing: Ghana

Project Peanut Butter is excited to announce that we are in the initial stages of moving to a third country: Ghana. Ghana is located in West Africa, sandwiched between the nations of Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) to the west, Togo to the east, and Burkina Faso to the north. Of Ghana's 25.2 million inhabitants, more than half work in agriculture.

Although Ghana does not have the highest rates of malnutrition in Africa, it is an ideal location for Project Peanut Butter to set up shop for a number of reasons. First, malnutrition is still a problem in Ghana. Approximately 30,000 Ghanaian children suffer from severe acute malnutrition annually. But the presence of malnutrition alone does not indicate that Project Peanut Butter could be successful in a country. Ghana also boasts a favorable business climate, peaceful external and internal relations, sufficient quantities of local ingredients, reliable utilities, and internationally accredited laboratories for ensuring high quality RUTF production. In addition, Ghana's Health Service, UNICEF, and USAID/FANTA have all professed their support of Project Peanut Butter's plan to begin to produce RUTF there. UNICEF Ghana has even suggested that they would

(Ctd. on page 2)



Above: The outside of the new Ghana factory.  
Below: The inside of the new factory.



## (Ghana, Ctd.)

be interested in buying locally produced RUTF from PPB for use in neighboring countries where the need is high but overwhelming barriers to production exist. This means that our new factory in Ghana may be able to serve as a production hub in West Africa.

Martin Histan of the PPB USA team, together with Megan Halterman, PPB Ghana Co-Director, recently spent four weeks in Ghana in order to identify a suitable location for our new factory. The pair settled on a property in Kumasi, Ghana's centrally located, second largest city. They signed a 10-year lease, which went into effect September 1, 2013, on the empty warehouse. According to Martin, the 28 X 45 meter space is "the largest space PPB has rented so far, and we're excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for us in Ghana."

Hershey Foods has generously pledged to fund the majority of PPB's project in Ghana. One of the next steps on the path to full-fledged RUTF production will be to determine the factory's internal layout and then renovate the site accordingly. Already working on this process are Dietrich Alderfer and soon to be Luke Hostetter, Americans who have construction and engineering experience and who will be overseeing the coming renovations. The next few months will require much creativity, collaboration, and flexibility in order to begin saving lives in Ghana. Here at Project Peanut Butter, we're all on board to do just that.

## Small Scale Projects

In addition to producing RUTF in our own factories in Malawi, Sierra Leone, and soon Ghana and distributing RUTF at our own clinics, Project Peanut Butter also likes to lend guidance and support to other reputable organizations that want to treat malnourished kids.

One nonprofit that is certainly worthy of our assistance is the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation ([www.dhaf.org](http://www.dhaf.org)). Since 1983, DHAF has provided emergency relief, including basic medical care, to hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of a sprawling refugee camp outside of Mogadishu, Somalia. The situation in war-torn Somalia is currently considered so dangerous that even Doctors Without Borders has been forced to withdraw from the country.

Project Peanut Butter supported Dr. Abdi and DHAF in 2012 by sending a shipment of 11.4 mT of RUTF from its production facility in Sierra Leone to the DHAF camp, but this solution has proven to be merely temporary. Many severely malnourished children remain in the camp without treatment, and many will likely die unless someone takes action.

It would be ideal if DHAF could produce its own RUTF because this would be cheaper than purchasing it externally and would ensure a consistent supply of RUTF in the camp, even during unstable times. Recognizing this reality, Project Peanut Butter has offered to send a representative from our St. Louis office to train some

(Ctd. on page 3)



## (Small Scale Projects, Ctd.)

DHAF employees to make RUTF. Margo Stoner will fill this role and will meet them in Nairobi, Kenya, the week of October 7-13 (Somalia is not a suitable place to meet). She has worked for weeks preparing lesson plans, sourcing ingredients, and locating tools, such as a mixer with a 30kg capacity, to be used in training that will later be shipped to the DHAF camp and used in production of RUTF there. Margo is excited for her trip: "Dr. Hawa Abdi is an inspirational woman, and I am honored to be able to work with her team to help treat the children of Somalia."

In addition to training the DHAF representatives, Margo will also be meeting with a group of priests in Thika, Kenya, who serve 45 children and youths with disabilities. She will be teaching them how to produce RUTF for these children on an even smaller scale. We wish Margo the best of luck in her training endeavors, and we will be sure to keep everyone updated on the status of these two projects.

## Update: Malawi

What do you do when the lease on your old factory is up and your landlord wants to reclaim the property? You build a new factory of course!

Project Peanut Butter has taken this challenge head-on, and construction of a brand new factory in Blantyre, Malawi is well underway. The process will take a bit longer than it would in the States because many of the labor-saving machines typically used in construction are not readily available in the developing world. According to Building Project Co-Managers, Alex Caskey and Mark Histan, site development began around January 25, 2013. The building team officially broke ground on April 12. Since that date, they have reached many milestones, including finishing a 515m perimeter fence and guardhouse, obtaining a power and water supply for the site, and finishing the building substructure and slab. Mark and Alex say they hope to complete the factory construction by the end of this year, although RUTF production may not begin immediately.

It may seem like building an entirely new factory from scratch is a huge hassle and expense, but the effort will ultimately make PPB Malawi

Project Peanut Butter

# T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

## WIN A FREE T-SHIRT

October  
1-31<sup>st</sup>

Submit all designs in either  
.pdf or .jpeg formats to:  
ppb.margaret@gmail.com  
mmanary@sbcglobal.net



All submissions become the property of Project Peanut Butter

projectpeanutbutter.org




### Help Us Fight Malnutrition in Africa

more sustainable. We can design the exterior and interior of the factory according to our specific production needs and are free to make changes to the premises whenever and however we like. In addition, because PPB owns the land on which we are building the new factory, we will no longer have to fear a mandatory relocation. Check out Project Peanut Butter's facebook page for weekly updates on factory construction and pictures of our new factory.

Below: PPB factory staff visit the new site.





Above: Malawi construction team hard at work on the new factory

## Update: Sierra Leone

One exciting new development in Sierra Leone is our transition from relying on the purchase of roasted peanuts from local markets to the utilization of brand new peanut processing machinery in our own factory. Many of the roasted peanuts we previously purchased from local suppliers contained levels of microbiological contaminants that were unacceptable according to our production standards. Our new machinery, however, processes raw peanuts that we purchase from local farmers and produces roasted peanuts that fully meet our rigorous quality standards. These safe roasted peanuts are then ground into peanut paste in our original production room and mixed with the other ingredients to produce RUTF suitable for malnourished children.

Project Peanut Butter would like to extend a special thank you to Frank Nolin from Georgia, who generously created the new machinery for our Sierra Leone factory.



Alusine and Rogers, employees at the peanut facility, stir peanuts as they dry at the Sierra Leone factory.



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