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Young woman with child in India

Malnutrition in young women entering their child-bearing years has particularly severe, long-term social consequences. Maternal and foetal malnutrition can lead to poor cognitive and neurological development in newborn babies. The problem is especially acute in developing countries. There, an estimated 58 percent of mothers are anaemic, and every year nearly a quarter of all newborn babies – an estimated 30 million – are born malnourished. Making an investment towards improving nutritional standards of today's young mothers can pay dividends for generations to come.