“Evaluating the Impact of Malnutrition, Enteric Infections and Environmental Exposures on Child Growth and Development”

**The MAL-ED Study**

An international network of researchers worked at 8 resource limited sites to evaluate the environmental factors associated with child growth and development deficits.

- **Research Sites**: Fortaleza, Brazil; Limpopo, South Africa; Iquitos, Peru; Haydom, Tanzania; Naushero Feroze, Pakistan; Vellore, India; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Bhaktapur, Nepal

**At least 200 children from each site participated**

- From birth to age 2

**Scientists evaluated:**

- **Socioeconomic Factors**
  - Pathogen Exposure
  - Illness
  - Nutritional Status
  - Physical Growth
  - Cognitive Development
  - Vaccine Response

**Research Findings**

- **The majority of children had repeated exposure to harmful intestinal pathogens**
  - Campylobacter
  - Cryptosporidium
  - E. coli
  - Diarrhea
  - Norovirus

- **Even in the absence of obvious symptoms like diarrhea, poor nutritional intake and repeated exposure to harmful intestinal pathogens contribute to shortfalls in:**
  - **Physical Growth**
  - **Cognitive Development**
  - **Vaccine Response**

**Study Impact**

- **The project will promote future research opportunities at MAL-ED collaborating institutions**

- **MAL-ED data will be available to help identify and test new hypotheses**

- **Study findings lay the groundwork for important intervention strategies to improve the lives of children and positively influence their community**

Learn more about the study and its partners at fnih.org/MAL-ED