TRANSCRIPT FOR "For Very Little, Gain More"

**Link here**

**SCENE 1**

A break time scene with girls playing. One or two can be getting last minute snacks at the canteen. Others can be sitting somewhere finishing up with break time snacks. The bell rings for class to resume and they stop everything they are doing and rush to class. After, we see a teacher entering class to teach, and the narrator begins speaking.

**Girl 1:** What do you think of me being a basketball coach? Just coaching people like… Michael Jordan…

**Girls:** *Murmuring and laughing as they hear the bell ring and run to class.*

**Narrator:** According to the 2016 Uganda Demographic Health Survey results, young girls aged 15 to 20 years of age are at high risk of getting anemia. One in four girls in this age group suffers from anemia. This means that in a class of 40 female students, ten are likely to suffer from anemia. Anemia is almost invisible but it is a problem that keeps our students from taking advantage of their schooling.

Anemia is a condition that lowers the blood’s ability to carry oxygen to all the parts of the body, including the brain.

**SCENE 2**

This is a classroom scene, leading to a focus on the girl speaking about her anemia.

**Girl:** I am anemic. The nurse told me so. I am tired all time. I do not want to run around much and I cannot concentrate in class. Sometimes I feel dizzy and I am actually not happy. I am even scared of getting a poor test score because it is hard for me to concentrate in class.

**Narrator:** Even mild anemia can affect school performance. One way to ensure that our students perform well is by helping them prevent anemia.

**Girl:** To prevent suffering from anemia in future, the nurse told me to eat nutritious foods, deworm regularly, avoid getting malaria by sleeping under a mosquito net and maintain good hygiene for example by walking in shoes. I hope this can help my friends so that they do not experience what I am going through.

**SCENE 3**

Close on the Director of Basic and Secondary Education, Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports.

**Director of Basic and Secondary Education, MOE:** As the ministry of education we emphasize quality education, but we cannot have quality education if our students are not healthy, and one of the major challenges which is affecting the young children in our schools is to do with anemia. This can of course be prevented, because the major causes of anemia in schools is malaria, is hookworms, which I think can be prevented. So I think the schools and the teachers should really address this issue so we have healthy students even before we focus on quality education. I know we have challenges with food but I think the little food we have should be of quality. We have beans, maize flour – but we must ensure that these foods which are common in schools are of value – maize should be fortified so it has that value of additional iron to improve on the blood levels for our young people. Anemia should really be fought because it is a key killer when you look at statistics.

**Minister of State for Primary Education, MOE:** For any child to be healthy this can be possible if children feed on nutritious food. The Ministry of Education and Sports came up with guidelines on feeding and nutrition and intervention program and of course this would recommend that children feed on fortified food. Therefore we want all schools to demand from the maize millers to produce food that is fortified because it will add value.

**SCENE 4**

Close up on Ruth Biyinzika Musoke, Head Skills Development Facility, Private Sector Foundation Uganda.

**PSFU:** As Private Sector Foundation Uganda and also the lead body for the private sector in this country we do recognize that it’s very important to offer foods to the population which has nutrients and in particular right now we are encouraging millers to be able to produce fortified maize flour that has iron and vitamins because we know it’s very important. Currently we have a fund for skills development and if there are any smaller millers that have issues on how to fortify, what do I need to do, then that is something we are willing to support. Something we are looking at as the private sector is can we create demand for fortified maize, and one of the biggest consumers would actually be schools and for us seeing the ministry of educations for example taking a lead to say that all maize to be purchased in government schools must be fortified, that automatically would create demand.

When you are buying maize and you are picking it in a supermarket, even if you are buying for a school, you can look for that logo, it’s in F blue and yellow, and that should give you a note that what I’m taking actually has the right nutrients.

**Narrator:** The cost of fortifying is very little. If a kilo of maize flour costs USh 2,000, the increment would be USh 4, which brings the total to USh 2,004. It is a small investment for an important return.

**PFSU:** As our institution what we are saying is we should be able to promote it, and buyers- consumers- should be able to appreciate it, because the additional cost is minimal but the benefits that you get out of fortification are enormous.

**Narrator:** For very little, schools can gain a lot. It only takes the step of buying fortified maize meal. With this simple action you can help prevent anemia and give a child a better chance to realize her potential. Look out for the big blue F logo on the maize flour.

**END OF CLIP.**