

# HENRY CROWN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



## VENTURE PROFILE

# Navyn Salem

## Edesia



Navyn founded Edesia after witnessing the fatal effects of childhood malnutrition in her father's homeland of Tanzania. The company works to increase the resiliency and sustainability of the world's emergency food system by driving research innovation and providing technical assistance to others, and advocates for prioritizing nutrition on the US and global policy agenda.

Navyn's venture focused on expanding Edesia's capabilities by launching a research and innovation center. By 2018, they reached their goal of feeding two million malnourished children a year. Additionally, their new innovation team successfully launched their first consumer-facing brand, Little Nut, as a simple way to introduce peanuts to babies and help prevent peanut allergies in the US. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Edesia re-engineered their factory to produce products for food banks and US school lunch programs.

To date, Edesia's specialized therapeutic foods have treated 17 million malnourished children in 60 countries. Their foods are distributed in partnership with USAID, the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and local nonprofits to children at the frontlines of war, natural disasters, and other emergencies. They are now doubling their production capacity to address the growing disruptions caused by Ukraine, climate change, and other crises.



### **Mission**

End hunger and malnutrition worldwide.

### **Title**

Founder & CEO,  
Edesia, Inc.

### **Henry Crown Fellow Class XVII**

2014, *Bones & Elephant*

### **In Her Words**

*We do not have time to think, we need to act at this very moment to end malnutrition.*