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# USAID Advancing Nutrition Democratic Republic of the Congo

## A Global Project

USAID Advancing Nutrition is USAID’s flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project seeking to improve the nutritional status and health of populations vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies around the globe. This five-year project began in October 2018 and draws on expertise that spans sectors and contexts. Collaborating with stakeholders, JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. and a diverse group of partners strengthen nutrition outcomes in a variety of development and humanitarian response settings. We do so by supporting country-led scale-up of effective, integrated, and sustainable nutrition programs and food and health systems. The project strengthens USAID’s global nutrition investments by providing assistance to USAID Missions and in-country partners working at local, regional, and national levels to improve nutritional status and health outcomes where the burden of malnutrition is highest. We focus on the individuals most at risk of malnutrition, especially young children, their caregivers, and women of reproductive age.

## Our Work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

USAID Advancing Nutrition works with a range of nutrition stakeholders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including the government, implementing partners, and United Nations agencies to better understand and document ways to strengthen the quality and continuity of interventions to treat and prevent wasting in children under 5. Our work focuses on documentation and learning around the following themes:



### PROJECT PERIOD

2019–2022

### WHERE WE WORK

Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Sud Kivu, and Tanganyika Provinces

- Strengthening stakeholder coordination and collaboration across the nutrition continuum of care, particularly between emergency and development actors and programs.
- Identifying effective actions and recommendations to strengthen coordination and collaboration for improved outcomes.
- Analyzing and costing the last mile of the ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) supply chain.



Mother carrying toddler. Credit: David Uttley/USAID

## Achievements

To generate observations, experiences, lessons, and recommendations for strengthening the continuum of care, the project consulted with stakeholders through individual interviews, coordination meetings, and participatory workshops at national, provincial, and health zone levels. We also conducted a desk review that examined national policies, implementing partner reports, and documentation of promising practices from both DRC and other countries.

Within selected focus health zones in the provinces of Kasai Oriental and Sud Kivu, USAID Advancing Nutrition worked with government bodies, implementing partners, and coordination platforms to identify actions that will improve coordination and collaboration across the continuum of care. Our three years of work culminated in a report that documents challenges and lessons learned, and provides recommendations that contribute to local and global learning on the prevention and treatment of wasting through enhanced coordination.

To strengthen the reliability of access to RUTF, USAID Advancing Nutrition is analyzing and costing the last mile of the supply chain in two provinces—Kasai Oriental and Nord Kivu. The costing analysis will examine the different modalities of RUTF last mile delivery to help identify challenges and solutions for these supply chains in USAID's areas of operation.



RUTF packets supplied to supplement foods consumed at home. Credit: Kate Consavage/USAID

## USAID Advancing Nutrition

The Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project

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