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USAID Advancing Nutrition Honduras

A Global Project

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) 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 its diverse group of partners help strengthen nutrition outcomes in development and humanitarian response settings. We bring together global nutrition experience to design, implement, and evaluate programs that address the root causes of malnutrition.

Our Work in Honduras

Using a systems approach to address nutrition challenges, USAID Advancing Nutrition aims to improve the quality of diets to reduce malnutrition in at least 10,000 households in the 12 municipalities where the project works. While some of our work will be conducted at the national level and be relevant across Honduras, most of our activities will focus on the municipalities. We will contribute to a clearer understanding of and a stronger commitment to multi-sectoral nutrition among local leadership in the selected municipalities, increased attention to large-scale food fortification and micronutrient supplementation programs, and periodic assessment of performance and impact of key nutrition interventions.

During its first year in Honduras, the project will carry out the following activities:

- Review health, nutrition, and education data collection and use systems.



PROJECT PERIOD

May 2021–September 2023

WHERE WE WORK

The national level and 12 municipalities: Copán Ruinas, Santa Rita, Cabañas, San Jeronimo, Gracias, Lepaera, Talgua, Las Flores, La Iguala, Belén Gualcho, San Marcos de Ocotepeque, Macuelizo

- Identify and prioritize organizational needs of health care service providers and departmental education offices.
- Conduct a landscape analysis of policies, regulations, and systems related to large-scale food fortification.
- Conduct a rapid market assessment of selected food items—food currently fortified or that could be fortified.
- Build the capacity of frontline health workers to deliver quality nutrition services.
- Strengthen and expand Atención Integral a la Niñez en la Comunidad (AIN-C) services.
- Strengthen nutrition education in schools.

- Engage local food systems actors in the creation of healthy food environments.
- Explore and address barriers and enablers to nurturing care and healthy dietary practices.

To do this, we will work in close collaboration with key stakeholders from local government, communities, and implementing agencies to achieve the following:

- Motivate mothers and families of children under five years to grow and/or purchase and prepare foods that ensure good nutrition for all family members.
- Train and equip health promoters and AIN-C monitors to provide quality services and promote healthy habits and dietary practices.
- Strengthen health service providers through the development and implementation of sustainable, financially viable systems for providing health care services. These systems will include professional development for staff and community health volunteers, the monitoring and support of community services, and the promotion of healthy dietary practices.
- Mobilize teachers, school administrators, and students in primary schools; women's groups; mayors; and religious and other community leaders to model, support, and promote locally available, nutrient-rich foods and healthy dietary practices.



Children can get more nutrients with the simple addition of vegetables such as broccoli, beet, or carrot to their daily tortillas. Grown in communities and household gardens, these vegetables are available year round. Photo credit: Fintrac Inc.

- Mobilize and support farmers, growers' associations, food processors, vendors and store owners, community marketplaces, and food distributors to build and meet demand for healthy diets while also helping to promote and market more locally produced and affordable nutrient-rich foods.
- Strengthen national agencies, policymakers, and business owners in compliance monitoring of large-scale food fortification and micronutrient supplementation.

As a result of our work, we expect that policies, systems, and structures will be strengthened to create an enabling environment for nutrition, and that community members, particularly caregivers of children under two, will adopt and sustain healthy dietary practices.

USAID Advancing Nutrition in Honduras
The Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project

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