

## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

- **Government Institution:** Ministry of Public Health, Population, and Social Affairs
- **U.N. Agency:** UNICEF
- **Implementing Partner:** Helen Keller Intl
- **USAID Implementing Partners:** USAID Girma, USAID Hamzari, USAID Kulawa, USAID Wadata, USAID Yalwa, MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery, and MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS

- Factors Influencing the Use of Iron and Vitamin A Supplementation and Improved Dietary Practices-Formative Research Findings from Maradi and Zinder, Niger
- Evaluation rapide afin d'identifier les défis et les opportunités pour renforcer la chaîne d'approvisionnement en suppléments de vitamine A et de fer-acide folique au Niger (Rapid Assessment to Identify Challenges and Opportunities to Strengthen the Vitamin A and Iron-Folic Acid Supplement Supply Chain in Niger)
- Guide pour l'élaboration de recommandations alimentaires axées sur les aliments contenant du fer et de la vitamine A au Niger (Guide for the Development of Dietary Recommendations Focusing on Foods Containing Iron and Vitamin A in Niger)
- Fiches techniques Vitamine A (Vitamin A Data Sheets)
- Fiches techniques Fer Acide Folique (Folic Acid Data Sheets)



Photo credit: Hadiara Marou Souley

# USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION NIGER

Strengthening National Efforts to Improve Nutrition



## OVERVIEW

USAID Advancing Nutrition worked with the Niger government and other partners to reduce malnutrition by addressing anemia among women of reproductive age and vitamin A deficiency among children under five. We supported strengthening iron-folic acid and vitamin A supplementation services within health facilities and community platforms and building partners' capacity in behavior change communication on anemia and vitamin A deficiency, treatment, and prevention.



Photo credit: Hiya Chekarouya Idrissa

## ACHIEVEMENTS

1



### STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF HEALTH AGENTS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

- Strengthened the capacity of 146 health agents and 3,899 community volunteers across five districts in vitamin A supplementation through routine health services. This supported the government's objective to transition to a more sustainable strategy for vitamin A supplementation. Conducted post-training supervision and supported the transition in one district, including the registration of children under five in each village. The other districts will move forward with the next steps later in 2023.
- Conducted training in drug logistics management for 104 health agents and drug stock managers in the Tahoua region followed by post-training supervision for additional support.

2



### DEVELOPING TRAINING MATERIALS

Supported the Ministry of Public Health, Population, and Social Affairs to develop training modules on anemia/iron-folic acid supplementation for health agents and community volunteers. Building on needs identified through the project's formative research, the modules emphasize strengthening the counseling skills of frontline workers delivering prenatal and postnatal care to help women access supplementation and manage side effects, as needed.

3



### STRENGTHENING PARTNERS' CAPACITY FOR MICRONUTRIENT PROGRAMMING

Used the project's formative research to develop a suite of communication materials and tools to support USAID implementing partners in promoting supplementation and the consumption of vitamin A and iron-rich foods within their ongoing activities. This social and behavior change strategy highlighted the family support needed to increase supplementation and consumption by children under age five and pregnant and lactating women.

Materials developed include eight radio skits; two radio programs in magazine format; two sets of counseling cards for community platforms (women's groups and model husband groups) and fact sheets on vitamin A, iron, and folic acid.

4



### DEVELOPING A PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION OF FOOD-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

Developed a guide that outlines a process for engaging with communities to identify locally available and affordable vitamin A and iron-rich foods to enhance the diets of pregnant and lactating women and children under five. The guide features a table that illustrates how appropriate serving sizes of familiar local foods can meet daily nutritional requirements.

Worked with partner projects to develop and pilot the guide in their project areas. Activities included community conversations on locally available foods and eating practices, card sorting exercises with women's groups to discover vitamin A and/or iron-rich foods that they find enjoyable and can easily incorporate into their regular meals and snacks, and recipe testing for acceptability and appeal.