

ETHIOPIA **PROGRAMS**



NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN ETHIOPIA

Despite some progress, persistently high rates of undernutrition remain a serious but under-addressed human development challenge in Ethiopia. More than a third of children under five are stunted and one out of every 10 children are wasted. Undernutrition is evident across the lifecycle. Nearly a third of Ethiopian women are malnourished and over 20% are anaemic, which affects not only their own health, but also contributes to the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition.

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a leading global nutrition organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. Nutrition International Ethiopia was established in 2005 and has become the trusted partner of the government in addressing the burden of malnutrition. Nutrition International Ethiopia provides affordable and innovative solutions to end malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, through various programs and interventions.

With support from the Government of Canada and Irish Aid, and with UK aid from the UK Government, Nutrition International Ethiopia works closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Regional Health Bureaus and other development partners to improve the nutritional status of women, girls and children.

In Ethiopia, Nutrition International's programs are designed to improve the nutrition and health status of adolescent girls, women of reproductive age, pregnant women and newborns, and infants and young children, in line with the National Nutrition Program (NNPII). Our interventions target over 960,000 adolescent girls, 1.1M mothers and their newborns, and 416,000 infants and children under five.



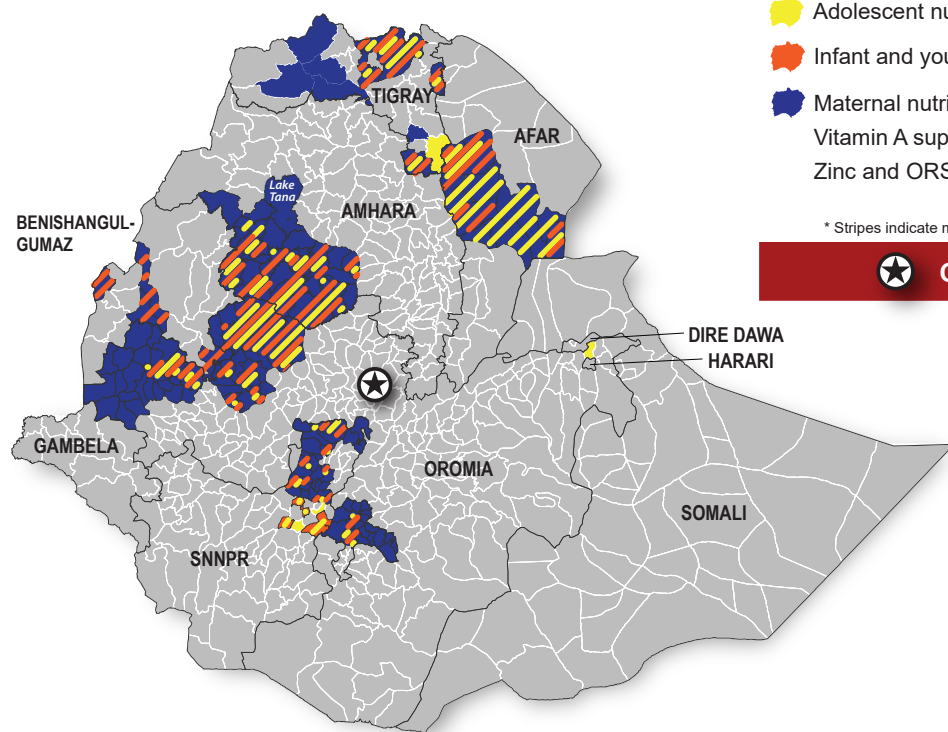
PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Nutrition International Ethiopia aims to achieve seven key and complementary strategic objectives between 2019 and 2024:

- Improve the quality and coverage of maternal and newborn health and nutrition services
- Scale up adolescent nutrition and education programs
- Improve the nutritional status of infants and children through the promotion of optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding programs
- Promote food fortification programs
- Improve the coverage of two doses of vitamin A supplementation (VAS) among children under five
- Improve the coverage and utilization of adequately iodized salt
- Expand zinc and low osmolarity oral rehydration salt (ORS) supplementation for the treatment of childhood diarrhoea

Future Plans

Guided by Nutrition International's Global Strategy and Ethiopia's Food and Nutrition Policy, Nutrition International Ethiopia has developed a Strategic Plan 2018-2024 that is aligned with the national Health Sector Transformation Plan and NNP II. By 2024, Nutrition International aims to improve the health and nutrition status of 32M people in need, especially women, adolescent girls and children, in Ethiopia.



National programs supported by NI:

Universal salt iodization
Technical Assistance for Nutrition
Wheat flour fortification

Sub-national programs supported by NI*:

- Adolescent nutrition
- Infant and young child nutrition
- Maternal nutrition + birth and post-natal package
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Zinc and ORS supplementation

* Stripes indicate multiple NI-supported programs defined by colors above



Capital: Addis Ababa

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NUTRITION

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) is a project supported by UK aid from the UK government, which seeks to improve the capacity of SUN countries to design, deliver, and track the progress of nutrition programs and to generate, learn from and adopt knowledge of what works. Nutrition International is contributing to TAN by coordinating the provision of technical assistance to help national SUN focal points and sectors responsible for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in select countries to overcome gaps in capacity for the design and delivery of multi-sectoral national nutrition plans, tapping into its global hub to source and deploy the expertise needed.

Since 2017, Nutrition International has supported the Government of Ethiopia in coordinating the implementation of the Seqota Declaration, including developing the investment plan, piloting the innovative phases, conducting the baseline survey and building the capacity of managers at federal and regional offices. Through provision of technical assistance to the MoH and the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), Nutrition International supported the Seqota Declaration Phase 1 Evaluation and is strengthening the capacity of the EPHI to effectively monitor, evaluate and coordinate the utilization of multi-sectoral nutrition monitoring and evaluation, surveillance and research actions under NNP II.

At the sub-national level, Nutrition International is currently providing technical assistance to Tigray and Amhara regions to establish systems for resource tracking and analysis as well as to strengthen partnership management.

In 2020, Nutrition International will support the updating of the Seqota Declaration roadmap to align the multi-sectoral plan on nutrition with the review of the Growth and Transformation Plan.





CURRENT PROJECTS

RIGHT START

The program seeks to accelerate the scale-up of nutrition interventions nationally where malnutrition is very high. It includes packages of interventions for adolescent girls and women of reproductive age, pregnant women and their newborns, and infants and young children in order to reduce mortality, anaemia, birth defects, low birth weight and stunting. It is implemented in six regional states: Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) and Tigray.

MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Through an innovative approach of collaborative quality improvement, Nutrition International Ethiopia and the MoH support a maternal newborn health and nutrition (MNHN) care package that aims to improve the coverage and quality of antenatal care (ANC), consumption of iron and folic acid (IFA) during pregnancy, and newborn and postnatal care, including facility delivery with a skilled birth attendant, optimal timing of cord clamping, timely initiation of breastfeeding, clean cord care with chlorhexidine and nutrition counselling.

Key achievements (2017-2018):

- Over 1,320,000 pregnant women received IFA supplements, nearly 483,000 of whom consumed the recommended doses of at least 90 supplements.
- Over 888,000 additional newborns were reached through birth package interventions.
- High coverage and utilization of ANC across 196 woredas, with nearly 91% of pregnant women attending at least one ANC visit and 64% attending at least the recommended four



CURRENT PROJECTS

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION

Nutrition International is supporting the revised NNP II as well as various other initiatives such as the Seqota Declaration, which contribute to improving the nutritional status of children and reducing stunting. In addition, Nutrition International, through research and case studies, has generated evidence for the development of guidelines for the use of Multiple Micronutrient Powders. The infant and young child nutrition (IYCN) program specifically focuses on community-based nutrition through promotion of optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Key achievements (2017-2018):

- 567,394 infants were exclusively breastfed, 51,657 of them as a result of Nutrition International's support.
- Nutrition International's Nutrition Intervention Monitoring Survey (NIMS) showed that the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding in Nutrition International operation areas in 2019 was 82%.
- 162,719 children 6-23 months received a Minimum Acceptable Diet, 18,962 of which as a result of Nutrition International's support.
- 660,028 mothers of children 0-23 months were reached with appropriate optimal IYCN counselling.
- At the beginning of Nutrition International's pilot poultry project in Amhara regions in 2019, 50% of children received at least one egg daily. The project's end line survey showed that 80% of children consumed at least one egg daily.

ADOLESCENT NUTRITION AND EDUCATION

Adolescent nutrition has been neglected in Ethiopia. Through Right Start, Nutrition International pioneered the introduction and scale-up of adolescent nutrition through the provision of Weekly Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFAS) and nutrition education to reduce anaemia.

Nutrition International is supporting the effective implementation of the NNPII, which aims to reach nearly 1M adolescents with high-impact and cost-effective packages of nutrition interventions designed for them. The program covers 90 woredas in four agrarian regions (Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray) and two pastoralist/ago-pastoralist regions (Afar and Benishagul Gumuz).

Key achievements (2017-2020):

- Over 410,000 adolescent girls consumed more than 24 iron-folic acid supplements.
- Approximately 600,000 in-and out-of-school adolescent girls consumed at least one supplement.
- Nearly 900,000 adolescent boys and girls were reached with gender-sensitive nutrition education.

CURRENT PROJECTS

FOOD FORTIFICATION

Food fortification is a low-cost, high-impact intervention to fight micronutrient deficiencies. Nutrition International has been working with government, private sectors and development partners to promote wheat flour fortification in Ethiopia since 2016.

Key achievements (2017-2020):

- 51,335 women of reproductive age received adequately fortified wheat flour as a result of Nutrition International's support.
- Nutrition International and TechoServe successfully registered and imported 2,500 kg of premix.
- 12 wheat mills were equipped to initiate flour fortification.
- Nutrition International strengthened the capacity of 60 policy makers, implementers and wheat millers on wheat flour fortification.
- Importation of mandatory fortified oil endorsed through the strong advocacy of Nutrition International and partners
- Five-year food fortification plan of action endorsed

UNIVERSAL SALT IODIZATION

Nutrition International has been working with the Government of Ethiopia, development partners, media and the private sector to support increased production and household consumption of adequately iodized salt over the last decade. This support include improvement in government's monitoring and enforcement of iodization law, advocacy for better policy and practices, strengthening the capacity salt producers in adequately iodized salt production processes and catalyzing the process of salt industry consolidation.

Nutrition International has been supporting salt iodization in Afar regional state since 2010. The organization is now working with the Federal Food, Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control Authority to strengthen the capacity for strict enforcement of the mandatory salt iodization legislation (USI 204/2011).

Key achievements (2016-2018):

- 368,048 MT of adequately iodized salt produced by Nutrition International-supported processors
- Over 88M additional people reached with adequately iodized
- Over 2.4 million newborns protected from iodine deficiency disorders by ensuring the adequate iodine status of their mothers



A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and short hair, looking down at a baby she is holding. The woman is wearing a patterned top. The baby is wearing a green headband with a cartoon character and a striped shirt. The background is a textured, brownish surface.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CHILD SURVIVAL

VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION

Vitamin A deficiency is a significant public health issue in Ethiopia, leading to 80,000 deaths every year and affecting 61% of pre-school children. Nutrition International, in collaboration with UNICEF, provides the full national supply of vitamin A capsules every year to the MOH.

Key achievements (2016-2018):

- 17,860 health workers trained
- 7.1M children 6-59 months received two doses of vitamin A.
- A rapid assessment conducted by Nutrition International in December 2018 found that 75% of children aged 6-59 months had received VAS in the six months preceding the survey.
- 90% of woredas reported no stock-outs at distribution points.

ZINC AND ORAL REHYDRATION SALTS FOR DIARRHOEA TREATMENT

Diarrhoea is still one of the three major causes of childhood mortality in Ethiopia. Nutrition International has been providing the government with technical and financial support towards the introduction and scale-up of zinc and ORS as a first line drug treatment for childhood diarrhoeal cases in the public sector since 2011.

Key achievements (2016-2018):

- 483 health workers trained
- 8.2M caregivers reached with Behaviour Change Interventions messaging
- Due to Nutrition International support, 16.5M children under five with diarrhoea were treated with zinc and ORS in the public sector.



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