



Nourish Life

Ethiopia

2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY SITUATION

In 2022, Ethiopia grappled with its worst food crisis in a decade, affecting 22.6 million people due to prolonged drought, ongoing conflict and soaring food prices. Acute malnutrition among children under five increased in several regions of the country, while conflict in Tigray as well as insurgent threats in Western and Southern Oromia disrupted program efforts. Despite these challenges, Nutrition International continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the Government of Ethiopia to advance nutrition programs.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

In Ethiopia, Nutrition International partners with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Federal Ministry of Education, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others to deliver impactful nutrition programs. Our programs focus on large-scale food fortification, universal salt iodization (USI), double fortified salt with iodine and folic acid (DFS-IoFA), maternal health, adolescent nutrition, vitamin A supplementation (VAS), and the provision of zinc and low-osmolarity oral rehydration salts for children under five.

Our work in Ethiopia is supported by 10 staff members and nine program extenders.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,157 people trained on the FMoH's new antenatal care guidelines, with financial and technical support from Nutrition International.
- The National Standard Council endorsed mandatory edible oil and wheat flour fortification, with Nutrition International partnering with the government to conduct surveys, cost-effectiveness assessments, feasibility studies, policy advocacy, program and orientation workshops and industry capacity building initiatives.
- Technical and financial support provided to coordinate and ensure quality assurance of the national integrated nutrition and Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) campaign.
- Through the FMoH, Nutrition International contributed to the global transformation of the supply bottlenecks for weekly iron and folic acid supplementation.
- Nutrition International and partners successfully advocated for the integration of VAS into the December 2022 national measles campaign to ensure that no child missed their age-appropriate dose of VAS in Semester 2.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



355K
children reached with two doses
of vitamin A supplementation



300K
pregnant women attended
at least one antenatal care visit



284K
cases of diarrhoea treated with the
recommended course of zinc and
low osmolarity oral rehydration salts



197K
adolescent girls consumed the
recommended scheme of weekly
iron and folic acid supplements



155K
metric tonnes of adequately
iodized salt produced by Nutrition
International-supported processors



16K
cases of anaemia averted

KEY EVENTS

- Capacity building workshops for quality control inspectors, enforcement officials and laboratory personnel representing the Ministry of Industries, the Ministry of Trade and the National Agency of Drug and Food Control were held to identify the type of iron compound to be used in fortified wheat flour.
- A field exchange visit was conducted in December 2022, where decision and policy makers from the FMoH and FMoE, among others, endorsed Nutrition International's adolescent nutrition program for meaningfully engaging schoolgirls.
- A four-day consultation workshop was conducted to develop a course syllable and taxonomy of learning outcomes for the gender-responsive national adolescent maternal infant and young child nutrition training manual and materials developed by the FMoH with Nutrition International's support.

NEW FUNDING

Nutrition International was awarded USD \$4 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in support of the development and market introduction of DFS-IoFA to improve folate status among women of reproductive age (WRA) and adolescent girls.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nutrition International remains committed to shaping nutrition and health policies in Ethiopia. In 2023, our DFS-IoFA data collection field trial will inform policy and support the fight against neural tube defects. We'll provide ongoing technical assistance to the Ministry of Industry to implement mandatory wheat flour and edible oil fortification, as well as the USI program. Our efforts will continue to include boosting iodized salt consumption among WRAs and new mothers, enhancing weekly iron and folic acid supplementation consumption among adolescent girls, promoting iron and folic acid supplementation for pregnant women and providing VAS for children under five. Additionally, we will collaborate with the Government of Ethiopia to strengthen initiatives aimed at addressing anaemia and diarrhoea.