



Nourish Life

Tanzania

2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY SITUATION

External factors, such as the aftermath of the pandemic and socioeconomic conditions, highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts across levels of governance to improve public health and nutrition. Government policies, including the New Compact Agreement, Objective Y and mandatory fortification legislation demonstrated a commitment to systemic change, integrating nutrition into planning and improving access to fortified foods. Ministries were also restructured, with the separation of health and community development portfolios to amplify focus on gender and women's issues. The Tanzania Demographic and Health – Micronutrient Indicators Survey 2021/22 showed positive progress including reduced child mortality and improved nutrition indicators. These developments reflect a nuanced nutrition landscape with comprehensive strategies, data-driven insights and collaborative governance enhancing the population's health and well-being.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

Nutrition International's focus in Tanzania centres around several critical areas within maternal and adolescent health, nutrition and reproductive health, as well as vitamin and mineral supplementation programs.

In 2022, we advocated through government health departments for the integration of vitamin A supplementation into routine primary health care services for children under five. Demonstrating a holistic approach to health and well-being, we launched the Building Rights for Improved Girl's Health in Tanzania (BRIGHT) project to empower adolescents to realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Additionally, we continued to ensure that salt consumed by the population is adequately fortified with iodine through our involvement in the country's universal salt iodization program.

Our work in Tanzania is supported by eight staff members and four program extenders.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Technical assistance provided to the government to facilitate the health system assessment to transition from periodic vitamin A supplementation to routine through primary health care services. Findings and recommendations have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.
- Consultative workshops held with the government to provide guidance toward finalizing the roadmap for executing the National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda in Adolescent Health and Well-being.
- Five state-of-the-art iodation machines procured and distributed to improve iodization capacity and boost commitment for iodine fortification. These machines now serve five salt-producing councils, sourced from local government vocational institutions.
- Following our collaborative efforts with government, potassium iodate KIO₃ integration now spans seven regions and 19 councils, with a focus on incorporating availability reporting into national-level regional and council Multisectoral Nutrition Steering Committees.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



44.6M
people reached with
adequately iodized salt



2.5M
children reached with
two doses of vitamin A



1.2M
newborns protected from
iodine deficiency disorders



548K
pregnant women completed
four antenatal care visits



416K
newborns-initiated breastfeeding
within one hour after birth

KEY EVENTS

- A high-level advocacy meeting was convened with 40 Members of Parliament and senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office and President's Office, regional administration and local governments to sensitize them on critical policy matters concerning adolescent and women's health and nutrition.
- In collaboration with the Tanzania Girl Guides Association and The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Nutrition International delivered opening remarks and a presentation on adolescent nutrition during the 13th African Regional Conference.
- The Nutrition Service Delivery Technical Working Group, chaired by the Ministry of Health and co-chaired by Nutrition International, held its inaugural meeting that focused on reviewing and establishing the Annual Implementation Plan for 2022–23, aligned with the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan II.
- During the continental launch of the She'll Grow Into It campaign, a panel of adolescent girls were empowered to serve as compelling advocates who appealed to policymakers, highlighting the importance of prioritizing adolescent nutrition in the developmental agenda.

NEW FUNDING

Nutrition International was awarded USD \$4.5 million from Global Affairs Canada to implement the BRIGHT project that will build urgency in adolescents to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and nutrition rights.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are committed to furthering ongoing partnerships and providing technical support to regional institutions and multilateral development banks. Our collaborative endeavors aim to catalyze greater investments in nutrition initiatives while seamlessly integrating nutrition into emerging sectors and platforms. With a steadfast focus, we will sustain our backing for child survival, universal salt iodization and the health of adolescents and women, solidifying our dedication to nurturing healthier communities.