

# ∴ Tanzania programs







## :: Nutrition International in Tanzania

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a leading global nutrition organization dedicated to improving nutrition and health for populations around the world. Since 2016, the Tanzania office has been working alongside the government to address the country's nutritional challenges.

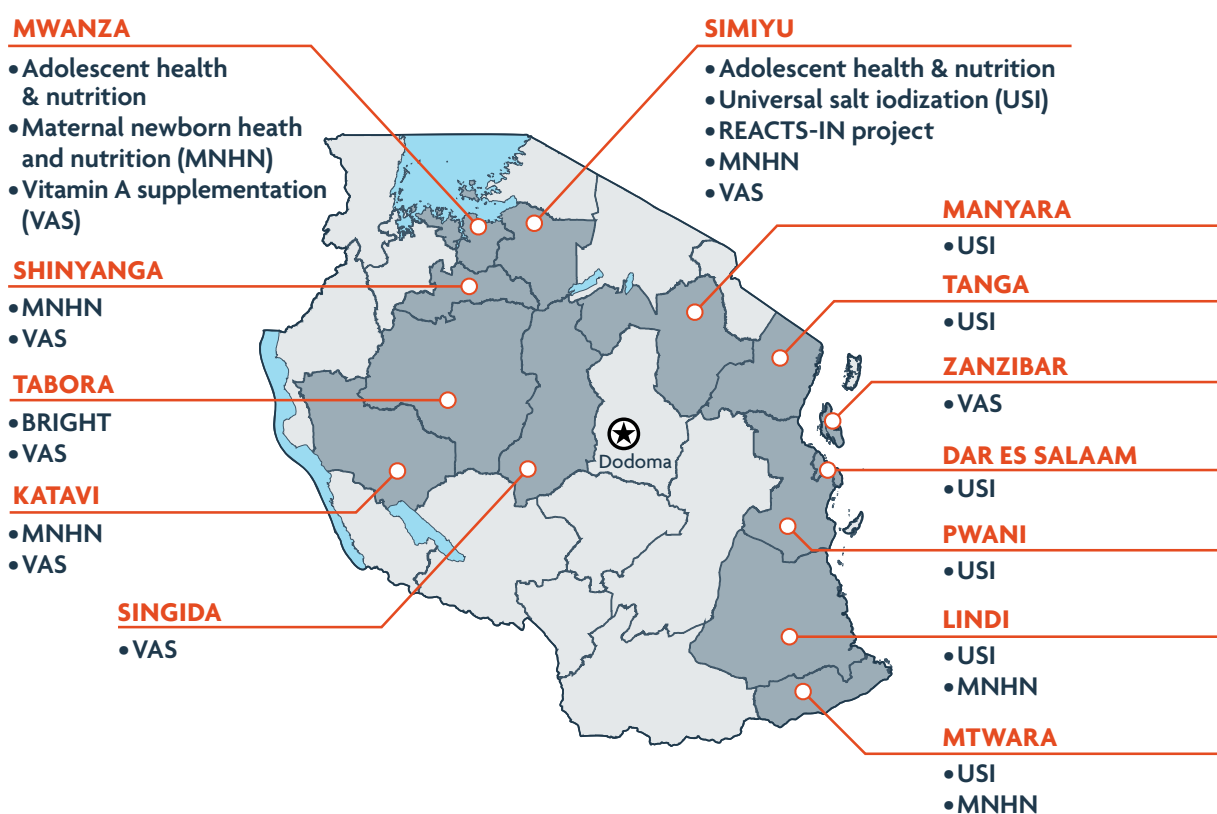
Despite concerted efforts from the Government of Tanzania and its partners, undernutrition remains a critical issue. While the rate of stunting in children under five has declined from 34% in 2015/16 to 30% in 2022, this prevalence still represents a severe public health challenge, underscoring the need for continued and intensified interventions.<sup>1</sup>

In Tanzania, Nutrition International collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) to implement the country's National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plans, with a focus on enhancing the health and nutritional wellbeing of communities.

## Priority programs and geographic coverage

Nutrition International in Tanzania is implementing its programs guided by the national priorities outlined in the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2021/22 (NMNAP II). Our focus is on improving nutrition, promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing productivity across the population by:

- Expanding access to comprehensive and high-quality nutrition services at the community and facility level.
- Encouraging appropriate nutrition practices among women, men, children and adolescents.
- Fostering resilient food systems that respond effectively to nutrition requirements.
- Facilitating effective partnerships across multiple sectors, as well as public and private entities.
- Cultivating an enabling environment, including robust policies and frameworks to support adequate human and financial resources for nutrition.



## Programs supported by Nutrition International

Nutrition International supports the following interventions and projects in Tanzania:

### NATIONAL:

- The provision of vitamin A capsules through in-kind donations
- Food fortification

### SUBNATIONAL:

- Adolescent health and nutrition
- Maternal and newborn health and nutrition
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Universal salt iodization
- Building Rights for Improved Girls' Health in Tanzania (BRIGHT)
- Realizing Gender Equality, Attitudinal Change and Transformative Systems in Nutrition (REACTS-IN)





## :: Child survival

### Vitamin A supplementation

Nutrition International supports the Government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Health, to ensure children under five receive two doses of vitamin A each year. We provide high-quality vitamin A capsules, through the in-kind donation program implemented in collaboration with UNICEF with support from the Government of Canada, and support delivery during Child Health and Nutrition Months each June and December. As the government considers integrating vitamin A supplementation (VAS) into routine primary healthcare services, we offer technical guidance to inform this transition at the national and subnational levels. Our goal is to increase yearly two-dose coverage among children aged six–59 months by strengthening coordination, monitoring and supervision in 11 low-performing regions.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 22 million vitamin A capsules provided to the Government of Tanzania in 2023
- Achieved 88% coverage for two doses of VAS in Nutrition International-supported regions
- Built the capacity of 223 healthcare service providers, including 194 females and 29 males, in data management to enhance the reporting of service delivery during Child Health and Nutrition Months
- Supported 17 councils in Mainland Tanzania to conduct reflection meetings and develop micro-plans aimed at improving coverage among children aged six–59 months



## Universal salt iodization

The universal salt iodization (USI) program in Tanzania aims to improve iodine status of the population, especially for women aged 15–49, as well as protect newborns against mental impairments caused by iodine deficiency by ensuring improved production and intake of adequately iodized salt. Nutrition International works with the government and other partners to support the enforcement of salt iodization laws, build the capacity of actors to enhance adequately iodized salt production and advocate for salt industry consolidation. Our efforts include facilitating access to advanced iodization technologies, providing ongoing guidance to improve the supply and availability of adequately iodized salt and increasing awareness about iodine and its importance through targeted social mobilization and communication with salt producers, salt traders, healthcare workers and consumers through social mobilization and communications.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 191,429 metric tonnes of salt was produced by Nutrition International-supported councils
- 19 councils across seven regions supported in conducting monitoring and supportive supervision
- Procured five additional modern iodization machines, bringing the total to 13 machines across all Nutrition International-supported councils
- Strengthened program coordination at the national and subnational levels by conducting a series of meetings that focused on the potassium iodate supply chain, the use of Nutrition International-donated iodization machines and leveraging data for informed decision-making





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## References

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF. (2023). *United Republic of Tanzania Country Office Report*.  
<https://www.unicef.org/media/152306/file/United-Republic-of-Tanzania-2023-COAR.pdf>





