



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## FEED THE FUTURE – NUTRITION TANZANIA

Improving nutrition is central to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals. The persistence of chronic undernutrition (stunting) undermines progress toward food security, improved educational attainment, and better maternal and child health in Tanzania. Undernutrition is the greatest cause of under-five deaths in Tanzania and is estimated to cost the government 2.6 percent of GDP annually. This loss of revenue is mainly in the agriculture sector and is attributable to poor cognitive and physical development in early life caused by undernutrition.

According to the 2015-2016 Demographic and Health Survey, roughly a third of all children under five suffer from stunting in five Feed the Future food security focus regions (Dodoma, Iringa, Manyara, Mbeya, and Morogoro). Key factors driving undernutrition in these regions are the lack of diverse and quality diets at the household level, inadequate access to health services (including water, sanitation, and hygiene), and poor caring and feeding practices. Maternal anemia is another significant problem in Tanzania, with 45 percent of pregnant women affected.

As part of a comprehensive approach to nutrition under Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative, USAID focuses on reducing the prevalence of chronic undernutrition and maternal anemia in Tanzania through integrated health and agriculture programs and services at the district and community levels. Key nutrition investments include: 1) Strengthening of Government of Tanzania institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) responsible for nutrition; 2) Scaling up social and behavior change efforts to improve infant and young child feeding practices; and 3) Increasing access to a healthy, diverse diet for mothers and children. USAID's nutrition programming is fully aligned with the Government of Tanzania's National Nutrition Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (2016-2021).

PHOTO CREDIT: FINTRAC

## FTF NUTRITION OVERVIEW

### FUNDING LEVEL

- Up to \$35 million over seven years (2011-2018)

### MAJOR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
- Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority
- Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre
- Africare
- Centre for Counseling, Nutrition, and Health Care (COUNSENUH)
- Deloitte

The nutrition project also works closely with other Feed the Future value chain activities.

### GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Focus regions:

- Dodoma
- Manyara
- Morogoro
- Iringa
- Mbeya

In addition to the five focus regions, these efforts also benefit Zanzibar.

### CONTACT

Janeth Said  
jsaid@usaid.gov

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of awareness among the public regarding available nutrition services.
- Need for improved multi-sectoral nutrition-focused legislation and coordination.
- Health facilities that lack the full range of available nutrition services, as well as strong ties with the communities they serve. Health service coverage is often sparse in remote areas.
- Shortage of nutritional staff and health workers capable of providing nutrition services.

## IMPACT

- **Programmatic reach:** Over 1.3 million women of reproductive age and 930,000 children under five reached, achieving 97 percent of target population in the focus regions.
- **Improved nutrition:** Over one million children under five have received nutrition services.
- **Training:** 22,540 nutrition practitioners have received targeted training in the reduction of maternal anemia and childhood stunting.
- **Organizational strengthening:** Key capacity building has been conducted with the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre and the Centre for Counseling, Nutrition, and Health Care (COUNSENUH), a leading Tanzanian CSO. At the subnational level, nutrition efforts are building a network of local government councils and over 20 CSOs to deliver targeted nutrition messages to households.