

Food and nutrition security, enhanced resilience to food crises

CONTEXT

Around the world, approximately 733 million people are suffering from hunger and a further 2.8 billion cannot afford a healthy diet. In 2023, around 2.33 billion people lacked reliable and safe access to appropriate and sufficient food. Malnutrition is widespread, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. This can have a negative impact on the opportunities for individual self-fulfilment and on the development prospects of entire countries.

An inadequate intake of micronutrients such as iron, zinc and vitamin A during the period referred to as the 1,000-day window, from the beginning of pregnancy to a child's second birthday, has a lifelong impact on their health and development opportunities: their physical growth is stunted and their mental abilities are poorly developed. This in turn can considerably reduce a child's opportunities for learning and taking up a profession later in life.

Hunger and malnutrition have many different causes, including poverty, crises, conflicts, overpopulation and natural disasters along with a lack of access to health services, healthy food, clean drinking water and sanitation. People also often lack knowledge about healthy eating and simple but effective hygiene measures. A broad-based approach to combating hunger and malnutrition is therefore required in order to address the varied and complex causes as comprehensively as possible.



COMMISSIONED BY

German Federal Ministry
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COUNTRY

Ethiopia (until May 2023), Benin (until
December 2023), Burkina Faso, India,
Yemen (until June 2020), Cambodia,
Kenya (until September 2020),
Madagascar, Malawi (until March 2025),
Mali, Togo (until September 2023), Zambia



LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY

Different for each country



OVERALL TERM

2014 to 2026



PRODUCTS AND SPECIALIST EXPERTISE

Food and nutrition, enhanced resilience,
agriculture, hygiene



OBJECTIVE

The situation of people at risk of malnutrition – particularly women of childbearing age and infants – and their resilience to food crises have improved.

OUR METHOD

Due to the many different causes of malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies, the Global Programme on Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience pursues a multisectoral approach geared towards changing behaviour. By combining measures from various sectors, such as agriculture, health, education, social protection and WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene), the programme makes a key contribution in the region in which it operates to:

1. Increasing the year-round availability of diverse and healthy food
2. Achieving a change of behaviour to ensure a healthy and varied diet for women and infants
3. Harnessing policy-making as a key lever for greater food and nutrition security and resilience
4. Collecting experience and evidence to demonstrate how people's nutrition can be improved

OUR APPROACH

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Global Programme on Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience is currently working in six countries in Africa and Asia: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, India, Madagascar, Mali and Zambia. The country packages in Ethiopia, Benin, Yemen, Kenya, Togo and Malawi have been completed.

The programme works to achieve a healthy and varied diet and to enhance resilience even in difficult contexts, for example in regions with recurring (hunger) crises. It supports greater availability of and better access to a variety of foodstuffs for smallholder households that do not produce enough nutritious food themselves or do not have enough money to buy it at the market. To do so, the global programme initiates and promotes measures that ensure the supply of a wide variety of food for women and their (future) children that is both micronutrient-dense and high in nutritional value. At the same time, the programme also supports the dissemination of knowledge and skills relating to the growing of diversified crops and the storage, processing and hygienic preparation of food. It uses a food-based approach that aims to improve the quality and quantity of food. In addition, it supports better hygiene, health care and sanitation.

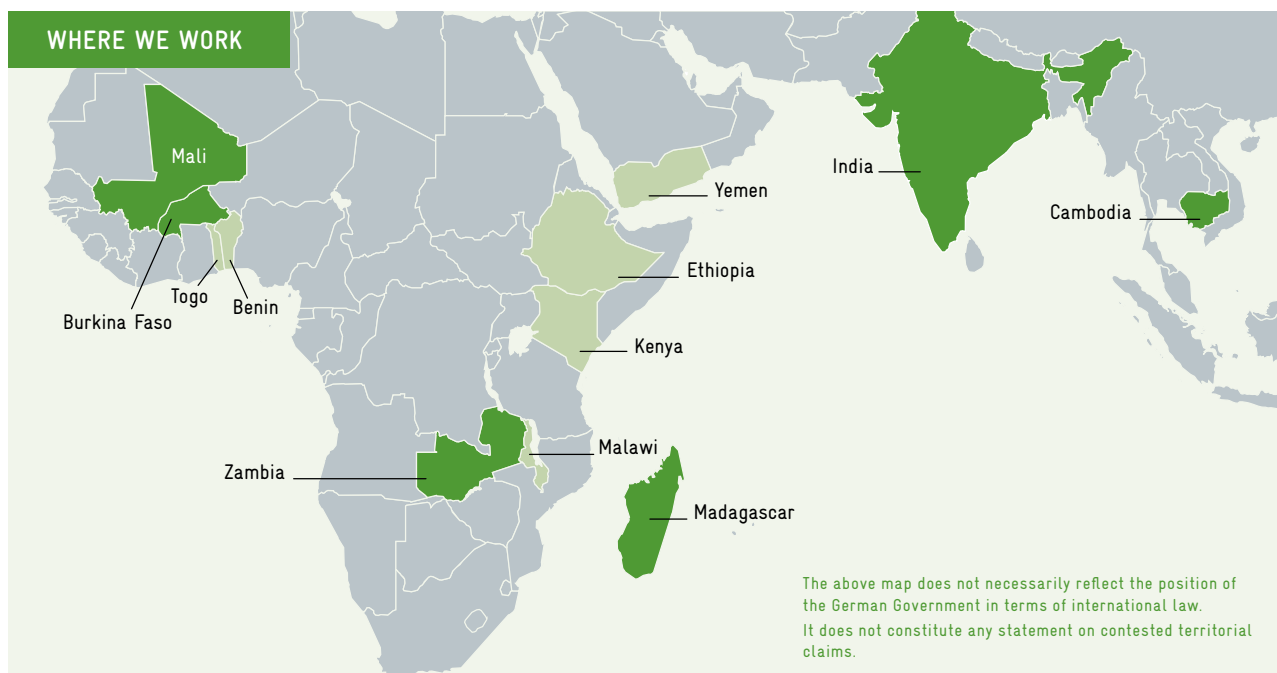
Gender-specific values and norms primarily disadvantage women and hence pose an obstacle to achieving food and nutrition security. In order to ensure lasting success, the general conditions for women need to be improved. Strengthening rights, eliminating discriminatory laws and norms, promoting equal access to resources as well as equal representation and greater opportunities for exerting influence are crucial factors to enhance people's resilience and to enable them to eat a healthy diet. Gender-specific roles cannot be changed in isolation, so a holistic approach needs to be adopted in which the partners of the women, their mothers-in-law, their families, community structures and traditional figures of authority are involved. Specific measures by the global programme take targeted steps to address the underlying causes of inequalities between the sexes.

With a view to enhancing the resilience of rural communities, the programme focuses on the reliable availability of food throughout the year and in (recurring) times of crises such as droughts. Depending on the context and needs, measures from at least two sectors (multisectoral approach) are combined so that people benefit from the synergies. The programme operates both at the level of households and individuals and at local and national level to facilitate the dissemination and consolidation of the measures (multi-level approach). By supporting governments as part of the international Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, the programme makes a direct contribution to global efforts to promote food and nutrition security and thus to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CO-FINANCING BY THE GATES FOUNDATION

In April 2023, a co-financing agreement was signed between the global programme and the Gates Foundation on cooperation in the field of large-scale food fortification (LSFF). LSFF refers to the industrial fortification of basic foodstuffs such as oil, flour, salt and rice with essential micronutrients such as iron, zinc, iodine and vitamin A. This is an effective and inexpensive measure that complements food diversification to help reduce micronutrient deficiency. Activities centre on capacity building in the public sector, raising awareness among consumers and integrating efforts into a broader policy on food and nutrition security.

The co-financing measures focus on three of the global programme's partner countries, namely Burkina Faso, India and Madagascar. In West Africa, the programme also cooperates with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) to harmonise fortification strategies at regional level.





PROOF OF IMPACT AND KEY FINDINGS

Household surveys are conducted regularly (usually every two years) by independent institutions in the intervention areas of the partner countries. The aim is to obtain representative data on the food and nutritional situation of women and infants in the target group in order to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of the measures and main influencing factors. The data is collected using a standardised methodology with scientifically recognised indicators, comparable control groups and representative sample sizes to generate valid results.

Consequently, in addition to reliable statements about the effectiveness of the individual measures, the surveys have also provided insights about which other factors (such as women's workload, access to land and markets, etc.) have a major influence on food and nutrition.

They have shown that the measures of the global programme are effective and can be demonstrated to enhance the resilience of households to shocks and multiple crises (**Evidence from the 3rd Follow-Up Survey 2022/23 – Impact of the Global Programme Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience**). So far, more than 840,000 women have been reached directly, with around **5,4 million people** in these women's households benefiting from the measures.

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Sitz der Gesellschaft:
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32+36
53113 Bonn

T +49 (0) 228 44 60-0
F +49 (0) 228 44 60-1766

E julia.kirya@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Programme:
Global Programme on Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience

Responsible:
Julia Kirya, GIZ

Authors:
Julia Kummer, Wolf Berdel, GIZ

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kipconcept gmbh, Bonn

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