IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE GAMBIA THROUGH FOOD FORTIFICATION

NUMBERS

Donor: European Union

Budget: USD 5,151,132

Implementation Period: January 2017 - February 2022

Technical and Operational Partners:
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- National Nutrition Agency (NaNA)
- Directorate of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE)
- National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI)
- Department of Agriculture (DoA)
- Food Technology Service of DoA
- Food Safety and Quality Authority of The Gambia (FSQA)
- The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB)
- National Seed Secretariat (NSS)
- United Purpose.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The legislative, regulatory, policy, institutional and governance environment for food fortification are improved.

Production of fortified foods and biofortified crops in quantity and quality increased.

Social marketing and communication with integrated nutrition interventions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Support to Food Fortification Policies

- Under the leadership of FSQA on 7 July 2021, the Food Fortification Regulation was officially launched by H.E. the Vice President of The Gambia. This regulation mandates the fortification of wheat flour, edible fats and oils and salt.
- Through the coordination of TGSB, three Standards for fortified wheat flour, fortified edible oils and fats and iodized salt are gazetted. Rice fortification standard approved and undergoing gazetting.
- A National Alliance for Food Fortification (NAFF) is established as a Public-Private Partnership coordinating activities related to food fortification.
- First National Food consumption survey conducted providing up-to-date data on per capita consumption of the target fortified foods and bio-fortified crops.

Support to Biofortification initiatives

- Biofortified maize, Orange FlesheSweet Potato, Cassava and Iron rich cowpea successfully piloted in selected communities in NBR, CRR-N and CRR-S.
- One Biofortified maize variety and five OFSP varieties successfully registered in the National Seed Catalogue through NSS.
- Over 10,000 beneficiaries including Women of Reproductive Age, children under five years and adolescent girls and boys have been reached with these biofortified crops.
During the 2021 cropping season:

- One hectares field in Mamut Fana and Yundum planted with 25 kg of PVA maize seed by NARI Department of Agriculture (DoA) distributed 5 000 OFSP vines, 5 560 kg of PVA maize and 62kg of iron-rich cowpeas for large scale production and consumption.
- The project provided victims of the 2021 windstorm in NBR with 700 bags of Urea fertilizer to support the production of bio-fortified crops.
- Seventy five females and 22 male beneficiaries from the most food-insecure communities within the project intervention areas were supported with small ruminants one male and three female goats each.
- Two thousand, five hundred broilers and 2 000 layers procured and are being delivered to support six community poultry houses in NBR, CRR-N and CRR-S

**Improved Social Marketing and communication with integrated nutrition interventions:**

- Over 1 300 people trained on nutrition education using SBCC approach under the coordination of Directorate of Health Education and Promotion (DHPE).
- Over 300 farmers including women of reproductive age and 60 school cooks trained by Food Technology Service (FTS) through a series of cooking demonstrations on various bio-fortified recipes.
- The project has distributed various communication and visibility materials including project newsletters, brochures, factsheets, banners, branded t-shirts, school bags, mugs and posters.
- The project supported a poetry contest for students during WFD 2021 on nutrition and healthy diets.

*With the support of the European Union and the Government of The Gambia.*