



# GROWTH THROUGH NUTRITION ACTIVITY

## Cross-Cutting Activities

### QUICK FACTS

- Implementation period: September 2016 - August 2021
- Funding provided by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Geographic coverage: 102 woredas in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, and Tigray Regions of Ethiopia

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

**Feed the Future Ethiopia Growth through Nutrition Activity** is a five-year multi-sectoral nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) project which aims to improve the nutritional status of women and young children in four regions of Ethiopia. The project focuses on the first 1,000 days, from pregnancy through a child's second birthday, recognized as the critical window of opportunity for a child's growth and development. Save the Children manages the implementation of the project through a consortium of six international and five local partners.

Growth through Nutrition delivers results through five intermediate result (IR) areas including agriculture and livelihoods, social and behavioral change communications, health and nutrition, WASH construction and marketing, and multi-sector coordination and pre-service education. The project also implements cross-cutting activities, including gender and women's empowerment, a rigorous learning agenda, convergence and overlay of multi-sector activities, and a crisis modifier to respond to emergency situations in the project's implementation areas.

## Cross-cutting elements

*Monitoring and Evaluation:* includes data quality management, performance monitoring and review, conducting annual surveys to assess progress, and building the capacity of projects woreda and health facility staff to use data for decision making.

*Learning and Knowledge Management:* Identifies research priorities and conducts operations research to inform ongoing project implementation.

*Gender and Women's Empowerment:* aims to meaningfully alter power dynamics at the household and community levels and ultimately contribute to the improved nutritional status of women and children by ensuring all activities are implemented with a gender sensitive approach.

*Convergence and Layering:* involves synergistic implementation with projects that overlap geographically with Growth through Nutrition and have complementary activities.

*Crisis Modifier:* provides funds that enable Growth through Nutrition to respond rapidly to crises that threaten the development gains of the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender and Women's Empowerment, Crisis Modifier, and Convergence and Layering are implemented by Save the Children while Tufts University implements the Learning and Knowledge Management activities.





## PROGRESS ON THE GROUND (October 2016 - March 2019)

### 1. Monitoring & Evaluation

- Provided data management and use training to over 2,600 Health and Agriculture Extension Workers, Health Workers, Development Agents, and woreda nutrition and Health Management Information System experts.
- Conducted 133 Joint and Integrated Supportive Supervision visits in collaboration with woreda health and agriculture offices in all target woredas to assess the performance of health and agriculture service delivery sites.
- Assessments conducted to evaluate interventions targeting most vulnerable households, WASH marketing effectiveness through franchisee outlets, and Data Quality and Accountability mechanisms.

### 2. Implement the Knowledge Management Plan

- Conducted operational researches on the impact of Social and Behavioral Change Communication approaches for improving nutritional status, multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition policy effectiveness, and barriers and facilitators of healthy food production, purchase, and consumption.
- Developed three policy briefs, one of which were published.
- Complemented, supported, and collaborated with existing research and learning platforms such as academia, ECSC-SUN, and SUN Business Network, to help build capacity, share lessons learned, and disseminate project research findings, including via the project knowledge management website <https://gtm-learning.org/>.

### 3. Gender and women's empowerment

- Provided training for 123 national and regional project staff to develop knowledge and skills on gender equality issues that will enable gender responsive implementation for children, women, and men.
- Distributed multi-purpose stoves to more than 600 most vulnerable households to save time and labor for pregnant and lactating mother beneficiaries.

### 4. Convergence and layering

- Worked with Development Food Security Activity, Livelihoods for Resilience, Value Chain Activity, Transform Primary Healthcare, Transform WASH, and others to implement complementary activities ranging from support provided to the Federal Ministry of Health to woreda-based activities.
- Provided capacity building for trainers of nutrition-related government trainings to standardize trainings in line with the government's guidance and strengthen collaboration among nutrition partners.

### 5. Crisis Modifier

- Growth through Nutrition has utilized the crisis modifier to respond to drought and internal displacement with agriculture, livestock, WASH, and nutrition activities.