

Improving Nutrition and Food Security Across the System

ACDI/VOCA works to improve nutrition and food security outcomes by improving food availability, access, desirability, and safety in local food systems. Our work spans across the food system from producer to consumer, including food processing, marketing and trade, and food retailing.

With a long history in food security and nutrition, ACDI/VOCA has implemented over 20 nutrition-sensitive projects across Latin America, West Africa, East Africa, and Southeast Asia. ACDI/VOCA applies its market systems approach to address constraints in local food systems preventing consumers from consuming safe and nutritious foods.

We work to improve nutrition and food security outcomes by enhancing food availability, access, desirability, and safety in local food systems by increasing food production, enhancing the processing, marketing, and trade of food, and building consumer demand for nutritious diets.

- **Boosting food production:** We work with farmers and agribusiness to enhance the quantity and nutritious quality of production to increase consumption and sale of nutritious commodities.
- **Enhancing trade, processing, and marketing of food:** We partner with businesses along the food chain, such as wholesalers, vendors, and food processors, to reduce loss and increase the safety, nutrient content, and sale of foods in rural marketplaces. Through local policy work and capacity development of rural market actors, we establish an enabling environment for a food system that promotes the sale of safe, nutritious foods.
- **Developing consumer demand:** We engage communities and public and private sector actors to increase demand for and consumption of nutritious diets by target populations by changing behaviors, improving knowledge, and enhancing women's agency.

ACDI/VOCA's Signature Nutrition and Food Systems Tools

- Food Environment Analysis
- Nutrition-sensitive Intervention Selection Tool
- Nutrition Strategy Development Guidance

ACDI/VOCA is a global development design and delivery partner that has implemented effective economic and social development projects in nearly 150 countries since 1963. Learn more at www.acdivoca.org.

The ACDI/VOCA Nutrition and Food Systems Approach in Action



The Feed the Future Bangladesh **Livestock Production for Improved Nutrition (LPIN)** project engaged public and private sector livestock actors to increase livestock producing households' productivity, income, and nutrition. ACDI/VOCA increased household access to information and resources needed for households to adopt good animal husbandry practices by developing the last-mile service provider network.

These efforts resulted in over a **200% increase** in household livestock productivity. Due to increases in milk production and income for over 170,000 households, LPIN saw a **40-point increase** in households that regularly consume meat and dairy products between 2015 and 2020. Project results in 2020 estimate that **83% of women** consumed an adequately diverse diet, up from 39% in 2015.

In Kenya, our USAID-funded **Resilience and Economic Growth in the Arid Lands – Accelerated Growth (REGAL-AG)** project enhanced the growth and competitiveness of the livestock sector in northern pastoralist Kenya. REGAL-AG partnered with local market management committees (MMCs) to increase the efficiency of live animal sales in rural markets by supporting local policy development, investment in infrastructure, and overall management of the market.

In 2018, **20 markets** were enhanced and **20 MMCs** were executing market management action plans. As a result, marketplaces saw a growth in additional food vendors, like traders selling fruits and vegetables, thereby increasing the availability of nutritious foods for an estimated **250,000 people**. Approximately **75-96%** of program participants surrounding these areas achieved a diet in minimum household dietary diversity as of 2018.

The **Feed the Future Tanzania NAFKA** project aims to improve the competitiveness and inclusiveness of the rice and maize value chains, leading to increased productivity and profitability for small scale producers and processors. NAFKA supported private sector millers to fortify maize during the milling process - adding critical nutrients to a food that makes up over 70% of the diet in parts of Southwest Tanzania - by linking millers with fortification technology vendors and providing targeted technical training on how to fortify.

NAFKA trained private sector actors, like millers and rural food vendors, and local community actors, like religious leaders and community health workers, on nutrition message dissemination to consumers to stimulate local desirability and demand for fortified maize flour. After message dissemination, NAFKA found that **100% of consumers** were willing to pay the marginal extra cost to have their maize fortified – supporting processors to supply over **5,240 metric tons** of fortified maize flour in Southwest Tanzania.

