

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential for successfully expanding the distribution of nutritious and fortified school meals



Scaling up the distribution of nutritious and fortified school meals in Tanzania: learnings from Kagera and Tanga regions

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Background:

In 2020, the Prime Minister's office released a statement recognizing the importance of fortified foods for nutritious school meals to combat child hunger and malnutrition. However, the effective implementation and enforcement of this attempt remained slow. With that, GAIN's Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) team joined a pilot project in two regions in Tanzania that aimed to expand

the distribution of nutritious and fortified school meals through increased stakeholder capacity, awareness and nutrition knowledge, and improved private sector access to inputs and technology.



Methods:

SBN Tanzania partnered with the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), a coalition of civil society organizations, and ONA Enterprise. Together, they:

1. Facilitated awareness-generation, workshops, trainings and nutrition interventions targeting local governments, school children, teachers, millers, parents and local communities.
2. Trained and supported millers to fortify maize flour with premix of Vitamin B12, iron, zinc, and folic acid.



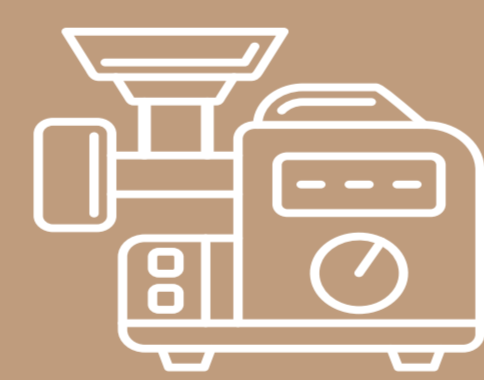
Fig 1. Fortified school meals being provided in Tanga, Tanzania

Results:



30 schools were supplied with fortified maize flour, reaching over 12,000 children (Fig 1)

End of 2020



10 dosifier machines and 1.4 tonnage premix were donated to millers

After the successful pilot, SBN Tanzania supported the launch of the **National School Feeding Guidelines** in 2021 and plans to scale up to other regions.

- 40 millers were trained in maize flour fortification and linked directly to schools.
- 30 school clubs were formed, integrating cooking demonstrations and school gardening activities.
- Nutritious school feeding guidelines were launched at schools.
- The importance of child and adolescent nutrition and the use of fortified foods were prioritized in government plans and budgets at council level.

Conclusion:

The involvement of diverse partners and buy-in from national and local government, training, and monitoring mechanisms are needed to successfully expand the distribution of nutritious and fortified school meals. The new National School Feeding Guideline offers a strong lifeline to scale the uptake of nutrient-dense foods in schools.