



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CENTRAL ASIA



AFGHANISTAN/CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL FOOD FORTIFICATION INITIATIVE



BUDGET

3.75 million USD

ACTIVITY DATES

September 2014 – July 2017

COUNTRIES:

Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and other Central Asia countries

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alexander Lane

Kazakhstan Country Office Director
USAID/Central Asia
U.S. Embassy Building, Astana
+7 (7172) 702219
alane@usaid.gov

Dora Panagides

Senior Manager, Food Fortification
GAIN, Geneva, Switzerland
(+41)-22-749-1833
dpanagides@gainhealth.org

Yuliya Beloslyudtseva

Kazakhstan Country Coordinator
GAIN, Astana, Kazakhstan
+7 771 9022757
ybeloslyudtseva@gainhealth.org

Project Objective: The overall project object is to improve processes, regulations, and monitoring related to wheat flour and edible oil fortification, in particular for flour exports from Kazakhstan to Afghanistan and edible oil exports from Pakistan to Afghanistan in order to address ongoing micronutrient deficiencies in Afghanistan.

Background:

Undernutrition affects most countries in Central and South Asia. In Afghanistan the prevalence of anemia, an indicator of iron deficiency, has ranged from 50-75%, and night blindness, an indicator of vitamin A deficiency, is more than 20%. The primary source of food energy intake in the region is wheat flour, most of which is not fortified. Kazakhstan, the world's number one exporter of milled flour, exports wheat and wheat flour to Afghanistan and other neighbors. Fortification of flour, as well as cooking oils, can be a vehicle for providing adequate levels of nutrients in the diets and help offset some of the micronutrient deficiencies for different segments of the targeted population.

According to the *Analysis of Wheat Flour Fortification Legislation and Policy in Central Asia*, carried out by GAIN in 2015, the 2009 law on the health of the population and the healthcare system, stipulates mandatory fortification only of wheat flour sold in Kazakhstan; and due to comparatively insufficient enforcement, in practice only 25-30% of wheat flour in Kazakhstan is fortified.

In response to the above, this project will:

- Increase supply of micronutrients to Central Asia and Afghanistan through fortification of wheat flour and vegetable oil;
- Strengthen quality control and enforcement of wheat flour and oil fortification with special attention to Afghan imports from Kazakhstan and Pakistan;
- Facilitate harmonization of wheat flour fortification standards in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan; and,
- Assess coverage, quality and potential for impact from large-scale food fortification.

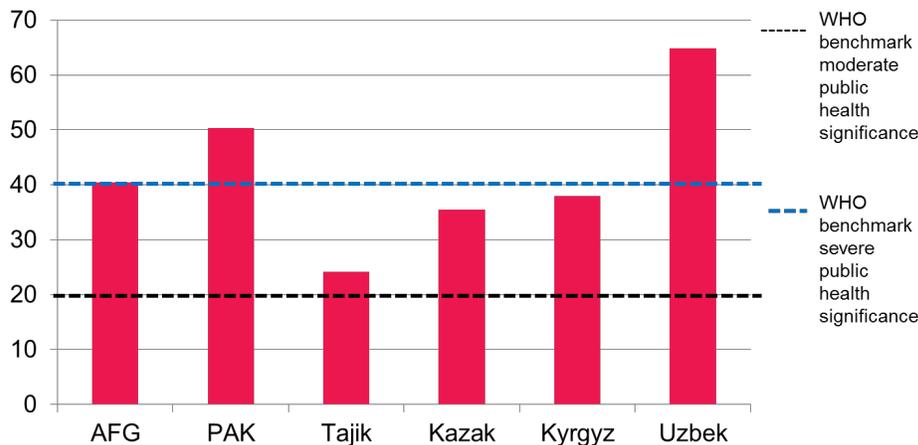
Achievements:

- Held the first face-to-face Technical Meeting of the Regional Expert Group on Regional Harmonization of Wheat Flour Fortification Standards in Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan), Afghanistan and Pakistan and reached a consensus on the proposed draft harmonized



- standards consistent with WHO guidelines;
- Held training workshops for more than 120 representatives from the of wheat milling industry on the benefits of food fortification and on product quality control and quality assurance; and,
 - High-level advocacy efforts, which culminated with the establishment of an effective cooperation and partnership with the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan resulting in their active engagement to strengthen the enforcement of the mandatory wheat flour fortification legislation and to advance the food fortification agenda in Kazakhstan.

Micronutrient deficiencies in the region



ABOUT GAIN

The project is implemented by GAIN, a Swiss-based international organization driven by the vision of a world without malnutrition. GAIN's programs support large-scale food fortification, multi-nutrient supplements, nutritious foods for mothers and children, and enhancement of the nutritional content of agriculture products. The organization is delivering improved nutrition to an estimated 800 million people in more than 40 countries.

<http://www.gainhealth.org>

ABOUT USAID

USAID is the leading American government agency building social and economic prosperity together with the people of Central Asia. Our work promotes regional cooperation and broad-based prosperity by expanding diverse and competitive trade and markets, enhancing regional cooperation on shared energy and water resources, and fostering more effective and inclusive governance institutions that serve the public good.

www.usaid.gov