

HEALTH | Health Fund

Progress Report

October 2024–March 2025

SUMMARY

Trained health facility staff and community health volunteers are making life-changing differences for families in Niger and Zambia. Their efforts, combined with work to bring clean water and better hygiene and sanitation to remote health facilities, are improving the quality of care.

Globally, we have upgraded 2,011 facilities since fiscal year 2021, toward our goal of 3,000 by 2030. We have improved 139 facilities in Niger, and 144 in Zambia since FY21. We are wrapping up work in Rwanda and ramping up in Ghana, where trained staff and volunteers are expanding access to essential services as health centers are improved.

A transformed birth experience

Agnes had her first child, James, in 2021, at the rural health post in Kadama, Zambia. It was small, ill-equipped, and offered very little privacy or dignity for women giving birth. "I overheard someone [in the next room] saying, 'That woman is

groaning like a cow,' which was so offensive to me," she said.

As she prepared to deliver her second child this year, those memories still stung. "My experience of giving birth [there] crippled my confidence. However, I had no choice but to go back to the same facility."

This time, though, her experience couldn't have been more different, thanks to donors like you.

When her labor started, Agnes was taken to a clean, new maternity wing, with new beds and running water. Toilets and showers meant Agnes and other new mothers don't have to bring water from home to bathe after delivery or go outside to use latrines.

"The rooms were so spacious and the environment quiet," she said, making Jonathan's arrival a safer, more comfortable experience. "I was tempted to ask the nurse if I could stay longer ... because it had everything," she added with a smile.








Agnes is thrilled with the experience she had giving birth to Jonathan, her second child, following the addition of a new piped-water system and maternity wing to her local health post.

GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

334,826

PEOPLE, INCLUDING 179,284 CHILDREN AND YOUTH, have benefited from health education and training, improved mother and child healthcare and nutrition, and improved care from health facilities that were upgraded and gained clean water in Niger and Zambia since October 2024 (3,116,045 since October 2022).*

-  **43,380** children were screened and treated for infectious diseases and malnutrition.
-  **1,772** community health workers and volunteers were trained to provide health information and basic care to their neighbors.
-  **67** nurses, midwives, and other staff members in health facilities received training to improve the quality of care.
-  **41** faith leaders were trained and are actively advocating with families to use mother and child healthcare services.
-  **34** health facilities gained water systems and other support, such as sanitation and hygiene facilities, staff training, and equipment.

*These numbers reflect our work funded by private donors like you, as well as related projects funded by foundation donors.

NIGER

SUMMARY

A variety of targeted interventions are improving the quality of care for families in Niger. Chief among them are clean water access and infrastructure upgrades at 10 health facilities. Additional improvements, including staff training and better waste management systems, are boosting safety and significantly reducing infection risks.

Bringing care directly to families

The project's trained community health volunteers visited 68,487 children younger than 5, providing health education, diagnosis, and care. Their knowledge and access to essential medications enabled them to successfully treat thousands of children for malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.

Health volunteers also screened children for malnutrition and referred 2,229 children for appropriate care. Volunteers led discussion groups on preventing illness and the importance of seeking care for children as soon as

they show symptoms. They reached 118,782 people with messages on maternal and young child health, helping to drive a 9.4% hike in vaccination rates (surpassing the target of 8%). Five radio stations reinforced these efforts, airing health messages 962 times.

Faith leaders are vital partners

Forty-one religious leaders were trained to promote positive cultural practices supporting women, girls, and child health. Their advocacy was credited with the annulment of a forced marriage, the return of 96 children to school, and referral and care for 39 cases involving neglect and high-risk behavior.

Education is key

Community radio stations broadcast 422 health spots promoting prenatal and postnatal care, disease prevention, and the importance of seeking care for illness, reaching more than 74,000 women of child-bearing age.



A health professional, at right, provides supervision for a community health volunteer, center, as she visits a mother and baby in the village of Maigodai. Regular supervisory visits improve skills for the volunteers, raising the level of care they can provide to their neighbors.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



47,125

children were screened and treated for infectious diseases and malnutrition.



63

community health workers and volunteers were trained to provide health information and basic care to their neighbors.



39

nurses, midwives, and other staff members in health facilities received training to improve the quality of care.



41

faith leaders were trained and are actively advocating with families to use mother and child healthcare services.



10

health facilities gained water systems and other support, such as sanitation and hygiene facilities, staff training, and equipment (20 more systems were in the final testing/sign-off stage).

ZAMBIA

SUMMARY

Better trained health facility staff members and community health volunteers are making great strides in improving the quality of life for families in Zambia—especially for pregnant women and young children.

For Merit (pictured at right), a Safe Motherhood Action Group (SMAG) member allayed fears she had about seeking care at her local clinic. That SMAG member and others provided health education to pregnant women and their families on prenatal and postnatal care, and the importance of giving birth at a health facility.

Among the 3,728 women these volunteers reached, 2,094 said their husbands or male partners attended prenatal care visits with them, something the program stresses. Of the women enrolled in health counseling sessions, 2,795 of 2,963 who gave birth during this reporting period delivered their babies in a facility, for an impressive 98%.

Volunteers also educated families on child nutrition, assessing

1,255 boys and girls younger than 5 for malnutrition. Of the 415 referred to special nutrition sessions, 168 completed the 12-day program successfully, while the rest continue to be monitored and treated.

Child Health Week targets prevention

Focusing on children under 5, the event raised awareness of key health issues while delivering services—including immunizations, growth monitoring, vitamin A supplements, and deworming—to 43,634 children.

Sanitation efforts show results

Work to promote building latrines to eliminate open defecation—which contributes to the spread of disease—saw 453 villages declared free of open defecation, with 7,060 latrines constructed.

Winding down

As our Zambia program begins to close out, some activities, such as training faith leaders, were completed last year. Those 226 previously trained pastors continue to be influential leaders on healthcare in their communities.



Merit used to be afraid to visit her local health facility, “... because I thought people died when they go there. But the SMAGs trained by World Vision transformed my mind,” she said. Her son, Foster, gets vital immunizations at the clinic.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES



1,255

children were screened and treated for infectious diseases and malnutrition.



1,709

community health workers and volunteers were trained to provide health information and basic care to their neighbors.



28

nurses, midwives, and other staff members in health facilities received training to improve the quality of care.



4

health facilities gained water systems and other support, such as sanitation and hygiene facilities, staff training, and equipment.

FINANCIALS

Health Fund

\$33,788,606 program-to-date funding

\$24,366,036 program-to-date spending

72%

The spending rate is lower than expected in Zambia due to delays in engaging construction companies (hence delayed payments), and in Niger the rate was impacted by challenges from recent violence in the country, which created operational constraints in some areas.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

In the coming months, our team in Zambia will complete all programmatic activities and shift focus to monitoring and evaluating past interventions. Meanwhile, we continue to expand our efforts in Ghana—training health staff and volunteers, and delivering water, sanitation, and hygiene services to rural health facilities. In Rwanda, we are well on the way to finishing the job of bringing water to health facilities everywhere we work.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Our staff in Niger grappled with a dangerous shortage of medicines essential for treating sick children. Delivery delays led to a 13% shortfall, leaving some community health workers without the supplies needed to manage common illnesses—contributing to a rise in cases. In response, and amid concerns over reduced USAID funding, the team intensified advocacy efforts and strengthened partnerships with key organizations such as UNICEF and the National Malaria Control Program. These efforts secured emergency medication orders, with shipments expected to arrive in June.

THANK YOU

Because of your generosity, lives are being transformed. Your support is bringing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to health clinics, equipping community health workers with tools to educate and provide basic care, and providing advanced training for health center care providers. These efforts are improving survival rates and the health and well-being of mothers, newborns, and young children. Through your giving, you reflect God's love in tangible ways—offering hope, healing, and dignity. Thank you for being part of this sacred work and for walking alongside us in faith and compassion.



Staff members at the Birni Lalle Health Center in Maradi, Niger, receive hygiene supplies and other tools to create a cleaner, safer environment.



A community health worker in Zambia weighs a child at a growth monitoring session.



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