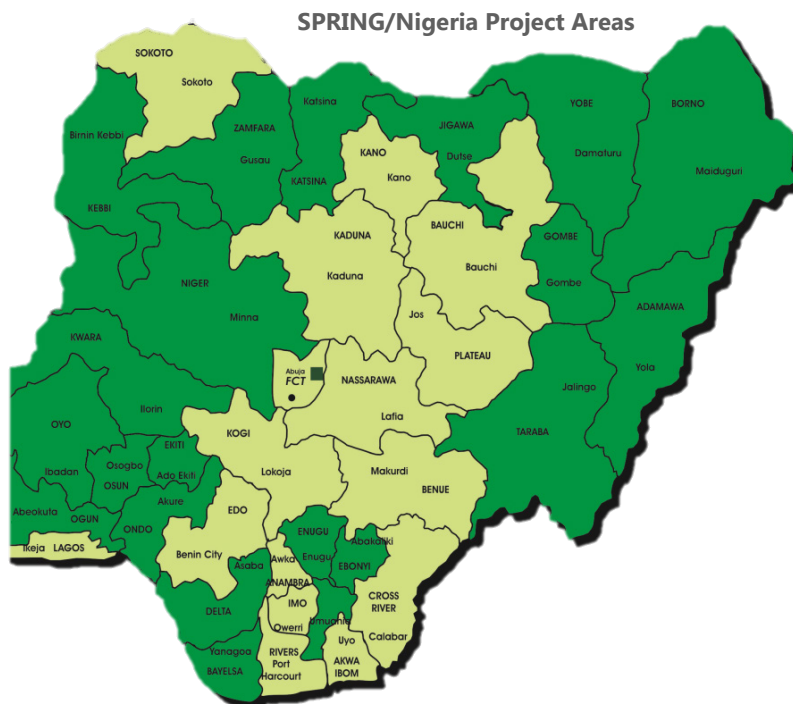




# SPRING/Nigeria

## Background

Efforts are underway to improve nutrition outcomes in Nigeria, including efforts by the Federal Ministry of Health and many Nigerian nongovernmental organizations. Although global trends show a gradual decline in stunting worldwide, Nigeria's rate of stunting for children under five years old has only marginally declined, from 42 percent in 2003 to 37 percent in 2013 (Nigeria DHS). Suboptimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices are major contributors to the high prevalence of stunting, with only 17 percent of children under six months exclusively breastfed as recommended by the World Health Organization (NDHS 2013). The U.S. Government is at the forefront of the effort to reduce stunting worldwide and through multiple USAID-funded initiatives in Nigeria.



## What We Do

The Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project is a five-year USAID-funded Cooperative Agreement to strengthen global and country efforts to scale up high-impact nutrition practices and policies and improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes. The project is managed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., with partners Helen Keller International, The Manoff Group, Save the Children, and the International Food Policy Research Institute. SPRING provides state-of-the-art technical support focused on preventing stunting and maternal and child anemia in the first 1,000 days, linking agriculture and nutrition, and creating social change and behavior change through communication.

## Our Work

SPRING's work in Nigeria aims to reduce maternal and child undernutrition; improve HIV-free survival of infants and young children; improve the national, social, and policy environments as they relate to priority nutrition practices and services; and increase access to nutrition information, counseling services, and other programming efforts to prevent undernutrition.

The SPRING/Nigeria approach focuses on the rollout of nationally approved community and facility IYCF training packages and complementary social and behavior change communication approaches. SPRING works at the national level to strengthen nutrition coordination and policy efforts, and provides technical assistance to the Government of Nigeria and USAID implementing partners to roll out the IYCF counseling package and strengthen their nutrition programming to reach orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

Since June 2012, SPRING has directly trained 2,453 participants in IYCF with project activity coverage reaching 36,553 OVC households across 16 states and 104 local government areas (LGAs). This has resulted in the establishment of over 950 project-supported IYCF support groups that encourage and counsel community members around optimal feeding and nutrition and hygiene care practices to protect and promote the health, development, and wellbeing of children within the critical 1,000 days.

## Key Partnerships

SPRING's primary partners include the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs, and Ministry of Budget and National Planning at both federal and state levels, the State Committee on Food and Nutrition, and the National Primary Care Development Agency. SPRING also works closely with USAID implementing partners under the Umbrella Grant Mechanism (STEER and SMILE) and Local Partners for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (ARFH, HIFASS, and WEWE), as well as other projects and organizations through the Nutrition Partners' Forum and its subcommittee, the National IYCF Technical Working Group.



This fact sheet is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement AID-OAA-A-11-00031. The SPRING project is managed by the JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), with partners Helen Keller International, the Manoff Group, Save the Children, and the International Food Policy Research Institute. The contents are the responsibility of JSI, and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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