

How to Strengthen Program Implementation at Scale: EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

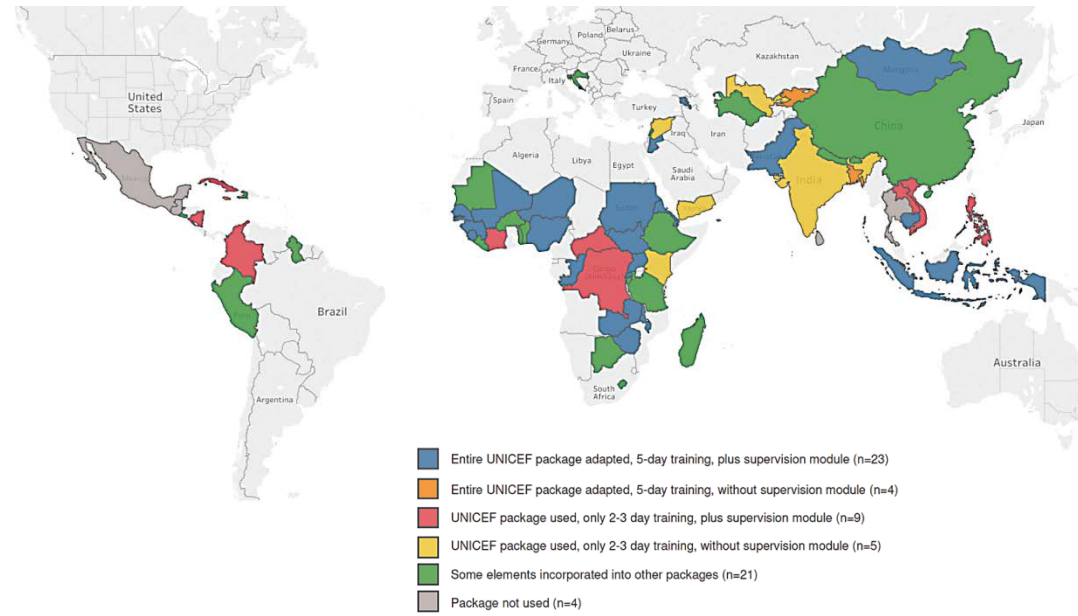
September 2017



The UNICEF *Community Infant and Young Child Feeding (C-IYCF) Counselling Package* was first released in 2010..



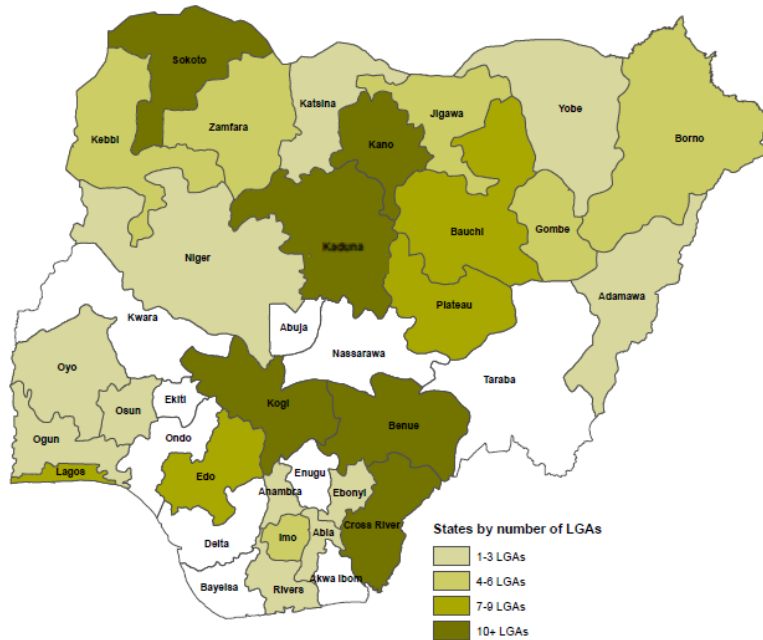
Since then, it has been used in more than 50 countries. (UNICEF 2017)



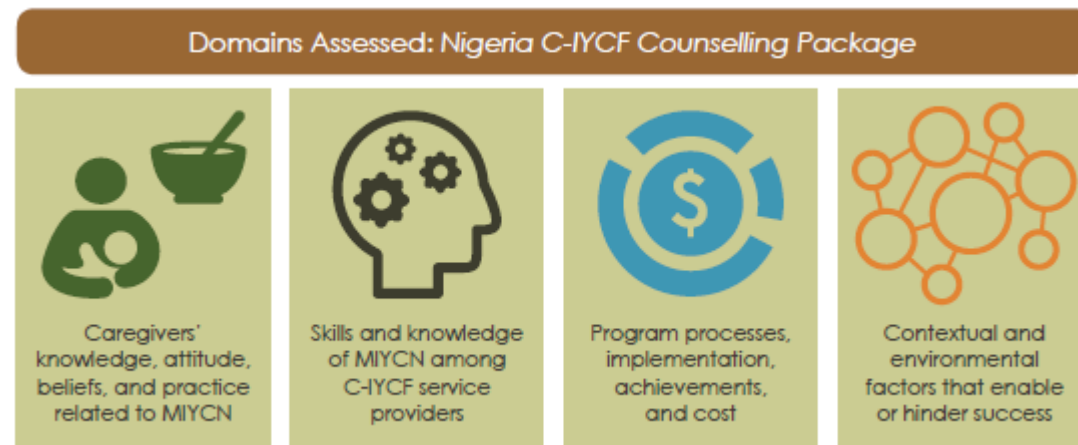
Nigeria adapted and adopted the UNICEF *Community Infant and Young Child Feeding (C-IYCF) Counselling Package*, starting in 2011, and it has since been rolled out in many states across the country.



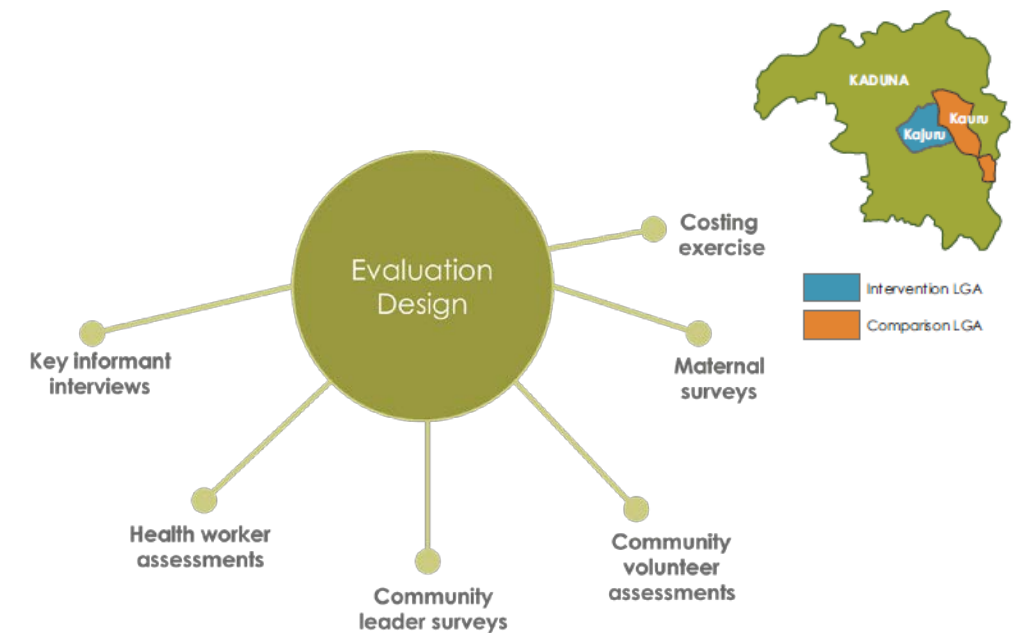
Many groups have been involved in rolling it out across the country.



The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) partnered with SPRING and UNICEF to assess four domains related to implementing the package.

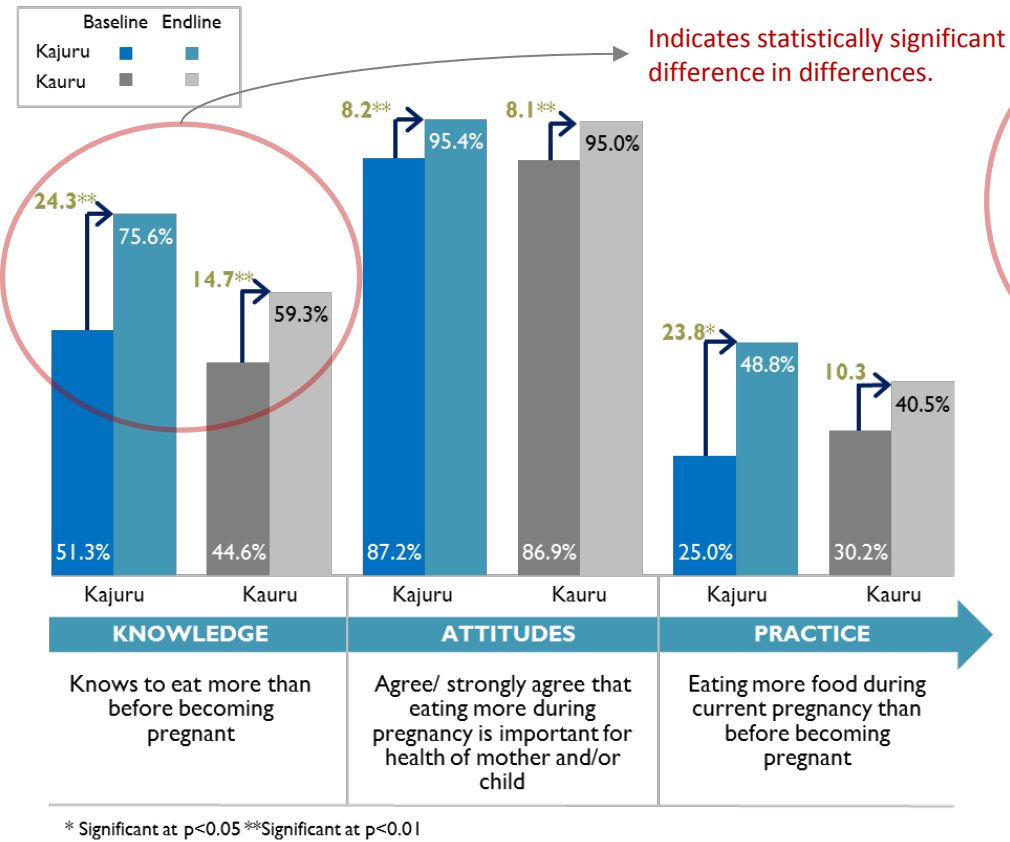


Using mixed methods, this team has evaluated at-scale implementation in Kaju Local Government Area (LGA).

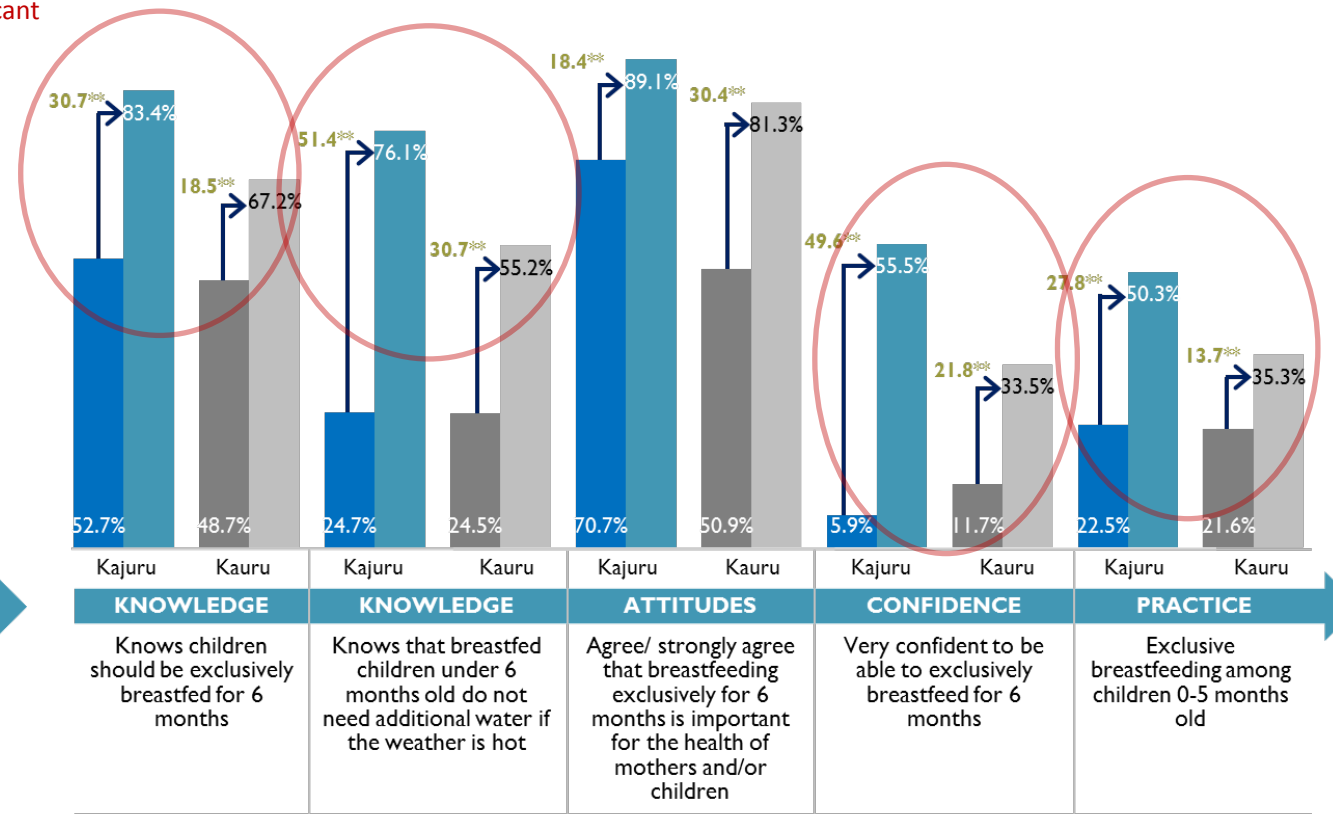


The evaluation found **significant changes in maternal, infant, and young child nutrition knowledge, attitudes, and practices**. Improvements were greater in Kajuru than Kauru.

Pregnant women learned and believed in eating more during pregnancy. While those who actually ate more during pregnancy increased, less than half reporting doing so at endline.



Among mothers, there were impressive improvements in breastfeeding knowledge, attitudes, and practices. However, there is still room for improvement.



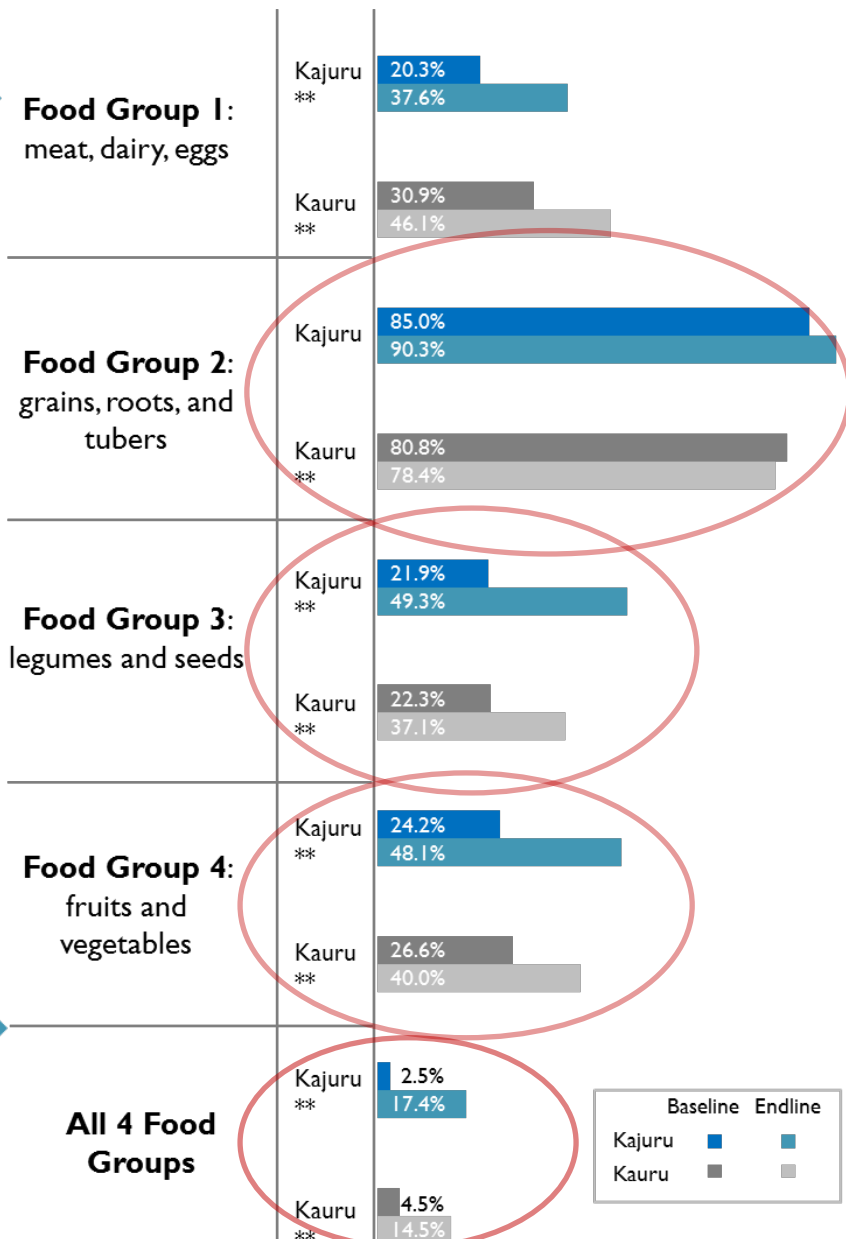
38.6%

of mothers thought that breastfed children under six months old should be given water if the weather is hot at endline.

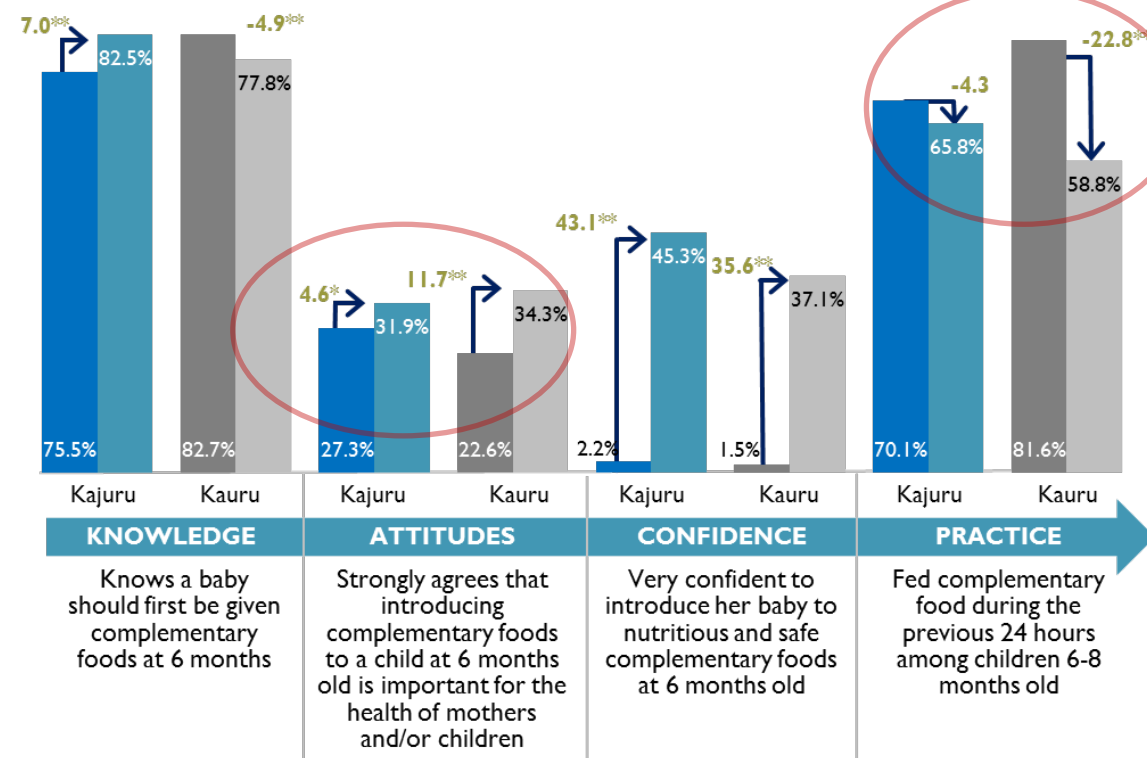
60.7%

thought that you should wait until a child is a year old before feeding her animal source foods.

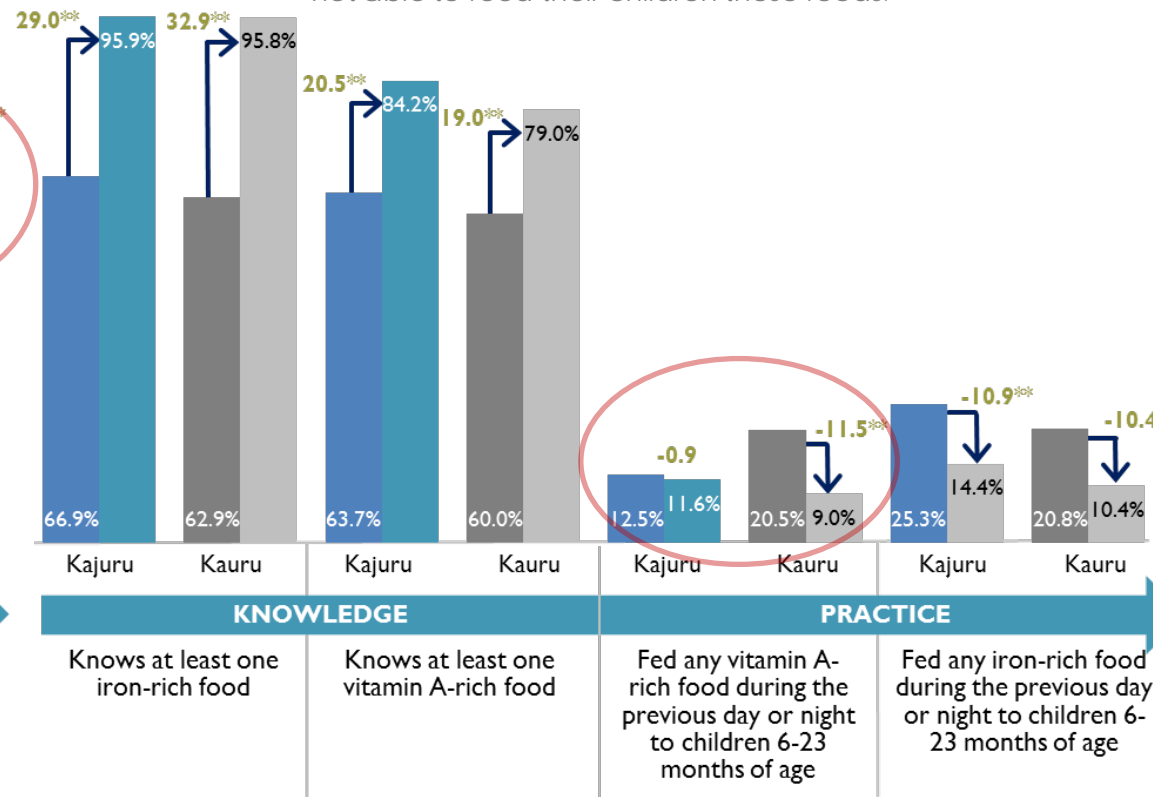
We observed a decline in dietary diversity among children 6-24 months old, but it was significantly more pronounced in Kauru than in Kajuru.



Among mothers, while there were improvements in knowledge, attitudes, and confidence related to the introduction of complementary foods. They learned that it is best to start feeding children solid, semi-solid, or soft foods when they are six months old; however, the practice remained constant.



They learned which foods were rich in iron and Vitamin A, but were not able to feed their children those foods.



* Significant at p<0.05 **Significant at p<0.01