



PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

Programme Title: Sustainably Improving Nutrition in Zinder through System Strengthening	Recipient Organization GOAL															
Programme Contact: Name, Title: Maria Vietz, Donor Partnerships Officer Address: GOAL, Carnegie House, Library Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 C7W7, Ireland Telephone: + 353 (0)1 280 9779 E-mail: mvietz@goal.ie	Programme Partner(s): N/A															
Programme Country: Niger	Programme Location (provinces or priority areas): Zinder															
Programme Description: In partnership with a local private sector company and using a market approach to ensure sustainability, GOAL will improve access to improved, biofortified seeds of nutrient-rich crops for “last-mile” women farmers and train them on climate-smart agriculture, while setting up solar-powered irrigation systems for community gardens to ensure access to nutritious foods during the lean season. A revolving goat bank will not only increase protein intake, but also empower women economically in conjunction with the set-up of village savings, loans associations and business trainings. Behavioral change will be realized through community-led “circles” of women, men and community leaders who will meet regularly over 12 weeks to share knowledge for better nutrition, micro-gardening and cooking demonstrations, an approach which has proven effective for Social Behavior Change (SBC). A digital awareness campaign will reinforce adherence while enabling a wider reach. Recognizing links between chronic and acute malnutrition, mothers will be trained on measuring mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) to facilitate early detection and treatment.																
Programme Budget: USD 500,000																
Estimated No. of Direct Beneficiaries: 18,656 <table border="1" data-bbox="140 1496 780 1715"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Female</th> <th>Male</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>7421</td> <td>7130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child under 24 months</td> <td>887</td> <td>852</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child 24 months & over</td> <td>1207</td> <td>1159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>9515</td> <td>9141</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Estimated No. of Indirect Beneficiaries: 264,706		Female	Male	Adult	7421	7130	Child under 24 months	887	852	Child 24 months & over	1207	1159	TOTAL	9515	9141	Estimated Start Date: 1 November 2020 Total duration (in months): 18 months
	Female	Male														
Adult	7421	7130														
Child under 24 months	887	852														
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TOTAL	9515	9141														
Annexes: project workplan, logframe and budget																



For GOAL

Name of Representative: Siobhan Walsh

Title: CEO

Signature:

23/12/2020

Date & Seal:

For the UNITLIFE Executive Board

Name: Oulimata Sarr

Title: Regional Director, West and Central Africa

UN Agency: UN Women

Signature:

Date & Seal: 04-Jan-2021



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PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Organization name: GOAL

Organization type: International NGO

Organization website: <https://www.goalglobal.org>

Project Focal Points:

	Name (First, Last)	Title	Email
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Nutrition activities in Niger:

GOAL has worked in Niger since the regional 2005 food security crisis, supporting the most vulnerable populations to identify and treat acute malnutrition, while addressing the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition by improving economic and food security at the household (HH) and community levels.

GOAL works to bridge the gap between prevention and treatment of chronic and acute malnutrition by addressing poor nutritional awareness, practices and behaviors, and limited access to both health facilities and quality, diverse foods, and ensuring the availability of quality care.

Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and local authorities, GOAL uses an integrated approach as it contributes to strengthening Niger's health system. It supports the provision of preventative and curative services delivered at CSI and community level, complementing this with social behavior change (SBC) approaches which target both high risk demographics within the community, along with local leaders, key gate keepers, and influencers,



as custodians of social norms. This includes GOAL’s innovative Nutrition Impact and Positive Practice (NIPP) Approach, which directly addresses the multi-sectoral, underlying behavioral determinants of malnutrition. A gendered, grass-roots approach, NIPP aims to reduce rates of both chronic and acute malnutrition, with a focus on pregnant and lactating women (PLW), infants, and young children. NIPP circles are formed by female and male caregivers and community leaders, with men and women meeting separately for 12 weeks to learn, share, and practice positive behaviors. The circles aim to impart practical knowledge and skills through: (i) practical behavior change sessions focused on the key causes of malnutrition; (ii) micro-gardening for improved HH nutrition security; and (iii) participatory cooking demonstrations for improved feeding and care practices. NIPP circles are also closely linked to existing primary health services, including therapeutic feeding programs, ante-natal and post-natal care, immunization initiatives, and growth monitoring. Children referred from therapeutic feeding programs represent a specific admissions group into NIPP circles. NIPP has been proven to successfully treat moderate acute malnutrition; significantly increase lasting nutrition, health, and livelihood knowledge among participants; and improve adoption of positive practices. Since 2014, over 7,900 people have been reached directly (22,000 reached indirectly) through NIPP in Niger.

To ensure a holistic approach, GOAL embeds strong community networking systems throughout implementation. For example, GOAL addresses the long-term effects of malnutrition by working in collaboration with Niger’s Ministry of Education to improve teachers’ and students’ understanding of health, nutrition, and hygiene practices. GOAL also trains community health workers, mothers, and families to screen children for malnutrition using the Family MUAC Approach—in 2019, GOAL trained over 1,600 community health workers and 7,000 mothers on MUAC. This approach empowers communities to take responsibility for their own well-being, and children of caregivers who received training are more likely to recover from malnutrition, possibly thanks to improved care-seeking behavior. Family MUAC is particularly effective in Niger due to the number of people living in isolated communities, often facing difficult and expensive journeys to reach health facilities for screening and treatment, further exacerbated in the current climate of COVID-19.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title: Sustainably Improving Nutrition in Zinder through System Strengthening

Project location: Zinder, Niger

Project Summary:

GOAL aims to decrease the prevalence of chronic malnutrition through a holistic, gender-sensitive approach using key, long-term stakeholders to ensure sustainable results. Given the



interrelated causes of chronic malnutrition with poor maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN), low decision-making power of women, and food and nutrition insecurity, GOAL will promote climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture in partnership with the private sector; support women's access to/ control over their income; and expand integrated behavior change that supports positive, nutrition-specific and -sensitive practices

The first outcome focuses on sustainably improving the staple food production system to increase the availability of diverse, nutrient-rich foods in local markets and HHs year-round. Concurrently, GOAL will build the capacity and knowledge of targeted community members to improve nutritional security through SBC activities. GOAL will strengthen linkages between input suppliers and farmers for timely access to a range of improved, biofortified seeds by co-designing interventions with a private sector partner. GOAL will also train farmers' and women's groups on climate-smart agricultural techniques for home and community gardens to improve productivity, support dietary diversification, and increase women's income generation and food security in the lean season. Strengthening the entire system ensures sustainability of the intervention and benefits all stakeholders.

The second outcome focuses on enhancing women's empowerment through access to and control over HH income so they can be agents of change in supporting improved nutritional outcomes. GOAL will support women to access habanaye, a revolving goat bank system. In addition to accessing nutritional benefits of animal-source foods (ASF), women's improved income generation will further support HH food and nutrition security, especially during lean season. This will move beyond dietary diversification and increase women's decision-making in their HHs and community, given the elevated social status of those who own livestock. GOAL will also facilitate VSLAs to increase women's financial literacy, inclusion, and decision-making regarding the use of income to support investment in HH wellbeing. Through complementary sensitization and SBC activities, the project will strengthen awareness about linkages between nutrition and ASF, while promoting investment of income in nutrition and health.

The third outcome supports community approaches to food and nutrition security and health, including COVID-19, through a combination of evidence-based, innovative SBCC approaches to improve awareness, skills, and practices that support increased diet quality, quantity, and diversity. These activities will be based on formative research and rely on community engagement and training of trainers to ensure sustainability. GOAL will use its NIPP Approach, targeting nutritionally vulnerable groups, to improve HH nutritional awareness and positive behavior change around MCHN. GOAL will also strengthen infant and child malnutrition HH-level screening, and self-referrals, cascading this training to other caregivers. Finally, GOAL will use its evidence-based Community Led Action (CLA) Approach to engage communities to generate collective, transformative solutions for food and nutrition security, women's empowerment, and COVID-19 prevention—given that disease outbreaks exacerbate inequalities and disproportionately affect women. This will include a mobile awareness campaign with a technology company and local radio to disseminate messages on uptake of positive practices.



Needs:

GOAL has also chosen to implement the proposed project in Zinder (Mirriah and Gouré) in response to the widespread food insecurity, acute needs and high malnutrition in the region, coupled with the strategic decision to leverage complementary programming and relationships with key stakeholders in the target areas. The alarming needs are underlined by the fact that at the outset of 2020, more than 2.9 million people in Niger were in need of humanitarian assistance (>10% of the population), of which more than half a million are located in Zinder. Numerous assessments have warned of the severity of the nutrition needs in Zinder, including a 2018 analysis by FEWS NET into chronic food insecurity (CFI) which considered food consumption (quality), food consumption (quantity), and chronic malnutrition, which found that Zinder had the highest prevalence of moderate and severe CFI nationally. In addition, the 2019 SMART national nutrition survey found acute malnutrition at 10.7% nationally, and at 10.9% in Zinder; likewise, national chronic malnutrition rates are at 45.7% nationally and at 52.9% in Zinder. Additionally, UN assessment findings from 2018 have highlighted alarmingly high rates of stunting (38%), anemia (76%), and wasting (10%) in Zinder, with only 23% of infants exclusively breastfed; only 2.5% of under 2 consumed the minimum acceptable diet; and 45% of under 2 met the minimum meal frequency. A report from USAID and SPRING found that agro-pastoralist communities like Mirriah and Gouré were particularly vulnerable to wasting.

The drivers of malnutrition in Zinder are complex and interrelated, with the following significant contributors:

- Insufficient consumption of diverse, high-nutrient foods—particularly for women of reproductive age, PLW, and infants and young children—due to financial, seasonal, and market access barriers but also lack of knowledge about the benefits of a diversified diet for children
- High disease burden in children linked to inadequate sanitation-hygiene practices and poor care- seeking for and feeding of sick children
- Low involvement of women in decision-making about their HH's nutritional needs and in managing family income, coupled with insufficient involvement of men in addressing nutritional needs
- Lack of access to improved, biofortified seeds, combined with archaic farming methods, a reduction of arable land and poor post-harvest handling and storage practices
- Lack of awareness about availability, production, and consumption of nutrient-dense and bio-fortified crops.

Moreover, according to a 2020 FAO brief, the food security and nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This concern is also shared by WFP, who have warned of 'an oncoming hunger pandemic' with efforts to address the current hunger crisis facing risks of being over-shadowed by COVID 19. Further, many communities lack the tools and skills for COVID-19



prevention, as well as lacking other positive health-seeking behaviors. Addressing these gaps would help to mitigate the spread of the pandemic and support the maintenance of positive preventative and curative practices that lead to sustainable nutritional gains.

Access:

GOAL has been operating in Zinder for fifteen years, and while implementing its ongoing programming here, the security situation has been very stable and unaffected by some of the security issues arising from population movements in the neighboring regions of Diffa and Maradi. The security situation is further stabilized because GOAL's interventions are widely accepted by district authorities and the community; there is also buy-in for the proposed project due to its responsiveness to communities' needs in the targeted areas of Zinder (Mirriah and Gouré). GOAL staff has regular access to these areas, with a regional office based in Zinder city, a sub-office in Tamou, and another sub-office in the process of being opened in Gouré. To mitigate risks from any issues with road access or travel between sites, GOAL trains its drivers in both car maintenance and first-aid in case of break-down.

GOAL has well established security protocols both at field and national level, and actively pursues proactive relationship building and acceptance strategies in the local and wider communities. GOAL considers the safety and security of its staff and project beneficiaries as a key priority and incorporates security considerations into all stages of project planning and implementation. GOAL uses context-specific security guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are regularly reviewed with the changing security context and updated with frequent training—both internally and through short external courses. Furthermore, GOAL has a security focal point who monitors the situation through regular updates and coordination with UN OCHA and NGO networks, which further informs GOAL's programming.

Estimated number of beneficiaries:

Estimated No. of Direct Beneficiaries: 18,656

	Female	Male
Adult	7421	7130
Child under 24 months	887	852
Child 24 months & over	1207	1159
TOTAL	9515	9141

Estimated No. of Indirect Beneficiaries: 264,706



Additional information on beneficiaries:

GOAL's proposed project would reach 18,656 direct beneficiaries (51% female, 49% male), the total population of the 20 target villages. They will all benefit from the core components of strengthening the staple food production system, strengthened linkages to health services, and improved awareness and knowledge on positive nutrition practices and health-seeking behaviors—including for COVID-19. While all are expected to benefit within the target communities, the project places a strong emphasis on supporting women as agents of change, particularly through involvement in the revolving goat banks and VSLAs. The breakdowns of the above calculations by age and gender are based on percentage allocations according to national data.

GOAL selected the target villages based on community needs and opportunities to integrate with existing GOAL programming and complementary activities being carried out by other stakeholders to maximize impact and community buy-in. The proposed project will target the most vulnerable HHs according to a predetermined criteria (HH with at least one child under 5; PLWs; female-headed HHs; people suffering from a chronic disease; people with a disability) in villages within the Zinder region that have been identified by the Ministry of Agriculture as having a grain deficit of at least 60% in 2020. GOAL will use the Household Economic Analysis tool to identify and target program beneficiaries in a participatory and transparent manner, in collaboration with communities.

Beyond this, GOAL will also select beneficiaries using the following considerations:

- To link complementary outcomes, GOAL will prioritize villages where it has implemented the CLA approach, but which are not yet benefitting from the NIPP approach.
- Many of the beneficiaries for the proposed project are selected based on women's participation in NIPP circles, their level of vulnerability, and their willingness to participate.
- HHs with at least one child under 5, PLW, and other groups vulnerable to malnutrition will be targeted for inclusion in NIPP circles and Family MUAC training.
- Beneficiary selection for revolving goat bank and community gardens will be conditional based on NIPP circle participation, as combined, these complementary activities will build beneficiaries' capacity to improve their nutritional status.
- Community garden beneficiaries require multi-faceted considerations; beneficiaries and garden locations are based on women's commitment and willingness to partake, the acceptance of the community to offer secured land leases to women, and geographical factors like the depth of the water table.

In total, the proposed project will reach 283,362 beneficiaries (18,656 direct, 264,706 indirect)—51% female, 49% male—the entire catchment area of the 13 health facilities and 8 communes. This was calculated based on the coverage area of local radio and VIAMO mobile services using Airtel service, which has a large coverage within the area. These indirect beneficiaries will receive awareness messaging supporting food and nutrition security including MCHN, along with



messaging on improved availability of improved, biofortified seeds. Many of these indirect beneficiaries such as caregivers and other families in the communities, will also receive cascaded benefits from other project activities including NIPP circles, goat banks, and Family MUAC.

Logical framework, workplan and budget

The project logical framework, workplan and budget are annexed to this ProDoc in excel format.

UNITLIFE CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

Innovation:

The proposed project integrates innovative components throughout, including co-designing interventions in partnership with the private sector, use of digital technologies, and evidence-based SBC approaches, to address both immediate needs and the underlying causes of malnutrition in Zinder.

The first innovative pillar lies in the market system strengthening approach, which promotes inclusive growth and creates sustainable changes in systems important to marginalized communities. GOAL will co-design and cost share interventions with FESA to increase access to improved and biofortified seed inputs through extending its distribution system to 'the last mile'. These joint initiatives will seek to actively bundle services to stimulate viable business models for seasonally dependent micro-enterprises, while bringing critical productive inputs and services closer to those who are excluded. Activities include helping FESA to identify and train agents and retailers, set up demonstration plots, and increase the range of products available and restocking; supporting the development of their marketing strategy; and mapping existing farmers' groups, women's groups and cooperatives to establish or reinforce linkages to the seed company. While FESA has existing seed distribution points in Zinder, farmers do not yet use biofortified seeds. By helping to increase both the long-term supply and demand of seeds that grow more nutrient-dense staple crops like millet, beans, maize and vegetables, the project will improve sustainable nutritional outcomes, increase productivity, and increase HH income levels.

The second innovative project pillar will capitalize on Niger's increased mobile penetration as a channel for community engagement and empowerment through a partnership with VIAMO. In collaboration with local authorities and communities, GOAL will work with VIAMO to design a mobile strategy that complements the project's overall SBCC strategy. This will support sensitization and community engagement through information dissemination and interaction using Airtel large service coverage in Zinder, where each HH typically owns at least one mobile phone. GOAL will work with stakeholders to develop diverse content in a variety of instructional, entertaining, and targeted styles. Messages may involve promoting use of biofortified seeds,



along with contextually relevant agronomic and market information to encourage farmer linkages to input suppliers or information about positive nutrition and health practices. Through on-demand messaging or “edutainment” that supports the promoted behaviors, this private sector partnership and use of mobile technology will serve both to complement project activities and capture the key concerns of the communities to better understand and respond to their needs.

Finally, the third innovative project pillar will be the use of GOAL’s evidence-based community engagement approach, CLA, to build communities’ resilience to disease outbreak in preparation for, and response to, the spread of COVID-19. GOAL has successfully used the CLA Approach in Niger and other countries to support COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), empowering communities by ensuring they have the requisite knowledge and skills to adopt or support improved practices and active health-seeking behaviors. CLA for COVID-19 will be innovatively used as an entry point for community engagement to support food and nutrition security through various platforms, with the aim of contributing to improved MCHN outcomes.

Integration and/or colocation:

The proposed project is co-located in the same areas as GOAL’s ongoing programming funded by Irish Aid, WFP, and ECHO, enabling funding from UNITLIFE to leverage complementary programming in health, nutrition, and WASH. Under Irish Aid funding, GOAL is currently supporting 13 health facilities in the target areas, which includes supporting Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), IYCF, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) including antenatal care, immunizations, and providing logistical support to the MoH to reinforce the supply chain for therapeutic feeding for SAM children under 5. In addition, since March 2020 GOAL has been supporting the Government’s surveillance efforts and COVID 19 response by undertaking Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities, in combination with health systems strengthening – including capacity building of health workers, support with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Action Plans, provision of IPC supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and installation or repair of WASH infrastructure - and IPC measures in public spaces in Mirriah and Gouré to minimize the transmission of the disease.

In Gouré, the proposed project will also benefit from ECHO funding providing support to health facilities for WASH, including handwashing, sensitization, and environmental cleaning. The proposed project will also build upon GOAL’s interventions in Mirriah through WFP funding, which is focused on health system strengthening, improving food security and livelihoods, and embedding sustainable changes in the communities through SBC activities. This project will build upon the activities already implemented with WFP funding which include: training 360 community health workers in 180 villages along with 173 youth volunteers at 91 schools; supporting 912 women with nutrition awareness through mother-to-mother support groups involving cooking demonstrations; and 201 MAM-affected children who recovered as a result of high-nutrition recipes from these cooking demonstrations and school gardens. Further, the



above complementary activities in the same target areas will enable the proposed project to benefit from costs savings generated through shared staffing and support infrastructure, as well as leverage strong ties with communities and local authorities, bolstering buy-in from key stakeholders and expediting project start up.

In addition, the program fully aligns with strategies promoted by key stakeholders; for example, NIPP supports the government's overarching approach to addressing malnutrition. GOAL will also continue to coordinate closely with other NGOs and stakeholders that are implementing nutrition initiatives in the same area to seek synergies where possible and ensure there is no overlap or duplication. This includes liaising with ALIMA/BEFEN and IDB (local NGO) in Mirriah in relation to their respective health, food security and cash transfer programming, along with Pathfinders and Save the Children for their ECHO and USAID funded initiatives supporting nutrition, food security and livelihoods in Gouré.

Sustainability:

From the outset, the project design has incorporated strategies which respond to key stakeholders' (target communities, local authorities and the partnering private sector actors) motivations, capacities, resources, rules and linkages, to promote sustainability beyond the 18-month project timeframe. GOAL's market systems approach guides our partnerships to create shared value and promote inclusive growth by linking key stakeholders: communities, government, civil society, and the private sector. We work to leverage services and increase access to goods, services, and economic opportunities. By understanding the system's opportunities and constraints, identifying the key players, and facilitating permanent players, we can create sustainable changes in these systems.

GOAL will adopt a facilitator role from the outset, working in collaboration with FESA and regional ministries (Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Community Development) and the relevant authorities, municipal, and state structures—including the DRSP, Districts, Health Facilities, Municipalities, Agriculture, and Directorate for the Advancement of Women and the Protection of Children - in planning, training facilitation and monitoring of activities. This collaboration throughout the duration will facilitate these key actors' continued support beyond the life of the project.

In addition, the project will promote sustainability at multiple levels through the following:

- Strengthening the existing seed system using a holistic approach which simultaneously invests in both supply and demand to address current gaps, enhancing market functionality, responsiveness and durability, which combined with adopted behavior changes, will provide communities and HHs with sustained access to goods and services.
- The project's emphasis on strengthening linkages between farmers and markets, along with supporting women's livestock ownership is expected to yield improvements in HH dietary diversity and/or income and enhance women decision-making both within the HH and beyond.



This coupled with strengthening women's financial inclusion will further women's empowerment.

- By underpinning the project with a strong SBC strategy, the project will promote positive nutritional practices, including the use of sustainable, locally available products.
- GOAL is also exploring a re-design of Irish Aid funding with 2021 to include post-harvest handling, storage and off-taking for major crops (like millet, with major commercial value), using an market systems development approach to link to and further support the sustainability of the proposed project

Gender considerations:

Women play a crucial role in on-farm and off-farm activities, especially in rural areas, which contribute to the economic wellbeing and food security of their HHs. Research has underlined that women's agricultural productivity has direct implications on income, as well as on the food security of their HHs, which holds strong relevance to the 24% of women in Niger's agricultural workforce (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2019). Further, evidence suggests that increased income for women is associated with greater food consumption and improved nutritional status of HH members (ibid). Yet, it is widely recognized that malnutrition has an uneven toll, with poor women facing greater risks and more girls dying of malnutrition than boys, leading to the FAO's assertion that 'more often than not, the face of malnutrition is female'. However, it is also recognized that women are in a unique position to positively influence the design and implementation of malnutrition prevention activities and community engagement, given women's key role in growing, purchasing, processing, and preparing food which is consumed at the HH level.

GOAL carefully considers gender in its programming, prioritizing rural women as agents of change while creating an enabling, supportive environment to empower women to improve the nutritional well-being of themselves and their families through increased knowledge, income, and capacity. The proposed project includes activities that seek to both ensure that GOAL's approach is gender-sensitive and takes into consideration the current backdrop of COVID-19, given the heightened vulnerabilities for women and girls. GOAL is concerned that COVID-19 may disproportionately affect women and girls' health, safety, and economic position, which will in turn decrease their nutritional well-being, and the nutritional well-being of infants and young children.

GOAL will use its CLA and NIPP Approaches, which place strong emphases on equally incorporating the needs, voices, and knowledge of both men and women in determining a response in decision-making. GOAL ensures that gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout program design with embedded process and tools and will leverage its experiences of working with women in the targeted communities to raise awareness and implement policies and programming that protects and supports women. Starting with the context analysis process, GOAL uses tools including the EU's Gender-Age Marker (GAM) Toolkit, which provides step-by-



step guidance on integrating gender considerations. The GOAL Niger staff also receive support and training from the Global Gender and Safeguarding Advisor to ensure that program implementation is adapted to the specific needs and capacities of different gender and age groups. GOAL also aims to protect and support women and vulnerable groups through its Gender and Child Protection and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies. GOAL will focus on ensuring that all vulnerable groups, including women, are made aware of their rights, entitlements, and methods to report issues through the appropriate channels, by training the targeted communities on accountability, setting up a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) in any new communities and raising awareness of any existing CFM for beneficiaries to have enhanced use feedback or concerns about GOAL's programming.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Implementation modalities:

Does this project include sub-grantee(s)? YES

Sub-grantee information:

GOAL proposes to sub grant to two private sector partners, and while neither meets the financial threshold outlined in the FAQ, both partnerships are crucial to the program outcomes, and are therefore briefly outlined below. GOAL has a documented and well-tested toolkit for working with the private sector which will guide our partnership under this project, as outlined below.

GOAL will partner with technology company (VIAMO) to support community engagement and mass sensitization via mobile phone through information dissemination and interaction with target audience (3-2-5 or hotline service) at scale in local languages, using Airtel service, which has a large coverage within the area. GOAL will work with VIAMO and national authorities to develop content that covers

diverse topics, including nutrition, health, market prices, utilization of biofortified seeds, the consumption of high value nutrient crops, in a variety of instructional, entertaining, and targeted styles, addressing the information needs and capturing key concerns in order to better understand and respond to the needs of our target communities.

In addition, GOAL will partner with FESA to co-design and co-invest in improving the distribution of, and access to, biofortified seeds. At the heart of this co-designed proposal will be the business case, both for the business and their franchisee / out producers / agents. The co-designed proposal will also outline the partnership implementation plan, and will seek to actively bundle services together, to stimulate viable business models for seasonally-dependent micro-enterprises, while bringing critical productive inputs and services closer to those excluded, usually the last mile. It is envisaged that potential initiatives include repackaging biofortified seeds into smaller quantities, and 'buying down' the costs, while enhancing distribution, to



enable more farmers to access, and experience, improved seeds, stimulating demand. GOAL will also work with FESA on its marketing strategy to enhance supply.

Risk and Mitigation Measures:

Risk: Upcoming elections (beginning with mayoral elections in Jan 2021) may result in key community stakeholders (head of village, health workers, etc.) being less invested in the project than hoped for.

Mitigation: build capacity of community workers for continued community involvement in SBCC and other activities; Community level activities will proceed as planned, but engagement with higher level authorities, who may be involved in elections, may need to be adjusted and GOAL will coordinate with and communicate with UNITLIFE on any foreseeable delays.

Risk: Disease outbreaks - annual cholera and meningitis in Zinder (cholera outbreak usually occurs during August-December, while meningitis occurs during March-June), during which projects are regularly paused by local health department to focus on immunization campaigns.

Mitigation: plan activities around these predictable outbreaks; always attend national cluster meetings to receive relevant updates from MoH which will inform and guide implementation strategies.

Risk: Health workers strike and low staffing— a strike due to low pay and short-term contracts, would have the potential to last for months, which would interrupt MUAC training and other activities.

Mitigation: Under GOAL's complementary health programming funded by other donors, GOAL supports gap filling to facilitate continuation of care and to build trust in the health system and encourage community members (especially PLW) to seek care. In addition, GOAL is involved in national advocacy efforts with the government and donors to seek a sustainable solution to the aforementioned challenges.

Risk: Increased transmission of COVID 19 and the associated risk of lockdown

Mitigation: GOAL's CLA Approach spreads awareness and involves the community in response planning, which is reinforced by radio messaging. GOAL will also adapt implementation accordingly by using social distancing measures etc.

Risk: Deterioration of sanitary crisis

Mitigation: GOAL is currently supporting the MoH COVID 19 Preparedness Plan by supporting health facilities in the target areas with staffing, training, environmental cleaning and will use the CLA Approach to facilitate community conversations, enabling communities to develop realistic action plans to sensitize communities and HHs. GOAL will also carry out handwashing demonstrations and installing handwashing facilities in public places. In addition, GOAL under its partnership with VIAMO, will utilize "mini-clips" – short information videos disseminated via



mobile phones. Lastly, GOAL will continue to monitor the COVID-19 crisis and outbreak and will adaptively manage project activities as needed, in consultation with UNITLIFE.

Co-funding:

Is the proposed project part of a larger project? YES

The proposed project will strengthen and build upon two of GOAL's existing projects in Mirriah and Gouré districts that address nutrition and food security. First, GOAL's €750,000 Irish Aid project which runs through to 2021, addressing the prevention of malnutrition in 13 health facilities and 10 communities. As previously mentioned, GOAL's Irish Aid funding supports CMAM, IYCF, SHR services as well as WASH interventions in response to COVID 19 prevention initiatives, while GOAL's €119,665 WFP project supports prevention and care of malnutrition at both the health facility and community levels. As such, the proposed project will benefit from linkages to supported health services, existing relationships with key stakeholders, cost-sharing savings, and reduced start up time

Additional information:

Due to previous space limitations, certain GOAL approaches are expanded upon further below:

- GOAL's CLA Approach serves as an entry point and provides a community discussion platform that facilitates access to key influencers, enablers, and gate keepers, to reflect on concerns relating to food, nutrition, health and women's empowerment, to generate solutions to transform their community. CLA will also serve to support RCCE by ensuring the delivery of consistent, simple and easy to understand COVID-19 messages. CLA empowers communities to move beyond awareness and undertake their own analysis and take collective actions. Using participatory facilitation, CLA will support communities, through trained community mobilisers, to develop action plans for smaller neighborhood units of 15 HH, to facilitate faster implementation of preventive actions. There will be a focus on developing action plans that enables people to continue with their daily activities (and meet basic needs) while taking measures to minimize their risk. Action plans will include IPC within HHs and isolation of those with symptoms and/or the most vulnerable, interim care for vulnerable children and appropriate referrals for those severely affected, and identification of protection issues and referral pathways.
- The NIPP Approach promotes MIYCF practices including through interactive SBC sessions, practical sessions (cooking demonstrations) and food processing, preservation, and storage for sustained dietary diversification, particularly during lean season. Under NIPP, WASH activities will be strengthened by including key BABYWASH elements targeting caregivers of Infant and Young Child with SBC and practical activities to address the three key vectors of fecal-oral transmission for young children (soil, poultry feces, and infant food) in order to reduce Environmental Enteropathy Disease which is believed to be a leading driver of chronic malnutrition in children -



by promoting HH hygiene to reduce children exposure to animal feces. Finally, NIPP female and male sessions will be informed by formative research, to reinforce SBC activities supporting women's empowerment i.e. reinforcing topics such as decision- making about their HH's nutritional needs, managing family income; involvement of men in addressing nutritional needs

- **Family MUAC:** Early research has shown linkages between wasting and increased risk of subsequent stunting, therefore the project will support the scale up of this approach to support malnutrition case identification at community level and contribute to infant and children morbidities and mortality due to malnutrition and its associated complications. This approach will focus on training caregivers of children under five on the use of a MUAC tape to identification malnutrition and on self-referral to promote improved health seeking behavior. The Family MUAC approach is one of the Global Nutrition Technical Advisory Mechanisms priority actions also endorsed by Niger Nutrition Technical working group, to support preparation and response to acute malnutrition in the context of COVID-19. GOAL believes that the Family MUAC approach is an ideal way of ensuring malnutrition case identification at community level in a timely, cost-effective, and suitably social distanced way, and has specifically developed a guidance to support the roll out of this approach, while maintaining social distancing and wider IPC measures.

Annexes:

- ***Annex 1: Project workplan, logical framework and budget***
- ***Annex 2: GOAL in Niger factsheet***
- ***Annex 3: GOAL response to the technical review comments***
- ***Annex 4: Project Administrative arrangements (including disbursement and reporting schedule)***