

EMERGENCY CONTEXT

- Program initiated in 2005
- Severe drought and locust invasion causing diminished annual agricultural production.
- SAM: Zinder 4.81% and Maradi 4.29%

INTERVENTION AREA

15 Area Development Programs (ADPs) throughout five of country's eight regions, including rural and urban areas

CMAM SERVICE SITES

CMAM has been implemented by the MOH within the existing health infrastructures and MOH Niger Nutrition Protocol. The CMAM model has also been applied to outpatient care and supplementary feeding methods. Children were referred to separate inpatient care. The community outreach screening of malnourished children is done by *Femmes Relais* (volunteer women) using MUAC measurement at the community level.

- Inpatient care: 0
- Outpatient care: 51
- Supplementary feeding or services for MAM: 51
- Active community outreach workers/volunteers: 459 active community volunteers

PROCESS OF INTEGRATION

- WV Niger was implementing a long-term integrated development program within its intervention zones. The ADP design must ensure that all activities are integrated into the existing structures. Beneficiary communities and stakeholders from local NGOs, community organizations and governments must be involved from the beginning.
- Funding support from OFDA/USAID, DEC, private donors and sponsorship funds
- The program was implemented within existing MOH health infrastructures (Health Huts and Integrated Health Centers).
- To ensure understanding, acceptance and participation, key leaders and decision-makers within the communities were trained in all components of the CMAM program.
- May 2005: An assessment was conducted using qualitative questionnaires at the health centers. This assessment and engagement with the MOH was integral in the design and implementation of CMAM into the local MOH health structures.
- May-June 2005: Community mobilization and set-up
- July 2005: CMAM program set-up
- Initial implementation of learning sites followed by scale-up of CMAM services

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN INTEGRATION

Enabling Environment for CMAM

- As Niger experiences a cyclical food crisis, a CMAM model adapted for emergency situations was set up for an effective nutritional response when the context will change in relation to food availability.
- Chronic malnutrition in the CMAM intervention zones is 43.6%.
- The greatest challenge was the assimilation of activities into the practices and programs of WV staff and conflict between new and old staff.

Access to CMAM Services

- The program was integrated into MOH services and other community services such as cereal banks and community gardening.
- WV added community-based child growth monitoring as a new program component.
- WV Niger is integrating other relevant approaches such as Positive Deviance/Hearth and the production of locally made enriched food from Moringa leaf powder into CMAM activities.
- The absence of community mobilization prevented the adoption of CMAM activities.

Access to CMAM Supplies

- To avoid food and medicine shortages, the program has set up its own stocks of therapeutic food, medicines and materials.
- Tools for monitoring food and non-food items in the CMAM program were created: beneficiary list, human resources and logistics.

- Some shortages and delays in supplying certain items, mainly Plumpy'nut.

Quality of CMAM Services

- Discrepancies between CMAM and Niger National Nutrition Protocols caused some confusion.
- At the CMAM centers, malnutrition treatment is done according to Integrated Management of Child Illness (IMCI) guidelines.
- A survey demonstrated that an insufficient number of trained community volunteers meant that home visits were not done regularly.

Competencies for CMAM

- On-going training will continue to be provided to all stakeholders at the community level.
- Implementation of learning sites and scale-up of CMAM services
- Regular visits and training from Valid International help address CMAM skills needed.
- Difficult for MOH staff to take on a leadership role for CMAM and to consider nutrition a component of health activities that they deliver.