**Programme Description**

A2Z: The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project consolidates, builds, and expands on USAID's long-term investment in micronutrients, child survival, and nutrition. A2Z takes proven interventions to scale, introduces innovation, expands services, and builds sustainable programs to increase the use of key micronutrient and blindness interventions to improve child and maternal health. With work in vitamin A supplementation of children, newborn vitamin A, food fortification, maternal and child anemia control, monitoring and evaluation, and health systems strengthening, A2Z's focus countries have included Bangladesh, Cambodia, the East, Central and Southern Africa region, India, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda and West Bank.

**Program type**

Multi-national

**References**

- [http://www.a2zproject.org/node/20](http://www.a2zproject.org/node/20)
- [http://www.a2zproject.org/pdf/Tanzania_VAS_sustainability_executive_summ...](http://www.a2zproject.org/pdf/Tanzania_VAS_sustainability_executive_summ...)

**Implementing organisations**

- **UN agencies**
  - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- **Research / Academia**
  - Details:
    - more
    - Johns Hopkins University.

- **Private Sector**
  - Details:
    - more
    - Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre

- **Other**
  - Details:
    - more
    - Tanzania Essential Health Interventions Project

**Funding sources**

**Start date**

January 2006
End date: January 2011

Country(ies): United Republic of Tanzania
Status: Completed
Area: Urban
Rural
Peri-urban

Topic: Zinc supplementation
Target group: Infants (up to 1 year of age)
Infants and young children
Preschool-age children (Pre-SAC)
Age group: 6-59 months

Delivery: Community-based
Hospital/clinic
Primary health care center

Implementation details: With advocacy from A2Z/HKI and other donors, the Government of Tanzania in December 2006 adopted a policy for the use of zinc for the treatment of diarrhea. A2Z/HKI provided technical support to the National IMCI coordinator to incorporate zinc therapy as part of diarrhea management and developed modified IMCI guidelines. Zinc treatment and low osmolarity solution oral rehydration salts (ORS) have been incorporated into the National Standard Therapeutic Guidelines. The project facilitated formative research to learn about the health-seeking practices of the community around diarrhea by Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre and Johns Hopkins University. The formative research also tested the acceptability of zinc treatment for diarrhea among mothers and caretakers. The findings of the study are expected to be used to assist in the development of health worker training modules and behavior change communication materials for use by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the community.

Outcome indicator(s): Under-five mortality rate
Outcome reported by social determinants: Vulnerable groups

Other lessons learnt: The project facilitated formative research to learn about the health-seeking practices of the community around diarrhea by Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre and Johns Hopkins University.

Typical problems:Solutions

Other actions from same programme
A2Z: The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project - Vitamin A supplementation - Preschool-age children (Pre-SAC)

Links to policies in GINA
Health Sector Strategic Plan III - ?Partnership for Delivering the MDGs?
National Plan of Action for Nutrition
National Development Vision 2025
National Health Policy
Child Development Policy
The Food and Nutrition Policy for Tanzania

eLENA Link
Zinc supplementation in the management of diarrhoea