

# PROJECT

## Empowering Women while Improving Nutrition in Niger through Biofortification

UNITLIFE is currently partnering with GOAL, an International NGO, to prevent chronic malnutrition in the highly affected region of Zinder, in the South of Niger.

### Why Niger ?

In Niger, 49% of children under the age of 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition and 90% do not eat a sufficiently diversified diet. Undernutrition causes a 7% annual GDP loss in the country and combatting malnutrition is a priority for the Government.

The project will reach 283,000 people, including 144,515 women and girls.

### What are the interventions?

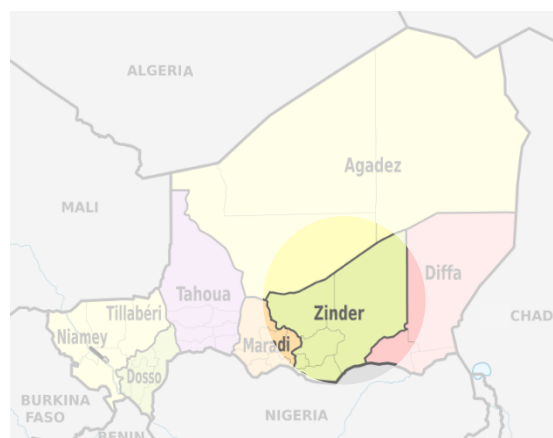
#### 1. Support the capacity of the local businesses to provide biofortified seeds to women farmers:

Supporting the capacity of a local small business to access the market by expanding its distribution network of biofortified cereals to small-holder women farmers the Zinder region.



#### Why biofortification ?

Biofortification is the idea of increasing the nutritional value of crops by breeding them. By doing so, we ensure its consumption provides more nutritious benefits. UNITLIFE funds biofortification done only through conventional selective breeding.



The prevalence of chronic malnutrition in Zinder is 53%.

#### Location: Zinder, Niger

**Duratin:** Octobre 2020 – March 2022

**Project Budget:** USD 500,000

**Number of beneficiaries:** 283,362

#### Highlights:

- Access to market for a local small business
- Empowerment of women smallholder farmers by increasing their revenues and educating them about nutrition
- Community awareness on better nutrition – an approach which has **proven effective for Social Behaviour Change**.
- Use of **digital innovation** to increase Social Behaviour Change reach

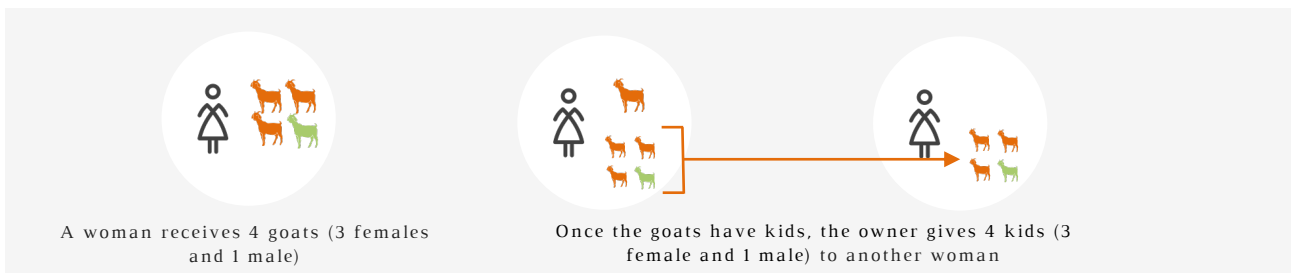
## 2. Support women farmers in accessing nutritious food for them and their community:

- Setting up solar irrigation systems for vegetable gardens
- Building the capacity of women farmers in climate resilient agriculture techniques
- Increasing access to fresh milk (a good source of protein and calcium)
- Increase training and awareness on good nutrition and its vital importance for the children



## 3. Enhance women's empowerment through access and control over household income:

- Establishing village savings schemes coupled with business trainings
- Supporting access to *habanaye*, a local revolving goat bank system



**Financed by:** Reaching the Last Mile



**Implemented by:** GOAL



## Did you know that the first 1,000 days of a child's life determine the rest of his/her life?

- The 1,000-day window between a woman's pregnancy and a child's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday is the opportunity to build a healthier future. Why? Because it is a critical time for cognitive and physical development in which **good nutrition** plays a foundational role.
- Still today, 1 in 5 children globally under the age of five do not receive adequate nutrition in their first 1,000-days and suffer irreversible consequences from **chronic malnutrition**.

## UNITLIFE

UNITLIFE is the United Nations initiative fighting chronic malnutrition through innovation.

UNITLIFE finances nutritious food systems that work for the most vulnerable people, empowering mothers to nourish their children.