

Breakthrough ACTION Nigeria (BA-Nigeria)

Cultivating Nutritional Resilience: Strengthening Community access to nutritious foods through capacity strengthening for Ward Development Committees on home gardening in Bauchi, Sokoto, Kebbi, Ebonyi and FCT.

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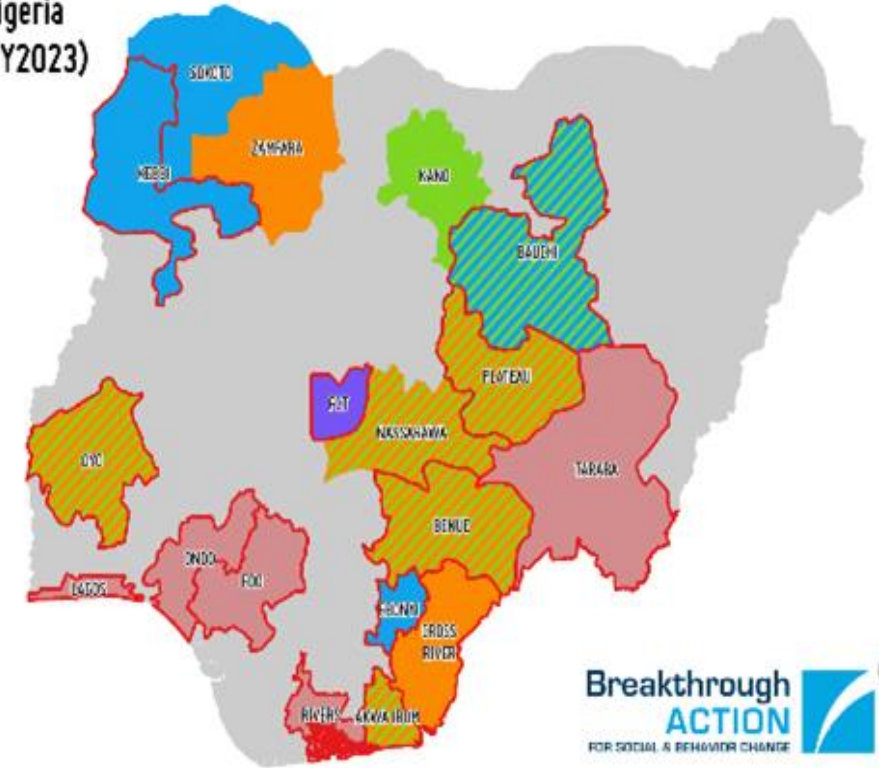
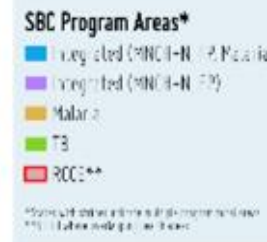
Overview of Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria (BA-N)

Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria is USAID's flagship Social and Behavior Change (SBC) project.

 **Project goal**

To increase the practice of priority health behaviors in the areas of malaria; maternal, newborn, and child health, including nutrition (MNCH+N); Family Planning (FP)/Reproductive Health (RH); Zoonotic diseases and Tuberculosis (TB).

Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria
PROJECT MAP (eff. Q23 FY2023)



Breakthrough
ACTION
FOR SOCIAL & BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Background

The persistent challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition demand innovative strategies to promote community well-being. Breakthrough ACTION- Nigeria's home gardening intervention harnesses the power of Social and Behavior Change (SBC) principles to bolster nutritional resilience within communities through capacity building for Ward development committees. Recognizing the potential of home gardening to enhance dietary diversity, empower residents, and encourage healthier food choices.



Intervention objective

The primary objective of this intervention is to promote nutritional well-being through home gardening, guided by SBC principles.

Specific objectives:

- Enhancing Dietary Diversity by encouraging the cultivation of diverse crops to augment the nutritional value of diets and address deficiencies.
- Empowering Communities by engaging community members in the process of home gardening to foster ownership, responsibility, and empowerment.
- Promoting Healthy Food Choices by leveraging SBC strategies to influence attitudes and behaviors towards healthier dietary practices.



BA-Nigeria's Home Gardening Strategy



Capacity building: Collaborated with SPHCDA, AEW and USAID IPs to train 120 ward development committees and community members on home gardening techniques



Community mobilization: WDCs mobilized communities around home gardening as a collective effort, reinforcing the positive influence of peers and ward development committees as role models.

Community sensitization: Delivering tailored messages that highlights positive impact of home gardening on nutrition and health.



Community involvement and participation: Involving community members in the process of planning, decision-making, and the establishment of home gardens for ownership and mobilization.

Results



120 Ward Development Committee (WDC) members and 12 Women leaders, trained on home gardening and other agricultural practices.



41, 632 community members reached with messages and nutrition activities including home gardens.



Reduced malnutrition rate within the community and neighbouring villages (3.82% GAM rate in FY22 Q1 reduced to 3.16% GAM rate in FY23 Q1 – BA-Nigeria Quarterly reports).



1,904 households established their own home gardens.



Improved the dietary diversity of most households and created a source of livelihood to those who take their excess produce to the market.



Ward Development Committees (WDC) and the women leaders continue to support and fund community projects for improved access to information and services.

Success Story from the Field

“The homestead garden has been a lifesaver for my family. We now have access to fresh fruits and vegetables right in our backyard, which has made a positive difference in our health and well-being.” — Ngozi Nkama, Community Member, Umunaga Ward, Ebonyi State

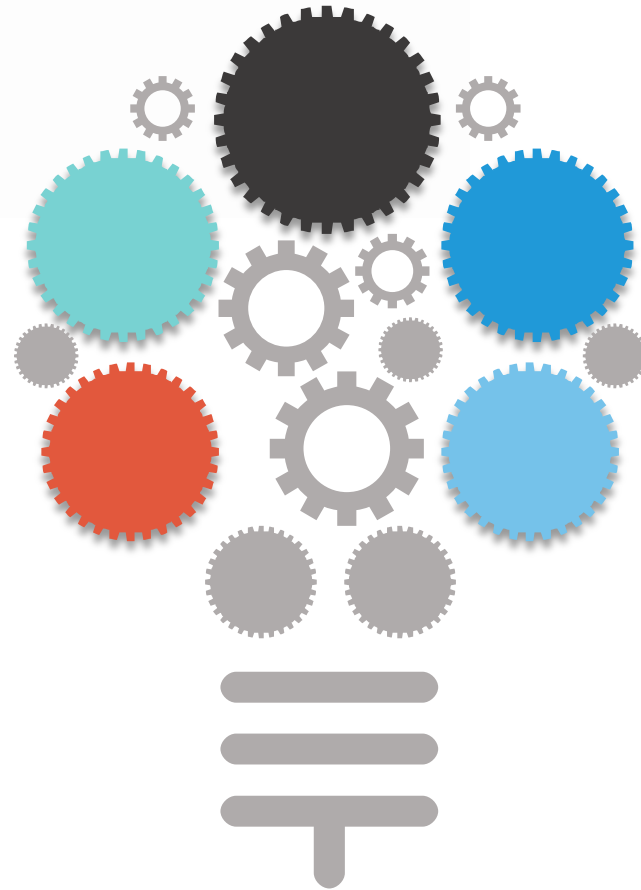


“The transformation of our community into a nutritious oasis is a testament to the impact of homestead gardening and the dedication of the WDCs, as a result, families now have greater access to fresh, nutritious produce grown right in their own backyard. This has improved their diets and saved them money on expensive imported produce.” — Francis Agu, Umunaga WDC Chairman, Ebonyi State

Visit the newly launched [BA-Nigeria Success Story](#) page that lives on the BA/BR website.



Learnings



Encouraging the cultivation of diverse crops to augment the nutritional value of diets and address deficiencies enhanced dietary diversity.

Engaging community members in the process of home gardening fostered ownership, responsibility, social influence and community empowerment.

The integration of home gardening, underpinned by SBC principles, offers a locally relevant and sustainable solution to improve community nutrition.



Challenges

- Limited access to certified seedlings or agricultural commodities for fruitful home gardening experience affects dietary diversity enhancements.
- Continuous and intensifying insecurity across implementation states.
- Myths and misconception around the agricultural practices.

Conclusion

Strengthening community access to nutritious foods through capacity strengthening for WDCs on improved agricultural practices, offers a promising avenue to foster community health and nutritional resilience.





Questions

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