



FACT SHEET **A2Z: The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project**

WHAT IS THE A2Z PROJECT?

Deficiencies in nutrients, such as vitamin A, iron, and iodine, are harmful to the health of individuals as well as the overall development of communities and nations. Individuals in developing regions of the world experience greater deficiencies in micronutrients, posing a significant public health threat for those areas.

The A2Z program, USAID's Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project, is strengthening and expanding upon existing programs that deliver micronutrients to individuals in developing countries. The program is addressing deficiencies in vitamin A, iodine, iron, and zinc.

The overall goal of A2Z is to increase the use of key micronutrient and blindness interventions to improve child and maternal health.

By coordinating efforts with global partners, A2Z is: building sustainable programs; implementing proven interventions; initiating innovative approaches, particularly by engaging the private sector; and expanding the number of countries served.

HOW IS A2Z BEING IMPLEMENTED?

- Country Programs
- Global Technical Leadership
- Child Blindness Prevention and Treatment

ASSISTING COUNTRY PROGRAMS TO DELIVER MICRONUTRIENTS

It is anticipated that A2Z activities will support USAID Missions in 20-30 countries to establish sustainable vitamin A programs, treat and prevent anemia, and mainstream micronutrient delivery in health care systems, such as zinc in diarrhea treatment. A2Z also is engaging private sector partners for food fortification programs within countries.

GLOBAL TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

The A2Z Project will consolidate and expand upon USAID's established leadership in micronutrients. A2Z is facilitating professional exchange between researchers and practitioners, initiating global policy development, and establishing monitoring and evaluation approaches. Collaboration through the Micronutrient Forum will help move the global community to implement evidence-based policies and programs.

CHILD BLINDNESS PROGRAM

A2Z implements the Child Blindness and Eye Health Grants Fund, which makes available grants of up to \$150,000 per year for the direct delivery of eye care services. The Grants Fund supports high impact and sustainable projects, which address the causes of avoidable blindness such as cataracts.



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