

Madagascar

Helen Keller Intl has been working with the government of Madagascar and communities to tackle the country's high rate of vitamin A deficiency among children under 5. We train healthcare workers and educate families about its importance, so that every child can benefit from this simple, efficient intervention. Additionally, Helen Keller is supporting the government in testing and scaling up large-scale food fortification, particularly bouillon and edible oil, through standards development, advocacy, laboratory implementation, support for the private sector, and awareness campaigns.



Number of staff: **10**
People reached annually: **2 million**



Office opened: **2023**
Operating budget: **\$1.8 million**

Challenges



1 in 8 children under the age of 5 suffer from vitamin A deficiency, negatively impacting their health and vision. When the country transitioned from door-to-door campaigns to a routine approach, vitamin A supplementation coverage dropped considerably, leaving out children in need.



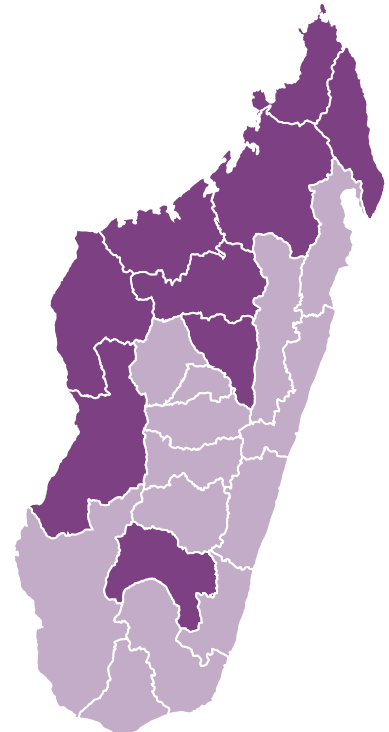
Only 12% of health facility staff are trained to distribute and educate families about the importance of vitamin A.



21% of women of childbearing age suffer from vitamin B12 deficiency.

Where We Work

- Analamanga
- Betsiboka
- Boeny
- Diana
- Ihorombe
- Melaky
- Menabe
- Sava
- Sofia



Our Solutions



Partner with the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF to coordinate vitamin A distribution to children across eight regions, build health system capacity to increase vitamin A supply so that all children under the age of 5 will benefit.



Train health and community workers to distribute vitamin A through door-to-door campaigns and routine health center visits.



Work with partners within the National Food Fortification Alliance to strengthen food fortification through standards setting, advocacy, testing, and support for businesses.



Our Impact

- ✓ Provided biannual doses of vitamin A supplements to more than 1 million children aged 6–59 months.
- ✓ Educated and trained more than 4,980 community health heroes to support their communities.
- ✓ Increased awareness of the benefits of fortified edible oil and bouillon among government, businesses, and consumers, and helped launch the first locally produced fortified bouillon.

Key Partners: GiveWell, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

About Helen Keller Intl

Guided by our founder's remarkable legacy, Helen Keller Intl works to improve the lives of people around the world by protecting vision, enhancing nutrition, and fighting disease. Working in 20 countries—across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States—we help families grow and eat nutritious food, stave off malnutrition, strengthen their immune systems, access life-saving medical treatments, avoid blindness, and protect their vision. Together, with a global community of supporters, we're building a world where every person can live a healthy life filled with potential.

Contact Information



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