



## Saving Lives Through Improved Access to Contraceptives in Niger

The government of Niger's National Action Plan for Family Planning aims to control population growth and improve maternal and child health by focusing on five key tenets: 1) creating demand; 2) offering accessible services; 3) securing commodities; 4) developing policy, enabling environment, and financing; and 5) coordinating and conducting follow-up evaluations. Since fiscal year (FY) 2018, USAID's Global Health Supply Chain – Technical Assistance (GHSC-TA) Francophone Task Order (TO) has provided systems strengthening technical assistance in Niger, supporting the key priorities of the Direction de la Planification Familiale (DPF), the Direction de la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant (DSME), and the Agence Nigérienne de Réglementation du Secteur Pharmaceutique (ANRP).

The project has partnered with the Nigerien government to help secure commodities, develop policy, and conduct follow-up evaluation. To achieve these goals, the project supported the country in three key areas: 1) improving best practices for distribution, warehousing, and logistics; 2) optimizing forecasting and procurement processes, and 3) improving monitoring and evaluation through enhanced data visibility and stock monitoring.

### USAID Investment

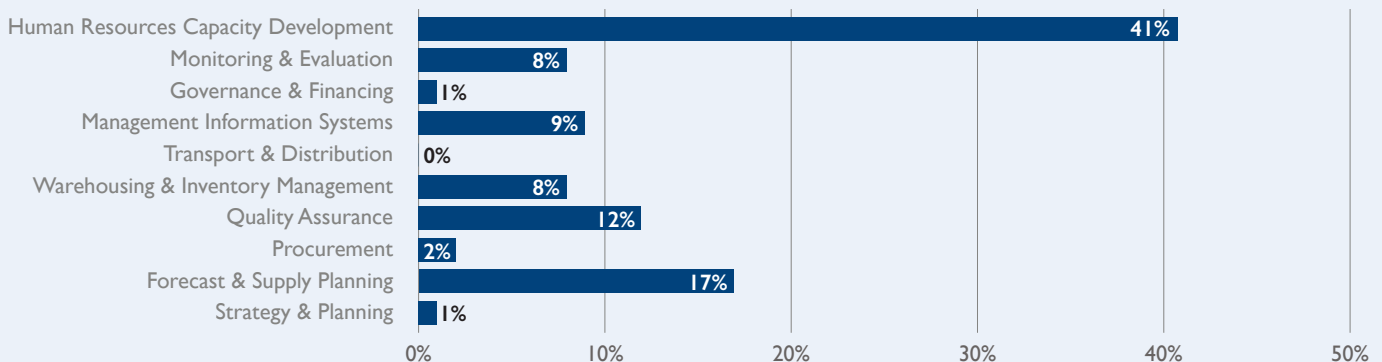
By the end of FY 2022, USAID had provided technical assistance valued at \$965,744.<sup>1</sup> The project supported the Ministry of Health in improving knowledge and skills to strengthen inventory management and workforce development.

### Key Activities and Achievements

Through the project, USAID has invested in family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) commodities and strengthened the supply chain to help Nigeriens meet their contraceptive needs. Through this investment, USAID, in partnership with the government of Niger, achieved the following results:

- 148 health workers trained in Inventory Management Assessment Tool (IMAT) and supply chain management contributed to a 55% decrease in stockout rates at district warehouses.** The project has strengthened compliance with stock management standards by training a national pool of 148 health workers on the IMAT and supply chain management. To ensure continuous availability of commodities, health workers use the IMAT quarterly to gain an enhanced understanding of stock on hand to ensure they are receptive to open and collaborative approaches to problem-solving, to strengthen monitoring performance toward project goals, and to foster the use of data for decision-making. Health workers' IMAT activities contributed to a 55% reduction in stockout rates at district warehouses in the USAID-supported regions of Maradi and Zinder.
- Improvements in forecast accuracy through enhanced capacity of FP/RH supply plan actors.** Beginning in FY 2018, and in collaboration with Niger's Office National des Produits

### Investment by Supply Chain Area\*



\*Knowledge management, program management, and office operations costs are allocated across technical subcategories based on the proportion of funding spent in each technical subcategory.

<sup>1</sup> From FY 2017 to FY 2022, the project received funding directly from USAID/West Africa Regional Office. In FY 2021, in addition to USAID/West Africa Regional Office funds, the project began receiving bilateral funds from USAID/Niger. The noted amount reflects allocations from both missions.



55%

Reduction in district warehouse stockouts



29%

Improved forecast accuracy for FP/RH commodities



69



79

Health workforce trained in warehousing and inventory management and supply chain management

Pharmaceutiques et Chimiques (ONPPC), the DSME, DPF, and sector partners, the project identified FP/RH supply chain technical assistance to address recommendations from ONPPC's recent audit. Building on this partnership in FY 2019, the project supported two ministry bodies — Niger's Commodity Security Working Group and the Supply Chain Technical Working Group — to achieve technical independence in leading a logistics management committee<sup>2</sup>. To further bolster commodity security, the project trained 65 supply chain actors in forecasting and supply planning. By the end of FY 2020, the DPF was able to develop annual forecasts and update supply plans independently. These efforts to secure commodities led to a 29% improvement in forecast accuracy of FP/RH commodities, reaching a 96.5% forecast accuracy rate in FY 2021.

• **Innovative hotline call center contributes to 50% reduction in service delivery point stockout rate.**

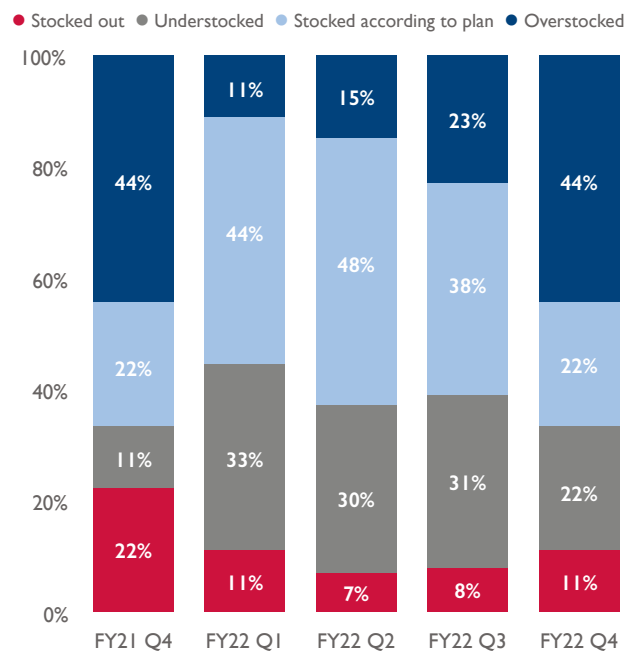
The project partnered with a local hotline service provider to address frequent stockouts that result from last-mile challenges in the project-supported health districts of Maradi and Zinder. Launched in July 2021, the hotline led to a notable 50% reduction in stockouts by collecting FP/RH logistics data at service delivery points, ensuring greater access to FP/RH commodities.<sup>3</sup>

## Future Investment Opportunities

In collaboration with Nigerien partners, the project has made significant improvements to help ensure the supply of FP/RH commodities. To maintain and further build on the progress, stakeholders will focus future investment opportunities<sup>4</sup> on several key areas of growth. Activities will include applying experience and best practices from the public sector to the

non-governmental sector. In particular, the project will utilize the Guide to Best Practices in Distribution and Warehousing, originally developed for the public sector, to conduct a landscape analysis and needs assessment for the non-governmental sector. Additionally, the project will develop an early warning system for the non-governmental structures to prevent stockouts of FP/RH commodities. Finally, establishing a non-governmental technical working group for commodity security will provide a forum to share information and collaborate to address challenges in the sector.

### Maradi and Zinder FP/RH Commodity Inventory Rates



In Maradi and Zinder, FP/RH commodity stockout rates decreased from 22% in Q4 of FY 2021 to 11% in Q4 of FY 2022.

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<sup>2</sup>Technical Independence is a project indicator that documents and measures the GHSC-TA Francophone TO's ability to transfer technical capacity to supply chain institutions within the countries where the project operates. The indicator measures the percentage of targeted supply chain activities in which the host-country entity has achieved technical independence with project support.

<sup>3</sup>As of FY 2022, the hotline covers 60% of health facilities in the regions of Maradi and Zinder.

<sup>4</sup>USAID's continued support will be limited to the non-governmental sector until current USG restrictions are lifted.