

USING THE CMAM SURGE APPROACH TO BUILD HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE DURING ACUTE MALNUTRITION PEAKS, NIGER

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CONTEXT

Niger still faces **recurrent peaks of malnutrition**, creating at times and in health facilities (HF), **an overload of work** that is detrimental to the quality of services.

To respond effectively to these peaks, **Concern Worldwide Niger**, in partnership with the **Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health (MoH)**, has deployed since 2014 the **"Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Surge Approach"**.

First piloted in 11 HFs in the Tahoua region, and currently implemented in 457 HFs, of which **94 are supported by Concern**, CMAM Surge aims to strengthen the **resilience of the health system** to anticipate, prepare for and respond to peaks in malnutrition.

This scale up has been implemented under the **Pilot Programmatic Partnership** funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

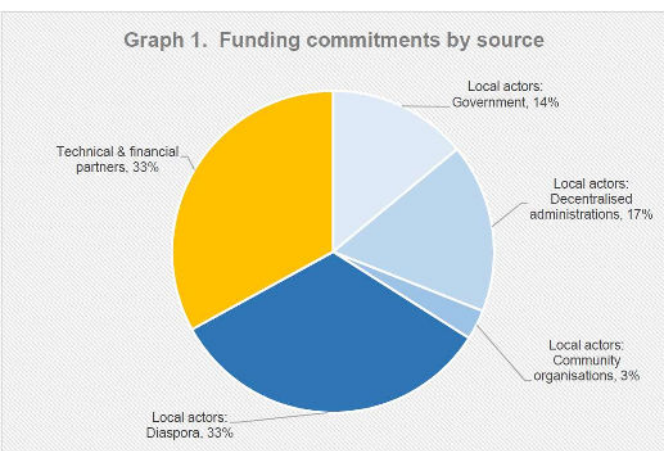
METHODOLOGY

- ✓ Document review;
- ✓ Interviews with stakeholders (administrative, political and health authorities, health care providers)

RESULTS

CMAM Surge has contributed to **the achievement of Goal 3 of Niger's 2017 - 2021 Health Development Plan** which is to *"Enable all people to live in good health and promote well-being for all at all ages"* through:

- **Capacity building** of community organizations and **strengthening links** between decentralised structures.
- Supporting **full ownership of CMAM service delivery** by all stakeholders through strengthening their commitment to financing activities especially during periods of increased demand.
- In six communes where the ECHO-funded Enhanced Responses to Nutrition Emergencies (ERNE) programme is active, the Surge approach has enabled local actors **to finance 67% of the costs** of responding to the peaks in year 2022 (Graph 1).



In addition, the CMAM Surge Approach has strengthened component 3 of the **"Integrated Strategic Plan for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent and Youth Health and Nutrition"** (2019 - 2022) on the aspects of prevention and management of malnutrition and crisis management.

This is evidenced by the **national ownership of the approach**, through the development and adoption in July 2021 of a **national strategy for 'The Surge Approach applied to Nutrition'**.



Photo 1: Concern team on a support supervision visit to a health facility in Tahoua region, 2021

CONCLUSIONS

As an approach to strengthening the resilience of the health system, CMAM Surge in Niger has contributed to **promoting the good health and well-being of the population, especially children**, by strengthening the capacity of the HFs to anticipate, prepare and coordinate responses during acute malnutrition peaks.

It has also contributed to **addressing some of the challenges associated with sustainable financing of health actions**, by engaging and securing the commitment of community actors.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Inclusiveness of Surge process** fosters ownership, commitment and supports sustainability of the approach
- Establishing monitoring committees** facilitates resource mobilization.

NEXT STEPS

The integration of the Surge approach into the MoH CMAM protocol is currently under revision. It will include a new chapter entitled **"Preparedness and Response to Spikes in Malnutrition"**.

Concern is strongly involved and supporting this revision.

