



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



## Strengthening household and community food safety in Nigeria

Household-level food safety is a significant economic and public health concern in Nigeria, which has a childhood stunting rate of 33%. Exposure to foodborne illness through inappropriate food storage, cross-contamination, and infected food handlers contributes to a vicious cycle of illness and malnutrition and impacts the development and nutritional status of young children.

Our project is identifying facilitators of and barriers to reducing the prevalence of foodborne disease in Nigerian households with young children. Using a community-based approach that harnesses the perspectives of youth, mothers, primary health care providers, community development personnel, government representatives, civil society leaders, and community-based organizations, we are collaboratively identifying strategic, feasible activities to mitigate and prevent household foodborne illnesses.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluating household vulnerability to foodborne illnesses by monitoring food safety practices, assessing environmental sanitation, and measuring child nutritional status.
2. Understanding what factors and conditions make households vulnerable to food safety risks and documenting mothers' challenges in providing safe and nutritious meals.
3. Assessing the extent to which existing federal or governmental policy is recognized and implemented by key stakeholders.
4. Using a participatory approach, identifying and prioritizing programs and policy actions to improve household food safety through cross-sector collaboration.

**The Food Safety Innovation Lab (FSIL) leverages global food safety expertise in locally led projects that address the root causes of foodborne illness. By identifying food safety knowledge gaps and developing data-driven food safety practices and policies, FSIL projects create systemic change that strengthens household and community nutrition, food security, and economic opportunity.**



## PROJECT OUTCOMES

- ▶ Identification of the most common food safety risks in households, the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old, household practices that impact food safety, and challenges faced by mothers in providing safe and nutritious foods for their children.
- ▶ Assessment of the critical policy and regulatory needs of organizations to support their efforts to implement the national food safety plan and improve food safety at the household level.
- ▶ Data-driven maps that identify priority areas for food safety improvements and the identification of key actions and policies to improve household food safety.
- ▶ Increased consumer awareness of food safety practices to reduce foodborne illness within households.
- ▶ Enhanced partnerships among community, private, and public entities to monitor and improve food safety at the household level in Ibadan and foster scaling up food safety practices and policies across Nigeria.

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For more information about Food Safety Innovation Lab projects, visit: [purdue.ag/foodsafetyIL](http://purdue.ag/foodsafetyIL)



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