WHO’s Work on Fortification

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Fortification can impact nutrition, health and development targets

- Improved folate status
- Improved iodine status
- Improved iron status and anaemia
- Improved Vitamin A status
- Reduced congenital anomalies
- Reduced neonatal mortality
- Improved brain function and development
- Reduced childhood mortality
- Reduced childhood morbidity

Double duty actions

Fortification can impact nutrition, health and development targets

Why WHO works in fortification?

Unpublished, do not cite
WHO’s work in fortification 2011-2020

- Initiation of VMNIS upgrade (40+ biomarkers of status)
- Guideline on use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by infants and children 6–23 months of age
- Estimates of anaemia 1990-2011
- Technical consultation on maize flour and corn meal fortification in public health
- Guideline on optimal serum and red blood cell folate concentrations in women of reproductive age for prevention of neural tube defects
- Nutritional anaemias: tools for effective prevention and control
- Updated anaemia estimates (1990-2016)
- Technical consultation on Risk of excessive Intake of vitamins and minerals delivered through public health interventions
- Nutritional rickets review of disease burden, causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment
- Essential Nutrition Actions: mainstreaming nutrition throughout the life-course
- FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (GIFT)
- Logic model for micronutrient interventions
- Technical consultation on rice fortification in public health
- Guideline on fortification of food-grade salt with iodine
- Birth defects surveillance manual for programme managers
- Technical consultation on fortification of condiments and seasonings
- e-Catalogue of indicators adds indicators for fortification
- Guideline on fortification of maize flour and corn meal with vitamins and minerals
- Updated guideline on use of multiple micronutrient powders for point-of-use fortification of foods consumed by infants and young children aged 6–23 months and children aged 2–12 years
- Guideline on fortification of rice with vitamins and minerals in public health
- Guideline on use of ferritin concentrations to assess iron status
- Micronutrient survey manual
- Guideline on wheat flour fortification (in progress)
- Flour fortification monitoring manual (in progress)
WHO’s Work in Fortification

- **Convening role**
  - Guideline development groups.
  - Technical consultations and working groups.
  - Non-state actors in official relations with WHO: IFPRI (Harvest Plus), Iodine Global Network, Nutrition International (GAVA & HF-TAG), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition.
  - Multilevel network – HQ, Regional and country work.

- **Technical expertise (across units)**
  - Basic science: biomarkers and safety.
  - Evidence synthesis: systematic reviews.
  - Observer role on boards of the groups working in fortification.
  - Programme implementation in Asia, Africa and Latin America: salt, maize, rice, oil, wheat flour.
  - Monitoring and surveillance.

- **Renewed focus on food systems**
  - New food safety strategy, fortification and biofortification, Standards and Trade Development Facility.
WHO’s work for 2021-2025

- Normative Work
- Implementation tools
- Surveillance
- Advocacy
- Capacity building
- Technical Assistance
- Evidence Generation