

May 20th, 2021

The WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Reference: A.22 Multiple micronutrient supplement – antenatal supplement – EML

Dear Committee Members,

Feed the Children-Honduras, is pleased to present this letter with the sole intention to express support the inclusion of the Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) during Pregnancy in the Essential Medicines List (EML) for the reasons outlined below:

According to official government statistics, Honduras has a global fertility rate of 2.5 children and a mortality rate of 1.59% infants, both common sociodemographic characteristics related to high levels of poverty, deficiencies in public health, food insecurity, and non-diverse diets.

The FAO Statistical Yearbook 2020, estimates that 13.8% of the population of Honduras is undernourished, with an average consumption of 2553 Kcal per capita per day, but mostly consumed in cereals (47%), sugars (17%) and fats/oils (13%); and just 4% of the diet is composed of fruits and vegetables, despite the fertile soil to produce. Being under the level of the Americas (6%) and the World (7%) on the consumption of micronutrients of this natural sources. Honduras is considered to have 55% of its population in food insecurity, incremented with the COVID-19 global pandemic economic impact according to the Integrated Phase Classification.

This problem requires complex interventions such as improving consumption and production behaviors for the communities; strengthening the public health system and improved methodologies of nutritional surveillance; however, the need is immediate and systemic and a population with the mentioned conditions, without proper supplementation of micronutrients; will become an exponential human and economic cost to the country. The acquisition, distribution, and proper administration of Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) for Pregnant Women, will help to break the generational cycle of undernourishment and will improve the future living conditions of the unborn.

We expect this letter of support will contribute the efforts of the inclusion of MMS during pregnancy in the EML


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