Review of Barriers to Food Fortification Implementation in countries

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Barriers to Food Fortification Implementation

- Background
- Potential Barriers
- Conclusions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat flour</td>
<td>66 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1 country (Papua New Guinea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat flour and maize flour</td>
<td>14 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat flour and rice</td>
<td>3 countries (Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat flour, maize flour, and rice</td>
<td>2 countries (Costa Rica and the United States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No grain fortification legislation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Legislation has effect of mandating grain fortification with at least iron or folic acid. Legislation status from the Food Fortification Initiative (www.FFInetwork.org) May 2016
Magnitude of hidden hunger: the micronutrient gap

Barriers to Food Fortification Implementation

- Potential Barriers
  - Public health nutrition gaps
  - Technical, implementation & programmatic gaps
  - Limited available national and global data
  - Poor monitoring and evaluation
  - Inadequate quality control and compliance
  - Poor communication of change, benefits and risks
  - Issues of access and equity
Barriers: public health nutrition

- Resource capacity: institutional, personnel and financial
- Often limited terms of engagement and effective governance for multi-stakeholder partnerships and effective PPP
- Often limited national leadership, awareness of problem and what needs to be done
- Because untargetted – need to identify who is not being reached
Barriers: technical barriers

- Optimal fortificants and vehicles
- Measurement of other impacts e.g. stunting, intellectual development
- If not centralized e.g. small home or rural mills and processing, multiple origins of salt, unfortified cornmeal etc.
- Bioavailability and nutrient-nutrient interactions
- Suitable biomarkers
Barriers: coverage and institutional

• **Data**
  – Dietary
  – Consumption trends

• **Coverage**
  – Households
  – Intrahousehold distribution

• **Institutional**
  – Commercial penetration
  – Capacity necessary for compliance and enforcement
Barriers: M & E

• Who, when, how and the consistency of intakes
• Identifying other sources of the same micronutrient e.g. commercial voluntary fortification and supplements
• Missing global data e.g. IDD Global Score card has no data for 41 countries
• Adding outcomes such as increased work capacity
Barriers: compliance

- Increased perceptions and behaviours between industry, governments and enforcement bodies
- Increased capacity and training – and budgets to support these
- Tracking tools developed that increase accountability and can be used in resource-constrained settings
- More effective use of regulations, legal instruments and consumer organizations
Barriers: poor communication of change, benefits and risks

- Insufficient understanding by Government bodies of consequences of deficiencies and the need for action e.g. fortification
- Insufficient understanding by the consuming public of benefits of increased consumption and hence sustainability
- Better knowledge of regulations, commitments and penalties by all
- More use of consumer organizations
Barriers: access and equity

• Access and equity is an underdeveloped field for fortification but clear there are disadvantaged, less accessible groups
• Maybe little access due to:
  – poverty and financial constraints
  – geographical constraints
• A lack of availability (c.f. example of Coca Cola rural penetration)
• Often consumption of different food staples by economic status e.g. cassava
Conclusions

- Increased momentum for implementing national food fortification programmes, especially in LMIC
- Technical, programmatic, institutional and adequate compliance barriers remain
- These, along with addressing issues of coverage and access equity, need to be specifically addressed for better implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation and then compliance are underutilized and need to have higher priority