

Assessment of Feasibility and Potential Benefits of Food Fortification in Ethiopia

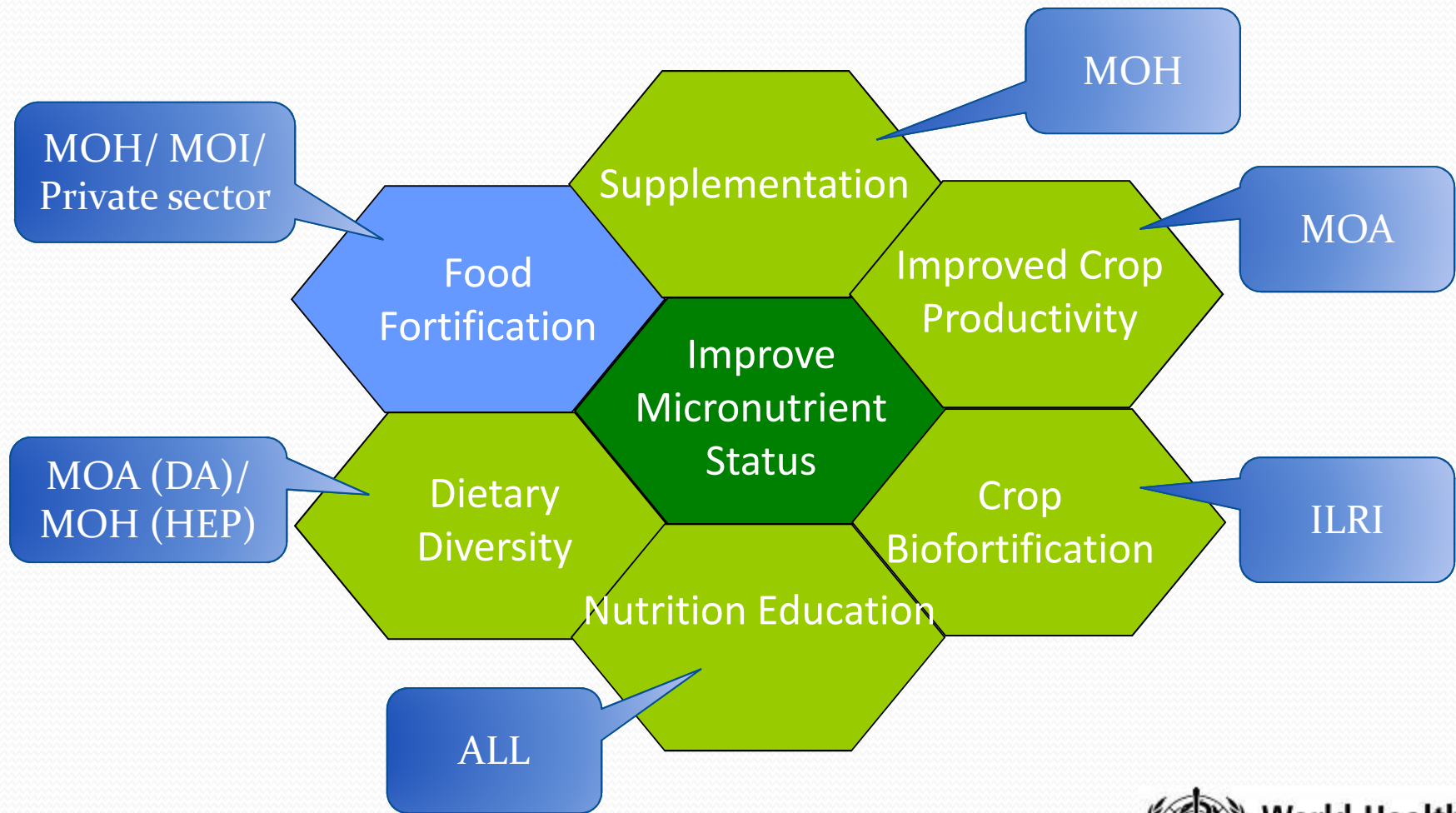


Federal Ministry of Health



The NNP presents an opportunity to build on the current portfolio of affordable and effective micronutrient interventions and bring them to full scale. Food fortification can play a key role within the context of comprehensive multiple strategies to reduce micronutrient deficiencies.

Food fortification is not the only solution: it should be part and parcel of a national nutrition programme



Source: Juan Pablo Pena Rosas, Micronutrient Unit



In-depth assessment on food fortification that included

- Industry assessment, providing the feasibility of fortifying identified key staple food items.
- Regulatory environment, policy development process, coordination mechanism, and fortification management structure
- Cost of implementing fortification for the identified key staple food items.
- Development of a national food fortification action plan.



What to fortify?

Three traditional proven fortification food vehicles

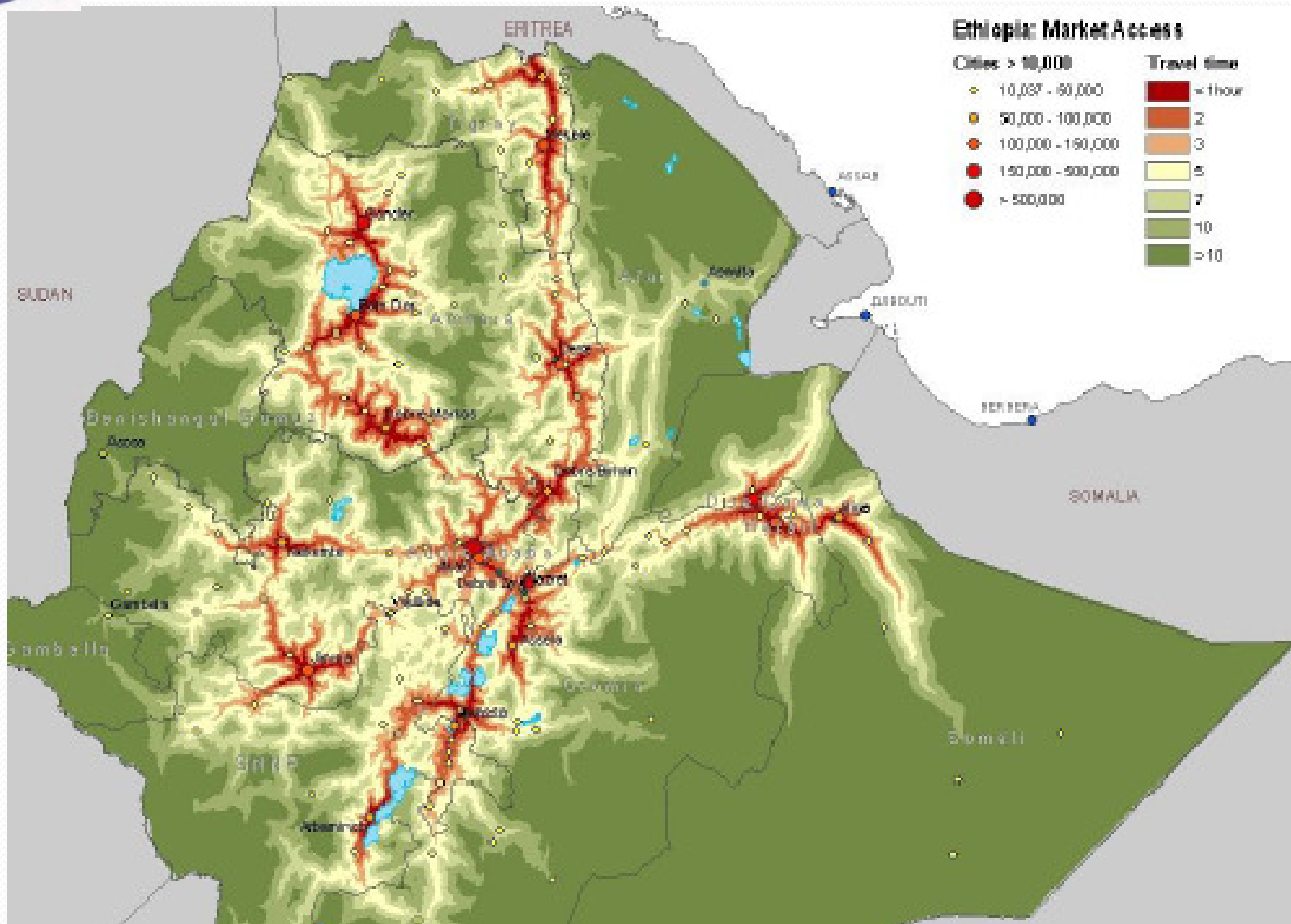
- Wheat flour,
- Edible oil and
- Sugar are

High consumption, Wide distribution and Centralized processing required by fortification.



Consumers of Potentially Fortified Items Consumption (HIECS, 2000) and Population (CSA 2009)

	Total	Rural	Urban
Population	79,455,634	66,265,999	13,189,635
Wheat flour	28%	18%	89%
	22,247,578	12,270,056	11,688,648
Sugar	21%	12%	83%
	16,925,629	8,048,997	10,910,702
Edible oils	55%	19%	92%
	43,700,599	12,696,626	12,005,662





Flour fortification

- About **53% of wheat flour consumption** can be fortified at the nation's 208 registered mills **> 22 million people**.
- More than $\frac{1}{4}$ WHO Estimated Average Requirements for iron and $\sim\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ WHO Estimated Average Requirements for folic acid. Based on estimated per capita consumption of 130 g/day.
 - These benefits can be achieved in the short term with annualized 10-year costs of about \$2.3 million, about \$0.10 per beneficiary per year.



Mandatory regulations and capacity building to enable fortification of all wheat flour with at least iron and folic acid (2.6 ppm).



Conclusion

Based on estimated coverage and suggested effectiveness, it is envisaged to estimate reductions in prevalence of micronutrient effectiveness including:

- **More than 1 million cases prevented,**
- **4600 saved lives** and
- **Reduction in economic losses by about \$37 million annually.**

10 Year Projected Budgets, are estimated at ~\$36 million.



Conclusion/ cont...

Fortification at national scale, defined as 28% population coverage with fortified flour and 48% coverage with fortified oil is possible within 2-4 years and will require the following:

- *Further developing NNP as well as capacity to mobilize stakeholders*
- *Creating public and private stakeholder awareness and support for fortification.*



Conclusion/ cont...

- *Revising Ethiopian National Standards for flour and oil to include mandatory fortification.*
- *Resource Mobilization for Program Development, Capacity Building and Initial Operations.*



Timetable

- Capacity Building and Initial Operations [NAFF] (2011-2012)
- Food Consumption survey (ongoing - Nov 2011 – serve as baseline for M&S)
- Sustained consumer BCC/ IEC
- Continued policy and program development as well as resource mobilization (2011-2012)
- Policy and Standards Development (2011)