

# Botswana Food Fortification

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# Where are we?

- Food Vehicles: Sorghum and Maizemeal
- 40-45 000 tonnes sorghum grains needed per year.
- 30 000 tones of maize is needed per year.
- At the moment there is no fortification regulation or standard in place in the country except for salt.
- Sorghum and Maizemeal are the main food vehicles produced commercially but majority are produced by small and medium enterprises.
- Though no fortification law, we have a directive that has ensured that foods for government feeding programme-under fives to be fortified (Tsabana)
- Botswana has a functional food control system (inspectorate, lab and legislation)

# Where do we want to go?

- Conduct national survey to determine whether we need national fortification legislation.
- Find government stand on fortification
- Data centralisation on nutrition (inventory)
- Put fortification legislation in place
- Fortification strategy
- Public private partnership
- IEC material to sensitise the public and industry
- Have a well equipped laboratory able to test fortified products.

# Challenges and Constraints

- No consensus between government and industry on fortification
- No legislation
- No collaboration on food fortification
- Consumer sensitisation
- No government advocacy
- Most milling is done by small to medium enterprises (capital)

# Solutions

- Government should have a clear stand on fortification (all other issues will be addressed).
- Functional fortification board
- Fortification Strategy
- Fortification legislation
- Advocate for fast tracking the approval of legislation at policy level.
- Capacitate the lab
- Partner with NGO's
- Taskforce developed to gather information on micronutrients
- Fortification programme launch

# Timelines

- Data survey on micronutrients in Botswana-6 months
- Development of regulations and standards- 2 year
- Capacitate key stakeholders on fortification-ongoing
- ISO accreditation required- 3 years
- Establish food fortification board and all stakeholders should be involved-ongoing