

LESOTHO REPORT ON FLOUR
FORTIFICATION
BY
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CURRENT STATUS

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- Two milling companies are voluntarily fortifying for wheat flour and maize meal
- Premixes are purchased from DSM and each delivery is accompanied by a certificate of analysis
- Periodically samples are sent to an external accredited laboratory in SA for total iron and vitamin A

NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

- There is a Micronutrient Task-team coordinated by Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (Cabinet) composed of the following; Milling Company, Academia, MAFS, MTI, MOH, MCC, NGOs and UN
- The team is mandated to create awareness on food fortification matters

STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- There is a Policy and Regulation in a draft form.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- To capacitate quality control and quality assurance with equipment, procedures (SOPs) and human resource to address food fortification issues
- To train the millers on how to perform spot checks for iron as an indicator to verify for food fortification

NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS

- To improve coordination on food fortification activities
- To clearly identify and understand the mandate of each stakeholder to avoid duplication of efforts
- To train Inspectors on how to perform spot check at the mills, port of entry, retails and household level
- To develop a monitoring tool
- To create awareness on food fortification eg media, IEC

STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- To formulate food fortification standards for maize meal and wheat flour
- To advocate for mandatory food fortification regulation
- To establish and accreditate National Laboratory where millers sent samples

CHALLENGES

- No standards for food fortification in place
- Lack of proper equipment to verify food fortification
- Lack of human resource
- Lack on knowledge on how to set specifications for food fortification
- Funding for procurement of reagents

SOLUTIONS

- Coordinated efforts between milling industry and public sector
- To share information amongst relevant stakeholders and the public on food fortification
- To centralize information on food fortification
- The government to waver tax on premixes

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

- For setting specification in food fortification
- Accreditation on ISO 17025 standards
- Training on the use of iCheck for laboratory technicians
- Training on spot check for inspectors and millers.

TIME FRAME

- To capacitate quality control and quality assurance with equipment, procedures (SOPs) and human resource to address food fortification issues
- BY May, 2017
- To train the millers on how to perform spot checks for iron as an indicator to verify for food fortification
- BY June, 2017

TIME FRAME cont.

- To improve coordination on activities
 - To clearly identify and understand the mandate of each stakeholder to avoid duplication of efforts
 - To train Inspectors on how to perform spot check at the mills, port of entry, retails and household level
 - To develop a monitoring tool
 - To create awareness on food fortification eg media, IEC
- By September, 2015
 - By September, 2015
 - By June, 2017
 - By January, 2016
 - On going