

Enable Laboratory Assessment Results



Background

- ENABLE was implemented by GAIN with funding from USAID to address the policy and regulatory impediments to accessing nutritious therapeutic products for IYC, OVC and PLWHA.
- Regional intervention in East Africa (Uganda, Kenya & Tanzania) and national intervention in Mozambique. Key objectives:
 - Identify priority policy gaps and constraints to the enabling environment for local production and access to specialized nutritional foods
 - Create an enabling environment for local production of a range of fortified products typically used in the context of nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS) programs.
 - Assess government with regard to regulatory control systems for quality and safety standards of therapeutic, supplementary and complementary foods

Pillars of the Regulatory Framework

- Standards and regulations
- Monitoring and enforcement
- laboratory testing capabilities

Focus of the ENABLE Assessment

- ❑ Strength of regulatory policy in relation to fortified foods and specialised nutritional products
- ❑ Adequacy of current standards and regulations applied on these foods
- ❑ Enforcement processes and capacity of government authorities to enforce the standards and regulations
- ❑ Analytical capability/capacity of government laboratories and the testing options available to them

Scope of the Assessment

- Analytical capability/capacity
- Ability to test
 - Micronutrients
 - Quality parameters
- Available testing options.

EXAMPLE OF LABORATORIES TESTING EXPERTISE (Regional)

	LAB A	LAB B	LAB C	LAB D	LAB E
Micro-micronutrient					
Vitamin A	Yes (LC,UV)	[Yes (UV)]	Yes (UV)	Yes (UV)	Yes (TLC)
Vitamin B group	No	No	No	No	Yes
Iron	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Zinc	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Iodine in salt	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Premixes	No	No	No	No	No
Food safety parameters					
Heavy metals	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Aflatoxins	Yes	No	[Yes]	No	Yes
Pesticides	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
PAHs, PCBs	No	No	No	No	Yes
Microbiology	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Proximate Analysis	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Laboratories Assessed in Uganda

- **Food Control Agencies**
 - Uganda National Bureau of Standards
 - National Drugs Authority
- **Academia and research institutions**
 - Makerere University
- **Private Sector**
 - Chemphar



General Observation (Regional)

- Variable testing expertise.
 - Generally expertise in some areas is strong; e.g. microbiological testing.
 - Expertise exists in micronutrient analysis in some labs but in general there are gaps in this area
- Few laboratories accredited to ISO 17025; scope limited. In most cases micronutrient analysis not covered.
- Limited training opportunities.
- Lack of equipment but maintenance or setting aside budgets to maintain equipment even a bigger issue.
- EAC proficiency testing scheme in place

Laboratory Recommendations (Regional)

- **Building testing expertise in:**
 - Micronutrient analysis (foods and premixes)
 - food safety - mycotoxins, pesticides in foods, veterinary drugs in foods of animal origin
- **Accreditation for micronutrient analysis**
- **Strengthen the EAC Proficiency Testing scheme** as important QA/QC tool for EAC and other laboratories in the region (links with ECSA, SADC, COMESA etc.)
 - Extend scope to vitamins, pesticides, heavy metals, and microbiological
 - Use workshops after PT rounds as a training platform
 - Build capacity to accredit the EAC PT scheme to ISO17043:2010
- Need to ensure food control agencies commit to maintenance budgets.