

The role of Codex Alimentarius in food control and food safety and its implication for fortified flours

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Outline of the Presentation:

- **International Food Standards**
 - ❖ Brief on the Codex Alimentarius
 - ❖ Definition of Codex food standards
 - ❖ Definition of National Codex Committees
- **International Nutrition Recommendations**
 - ❖ Historic update
 - ❖ Examples of international nutrition recommendations
 - ❖ A new approach to developing nutrition recommendations
 - ❖ Applying international nutrition recommendations to the Middle East region

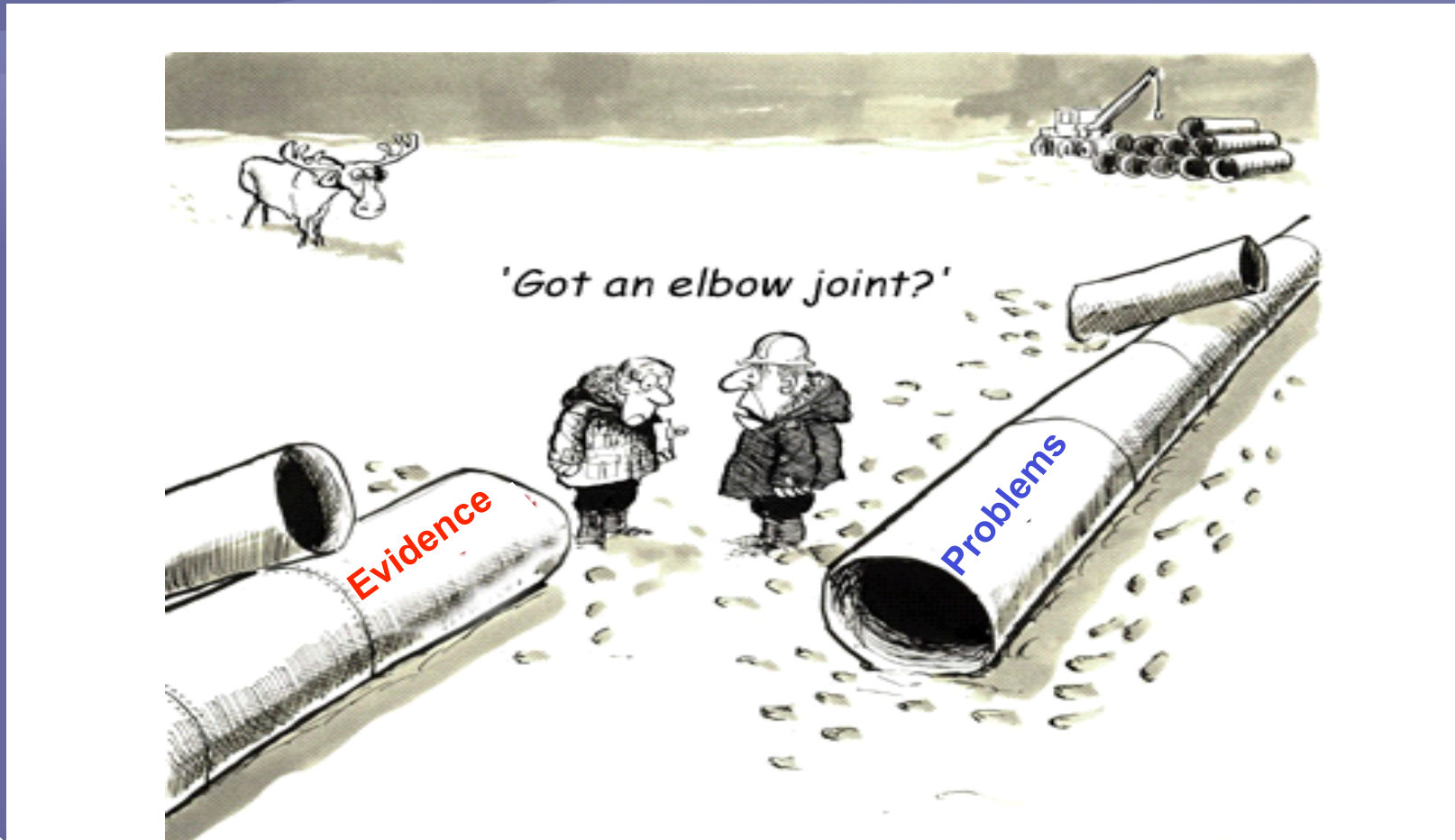


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Research to Action: connecting evidence to problem solving



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WHO Core Functions

1. Providing **leadership** on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed
2. Shaping the **research** agenda, and stimulating the generation, dissemination and application of valuable knowledge
3. Setting **norms and standards**, and promoting and monitoring their implementation
4. Articulating ethical and evidence-based **policy options**
5. Providing **technical support**, catalyzing change and building sustainable institutional capacity
6. **Monitoring** the health situation and assessing health trends



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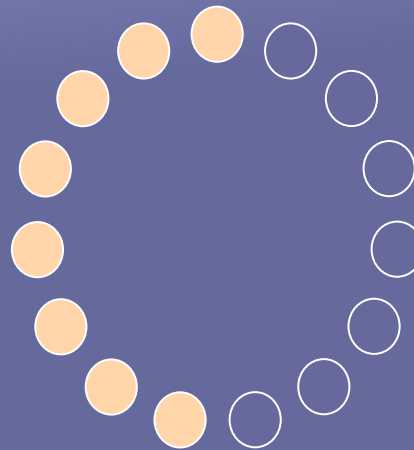


WHO Nutrition Guideline Development Process 2010-2011



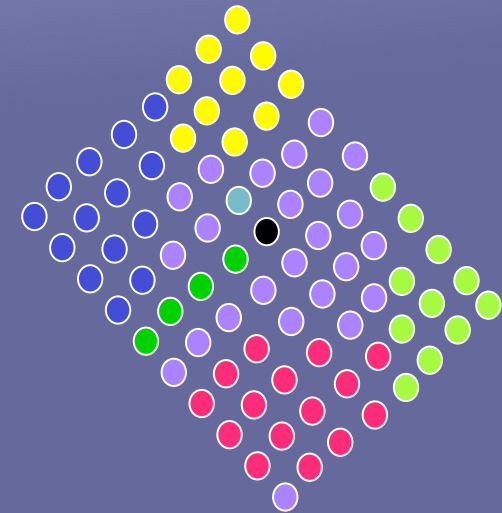
WHO Guideline Steering Committee

partners membership
joint recommendations



WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group

geographic representation
multi disciplinary
gender-balanced
un-conflicted as possible
40-50 members



Key Nutrition Stakeholders and Experts Panel

open documented process

- WHO Micronutrients Mailing List
- SCN Mailing List
- WHO Nutrition Website



WHO evidence-informed guidelines

- ◆ Need for more rigorous processes to use best available research evidence
- ◆ Resolution at 58th World Health Assembly (May 2005) requested the Director-General *"to undertake an assessment of WHO's internal resources, expertise and activities in the area of health research, with a view to developing a position paper on WHO's role and responsibilities in the area of health research, and to report through the Executive Board to the next World Health Assembly"*
- ◆ WHO asked Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) for advice and established the Subcommittee on the Use of Research Evidence (SURE)
- ◆ Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) established in 2007
- ◆ Nutrition Guidelines are systematically updated using evidence as of 2010



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WHO guidelines: standards for reporting

- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ Remarks
- ◆ Purpose (Justification)
- ◆ Background
- ◆ Scope of the Guideline (Content and Questions)
- ◆ Review Groups (Technical Consultation)
- ◆ Summary of WHO Statement Development
- ◆ Management of Declaration of Interests
- ◆ Plans for Update
- ◆ Acknowledgements
- ◆ References



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The image shows the cover page of a WHO Global Guideline. The top section is green with the WHO logo and the text 'World Health Organization' on the left, and 'WHO Global Guideline' on the right. Below this, the title 'Home fortification of foods with multiple micronutrient powders for children 6 to 23 months old' is written in white. The bottom section is white with a green header 'content'. On the left, there is a table of contents with numbered boxes (1, 5, 1, 4, 1, 4, 5, 6) next to the section names. On the right, there is a summary of the guideline's purpose and scope.

World Health Organization

WHO Global Guideline

Home fortification of foods with multiple micronutrient powders for children 6 to 23 months old

content

1	Scope and purpose
5	Background
1	Summary of the evidence
4	Recommendations
1	Remarks
4	Dissemination, adaptation and implementation
5	Research implications
6	Guideline development

Home fortification of foods with multiple micronutrient powders in children 6-23 months of age is an effective strategy to improve iron status and reduce anaemia, with few side effects.

Scope and purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide global, evidence-informed recommendations on the use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of complementary foods.

It is the aim of these recommendations to help Member States and their partners in their efforts to make informed decisions and to accelerate the implementation of nutrition interventions for

Food Fortification and Food Safety

Addition of nutrients shall guarantee a food based supply to meet nutritional requirement.

Fortification is an act of balance:

- ◆ **prevention of deficits** at population level, of specific risk groups, of the individual
- ◆ **avoidance of oversupply** of the added nutrient
⇒ emerging from increasing consumption in the misconception that the intake of the concerning nutrient is eligible (role of publicity)



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Food Safety Control -HACCP

- ◆ Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)
- ◆ HACCP programme development
 - ◆ Hazard Analysis
 - ◆ Fortificants are hazards in a food production context
 - ◆ Critical Control Points
 - ◆ *What is needed where* to bring hazards under control
- ◆ Standard Operational Procedures
- ◆ Monitoring
- ◆ Documentation
- ◆ Trained staff
- ◆ Management commitment
- ◆ Clear roles and responsibilities
- ◆ Audit and review of food safety control programme – internal and external



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International Food Standards:

- IFS are established by the Codex Alimentarius or “Food Code” to:
 - ❖ Protect the health of consumers
 - ❖ Ensure fair practices in food trade
 - ❖ Assist policy makers in building sound national food system
- Codex Alimentarius organization (established by FAO and WHO in 1963)
 - ❖ Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
 - ❖ CA Executive Committee
 - ❖ CA Secretariat
 - ❖ CA Subsidiary bodies



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What is an International Food Standard?

Definition: An international food standard is a set of criteria that a food must meet if it is to be suitable for human consumption, such as source, composition, appearance, freshness, permissible additives, and maximum bacterial content.

Examples:

- ✓ CAC/GL 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods
- ✓ CAC/GL 24-1987: General Guidelines for Use of the Term Halal



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What is an International Food Standard?

- Codex standards are based on the best available science provided by FAO and WHO
- While being recommendations for voluntary application by members, Codex standards serve in many cases as a basis for national food legislation
- Codex members cover 99% of the world's population.
- Members of the WTO and signatories of the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) are expected to participate in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission



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Nutrition Recommendations - General

- INR are evidence-informed recommendations prepared by well known scholars and researchers under the scientific supervision of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Aim to promote nutritionally acceptable diets and therefore improve the nutrition of people.
- Nutrition Recommendations have a long history of almost 100 years.
- WHO improved the process of generating all nutrition recommendations through establishing the Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) in 2007, standard stepwise procedure, and the Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG).



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Micronutrient related recommendations:

Another area of nutrition receiving increased focus of international recommendations is micronutrient deficiencies and their related supplementation and fortification strategies, some examples are:

- Vitamin A supplementation guidelines (1997)
- Guidelines on food fortification with micronutrients (2006)
- Use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification by children 6 to 23 months of age (2011)
- Rice fortification with iron and folic acid (in preparation)



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◆ Thank you



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