



The USAID
Micronutrient and
Child Blindness Project



Local achievements and advances attributable to the ECSA-USAID Regional Initiative

Carol Tom

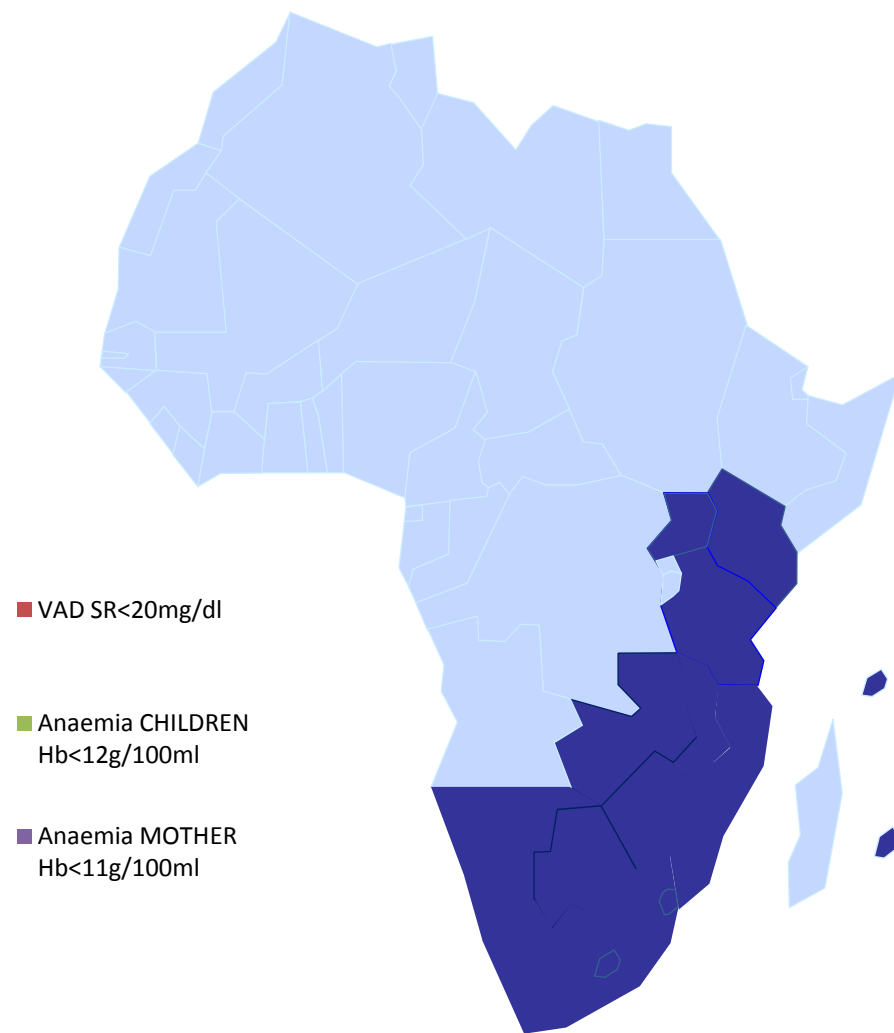
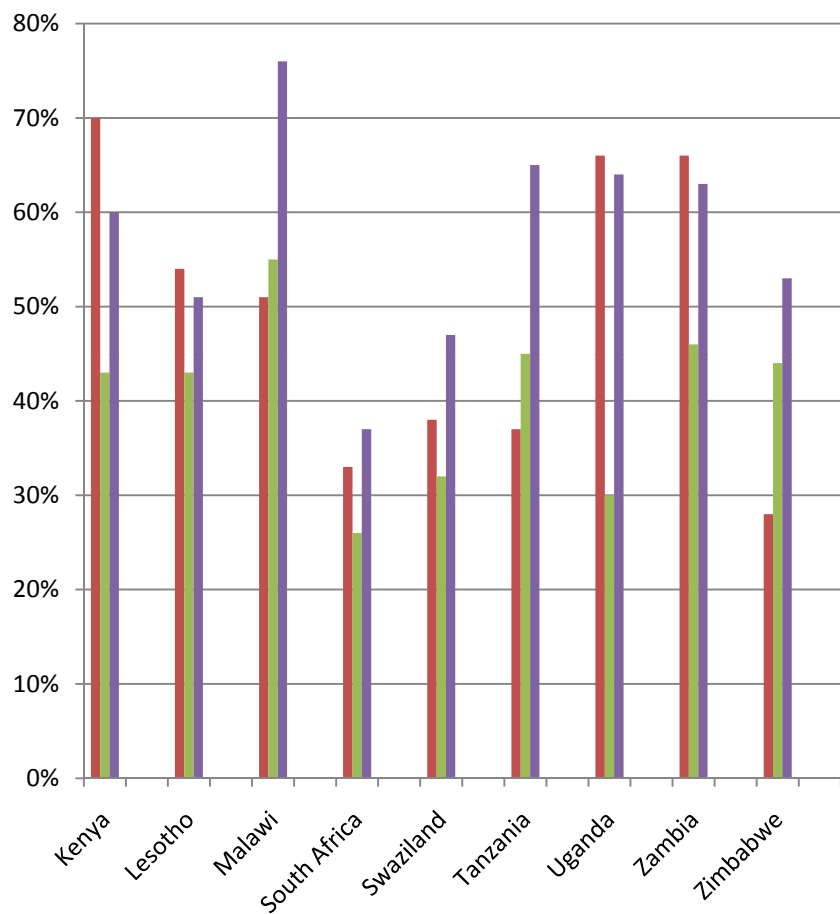
Food Fortification Advisor, A2Z Project

Cornerstone Meeting – Washington, DC

June 13th, 2011



1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION



Health Ministers of the ECA countries passed a Resolution directing the Secretariat to promote food fortification initiatives



ECA Health Community



PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION

1st planning workshop in Lusaka, Zambia in April 2004
attended by 9 countries from the region



Consensus statement

*Building regional collaboration will facilitate the implementation of
this vital national public health intervention”.*



ECSCA Health Community



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ECSA FF PROGRAM

GOAL: INCREASED PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION OF ADEQUATELY FORTIFIED FOODS

MAIN OBJECTIVE: Fast-track the implementation of food fortification in the ECSA Region through adequate policy and legislation, technology and research, promotion monitoring and surveillance

Specific Objectives

1. Fortify sugar and edible oil with vitamin A

2. Fortify flours with iron, zinc, vitamin A, folic acid, vitamins B-1, B-2, B-6 and B-12

3. Ensure all countries achieve Universal salt iodation



Approach to implement the Program

Technical working Groups formed and developed action plans to formulate harmonized guidelines to support FF programs

- 1) Regulations, Standards and Food Control
- 2) Laboratory Network and strengthening
- 3) Trade and Technical Support
- 4) Coordination, Advocacy and resource mobilization and later in 2009,
- 5) Monitoring and Evaluation

Groups comprised of chief nutritionists, program managers, standards and food control officers, laboratory personnel, regional trade officers, researchers and food manufacturers from the Member States including fortificant suppliers

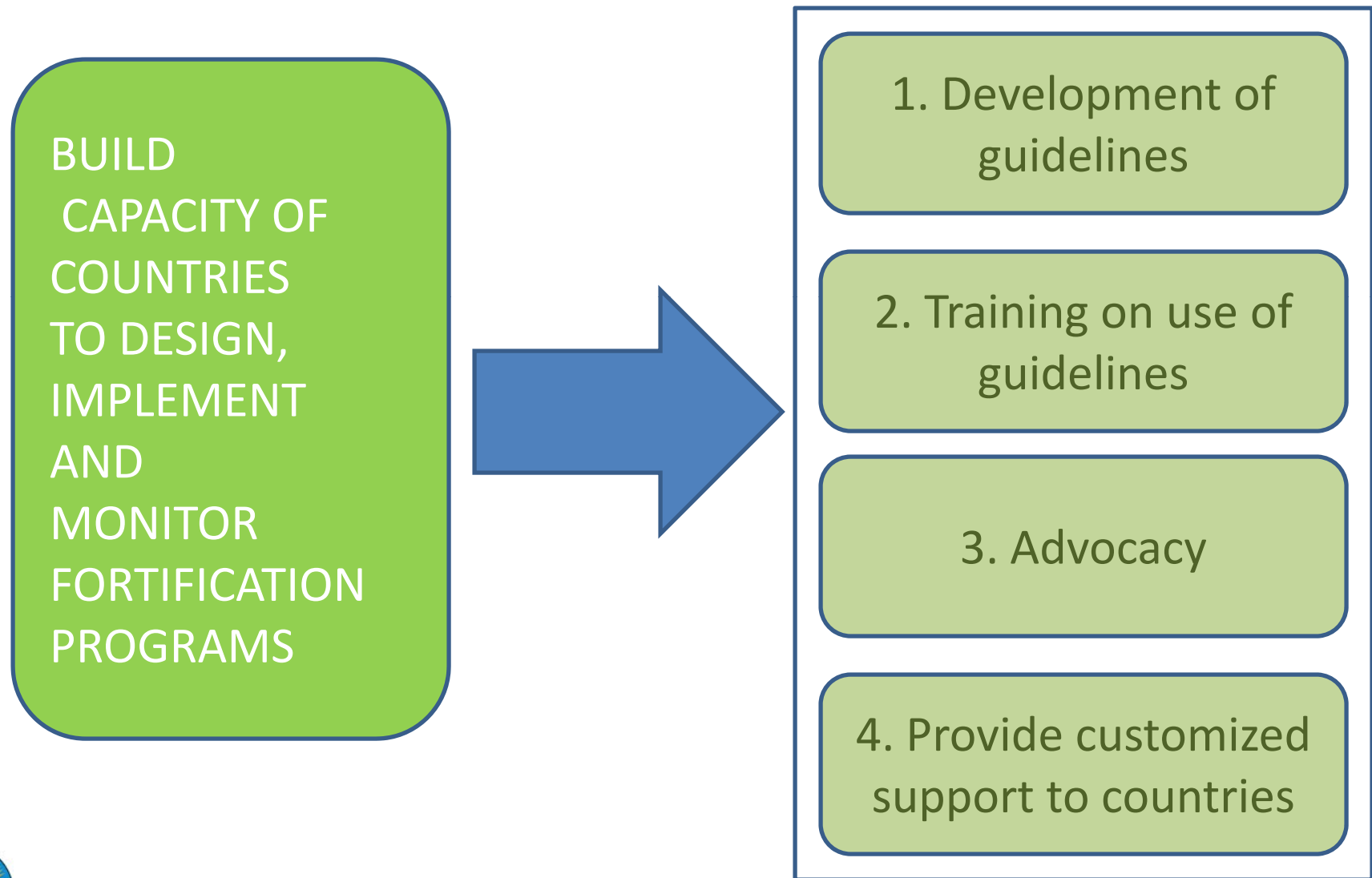
Financial and Technical assistance –
USAID, UNICEF, MI, GAIN, WB, CDC, ICCIDD.



ECSCA Health Community



Main Areas of Focus



Achievements

Area of Focus 1: Development of Guidelines

1. Development of harmonized guidelines on levels of addition at factory and for monitoring at market level (using data obtained from countries)

Nutrient / fortificant compd	Fortificant Compound	Average Addition (mg/kg)	Factory Level (mg/kg)	Regulatory level (mg/kg)	
				Min	Max
Example of Wheat flour					
Vit A	Vit A Palmitate. SD	1	1±0.4	0.5	1.4
Vit B-1	Thiamin Mononitrate	9.8	9.8±4.4	4.6	14.2
Vit B-2	Riboflavin	6.6	6.6±3	3.3	9.6
Niacin	Niacinamide	60	60±30	30	90
Folate	Folic acid	2.3	2.3±1	1.1	3.3
Vit B-12	Vit B-12 0.1%	0.02	0.02±0.0.019	0.01	0.029
Iron	NaFeEDTA*	30	30±10	20	40
Zinc	Zinc Oxide	88	88±28	60	116
* If the iron levels are incompatible with the flour, switch to Ferrous Fumarate at 40mg/kg					

Achievements....

Area of Focus 1: Development of Guidelines

2. Development of 17 food control manuals covering internal quality control; and technical auditing and inspection of fortified salt, oil, sugar, maize flour and wheat flour

3. Development of a laboratory manual – qualitative and quantitative test methods for iodine, vit A, Iron and Vit B12



Achievements....

Area of Focus 2: Training

Conducted several trainings to build skills and impart knowledge to officials from different Govt agencies – Bureaus of Standards, Food Control, Laboratory personnel, program managers and even the private sector

Established a Laboratory Proficiency Scheme to improve testing capabilities of laboratories
- 4 rounds have been conducted and network of lab analysts emerged



Achievements...

Area of Focus 3: Advocacy

A2Z through the ECSCA Secretariat has advocated to the Governments on the need to allocate resources for fortification as a public health intervention.

- Sugar fortification in Kenya and soon in Malawi
- Oil fortification in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi
- Maize fortification started in Uganda and will be scaled up in Kenya and Zambia
- Rwanda to pass legislation on mandatory fortification of 3 foods

Kenya: Fortification is one of the V2030 MTP 1 flagship projects



Lessons Learned

1. A regional approach reduces duplication of efforts in development of standardized implementation and monitoring tools and guidelines that can easily be adopted and provides an opportunity for peer review and assessment among member countries and institutions within the countries which supplements national level advocacy



Lessons Learned

2. Support for locally led efforts leads to quick buy-in and effective programs:

“Once local players feel part of a process that affects them and their communities and know how regulations, standards, processes and decisions were arrived at, change will be effective. We don’t believe in cut and paste from other places or being told ‘do this’. We want to be consulted on the specifications for food fortification in our region. We are open for discussion where there is a give and take. This is my opinion.”
- Peter Mutua, Kenya



Lessons Learned

3. Need for sustained support

Only those countries who have received sustained support in designing and scaling up have made good strides in fortification programs e.g Uganda, Malawi, Kenya and lately Tanzania

4. Need for favourable partnerships

Partners should see their contributions to the region as the metaphorical fortificant that adds value to something already being produced and partners must take the initiative to nurse that [relationship] and make it grow”.

Allie Kibwika - former ECSCA HC Director of Operations and Institutional Development





Acknowledgments

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