

Vitamin A insufficiency remains a significant global health challenge. Despite over 40 years of experience with various interventions, from food-based to dietary supplements, concerns remain about the best practice under specific conditions of use.

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The concept of the Integration to Effective Implementation (I-to-I) approach is driven by two factors: 1) the need to recognize diet/exposure is but one step in achieving healthy nutritional status, and that nutrition is a biological variable that serves as both an input and outcome to be considered as integral to all aspects of health promotion, disease prevention and treatment; and, 2) the nature of the process for translation of research findings to evidence-informed programs and policies involves a connection of multiple steps and disciplines. These two elements have sometimes been lost in the often "siloeed" effort to achieve measurable and immediate public health objectives. The I-to-I approach brings together often divergent perspectives to recognize and harmonize efforts to implement the continuum of effort involved in global food and nutrition. That continuum includes four main stages: 1) basic, clinical and population-based research, 2) translation of that research to safe and effective interventions, 3) development, implementation and evaluation of targeted programs utilizing those interventions, and 4) engagement of the enabling stakeholders to support the roll-out, scale-up, evaluation and sustainability of those programs. The process also includes an appreciation that this continuum is circular and will continuously generate new input and output to inform each stage. This session will apply the I-to-I approach to current issues with specific regard to the safe and effective use of vitamin A interventions to achieve public health objectives.