

Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) for Pregnant Women

Illustrative Roadmap to a National MMS Program

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Topics

- Past *is* prologue: bringing public health innovations into everyday practice
- How MMS introduction to date squares with the historical record
- Getting from here to there: MMS into every day practice: an illustrative roadmap to a national MMS program



Introduction

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Retrospective insights on global introduction of public health interventions:

- **Previous introduction/scaling initiatives:**
 - Oral rehydration therapy
 - Clinical methods of contraception
 - Urgent obstetrical care
- **Process for bringing innovations into everyday practice varies by intervention, health system circumstances, and country factors....but....**
- **There are some common elements in the pathway to introduction and scaling**

Introduction

Retrospective insights on global introduction of public health interventions:

- **Evidence first** – raising awareness and advocacy follows
- **International, regional, and domestic professional meetings** – are a critical vehicle for moving national influencers/decision-makers to consider action
- **National stakeholder meetings** – are essential for achieving consensus among national influencers/decision-makers regarding evidence and need, and to create momentum for:
 - Local ownership of the process for change
 - Actions that lead to a recommendation make a change in policy; and formulation and adoption of a policy
 - Program exploration, introduction and scaling

Introduction

Retrospective insights on global introduction of public health interventions:

- An ***effective*** implementation strategy with a means to measure and review progress and findings – is critical to bring any public health innovation into everyday practice – usually includes:
 - An exploratory period to examine how to introduce and scale the intervention so that it is effective in real world conditions
 - Scaling the intervention in an orderly manner informed by lessons learned during the initial introduction

Where are we now with respect to MMS?



MMS – Where We Are Now

Compelling Evidence

Efficacy, safety, cost-effectiveness, affordability established

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Getting from here to there



An Illustrative Roadmap to a National MMS Program

National Introduction & Scaling

As we get on the “on-ramp”....consider:

- The roadmap is illustrative only; “high-level” only; and **not** a definitive template. It’s intended to stimulate discussion
- WHO’s evolving position affects intensity of interest, and even whether there is interest to explore MMS
- The “**roadmap**” ≠ country-specific “**implementation strategy**”.
Several MMS distribution channels exist:
 - Clinic- and community-based ANC services offered by national and NGO health systems
 - Social marketing systems, private practices and pharmacists

Introduction of MMS presents an opportunity to strengthen ANC services; and country-specific strategies need to grapple with **how** MMS introduction can be used to strengthen ANC services

Roadmap to National MMS Program

Preparatory and Advisory Phase I (months 1 – 12)

Focuses on fostering an enabling environment

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Introduction Phase II (months 12 – 36)

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Preparatory and Advisory Phase I (months 1 – 12)

Focuses on fostering an enabling environment

Introduction Phase II (months 12 – 36)

Focuses on implementation research & advancing procurement relationships

Scaling Phase III (months 30 onwards)

Focuses on expanding implementation coverage and use

National Program Roadmap

Features of roadmap:

- Enables rapid activation of MMS policy while ensuring immediate access to product supplies for **introduction phase**
- Allows time for implementation research to inform scaling – at a time when product availability is limited
- Where domestic manufacturing is sought, affords reasonable time for manufacturers to gear up; and incentivizes manufacturers through early engagement as partners
- Synchronizes program activation with MMS product availability
- Provides a framework through which stakeholders with diverse interests & capabilities can find an entry point for their assistance

Needs & Gaps: Identifying Where Action is Needed by Global Stakeholders

Enabling Environment

Supply

Demand



Thank You

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Framework for Action

Framework for action assumes:

- 3- to 5-year time horizon of assistance from global stakeholders
- Targets roughly 15 targeted “sentinel” countries that are “influencer” nations within their region
- Criteria for sentinel countries will need to be defined, but might include that countries have:
 - Self-identified as responsive to assistance as a result of awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives
 - UNICEF country office presence with “convening” stature
 - Reasonable prospect of having qualified local manufacturing or re-packaging capacity
- Opportunistic support is available for other highly motivated countries that seek to adopt MMS