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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Enabling Environment
Approaches are demonstrated for raising awareness, advocacy, engagement, consensus-building and regulatory support
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**Supply**
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Effectiveness (adherence) as compared to IFA is a key concern
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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
Roadmap to National MMS Program

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Introduction Phase II (months 12 – 36)
Focuses on implementation research & advancing procurement relationships
Roadmap to National MMS Program

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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