DInA 2025 Small Grants: Large Scale Food Fortification Data

Request for Proposals

The Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance (DInA), hosted by the Micronutrient Forum, brings together a diverse network of national, regional, and global stakeholders to improve the availability, quality, accessibility, and utilization of micronutrient data to support national level decision-makers.

<u>DInA's Small Grants Program</u> supports partners and members in low- and middle-income countries to undertake research activities or advocacy efforts on a thematically relevant topic identified annually. These grants are awarded for a one-year period.

Focus of the 2025 Small Grants Program

The 2025 Small Grants Program will focus on country-led efforts to strengthen the large-scale food fortification (LSFF) data ecosystem. LSFF is a proven, cost-effective intervention to improve micronutrient intake and address micronutrient deficiencies as part of a broader food systems strategy to improve poor diets. LSFF has a proven track record of success over the past several decades:

- 147 countries have mandatory or voluntary salt iodization programs, eliminating iodine deficiency and goitre in much of the world.
- 94 countries have legislation that mandates fortification of at least one industrially milled cereal grain.
- More than 30 countries fortify edible oil.

Yet, there remains a large <u>unfinished agenda for LSFF</u> to realize its full potential. Critical data gaps—particularly for coverage and consumption metrics—continue to hinder effective implementation and scale-up. Robust scientific evidence and data on the prevalence and severity of micronutrient deficiencies, dietary patterns, and population consumption habits are essential for effective program design and policy actions.

DInA aims to support national fortification stakeholders in generating and using new evidence and data to inform evidence-based LSFF programming, strengthen decision-making, and ensure fortified foods reach vulnerable populations. Collaboration among government agencies, and national and international partner organizations is crucial for the success of LSFF programs.

Opportunity

DInA invites eligible organizations to apply for small grants of up to \$15,000 USD to collect, analyze, translate, and/or disseminate data and evidence that focuses on LSFF-related policymaking in national and regional contexts. This funding supports priority actions at national, regional, and global levels to





improve LSFF ecosystems for the purpose of improving diets and reaching populations most at risk of micronutrient deficiencies.

Eligibility

To qualify, applicants must:

- Live and work in a low- and middle-income country (as classified by the World Bank)
- Be a member of DInA (become a member here).
- Represent an organization or stakeholder group (e.g., government, academia, non-profit etc.)
- Commit to working on an LSFF policy-related topic.

Proposals from National Fortification Alliances (NFAs)—or those working in conjunction with an NFA—are highly encouraged. This is particularly important given the close alignment of NFA's mission and the objectives with this round of the DInA Small Grants program. NFAs serve as a coordination body for the diverse stakeholders involved in LSFF to work cohesively with regional nutrition and fortification bodies to ensure adherence to standards and regulations. In addition to being a valuable platform for coordination and oversight of LSFF programs, NFAs often commission research on fortification focused topics, advocate for effective program design, establish functional systems of program monitoring and compliance reporting, and address barriers to effective implementation of fortification across the value-chain.

Application Process

- Download and complete the application form here.
 - 1. Submit the completed form via email to DInA@micronutrientforum.org by 30 April 2025 (11:59pm ET).
 - 2. Include:
 - a. A CV for the grant focal person.
 - b. Letter(s) of support from the submitting organization and relevant stakeholders indicating their commitment to participate in the activity.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed for eligibility, clarity, and completeness. Successful applicants must present a well thought out plan to improve the LSFF data ecosystem in a country or regional context. Priority will be given to projects that:

- Support country commitments to LSFF data.
- Evaluate LSFF consumption and compliance metrics.
- Analyze LSFF program data and translate findings into policy-relevant insights.
- Facilitate regional collaboration to generate and share more LSFF data to influence policy decisions.
- Have a high likelihood of downstream actions to support national decision making regarding LSFF programs.
- Encourage collaboration among key stakeholder groups.
- Would not be possible without this funding.

Data Sharing and Publication

Any newly collected or analysed data must be freely available (open access). Publication of results in a peer-reviewed, open-access journal is strongly encouraged.





If you have any additional questions about this request for proposals, please contact us at DInA@micronutrientforum.org.

Timeline









February 6, 2025 Request for proposals

April 30, 2025 Proposal deadline

May 2025 Review of applications

June 2, 2025 Notification of award

