

## Micronutrient Data Group Meeting Notes

November 12, 2025

[Link to Recording](#)

The Micronutrient Data Group, coordinated by DInA, convenes quarterly to facilitate the sharing of project updates among members and seek feedback from the wider micronutrient data community. The aim of these meetings is to foster a collaborative working environment and cultivate synergies whenever possible. Participation is open to all individuals working with micronutrient data, and participation from those working at regional and national levels is strongly encouraged. The most recent meeting included four presentations and nine speakers, with the high-level minutes shared below:

### 1. Africa Regional LSFF Data Convening: Report

**Speakers: Kristina Michaux (DInA – Micronutrient Forum) and Doreen Marandu (ECSA-HC)**

[Slides Linked Here](#)

- The speakers provided an update from a recent Africa Regional Dialogue on Data for Action in Food Fortification, held from Oct 28 – Oct 30 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was co-organized by DInA, the ESA-RCM co-chairs (SADC and ECSA-HC), RCM secretariat organizations, and the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Industry, Ethiopia.
- The meeting convened 100+ participants from 13 African countries and global partners. It provided a platform for countries to share experiences and lessons learned on LSFF data collection, analysis, and use; and identify solutions to close LSFF data gaps in their contexts.
- Key take-aways: there is need for capacity strengthening for the region and countries to adapt, apply, and use available tools and resources, including fortification dashboards like GFDx; regional collaboration and data leadership can be strengthened through platforms such as the ESA-RCM; well-defined standardized indicators are needed to support countries in developing LSFF information systems and promoting cross-country harmonization and regional alignment.
- The importance of strengthening quality assurance and regulatory systems was emphasized to address the performance gap whereby many fortified foods do not meet national standards. Participants asked how this issue was addressed during the meeting. Country-level data landscape assessments revealed that while some countries have well-integrated data systems, many countries have significant gaps in their compliance and coverage data. In response, the meeting discussed mechanisms to improve data sharing, including the use of live dashboards, as well as the application of existing coverage and compliance tools.
- The meeting outputs include: LSFF country data landscapes; prioritized actions to strengthen regional and country-specific LSFF data systems; and country inputs on priority data needs to feed into LSFF indicator guidelines. A meeting summary report will be available in January 2026.

### 2. Global Prevalence of Vitamin A and Zinc Deficiencies and the Attributable Disease Burden Among Children: Findings from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2023 Study

**Speaker: Demewoz H. Woldegebreal (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation)**

[Slides Linked Here](#)

- GBD released a [publication](#) in October 2025 comparing the magnitude of diseases, injuries, and risk factors across age groups, sexes, locations, and year, which includes four major

micronutrients deficiencies (vitamin A, zinc, iron, and iodine). During this meeting, the presenter provided a deep dive on the burden of diseases attributed to [vitamin A and zinc](#).

- GBD estimated the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency (VAD) in 2023 was 11% and zinc deficiency was 25% among children (12-59m), with the greatest burden in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).
- An estimated 21,000 deaths and 2.2 million DALYs among children worldwide were attributed to VAD, with about 88% of attributable deaths and 84% of attributable DALYs occurring in SSA. An estimated 6000 deaths and half a million DALYs among children worldwide were attributable to zinc deficiency, with the majority of deaths occurring in SSA.
- Trends data showed reductions in both VAD and zinc deficiency, with a greater decline in VAD.
- A question was raised about the type of data used to estimate deficiencies, and it was noted that biomarker data are used to determine deficiencies. Historically, dietary intake data were used for zinc models.
- A participant asked to what extent IHME considers mediating pathways (e.g., the role of vitamin A in regulating vaccine seroconversion) when estimating disease burden and raised the possibility that the burden of VAD may be underestimated. Currently IHME is only modeling measles.
- A question was asked if IHME undertook an analysis to assess whether changes in the prevalence of deficiency was attributable to the programs operating in those countries. This has not been done, but analyses in this is an area of interest, such as including covariates related to program coverage.

### **3. Cost Considerations for Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Data**

**Speaker: Rachel Halliday, R4D (Results for Development)**

[Slides Linked Here](#)

- There has been growing interest in building food and nutrition data systems at the national level. However, there is limited acknowledgement and understanding of the full set of monetary and non-monetary costs needed to build and maintain these data systems. In response to this, a decision support tool was developed by R4D and DataDENT to help policymakers consider these costs.
- A several step process was used to develop the tool: multisectoral nutrition data systems in Nigeria and Ethiopia were selected; a desk review of these data systems was done, and platform experts were interviewed to further explore costs related to how the data system functions. However, obtaining monetary or financial information about the data systems was not possible and thus the tool was developed without having figures.
- This excel-based tool is applicable to single-sector administrative data systems, single or multisectoral surveys, or multisectoral data systems for those who collect, aggregate, and/or share food and nutrition data for decision-making. A user guide has been developed alongside the tool, and this is currently under validation.
- The tool identifies necessary activities and related costs to develop and maintain a multisectoral system over time, including which sectors should be involved and whether new data governance policies are needed. Examples of how the decision-making tool can be used include when revising a planned survey, when revising an existing administrative data system, and when developing a multisectoral data system for nutrition.

### **4. Introduction of DInA 2025 Small Grant Awardees**

- The focus of the 2025 Small Grants is on strengthening the LSFF data system. The request for proposals was launched in February 2025 at a Micronutrient Data Group meeting. DInA received an overwhelming response with ~165 applications from across the world.

- The 5 grantees who were selected after a rigorous review process were introduced during this meeting. Each of the grantees for 2025 Small Grants Program presented a 2-min snapshot of their projects. More information on their projects is here: [Meet the 2025 Small Grants Program Grantees.](#)