

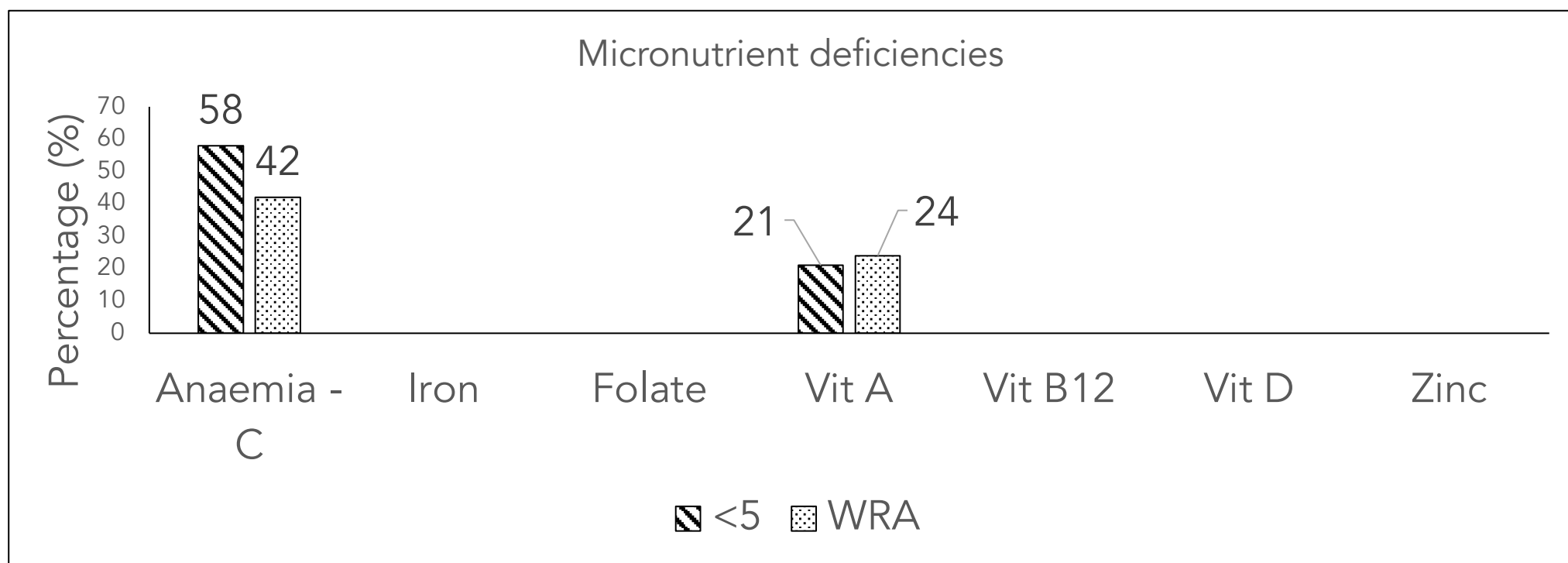
Zimbabwe Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) Data Landscape

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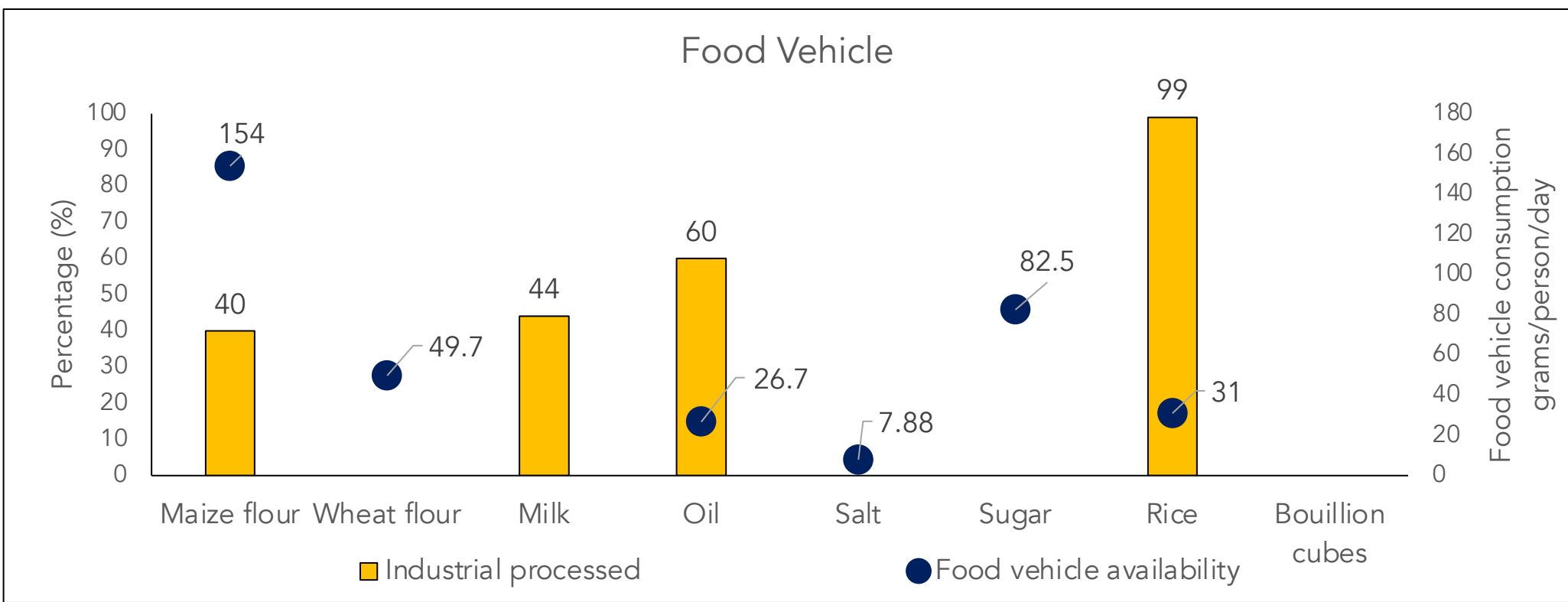
Data on Selection of Nutrients



Anemia - C: Anemia estimated using hemoglobin measured in capillary blood. Source: Anemia: Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (2024); Vit. A, iodine: Zimbabwe National Micronutrient Survey Results (2012)

- Anemia and vitamin A deficiency prevalent in children under 5 (U5) and women of reproductive age (WRA); no data for school age children (SAC).
- Iodine status (not shown) adequate ($>100 \mu\text{g/L}$) in SAC ($130 \mu\text{g/L}$) and WRA ($112 \mu\text{g/L}$).
- Last micronutrient survey in 2012 – planned update survey in 2022 was not carried out due to limited resources.

Data on Food Vehicles



Source: Industrial processed- Key informant interview data captured in GFDx biannual survey (2017-2018); Food vehicle availability - FAO, Zimbabwe Food Balance Sheets (2024).

Nutrient →	Fe	Zn	Vit A	Vit D	B1	B2	B3	B6	Folate	B12	Iodine	Std. Yr
Food vehicle ↓												
Maize flour	✓✓	✓X	✓✓	●	✓X	✓X	✓X	✓X	✓X	✓X	●	2016
Wheat flour	✓✓	✓X	✓✓	●	✓X	✓X	✓X	✓X	✓X	✓X	●	2016
Milk	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Oil	●	●	✓✓	✓X	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2016
Salt	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓✓	2000
Sugar	●	●	✓✓	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2016
Rice	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Bouillon cubes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Mandatory Fortification	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
Voluntary Fortification	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
No fortification	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
✓✓ - Added to address known deficiency ✓X - Added but unknown deficiency status ● - Can potentially be added to the vehicle ● - No data / Not applicable												

Source: Micronutrient status data; Legislation status; DInA key informant interview data.

- Food balance sheet do not capture individual consumption patterns and can overestimate nutrient intakes (e.g., sugar) and raise unnecessary concerns about overconsumption.

Opportunities for Data-Driven Decision-Making



Collaboration for data systems

- Use a sentinel surveillance system to address gaps in micronutrient status data.
- Strengthen existing data systems to better support fortification - e.g. consider use of the Health Management Information System (HMIS) to capture data on neural tube defects.
- Incorporate fortification indicators into the annual Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC) study, shared with Cabinet and partners to support decision making processes.



Monitoring

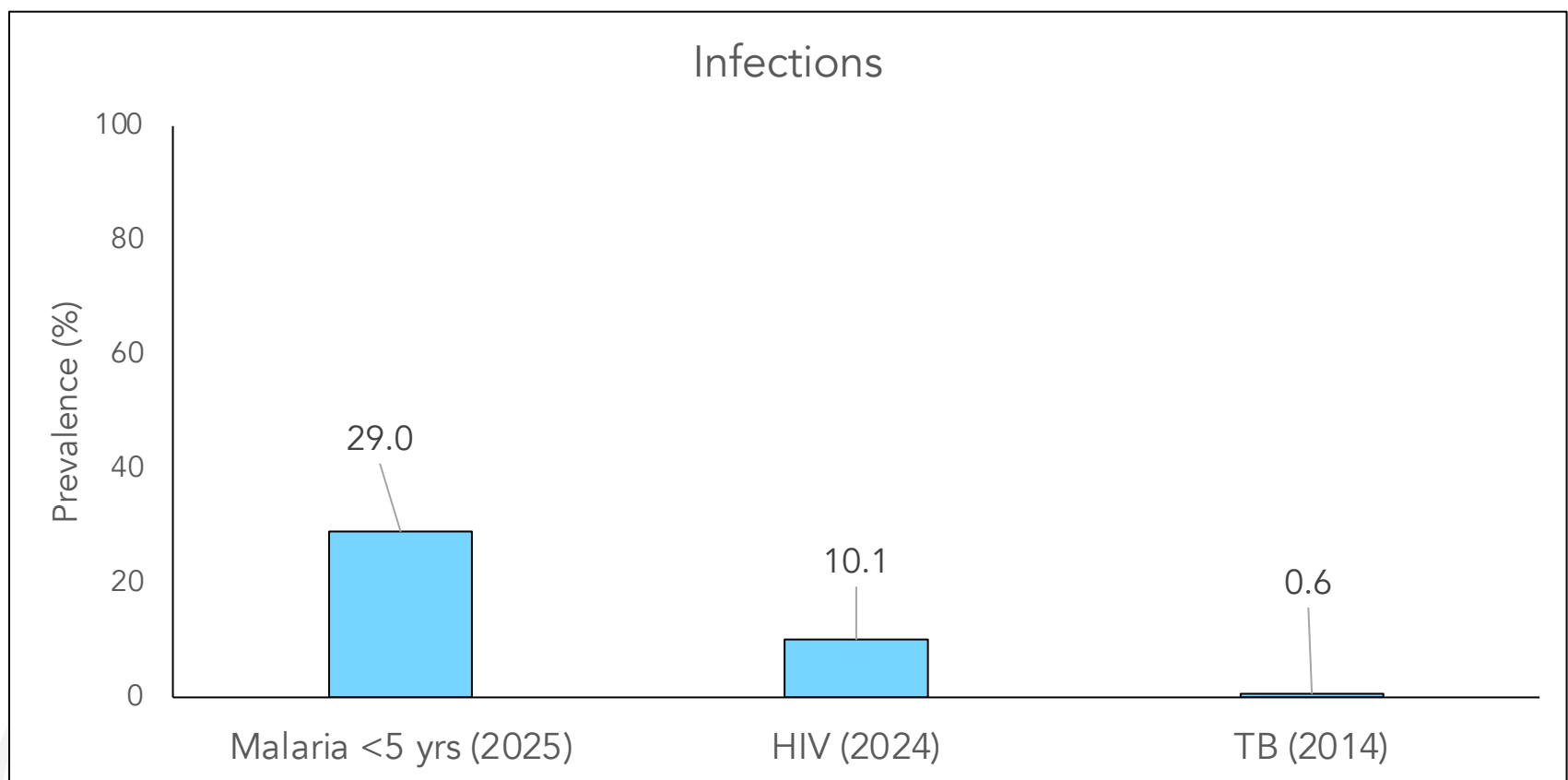
- Expand field testing capacity by providing additional test kits for inspectors to enable them to assess program performance in smaller localities beyond major urban centers.
- Use risk-based prioritization approaches for inspection and monitoring, with coordination between the Ministries of Health and Industry.
- Strengthen laboratory capacity for micronutrient testing.
- Consider including industry data in the HMIS to allow for data transparency and open access.



Prioritization

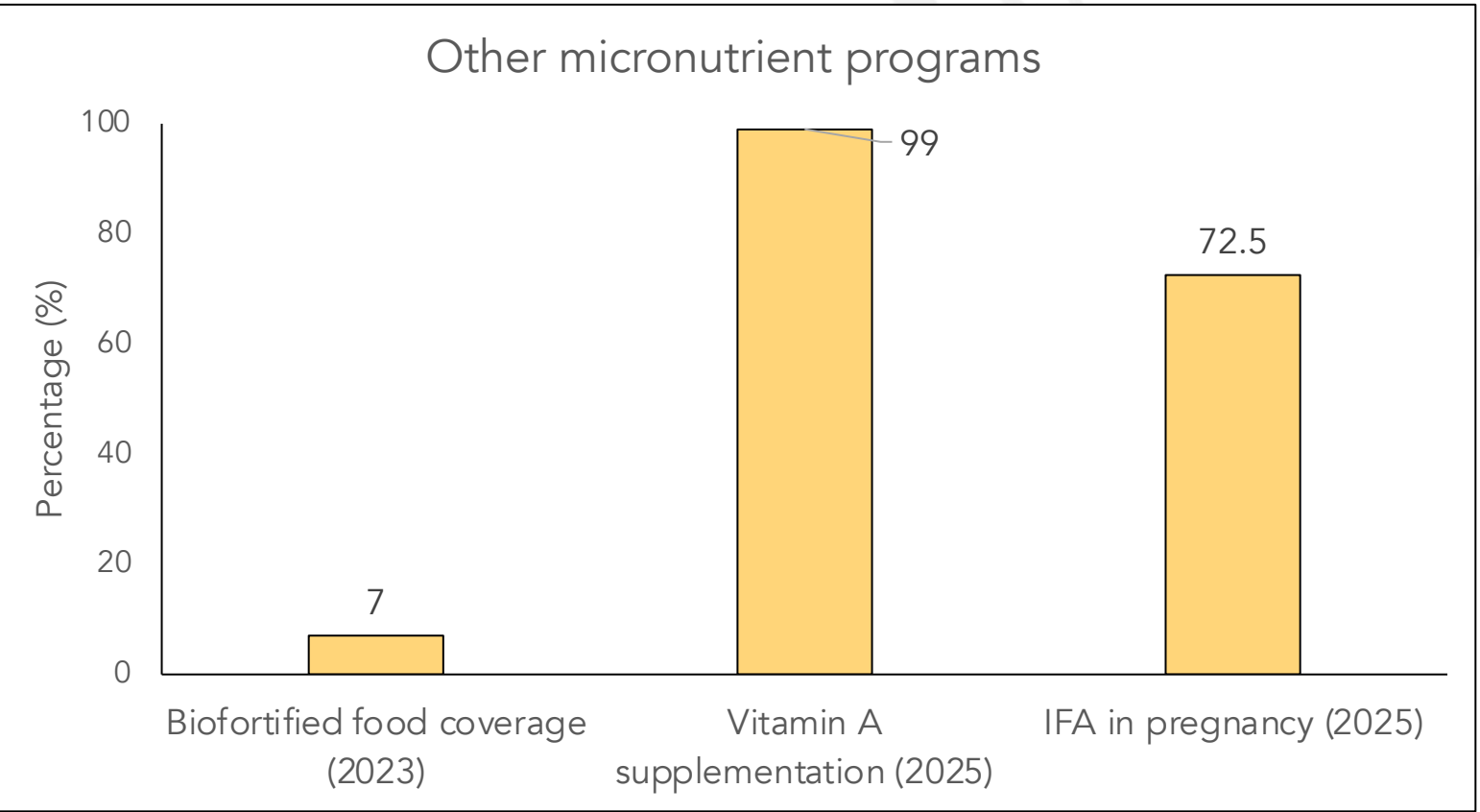
- Incorporate fortification indicators into the ZIMLAC assessment framework for sustainable data collection not dependent on external funding.
- Implement a national fortification monitoring program to collect and share compliance data with key stakeholders, focusing on industry and market data.
- Establish an annual government-funded assessment (with partner support) to collect data for planning and programming, with wide dissemination to inform policy and practice.

Data on LSFF-Related Health Conditions & Programs



Source: Malaria, Vitamin A supplementation in U5, and iron-folic acid (IFA) supplementation - District Health Information system- 2 (2025); HIV - UNAIDS Sentinel surveillance (2024); TB - WHO national TB prevalence surveys (2014); Vit. A supplementation - UNICEF Data Warehouse (2019); biofortified foods coverage - Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee 2023 Rural Assessment Report (2023).

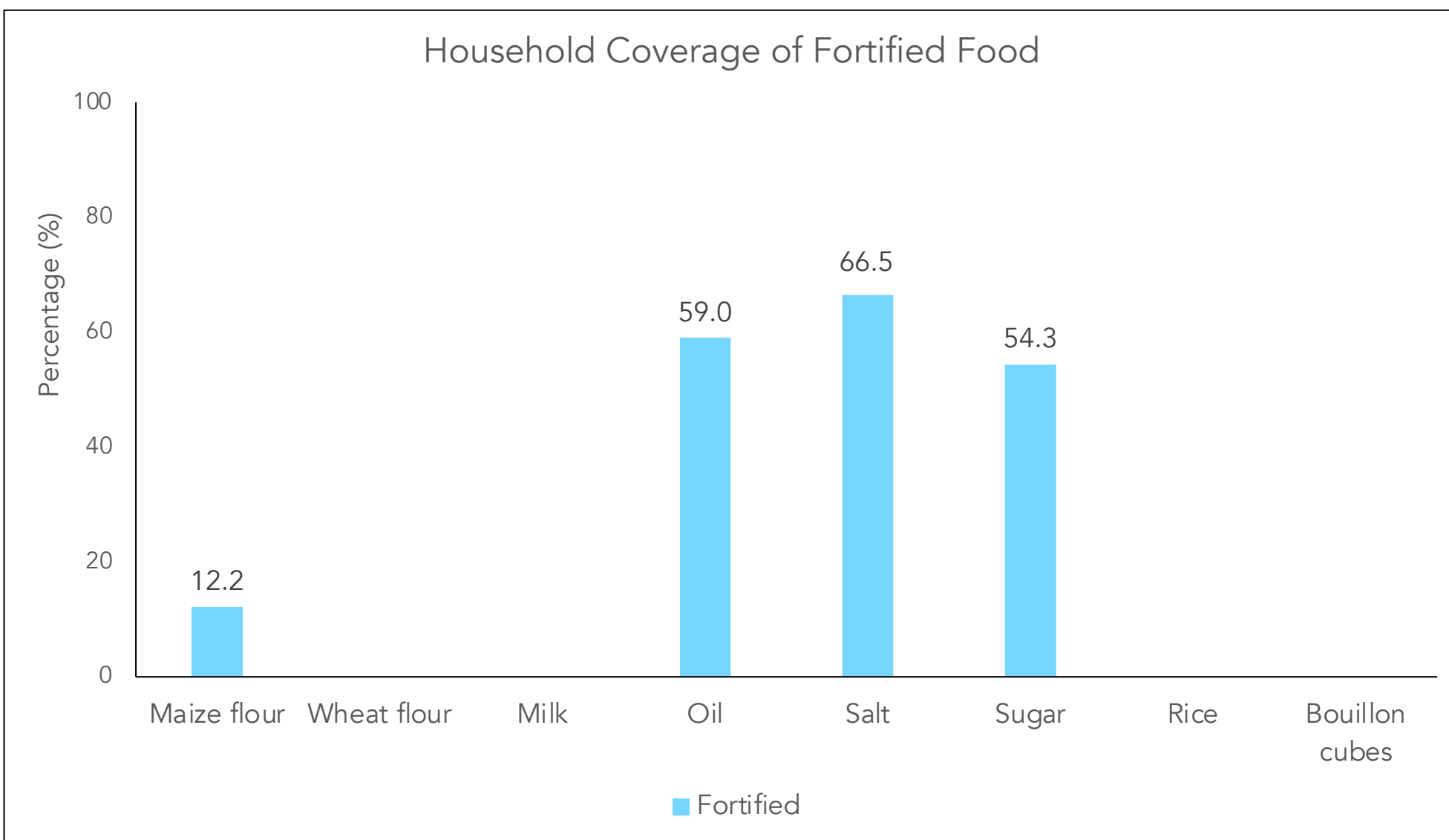
- Uncertainty around interpreting and integrating other micronutrient intervention data.



Compliance to Fortification Standards

- The Minister of Industry and Commerce is responsible for the production of the goods that will be fortified.
- The Ministry of Health's and Environmental Health Services department handles industry and market inspections and sample collection, with testing conducted by a government analyst laboratory.
- No recent data on fortification compliance available.

Data on Coverage of Fortified Food



Source: Data provided by DInA key informants, using proxy measures.

- Ministry of Health and Child Care's role is to advocate for fortification, implement and monitor the program, and mobilize the population to increase the demand for fortified foods.
- The only testing of fortification levels in foods is salt; for other foods, equipment is available from private laboratories, but assessment protocols differ from those used in regulatory testing.

Impact of LSFF

- No studies evaluating the impact of LSFF on biomarkers and health outcomes.
- Food Nutrition Council is a department within government and mostly involved in data collection and providing evidence for decision making for government and partners.

Disclaimer

This country profile may not capture the full scope of the country's large-scale food fortification data value chain and reflects information gathered through key informant interviews and publicly available data as part of meeting preparations.