



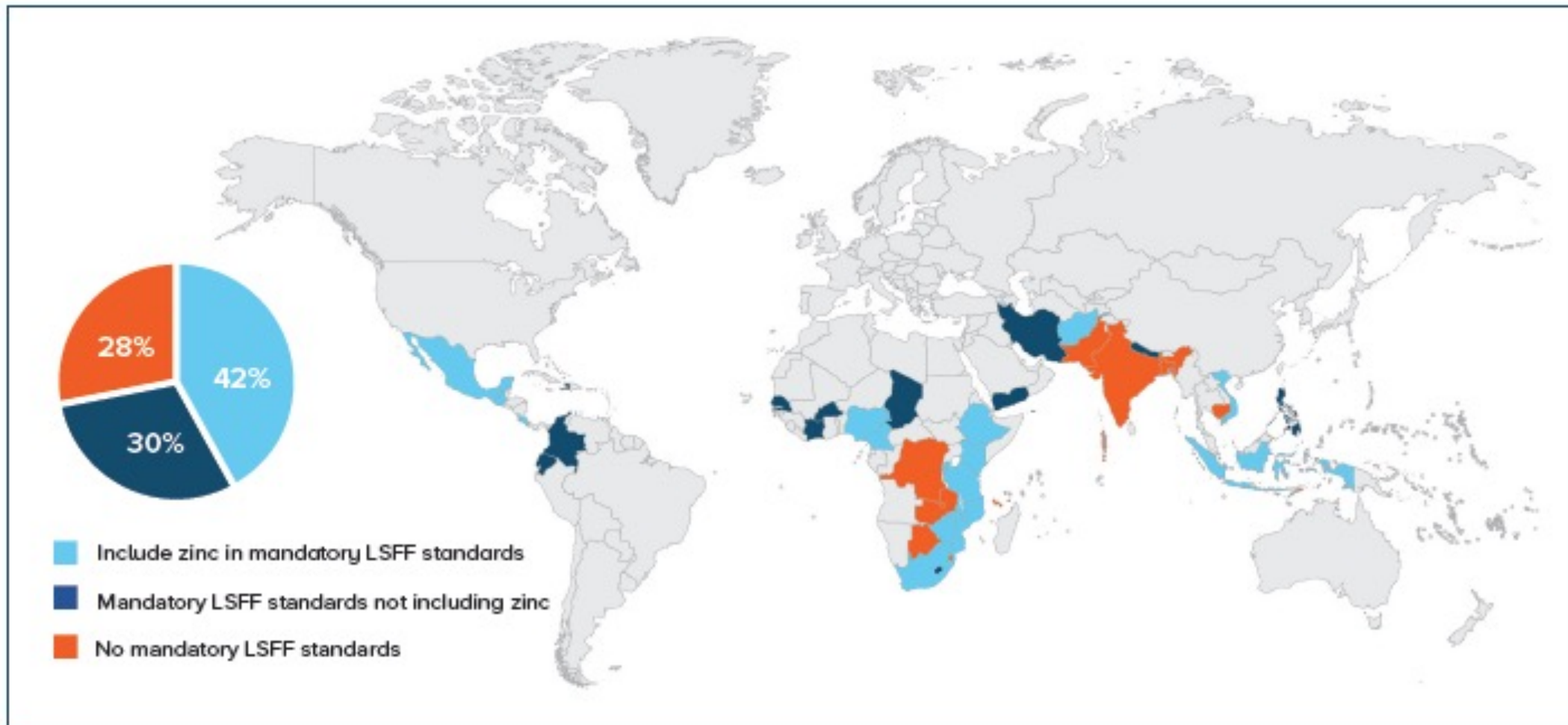
LARGE-SCALE FOOD FORTIFICATION – AN UNDERUTILIZED STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING ZINC DEFICIENCY

IZiNCG WEBINAR - DECEMBER 5, 2023

CALL TO ACTION: SUGGESTED PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR COUNTRIES WHERE ZINC DEFICIENCY IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

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ZINC FORTIFICATION STATUS IN COUNTRIES WHERE ZINC DEFICIENCY IS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM



ENABLERS AND BARRIERS OF ZINC FORTIFICATION



nutrients



Article

Enablers and Barriers of Zinc Fortification; Experience from 10 Low- and Middle-Income Countries with Mandatory Large-Scale Food Fortification

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Enablers

- Advice from supporting development partners and experts to consider zinc as a potential fortificant.
- Assessment of the national zinc deficiency burden.
- Regional food fortification standards that include zinc as a mandatory fortificant.
- WHO guidelines for zinc fortification.
- Industry trials showing no adverse effects on fortified product properties.
- Low cost of zinc oxide.
- No additional zinc-specific cost to the monitoring system.

Barriers

- Absence of guidance from supporting development partners for zinc fortification.
- Regional food fortification standards not having zinc as a mandatory fortificant.
- Lack of international guidelines for zinc fortification at the time of the launch of the program.
- Lack of evidence on the efficacy and effectiveness of zinc fortification.
- The absence of zinc deficiency prevention in national and international nutrition agendas.
- Poor national commitment and/or capacity to maintain the food fortification program.

Priority Actions For Countries Where Zinc Deficiency is a Public Health Issue

▶ Invest in Strong Fortification Programs to Prevent Zinc Deficiency

	National Governments	Regional Bodies	Multi-lateral & Bilateral Institutions	Non-Governmental Agencies	Philanthropic Funders	Millers
Prioritize the prevention of zinc deficiency in national health and nutrition policies and strategic plans	●	●				
Invest in strengthening and communicating the business case for industry and millers to fortify staple foods with micronutrients, including zinc		●	●	●	●	
Increase awareness of the health benefits, economic returns, and benefit-cost ratios associated with food fortification, including zinc, among high-level national authorities	●	●	●	●	●	●
Advocate for zinc fortification as an effective and sustainable component of a comprehensive, evidence-based, multi-sectoral national nutrition strategy		●	●	●	●	
Designate a dedicated national coordination team with the technical know-how to design, implement, monitor, and sustain the national food fortification strategy	●					
Support a national food fortification alliance, convening local stakeholders to coordinate the development and implementation of food fortification policies and programs	●					
Ensure adequate budget for fortification regulatory monitoring and control	●					
Mobilize technical and financial resources in alignment with national zinc fortification programs		●	●	●	●	●

Call to Action:
Addressing zinc deficiency through zinc fortification

Priority Actions For Countries Where Zinc Deficiency is a Public Health Issue

National Governments	Regional Bodies	Multi-lateral & Bilateral Institutions	Non-Governmental Agencies	Philanthropic Funders	Millers
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▶ Invest in Strong Fortification Programs to Prevent Zinc Deficiency

Prioritize the prevention of zinc deficiency in national health and nutrition policies and strategic plans



Invest in strengthening and communicating the business case for industry and millers to fortify staple foods with micronutrients, including zinc



▶ Provide Targeted Technical Assistance to Ensure Successful Implementation and Delivery

Use available evidence to expedite the revision of global guidelines and regional and national food standards to include zinc as a mandatory fortificant



Prioritize applied research that closes evidence gaps around the design, implementation, and evaluation of zinc fortification strategies



Deliver practical zinc-specific technical guides and tools—leveraging the expertise of pre-mix suppliers where relevant—to support national governments considering, implementing, or strengthening zinc fortification programs



Design, implement, and enforce a national zinc fortification program, integrated into a national food fortification strategy and implementation plan and harmonized with other national zinc interventions



Call to Action:
Addressing zinc deficiency through zinc fortification

Priority Actions For Countries Where Zinc Deficiency is a Public Health Issue

National Governments	Regional Bodies	Multi-lateral & Bilateral Institutions	Non-Governmental Agencies	Philanthropic Funders	Millers
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▶ Implement Monitoring and Evaluation Approaches to Measure Impact

Incorporate Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) activities for fortification to ensure quality and compliant fortified foods are being produced and reported



Conduct robust monitoring & evaluation to assess coverage, compliance, and effectiveness of zinc fortification programs



Ensure regular nutrition and/or health surveys that include assessment of PZC and/or inadequate zinc intake after the launch of zinc fortification



Call to Action:
Addressing zinc deficiency through zinc fortification

PRIORITY ACTIONS BY COUNTRY FORTIFICATION STATUS

Mandatory Fortification w/o Zinc	Mandatory Fortification w/ Zinc	No Mandatory Fortification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Evidence Generation</u>: Zn deficiency • <u>Policy</u>: Micronutrient policies & strategies; fortification standards • <u>Vehicles</u> • <u>Stakeholder Engagement</u>: Fort. alliance, industry, gov't, civil society • <u>Advocacy & Demand Generation</u>: Policy/standard update, consumer awareness • <u>Supply Chain</u> • <u>Resource Mobilization</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Evidence</u>: Coverage, compliance • <u>Policy</u>: Multi-sector nutrition policies/strategies; fortification standards • <u>Vehicles & Delivery Platforms</u> • <u>Stakeholder Engagement</u>: Fort. alliance, industry, gov't, civil society • <u>Advocacy & Demand Generation</u>: QA/QC • <u>Technical Assistance</u>: QA/QC, Fort. • <u>Complementary Strategies</u>: Supplementation, diversification, biofortification, PH measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Evidence</u> • <u>Policy</u> • <u>Stakeholder Engagement</u> • <u>Advocacy & Demand Generation</u> • <u>Technical Assistance</u> • <u>Supply Chain</u> • <u>Resource Mobilization</u> • <u>Complementary Strategies</u>

THANK YOU