

## SCN Working Group on Micronutrients: Information Sharing Template for 2006 and Earlier Activities

**Table 1: Demographic Information**

Reporting Individual	Natalia Mufel
Institution/Organization	UNICEF Belarus
Contact address (Email)	nmufel@unicef.org
Position	Health and Nutrition/ECD Officer
Department/Section	ECD/Health and Nutrition
Major focus of activities	Support to others, Research, Policy/Advocacy, Programming/Interventions
Summary of activities	The main areas of UNICEF assisted programme:  Prevention of the micronutrient deficiency disorders (MNDD), by supporting the implementation of the national USI strategy and building capacity to develop MNDD policy;

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**Table 2: Measurement, assessment, monitoring and reporting micronutrient deficiencies**

Geographic area(s) covered by this table	Belarus (Nation wide)														
Project Name	IDD prevention through USI; MNDD survey														
Supporting Agencies	UNICEF supports Parliament; Ministry of Health; National Centre of Epidemiology, Hygiene and Public Health; Belarusian Medical Postgraduate Training Academy; International Ecological University														
Approximate # of beneficiaries	Nation wide														
	<b>Micronutrients</b>														
	<b>Iodine</b>	<b>Iron</b>	<b>Folate</b>	<b>Zinc</b>	<b>Calcium</b>	<b>Vit A</b>	<b>Vit B-12</b>	<b>Vit C</b>	<b>Vit D</b>	<b>Vit B-1</b>	<b>Vit B-2</b>	<b>Vit B-3</b>	<b>Vit B-6</b>	<b>Vit K</b>	<b>Vit E</b>
<b>Activities</b>															
<b>Prevalence Assessment</b>	x	x	x	x											
1. As a result of continuous advocacy of UNICEF and close collaboration between the main stakeholders the USI amendment was included to the plan of 2007 legislations. Quarterly monitoring (organized in line with resolution of Council of Ministers #486) regarding IS quality and availability in retail trade and															

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the use of iodised salt in food processing and public catering demonstrated increased level of IS in retail trade: 2001 – 35,5%; Q2 2006 – 72%. According to the 2006 National IDD survey the level of urinary iodine is reached 150 - 250 mcg/l in different regions of Belarus. **The result shows that the iodine deficiency is eliminated in the Republic of Belarus.**

2. According to the 2006 sub-nutritional surveys, there are few vitamin and mineral deficiencies: folic acid (especially in the 0 to 6 age group), iron, selenium, zinc (among every tenth school age child); cooper (Cu) among every third child that influence the health status of people. The situation is aggravated by the ecological problems.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Health, Physical Culture, Family and Youth and the representative of the director of the main flour mill attended the IOAM meeting and agreed on development of Flour Fortification programme. The Parliament is planning to organize the National Round Table with the main stakeholders on development of FF programme in 2007.

3. The Research Center “Mother and a child” of the Ministry of Health launched a 3 years research programme in quality of iron deficiency anemia diagnostics among pregnant women and children under 1 year old. This programme is realising with the technical support of UNICEF. The programme includes research; training for professionals on the basis of received data; informational and education campaign to improve nutritional status of women and children.

<b>Training/Capacity Building</b>	x	X																
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Few trainings in MNDD prevention were organized with support of UNICEF in 2000-2003. The MNDD prevention issues are included into the medical universities/colleges curriculum. The national partners are regularly attending the UNICEF RO/IAOM MNDD workshops/trainings.

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	X	X	X	X														
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UNICEF supports the monitoring of quality and availability of iodised salt, biological monitoring (UI median) and some other MNDD monitoring surveys (folate, iron, zinc).

The IDD/USI situation external evaluation is planned for 2008.

<b>Analysis and Reporting</b>	X	X	X	X														
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In 2005 the IDD/USI Situation Analysis was conducted with assistance of UNICEF, published and presented to scientific environment, decision makers and mass media. The 2006 MNDD survey will be published in 2007 and presented to decision makers during the National MNDD Round Table in Parliament.

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**Table 3: Food Fortification**

Geographic area(s) covered by this table	Belarus Nation wide														
Project Name	MNDD prevention														
Supporting Agencies	UNICEF supports Parliament; Ministry of Health; National Centre of Epidemiology, Hygiene and Public Health; Belarusian Medical Postgraduate Training Academy; International Ecological University														
Approximate # of subjects or beneficiaries for each project described	Nation wide														
	Micronutrients														
	Iodine	Iron	Folate	Zinc	Calcium	Vit A	Vit B-12	Vit C	Vit D	Vit B-1	Vit B-2	Vit B-3	Vit B-6	Vit K	Vit E
<b><u>Commodities</u></b>															
<b>Water</b>	X														
<b>Salt -</b> Belarus is fortifying the salt with fluorine also.	X														
<b>Margarine</b>	X														
<b>Milk</b>	X														
<b>Other: eggs, cream sauce.</b>	X														
<b><u>Activities</u></b>															
<b>Policy and Advocacy</b>	X	X	X	X											
UNICEF is advocating for USI amendment (according to Parliament Plan will be passed in 2007) and for Flour Fortification Programme. At the end of 2003 the Belarusian Ministry of Health with the support from the UNICEF elaborated the strategy for elimination of iodine deficiency disorders for 2004-2007, that was signed by the Minister of Health in January 2004. The Senior Sanitary Doctor of Belarus signed the regulation (#17, 30 January 2004) to strengthening the government sanitary control on the realization of the Decree of the Council of Ministries (2001). This regulation postulated that iodized salt should be included in the mandatory list of goods which should be always available in all retail outlets at all enterprises irrespective of the form of ownership. The regulation joined into force from the 1st of April 2004.															
<b>Operational Research</b>	X														
<b>Communication Support</b>	X	X	X												
During 2000-2003 a Belarus wide communication-information campaign aimed at promotion of iodised salt benefits was conducted.															

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According to the IDD informational conception the full cycle information campaign was developed on 2004 main activities were targeted at 4 cross-groups: mothers, families, young people of reproductive age and teenagers. Belarus celebrities who are the faces of the campaign advocate usage of iodised salt from different angels during concerts, TV and radio programs, interviews, etc. For example, a TV and radio DJ, who is a mother of 2 children (6 yo and 2 yo) promote iodised salt as a necessary element for pregnant, breastfeeding woman to bring up a healthy smart child. 4 TV weekly talk shows on national television, a set of 7 radio programs 'Mamas and Papas', a series of interviews (press, TV, radio), 3 Internet forums with special mentioning of UNICEF priorities were held during the year.

<b>Marketing Support</b>	X																
With assistance of TACIS the packing line for iodised salt was provided to the main salt producer.																	
<b>Provision of Fortification Equipment</b>	X																
UNICEF provided in 1999 equipment for fortification of salt.																	
<b>Fortification Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	X																
<b>Quality Assurance/ Quality Control for fortified foods</b>	X																
<b>Fortification project size</b>																	
<b>National/Regional Program</b>	X																

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Table 4: Vitamin and Mineral Supplementation															
Supporting Agencies	Iron supplements are provided to all pregnant women and children under 3years old with iron deficiency anemia. The Ministry of Health and regional health authorities are in charge of supplementation provision.														
	Micronutrients														
	Iodine	Iron	Folate	Zinc	Calcium	Vit A	Vit B-12	Vit C	Vit D	Vit B-1	Vit B-2	Vit B-3	Vit B-6	Vit K	Vit E
<b>Activities</b>															
<b>Prevention Program</b>	X	X	X												
The MNDD prevention programme through Flour Fortification is under discussion. The IDD prevention programme through USI was approved by the Ministry of Health for 2004-2007.															

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Table 6: Other Public Health Intervention Links															
	Micronutrients														
	Iodine	Iron	Folate	Zinc	Calcium	Vit A	Vit B-12	Vit C	Vit D	Vit B-1	Vit B-2	Vit B-3	Vit B-6	Vit K	Vit E
<b>Activities</b>															
<b>Polio/Immunizations</b>															
Belarus is Polio free country.100% of vaccination is covered by government. The level of immunization is between 98-99%.															
<b>School Nutrition/Health Programs</b>															
<b>Integrated Mgmt of Childhood Illness</b>	X	X	X												
In Belarus the IMCI-C manual only was developed in 2005 and printed in 2006. The nutrition issues are addressed in the IMCI-C (iodine, iron, folate, Vitamins etc.)															