

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

**Table 1: Demographic Information**

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Position	SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER – HEALTH AND NUTRITION
Department/Section	SURVIVAL, GROWTH AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT (SGED)
Major focus of activities	Support to others, Policy/Advocacy , Programming/Interventions
Summary of activities	UNICEF Iraq is supporting the Wheat Flour Fortification with Iron and Folic acid which covers the entire country. The WFF project was launched in August 2006. Salt Iodization is another major activity supported in Iraq which includes provision of potassium iodated, salt test kits, supporting establishment of the micronutrients data base and the routine collection / analysis of these data and capacity building. The provision of iron/folic acid to all pregnant mothers and vitamin A supplementation to lactating mothers and children (< 24 months) is an integral part of MCH services supported by UNICEF.

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

Geographic area(s) covered by this table	All governorates in Iraq														
Project Name	Wheat Flour Fortification (WFF) and Salt Iodization (SI)														
Supporting Agencies	UNICEF														
Approximate # of beneficiaries	The entire population of Iraq (approx. 27 million people)														
	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>Prevalence Assessment</b>	X	X	X												
Routine data from health facilities indicate that about 60% of all pregnant women in Iraq have iron deficiency. MICS 3 results indicate that only 28% of households in Iraq are consuming adequately iodated salt.															
<b>Training/Capacity Building</b>	X	X	X												
Capacity building of staff from ministries of health and trade through training were conducted on the installation of feeders, quality control and quality assurance of WFF project															
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>															
The Nutrition Research Institute (NRI), the Geological surveillance Directorate, the health and food inspection department were supported by UNICEF to carry out monitoring of USI implementation. Through monitoring the distribution of the KIO3 and the iodization machines and monitoring the salt testing at production sites. Also the consumption of iodide salt at household level was included in the MICS 3 survey. UNICEF had supported the Ministry of Trade, the Milling and Wheat Flour Directorate in monitoring the distribution of the Premix, the quality control testing, installation and maintenance of the feeders and policy changes.															
<b>Analysis and Reporting</b>															
MOH, NRI, COSIT and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, UNICEF and WHO are planning a national micro-nutrient survey to determine micronutrient levels in Iraq (Vitamin A, Iron, iodine etc) to start in October/November 2007.															

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**Table 3: Food Fortification**

Geographic area(s) covered by this table	All governorates in Iraq														
Project Name	Wheat Flour Fortification (WFF) and Salt Iodization (SI).														
Supporting Agencies	UNICEF														
Approximate # of subjects or beneficiaries for each project described	The entire population of Iraq (approx. 27 million people).														
	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>Salt</b>	X														
<b>Wheat</b>		X	X												
<b>Cooking Oil</b> - all imported ghee is fortified						X									
<b><u>Activities</u></b>															
<b>Policy and Advocacy</b>	X	X	X												
<p>In 2006, UNICEF supported a series of advocacy meetings and public information activities to promote and increase demand of fortified flour throughout the country. Intensive advocacy continues with the Ministry of Health/Ministry of Trade to ensure that the government will take over the procurement of premix starting from the second quarter of 2007.</p> <p>Advocacy is ongoing to ensure that starting from 2008; the provision of potassium will be the responsibility of the Government of Iraq or the private sector</p>															
<b>Communication Support</b>		X	X												
UNICEF supported communication related activities to increase the uptake of the WFF project.															
<b>Marketing Support</b>		X	X												
<p>The government was supported to undertake the social marketing of fortified wheat flour in all governorates of Iraq.</p> <p>The deterioration of the Public Distribution System (PDS), which in the past distributed only iodized salt has also added to the decreasing levels of household consumption of iodized salt.</p>															

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**Table 3 (continued): Food Fortification**

	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>Activities Cont.)</u></b>															
<b><i>Provision of Fortification Equipment</i></b>	X	X	X												
For WFF: 215 feeders and premix were provided. For SI: salt test kits were provided, potassium iodate, iodization machines.															
<b><i>Provision of Fortification Supplies</i></b>	X	X	X												
For WFF: 314 MT of premix were procured and distributed to more than 175 mills across Iraq. For SI: 10 MT of potassium iodate were provided.															
<b><i>Fortification Monitoring and Evaluation</i></b>	X	X	X												
The monitoring and evaluation activities were carried out throughout. This was mainly done by the National Research Institute in Baghdad; a team of professionals is visiting 2-3 governorates for monitoring and to provide any required support. The health and food inspection department is also providing routine data on the salt testing and the wheat flour testing at production sites. Lack of central monitoring and supervision due to increasing insecurity makes the task of enforcing the existing salt legislation difficult.															
<b><i>Quality Assurance/ Quality Control for fortified foods</i></b>	X	X	X												
<b><i>Fortification project size</i></b>															
<b><i>National/Regional Program</i></b>	X	X	X												
The WFF project is a national program covering the entire country. The quality control and assurance is done by NRI. This involves the production capacity and environment, storage and packaging as well as collection of samples for testing (qualitative and quantitative estimations). Sample of fortified wheat flour are assessed periodically by NRI to determine the adequacy of micronutrient content.															

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**Table 4: Vitamin and Mineral Supplementation**

Geographic area(s) covered by this table	All governorates in Iraq														
Project Name	The micronutrient/vitamin supplementation with vitamin A and ferrous/folic acid.														
Supporting Agencies	UNICEF														
Approximate # of subjects or beneficiaries for each project described	1 million pregnant and lactating women.														
	<b>Micronutrients</b>														
	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									
<b>Supplementation project size</b>															
<b>National/Regional Program</b>		X	X			X									
	The supplementation with Vitamin A (for lactating mothers and young children) and iron/folic acid (for pregnant mother) is a national program and integral part of MCH services.														
<b>Equipment/Supplies</b>		X	X			X									
	The Iron/folic acid tablets are procured by UNICEF (25 million tabs were distributed in 2006 and additional 25 million tabs will be distributed 2007 from the 2006 budget –already procured waiting to be distributed). The Vitamin A capsules were provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as in kind donation.														
<b>Supplement's Primary Distribution</b>															
<b>Through Public Channels</b>		X	X			X									
	The supplies are distributed through MOH channels from central level to governorates, districts and then to PHCs.														
<b>Supplements Compliance Promotion</b>		X	X			X									
	This is an integral part of the MCH services provided through all PHCs in Iraq. The health education provided and the IEC materials distributed includes key message on the importance of iron/folic acid supplementation to pregnant mother and Vitamin A supplementation to lactating mothers and infants/young children.														
<b>Supplementation Monitoring/Evaluation</b>		X	X			X									
	As mentioned above, the supplementation is an integral part of MCH services and the monitoring, supervision and evaluation is conducted through MOH channels starting from the central level to the PHC level. .(*)														

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(\* ) The security situation in Iraq limits the central level to support the governorates and the lower levels.

<b>Supplementation Targeted Groups</b>													
<b>Pregnant women</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>										
Routine data from health facilities indicate that about 60% of pregnant mothers in Iraq are iron deficient; therefore they all receive iron/folic acid tablets as a preventive measure													
<b>Infants &lt; 6 months of age</b>						<b>X</b>							
IU 200,000 given to lactating mothers during the 1st 6 weeks after delivery during the BCG shot of their newborns.													
<b>Children 6-24 months of age</b>						<b>X</b>							
At age of 9 months - IU 100,000 with the Measles vaccination <i>some recommend 50,000 IU instead of (This is according to NRI/MOH instruction.. the pediatric technical committee recommendations have never materialized on the ground, no instruction was issued for implementation)</i> At 18 months - IU 200,000 with the 1st booster DPT.													
<b>Children in school</b>						<b>X</b>							
Two doses of IU 200,000 given to all 1st grade pupils (in the 1st and the 2nd semester).													

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**Table 6: Other Public Health Intervention Links**

Geographic area(s) covered by this table	All governorates in Iraq														
Project Name	The micronutrient/vitamin supplementation with vitamin A and ferrous/folic acid														
Supporting Agencies	UNICEF														
Approximate # of beneficiaries	1 million pregnant and lactating women														
	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>						X									
Targeted vitamin A supplementation to all less than 2 years with Measles shot and with the 1 <sup>st</sup> booster DPT shot at 18 months and lactating mothers is integrated with EPI vaccination program.															
<b>School Nutrition/Health Programs</b>						X									
1 <sup>st</sup> grade school children are supplemented with vitamin A through the school health program.															
<b>Safe Motherhood</b>		X	X												