

SCN 2003 Report from UNICEF Korea

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1. Advocacy

Policy formulation on iron/folic acid pills for pregnant and lactating women provided to the government for adoption

2. Fortification

Since 1999 fortification of locally produced children's complementary food (Corn-Soya-Blend, Rice Milk Blend) and supplementary food (noodles) for pregnant and lactating women. Joint project with WFP; WFP provides food and support to the factories, UNICEF provides the UNIMIX (vitamin and mineral pre-mix)

RMB is used for the treatment of severe malnutrition in the second phase and distributed to the pediatric hospitals, county hospitals and baby homes, which are functioning as rehabilitation centers.

Corn Soya Blend is distributed to all nurseries for children under 5 years as a complementary food.

Lessons learned: The costs for premix are very high and it is difficult to find donors.

3. Supplementation

Distribution of iron/folic acid pills for pregnant and lactating women through approximately 6000 health facilities. No data available on distribution and compliance of the mothers, but it is known that about one third of women are iron deficient.

Iron/folic acid pills donated by the Dutch government.

Experiences and lessons learned:

It is difficult to address the micro-nutrient deficiency problem to counterparts and donors if the country faces an emergency situation, especially in long-term emergency, since everybody is focused on food aid in quantity but the quality aspect get lost.

Future plans and goals:

Continue with the distribution of iron/folic acid pills, but discussions are underway to consider multi-micronutrients, because due to the emergency situation women are malnourished and depleted of micronutrients.

Continue advocacy to the government for adopting supplementation to pregnant and lactating women and formulation of instruction to the health centers.

Provide IEC materials for mothers and health providers

Continue to fortify locally produced children's food, if funding constraints occur priority will be made for RMB for severe malnutrition treatment.

What else do you need? Is there any specific information that would be useful?

Experiences on multi-micronutrients supplementation for pregnant and lactating women.