

SCN 2003 Report from UNICEF Moldova

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1. Advocacy

- In December 2003, UNICEF Moldova office in partnership with the Ministry of Health organized a National Nutrition Conference targeting policy makers and decision-makers. The objectives were:

- (1) to raise awareness on anemia and iodine deficiencies;
- (2) to advocate for the application of the most effective solutions (flour fortification with iron and folic acid and universal salt iodization);
- (3) to present the draft of the Food Law and the amendments to the National Programme on the IDD's eradication.

2. Fortification

- During the year 2002, UNICEF Moldova provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health for the development of the National Food Law and Regulations. The Law sets a legal framework for the flour fortification with iron and folic acid. At the moment, the Food Law is being discussed in the Government; upon its endorsement the Law will to be sent to the Parliament for final approval.

3. Supplementation

- In the year 2002 the Government of Moldova adopted the Basic Benefit Package of services, which among others included supplementation with iron during pregnancy.

Please share experiences or lessons you have learned that may be useful to others.

Development of the legal framework. The development of the Food Law was initiated and led by the Ministry of Health. Draft of the Law, developed by the MoH, have been presented and discussed at several meetings of the inter-ministerial working group, involving Ministries of Agriculture and Food Industry, Economy, Justice, and Custom Department. The involvement of producers, importers and private sector in the process was very limited.

Future plans and goals:

Moldovan Ministry of Health plans to submit a project proposal on Flour Fortification to GAIN. In order to meet GAIN requirements UNICEF will advocate for the establishment of a National Food Fortification Alliance and provide technical assistance to the group in the development of the project proposal and plan of action.