

## SCN 2003 Report from World Bank

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1. **Advocacy:** I am writing an interagency document which is a program guidance on anemia prevention and control. This document takes an integrated approach to addressing anemia by suggesting interventions where anemia prevention and control might be strengthened or introduced. Publication date: first half of 2003
2. **Fortification:** The World Bank is serving as a Trustee for GAIN
3. **Supplementation:**
  - a. Cambodia Health Sector Support Project: iron-folate supplementation for pregnant women and children <2 years of age. The project will become effective February 2003. Qualitative research on the perceptions of anemia and taking iron-folate in vulnerable groups will help design the approach for supplementation. Partners are Government of Cambodia, World Health Organization, UNICEF, and several NGOs.
  - b. The Philippines Early Childhood Development Project: iron-folate supplements are provided for pregnant women and to first graders (on a weekly basis). Hookworm medication is provided semi-annually to first graders. Several research studies have been conducted: effectiveness of deworming and giving weekly iron to children <2 years of age. Iron fortification efforts are supported by the project. Partners include Government of The Philippines, ADB (the project is co-financed by ADB), MOST, UNICEF and others.
  - c. The Indonesia Reproductive Health Project includes support to iron-folic acid supplementation in pregnant women.
  - d. The Nicaragua Health Sector Modernization Program supports PROCOSAN program - the pilot Nicaraguan Government community-based growth promotion programme includes promotion/distribution of iron drops, promotes decreasing consumption of inhibitors (tea and coffee) and increasing facilitators of iron absorption (limes, oranges).
  - e. The Bolivia Health Sector Reform Project supports micronutrient activities including iron supplementation. The project has a key indicator related to children under 2 years receiving iron supplements.

#### 4. Research

Nigeria and Bolivia Nutrition Program Reviews include an analysis of the constraints and facilitators of iron-folate supplementation programs in both those countries.

Senegal Education for All Project is testing the effectiveness of deworming and iron supplementation in school age children. Partners: funded by the Micronutrient Initiative with technical assistance from UC Davis.

Madagascar Education Project will be piloting a fortified biscuit (with iron and folic acid) in school age children.

The Gambia: possible qualitative research on perceptions of anemia, taking iron-folate tablets, deworming medication and anti-malarials and sleeping under bednets. Partners: NaNA.

#### Experiences or lessons learned:

Addressing the different causes of anemia, instead of just focusing on iron deficiency, can help in reducing anemia and also bring in a number of different players in health and nutrition and private sector who can help develop strategies and play advocacy roles.

**What partners or organizations have helped make your projects successful?**

All international, bi-laterals and NGOs are helpful when they are working in this area.

**Future plans and goals:**

To draw greater attention to the problem of anemia and expand the World Bank's attention to this issue. Currently there are many World Bank health projects supplying iron supplements but there is little support for advocacy, communications and counseling, training, monitoring and evaluation.