

LESOTHO

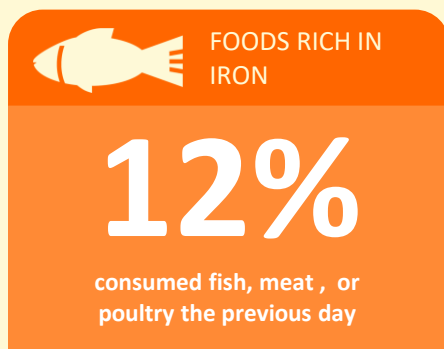
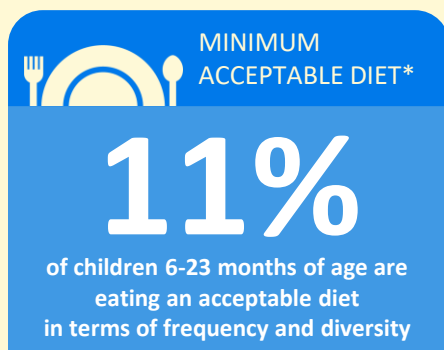
THE FACTS

Scaling-up home fortification with micronutrient powders (MNP)



MNP contain vitamins and minerals that support the healthy growth and development of **children 6-23 months of age**

Not all children in Lesotho eat nutritious foods



51% of Basotho children under 5 years have anaemia*... linked to poor cognitive and physical development and reduced school achievement

The World Health Organization recommends MNP use when the prevalence of anaemia in young children is 20% or higher

The ultimate return on investment for MNP is \$37 for every \$1 invested, due to the positive effects of addressing childhood anaemia



Benefits of MNP:

- Prevents and treats iron deficiency anemia
- Reinforces appropriate complementary feeding practices
- Supports healthy growth & development
- High acceptability and ease of use



Globally, considered one of the top cost-effective investment priorities to fight hidden hunger

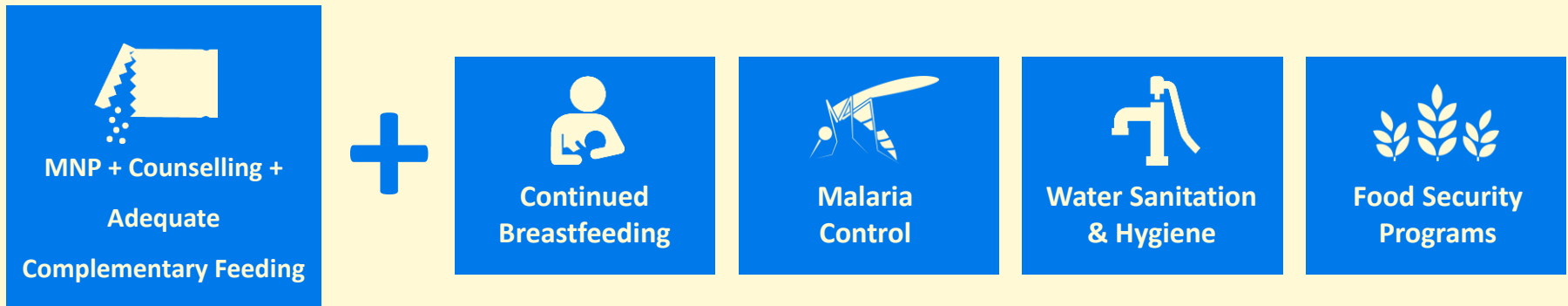


Can be integrated within health systems, food systems, WASH and social protection programs



Included in the World Health Organization's Model List of Essential Medicines for Children

Counselling on age-appropriate complementary feeding should always be included with the distribution of MNP, along with other actions to address micronutrient deficiencies in children





POLICY DESIGN AND DELIVERY

Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy



IYCF is included in the National Nutrition policy 2011

MNP included in policy



Micronutrient supplementation included in the National Nutrition policy 2011

Reach

Total number of children 6-23 months who , received micronutrient powders in 2019 was 8,998



MNP distribution has reached sub-national scale

ACTIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

- The integrated MNP program is reaching two districts...yet, continued efforts are needed to improve effective coverage so that no child is left behind
- Continued advocacy and resource leveraging are needed to ensure a predictable funding stream that will sustain efforts at the sub-national level and scaling-up at the national level

