Sustaining 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 Mozambique eat nutritious foods:

- **MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE DIET***:
  - 13% of children 6-23 months of age are eating an acceptable diet in terms of frequency and diversity.

- **DIETARY DIVERSITY**:
  - 30% have foods from 4 or more food groups per day.

- **FOODS RICH IN IRON**:
  - 30% consumed fish, meat, or poultry the previous day.

- **FOOD INSECURITY**:
  - 43% of the population is food insecure.

55% of Mozambican 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.

*Data Source: Mozambican Demographic and Health Survey 2011
Use of MNP improves the quality of a young child’s diet

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
MOZAMBIQUE

ACTIONS

Policies and actions to promote the sustainability of MNP

POLICY DESIGN AND DELIVERY

Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy

- IYCF is included in the Plano Estratégico do Sector da Saúde PESS 2014-2019

MNP included in policy

- MNP is included in the Plano Estratégico do Sector da Saúde PESS 2014-2019

Reach

Total number of children 6-23 months who received micronutrient powders in 2017 was 982,776

- MNP distribution has reached national scale

ACTIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

- The integrated MNP program is reaching many 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 and national level

HF-TAG

Home Fortification
Technical Advisory Group

UNICEF