Sustaining home fortification with Ongera micronutrient powders (MNP)

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

Not all children in Rwanda eat nutritious foods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE DIET*</th>
<th>DIETARY DIVERSITY</th>
<th>FOODS RICH IN IRON</th>
<th>FOOD INSECURITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18% of children 6-23 months of age are eating an acceptable diet in terms of frequency and diversity</td>
<td>30% have foods from 4 or more food groups per day</td>
<td>17% consumed fish, meat, or poultry the previous day</td>
<td>19% of the population is food insecure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 52% of Rwandan 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: Rwandan Demographic and Health Survey 2014-15
**RWANDA**

**THE BENEFITS**

Ongera MNP improves the quality of a young child’s diet

**Benefits of Ongera 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 Ongera MNP, along with other actions to address micronutrient deficiencies in children.**

Ongera MNP + Counselling + Adequate Complementary Feeding + Continued Breastfeeding + Malaria Control + Water Sanitation & Hygiene + Food Security Programs

**unicef**

**HF-TAG**

Home Fortification Technical Advisory Group
Policies and actions to promote the sustainability of Ongera MNP

**POLICY DESIGN AND DELIVERY**

- Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Policy
  - Policy is up-to-date and includes measurable targets
- Ongera MNP included in policy
  - Policy is up-to-date and includes measurable targets
- Reach
  - Total number of children 6-23 months who received micronutrient powders in 2017 was 432,620, almost 80 per cent of all targeted children nationwide
  - Ongera MNP distribution has reached national scale

**ACTIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY**

- The integrated Ongera MNP program is reaching every district; 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