

Assessment of the Policy Enabling Environment for Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) With an Application to Kenya

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Background

- Some countries are faced with the triple burden of malnutrition
 - Undernutrition (stunting and wasting), overnutrition (overweight and obesity) and micronutrient deficiencies (hidden hunger)
 - Most common micronutrient deficiencies: Vitamin A, iron, iodine, folate and zinc
- Large-scale food fortification (LSFF) programs can mitigate micronutrient deficiencies driven by poor diets
- The success of LSFF programs depends heavily on the policy enabling environment

Background

- But what exactly is a policy enabling environment for LSFF?
- We define and develop a simple, logical, and cost-effective method to assess the policy enabling environment for LSFF and then apply it to Kenya
- We understand the **policy enabling environment for LSFF** to be the whole policy landscape that influences and enables or disables fortification activities
- The assessment method sheds light on
 - What makes a policy environment supportive to LSFF
 - What is working well and where improvements are needed to ensure successful and sustainable programs

Assessment method



- A structured approach for assessing the policy environment for LSFF
- Based on 18 indicators

Assessment method

- Data collection
 - Review of existing documentation
 - Key informant interviews
 - Online stakeholder perception survey
 - Validation workshop
- Calculation of the score
 - Information is assessed and a four-point Likert scale is used to score each indicator
 - Scores for indicators are summed to arrive at an overall score
 - Indicates if the policy enabling environment is “marginally”, “moderately”, or “highly” favorable for LSFF activities

Application to Kenya

Domains	Elements	Indicators	Scores
Policy agenda setting	Policy prioritization	Major events	4
		Presence of powerful advocates	4
	Policy formulation	Consultation with stakeholders	4
		Existence of laws and regulations	4
		Clarity of legislation	4
		Program meets needs	4
Policy implementation	Stakeholder engagement	Sustained consultation	4
		Effective coordination	2
		Continued support from stakeholders	3
	Capacities	Capacity of industries	2
		Capacity of regulatory agencies	2
		Level of compliance	2
Policy monitoring and evaluation	Oversight and enforcement	Guidelines for monitoring	2
		Guidelines for enforcement	2
		Enforcement of standards/regulations	2
	Evaluation and reform	Existence of assessment data	1
		Program reach and effectiveness	2
		Consumer education and awareness	1
			TOTAL = 49

Moderately favorable

Implications

- LSFF program is on a positive trajectory and has achieved the greatest success around policy agenda setting
- Areas of improvement
 - Data around LSFF in Kenya
 - Consumer education and awareness to be prioritized
 - Participation of medium-scale and small-scale millers
 - Improving the processes and reliability of surveillance and enforcement of LSFF
 - Structures and processes should be created to promote learning across counties
- Assessment method is ready to be applied to other settings and over time
- Method can be used to track progress in each of the domains/elements/indicators and identify next steps for continued improvement