

Consequences and Control of Micronutrient deficiencies: Science, Policy, and Programs

**Concluding Remarks
Micronutrient Forum: April 2007**

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Purposes of Micronutrient Forum

■ Overall

- Stimulus for policy relevant research
- Catalyst for consensus
- All micronutrients under one tent!!!!

■ Istanbul Meeting

- Defining the issues in the consequences and control of vitamin & mineral deficiencies --
Science, Policy, Programs



What do we know....?

- And, what do we not know enough about....?
- At efficacy & effectiveness levels
- To inform policy and programs



My take-home programming messages...

(Where will I invest my marginal \$?)

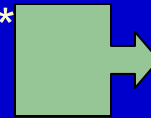
■ **Iodine:** Reinvigorate, sustain & complete USI

■ **Vitamin A supplementation:**

■ Under-fives: Sustain and scale it up!

■ Newborn dosing : Southern Asia?*

■ Maternal dosing: Prophylactic

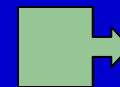


Programming platform for Maternal,
Neonatal & child health interventions
(PMNCH)

■ **Iron/folate**

■  prophylactic maternal supplementation

■ Young child supplementation: treatment



In non-malarious*
regions

■ **Zinc:** (Programming challenge/delivery strategies notwithstanding)

■ Treatment for diarrhoea

■ Prophylactic supplements for >12 months ...subject to cost effectiveness *



My take-home programming messages...continued

(Where will I invest my marginal \$?)

■ Fortification –

- Biofortification – promising, but not yet ready for prime-time except OFSP
- Point of use – Sprinkles?
- Commercial (guidelines)
 - Staples
 - Condiments
 - Complementary foods

■ Dietary strategies – ??????



New take-home messages:

- “Tipping Points” for policies
- When is it ethically appropriate to move from research to action?
- How long are we willing to let the “perfect” be the enemy of the “good”?



Nutrition and poverty...

India: Percent of children under 5 that are malnourished (by income quintiles)

Income Quintiles	% Under-weight children (weight-for-age below -2 SD)	% children anemic (HB<11 g/dl)
<i>Lowest</i>	60.7	78.8
Second	54.0	79.0
Middle	49.2	75.1
Fourth	38.9	72.3
<i>Highest</i>	26.4	63.9

← Public resources

Malnutrition affects the poorest most, & by targeting malnutrition we target the poor; but, it also affects the non-poor...



Source: *Repositioning Nutrition*, World Bank, 2006

So far, so good....but,

- **Why is there such a wide gap between research and action?**
- **Is this Gap/time lag between science and programs/policies in micronutrients reasonable?**
- **Are we willing to accept this?**



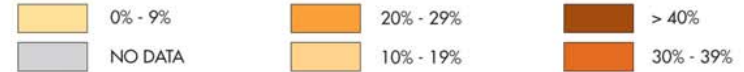
The problem is large and extensive

IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS AND IODIZED SALT CONSUMPTION RATES

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Data source: Vitamin and Mineral Deficiency, UNICEF/MI, 2004.

TOTAL GOITRE RATE:

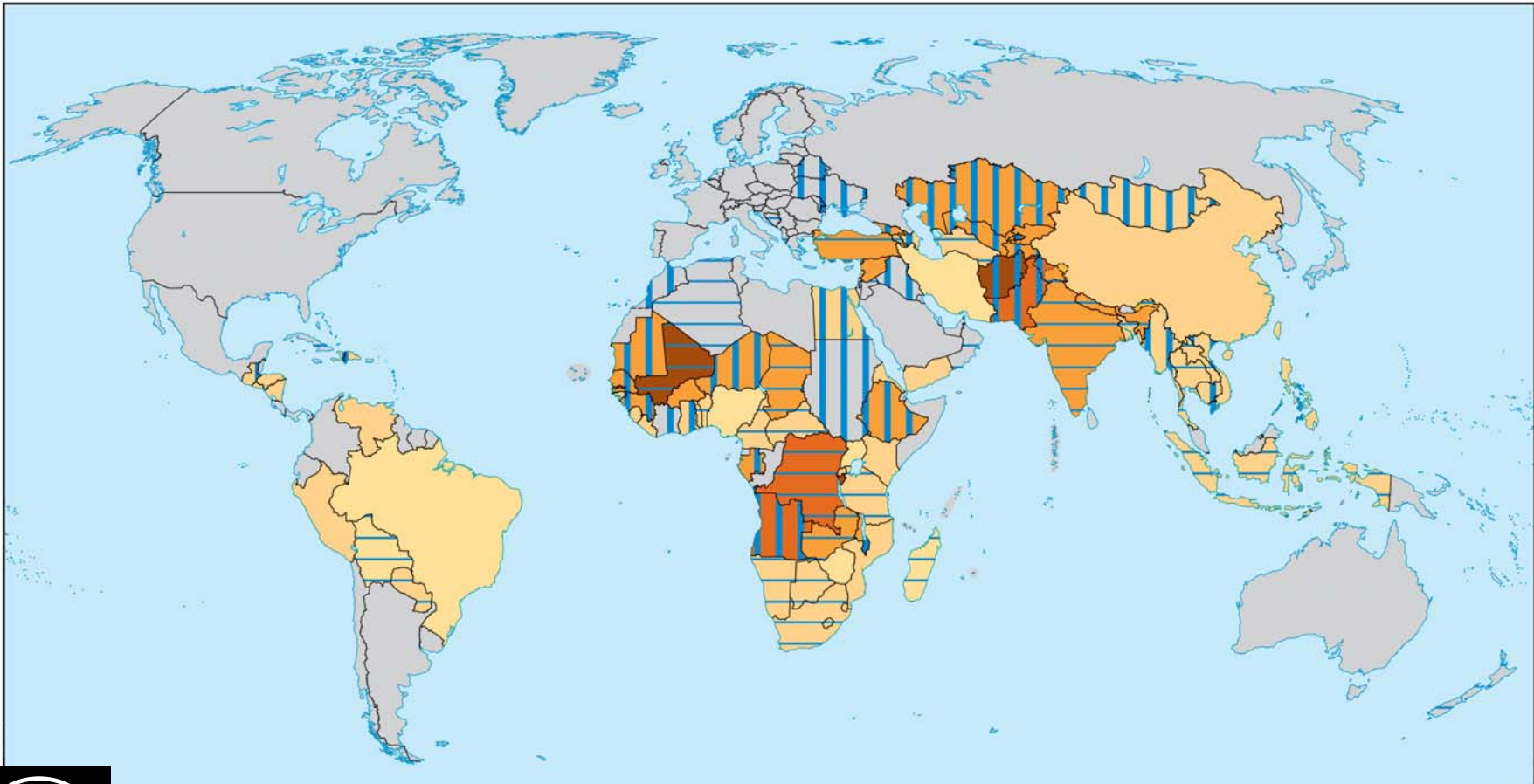


Cutoff for moderate public health problem when total goitre rate > 20%

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS CONSUMING IODIZED SALT (1998-2002):



 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES



JUNE 2

IBRD 34047



Source: *Repositioning Nutrition*, World Bank, 2006

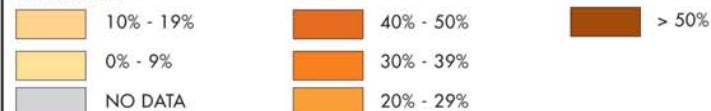
The problem is large and extensive

VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY AND SUPPLEMENTATION COVERAGE

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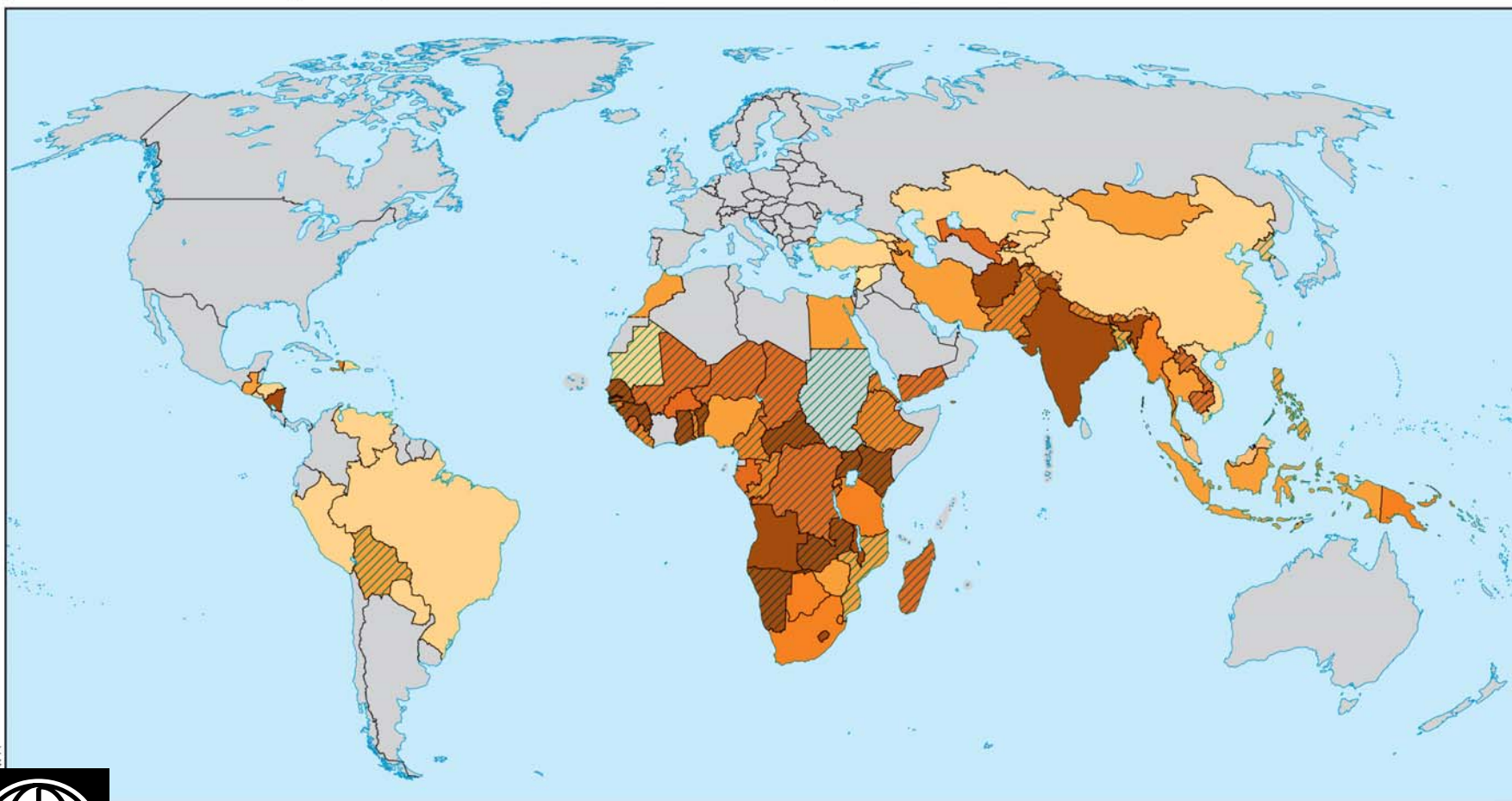
ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 6 WITH SUB-CLINICAL VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY:



Cutoff for moderate public health problem when percentage of children under 6 with sub-clinical vitamin A deficiency >10%

 SUPPLEMENTATION COVERAGE RATE ABOVE 70% IN 1999

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Source: *Repositioning Nutrition*, World Bank, 2006

My “wish-list” for the use of my marginal \$...

- But, how does this wish-list sit within the larger global aid-architecture?



The new focus in development: Renewed focus on aid effectiveness:

- **Results** – preferably quick results that address big global problems and that target the poor
- **A bigger bang for the buck** (cost:benefit) and synergies among interventions
- **Opportunities for scaling-up** so impact can be felt at national/global levels
- **Sustainability and predictability** of funding
- **Governance and transparency**
- **Larger and new “development aid baskets”**



The fight against poverty has taken a more holistic dimension

- A more encompassing definition of poverty
- Beyond income poverty
 - Nutrition is now being recognised as the “non-income face of poverty”



Reducing Malnutrition is essential to poverty reduction

Nutrition

- Not just a welfare issue
- Not just a human rights issue
- Nor is it primarily a food or a consumption issue alone

**Nutrition is an Investment Issue, and
Improved nutrition is one of the DRIVERS of
economic growth**



Close relation between nutrition interventions and aid effectiveness principles

Nutrition interventions:

- Cost-effective and target the poor
- Can be scaled up quickly (Nepal, Nigeria...)
- Encourage participation of communities
- Involve women – both as service providers and beneficiaries
- Involve multiple sectors
- Provide synergies for improvements in other sectors
- Engage the private sector
- “Politically correct”

Thus, well aligned to “good development practice”



Yet, nutrition is still not central to development:

- Barely mentioned in 2005 stock-taking of MDG progress
- Many reports say MDG 1 likely to be met – no mention of non-income dimension (nutrition)
- Not yet generated the kind of broad alliances we see with HIV, or with vaccines
- Nutrition efforts not yet reached global visibility
- Nutrition has a minimal share in existing aid baskets (0.7% of WB investments, 3.8% of HD investments, 0.7% of global aid investments)



Why has nutrition not been mainstreamed in to larger development policy?

- **Lack of consensus**
- **Difficult communications between nutrition experts and development policy makers**
- Lack of political commitment
- Inadequate documentation of results (effectiveness)
- No one nutrition focal point in countries (Institutional arrangements)
- “A thousand flowers blooming” . . .but few large scale actions
- Lack of adequate funding



What next?

- Consensus – Consensus – Consensus
- Build Partnerships that focus on scaling-up – on-the-ground practical partnerships that promote evidence-based actions through tested delivery strategies
- Deliver a coherent, agreed-upon, costed, policy/program message

Go for prime-time!!

Be poised for a fair bite out of the larger development aid



- The cisterns are lovely, dark and deep,
But we have promises to keep,
And miles to go before we sleep,
And miles to go before we sleep

- “Worldbank.org/nutrition”
“Repositioning Nutrition”

