#### CDC PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS

## **Global Prevention of Neural Tube Defects**



Accessible Version: https://youtu.be/OezK3hpF-cA

October 17, 2017



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### **Prevention of Neural Tube Defects**



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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## **Neural Tube Defects (NTDs)**





Spina Bifida, high lesion

Spina Bifida, sacral lesion



Anencephaly



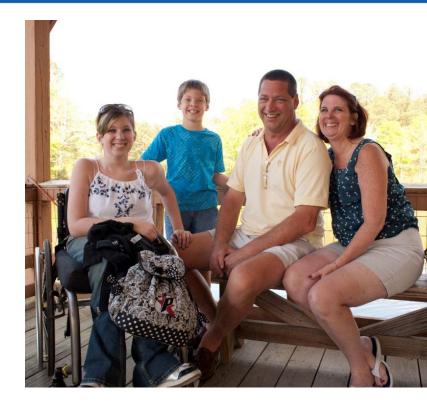
Encephalocele

- Failure of the neural tube to close causes neural tube defects
- Neural tube forms very early in pregnancy, first days through day 28 of gestation
- Interventions to prevent must take place prior to neural tube closure, often before woman is aware of pregnancy
  - ~50% unplanned pregnancy rate in the U.S.

who.int/nutrition/publications/birthdefects\_atlas/en/

## Living with Spina Bifida

- With intervention, such as surgery or assistive medical equipment, people with spina bifida can live full and productive lives
- Lifelong disability
  - Mean direct lifetime cost in US estimated to be ~\$800,000
- > Impacts the individual, family, and society
- Prevention would result in tremendous health and financial benefit



#### Folate, Folic Acid, and Anemia

- Folate (vitamin B9) is critical to basic processes in the body such as DNA replication and DNA, RNA, and protein methylation
- > Folate is a general term used to describe the many different forms:
  - Folic acid, dihydrofolate (DHF), tetrahydrofolate (THF), 5, 10methylenetetrahydrofolate (5, 10-MTHF), and 5-methyltetrahydrofolate (5-MTHF)
- Folic acid is a synthetic form of folate that, unlike natural food folate (generally 5-MTHF), is not easily degraded by heat or light
- > Initially folic acid was used to treat megaloblastic anemia

## Randomized-controlled Trials Demonstrate Folic Acid Supplements Can Prevent Neural Tube Defects

	THE LANCET	
Vol 338	Saturday 20 July 1991	No 8760
ORIGI	NAL ARTICLES	
	Prevention of neural tube defects: Results of the Medical Research Council Vitamin Study	
	MRC VITAMIN STUDY RESEARCH GROUP*	

#### >1991: Among women with a previous NTD-affected pregnancy (n=1817)

 4,000 micrograms (μg)/day supplement containing only folic acid

• 72% reduction in NTDs

1832	THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE	Dec. 24, 1992		
PREVENTION OF THE FIRST OCCURRENCE OF NEURAL-TUBE DEFECTS BY PERICONCEPTIONAL VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTATION				

Andrew E. Czeizel, M.D., D.Sc., and István Dudás, M.D.

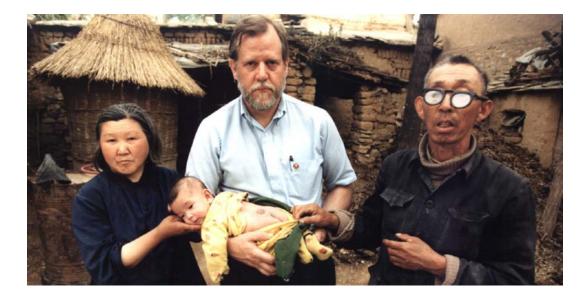
- 1992: Among women without a history of NTD-affected pregnancies (n=4753)
  - 800 μg/day multivitamin supplement containing folic acid

MRC Vitamin Study Research Group. Lancet. 1991 Jul 20;338(8760):131-7 Czeizel AE, Dudás I. N Engl J Med. 1992 Dec 24;327(26):1832-5

## Prevention of Neural Tube Defects Evidence from a Community Trial: China (1993-1996)

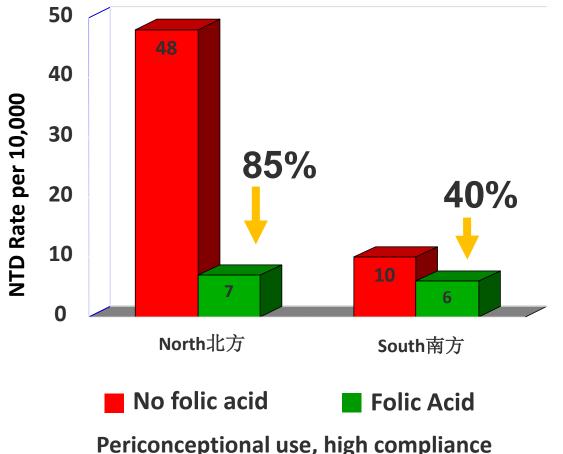
- Intervention = 400 µg/day (folic acid only)
- >Women enrolled during premarital examination
- Included 247,831 pregnancies

**275 NTDs** 



Berry RJ, Li Z, Erickson JD, et al. N Engl J Med. 1999 Nov 11;341(20):1485-90

## Prevention of Neural Tube Defects Evidence from a Community Trial: China (1993-1996)



- In the high-risk northern counties, NTD prevalence reduced by 85%
- In the moderate-risk southern counties, NTD prevalence reduced by 40%
- Showed that percent reduction in NTDs is dependent on baseline rates
- > 400 µg/day folic acid alone could reduce risk but did not prevent all occurrences
  - NTDs can be caused by other conditions such as chromosomal anomalies

#### **Prevention Recommendations in the United States**

- In 1998, to reduce the risk of neural tube defects the Institute of Medicine recommended that women capable of becoming pregnant should take 400 micrograms of synthetic folic acid daily
  - From fortified foods or supplements or a combination of the two, in addition to consuming food with natural folate from a varied diet

#### In 2017, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

- 400–800 μg/day of folic acid from supplements
- Grade of A (highest level of confidence)



#### **Challenges with Preventing Neural Tube Defects**

#### Timing

Women must consume folic acid supplements prior to conception and continue in early pregnancy
 ~50% unplanned in US

#### Vehicle

- Difficult to achieve the equivalent of 400 µg folic acid through dietary food folate intake and requires behavioral change
  - 18 cups raw spinach
    31 spears of boiled asparagus
    7 1/2 cups canned kidney beans
- Folic acid is the only form of folate that has been shown in clinical trials to prevent neural tube defects

#### Delivery

- Folic acid containing supplements are not widely consumed
- Need to reach the highest risk women

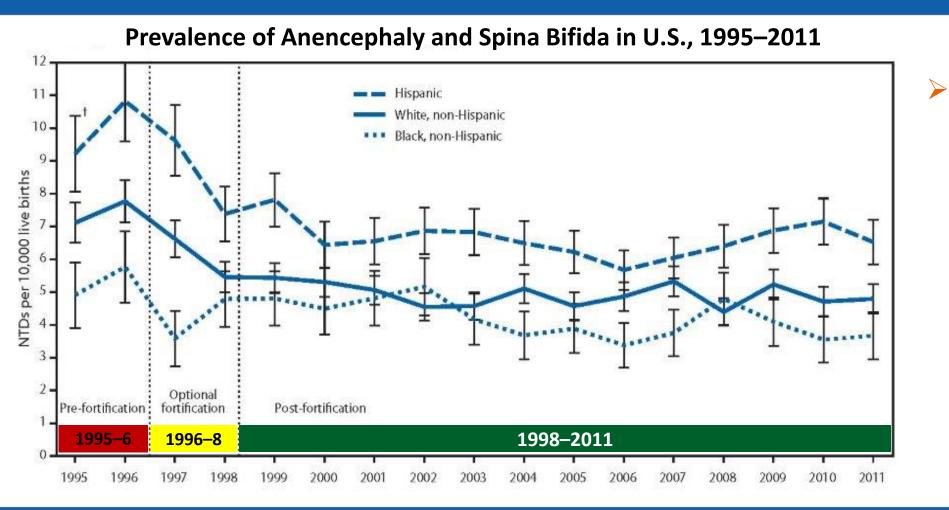
## Fortify Foods with Folic Acid An Alternative Approach to Prevent Neural Tube Defects

#### > Folic acid fortification of enriched cereal grain products

- Folic acid reduces the risk of NTDs
- Folic acid is stable to heat and light (baking and storage)
- Products already fortified with other micronutrients
- Products consumed regularly, so no behavior change needed

>1998: Cereal grain products labeled as enriched were required to contain 140 micrograms (µg) folic acid for every 100 g product

#### Folic Acid Fortification and Neural Tube Defects (NTDs)

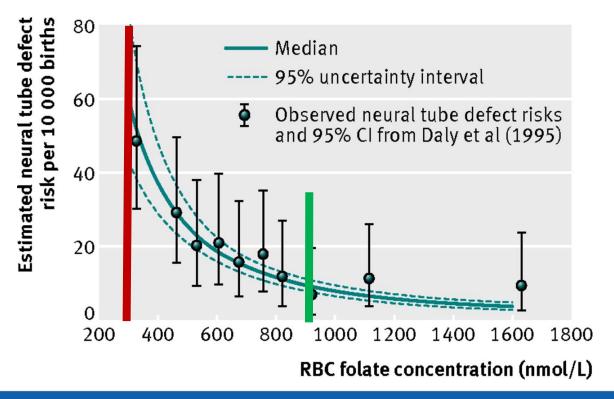


- 35% reduction in occurrence of NTDs post-fortification
  - Who is the intervention reaching?
  - How to reduce more?
  - How best to target further interventions?

\* Anencephaly and spina bifida only, some programs without prenatal ascertainment Williams J, Mai CT, Mulinare J, et. al. MMWR. 2015 Jan 16;64(1):1-5

## Red Blood Cell (RBC) Folate Concentration As a Biomarker of Risk of Neural Tube Defects in Populations

Optimal RBC folate to prevent NTD
RBC folate level to prevent anemia



- As RBC folate concentrations increase, NTD risk decreases
- In 2015, WHO recommended optimal RBC folate concentration threshold in populations for <u>NTD prevention</u> in women of reproductive age
  - 906 nmol/L (400 ng/ml)
- Deficiency RBC folate concentration for prevention of <u>anemia</u> in the general population
  - 305 nmol/L

Crider KS, Devine O, Hao L, et. al. BMJ. 2014 Jul 29;349:g4554

who.int/nutrition/publications/guidelines/optimalserum\_rbc\_womenrep\_tubedefects/en/

## **Using WHO-Recommended RBC Folate Concentration to Inform Folic Acid Interventions**

**1. Assess Measure RBC folate** concentration distributions (microbiologic assay)

2. Identify **Determine the need for** intervention

3. Target Best approach to reach your high-risk populations



4. Implement Implement the intervention

5. Evaluate **Reassess population RBC** folate concentrations 6 to 12 months post-intervention

6. Adjust Adjust program/intervention based on data

#### **Three Current Sources of Folic Acid in the US**



Mandatory: cereal grain products labeled as enriched (ECGP) must contain 140 μg folic acid for every 100 g of product



Voluntary: ready to eat cereals (RTE) can have up to 400 µg folic acid per serving



**Supplements** (SUPP): usually contain 400-800 μg folic acid

#### Using WHO Recommended RBC Folate Concentration in the US

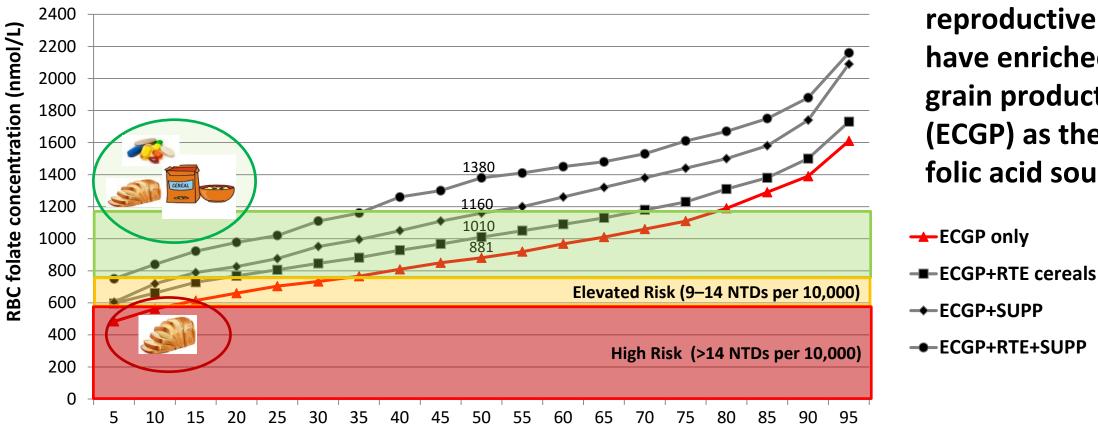
- > RBC folate concentrations in U.S. women age 12-49 years, NHANES (2007–2012)
- Majority of U.S. women at or above the optimal RBC folate concentration threshold
- > 23% of U.S. women have suboptimal RBC folate concentrations

Risk category	NTD prevalence	RBC folate concentration (NHANES assay)	Percentage of population
High	>14 per 10,000	<585 nmol	8%
Elevated	9–14 per 10,000	586–747 nmol	15%
Optimal	4–<9 per 10,000	748–1216 nmol	46%
Limited additional benefit	Outside estimable range	≥1216 nmol	31%

Tinker SC, Hamner HC, Qi YP, Crider KS. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2015 Jun;103(6):517-26. Epub 2015 Apr 17

## Women with Suboptimal RBC Folate Concentrations Are More Likely to Have Only One Source of Folic Acid

RBC Folate Concentrations at Specific Percentiles (5th–95th) by Source of Folic Acid



Percentage of women with RBC folate concentrations below the specified level

48% of women of reproductive age have enriched cereal grain products (ECGP) as their only folic acid source

#### **Reaching Those at Higher Risk for NTDs**

The optimal RBC folate concentration threshold results in the ability to assess and monitor folic acid fortification programs

• In the US, although most women are optimally protected (77%), some who consume only mandatory fortification products remain at increased risk

#### Possible approaches that could be targeted to higher-risk populations

- Fortify additional dietary staples (e.g., corn masa flour was added 2017)
- Encourage wider consumption of supplements containing folic acid

In Guatemala, 47% of women of reproductive age had suboptimal RBC folate concentrations because folic acid fortification was not reaching the rural, low-income, and indigenous populations

Rosenthal J, Reeve ME, Ramirez N, Crider KS, et. al. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2016 Jul;106(7):587-95 Tinker SC, Hamner HC, Qi YP, Crider KS. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2015 Jun;103(6):517-26. Epub 2015 Apr 17



## **Birth Defects COUNT: What We Do**

## Birth Defects COUNT <u>Countries and Organizations United for Neural</u> <u>Tube Defects Prevention</u>

Objective: Significantly reduce death and lifelong disability due to neural tube defects Focus regions: South-East Asia and East Africa Focus intervention: Fortification with folic acid

## Fortifying Grains with Folic Acid to Prevent Neural Tube Defects: Successes and Opportunities



#### Scott J. Montgomery

Director, Food Fortification Initiative



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### What is Fortification?

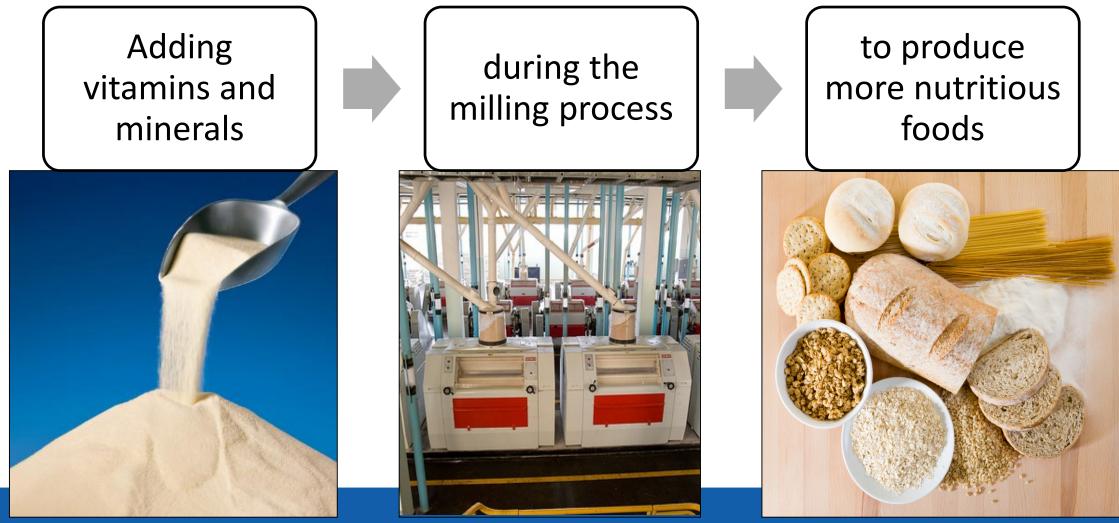


Photo from Mühlenchemie

Photo by David Snyder / CDC Foundation

Istockphoto

#### **Our Niche: Wheat Flour, Maize Flour, and Rice**





#### Enhancing Grains for Healthier Lives

istockphoto

www.ffinetwork.org

#### **Our Focus:** Industrially Milled Grains

#### **Industrial mill**



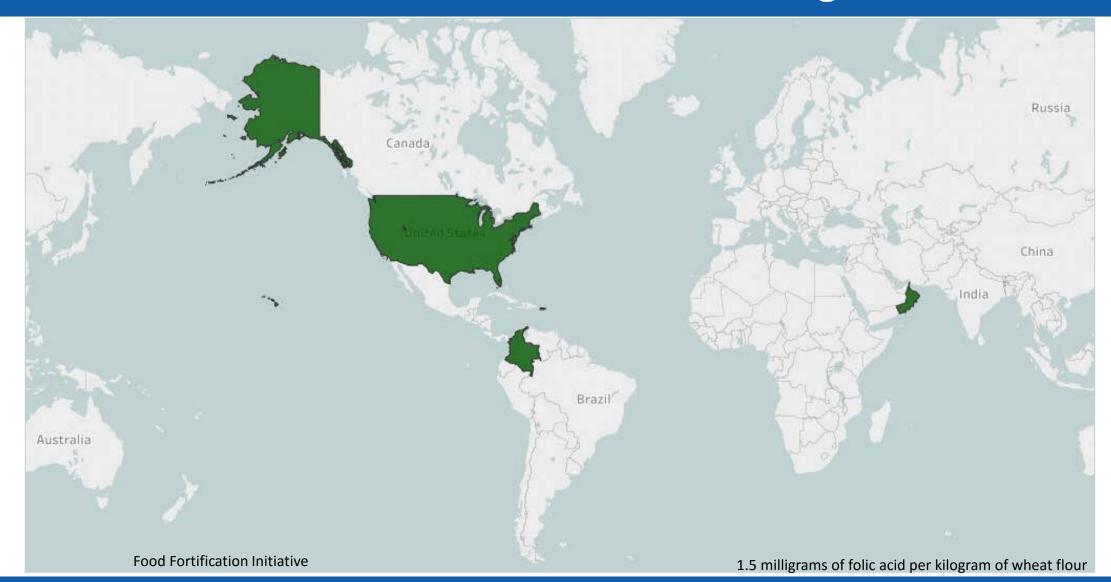
#### Village-type chakki mill



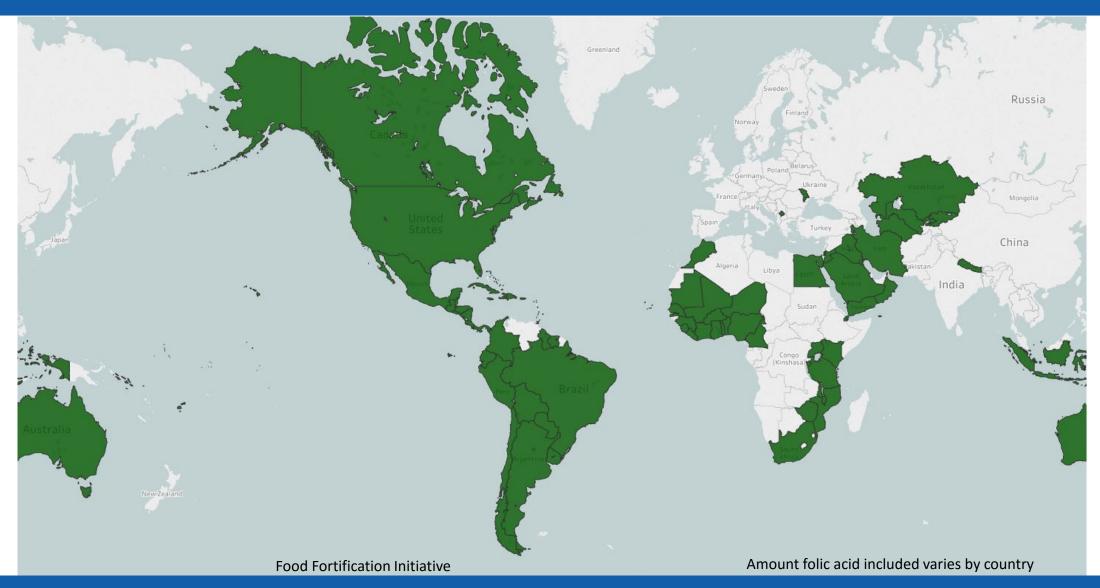
David McKee photo

Bühler photo

## **1996–1998:** U.S. and Colombia Mandate Adding Folic Acid to Grains Oman Reaches National Coverage



# **2017:** 81 Countries Require Folic Acid in Industrially Milled Wheat Flour, Maize Flour and/or Rice



## Folic Acid Fortification Prevents 97 Neural Tube Defects Each Day and Counting!

Globally an estimated 35,500 birth defects were prevented in 2015 – *an average of 97 a day* – where flour was fortified with folic acid.



Istockphoto

Arth A, Kancherla V, Pachón H, et al. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2016 Jul;106(7):520-9

Thousands More NTDs Could Be Prevented With Industrial Cereal Grain Fortification

## 160,800 annually

**Greatest potential impact in:** 

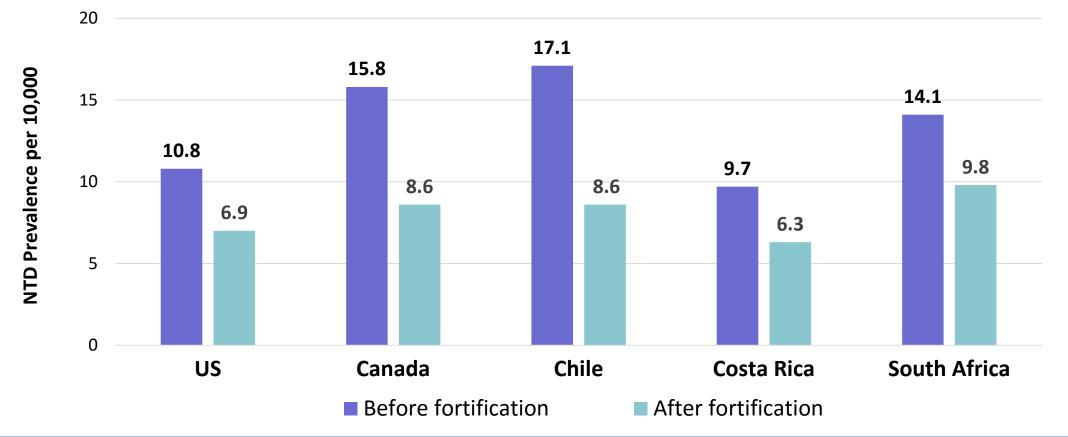
- China
- India
- Russia
- Turkey



Based on unpublished data and Arth A, Kancherla V, Pachón H, et al. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2016 Jul;106(7):520-9 Istockphoto

#### Fortification Led to A Drop in Neural Tube Defect Prevalence





US: CDC Grand Rounds:. MMWR. 2010;59(31):980–4 Chile: Cortes F, et. al. Amer Jnl Med Genet A. 2012 Aug;158A(8):1885–90 South Africa: Sayed AR, Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2008:82(4): 211–216

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Canada: De Wals, et. al. 2007. N Engl J Med357: 135–142 Costa Rica: Tacsan Chen L, Nutr Revs. 2004: 62(6):S40–S43

## **Cameroon Results Show Folate Levels in Women Are Increasing**

Among Women in Urban Areas	2 years before fortification	1 year after fortification	Percent Increase
Plasma folate* (nmol/L)	15	47	213%
Plasma B12 (pmol/L)	461	671	46%
Plasma zinc (µg/dL)	55	65	18%
Ferritin (µg/L)	37	47	27%



Flickr Creative Commons

\*Plasma/serum folate is a short-term measure and RBC folate concentration is a long-term measure of folate status and is the biomarker used for NTD risk. Correlation between plasma/serum folate concentration and RBC folate concentration is unknown.

Engle-Stone R, Nankap M, Ndjebayi AO, et. al. J Nutr. 2017 Jul;147(7):1426-1436.. Epub 2017 Jun 7 apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/161988/1/9789241549042\_eng.pdf

## Fiji Study Demonstrates Folate and Other Nutrient Deficiencies Are Decreasing

Percent of Women Age 15–45 Deficient Before and After Flour Fortification, Fiji, N=869

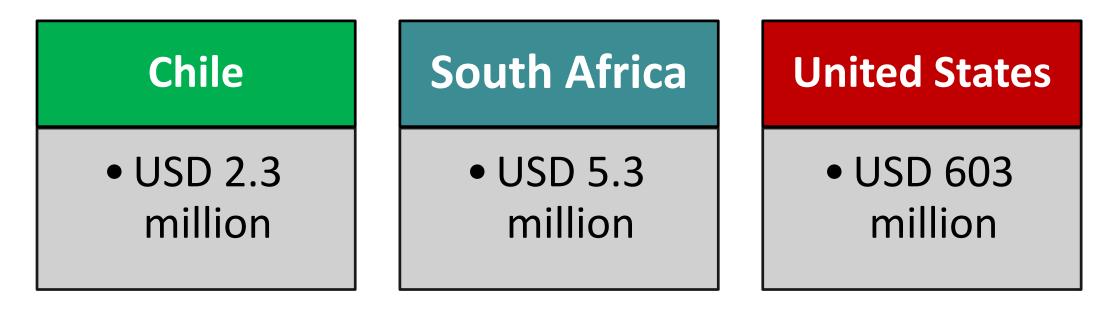
Measurement	Percent Deficient Before, 2004	Percent Deficient After, 2010	Cut offs used for deficiency in women
Serum folate	8	1	Serum folate <10 nmol/L
Iron	23	8	Serum ferritin <15 mg/L
Zinc	39	0	Serum zinc <10.1 mmol/L

In addition, anemia prevalence among this group dropped from 40% to 28%. Anemia defined as hemoglobin <12g/dL

Only 16.1% of the women had taken nutrient supplements in the six months prior to the survey National Food and Nutrition Centre 2010 ffinetwork.org/monitor/Documents/Fiji.pdf apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/161988/1/9789241549042 eng.pdf

#### **Fortification With Folic Acid Prevents Spina Bifida**

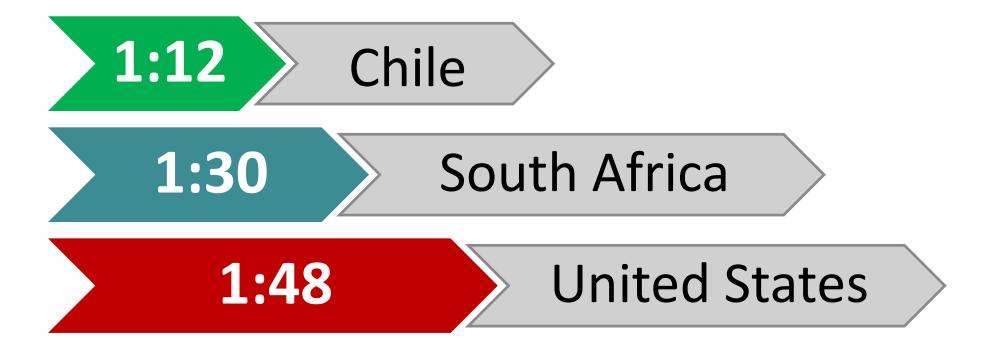
## **Annual Net Savings**



#### These are conservative estimates!

Llanos A, Hertrampf E, Cortes F, et. al. Health Policy. 2007 Oct;83(2-3):295–303 Sayed AR, Bourne D, Pattinson R, et. al. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2008 Apr;82(4):211–216 Grosse SD, Berry RJ, Mick Tilford J, et. al. Am J Prev Med. 2016 May;50(5 Suppl 1):S74-80. Epub 2016 Jan 11

#### **Return on Investment from Preventing Spina Bifida**



Llanos A, Hertrampf E, Cortes F, et. al. Health Policy. 2007 Oct;83(2-3):295-303 Sayed AR, Bourne D, Pattinson R, et. al. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2008 Apr;82(4):211–216 Grosse SD, Berry RJ, Mick Tilford J, et. al. Am J Prev Med. 2016 May;50(5 Suppl 1):S74-80. Epub 2016 Jan 11

#### **Fortification Opportunities in Industrially Milled Grains**

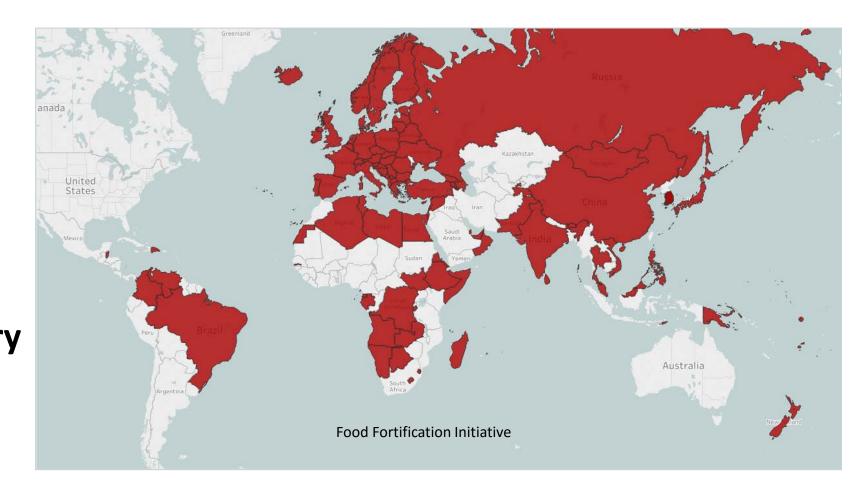
	Wheat Flour million metric tons	Maize Flour million metric tons	<b>Rice</b> million metric tons
Available for human consumption	355	90	377
Industrially milled	250	26	171
Industrially milled and fortified	85	14	1
Percent industrially milled and fortified	34%	57%	0.7%

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for 2013. FFI calculations. Food Fortification Initiative. Say Hello to a Fortified Future. 2016 Year in Review. FFI: Atlanta, USA 2017. ffinetwork.org/about/stay\_informed/publications/documents/FFI2016Review.pdf

#### **Fortification Opportunities With The Most Potential Impact**

Industrial milling is available > At least 75 grams of grain available per person per day **>** Fortifying with folic acid is not mandatory for all commonly

consumed grains



#### Summary

## 200,000 NTDs could be prevented annually through grain fortification

Enduring value
 Minuscule costs
 Enormous benefits

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## Maize Fortification with Small- and Medium-scale Processors in Tanzania



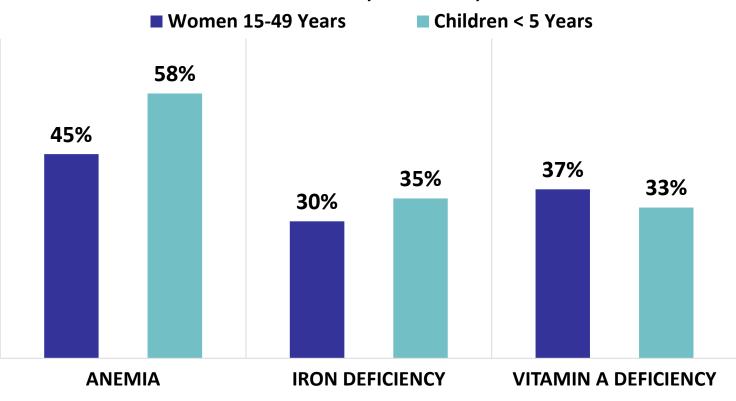
#### **Erin Smith, MPH** *Country Director,* Tanzania, Helen Keller International



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Micronutrient Status Has Improved in Tanzania But Malnutrition Remains

#### Percent of Women and Children with Certain Health Characteristics of Micronutrient Malnutrition, Tanzania, TDHS 2015



34% of children are stunted

- Under Five Mortality (U5MR): 81/1,000
- Infant Mortality: 51/1,000

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) [Tanzania] and ICF Macro. 2011. *Micronutrients: Results of the 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey*. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: NBS and ICF Macro.

# **NTD Prevalence in Tanzania Is Extremely High**

 Review of NTD prevalence in neonates in the largest referral hospital in Tanzania in 2002
 NTD rate of 30.2 per 10,000 live births

- 4,840 new cases per year
- High level of stigma against children born with NTDs or disability
  - Poor access to services results in a large number of cases are not seen by medical personnel



Child with encephalocele

Kinasha AD, Manji K. Eur J Pediatr Surg. 2002 Dec;12 Suppl 1:S38-9.

# **History of Fortification in Tanzania**

## National Food Fortification Standards and Regulations requires large-scale industries to fortify

• Law passed in March 2011

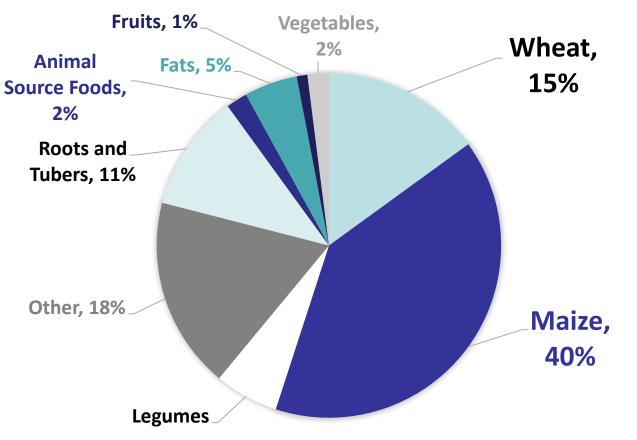
### Industrial wheat and maize flour producers

- Add iron EDTA, zinc oxide, folate, Vitamin E, and vitamin B12
- Vegetable oil producers to add
  - Add Vitamin A
- Salt producers
  - Add potassium iodate



### Wheat vs. Maize Consumption Among Poor

#### **Sources of Energy**



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Average diet contains 2x more maize than wheat AND maize less likely to be fortified than wheat flour

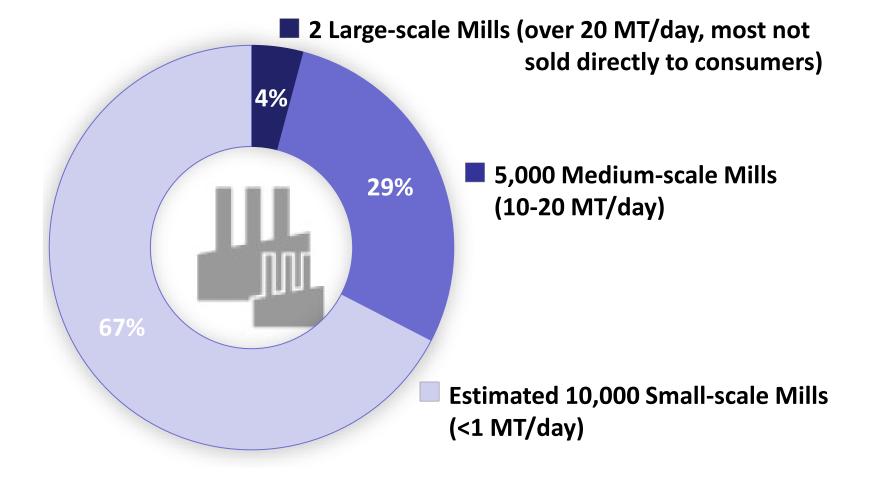
- Only 36% consume wheat but 59% of wheat flour is fortified
- Over 89% consume maize but only 3% of maize is fortified

Survey disaggregated data by poor and non-poor using the multi-dimensional poverty index methodology FACT Survey, Tanzania, GAIN 2015. nbs.go.tz/nbs/takwimu/references/FACTSURVEY2015/FACTSurvey2015-Slides.pdf Unpublished data, Fill the Nutrient Gap Survey Tanzania 2017, World Food Programme

## **Maize Production in Tanzania Is Fractured**

Number of Mills and Percentage of Maize Milled

 96% of maize is produced by small- and mediumscale mills
 6,892,480 MT each year



# Many Challenges in Small- and Medium-scale Folic Acid Fortification

## For millers, no motivation to fortify

- Small and medium millers not included in Fortification Law
- Difficult to access to affordable technology and micronutrient mix
- Lack of consumer demand and awareness = no market for product
- Poor and rural residents don't purchase maize flour
  - Maize grown at home is often ground at small local mills



# **Community Intervention to Target Small- and Medium-scale Mills**

- How could we work with 10,000 millers to fortify maize?
- >What about millers' compliance?
- >Would it be cost effective?
- How could we reach the population who needed it most?
- How could we know we were having an impact?



## **Components of a Successful Fortification Program**



# **Measuring Progress After The First Year**

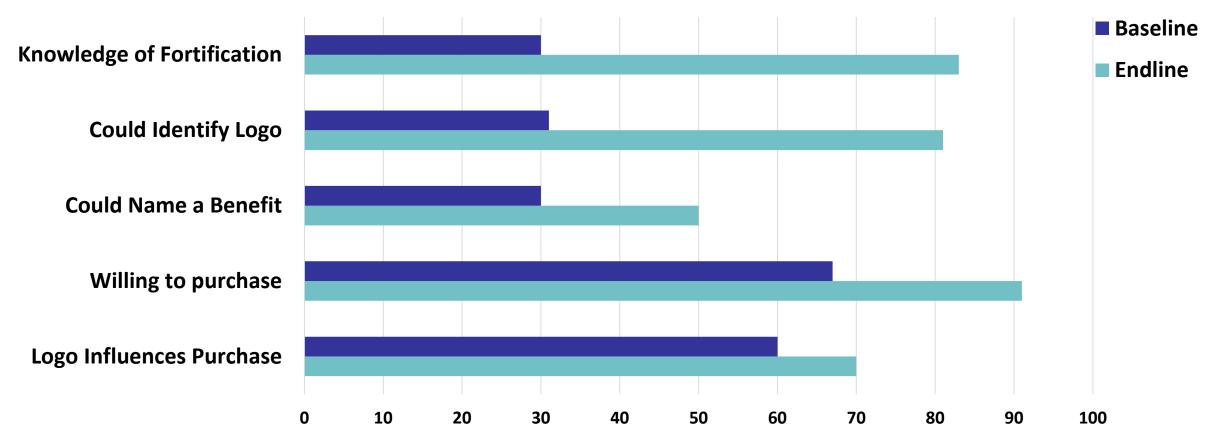
- Baseline and endline assessments were conducted one year apart in January of 2016 and 2017 in three districts in Morogoro
  - Population-representative sample: 400 Households (200 Urban/200 Rural) P:0.05

#### Study Objectives: Assess changes in

- Acceptability
- Purchasing and consumption patterns
- Household access



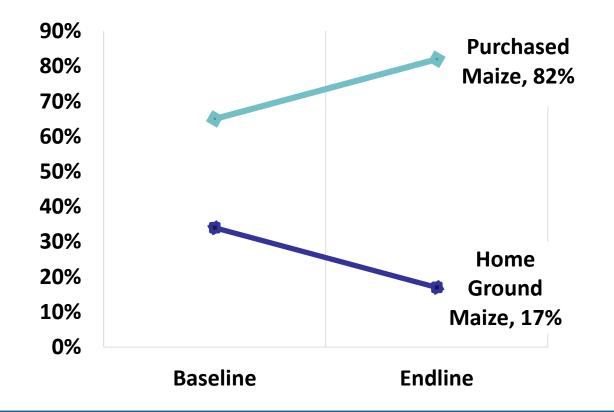
### **Changes in Acceptability of Fortified Products**



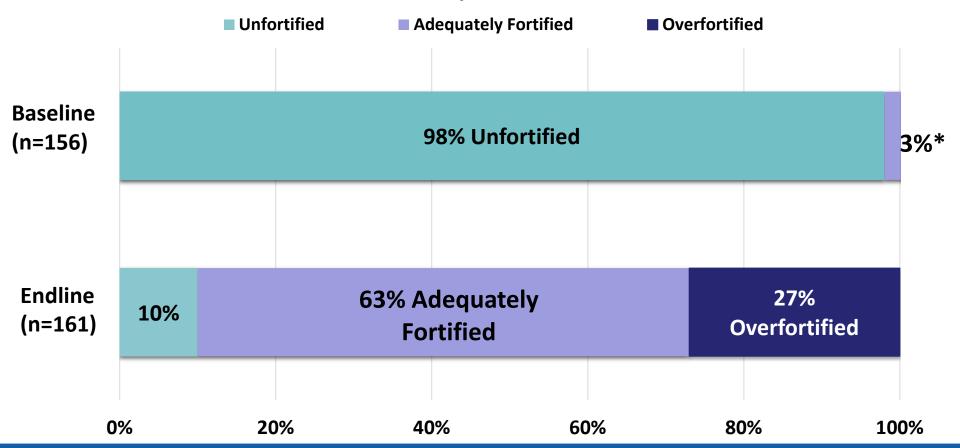
#### Survey Results One Year After Community Intervention, Tanzania, 2016

#### **Purchasing Habits Changed in Just One Year**

Households Purchasing Maize vs. Home Production



## Household Consumption Changed in Just One Year



#### **Fortified Samples From Households**

\*Does not add to 100% due to rounding

## **Increased Access for Poor Families**

- >81% of poor households regularly purchasing packaged maize
- 94% of flour sampled in poor households fortified
- 72% of poor households accessing fortified flour



# **Legislative Steps Taken To Sustain Fortification**

# > By-law passed in Morogoro region in September 2017

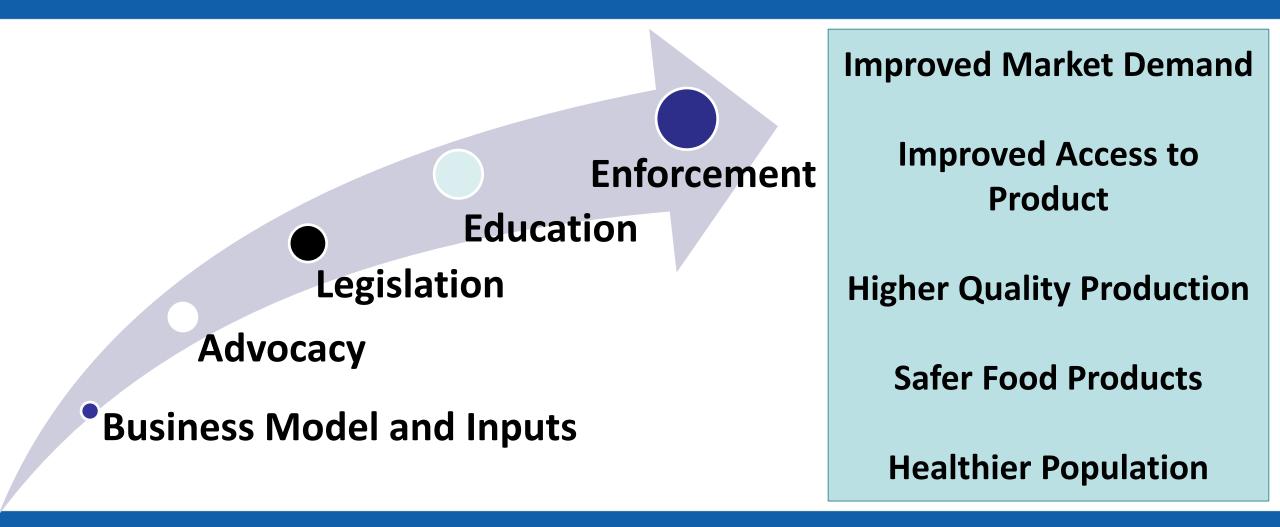
>Adds sustainability to efforts

## Requires Small Scale Maize producers to add

 Iron EDTA, zinc oxide, folate, Vitamin E, and vitamin B12



# **Successful Fortification Leads to Healthier People**





# Birth Defects Surveillance and Prevention in South-East Asia: Lessons Learnt and Way Forward



#### Dr Neena Raina

Coordinator, Health through the Life Course

WHO-SEARO



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Wheat Flour Fortification in India – A New Beginning

- India is estimated to hold 1/3 of the world's NTDs
- Many staple foods are not centrally milled (e.g., chakki mills)
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) set initial fortification standards for micronutrients too low
  - Folic acid level was below level to prevent NTDs
- In 2016, WHO-SEARO, CDC, FFI, and other partners led a successful effort to have FSSAI amend standards to align with global WHO standards



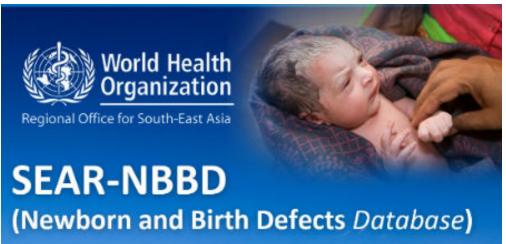
FFI: Food Fortification Initiative

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# **Building A Birth Defects Surveillance System**

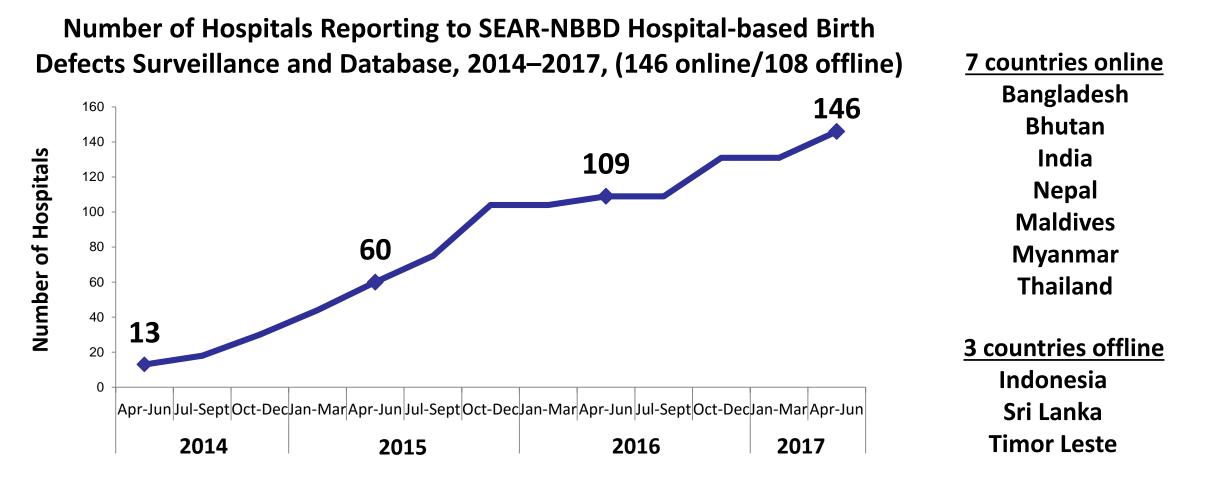
- To understand the impact of fortification and to demonstrate reduction in the number of NTDs, we needed data
- WHO-SEARO and CDC collaborated to develop a reliable birth defects surveillance system
  - Regional Strategic Framework
  - National strategies and plans
- In 2014, launched SEAR-NBBD Database
  - Define the magnitude and distribution of birth defects in SEAR



# **Progressive Increase In Reporting Hospitals**



#### SEAR-NBBD



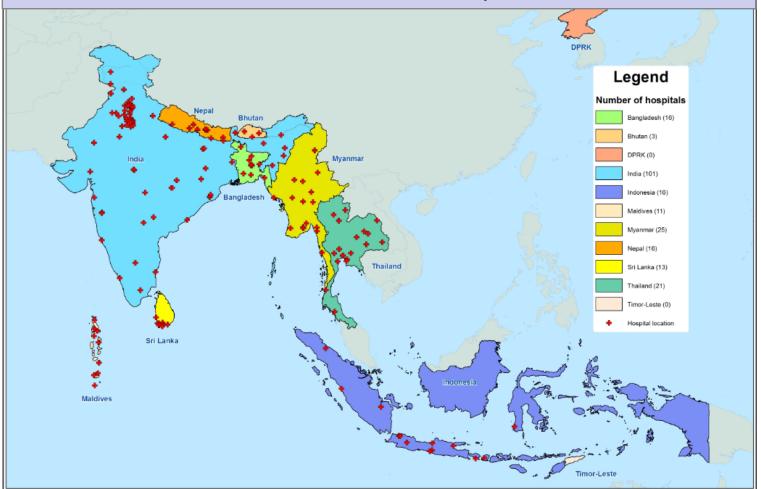
SEAR-NBBD Surveillance Data, July 2014–June 2017

# Hospital-based Newborn and Birth Defects (NBBD) Surveillance & Database



SEAR-NBBD

Hospital-Based Surveillance across 10 WHO-SEAR Countries, 2014–2017



 Standardized forms available online and through mobile app
 Training of data entry operators and other health professionals

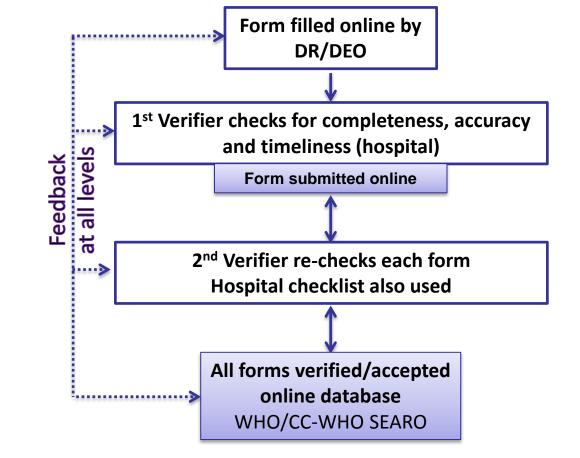
- Verification and quality monitoring of data
  - Troubleshooting and periodic monitoring

🖶 Reporting hospital

# NBBD Is a Unique Surveillance System

### **1.** Hospital-based surveillance

- Fetus or baby delivered in the hospital
- Birth defects identified at birth or until 7 days of life or until discharge
- All live births and stillbirths born with a birth defect
- Initial focus is on major structural birth defects but all BD included now
- Monthly denominators are submitted





SEAR-NBBD

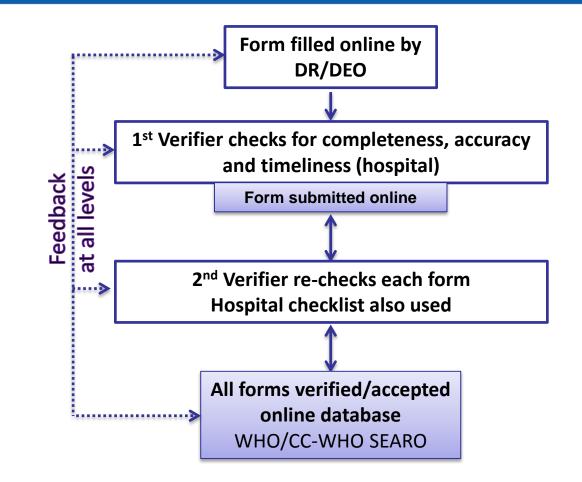
# NBBD Is a Unique Surveillance System

# 2. Quality assurance of surveillance at all levels

- All birth defects forms once submitted online are verified for completeness, accuracy and timeliness
- Feedback loop has been established to maintain data quality

# 3. Involvement of Ministry of Health (MoH) in every country

- Government hospitals
- Periodic follow-up easier due to MoH
- Sustainable





SEAR-NBBD

# Birth Defects Surveillance Highlights (2014-2017)



#### SEAR-NBBD

Total Births Reported	1.60 million
<ul><li>Total Livebirths</li><li>Total Stillbirths</li></ul>	1.56 million 45,800
Total Birth Defects Reported	Over 16,500
Total Babies with Birth Defects	~14,000 (0.89%)
• Birth Defects in Livebirths (overall)	~12,500 (0.80%)
Birth Defects in Stillbirths     (overall)	~1,200 (2.61%)

Data are from the 146 hospitals in 7 countries that reported online to NBBD between 2014–2017 and does not reflect of the overall prevalence or proportion of birth defects in these countries. Data represent only the information collected on BD from participating hospitals from the NBBD network that often focusses on visible birth defects. However, with better training and more interest at the hospital level, all BDs started being reported hence the spike in 2015. Total babies with Birth defects (LBs and SBs) have been rounded off. SEAR-NBBD Surveillance Data, July 2014–June 2017.

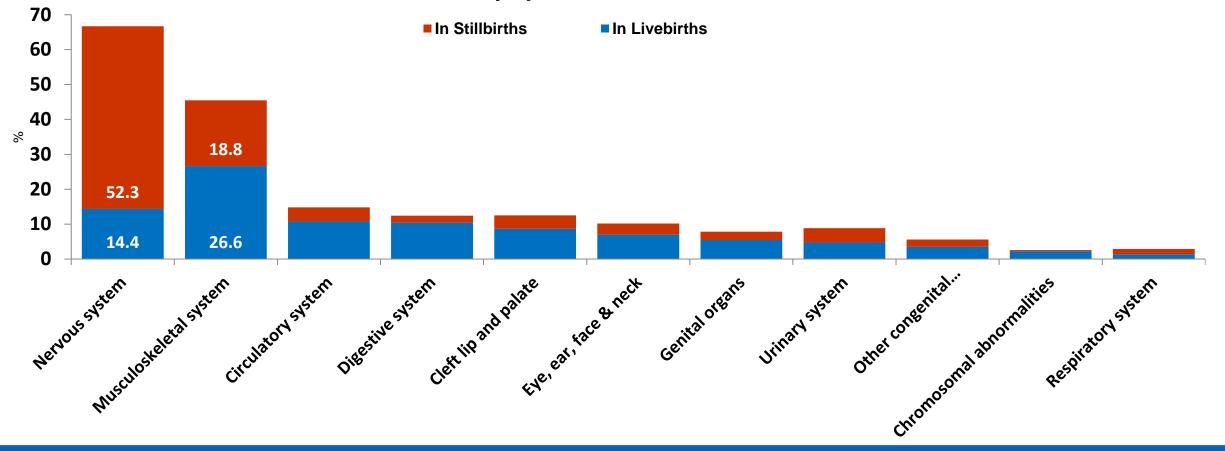
60

# Distribution of Birth Defects by System Nervous System Most Commonly Reported



SEAR-NBBD

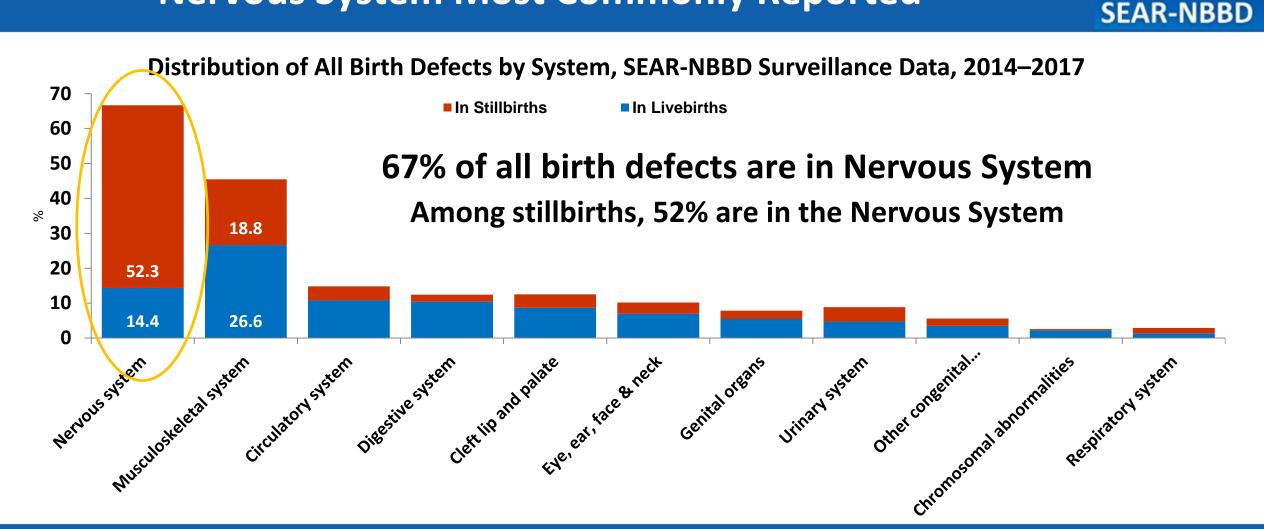
#### Distribution of All Birth Defects by System, SEAR-NBBD Surveillance Data, 2014–2017



Neural tube defects are classified into the Nervous System SEAR-NBBD Surveillance Data, July 2014–June 2017

# Distribution of Birth Defects by System Nervous System Most Commonly Reported



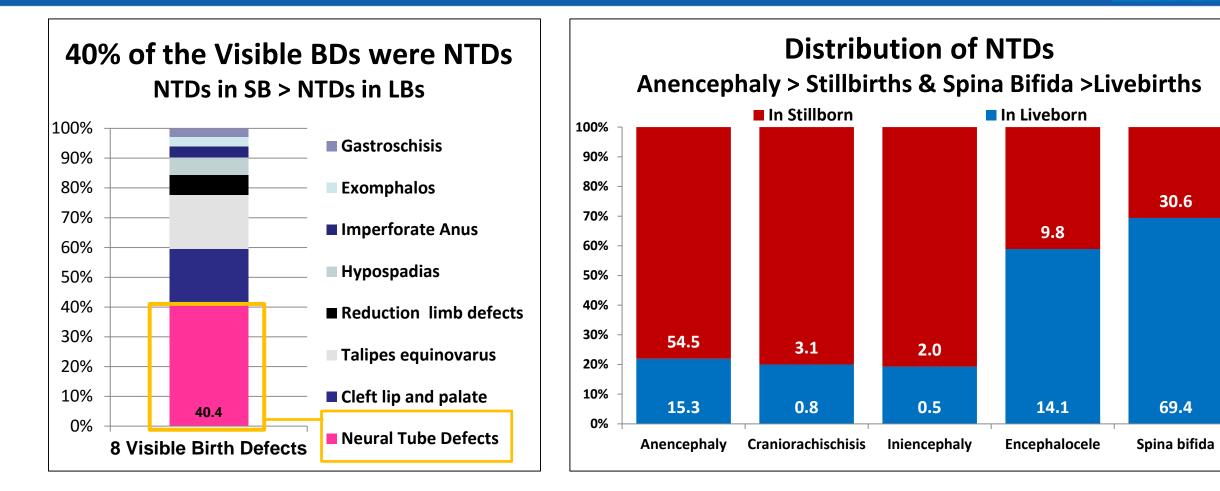


Neural tube defects are classified into the Nervous System SEAR-NBBD Surveillance Data, July 2014–June 2017

# **Distribution of Visible Birth Defects and NTDs**



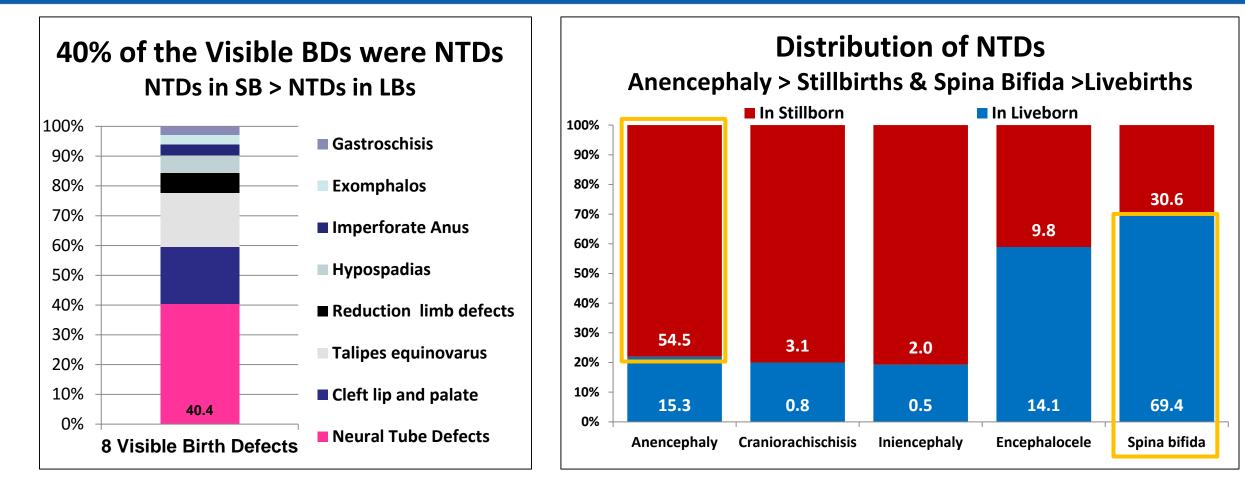
#### SEAR-NBBD



# **Distribution of Visible Birth Defects and NTDs**



#### SEAR-NBBD



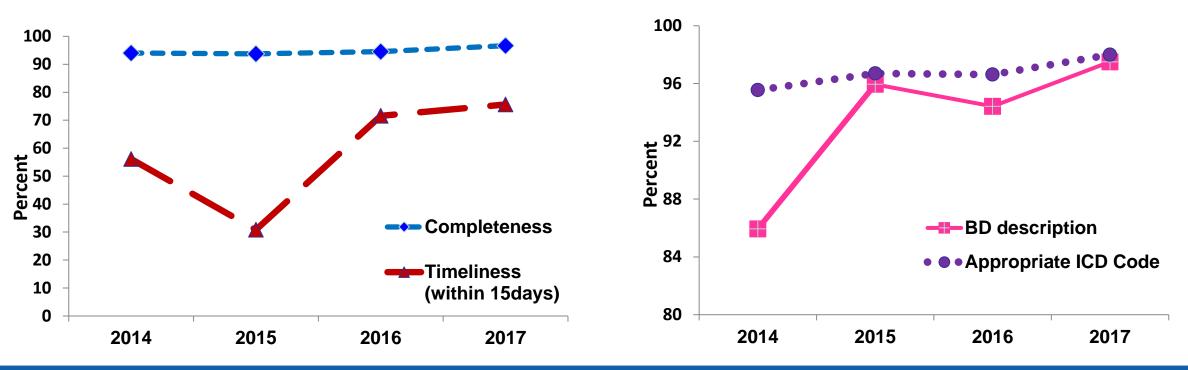
# Current Focus: Further Improving Data Quality and Evaluating Efforts



#### SEAR-NBBD

# Completeness of form improved Timeliness still challenging

#### BD description & ICD coding has improved considerably





#### SEAR-NBBD

# NTDs in stillbirths four times higher than livebirths in NBBD Stillbirth pilot had similar findings

• Every third case of stillbirth had an NTD

Lessons led to stillbirths surveillance expansion under NBBD



Key Lessons Learnt from Implementing NBBD Surveillance and Database

- Stakeholder engagement is key
- Focal points with clearly defined roles for birth defects surveillance important for smooth operations
- Periodic refreshers and trainings needed for good data
- Focus on data quality and use by analysis and interpretation
- Hospital network can be leveraged
  - e.g., sharing guidelines and monitoring HCM during Zika outbreak
- Country-level MoH commitment is needed for sustainability

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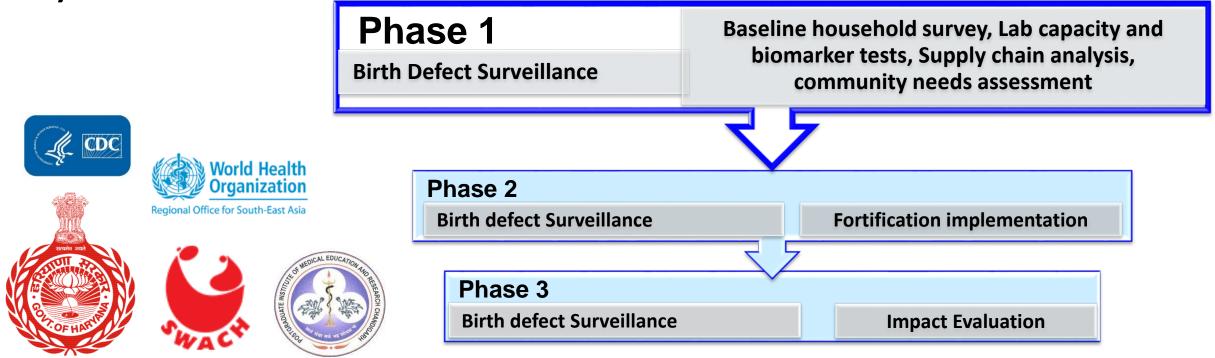




SEAR-NBBD

# **Evidence for Action : Demonstration Project in Haryana, India**

Aim -- assess the feasibility, sustainability, and health impact of fortifying wheat flour with iron, folic acid, vitamin B12 using India's existing open market and government systems



# And the journey of NTD prevention continues...

Prevent Birth Defects Improve Newborn Survival -Ensure Quality of Life and Dignity

# Thank You





**Acknowledging collaboration** 

CDC USA: National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Ministries of Health Network Hospitals WHOCC at AIIMS New Delhi CAH unit at WHO-SEARO

## CDC PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS

# **Global Prevention of Neural Tube Defects**



#### October 17, 2017



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention