



Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Consortium

Accelerating Action on Maternal Nutrition & Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation

For too long, the world has limited its potential by ignoring women's nutrition. No more. The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) Consortium unites country leaders, researchers, international organizations, technical experts, the private sector, and funders around a shared agenda to amplify impact on maternal nutrition. With collective and sustained action, we can improve the nutrition and health of women and children—and build a stronger future for us all.

There is a critical need. Many women lack access to nutritious diets and needed health care services, resulting in unacceptable levels of malnutrition around the world. Pregnancy comes with greater nutrition demands to support the health of mother and child. Women who are malnourished in pregnancy face severe consequences:

- Maternal death is twice as likely in women with severe anemia.
- Children born to malnourished mothers are more likely to be born too small, too soon, or still born, and if they survive infancy, are more likely to experience physical and cognitive setbacks that can keep them from reaching their full potential.

We have a new solution with superior impact: Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS). Twenty years of research shows clear evidence that Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS)—a supplement containing 15 vitamins and minerals, including iron and folic acid (IFA)—is an efficacious, safe, cost-effective, and affordable intervention that is more effective than IFA supplementation alone in support of good pregnancy outcomes.

Over the past five decades, IFA supplementation has become a core component of antenatal care for pregnant women around the globe. While iron and folic acid are critical nutrients, we know that they are not the only nutrients that pregnant women may need to support their health and the health of their child. Compared to IFA supplementation, MMS better ensures that babies are born healthy, and it has the greatest benefits when taken by malnourished women.

Globally more than 240 million women of reproductive age are underweight, 613 million are anemic, and an estimated 450 million are stunted—a sign of chronic undernutrition.

Compared to Iron and Folic Acid, Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation:

- Reduces the risk of a child being stillborn by **8%**. When taken by anemic pregnant women, the risk is reduced by **21%**.
- Reduces the risk of child death (0-6-months) by **29%** when taken by anemic pregnant women.
- Reduces the risk of a child being born with low birth weight by **12%**. When taken by anemic pregnant women, the risk is reduced by **19%**.
- Reduces the risk of being born small for gestational age by **3%**. The risk is reduced by **8%** when taken by anemic pregnant women.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies will drive collective action for women's nutrition.

We are stronger and smarter together. To that end, HMHB supports global and national stakeholders in their efforts to seize opportunities and overcome the challenges in adoption of affordable Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) to accelerate country-level implementation.

Our Vision

Ensure that women everywhere have access to critical nutrition services and antenatal care that can safeguard their health throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period, and better ensure that babies are born with a healthy start in life.

Our Mission

Improve maternal nutrition through collective action by Consortium members working to accelerate availability and effective use of MMS in low- and middle-income countries.

What does the Consortium do?

1. **Aligns perspectives and activities around a common MMS** agenda so that governments and organizations are moving in the same direction and are best positioned to learn from each other, avoid duplicative efforts, and maximize impact.
2. **Accelerates and amplifies MMS advocacy** in global, regional, and national contexts to create the enabling environment for adoption of MMS policies and programmes.
3. **Creates consensus and guides collective action on emerging issues** through technical expert convenings and discussions on the latest information and evidence.
4. **Captures, shares, and widely disseminates existing and new information** on MMS evidence, tools, guidance, lessons learned, and other resources.

Visit: www.HMHBconsortium.org to learn more.

Contact Us. Are you interested in working with us? Contact us to learn more about Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies: HMHB@micronutrientforum.org.



The HMHB Consortium's Secretariat is hosted by the Micronutrient Forum (MNF): micronutrientforum.org