

Strengthening MMS Monitoring Systems: Insights from Country Experiences

Webinar









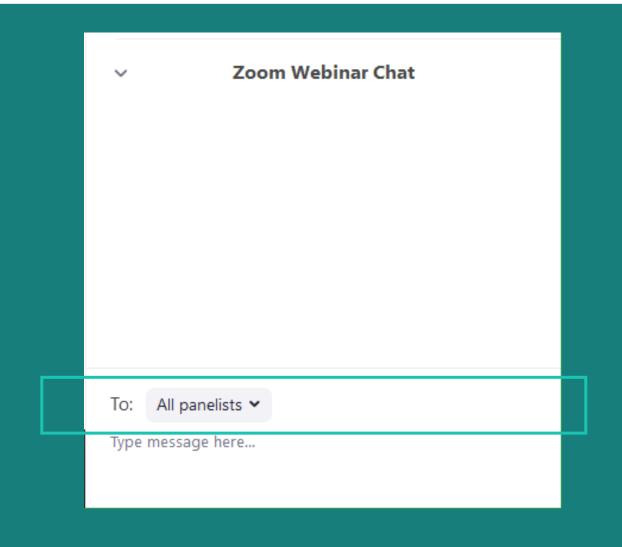
Before we start

- All participant video & microphones are muted during presentations.
- A recording of this webinar will be available on the Data for Nutrition YouTube channel immediately.
- Presentations will be posted in the community in the coming week.



What if I'm still having trouble?

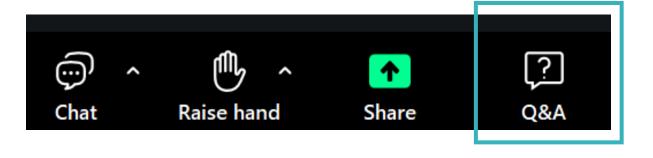
- Use Zoom to chat with Sharmin Sultana by selecting "All Panelists" in the chat box
- We will do our best to respond during the webinar

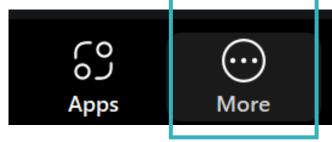




Question & Answer

Use the Q&A button to submit your questions for the panel.
 We will get to as many questions as we can.

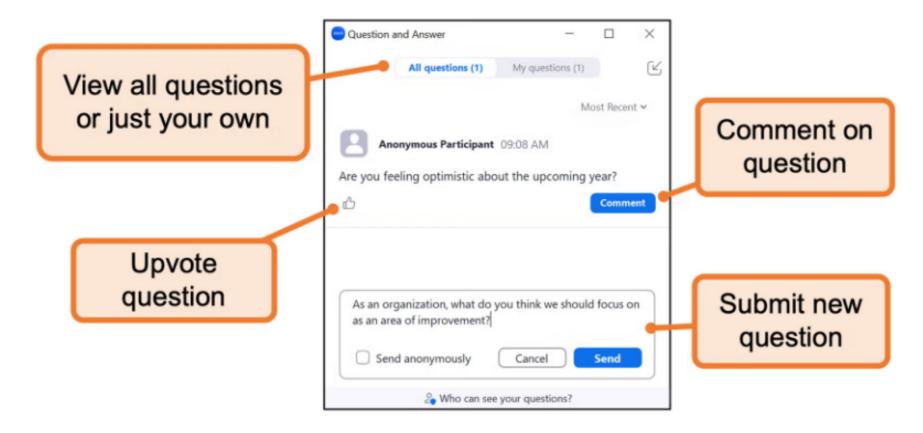






Question & Answer

When the Q&A box opens you can:







The Data for Nutrition (DfN) Community of Practice provides members with opportunities to share knowledge, experience, and questions relevant to **strengthening the nutrition data value chain** at all levels for the purpose of achieving better nutritional outcomes in low- and middle-income countries.

DfN has been active since 2019. In 2025, we have transitioned from a previous platform to a LinkedIn group to better connect, collaborate, and grow our community.

We are 680 members on LinkedIn and growing!

Join at https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13192578/



Today's Moderator



Martin Mwangi

Program Lead, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Consortium (HMHB), Micronutrient Forum



Turning evidence into collective action

Global Conference









Speakers



Rebecca Heidkamp

Associate Research Professor,

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg

School of Public Health





Manish Gautam
Chairperson,
Anweshan



Melinda Munos

Associate Professor /
Researcher,

Johns Hopkins Department of
International Health / Institute
for International Programs

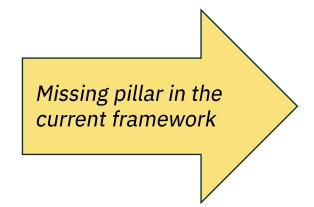




How will governments, donors & implementation/technical partners monitor supply, reach, adherence, and quality delivery at scale??

Monitoring Systems





Need for clear consolidated **GUIDANCE**:

- what & how to measure at each stage in scale-up
- how to integrate MMS into existing national monitoring systems (e.g. DHIS-2/HMIS, surveys)

Common framework for MMS introduction & scaling (Mar 2024)

		Activities		Outputs	77
	I. BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	II. DESIGN & TEST IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	>> III. SCALING & SMAINTENANCE	> STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES
POLICY/ GULATORY	Landscaping & analysis Stakeholder mapping & engagement Advocacy	Advocacy Policy & guideline development Roadmap	 Policies & guidelines adoption Operationalize Roadmap 	Product is included in relevant policies & instruments at all levels of government	REACH COVERAGE
FINANCING	Cost-effectiveness analysis	Forecasting Financing strategy	Demand planning Finance mechanisms Market shaping	Sufficient funding committed by governments & donors for procurement & delivery of Product	
QUALITY	 Supply readiness assessment 	Manufacturing support Supply chain strengthening	Cost-effective procurement coordination Monitor & address supply chain/distribution/stock outs Cost-effective procurement distribution/stock outs	Sufficient volumes of quality product are manufactured, available & procured	IMPROVED MATERNAL NUTRITION & BIRTH OUTCOMES
DELIVERY	Delivery platform(s) assessment Exploratory distribution of Product	Demonstration projects System strengthening	National rollout Expansion of delivery channels	Product is available & accessible & pregnant women receive product during ANC & use as recommended	
	COORDINATION AND MLE				



Adding the missing pillar

What monitoring systems are currently being used for IFA in countries?

Admin Data









Logistics MIS





Survey data

Periodic Household Survey (e.g. DHS, national nutrition survey)





Facility-based surveys (e.g. SPA, SARA)



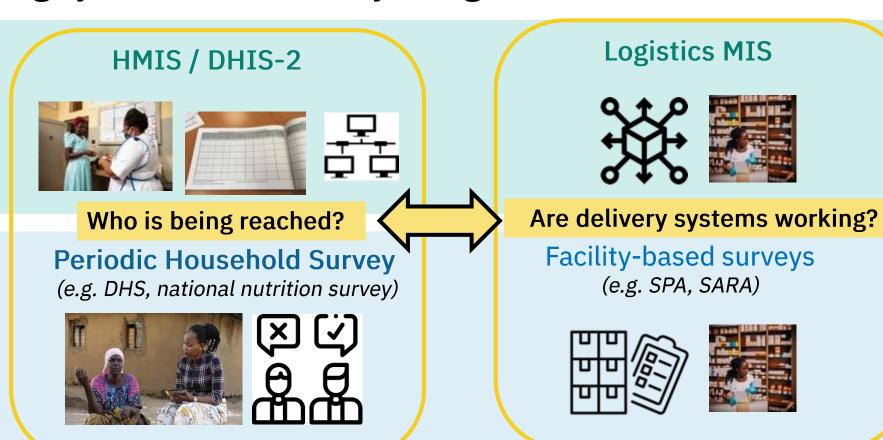




What monitoring systems are currently being used for IFA in countries?

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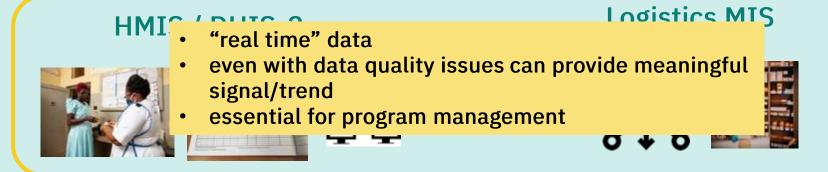
Survey data



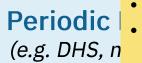


What monitoring systems are currently being used for IFA in countries?





Survey data





- periodic / lagged data
- population-based estimates
 - capture women outside health system
 - track progress against coverage targets
 - allow for equity analysis
 - allow for co-coverage analysis
- can validate admin data

veys





CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY

- How do we contribute to broader information systems strengthening?
- Nutrition community does NOT control system updates
 - Can take years to roll out updated paper HMIS registers
 - Need to be "at the table" early in survey planning to advocate
- Must be ready for window of opportunity to update tools
 - Have clear requests for additions or changes—justify why & costs
 - Start to advocate as early as possible with <u>both</u> program & measurement / information systems stakeholders



Technical issues need to be addressed

Routine data & survey systems for IFA are not meeting needs





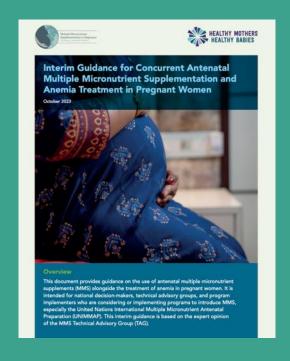
- WHO-UNICEF survey across 52 countries → <50% satisfied with quality of information on IFA
- Methodological issues for HH surveys need to be addressed

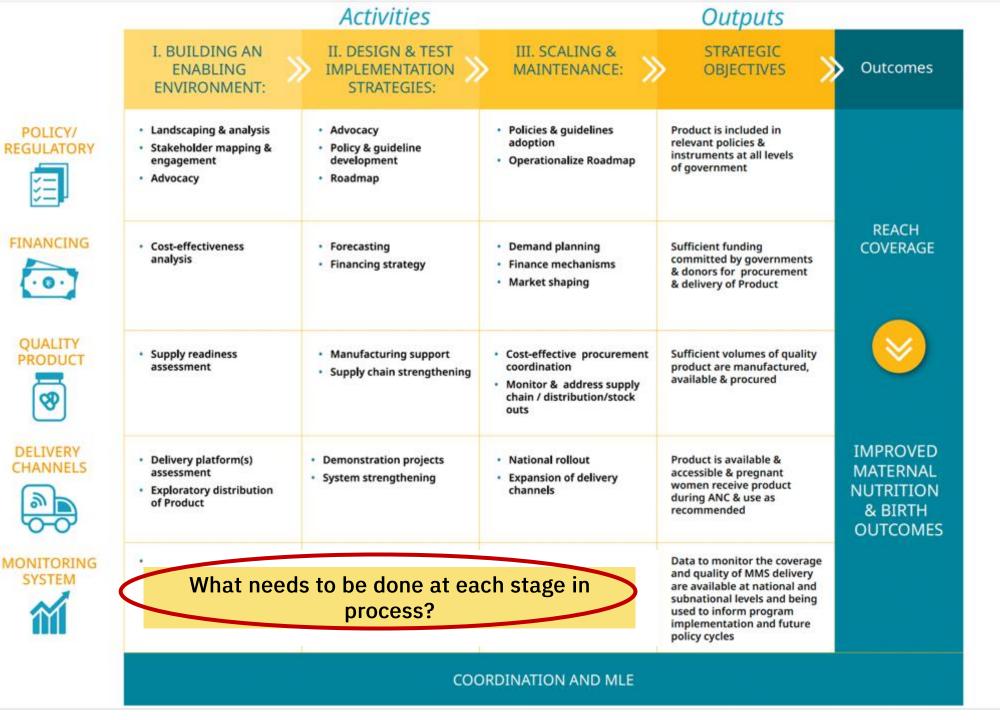
Methods used for IR studies are not feasible for routine monitoring



 Need lower intensity methods to document receipt & adherence during clinic visits & through household surveys

Whether & how we monitor IFA/MMS supplements used for anemia treatment





Adding the missing

pillar

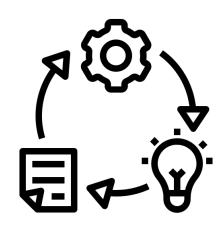
What is needed to integrate MMS into national monitoring systems?

Landscaping & assessment

- Identify information needs of different stakeholders involved in transition & ongoing ANC implementation
- Understand current IFA monitoring systems & emerging approaches for MMS monitoring
- Identify timelines for HMIS & survey updates

Design & Test

- How do we do better than IFA?
- Specify feasible modifications to data collection platforms



Fill the gap: how to monitor during transition / before full integration?



Advocate for changes & implement / scale

Global landscaping: MMS monitoring systems (Jun 2025)

- Qualitative review of 13 countries across South Asia (7) & Africa (6)
- Little evidence of comprehensive plans for monitoring the IFA to MMS transition unclear about tool updates, training, DQA, etc
- In most early scale-up contexts health workers informally or formally:
 - use existing forms but record MMS in IFA fields OR
 - use dedicated vertical MMS reporting forms
 - some have dedicated digital tools / apps (siloed)
- Unclear whether IFA will continue to be monitored into future
- Level of private sector provider engagement is unclear in most contexts









Planning MMS Monitoring Ahead of Scale-up:

A Case from Nepal

18th December 2025

Manish Gautam

Anweshan









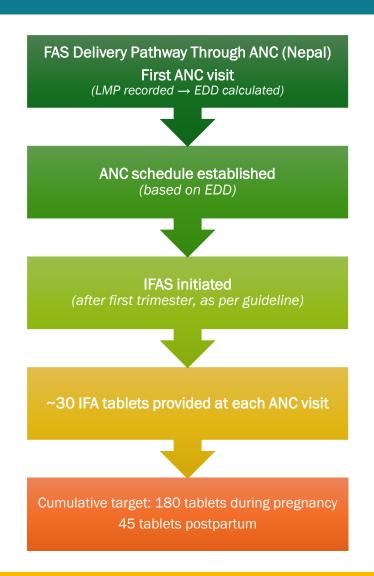


IFAS in Nepal: Programme and Monitoring Context

Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation (IFAS) in Nepal is monitored through multiple, complementary systems:

- Routine service data (HMIS / DHIS-2):
 Women receiving 180 IFA tablets in pregnancy and 45 days postpartum
- Population & facility surveys (NDHS, Facility Surveys): capture coverage, timing, and adherence
- Logistics data (eLMIS → now PAMS): monitors procurement, stock, and availability of supplements
- Studies & evaluations: provide deeper insight into compliance, barriers, and effectiveness







How We Examined MMS Monitoring Readiness in Nepal

Our analysis combined document review and system-level consultations:



Desk review

Review of national HMIS/DHIS-2 tools, logistics systems (eLMIS → PAMS), surveys (NDHS, Facility Surveys), guidelines, and prior programme transitions



Stakeholder consultations

Semi-structured discussions with **federal**, **provincial**, **and facility-level** actors involved in IFAS, nutrition, HMIS, and logistics





System lens

Focused on how data are **recorded**, **reported**, **analysed**, **and used** during a potential transition from IFAS to MMS



Validation

Findings refined through a **national consultation workshop** with government and partners





Monitoring Systems: Historically Low Priority

Across Nepal—and many other countries—monitoring systems are rarely discussed early:

- Programme discussions focus on interventions, commodities, and guidelines
- Monitoring and reporting are often addressed late in the process
- Major HMIS revisions typically occur only every 4–6 years
- Nutrition monitoring is often embedded within broader systems, with limited visibility
- Dedicated discussions on monitoring systems themselves are rare

IFAS Monitoring Systems Were Not Designed for MMS

- HMIS tracks only tablets distributed, not tablets consumed
- No field to differentiate IFAS vs MMS
- Anemia treatment not captured in routine reporting
- Facility workarounds → writing "MMS" in margins
- Once data is in DHIS-2, IFAS and MMS get mixed

This assessment was among the first in Nepal to focus entirely on the monitoring system—not the intervention.

What the Current System Captures vs What It Misses

What the system captures well



- Number of pregnant women receiving IFAS tablets
- Quantity of tablets distributed through ANC and PNC
- Whether women actually consume the tablets
- Routine service contacts reported through HMIS / DHIS-2
- Stock availability and movement through logistics systems (eLMIS → PAMS)

What the system largely misses



- Routine, timely measurement of consumption and adherence
- Completion of the full 180-tablet course
- Dropout, discontinuation, or side effects
- Treatment follow-up for women identified as anemic
- Clear differentiation between IFAS and MMS during transition

Monitoring Must Transition in Phases

Option 1

Use existing tools, separate MMS by geography

Nepal's 3 options

Option 2

Add MMS field in register/DHIS-2 (preferred)

Option 3

Temporary standalone MMS tools for pilots

Why Option 2 Works Best

- Clear separation of IFAS and MMS
- Minimal burden on health workers

- Fits within national HMIS
- Supports national scale-up without confusion



What Stakeholders Told Us: Voices from the System

Across system levels, a common message emerged: MMS is welcomed, but monitoring is unclear.

Federal level

"Health workers already have a lot to do. If we suddenly change the register just for MMS, it will confuse them."

Provincial level

"By the time we are consulted, everything is already decided. Our experience from earlier pilots is rarely used."

Health facility level

"We give the tablets and record them, but we never know if the woman actually took them."

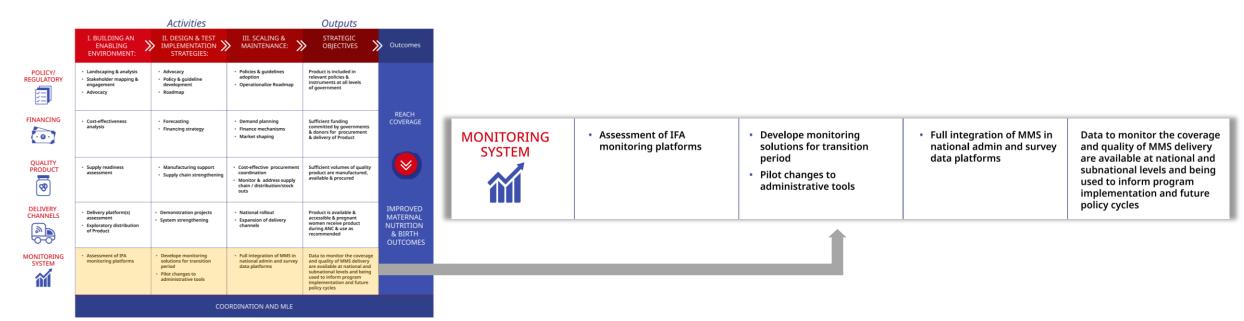
"We just write 'MMS' in the margin. In the report, everything still goes as iron tablets."



What Nepal Is Doing Differently

Nepal is deliberately bringing monitoring to the roadmap for the MMS transition:

- Actively engaging programme units, data teams, and logistics departments to discuss monitoring early
- Treating monitoring as a **decision-support function**, not just a reporting requirement
- Focusing on how MMS data can inform rollout decisions, course-correct implementation, and improve accountability
- Exploring practical options to improve recording and reporting before nationwide scale-up













Measurement Considerations for Scale-up of MMS

When measuring iron/MMS supplementation, we are most interested in 4 pieces of information

- 1. Which supplement(s) did pregnant women receive (iron, IFA, MMS)?
- 2. How many supplements were pregnant women given (or bought)?
- 3. When did pregnant women begin taking the supplements?
- 4. How many supplements did pregnant women consume?



Main data sources

What monitoring systems are currently being used for IFA in countries?

Admin Data

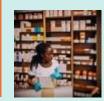


• "real time" data

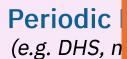




- even with data quality issues can provide meaningful signal/trend
- essential for program management



Survey data





- periodic / lagged data
- population-based estimates
 - capture women outside health system
 - track progress against coverage targets
 - allow for equity analysis
 - allow for co-coverage analysis
- · can validate admin data





1 & 2. Which supplements did pregnant women receive and how many did they get? (I)

Challenges:

- During and after the transition period, multiple types of supplements may be available and accessed by women, for example:
 - MMS from a health facility in the pilot area and iron from a health facility outside the pilot
- Women receiving MMS may also be given iron for treatment of anemia
- To track progress towards scale, we want to know which supplements women are receiving



1 & 2. Which supplements did pregnant women receive and how many did they get? (II)









- HMIS may collect for data on the type(s) and quantities of supplements provided during ANC
 - In some settings, this information is already collected for IFA
 - New or redesigned registers and indicators will be needed to distinguish between MMS and iron/IFA
- Household survey questions will need careful adaptation to capture the type(s) of supplements received
 - Visual aids may be needed to help women identify what they received



MMS

3. When did pregnant women begin taking the supplements?

- Challenge: Data on gestational age are often inaccurate, whether in HMIS or surveys
- This may start to change with more widespread use of ultrasound



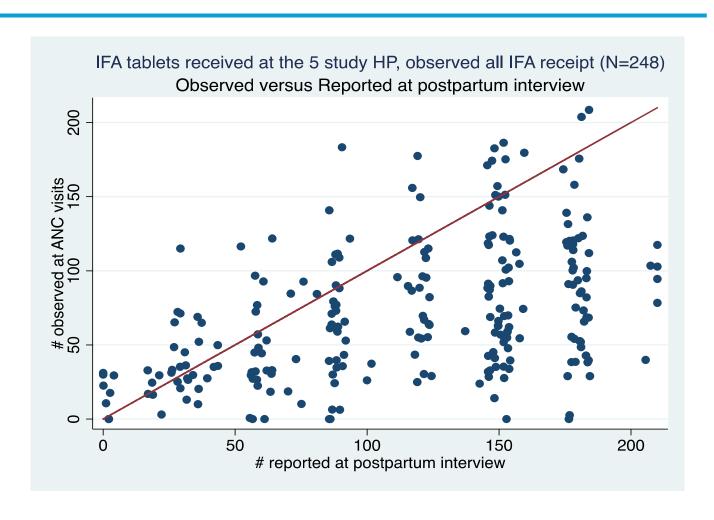
4. How many supplements did pregnant women consume?

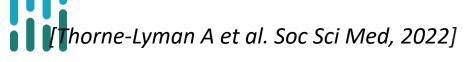
- In trials, adherence is sometimes measured by pill count or bottle weight
- Challenge: How to measure adherence at scale?
- Experience using bottle weight for monitoring adherence in Jordan
 - Generalizability to other settings needs to be established
- At scale, self-report is often used to measure adherence in surveys or through HMIS
 - Questions about accuracy of self-report, based on experience with IFA
 - What is a useful recall period? (last 7 days, last 30 days, over the entire pregnancy)
 - In HMIS, concerns about selection bias and desirability bias



Can women accurately recall the number of supplements consumed?

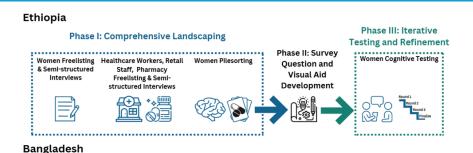
"I have to remember how many days I did not take [iron tablets]. It is a thing from a year ago ... how to remember?"





Can we design better questions?

Piloting in Bangladesh



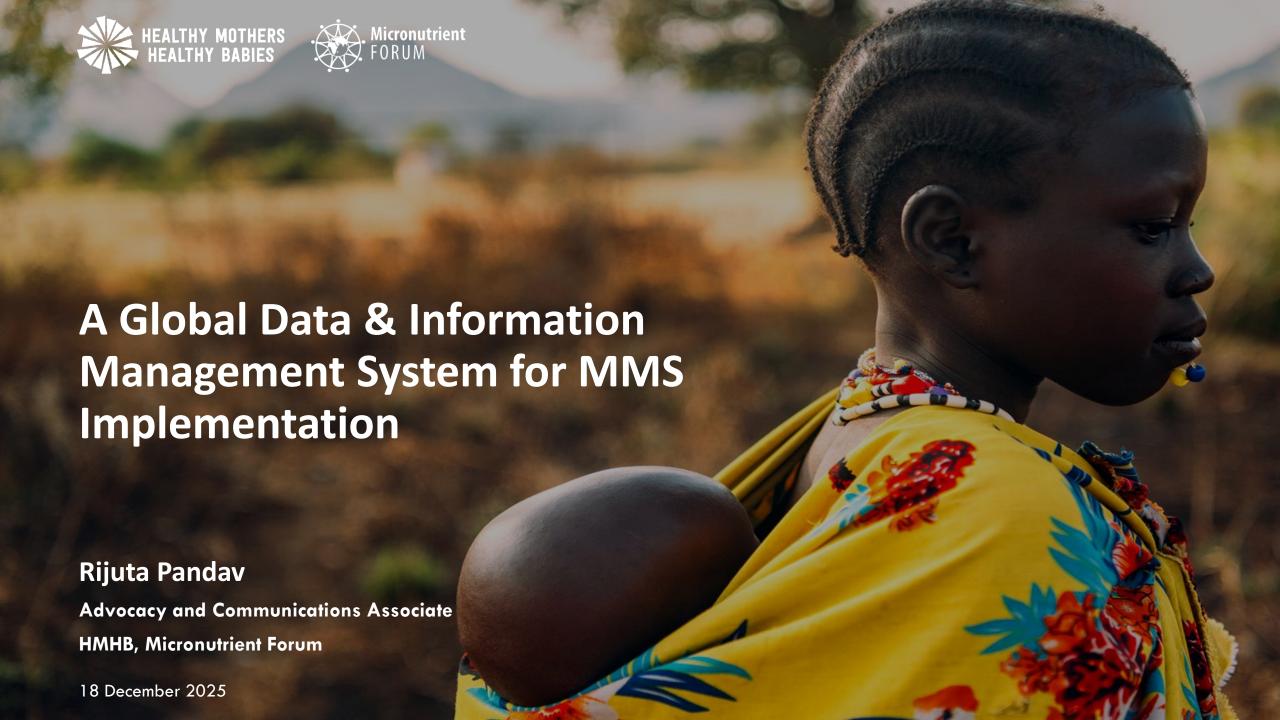
Phase I: Comprehensive Landscaping



- Formative research on IFA/MMS coverage and adherence questions was conducted in Ethiopia and Bangladesh
- Quantitative validation studies across
 3 settings (Jordan, Ethiopia, Nepal)
- Early results are promising, especially for questions asked to currently pregnant women



Image: Cognitive Testing in Ethiopia (2024)





HMHB Consortium: Who Are We and What We Do

500+ organizations and individuals

Central platform for evidence, collaboration, and advocacy in maternal nutrition

Access to essential nutrition and ANC services for pregnant women everywhere

Work with partners to accelerate the availability and effective use of **MMS in LMICs.**

Reach **75 million** pregnant women by **2030**







Why We Need A Global MMS Monitoring System

- WHO 2020 ANC guidance supports MMS introduction informed by implementation research.
- Countries are integrating MMS within ANC
- WHO requirement to monitor countries following their phases of implementation research.

Implementers

What are they key challenges and opportunities for scale-up?

Governments

How are other countries adopting and scaling?

Donors

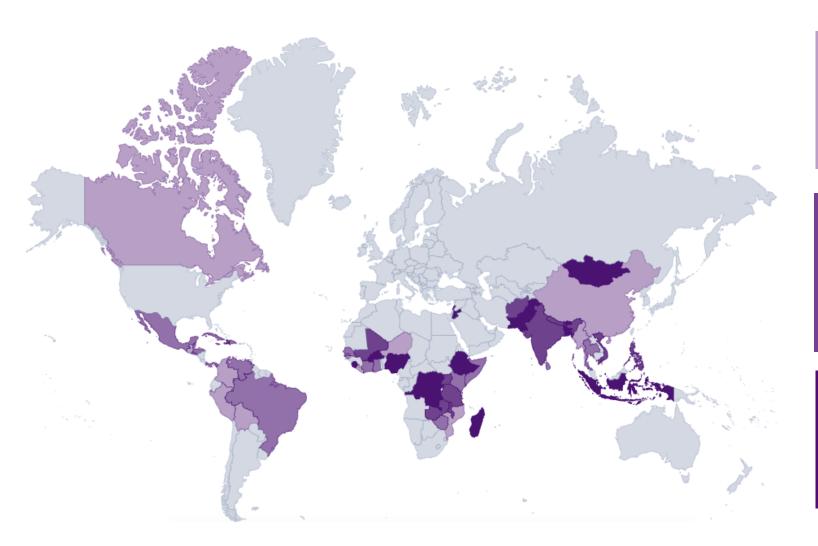
How can we help meet the financing needs of countries?







How We Are Tracking MMS Implementation: World Map of MMS Activities



Phase 1

Building an enabling environment

Phase 2:

Initial implementation supported by implementation research

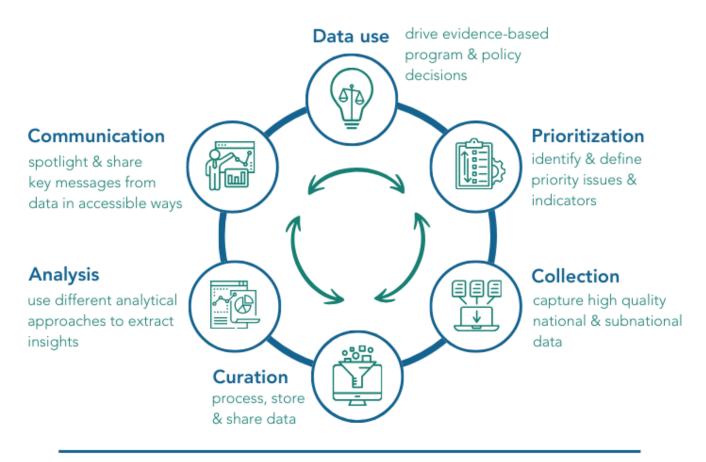
Phase 3:

Scale-up delivery at the national or sub-national level





How Did We Develop This Map?



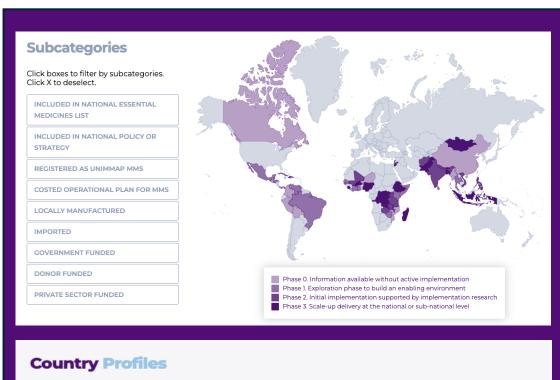


strategy capacity governance financing





What Does the World Map Deliver?

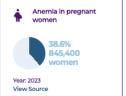


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Back to World Map

Health Indicators







Programs

MMS E

Summary: Phase 3. Scale-up delivery at the national or sub-national level

The introduction of MMS in Bangladesh follows a comprehensive systems approach and is supported by an extensive implementation research approach, which started in October 2020. Sight and Life conducted supply readiness assessments in 2015 and 2019 as well as formative research for UNICEF in 2019. The country has been actively working on MMS for pregnant women and engaged in MMS-fortlated activities and has a draft policy that includes MMS within broader nutrition strategies. MMS is being introduced through 2 platforms: 1) The Covernment of Bangladesh, supported by partners, takes a systems approach to distribute MMS through strengthened entendatic care services in 2 distribute. 2) The Social Marketing Company, with support from partners, takes a market-based approach, making MMS available through a nationwide network of pharmacies. Locally manufactured UNIMMAP-MMS, called 'Full Care,' has been available since July 2021. In collaboration with UNICEF, a coordination mechanism exists to support planning and implementation, and antenatal care (ANC) facilities are the primary delivery platform. MMS is provided free of charge through the national public health system. Sight and Life is conducting consumer research for improving acceptability and adherence, as well as supporting the deployment and refinement of digital tools to enable monitoring and course correction.

[Sources: HMHB Survey 2025, NutriDash and HMHB Survey 2021-2023]

Dashboard

















How Do We Manage This Data?



DATA QUALITY



DATA OWNERSHIP AND STORAGE



DATA COLLECTION FREQUENCY

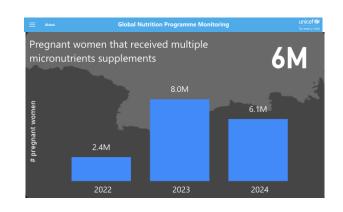


DATA SHARING





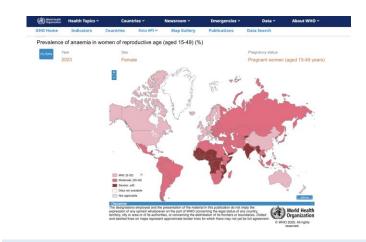
How Does It Complement Other Systems?



UNICEF NUTRIDASH







WHO MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH INDICATORS





What is the Value for Stakeholders?

Implementers

Research findings
Grey literature
Current implementation status and challenges

Manufacturers

Regulatory environment Supply chain issues

Governments

Resources for cross country learning Policy documents, and advocacy tools Funding mechanisms

Donors

Financing needs
Critical gaps on policy, implementation, supply

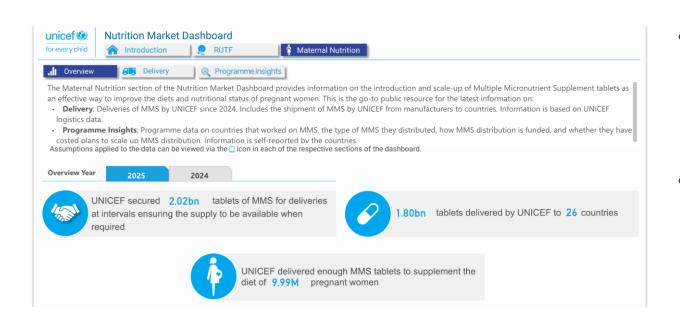




Future Directions

Nutrition Market Dashboard

Up-to-date information on the delivery of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and maternal multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS).



- Identify the most-relevant and used indicators
- Communicate key gaps and challenges in implementation to drive policy and program decisions
- Supply chain linkage with UNICEF's
 Supply Division



Activate countries and catalyze actions at the national level for MMS scale-up



We Are Grateful To Our Donors and Partners



Gates Foundation









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Department of Nutrition and Food Safety of the National Center

for Public Health, Mongolia

Addis Continental Institute of Public Health

Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

Helen Keller International

UNICEF

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Thank you.

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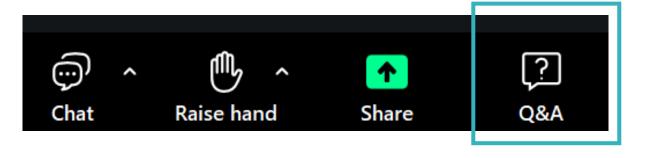
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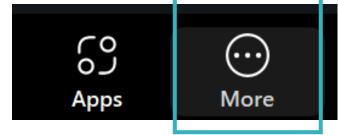
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Reminder: Question & Answer

Please use the Q&A button to submit questions.





If possible, please direct your question to a specific speaker.



Thank you for participating

We would like to say a special thank you to our speakers

A recording of the webinar is available now on the Data for Nutrition YouTube Channel. The recording link and presentation slides will be shared on the DfN LinkedIn Group:

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13192578/

Thank you for joining today's webinar. We hope you enjoyed it!

