Botswana
Food Fortification

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Where are we?

• Food Vehicles: Sorghum and Maizemeal
• 40-45 000 tonnes sorghum grains needed per year.
• 30 000 tones of maize is needed per year.
• At the moment there is no fortification regulation or standard in place in the country except for salt.
• Sorghum and Maizemeal are the main food vehicles produced commercially but majority are produced by small and medium enterprises.
• Though no fortification law, we have a directive that has ensured that foods for government feeding programme-under fives to be fortified (Tsabana)
• Botswana has a functional food control system (inspectorate, lab and legislation)
Where do we want to go?

• Conduct national survey to determine whether we need national fortification legislation.
• Find government stand on fortification
• Data centralisation on nutrition (inventory)
• Put fortification legislation in place
• Fortification strategy
• Public private partnership
• IEC material to sensitise the public and industry
• Have a well equipped laboratory able to test fortified products.
Challenges and Constraints

• No consensus between government and industry on fortification
• No legislation
• No collaboration on food fortification
• Consumer sensitisation
• No government advocacy
• Most milling is done by small to medium enterprises (capital)
Solutions

• Government should have a clear stand on fortification (all other issues will be addressed.
• Functional fortification board
• Fortification Strategy
• Fortification legislation
• Advocate for fast tracking the approval of legislation at policy level.
• Capacitate the lab
• Partner with NGO’s
• Taskforce developed to gather information on micronutrients
• Fortification programme launch
Timelines

• Data survey on micronutrients in Botswana-6 months
• Development of regulations and standards- 2 year
• Capacitate key stakeholders on fortification-ongoing
• ISO accreditation required- 3 years
• Establish food fortification board and all stakeholders should be involved-ongoing