LESOTHO REPORT ON FLOUR FORTIFICATION
BY
LERATO KUOE
CURRENT STATUS
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- Two milling companies are voluntarily fortifying for wheat flour and maize meal
- Premixes are purchased from DSM and each delivery is accompanied by a certificate of analysis
- Periodically samples are sent to an external accredited laboratory in SA for total iron and vitamin A
NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

• There is a Micronutrient Task-team coordinated by Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (Cabinet) composed of the following; Milling Company, Academia, MAFS, MTI, MOH, MCC, NGOs and UN

• The team is mandated to create awareness on food fortification matters
STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

• There is a Policy and Regulation in a draft form.
WHERE WE WANT TO GO
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

• To capacitate quality control and quality assurance with equipment, procedures (SOPs) and human resource to address food fortification issues

• To train the millers on how to perform spot checks for iron as an indicator to verify for food fortification
NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS

• To improve coordination on food fortification activities
• To clearly identify and understand the mandate of each stakeholder to avoid duplication of efforts
• To train Inspectors on how to perform spot check at the mills, port of entry, retails and household level
• To develop a monitoring tool
• To create awareness on food fortification eg media, IEC
STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- To formulate food fortification standards for maize meal and wheat flour
- To advocate for mandatory food fortification regulation
- To establish and accreditate National Laboratory where millers sent samples
CHALLENGES

• No standards for food fortification in place
• Lack of proper equipment to verify food fortification
• Lack of human resource
• Lack on knowledge on how to set specifications for food fortification
• Funding for procurement of reagents
SOLUTIONS

• Coordinated efforts between milling industry and public sector
• To share information amongst relevant stakeholders and the public on food fortification
• To centralize information on food fortification
• The government to waver tax on premixes
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

- For setting specification in food fortification
- Accreditation on ISO 17025 standards
- Training on the use of iCheck for laboratory technicians
- Training on spot check for inspectors and millers.
TIME FRAME

• To capacitate quality control and quality assurance with equipment, procedures (SOPs) and human resource to address food fortification issues
• BY May, 2017

• To train the millers on how to perform spot checks for iron as an indicator to verify for food fortification
• BY June, 2017
TIME FRAME cont.

- To improve coordination on activities
- To clearly identify and understand the mandate of each stakeholder to avoid duplication of efforts
- To train Inspectors on how to perform spot check at the mills, port of entry, retails and household level
- To develop a monitoring tool
- To create awareness on food fortification eg media, IEC

- By September, 2015
- By September, 2015
- By June, 2017
- By January, 2016
- On going