Enable Laboratory Assessment Results
Background

- ENABLE was implemented by GAIN with funding from USAID to address the policy and regulatory impediments to accessing nutritious therapeutic products for IYC, OVC and PLWHA.

- Regional intervention in East Africa (Uganda, Kenya & Tanzania) and national intervention in Mozambique. Key objectives:
  - Identify priority policy gaps and constraints to the enabling environment for local production and access to specialized nutritional foods.
  - Create an enabling environment for local production of a range of fortified products typically used in the context of nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS) programs.
  - Assess government with regard to regulatory control systems for quality and safety standards of therapeutic, supplementary and complementary foods.
Pillars of the Regulatory Framework

• Standards and regulations

• Monitoring and enforcement

• Laboratory testing capabilities
Focus of the ENABLE Assessment

- Strength of regulatory policy in relation to fortified foods and specialised nutritional products
- Adequacy of current standards and regulations applied on these foods
- Enforcement processes and capacity of government authorities to enforce the standards and regulations
- Analytical capability/capacity of government laboratories and the testing options available to them
Scope of the Assessment

- Analytical capability/capacity
- Ability to test
  - Micronutrients
  - Quality parameters
- Available testing options.
EXAMPLE OF LABORATORIES TESTING EXPERTISE (Regional)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LAB A</th>
<th>LAB B</th>
<th>LAB C</th>
<th>LAB D</th>
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<td>Vitamin A</td>
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Laboratories Assessed in Uganda

• Food Control Agencies
  – Uganda National Bureau of Standards
  – National Drugs Authority

• Academia and research institutions
  – Makerere University

• Private Sector
  – Chemphar
General Observation (Regional)

• Variable testing expertise.
  – Generally expertise in some areas is strong; e.g. microbiological testing.
  – Expertise exists in micronutrient analysis in some labs but in general there are gaps in this area

• Few laboratories accredited to ISO 17025; scope limited. In most cases micronutrient analysis not covered.

• Limited training opportunities.

• Lack of equipment but maintenance or setting aside budgets to maintain equipment even a bigger issue.

• EAC proficiency testing scheme in place
Laboratory Recommendations (Regional)

- Building testing expertise in:
  - Micronutrient analysis (foods and premixes)
  - Food safety - mycotoxins, pesticides in foods, veterinary drugs in foods of animal origin
- Accreditation for micronutrient analysis
- Strengthen the EAC Proficiency Testing scheme as important QA/QC tool for EAC and other laboratories in the region (links with ECSA, SADC, COMESA etc.)
  - Extend scope to vitamins, pesticides, heavy metals, and microbiological
  - Use workshops after PT rounds as a training platform
  - Build capacity to accredit the EAC PT scheme to ISO17043:2010
- Need to ensure food control agencies commit to maintenance budgets.