

Affordable healthy diets for all:

The role of food fortification in a time of pandemic

7 October 2020

Speaker slides



Anna Lartey

Director, Food and Nutrition, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Member of SUN Executive Committee

Access to Healthy Diets

**GAIN-SUN Event on COVID-19 Making is harder for vulnerable People to access
Healthy Diets**

7 October 2020

Anna Lartey

Director, Food and Nutrition Division

FAO, Italy

The cost of a diet increases incrementally as the diet quality increases

THREE INCREASING LEVELS OF DIET QUALITY

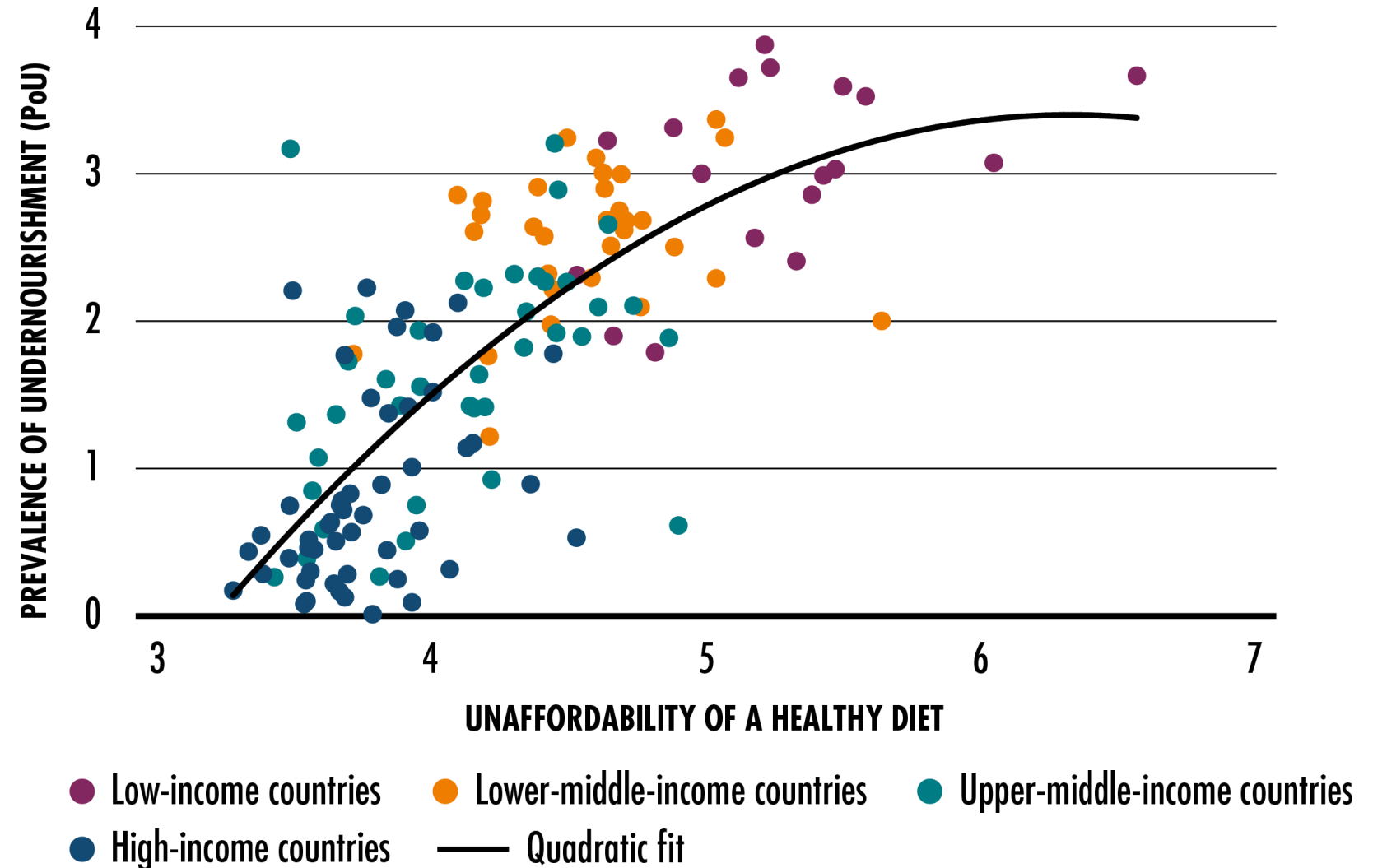


ENERGY SUFFICIENT DIET
meets needs for short-term subsistence

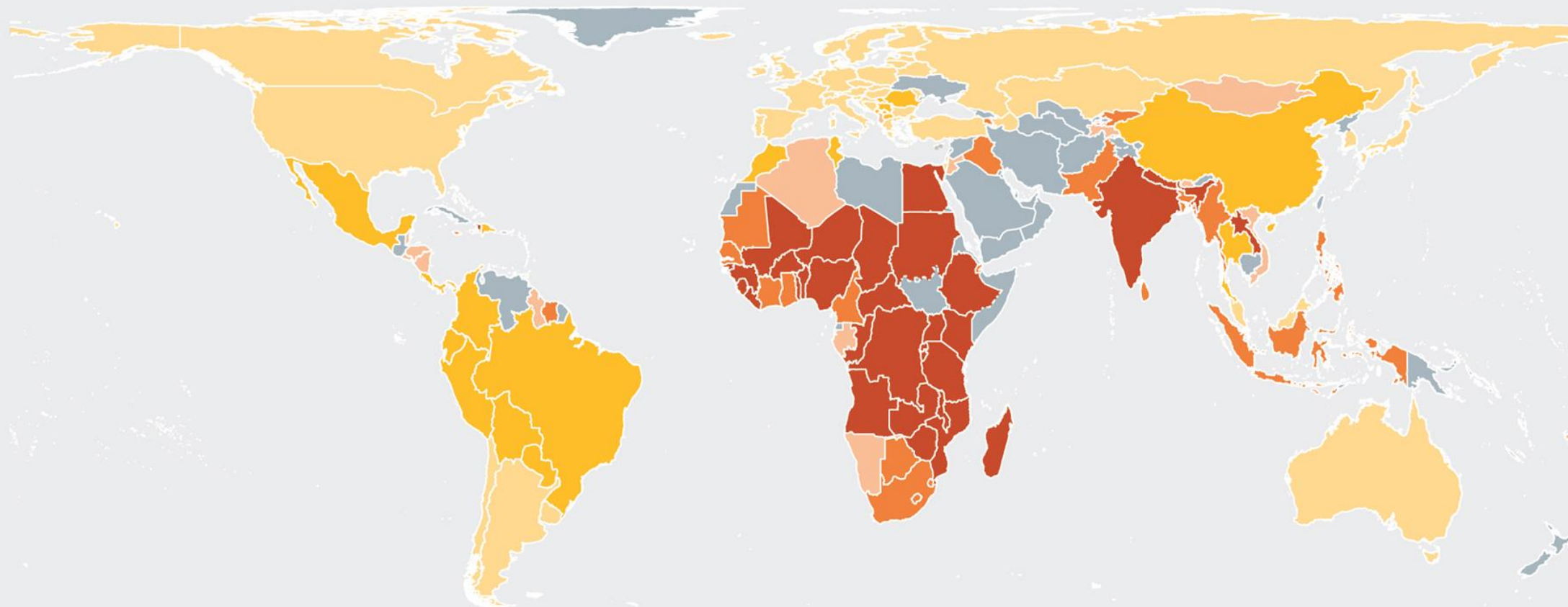
NUTRIENT ADEQUATE DIET
meets required levels of all essential nutrients

HEALTHY DIET
includes foods from several food groups and
has greater diversity within food groups

Costly and unaffordable healthy diets are associated with **increasing food insecurity** and **all forms of malnutrition**, including stunting, overweight and obesity



More than 3 billion people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet



Average percentage of the population who could not afford a healthy diet in 2017

■ No data ■ < 10% ■ 10–25% ■ 25–50% ■ 50–75% ■ 75–100%

Penjani Mkambula

Programme Lead, Large Scale Food Fortification , GAIN



Building Back Better With Food Fortification

Penjani Mkambula
Programme Lead – Food Fortification
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)



Presentation Outline

1. Food Fortification in the Context of COVID-19

- ❖ Supply Chains in Crisis
- ❖ The Coronavirus Economy
- ❖ Regulatory and Policy Responses

2. Keeping Fortification Alive

- ❖ The Magnificent Five

Food Fortification in the Context of COVID-19



Beyond the Lockdowns and Restrictions - Supply Chains in Crisis

❖ Premix and commodity supply chains

- Global premix supply chains
- Commodity export bans or quotas



❖ Access to markets - especially SME producers



Fruits, vegetables and other perishable nutritious foods less available due to COVID-19 related supply chain disruptions. Fortifying the readily available staple foods helps contribute to nutrient intakes across the general population

Food Fortification in the Context of COVID-19



The Coronavirus Economy

- ❖ Forex crunch ➡ impact on products/premix import
- ❖ Currency depreciation ➡ higher cost of imports
- ❖ Higher shipping/premix costs ➡ higher tax burden and prices



Regulatory and Policy Responses

- ❖ Reduced monitoring and enforcement
- ❖ Suspension of nutrition surveillance programs
- ❖ Suspension of mandatory fortification legislation



Keeping Fortification Alive: The Magnificent Five



Governments

Premix
Suppliers

Food
Processors

Development
Partners

Civil
Society

Keep Fortification Alive



Governments

- ❖ Premix on essential commodities list - customs green lanes, forex prioritization, support local supplies, remove taxes
- ❖ Maintain existing programs, scale up new ones and integrate into social safety nets

Premix Suppliers

- ❖ Responsible and reasonable pricing schemes, reasonable pricing and support SMEs.
- ❖ Support with logistics, extended payment terms

Food Processors

- ❖ Continue fortification in a COVID secure environment
- ❖ Invest in marketing on benefits of fortified foods

Development Partners

- ❖ Sustain/increase funding to maintain or scale up fortification and digital systems for monitoring quality.
- ❖ Advocate against export restrictions and quotas by key grain exporting countries

Keep Fortification Alive



Civil Society

- Hold government and private sector duty bearers accountable to ensure continued access to high-quality fortified staple foods.
- Support virtual, multi-stakeholder platforms and actions to expand access to adequately fortified foods.

Let's Double
Down on
Fortification to
Build
Back Better

Kazi Zebunnessa Begum

Additional Secretary, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Bangladesh



FOOD FORTIFICATION IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Kazi Zebunnessa Begum
Additional Secretary &
SUN Country Focal Point
Bangladesh



Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our economies, health and food systems and threatens to deepen the global crisis of malnutrition.

While the countries are grappling with imminent dangers that this virus poses to humanity, there are few key measures that individuals can take to fight this pandemic and Food fortification are an essential part of the nutrition safety net during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond –made a significant role to improve nutrition.

Keeping Fortification Alive during COVID-19

with support from the Partners, Government along with SBN provided safety materials along with detail BCC materials social distancing, sanitation, handwashing and nutritional needs focusing on COVID-19.

Considering COVID-19 the Ministry of Food adopt the alternative way to distribute fortified rice among the most vulnerable population under FFP and VGD programme. The social distance were maintained and the were musk ensured for every participants and a total 5 million beneficiaries were covered

Ministry of Food has launched fortified rice in Open Market Sales (OMS) for Dhaka City Corporation.



It is reached 4.0 million audience with messages related to Fortification and nutritional needs focusing on COVID-19 through a radio drama show & around 58% of the audience were females.



Thank you



George Oluwalajiki

Product Development Manager, Flour Mills of Nigeria

AFFORDABLE HEALTHY DIETS FOR ALL: The role of food fortification in a time of Pandemic

— George Oluwalajiki

New challenges due to COVID Pandemic – Nigeria experience

Production of Fortified foods : Easier ways and Access to Market

- Terrorist/Bandits attacks across the country mostly North East, North West and central.
- Farmers / Herders clashes resulting in relocation from host farmers communities, loss of livelihood and poor access to food.
- High prices of staple foods hence, poor nutrition
- 13 -18 Nigerian children die of Malnutrition and related diseases every hour – *Prof. Babatunde Oguntona.*
- Over 32% of Children under 5years are stunted .
(NNHS 2018)
- Affordability and Access barriers to food outlets and fortified foods
- Food shortages and price hikes due to weakened currency and access to forex.
- High cost of eating fortified foods, manufacturing cost and fortificants /premix
- Increase in transportation and logistics cost.
- .High cost of Energy , and production cost.
- Job loss on the increase , Poverty and Food insecurity

Way forward:

- ✓ Opportunities along the food chain - biofortification of traditional staple foods
- ✓ Fortified foods subsidy for affordability and to reach the poorest people, IDP, Home grown feeding programme.
- ✓ Increase awareness on fortified foods .
- ✓ Expand the scope of mandatory fortification for immunity boosting
- ✓ Need for regional or community food fortification
- ✓ Informal Markets and unbranded products
- ✓ Market regulation for fortified foods .

Engidu Legesse

General Manager, Guts Agro Industry PLC, Ethiopia

Affordable healthy diets for all: The role of food fortification in a time of pandemic

Workplace practices

- Introduction of new Guideline to prevent and manage crises of the pandemic
- Task force establishment and its follow up to monitor and mitigate the risk
- Training of workers on precaution and personal protection
- Ensuring worker's income to support their livelihood (free meal, salary increase ...)

New challenges

- Worker's demand for salary raise
- Inflation, shortage of hard currency, raw material price rise and fluctuation
- Temporary jobs reduction,
- Production shutdowns and the threat for more

What Next?

- incentives for vitamin and mineral premix import
- Suitable finance and insurance products for the food value chain
- Joint actions of Gov't, Private, NGOs, CSs, Associations and Movements
- Economic stimulus

Thank you



NUTRITION
CONNECT