



# Research strategy for work in micronutrients at WHO and recent work on Vitamin D & Ca

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Note: this presentation extracted from Micronutrients Department at WHO-HQ

# Role of WHO in health



- Authority on international health within the United Nations system
  - Experts produce health guidelines and standards
  - Help countries to address public health issues
  - Support and promote health research
  - Work with governments to jointly tackle health problems

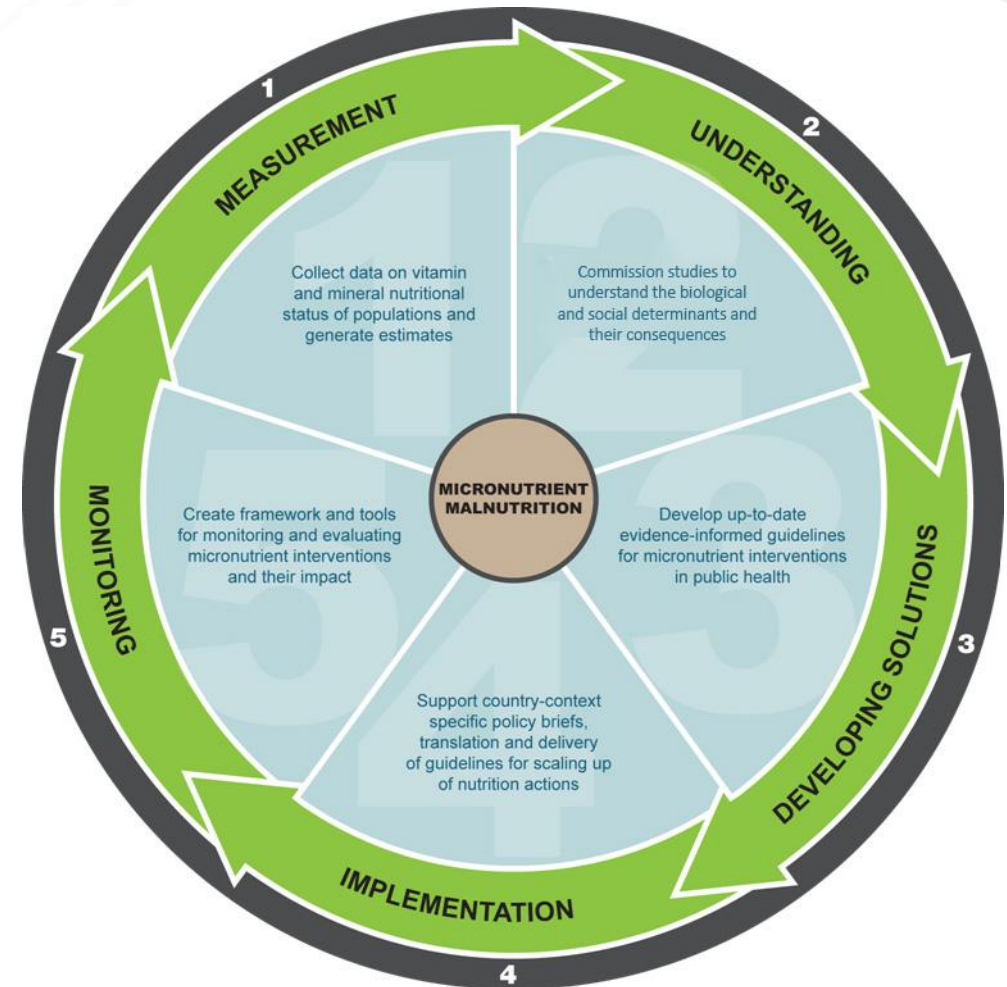
# Health for all



- Attainment of highest possible level of health for all populations
  - Improvement in global health and equity
  - Improvement in nutrition interventions
  - High-quality research and evidence
- WHO defines research as the development of knowledge with the aim of understanding health challenges and mounting an improved response to them
  - Involves 5 generic areas of research activity

# WHO research strategy for public health in micronutrient malnutrition

- 5 generic areas of research activity
  - Measuring the problem
  - Understanding its cause(s) and determinants
  - Developing solutions
  - Translating solutions or evidence into policy, practice and products
  - Evaluating the effectiveness of solutions



# Guidelines on the Nutrition web site



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### Evidence-informed guidelines

WHO has developed the present evidence-informed recommendations using the procedures outlined in the WHO Handbook for guideline development. The steps in this process included: (i) identification of priority questions and outcomes; (ii) evidence retrieval; (iii) assessment and synthesis of the evidence; (iv) formulation of recommendations, including research priorities; and (v) planning for dissemination, implementation, impact evaluation and updating. Using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology, evidence profiles related to preselected topics were prepared based on up-to-date systematic reviews.

#### Supplementation

- Guideline: Neonatal vitamin A supplementation
- Guideline: Vitamin A supplementation for infants 1–5 months of age
- Guideline: Vitamin A supplementation for infants and children 6–59 months of age
- Guideline: Vitamin A supplementation in pregnant women
- Guideline: Vitamin A supplementation in postpartum women
- Guideline: Vitamin A supplementation during pregnancy for reducing the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Weekly iron-folic acid supplementation (WIFS) in women of reproductive age: its role in promoting optimal maternal and child health
- Guideline: Intermittent iron supplementation in preschool and school-age children
- Guideline: Guideline: Daily iron and folic acid supplementation in pregnant women
- Guideline: Intermittent iron and folic acid supplementation in menstruating women
- Guideline: Intermittent iron and folic acid supplementation in non-anaemic pregnant women

#### Home fortification

- Guideline: Use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by infants and children 6–23 months of age
- Guideline: Use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by pregnant women

#### Fortification

- Recommendations on wheat and maize flour fortification meeting report: Interim Consensus Statement

e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA)

Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS)

Landscape Analysis on Countries' Readiness to Accelerate Action in Nutrition

World Health Assembly Resolutions related to Nutrition

**WHA64** Maternal, infant and young child nutrition: implementation plan A64/22, Provisional agenda item 13.13

10 facts on breastfeeding July 2011  
Breastfeeding WHO statement, 15 January 2011  
10 facts on nutrition 16 June 2008

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## eLENA

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## Highlighting new topics



WHO/Christopher Black

As part of eLENA's expanding catalogue of nutrition actions, the latest guidance is now included on a range of new topics. If you would like to suggest a new topic to be included in eLENA, please contact us at: [elena@who.int](mailto:elena@who.int).

- Calcium supplementation during pregnancy for the prevention and treatment of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia
- Iodine supplementation during pregnancy
- Vitamin D supplementation during pregnancy for the prevention and treatment of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia
- Wheat and maize flour fortification

### New in eLENA

### Highlighting new topics

New guidelines on calcium supplementation during pregnancy

New guidelines on the use of multiple micronutrient powders for infants, children and pregnant women

## Profiled interventions



Early initiation of breastfeeding



Exclusive breastfeeding



Complementary feeding

## WHO resources

[Nutrition Landscape Information System \(NLiS\)](#)

[International Clinical Trials Registry Platform \(ICTRP\)](#)

## Partners

[The Cochrane Collaboration](#)

– All partners

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