

THE GAIN PREMIX FACILITY

Improving nutrition in 45 countries
through ENABLE

SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO PREMIX THROUGH GPF AND GAIN'S ENABLE PLATFORM

Fortifying food staples such as flour, cooking oil and salt with essential micronutrients is a proven strategy for addressing the problem of malnutrition. Yet organizations producing or sourcing these fortified foods face a major challenge: finding a reliable, high-quality premix of these vital nutrients.

Micronutrient premix – a commercially prepared blend of vitamins and minerals used to fortify foods – has traditionally been difficult to source effectively, with government and industry alike facing the challenges of access to reliable suppliers, variable prices, lack of a system to assure product quality and scarcity of funds to finance upfront purchases. Since 2009, the GAIN Premix Facility (GPF) has reached some 120 million people every year with high quality, certified and affordable vitamins and minerals, removing one of the barriers to successful fortification.

The ENABLE platform is a series of integrated services designed to establish, optimize and maintain food fortification and safety programs, mostly in low and middle-income countries around the world. ENABLE builds on the highly successful GPF that has enabled local food companies in Africa and Asia to secure easy access to high-quality, safe and affordable vitamin and mineral premixes.

To learn more about GPF, contact us at premixfacility@gainhealth.org

VITAMINS AND MINERALS DELIVERED TO 45 COUNTRIES...AND COUNTING

“Within eight years of operations, we have sourced vitamins and minerals that have now been delivered in 45 countries. The most recent is Togo, where we delivered vitamin A to a cotton oil producer, who will fortify 1,300 metric tons of oil with the order sourced by the GAIN Premix Facility”.

Adeline Provent, Senior Associate, GAIN

GAIN SUPPORTS IMPORTS OF FORTIFIED FLOUR FROM PAKISTAN TO AFGHANISTAN

Micronutrient malnutrition is a major problem in Afghanistan. Half of all children 6-59 months old are vitamin A deficient, while 64% lack adequate vitamin D in their diets. About 13% of children and of women of reproductive age have iron deficiency anemia and 7% of adolescent girls (10-19 years) have folate deficiency (*National Nutrition Survey Afghanistan 2013, Aga Khan University, Ministry of Public Health/Afghanistan, UNICEF Afghanistan*).

These micronutrient deficiencies can be addressed through the fortification of locally-produced and imported flour with essential micronutrients. Afghanistan is among the highest consumers of wheat flour in the world (per capita, per month). More than 25-30% of Afghan households purchase wheat flour and in urban areas, that figure rises to almost 90%. Commercial flour imported into Afghanistan is not generally fortified.

The Pakistan wheat flour industry has shown keen interest in exporting flour fortified to national standards to Afghanistan, and asked GAIN Pakistan to provide 3.2 metric tons of premix to kick start the fortification process. This wheat flour premix (iron, folic acid, vitamin B12 and zinc) is enough to fortify more than 14,000 metric tons of wheat flour for Afghanistan. Sustainability is ensured through an industry managed revolving fund being established through the program.



Photo credit: Faiz Rasool, GAIN Pakistan
Training session on regulatory monitoring and reporting, for monitoring staff of the Punjab Food Department, August 2017, which supported export of fortified flour to Afghanistan.

IN ETHIOPIA, THE GPF SUPPORTS A CHILD FEEDING AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

In May 2017, GPF sourced vitamins and minerals for a complementary feeding program in Ethiopia, contributing to the production of 80 metric tons of fortified blends in semi-urban areas. Through the program, GAIN engaged with 20 women's groups in four regions to help address micronutrient deficiencies among infants and young children while providing livelihood support and empowerment of women.



Photo credit: GAIN Ethiopia

Members of a women's group mixing milled pulses and cereals with vitamin and mineral premix using a blender machine.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS IN KYRGYZSTAN

"Before we worked with GAIN, our salt producers had to pay for potassium iodate up front and it was also a lot in taxes. Cash flow for the business was difficult. Through the GPF, we can buy potassium iodate on credit and the price competes with informally imported and lower quality potassium iodate. We can pass on the lower costs to our customers and people who need iodized salt in Kyrgyzstan."

Baktygul Djangazieva's Kyrgyz Association of Salt Producers



Photo credit: Kyrgyz Association of Salt Producers
Iodized salt is available on the market in Kyrgyzstan, thanks to an agreement with GPF to supply potassium iodate to seven salt producers there.

SENEGAL STEPS UP SALT IODIZATION

Fortifying flour and edible oil with micronutrients is successful in Senegal, but the country still faces a challenge with iodizing salt to protect against the world's most prevalent, preventable cause of brain damage. Iodine deficiency can contribute to a 10-15 point reduction in a child's IQ, resulting in poorer school performance and poorer economic prospects later in life.

Iodization of salt has been mandatory in Senegal since 1994 and the country is the largest producer and exporter of salt in West Africa, producing about 450,000 tons every year. According to CLM (Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition), 67.8 percent of households have access to iodized salt (National survey on household utilization of iodized salt and bouillon on iodine status of women of reproductive age in Senegal: CLM, GAIN, MI, UNICEF 2015).

GPF has sourced potassium iodate for CLM since 2014. The 2017 supply will contribute to fortifying 160,000 tons of iodized salt, 35% of national production. The potassium iodate is distributed by CLM to 47 salt companies in the 6 regions of Senegal where salt is produced.



Photo credit: Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition
Iodine being added to salt at the production site of Ndiemou in the Fatick region, June 2017.

ABOUT GAIN

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) was launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition.

Working with partners, GAIN aims at making healthier food choices more affordable, more available, and more desirable. GAIN's purpose is to improve nutrition outcomes by improving the consumption of nutritious and safe food for all people, especially the most vulnerable.

