

FORTIMAS (Fortification Monitoring and Surveillance) started as a response to those who requested guidance on a feasible method for assessing trends in selected indicators of population coverage and impact of a flour fortification program during the early stages of the intervention, between the statistically representative initial and first impact assessment surveys.

Ibrahim Parvanta was the main author of what started as “A Guide on Monitoring and Surveillance of Flour Fortification Programs” and remains the main author of FORTIMAS. However, the final version of the guide was greatly improved based on the inputs of many people in academia, international organizations, national agencies and NGOs throughout the writing process.

An initial version of the guide was reviewed in April 2011 by multi-sectorial country teams from Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe at a workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Their contributions enriched the subsequent draft that received further beneficial inputs from Deena Alasfoor (Ministry of Public Health, Sultanate of Oman), Christine Clewes (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition - at time of review), Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas (World Health Organization), Laird Ruth and Mary Serdula (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and Brad Woodruff (International Health and Nutrition Consultant).

In March 2013, a follow-up meeting was held in Sandton, South Africa, to finalize the guide and develop it into a manual. The individuals listed below reviewed the revised document and gave invaluable advice on improving it for use at the country level. They also agreed to name the approach “FORTIMAS” for “Fortification Monitoring and Surveillance.”

Ronald Afidra (Food Fortification Initiative, Uganda), Ferima Coulibaly-Zerbo (World Health Organization, Burkina Faso), Maudede Hoop (National Department of Health, South-Africa), Pumla Dlamini (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, South-Africa), Esi Foriwa Amoafu (Ghana Health Service, Ghana), Svenja Jungjohann (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Switzerland), George Kaishozi (Helen Keller International, Tanzania), Milla MacLachlan (Stellenbosch University - Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, South-Africa), Girma Mamo Bogale (Micronutrient Initiative, Ethiopia), Eduarda Zandamela Mongói (Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mozambique), James Muwonge (Bureau of Statistics, Uganda), John Mwingira (Food and Drugs Authority, Tanzania), Alex Ndjebayi (Helen Keller International, Cameroon), Olugbenga A. B. Ogunmoyela (Bells University of Technology, Nigeria), Mawuli Sablah (Helen Keller International, Senegal), and Nigel Sunley (Sunley Consulting, South-Africa), and Lieven Bauwens (International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Belgium).

Throughout the entire process from the inception till finalization of FORTIMAS, Quentin Johnson (Coordinator for Training and Technical Support, Food Fortification Initiative), Helena Pachón (Senior Nutrition Scientist, Food Fortification Initiative), and Anna Verster (Senior Advisor Food Fortification - Smarter Futures Food Fortification Initiative / International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus) provided continual inputs and were in constant dialogue with the main author.

Last but not least, Becky Handforth (Europe Associate, Food Fortification Initiative) edited the document with a fresh eye and mind. She worked closely with Ibrahim Parvanta in finalizing FORTIMAS into its current version.

FORTIMAS is a living document and will benefit from the experiences of its users. Please contact info@smarterfutures.net to share your thoughts.

Smarter Futures, a partnership for Africa of the Flour Fortification Initiative, the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Helen Keller International and Akzo Nobel gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the Government of the Netherlands towards the development of this guide.



Lieven Bauwens

Secretary General
International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
Project Holder, Smarter Futures

