

BRIEF



Countries are Acting Now: Scale-up, Financing, Supply & Manufacturing

More than 30 low- and middle-income country governments—supported by the nutrition community, NGOs, donors, philanthropies, and manufacturers—are unlocking brighter, healthier futures through the introduction and scale-up of multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS) delivery within strengthened prenatal care systems.

With 15 essential vitamins and minerals, UNIMMAP MMS is driving breakthroughs in health and development for mothers and babies, communities, and countries. UN organizations, philanthropies, foundations, and implementing partners are currently supporting country governments with MMS supply, research, investments, and programming.

A global movement to improve maternal and newborn health with MMS is happening right now:

- **Demand for MMS from national decisionmakers, policymakers, and advocates has never been greater.** To date, 30+ countries are considering or in process of introducing and scaling up MMS in their health care systems. Country leaders are supporting efforts to adopt MMS as the new standard for antenatal supplement care. Implementation science efforts, pilot studies, and MMS deliveries by country are being tracked by UNICEF and the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) Consortium, so that countries, partners, and manufacturers can see the latest data in real-time. HMHB is tracking country's MMS introduction-related efforts. See the active countries on the HMHB World Map (at <https://hmhbconsortium.org/world-map>).
- **Supply & manufacturing are ramping up to meet demand.** To date, seven manufacturing partners are currently producing UNIMMAP MMS, and nine new manufacturing partnerships are underway. To ensure availability and proximity of MMS, efforts are underway to catalyze regional and local manufacturing to support domestic and import markets. A newly updated Expert Consensus on an Open-Access UNIMMAP Product Specification (at <https://nyaspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.15204>) provides guidelines to ensure consistent quality in UNIMMAP MMS production and aims to encourage and support rigorous manufacturing to meet the growing demand for this product by national governments. In addition, there is a new USP verification program for UNIMMAP MMS. This program will allow manufacturers to submit their product for standards testing by the USP. If they pass, they will earn the ability to use a verification mark on their label as a signifier of tested, trusted, and quality product.
- **Support for scale-up is available.** There is support for leaders in many forms—from a proven implementation science framework to manufacturing capability support to initial donations of product

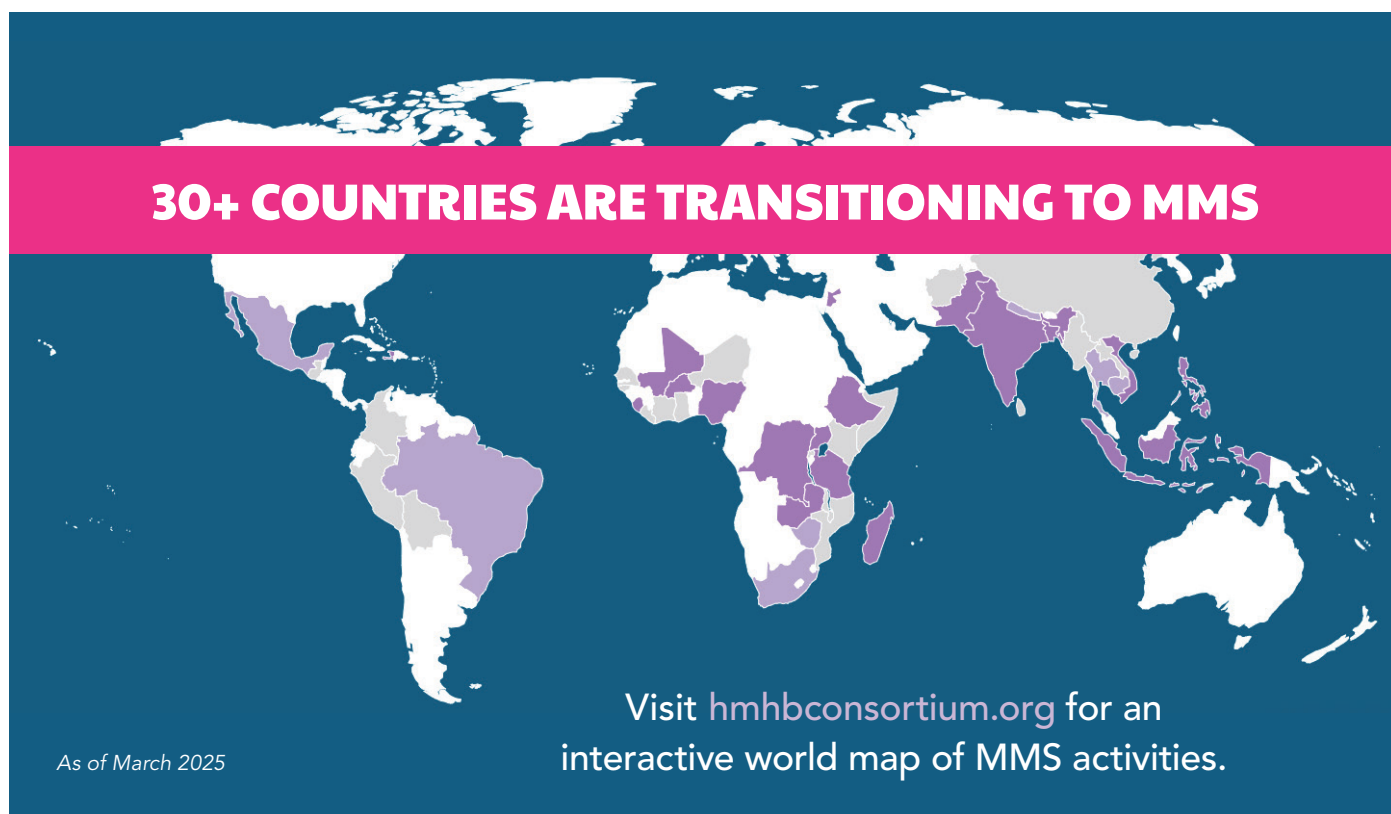
*Throughout this document, both MMS and UNIMMAP MMS are referenced, however, **UNIMMAP MMS is the only internationally recognized formula that is backed by over 25 years of evidence** in support of its effectiveness and ability to improve pregnancy outcomes in low- and middle-income countries.*

—which are available to countries interested in the introduction and sustainable scale up of MMS within a strengthened healthcare system. UNIMMAP MMS is available **now**—and manufacturing capacity is poised to grow with demand. Countries across the globe are encouraged to plan costed roadmaps (at <https://r4d.org/resources/multiple-micronutrient-supplements-costing-tool>) to implement this intervention. UN organizations, philanthropies, foundations, and implementing partners are working together with country governments to support with supply, research, investments, and programming to make MMS available and accessible to pregnant women.

- **Now through the end of 2025, 16 million women in 16 high burden countries will receive a package of antenatal care interventions, including MMS, through UNICEF’s Improving Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan** (at <https://www.unicef.org/media/153581/file/Maternalnutritionaccelerationplan.pdf>). The plan launched in March 2024 and taps into the **Child Nutrition Fund (CNF)** (at <https://www.childnutritionfund.org>), an innovative funding mechanism designed to speed up the sustainable and long-term scale-up of nutrition programs. Government officials in low- and middle-income countries are encouraged to access MMS product supply through the CNF.

Countries are encouraged to tap into existing mechanisms to accelerate MMS coordination and collaboration, including the CNF, Global MMS Donor Alliance, coordinating with the UNICEF Supply Forum, and collaborating with National MMS Scale-up Alliances.

Where to begin? Resources, tools, and technical support are available to support a country’s journey through introduction and scale up of MMS—find them on Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies website (<http://www.hmhbconsortium.org>) or contact us at HMHB@micronutrientforum.org.



The Opportunity

- Demand for MMS has never been greater. More than 30 countries have introduced or scaled up MMS in their health care systems. At least 50 countries are interested or actively considering introduction.
- 16 million women in 16 high burden countries will receive a package of antenatal care interventions, including MMS, through UNICEF's new *Improving Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan*.
- Resources, tools, and technical support are available to support introduction and scale up of MMS.

Learn More

The evidence is clear, and so is the need. Now through 2030, it is estimated that more than 130 million women will need MMS annually. That number will continue to grow, as more countries around the globe introduce and scale up MMS in their antenatal care systems.

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The global movement to improve maternal and newborn health has begun. Get involved and learn more: www.furtherwith15.org.

