

FACT SHEET



Affordable Investment in Stronger Economies and a Productive Workforce

As crises around the globe continue to impact food systems, **1 billion women and girls are disproportionately affected by malnutritionⁱ—and 2 out of every 3 women of reproductive age worldwide have micronutrient deficiencies.ⁱⁱ** When women have poor nutrition, the lifelong consequences can be felt by families, communities, and entire nations:

- Poor nutrition during the early stages of a child's life can cause irreversible damage to their growing brain and can negatively affect their ability to do well in school and earn a good living. Stunting, low birthweight, and anemia **costs the world an estimated US\$761 billion per year in global economic losses and 304 million fewer IQ points.ⁱⁱⁱ**
- This makes it more difficult for a child and their family to rise out of poverty. It can also set the stage for future chronic diseases, and a lifetime of health problems which can strain a country's health system.^{iv}
- The economic benefit of reducing cases of low birthweight at birth, both through lower mortality rates and increased learning and productivity are **estimated at about \$510 per infant.^v**

*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.*

MMS is a proven and powerful intervention with a transformational impact on health and development. **The WHO/UNICEF formulation of Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (UNIMMAP MMS) is one of the best-value investments that countries can make in their development,** driving healthier communities and stronger economies.

- In 2023, MMS was named one of the 12 best investments in global development by the Copenhagen Consensus, stating that **every \$1 invested in MMS produces an economic gain of up to \$37.^{vi}**
- The study further estimates **a total annual benefit of over \$3.1 billion,** including US\$94 million from averted stillbirths, \$428 million from averted preterm births, and US\$2.6 billion from averted low birth weights when replacing iron-folic acid (IFA) supplements with MMS.

MMS helps families break free from the intergenerational effects of poverty by setting them up for a lifetime of better health and cumulative earnings.

- Children born prematurely or with low birth weight are less likely to go to school, develop reading and math skills, and earn higher wages in adulthood.^{vii viii ix}
- If MMS were to reach 90% of pregnant women and their babies across 132 low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), estimates show that an **additional \$18 billion in cumulative lifetime income** would be gained.^x

MMS is an affordable and cost-effective product that can be delivered at scale. UNIMMAP MMS can be produced at a little over \$0.01 per dose, or \$2-3 per woman per pregnancy—a similar price to iron-folic acid (IFA). This makes MMS one of the most cost-effective nutrition interventions available to governments and their partners, with the added benefit of being a more effectual product than IFA.^{xi}

MMS helps mothers, children, and communities not just survive, but thrive.
Together, we can all go #FurtherWith15.

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.

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.

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

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