

*Summary of projects supported in 2008
d.d. 30/5/2008*

Efficacy of instant noodle fortified with iron, vitamin a and iodine on micronutrient status and cognitive of Vietnamese school children

Vitamin A deficiency, iron deficiency anemia and iodine deficiency are important public health problems world-wide and in Vietnam. They are believed to affect on growth and cognitive of school children. Single micronutrient fortified food has successfully studied in Vietnam, however, triple fortified have not reported yet. This study will test the effects of triple micronutrient fortified instant noodle on micronutrient status and cognitive of school children. The duration of the project is 24 months.

Micronutrient supplementation in pregnant women – Patrick Kabore – Burkina Faso

M. Kabore is leading a study on the impact of a supplementation of micronutrients combined with alternatives for malaria prophylaxis during pregnancy in terms of low birth weight, growth, morbidity and mortality in children during the first six months of their lives. The project envisages developing a simple and cost-effective protocol for nutrition rehabilitation and prevention or management of malaria during pregnancy.

Metabolic syndrome in adolescents – Ana Bayà – Bolivia

Ana Bayá and colleagues at the University UNIVALLE (Cochabamba, Bolivia) are assessing the risk of metabolic syndrome and future cardiovascular disease in a nationally representative sample of 4.700 Bolivian school adolescents from 18 localities (urban and rural). This study aims at the identification of target groups for nutritional interventions, at local and national levels. The results of all analyses have been given to each individual participant, with medical counseling when needed.

School gardens and vitamin A – Mieke Faber – South Africa

Mieke Faber and colleagues at the Medical Research Council (Potchefstroom, South Africa) are investigating the effects of an intervention aimed at the promotion of vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables via school gardens. The intervention includes the incorporation of such foods into the school lunch and the training of parents and teachers. The expected result is a food based approach for improving the intake of vitamin A of rural South Africans.

Mycotoxins in food and child growth – Martin Kimanya – Tanzania

This study follows a previously NTM founded project led by Dr Peter Mamiro. Martin Kimanya and colleagues at the Tanzanian Food and Drugs Authority are investigating the influence of aflatoxin and fumonisin (toxines produced by moulds)

exposure on growth and iron status of Tanzanian infants (Kilosa District) consuming maize based complementary foods. The research has three phases: data collection on maize contamination; household practices of preservation; study of contamination levels together with a nutrition and food intake study.

Street foods and nutrition of schoolchildren – Eunice Nago – Benin

Eunice Nago and colleagues at the University of Abomey-Calavi are investigating the nutritional quality of street foods and their role in the diet of Benin's school attending urban adolescents. The study combines quantitative and qualitative research. The quantitative arm consists of two types of food intake surveys, together with laboratory analyses of the composition of local produced foods. Qualitative information will be gathered with focus groups.

Enriching complementary foods with desiccated beef liver to combat micronutrient deficiencies in Mongolia children - J. Batjargal and Ts. Enkhjargal -Mongolia

In Mongolia multi-micronutrient deficiencies are common among 6-18 months old children. This study will compare the added value of desiccated liver versus sprinkles mixed with traditional complementary foods. The results will establish whether desiccated liver is economically feasible, culturally appropriate, as efficacious, yet more sustainable than sprinkles for improving micronutrient adequacy of complementary foods, micronutrient status, growth, health, and development among infants. The study is carried out with RS Gibson at the University of Otago, New Zealand and the duration is 30 months.

Vitamin D in low birth-weight – Geeta Trilok-Kumar – India

Dr Trilok-Kumar and colleagues at Delhi University will conduct a randomised controlled trial to investigate the effect of daily oral vitamin D supplements on low birth weight (< 2.5 kg) term infants. Mothers and infants will be recruited at delivery and given daily vitamin D supplements or placebo until 6 months of age. Data on infant morbidity, sun exposure, diet, emphasising on breast milk and other milk intake, will be collected. Intervention strategies will be developed based on the study findings.

Management of child nutrition in primary health care – Laetitia Nikiema – Burkina Faso

In general, this study aims to offer an alternative strategy linking child growth promotion and malnutrition care. The study will test the effect of this strategy, on health facilities performance and on the nutrition status of children from 0 to 59 months health. This intervention will consist of a reinforcement of nutrition activities of the “Integrated Management of Childhood Illness” program. One group of health workers will be trained according to the national strategy and another using the child centred approach. This research was conducted in collaborating with Institute of Health Sciences Research and Nutrition and Child Health Unit of ITG.