ABSTRACT

The Micronutrient Initiative (MI) is implementing universal salt iodization (USI) programs in partnership with government, industry and other partners to increase the production of adequately iodized salt and its use at household level.

Monitoring data from 2014 on USI collected by MI, informs that 61% of the total salt produced was adequately iodized. MI and other partners have ensured un-interrupted supply of KIO3, a critical factor for a successful USI in Pakistan.

A review of current supply chain mechanism of KIO3, including the revolving fund’s process, effectiveness and sustainability was conducted in Islamabad capital territory, AJ&K, Punjab and Sindh provinces during January-April 2015.

The primary data in this qualitative study were derived from fifty in-depth interviews with officials from the government, industry, development sector and other partners. Secondary data were also reviewed.

Majority of respondents indicated the KIO3 supply chain and revolving fund mechanism is a well thought-out process, has an effective management structure and a transparent system for the procurement and distribution of KIO3. The key success factor behind this is a hassle free availability of KIO3 to salt processors. However, a few salt processors suggested introducing an alternative payment system. The study revealed that no imbalance exists between supply and demand of KIO3. All processors visited had KIO3 as per requirements.

The mechanism of storage and procurement of KIO3 was found cost effective and met objectives and standard operating procedures including KIO3 acceptability, availability and accessibility.

BACKGROUND

MI is implementing a USI program in partnership with government and other partners to increase the production of adequately iodized salt and its use at household level.

An un-interrupted supply of KIO3 through a revolving fund mechanism, which supports more than 80% of its overall requirement, is critical for a successful USI program in Pakistan.

This study was established to review KIO3 supply chain mechanism to confirm that this system can sustain USI.

The figure shows the revolving fund system in the KIO3 supply chain mechanism works to ensure un-interrupted supply of KIO3 supply to small scale salt processors in Pakistan (see Figure 1).

OBJECTIVES

To assess the effectiveness and sustainability of KIO3 supply chain mechanism and its revolving fund’s process for achieving USI in Pakistan.

RESULTS

Participant feedback on the KIO3 supply chain mechanism was summarized as follows:

- Revolving fund mechanism is a well thought-out process.
- This mechanism has an effective management structure, and has a transparent system for procurement and distribution of KIO3.
- Availability of KIO3 to salt processors has been hassle-free and no stock-outs reported.
- No imbalance exists between supply and demand of KIO3 and stock is managed following First In First Out (FIFO) system.
- The supply chain mechanism is considered to be cost effective.
- Overall, 96% of responses were found to be positive for the revolving fund mechanism.

METHODS

A qualitative study was conducted in Islamabad capital territory, AJ&K and, Punjab and Sindh provinces during January - April 2015.

The primary data were derived from 50 in-depth interviews with government, industry, development and other partners.

A review of transcripts was done to identify categories and codes to facilitate content analysis under the broader themes of timely procurement of KIO3 to the salt processors; commodity/stock component; mechanism and processes for the issuance of KIO3; program monitoring; USI program partners’ perspective about the revolving fund mechanism; cost effectiveness of the revolving fund mechanism; shifting of the revolving fund mechanism to a not-for-profit organization; and options for sustainability.

The relevant text excerpts were posted under themes, categories, and codes. Secondary data, which include the available literature, reports, publications, management information system, registers, inventory, etc. were also reviewed to develop semi-structured questionnaire for in-depth interviews.

CONCLUSIONS

The overall positive responses from the participants along with the substantial increase in use and production of iodized salt indicate that the KIO3 supply chain management and the revolving funds process are appreciated and are contributing to the ultimate goal of USI.

The storage and procurement mechanisms meet the SOPs and were found to be aligned with set objectives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Micronutrient Initiative’s work is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Global Affairs Canada and other donors.

We would like to thank UNWFP Pakistan, Genera Pharmaceuticals, salt processors for their support in having this successful model.