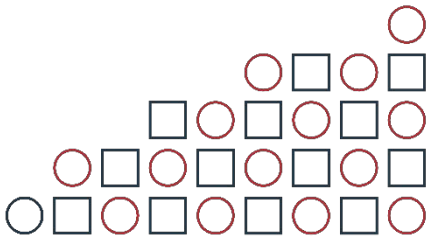
NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL

Nourish Life

The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool

User Interface and Interpretation Guide

Updated September 2022



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Introduction

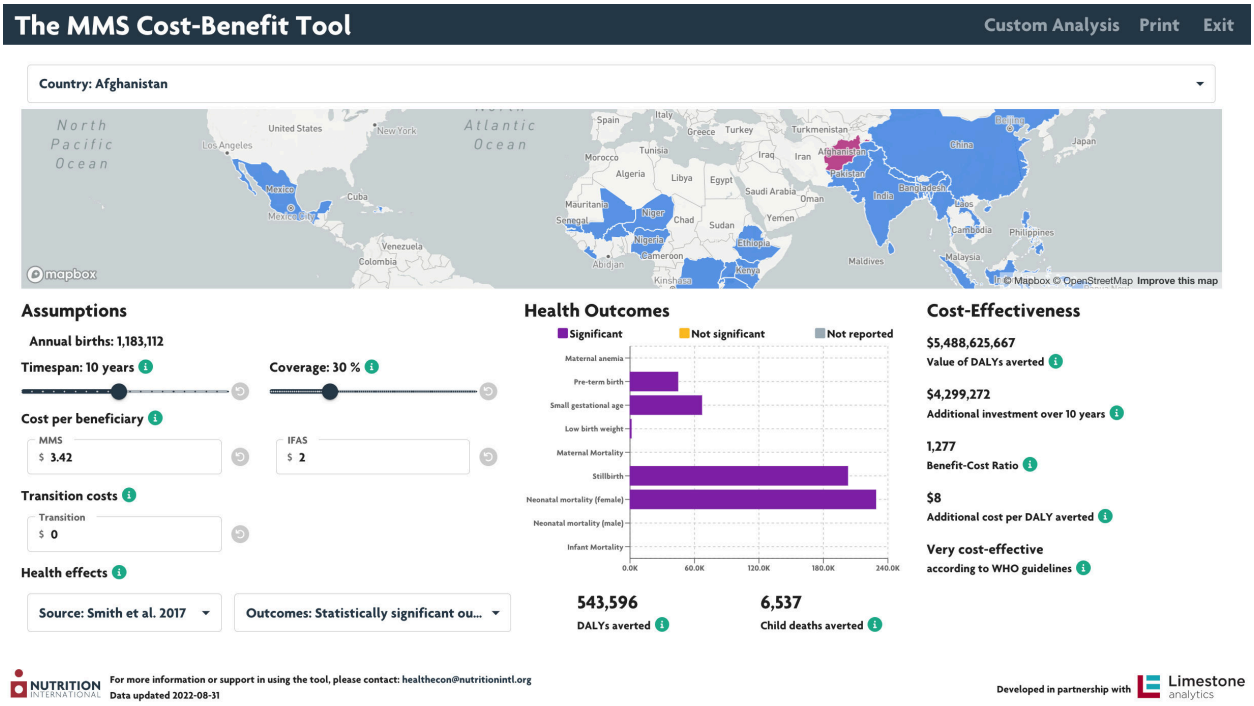
Recent evidence has encouraged low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) to consider transitioning from long-standing iron and folic acid supplementation (IFAS) to multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS) during pregnancy. However, global guidance to facilitate this transition is limited.

To aid countries' decision-making, the *MMS Cost-Benefit Tool* was developed. It uses a rigorous methodology to calculate the incremental benefits and costs of transitioning from IFAS to MMS in various countries (Kashi et al., 2019). In this context, the term “transition” refers to substituting IFAS with MMS for pregnancy care in a government’s antenatal service package.

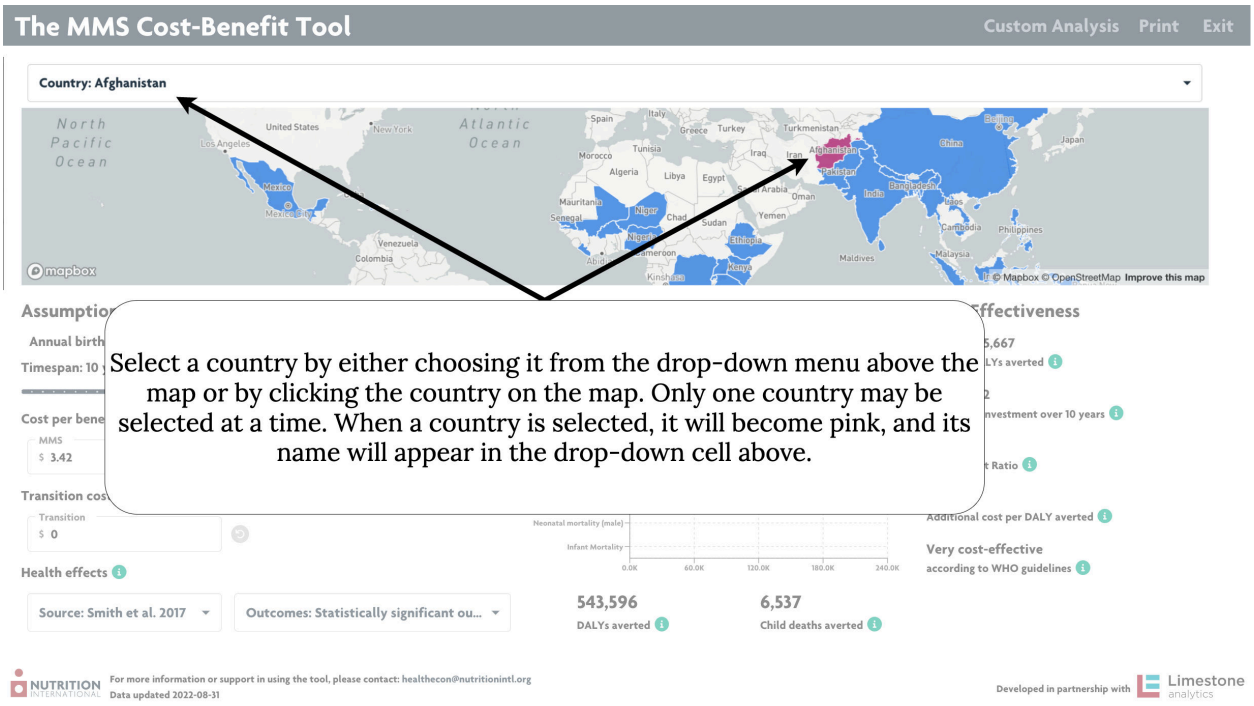
With the *MMS Cost-Benefit Tool*, users can construct and test different scenarios by updating the assumptions within the tool. Up to eight health outcomes are included in the analysis, and these are aggregated using disability-adjusted life years (DALY). A DALY represents one lost year of perfect health. It is calculated by aggregating the effect of a health issue on mortality and morbidity. Interventions seek to avert DALYs.

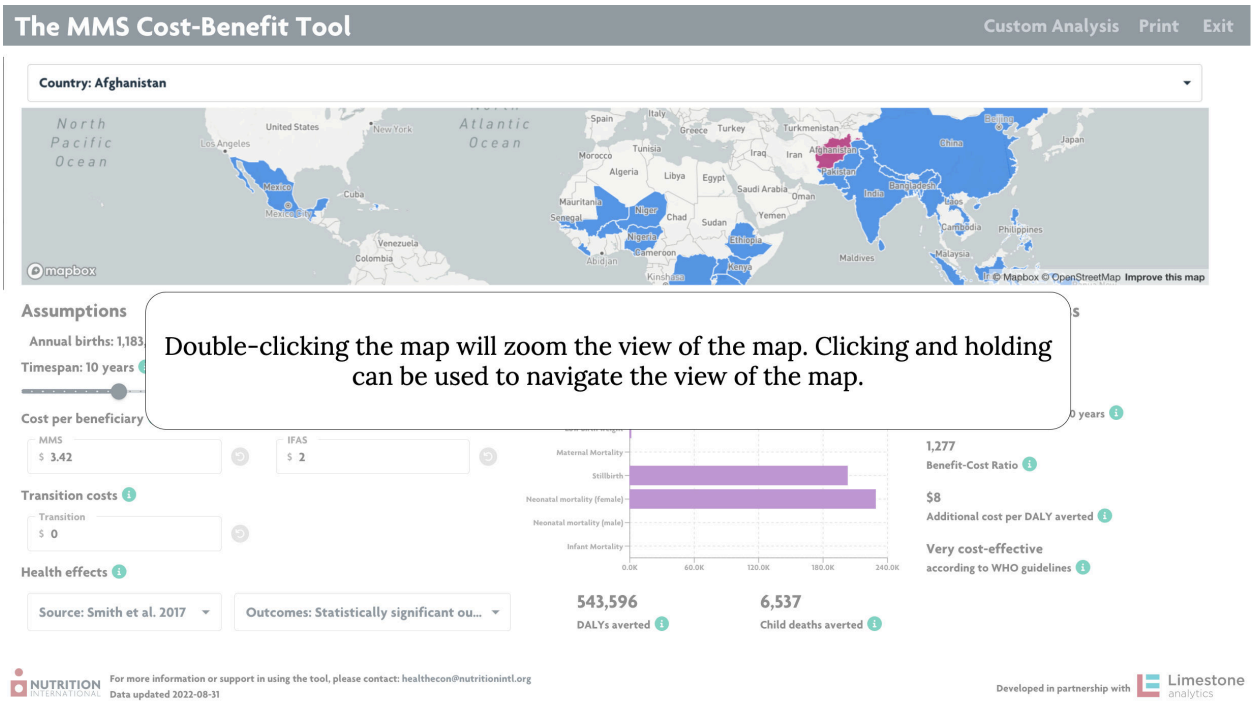
The tool has been designed to balance simplicity of use with meaningful results. This user guide provides an overview of the functionality of each section of the tool. It also provides guidance on interpretation of the results.

Report Interface



Please note: screenshots are for information only. Numbers may not be accurate.


The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool
Custom Analysis
Print
Exit
Country: Afghanistan
Select a country by either choosing it from the drop-down menu above the map or by clicking the country on the map. Only one country may be selected at a time. When a country is selected, it will become pink, and its name will appear in the drop-down cell above.
Health effects
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
543,596
DALYs averted
6,537
Child deaths averted
Very cost-effective
according to WHO guidelines
For more information or support in using the tool, please contact: healthecon@nutritionintl.org
Data updated 2022-08-31
Developed in partnership with


The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool
Custom Analysis
Print
Exit
Country: Afghanistan
Double-clicking the map will zoom the view of the map. Clicking and holding can be used to navigate the view of the map.
Assumptions
Annual births: 1,183
Timespan: 10 years
Cost per beneficiary
MMS
$ 3.42
IFAS
$ 2
Transition costs
Transition
$ 0
Health effects
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
Maternal Mortality
Stillbirth
Neonatal mortality (female)
Neonatal mortality (male)
Infant Mortality
0.0K
60.0K
120.0K
180.0K
240.0K
1,277
Benefit-Cost Ratio
$8
Additional cost per DALY averted
Very cost-effective
according to WHO guidelines
543,596
DALYs averted
6,537
Child deaths averted
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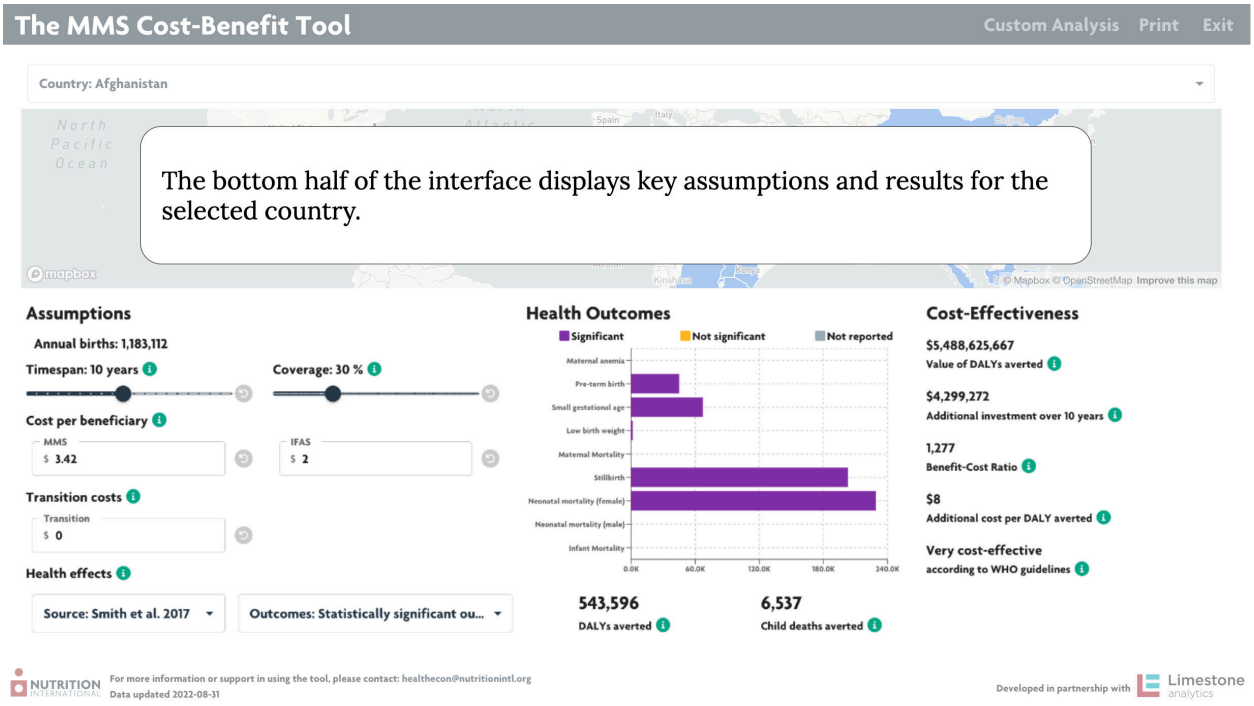
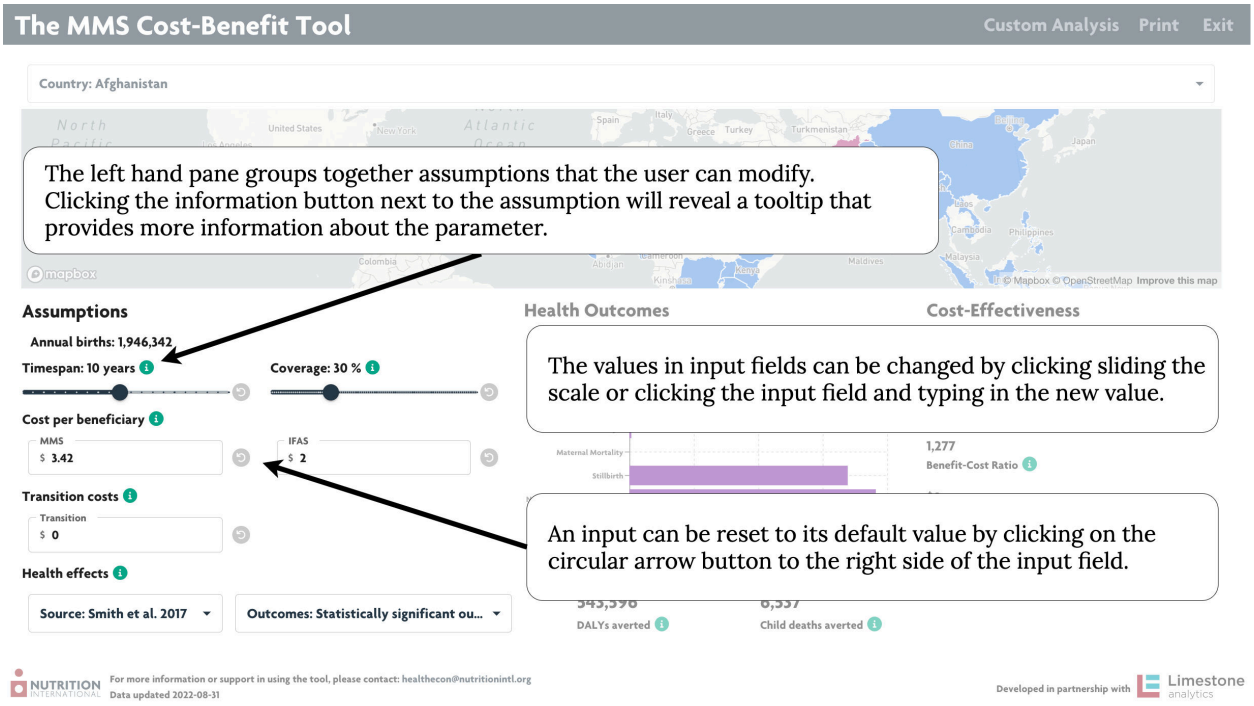
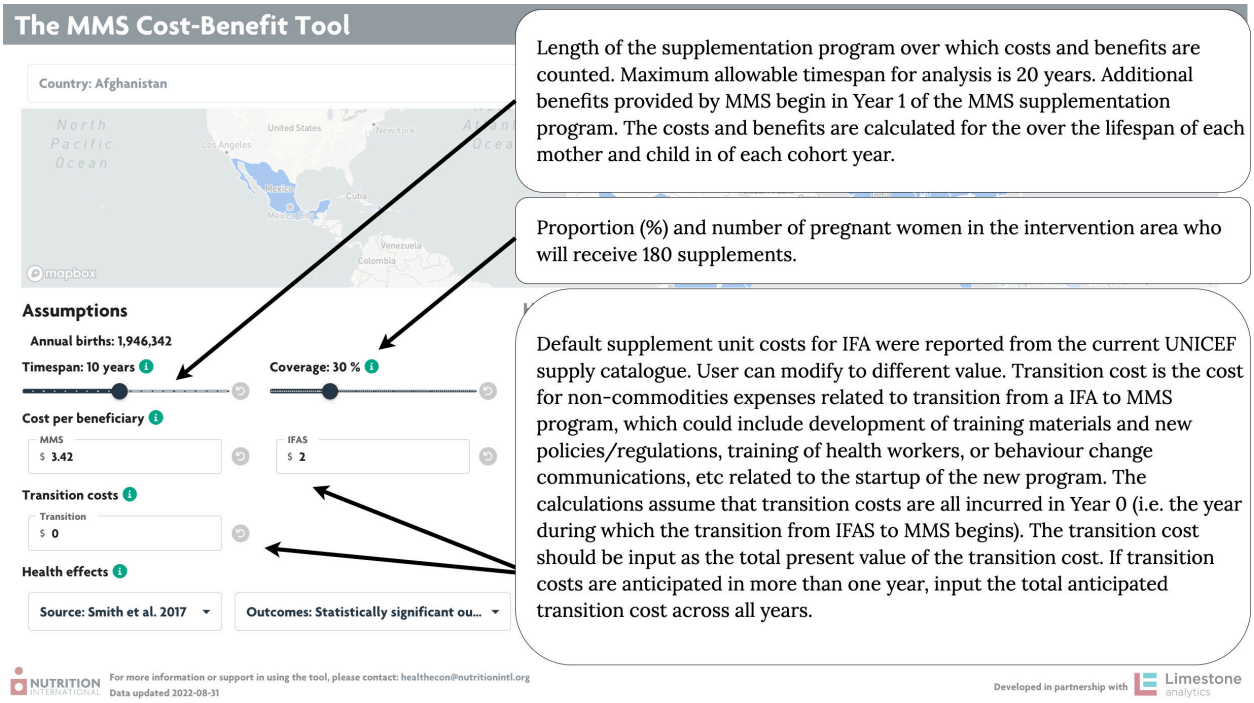
Key Parameters and Results



Assumptions




The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool
Country: Afghanistan
Assumptions
Annual births: 1,946,342
Timespan: 10 years
Coverage: 30 %
Cost per beneficiary
MMS
$ 3.42
IFAS
$ 2
Transition costs
Transition
$ 0
Health effects
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
Length of the supplementation program over which costs and benefits are counted. Maximum allowable timespan for analysis is 20 years. Additional benefits provided by MMS begin in Year 1 of the MMS supplementation program. The costs and benefits are calculated for the over the lifespan of each mother and child in of each cohort year.
Proportion (%) and number of pregnant women in the intervention area who will receive 180 supplements.
Default supplement unit costs for IFA were reported from the current UNICEF supply catalogue. User can modify to different value. Transition cost is the cost for non-commodities expenses related to transition from a IFA to MMS program, which could include development of training materials and new policies/regulations, training of health workers, or behaviour change communications, etc related to the startup of the new program. The calculations assume that transition costs are all incurred in Year 0 (i.e. the year during which the transition from IFAS to MMS begins). The transition cost should be input as the total present value of the transition cost. If transition costs are anticipated in more than one year, input the total anticipated transition cost across all years.
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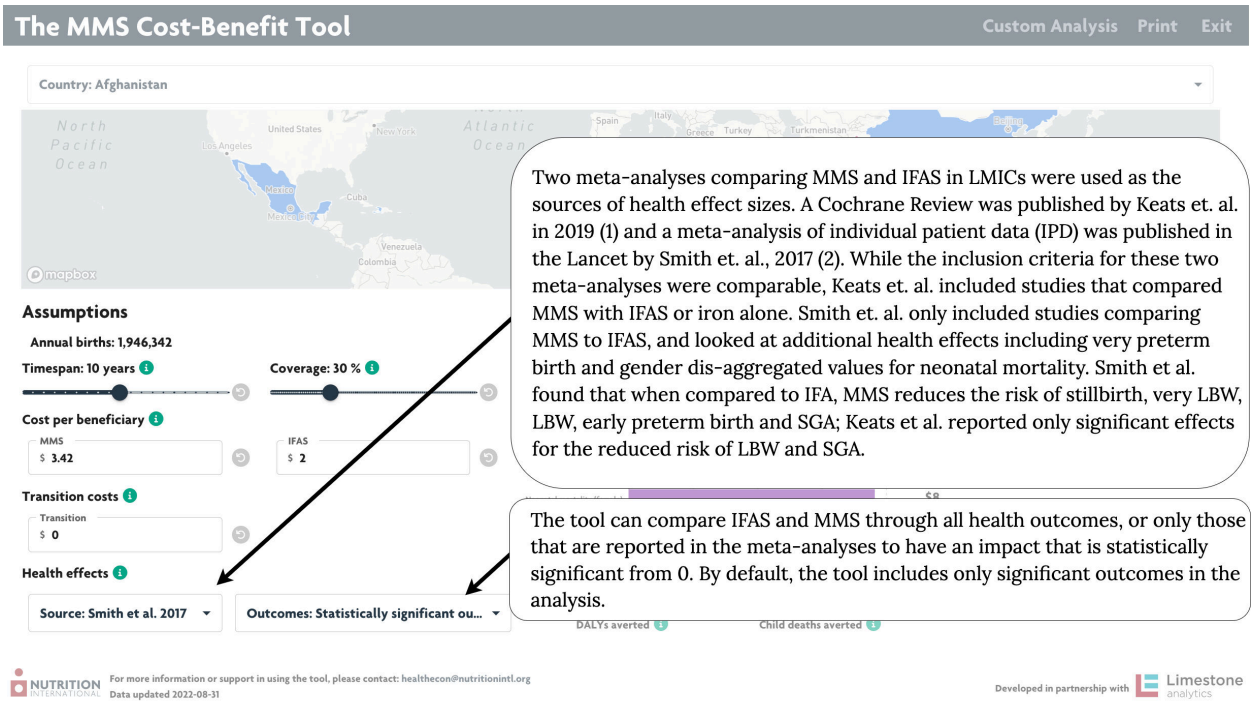


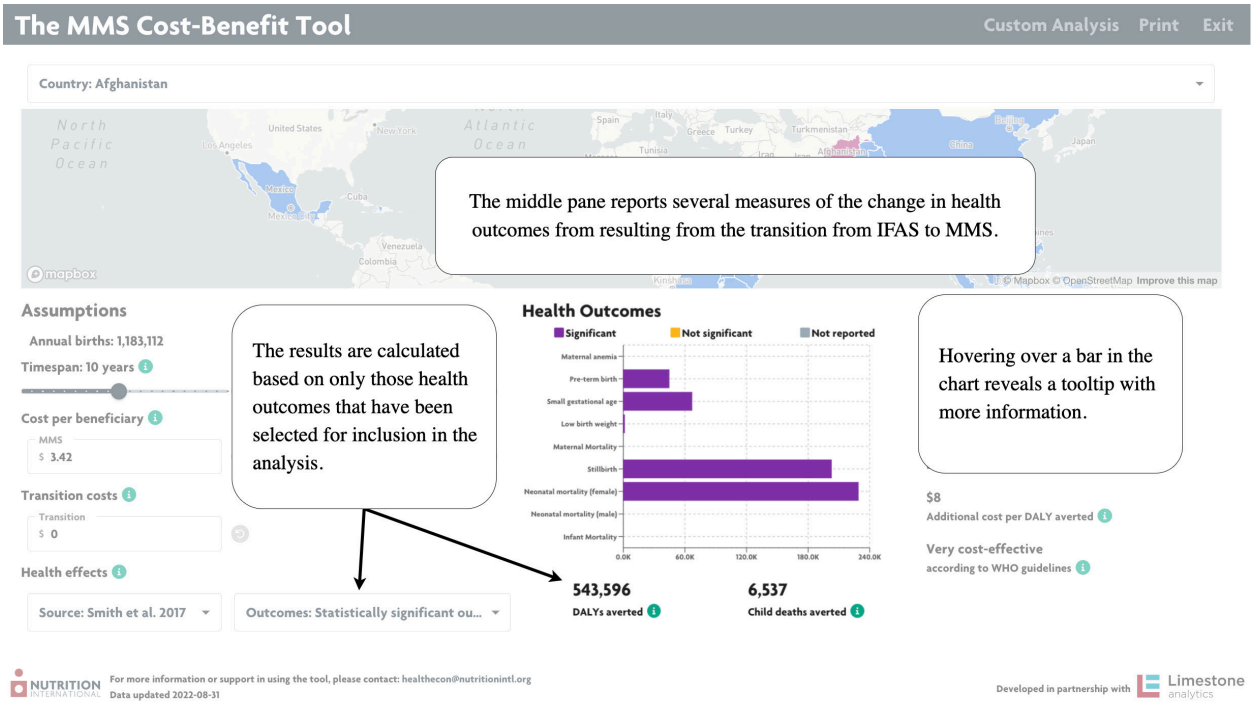
In the ***assumptions pane***, a number of assumptions are required in order to undertake the analysis. Two recent meta-analyses that compared MMS and IFAS in LMICs were used as the ***sources of health effects.*** The user can select which meta-analysis to use for the analysis. One source was published in Cochrane (Keats et al., 2019) and the other in The Lancet (Smith et al., 2017). While the inclusion criteria of these meta-analyses were comparable, the Cochrane (Keats et al., 2019) meta-analysis included studies that compared MMS with IFAS or iron alone. The Lancet (Smith et al., 2017) meta-analysis only included studies comparing MMS to IFAS and looked at additional health effects including very preterm birth and sex disaggregated values for neonatal mortality. Both reviews found improved health outcomes among pregnant women receiving MMS and showed no risk of increased harm to the mother or baby. Smith et al. found that compared to IFA, MMS had a significant reduction on the risk of stillbirth (using the fixed effects analysis), Low Birth Weight (LBW), Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW), early preterm birth, preterm birth and Small for Gestational Age (SGA) and mortality outcomes such as female neonatal mortality and female infant mortality while Keats et al. only found evidence of significant effects on LBW and SGA (Bourassa et al., 2019).

The ***population*** is the number of pregnant women in the intervention area where the supplementation program will take place. The default value assumes the intervention area is the whole country. It is calculated based on the national population and crude birth rate. Sources for these values can be found in the *Data Sources* file. To generate an analysis for a sub-national population the user will need to input the population of pregnant women for the area of interest (sub-national population X crude birth rate). The ***timespan*** is the length of the supplementation program over which the costs and benefits are counted. It must be a value between 1 and 20 years. The costs and benefits are calculated for the lifespan of both the mother and the child for each cohort year. ***Coverage*** is expressed as a percentage and a number. It represents the

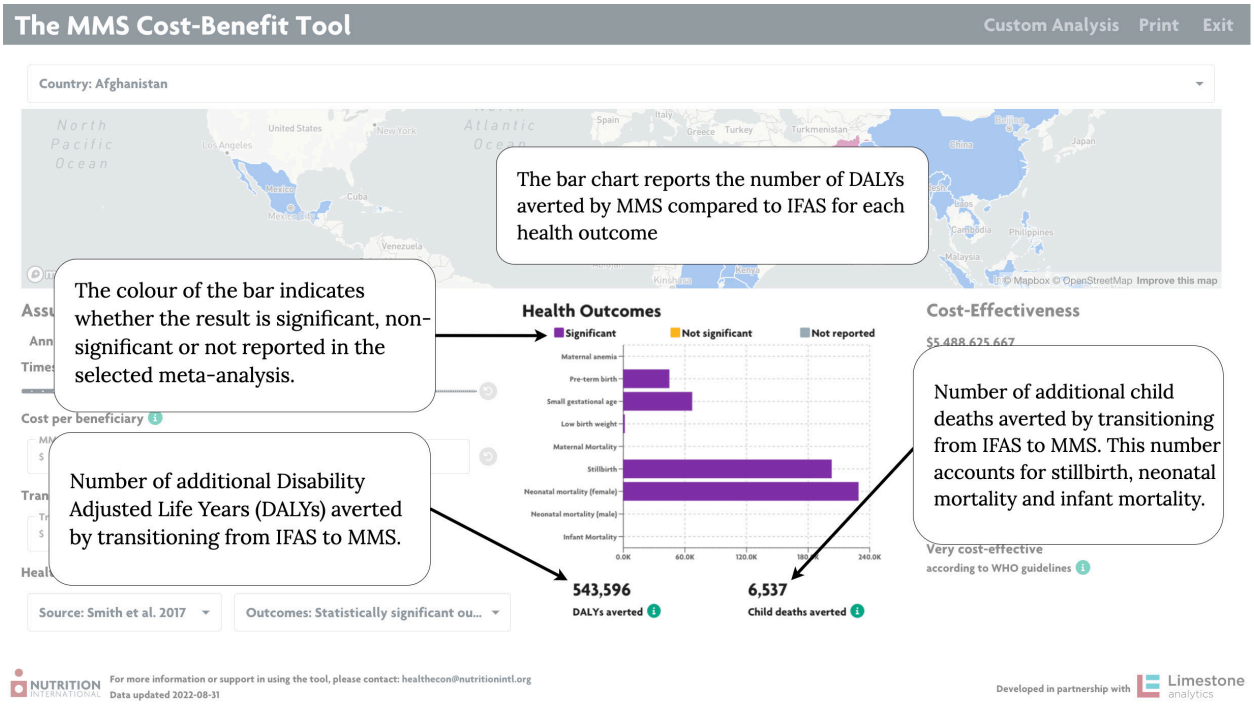
proportion or number of pregnant women in the intervention area who will receive 180 supplements. This is aligned with the trials included in the meta-analyses.

The ***costs per beneficiary*** refers to the cost of 180 supplements. The default values were taken from UNICEF's supply catalogue which is in USD. The ***transition cost*** is the cost for non-commodities expenses related to transition from an IFA to MMS program, which could include development of training materials and new policies/regulations, training of health workers, or behaviour change communications, etc. related to the startup of the new program. The calculations assume that transition costs are all incurred in Year 0 (i.e. the year during which the transition from IFAS to MMS begins). The transition cost should be input as the total present value of the transition cost. If transition costs are anticipated in more than one year, input the total anticipated transition cost across
all years

Health Outcome Analysis



In the ***Health Outcome Analysis pane***, the bar chart reports the number of ***DALYs averted*** by transitioning from IFAS to MMS for each health outcome. The calculation for the number of *DALYs* averted factors in a discount rate of 3% in line with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Methods for Economic Evaluation Project Reference Case in Global Health (BMGF & NICE International, 2014). The tool can compare IFAS and MMS through all health outcomes, or only those that are reported in the selected meta-analyses to have an impact that is statistically significant from 0. By default, the tool includes only significant outcomes in the analysis. The colour of the bar indicates whether the result is significant, non-significant or not reported in the selected meta-analysis. Below the bar chart are three summary measures of the change in health outcomes resulting from the switch from IFAS to MMS. To the left, the ***total number of DALYs averted*** across all included health outcomes is reported. In the center, the number of ***child deaths averted*** is reported. This number is calculated by summing the DALYs averted from stillbirth, neonatal and infant mortality and dividing by life expectancy at birth in the selected country. To the right, the ***confidence in positive health outcomes***, which is the statistically calculated estimate of confidence that the transition from IFAS to MMS will result in overall positive health outcomes. This estimate was calculated using probabilistic sensitivity analysis and the standard error of the health effect sizes, and is reported as a percentage.


The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool
Custom Analysis
Print
Exit
Country: Afghanistan
The bar chart reports the number of DALYs averted by MMS compared to IFAS for each health outcome
The colour of the bar indicates whether the result is significant, non-significant or not reported in the selected meta-analysis.
Number of additional Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) averted by transitioning from IFAS to MMS.
Number of additional child deaths averted by transitioning from IFAS to MMS. This number accounts for stillbirth, neonatal mortality and infant mortality.
Health Outcomes
Significant
Not significant
Not reported
Maternal anemia
Pre-term birth
Small gestational age
Low birth weight
Maternal Mortality
Stillbirth
Neonatal mortality (female)
Neonatal mortality (male)
Infant Mortality
0.0K
60.0K
120.0K
240.0K
Cost-Effectiveness
Cost per beneficiary
543,596
DALYs averted
6,537
Child deaths averted
Very cost-effective
according to WHO guidelines
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
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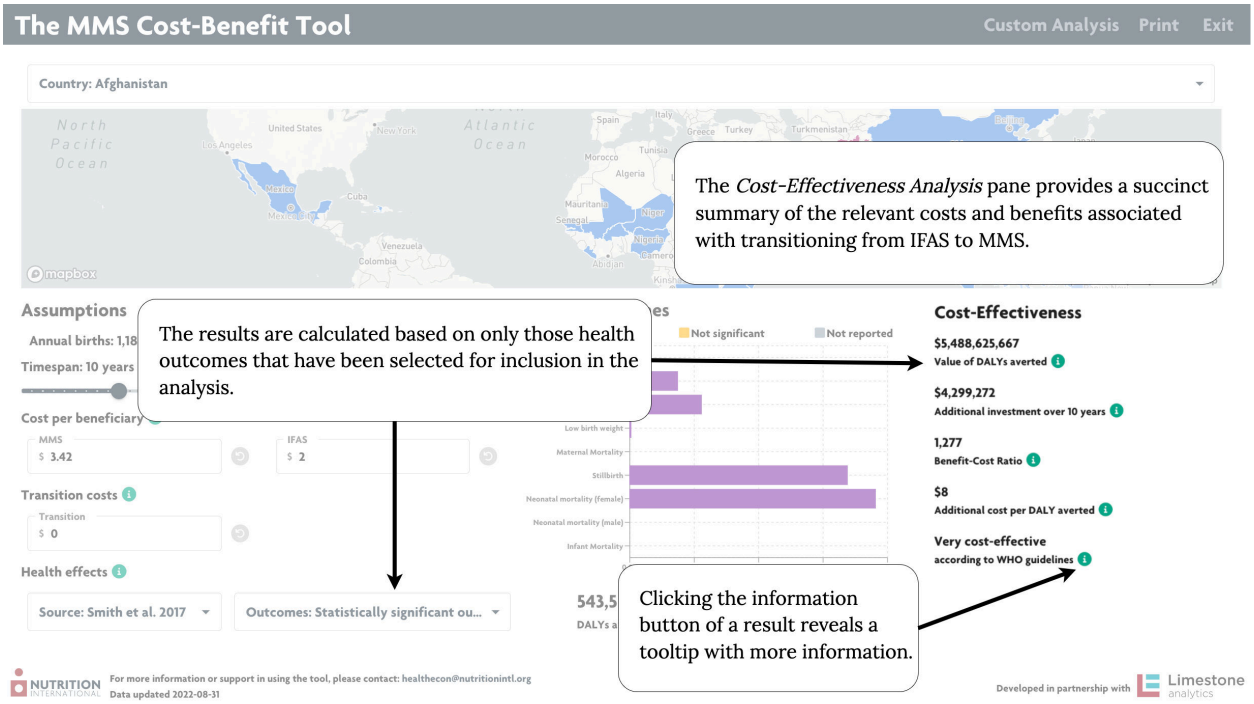
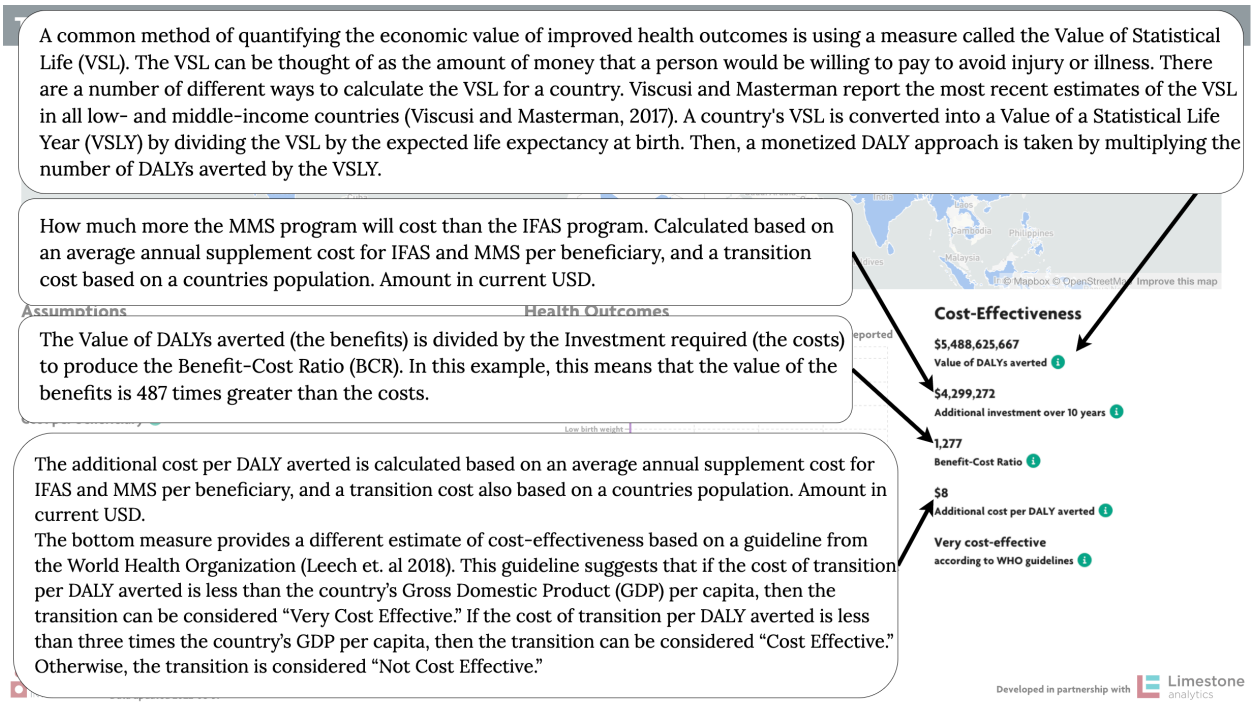
Cost-Effectiveness Analysis



Value of DALYs averted is the economic value of the benefits of the transition. It is estimated based on the number of DALYs averted and a measure of the Value of Statistical Life (VSL) for the country under analysis. The VSL can be thought of as the amount of money that a person would be willing to pay to avoid injury or illness. There are a number of different ways to calculate the VSL for a country. Viscusi and Masterman report the most recent estimates of the VSL in all LMIC (Viscusi and Masterman, 2017). A country's VSL is converted into a Value of a Statistical Life Year (VSLY) by dividing the VSL by the expected life expectancy at birth. Then, a monetized DALY approach is taken by multiplying the number of DALYs averted by the VSLY. The calculation for the number of *DALYs* averted factors in a discount rate of 3%.



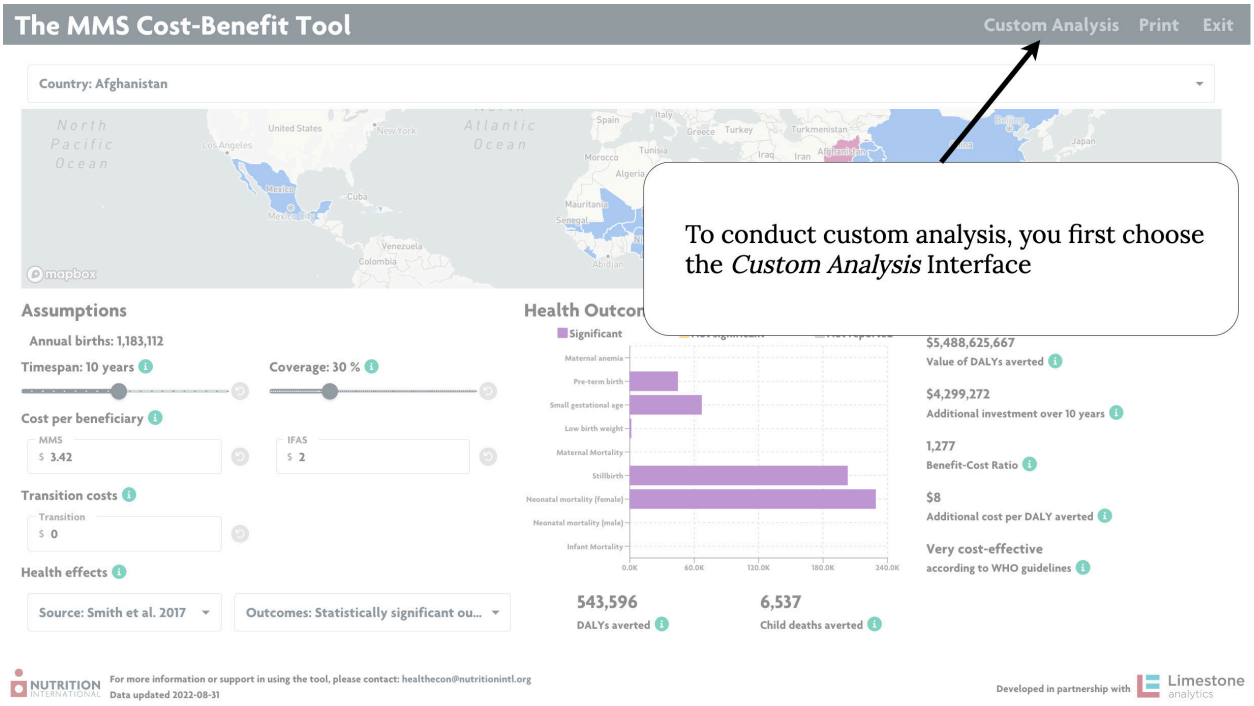
Additional investment required over timespan indicator reports how much more the MMS program will cost than the IFAS program in total over the timespan being considered. This amount is based on the difference in IFAS and MMS supplement costs and the *Transition cost* input from the *Assumptions* pane.

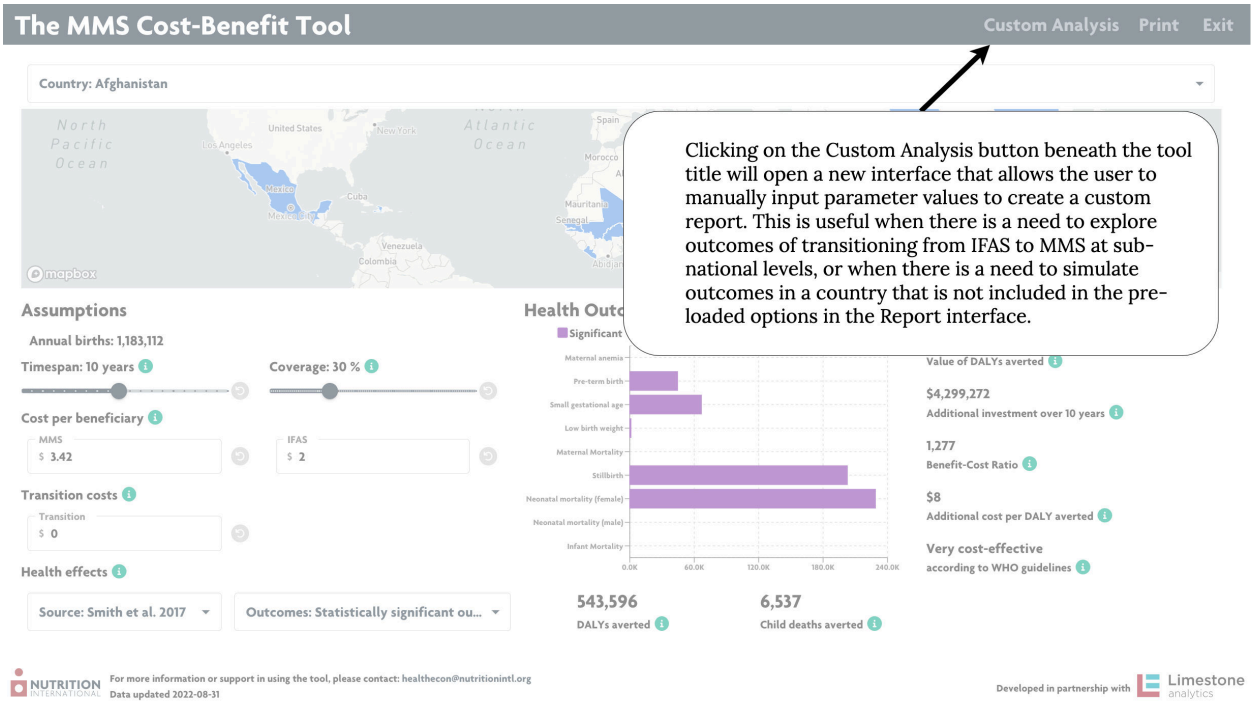
The *Value of DALYs averted* (the benefits) is compared with the *Investment required* (the costs) to produce the ***Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR)***. If the BCR is greater than 1, then the value of the benefits of transitioning to MMS exceeds the costs.

The bottom two measures provide a different estimate of cost-effectiveness based on a guideline from the World Health Organization (Leech et al., 2018). This guideline suggests that if the ***Incremental cost per DALY averted*** (i.e. the amount of additional investment required to prevent one DALY) is less than the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, then the transition can be considered "***Very Cost Effective***." If the cost of transition per DALY

averted is less than three times the country's GDP per capita, then the transition can be considered "***Cost Effective***." Otherwise, the transition is considered "***Not Cost Effective***."

Custom Analysis Interface




The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool
Custom Analysis
Print
Exit
Country: Afghanistan
Clicking on the Custom Analysis button beneath the tool title will open a new interface that allows the user to manually input parameter values to create a custom report. This is useful when there is a need to explore outcomes of transitioning from IFAS to MMS at sub-national levels, or when there is a need to simulate outcomes in a country that is not included in the pre-loaded options in the Report interface.
Assumptions
Annual births: 1,183,112
Timespan: 10 years
Coverage: 30 %
Cost per beneficiary
MMS
$ 3.42
IFAS
$ 2
Transition costs
Transition
$ 0
Health effects
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
Health Outc
Significant
Maternal anemia
Pre-term birth
Small gestational age
Low birth weight
Maternal Mortality
Stillbirth
Neonatal mortality (female)
Neonatal mortality (male)
Infant Mortality
0.0K
60.0K
120.0K
180.0K
240.0K
543,596
DALYs averted
6,537
Child deaths averted
Value of DALYs averted
$4,299,272
Additional investment over 10 years
1,277
Benefit-Cost Ratio
$8
Additional cost per DALY averted
Very cost-effective
according to WHO guidelines
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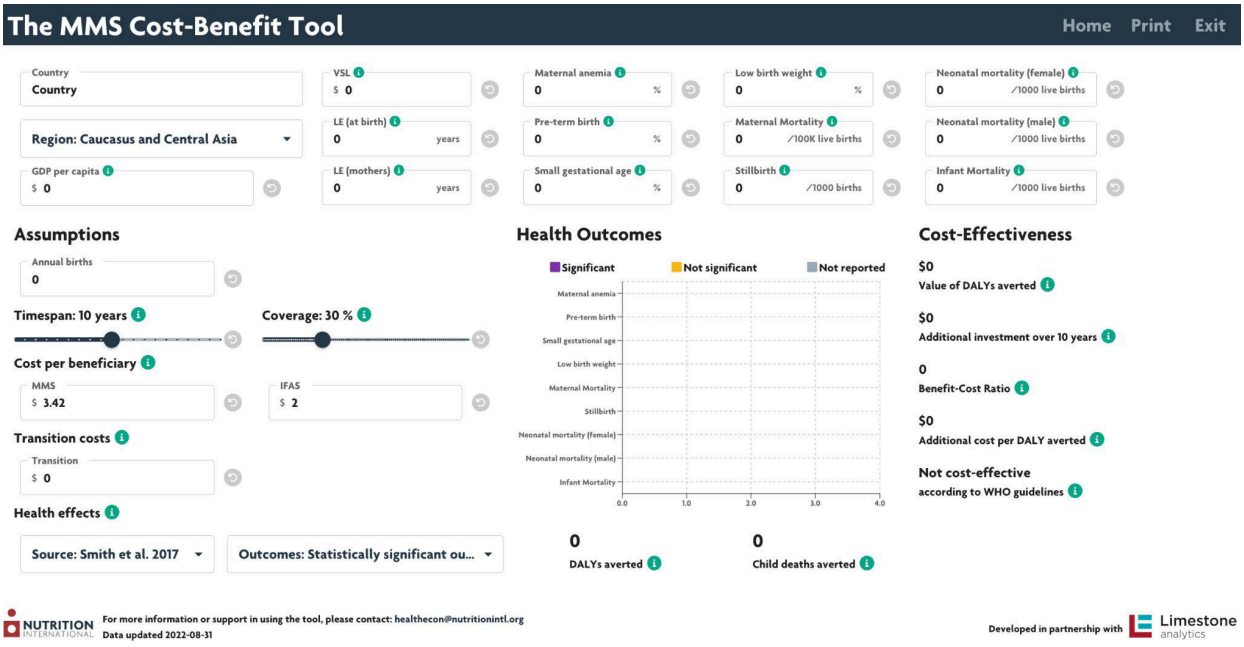
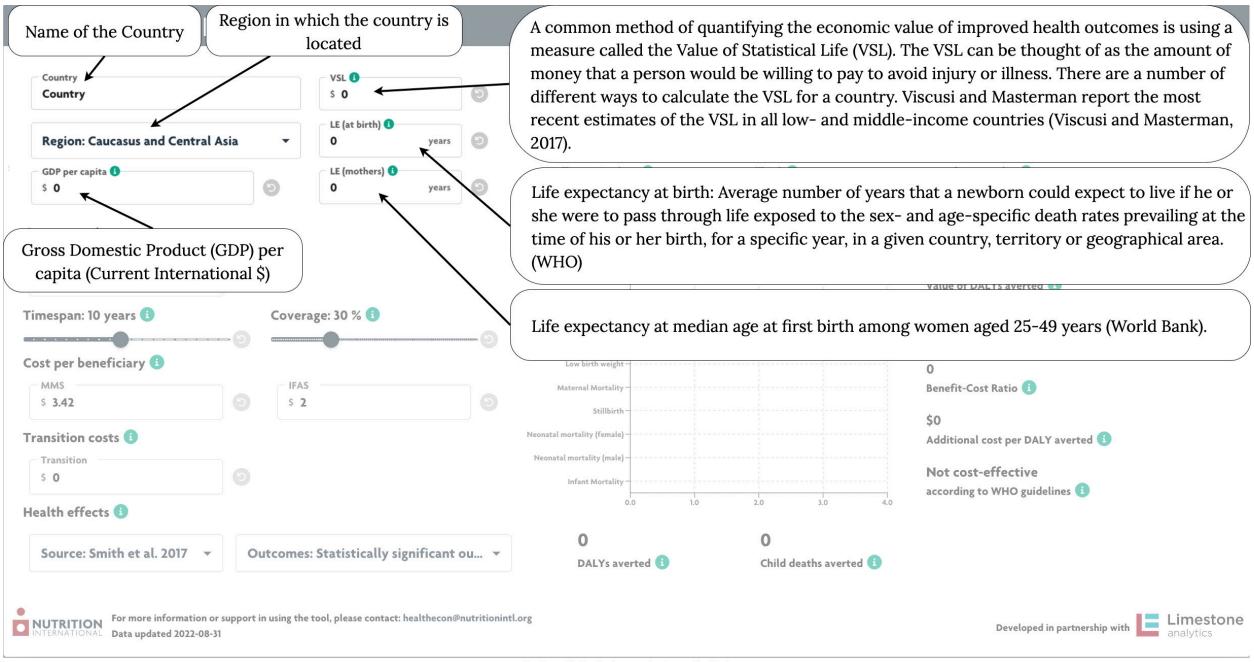
The custom analysis inputs are similar to the inputs in the *Assumptions* pane, with tooltips that open when hovered over and reset buttons. The *Reset all inputs* button in the *Custom Analysis* pane will only reset the inputs in the *Custom Analysis* pane, but will not reset the inputs in the *Assumptions* pane. The bottom half of the *Custom Analysis* interface is identical to the bottom half of the *Report* interface.



The *Data Sources* file serves as a guideline on the sources of information for the parameters. Recommended data sources for prevalence values include: World Bank Open Data, UNICEF and Demographic and Health Surveys.


Name of the Country
Region in which the country is located
A common method of quantifying the economic value of improved health outcomes is using a measure called the Value of Statistical Life (VSL). The VSL can be thought of as the amount of money that a person would be willing to pay to avoid injury or illness. There are a number of different ways to calculate the VSL for a country. Viscusi and Masterman report the most recent estimates of the VSL in all low- and middle-income countries (Viscusi and Masterman, 2017).
Life expectancy at birth: Average number of years that a newborn could expect to live if he or she were to pass through life exposed to the sex- and age-specific death rates prevailing at the time of his or her birth, for a specific year, in a given country, territory or geographical area. (WHO)
Life expectancy at median age at first birth among women aged 25-49 years (World Bank).
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita (Current International $)
Country
Country
VSL
$ 0
Region: Caucasus and Central Asia
LE (at birth)
0
years
GDP per capita
$ 0
LE (mothers)
0
years
Timespan: 10 years
Coverage: 30 %
Cost per beneficiary
MMS
$ 3.42
IFAS
$ 2
Transition costs
Transition
$ 0
Health effects
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
Low birth weight
Maternal Mortality
Stillbirth
Neonatal mortality (female)
Neonatal mortality (male)
Infant Mortality
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0
0
Benefit-Cost Ratio
$0
Additional cost per DALY averted
Not cost-effective
according to WHO guidelines
0
DALYs averted
0
Child deaths averted
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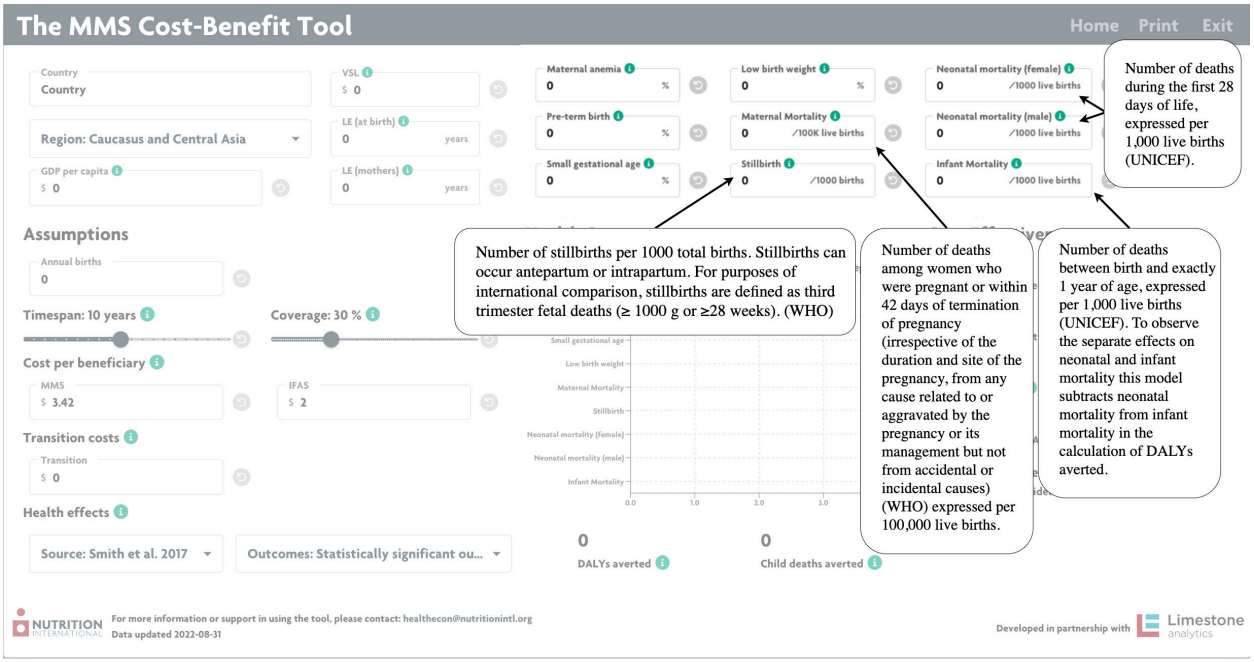
https://www.nutritionintl.org/learning-resources-home/mms-cost-benefit-tool/


The MMS Cost-Benefit Tool
Home
Print
Exit
Country
Country
Region: Caucasus and Central Asia
GDP per capita
$ 0
VSL
$ 0
LE (at birth)
0
years
LE (mothers)
0
years
Maternal anemia
0
%
Low birth weight
0
%
Neonatal mortality (female)
0
/1000 live births
Pre-term birth
0
%
Maternal Mortality
0
/100K live births
Neonatal mortality (male)
0
/1000 live births
Small gestational age
0
%
Stillbirth
0
/1000 births
Infant Mortality
0
/1000 live births
Assumptions
Annual births
0
Timespan: 10 years
Coverage: 30 %
Cost per beneficiary
MMS
$ 3.42
IFAS
$ 2
Transition costs
Transition
$ 0
Health effects
Source: Smith et al. 2017
Outcomes: Statistically significant ou...
Small gestational age
Low birth weight
Maternal Mortality
Stillbirth
Neonatal mortality (female)
Neonatal mortality (male)
Infant Mortality
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
0
DALYs averted
0
Child deaths averted
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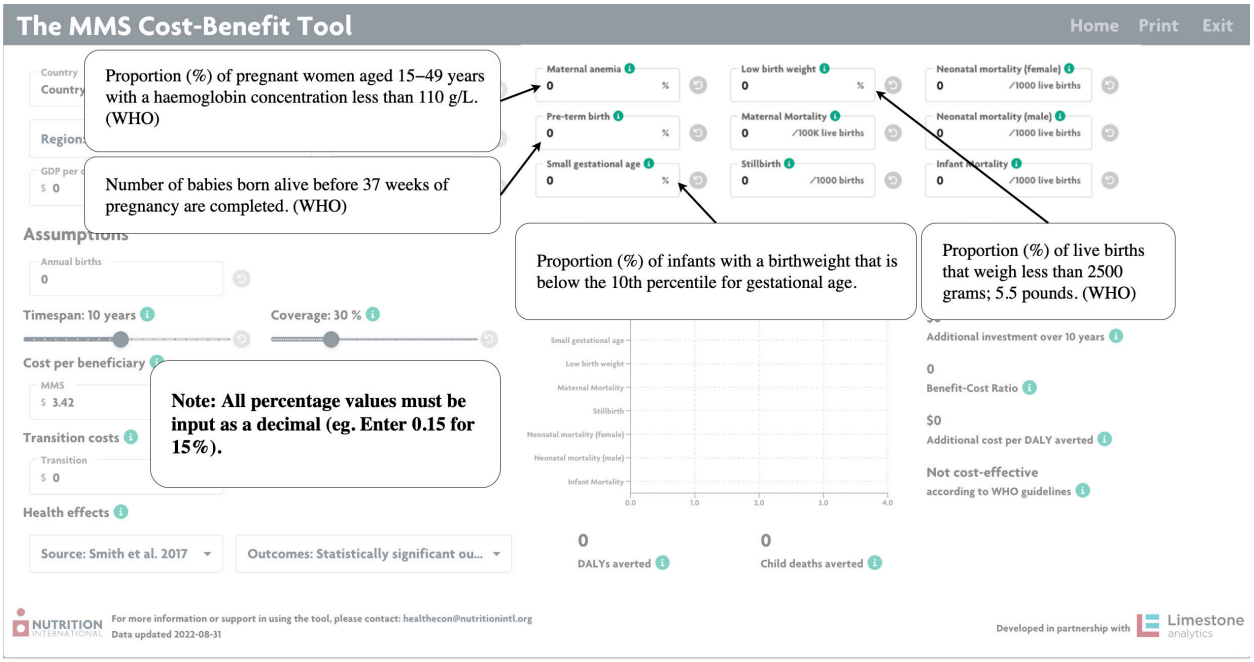
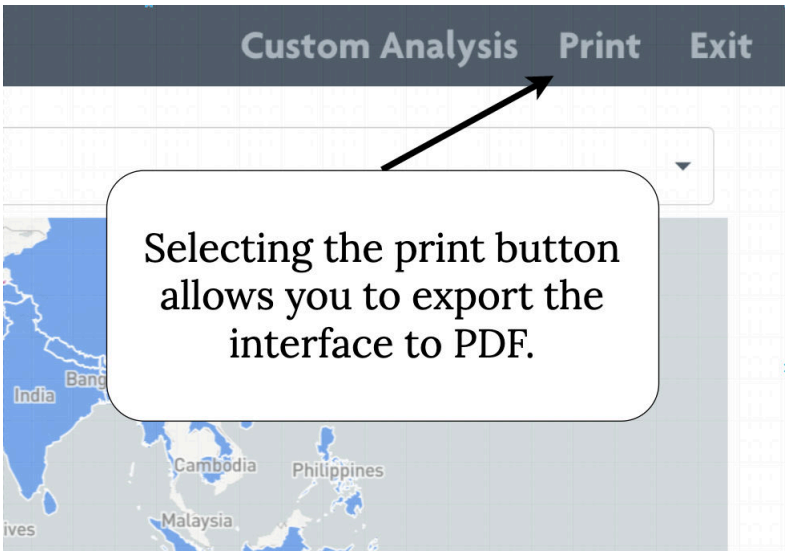
Number of deaths during the first 28 days of life, expressed per 1,000 live births (UNICEF).
Number of stillbirths per 1000 total births. Stillbirths can occur antepartum or intrapartum. For purposes of international comparison, stillbirths are defined as third trimester fetal deaths (≥ 1000 g or ≥28 weeks). (WHO)
Number of deaths among women who were pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy (irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes) (WHO) expressed per 100,000 live births.
Number of deaths between birth and exactly 1 year of age, expressed per 1,000 live births (UNICEF). To observe the separate effects on neonatal and infant mortality this model subtracts neonatal mortality from infant mortality in the calculation of DALYs averted.



When the tool calculates DALYs averted, the prevalence of LBW and infant mortality is adjusted for double counting. Among LBW babies, most are preterm, SGA, or both. Therefore, reductions in preterm and SGA will result in fewer LBW babies. For this reason, LBW prevalence is adjusted to reflect only the change in term and adequate for gestational age (AGA) infants. The prevalence of SGA is adjusted to remove preterm SGA infants (Kozuki N, Katz J, Clermont A & Walker N, 2017). Since infant mortality (death in the first year of life) is inclusive of neonatal mortality (death in the first 28 days of life), the prevalence of infant mortality used in the calculation is net of neonatal mortality.

Exporting & Troubleshooting

The results of the analysis can be downloaded as a PDF by clicking the *Print* button below the tool on Nutrition International's webpage. By default, the tool downloads both the interface you are currently working in.



The tool will time out if left idle for more than five minutes. Click the refresh symbol in the web-browser to reset. However, please be aware the tool will return to default and you will lose any new data. If using the C*ustom Interface,* it is recommended that you compile your data in advance.

For assistance, please email MoMS@NutritionIntl.org.

■

*Thanks to **Limestone Analytics** for their support and technical leadership in developing the underlying model, tool and this supporting documentation.*

References

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