

ADVOCACY



PREVENTION

FORTIFICATION



IF Information Package on Global Advocacy for Prevention through Food Fortification



Advocacy towards the WHO on FA Fortification

IF has been working with an international coalition of neurosurgeons to raise awareness of Folic Acid Fortification with the WHO with the goal of having the WHA adopt a resolution on Folic Acid Fortification.

In January 2022, the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, in collaboration with IF and supported by the World Federation of Anaesthesiologists and the International Federation of Surgical Colleges, submitted a Statement to the WHO Executive Board in response to a report by the Director General on Maternal, infant and young child nutrition.



The statement stressed the importance of mandatory folic acid fortification of staple foods to prevent Spina Bifida and Anencephaly. Urging the WHO to support a resolution on mandatory folic acid fortification at the World Health Assembly.



World Health Assembly (WHA): The decision-making body, where the Member States come together to vote. Held in May.

Executive Board: Implements the decisions of the WHA and decides which resolutions go on the agenda for the WHA. Main meeting is in January each year. A WHO Member State is elected to serve on the Executive Board for a 3 year term. The Member State then designates a person who is technically qualified in the field of health to represent the Member State on the board.

Director General: Nominated by the Executive Board and appointed by the WHA

Advocating to the WHO: key phrases

Several things are needed to for a resolution to pass. First of all support of multiple partners and WHO Member States as well as the support of the Executive Board in order to make it on to the agenda of the WHA.

Advocacy towards members of the Executive board is key!

Advocating to Members of the WHO Executive Board

Africa

Botswana (2020-2023)

Burkina Faso (2019-2022)

Ghana (2020-2023)

Guinea-Bissau (2020-2023)

Kenya (2019-2022)

Madagascar (2020-2023)

Rwanda (2021-2024)

Americas

Argentina (2019-2022)

Colombia (2020-2023)

Grenada (2019-2022)

Guyana (2019-2022)

Paraguay (2021-2024)

Peru (2021-2024)

South-East Asia

Bangladesh (2019-2022)

India (2020-2023)

Timor-Leste (2021-2024)

Europe

Botswana (2020-2023)

Burkina Faso (2019-2022)

Ghana (2020-2023)

Guinea-Bissau (2020-2023)

Kenya (2019-2022)

Madagascar (2020-2023)

Rwanda (2021-2024)

Eastern Mediterranean

Afghanistan (2021-2024)

Oman (2020-2023)

Syrian Arab
Republic (2021-2024)

Tunisia (2019-2022)

United Arab Emirates
(2019-2022)

Western Pacific

Japan (2021-2024)

Malaysia (2021-2024)

Republic of Korea
(2020-2023)

Singapore (2019-2022)

Tonga (2019-2022)

The next steps for IF

Partners

Continue developing materials with partners with the aim of creating a WHO resolution on folic acid fortification.

Connect with members of the Executive Board

WHO

Advocate and raise awareness among WHO leadership on SBH and FA Fortification through engagements and statements

IF Members

Work with IF Members to build strong national level advocacy. This is essential to build support from national policy makers of WHO Member States.

Do you want to join our campaign for a WHO resolution on Folic Acid?

List of acronyms

IF - International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

SBH - Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

WHO - World Health Organization

WHA - World Health Assembly

FA - Folic acid

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate
to contact IF at info@ifglobal.org

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