



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 9
SERIES OF 2005**

**SUBJECT : INTEGRATION OF FOOD FORTIFICATION IN
SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS,
PROJECTS AND SERVICES OF LGUs, NGOs and
DSWD**

I. RATIONALE

One of the most prevalent nutritional disorders in the world is micronutrient malnutrition. Otherwise known as hidden hunger, micronutrient malnutrition refers to the lack of Vitamin A and Iodine, prevalent in the Philippines for the past several years. Preschool children below 6 years old and mothers of reproductive age are among the hardest hit groups. State recognizes the nutritional deficiency problems in the Philippines and food fortification is vital where there is a demonstrated need to increase the intake of essential nutrients by one or more population groups. Hence, the government is embarking on a food fortification program as one of its strategies to fight eliminate micronutrient malnutrition in the country.

Food fortification is the addition of a micronutrient or micronutrients to food items that are widely consumed by specific-risk groups. The Act on Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN) Law or Republic Act 8172 and the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000 or Republic Act No. 8976 was signed into law on November 2, 2000 and shall be fully implemented by November 2004. The Food Fortification Program aims to increase dietary intake of Vitamin A, Iron and Iodine equivalent to 50% of Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) contributed by fortified groups. Deficiencies in Vitamin A, iron and iodine could waste as much as 5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but addressing them could comprehensively and sustainably would cost less than 0.3% of the GDP according to the World Bank (WB).

In the Supplemental Feeding program of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Kabisig ng KALAHI, 2,505 children benefited from supplemental feeding for six months from CY 2003 to CY 2004. Meanwhile, the DSWD Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) is designed to enhance the quality and coverage of essential health, nutrition, psychosocial development and early education services for 0 - 6 years. The DSWD ECDP implementation covered a total of 13 provinces, 132 municipalities/cities in 1,522 barangays and has benefited 3,226,957 0 - 6 years old children.

The DSWD as part of the Governing Board of the NNC conducted various efforts to support the implementation of RA 8976. The DSWD held a policy forum on "Food Fortification Act of 2000" with the main purpose of protecting and promoting the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, especially to the vulnerable groups like the women in crisis, children in need of special protection, disaster victims, older persons that are beneficiaries of our center and community based programs.

II. LEGAL BASES

1. *Republic Act 8976* entitled "An Act Establishing The Philippine Food Fortification Program and for Other Purposes otherwise known as the Food Fortification Act of 2000. The law mandates the fortification of rice, wheat, sugar and flour.
2. *DSWD Memorandum Circular* dated 13 December 2004 re: National Nutrition Consciousness Month signed by Sec. Corazon Juliano- Soliman. The memorandum instructed the Field Offices to promote and support the information, education campaign for the Food Fortification Act of 2000 and the celebration of the Nutrition week.

III. SCOPE/COVERAGE

The Administrative Order (AO) will cover the entire LGUs, NGOs and DSWD center based and community based programs, projects and services.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following are defined for the purpose of this AO:

1. Fortification The addition of nutrients to processed food and food products at levels above the natural state. It is an approach to control micronutrient deficiency; Food fortification is an addition of a micronutrient, to a food that is widely consumed by specific at-risk groups.
2. Micronutrient An essential nutrient required by the body in very small quantities; recommended intakes are in milligrams or micrograms
3. Nutrient Any chemical substance needed by the body for one or more of its functions; to provide heat or energy, to build and repair tissues and to regulate life processes. Although nutrients are found chiefly in foods, some can be synthesized in the laboratory like vitamin and mineral supplements or in the body through biosynthesis
4. Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) Levels of nutrient intakes which are considered adequate to maintain health and provide reasonable levels of reserves in body tissues of nearly all healthy persons in the population

5. Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program (SPSP) A strategy to encourage food manufacturers to fortify processed foods or food products with essential nutrients at levels approved by DOH. The fundamental concept of the program is to authorize food manufacturers to use the DOH seal of acceptance after the products passed a set of defined criteria. The seal is a guide used by consumers in selecting nutritious foods.
6. Canteens Establishment that serves cook food and other food items, which are managed by DSWD or by employee cooperatives.

V. OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate for the implementation of RA 8976 in the DSWD Central and Field Offices, Local Government Units (LGUs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in their respective Social Welfare and Development (SWD) programs particularly its community, residential and center-based programs.
2. To ensure that DSWD residential centers, canteen, caterers and DSWD food-for work and feeding programs use and serve fortified foods with Sangkap Pinoy Seal, if available¹.
3. To the extent possible, use and serve fortified foods such as rice, wheat flour, oil, and refined sugar in DSWD relief operations and encourage LGUs and NGOs to follow the same.

VI. POLICY GUIDELINE

Sec. 6 of Republic Act 8976 on Mandatory Food Fortification states that the fortification of staple foods based on standards set by Department of Health (DOH) through the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) is hereby made mandatory for the following:

- i. Rice – with Iron;
- ii. Wheat flour – with vitamin A and Iron;
- iii. Refined sugar – with vitamin A
- iv. Cooking oil – with vitamin A; and
- v. Other staples food with nutrients as may later be required by the NNC

It is hereby encouraged to use and serve processed foods or food products with Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program².

¹ See annex A

² See annex A

VII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

The following bureaus will be responsible in coming up with the necessary guidelines and procedures to ensure the fulfilment of the objective of this AO.

A. POLICY DEVELOPMENT and PLANNING BUREAU (PDPB)

1. To provide technical assistance in the advocacy and information and education campaign on Food Fortification Act of 2000;
2. To establish network and linkages with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) on the implementation of the law; and
3. To consolidate reports and submit DSWD annual accomplishments relative to the implementation of the law to Department of Health (DOH) through the Bureau Food and Drugs (BFAD) and any other requesting party.

B. SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY BUREAU (STB)

1. To promote the use of fortified foods in all DSWD programs; and
2. To integrate the Food Fortification program in DSWD program development and implementation

C. STANDARDS BUREAU (SB)

1. To develop standards that promote and include food fortification compliance of DSWD, NGOs & LGUs community based & center based programs, services and projects; and
2. To promote the use of fortified foods in all NGO centers and community based programs.

D. SOCIAL MARKETING SERVICE (SMS)

1. To develop social marketing plans/programs to mainstream food fortification in every DSWD residential center, Day Care Center, DSWD canteen and DSWD accredited social welfare & development NGOs.

E. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUREAU (PMB)

1. To the extent possible, ensure the use of fortified foods in relief goods operations, food- for work projects and feeding programs of the DSWD; and
2. To encourage NGO relief agencies to use fortified foods in their relief operations and feeding programs.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

1. To advise the Requesting Units or End-Users to indicate in the Requisition and Issue Slip (RIS) and Purchase request that the food procured by the Department should comply with the Food Fortification Law;
2. To ensure that meetings, seminars and conferences initiated by the DSWD must serve fortified food, if available; and
3. To the extent possible, ensure that the food purchases of the Department comply with the Food Fortification Law.


G. FIELD OFFICES (FOs)

1. To the extent possible, use fortified food in the feeding program, food-for work project and relief operations in their respective regions;
2. To serve fortified food in DSWD centers, canteens, meeting, seminars and conferences, if available;
3. To promote and advocate for the use of fortified food in LGUs, Day Care Centers and accredited NGOs; and
4. To submit an annual accomplishment report relative to this AO to the PDPB.

VIII. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This order shall take effect immediately.

Issued in Quezon City, this 25th day of May 2005.


CORAZON JULIANO- SOLIMAN
Secretary
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Annex A: FORTIFIED SEAL

