

## **Assessment of USI situation in Nigeria**

### **Background**

Nigeria is the most populous country in West Africa with an estimated 140 million people. Nigeria has been largely successful with its IDD control program and is currently working towards an Int'l assessment, to recognize and acknowledge her effort, to serve as motivation towards sustaining USI compliance in the country in the long-term. The IDD control program was launched in 1993 at a time when less than 40% of the salt circulating in the country was sufficiently iodized. The USI program has progressed steadily since then, with a current household iodized salt availability of 98%. Median urinary iodine excretion in Nigerian households has also been consistently above 100mcg/l level (143mcg/l in 1998 and 185mcg/l in 2002)<sup>1</sup>. The goiter prevalence has also been on the decline (67% in 1988, 20% in 1993, 10.6% in 1998 and 7.7% in 2004).

Per capita consumption of salt varies widely, between 2.2 and 6.2g per day, across Nigeria's agro ecological zones, with an estimated consumption of 600,000 metric tons per year (household, animal and industrial). All salt produced, marketed or consumed in Nigeria is expected to contain 50 ppm minimum iodine at the factory and port of entry levels, and 30ppm at retail level. Factory surveys overtime have revealed 100% compliance (recording iodine level of between 50 – 70 ppm), while wholesale assessments also confirmed 100% iodization, retailer measurements revealed 98% adequate iodization.

To sustain these achievements, Nigeria has intensified decentralized and institutionalised adherence monitoring and enforcement at factory, wholesale, retail and household levels; coupled with intensive generic social marketing and sensitization at all levels, to increase supply and stimulate demand and consumption of adequately iodized salt amongst the population.

Nigeria's achievements on USI are of strategic importance to IDD control in not just the West African sub region (where, excluding Nigeria, the availability of iodized salt in households is just 46%) but across the African continent. Therefore, an independent external assessment, recognition and acknowledgment of Nigeria's effort and achievements on USI would be an instructive spur to other countries to also achieve USI

### **Objective**

The broad goal of this assessment is to carry out independent evaluation of the USI situation in Nigeria, with a view to recognizing and acknowledging the country's effort, as well as make sustainable recommendations to sustain Nigeria's achievements as a model for other countries.

1. conduct an assessment of the USI situation in Nigeria, through
  - a. review of planning, coordination, effectiveness of implementation, definition of roles/responsibilities and achievements in Nigeria's USI program.
  - b. On-the-spot interaction with key partners and evaluation of USI at strategic sites
2. assess the strength of the program against the indicators for sustainable elimination of IDD as detailed in the publication "Assessment of Iodine Deficiency Disorders and Monitoring their Elimination".
3. contribute to a de-briefing of policy-makers and other stakeholders on
  - a. achievements of the USI program in Nigeria
  - b. acknowledgement of Nigeria's achievements and recognition (or non-recognition) of Nigeria as USI-compliant
  - c. recommendations to Nigeria for sustaining (or achieving) USI.

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<sup>1</sup> 2005 urinary iodine result being compiled, and will also include goiter prevalence.

## Draft Agenda

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Arrival of International participants				Dr A.Adeyemi and Isiaka Alo
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	10.00	Meeting of International participants	House cleaning	Hotel	Dr. Victor Aguayo
	14.00	Meeting of International and national participants	Review of draft agenda	Hotel	Dr. A. Adeyemi
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2005	8.30-9.00	Courtesy Call on UNICEF	Meeting of key Officers in UNICEF Nigeria.	UNICEF	Dr. Isiaka Alo - UNICEF
	9.30-11.00	Briefing by the Hon. Minister of Health; and hand-over of documents on IDD/USI to assessment team.	Nigeria's USI programme.	FMOH	Dr A. Adeyemi - FMOH
	11.00-16.00	Courtesy call on key partners (FMOE, NPC, NAFDAC, SON).	Briefing on Roles, responsibilities, and contributions to USI.	FMOE NPC NAFDAC SON.	Ms. Tina Eyaru Dr. Davis Omotola Ms. Doris Amlai Ms. Margaret Eshiett
	16.00-17.00	Visit to markets (retail and chain store).	Assess level of awareness on USI Test Iodine in salt	Wuse Market	Mrs. Doris Amlai - NAFDAC
	19.00-21.00	Reception	-	To be agreed	Dr A. Adeyemi – FMOH
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2005	8.00-16.00	Travel to Nasarawa State.		Keffi, Nasarawa State.	Dr. A. Adeyemi
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visit a Health Centre in Keffi.</li> <li>➤ Visit local salt producing community in Awe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assess awareness level of USI.</li> <li>➤ Courtesy call on traditional ruler of Awe.</li> <li>➤ Assess awareness level of USI.</li> <li>➤ Assess local production and iodization method in Awe.</li> </ul>	Awe, Nasarawa State	Mrs. Dorsi Amali – NAFDAC
Wed. 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2005	8.00-13.00	Travel to Lagos/Ibadan	-	-	Dr. A. Adeyemi – FMOH
	13.00-14.00	Visit State Primary Education Board (SPEB)	Sustainability of awareness creation and iodine assessment in schools	Oyo State SPEB	Mrs. Tina Eyaru

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
	15.00-16.00	Visit Iodine Laboratory	Suitability and sustainability of quantitative iodine determination	UCH Chem. Path. Iodine Lab.	Dr. Akinosun – UCH
	16.00-18.00	Travel back to Lagos	-		Dr. A. Adeyemi
Thurs Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2005	9.00-12.00	Visit Unilever salt factory	Production of adequately fortified salt	Unilever, Ikeja Lagos	Mr. Dayo Ashaolu
	13.00-15.00	Visit to Royal Salt Plc (RSL) factory	-do-	RSL, Apapa-Lagos	Mr. Rajesh
	16.00-18.00	Return to Abuja	-	-	-
Fri Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2005	9.00-12.00	Meeting of Int'l team.	Working on reports	Hotel.	Dr. Victor Aguayo
	12.00-14.00	Post-assessment debriefing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome address</li> <li>▪ Opening Remarks</li> <li>➤ Overview of assessment</li> <li>▪ 'Acknowledgement' of Nigeria's achievement and 'recognition' of as USI-compliant.</li> <li>➤ Recommendations for sustaining USI</li> <li>▪ Closing Remarks</li> <li>➤ Vote of thanks</li> </ul>	Presentation of findings and recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Director, CDPA</li> <li>▪ Hon. Minister.</li> <li>➤ External team</li> <li>▪ External team</li> <li>➤ External team</li> <li>▪ DG, NAFDAC</li> <li>➤ UNICEF</li> </ul>	Sheraton Hotel & Towers	Dr. A. Adeyemi
Saturday Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005	International participants depart				