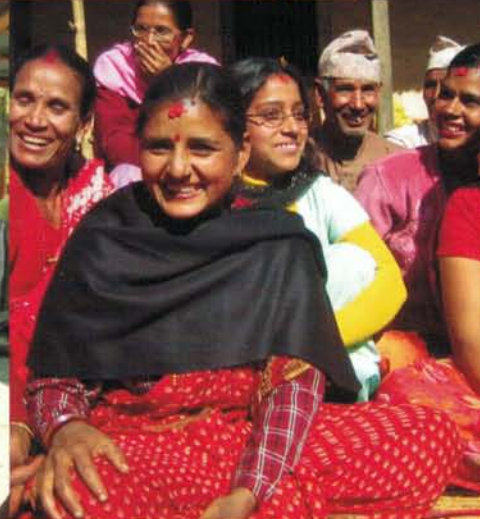


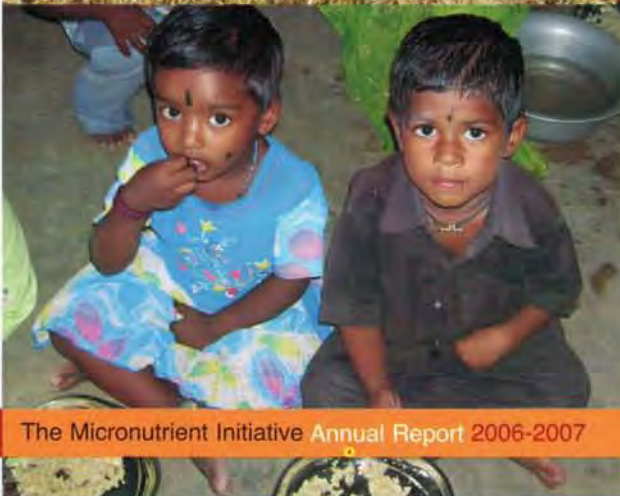


**Micronutrient  
Initiative**

**Solutions for hidden hunger**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
06-07**





## Our Mission

The Micronutrient Initiative (MI) works to ensure the most vulnerable – especially women and children – in developing countries get the vitamins and minerals they need to survive and lead productive lives.

## How MI Helps Stop Hidden Hunger

MI helps governments, food producers and partner organizations to develop and implement culturally appropriate and cost-effective micronutrient programs. The services offered by MI experts include:

- situation assessment and program design
- technology development
- policy development
- capacity development
- procurement
- technical assistance to countries

## We are passionate about:

- helping developing nations save lives and improve livelihoods through better nutrition
- developing and sharing the most appropriate solutions for hidden hunger
- reaching the people who need vitamins and minerals the most

## We believe that:

- children have the right to a healthy start in life and should grow up free from the preventable impairment of hidden hunger
- women have a right to the vitamins and minerals that will provide for their full economic and social participation in society
- working in partnership with governments, the private sector and civil society organizations is essential to success
- collectively we have the ability to implement existing, simple and affordable solutions for hidden hunger – to the benefit of a full third of the world's population

## Financial Supporters

MI thanks the following financial supporters, without whom the work described in this annual report would not have been possible:

- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Christian Blind Mission International (CBMI)
- DSM Nutritional Products
- Government of Bolivia
- Government of Bihar State, India\*
- Government of Indonesia
- Government of Pakistan
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh (ICDDR,B)
- The Izumi Foundation
- UNICEF
- The World Bank
- World Food Programme (WFP)

*\*Through the MI India Trust*

# FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



Kul C. Gautam  
*Chair*



M. G. Venkatesh Mannar  
*President*

Fifteen years ago, the Micronutrient Initiative (MI) was born out of a pledge by world leaders to protect children everywhere from the tragic and preventable disease and impairment caused by hidden hunger. Since then, MI and its many partners have worked hard to protect some of the world's most vulnerable people. We have focused particularly on the poorest women and children in developing countries because they are disproportionately affected. By helping women and children survive and thrive, our programs are helping to break cycles of poor health and poverty and to build up the physical and financial well-being of families, communities, and whole nations.

***We estimate that last year alone MI programs reached approximately 500 million people.***

We estimate that last year alone MI programs reached approximately 500 million people. This, our greatest ever reach in one year, has only been possible with the help, support and commitment of national governments, non-government organizations, industries and individuals, and the many development partners who have worked jointly with MI to address hidden hunger. The ongoing support and commitment of the Canadian Government through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) deserves special mention.

The success of the last year is also the result of tireless advocacy over the last 15 years, keeping hidden hunger high on the world's agenda, and bringing together key partners to both create the conditions for action, and to make it happen. Through these efforts, MI has learned that leadership by countries and well coordinated support from development partners are essential for sustained success.

The global vitamin A effort is a perfect example of success through nationally led programs. For over 10 years, a major thrust for MI has been its work with UNICEF in over 70 countries to support nationally led programs to improve child survival through vitamin A supplementation. Best estimates indicate that these national programs had saved the lives of more than 2.5 million preschool children by December 2005. As you will see in the pages that follow, vitamin A programs continue to be a major priority for MI.

Universal Salt Iodization efforts are another area where MI, throughout its 15-year history, has had a key role in stimulating national plans and action. Last year we launched a major new partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) to help 6 key countries with high rates of iodine deficiency increase their supply of high quality iodized salt.

MI has also worked directly with national governments across three continents to help develop and implement national action plans to address hidden hunger. Examples this year included the India Micronutrient National Investment Plan, launched in October 2006, Senegal's new push to iodize all of its salt, and Bolivia's program to address childhood anemia, all of which are already showing significant and lasting benefits.

To help ensure effective coordination between development partners, last year MI hosted the secretariats for the Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency (Iodine Network) and for the newly formed Global Alliance for Vitamin A (GAVA). MI was also active in the Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI), the Initiative to End Child Hunger and Undernutrition, the 10-year strategy to end micronutrient deficiencies co-ordinated by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), as well as in the Partnership for Maternal Child and Newborn Health. MI worked particularly closely with UNICEF, WFP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank by seconding staff to these organizations to enhance program coordination and results.

Over the years, MI has also become known for innovation and for extending the boundaries of what can be achieved. MI recently earned international recognition for its work on an award-winning gravity operated fortification device in Nepal that extends the health benefits of flour fortification to rural people served by small traditional mills. Other innovations featured in this report include the use of GPS technology to map small-scale salt producers in Senegal and work with them and the Government of Senegal to support iodization of the salt they produce.

As the 2006-2007 year ended, MI underwent a strategic visioning process to evaluate the lessons of the past 15 years, and to develop a new strategy for the next 5 years. This will see MI strengthen its presence and efforts in core countries, further increase collaborative programs that complement the strengths of its partners, and strengthen its focus on programs that accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the coming years as we put MI's new strategy into action, we look forward to the power of your support and partnership. Working together, we can implement the simple and affordable solutions that will protect women and children around the world from hidden hunger and fulfill that leadership pledge – both ambitious and admirable – that gave rise to MI 15 years ago.

Kul C. Gautam  
*Chair, Micronutrient Initiative  
Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF*

M. G. Venkatesh Mannar  
*President, Micronutrient Initiative*