

MI Renews its Commitment to Support Micronutrient Programming in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal – February 12, 2009 – The Micronutrient Initiative (MI) and Social Welfare Council (SWC) of Nepal signed a second 3-year project agreement on February 12, 2009 to continue MI's support for implementation of the Vitamin and Mineral Deficiency Control Program (VMDCP) in Nepal. The SWC, formed under the Social Welfare Act of Nepal, is the focal point for international non-governmental organizations willing to support development activities in Nepal.

With this agreement in place, MI will continue its mandate of providing technical and financial support for implementing several key projects and programs in Nepal. These including the expansion of Intensification of Maternal and Neonatal Micronutrient Program (IMNMP) to 23 new districts; Wheat Flour Fortification with iron and vitamins at roller mills; expansion of cereal flour fortification with iron and vitamins at small scale mills ; expansion of zinc treatment of childhood diarrhoea to 9 districts; pilot project on newborn vitamin A supplementation in 4 districts; pilot project on the distribution of multiple micronutrient powders (sprinkles); introduction of double fortified salt distribution to targeted populations and the expansion of community-based iodized social marketing campaign to 2 new districts. These programs will be implemented in close partnerships with government departments, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector and research institutions.

“With the signing of this agreement, both the Government of Nepal and the MI have affirmed a continuity of their commitment to reaching the vulnerable populations in Nepal”, said Mr M. R. Maharjan, Director, Nepal for the Micronutrient Initiative.



Mr. Macha Raja Maharjan, Director of the Micronutrient Initiative in Nepal (right) and Mr Raju Joshi, Acting Member Secretary, social Welfare Council shake hands after signing of the agreement.

About the Micronutrient Initiative

The Ottawa-based Micronutrient Initiative is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that the world's most vulnerable – especially women and children – in developing countries get the vitamins and minerals they need to survive and thrive. Its mission is to develop, implement and monitor innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions for hidden hunger, in partnership with others.

For more information, please contact:

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