

Micronutrient Initiative Partners for Improved Child Survival

Jakarta, Indonesia, September 10, 2009 – The Micronutrient Initiative (MI), is pleased to announce the successful launch of the book “PANDUAN MANAJEMEN SUPLEMENTASI VITAMIN A” (which means Management of Vitamin A Supplementation Guideline) at Hotel Bumi Wiyata, Depok, Indonesia. The book was produced by MI, with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in collaboration with Department of Health Indonesia, SEAMEO-TROPED University of Indonesia and UNICEF Indonesia. The book offers guidance for vitamin A supplementation program management to health staff in Indonesia.

The launch, organized on 10 September, 2009, was attended by representatives from the Department of Health Indonesia, SEAMEO-TROPED University of Indonesia, UNICEF, HKI and MI, together with other distinguished guests.

For child survival programs, universal coverage of a minimum set of essential interventions is required. Twice-yearly preventive supplementation of children with high strength vitamin A supplements, treatment of childhood measles with VAS, and treatment of diarrhoeal infection with zinc supplements can save children’s lives. Increasing intake of foods rich in or fortified with vitamin A and zinc by children can also help reduce the risks of morbidity and mortality from these deficiencies, break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, and thereby contribute to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr Elvina Karyadi, Director, Micronutrient Initiative, Indonesia said: “MI sincerely acknowledges the active support provided by Dr. Ina Hernawati, MPH, Director of Community Nutrition Department of Health Indonesia, University of Indonesia and other NGOs for contributing and supporting the initiative by providing technical inputs. I express my gratitude to the Department of Health for facilitating today's launch. MI feels proud and honored to be a partner in such a noble and effective initiative and would like to assure once again of our continued support in the future for the cause of combating vitamin A deficiency”.

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.



Dr Elvina Karyadi, Director Indonesia for MI (3rd from left) with partners (from left-right: representatives from HKI, SEAMEO-TROPED University of Indonesia, Department of Health Indonesia and UNICEF) at the launch ceremony.

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