

In the news

Aligning salt reduction and salt iodization in South Asia

A webinar on salt reduction and salt iodization for South Asian countries was organized by IGN and UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia on 21 May 2024 and attracted nearly 200 participants. The next IDD Newsletter will report back on this important event and how it advances both public health agendas together in the region.

Guest panelists of this event were Dr. Shweta Khandelwal (Senior Nutrition Advisor, Jhpiego India), Dr. Angela De Silva (WHO SEARO Regional Advisor), Dr. Aravinda Wickramasinghe (Consultant Community Physician, Sri Lanka) and Dr. Zivai Murira (Regional Nutrition Advisor, UNICEF ROSA).

The webinar was facilitated by Dr. Renuka Jayatissa (Regional Coordinator IGN South Asia) and Arnold Timmer (Senior Advisor IGN). A [policy brief](#) on salt iodization and salt reduction programs, developed by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and IGN formed the basis for the discussion.

A historic meeting for food fortification in Eastern and Southern Africa has been postponed

A meeting due to take place in Mombasa, Kenya in July to develop a regional action plan on food fortification had to be postponed due to political unrest. The meeting sought to achieve greater progress in tackling vitamin and mineral deficiencies and giving its population greater access to nutritional diets.

The meeting is a logical extension of the work of the highly successful Iodine Regional Coordination Mechanism, which has flourished due to its management under a public health mechanism and a solid framework for concerted action by stakeholders, which has led to progress on iodine nutrition for millions of people in the region. The meeting has been rescheduled for October. Watch for more details on our website and in the the next edition of the IDD newsletter.

WHO/IGN report on iodine deficiency in Europe to be discussed at 3rd WIA International Conference

The WHO/IGN report on prevention and control of iodine deficiency in Europe – which is the cover story in this newsletter – will be high on the agenda of the 3rd International Conference of the World Iodine Association on 7-8 October 2024.

The conference will bring together leaders and experts from the scientific, academic and medial communities along with industry representatives and policy makers to discuss the latest scientific findings and policy developments in the prevention of iodine deficiency disorders

Attendees will hear presentations from report authors on topics such as the dietary shift away from dairy as well as the implications of the report beyond Europe's borders. A key session on multi-stakeholder advocacy will discuss how best to use the comprehensive information in this new report to advocate for action in Europe and globally to ensure that populations are protected from iodine deficiency.

