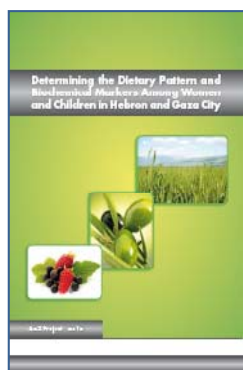




The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project



A2Z: The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project Announces the release of five new publications designed to support food fortification efforts in the West Bank and Gaza.



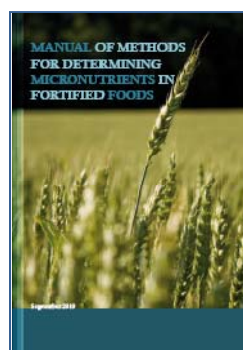
Determining the Dietary Patterns and Biochemical Markers among Women and Children in Hebron and Gaza City

A2Z supported the completion of a 24-hour recall study to determine micronutrient status and nutritional adequacy in Hebron and Gaza City. Dietary data were collected from children 3-7 years of age, and women of reproductive age (18-49 years). Analysis of usual intake and biomarker data indicated children were not receiving sufficient zinc, calcium, niacin or vitamins A, and B-12. Women had inadequate intake of iron, zinc, calcium, niacin, and vitamins A, B-1, B-2, B-6, B-12. Low serum levels of vitamin D in women, but not children, suggest that the traditional practice of covering a woman's skin after adolescence plays a role in the metabolic deficiency of vitamin D. These and other results were used to define the fortification formula of wheat flour by the Palestinian Authority.



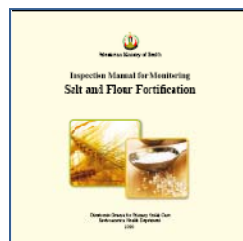
The Demand for Locally Manufactured Complementary Food Products among Palestinian Caregivers

This study gathered information on the feeding practices of infants and children under three years of age, as well as caregivers readiness to accept a variety of locally-manufactured complementary foods for children 3-35 months. The results of the study indicate favorable and positive attitudes by mothers towards breastfeeding and complementary feeding with local ingredients. The study has revealed that although commercially fortified foods are used as snacks for children, women do not perceive them as the usual products for infant feeding. However, the women showed interest in trying micronutrient powders to improve the nutritional density of the meals given to their children.



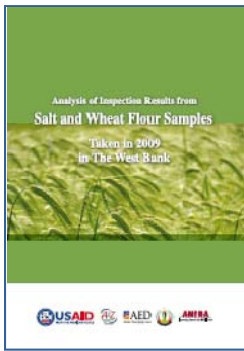
Manual of Methods for Determining Micronutrients in Fortified Foods

This manual provides detailed step-by-step instructions on methods to qualitatively and quantitatively determine iron, vitamin A, and water-soluble vitamins (riboflavin, thiamin, niacin and folic acid) in wheat flour and in other foods, such as cereal-based products, milk, and edible oils. The manual describes the methods already implemented and used by the Palestinian Ministry of Health-Central Public Health Laboratory. The manual presents a method to determine the soluble iron coming specifically from ferrous sulfate, as well as an improved method for qualitatively determining vitamin A content in flours.



Inspection Manual for Monitoring Salt and Flour Fortification

This manual summarizes the steps necessary agreed upon by the food inspectors of the Department of Environmental Hygiene, Ministry of Health-Palestinian Authority, for supervising and inspecting production and sales of iodized salt and wheat flour. Versions in English and Arabic were prepared.



Analysis of Inspection Results from Salt and Wheat Flour Samples

This document reports the results for iodized salt and wheat flour samples taken during 2008 and 2009 by the Environmental Health Department that were analyzed by the Central Public Health Laboratory; both are from the Ministry of Health of the Palestinian Authority. This document is a product of the application of the methods described in the manuals above.

To view the documents, please click the corresponding thumbnails. All of the above materials are available at <http://a2zproject.org/node/89>. For more information on A2Z's work in food fortification, please visit www.a2zproject.org.

