

**A REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS
ON SURVEILLANCE OF FORTIFIED PACKAGED MAIZE AND WHEAT
FLOURS ON THE KENYAN MARKET, JUNE 23RD, 2021**



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Surveillance on the fortification of maize and wheat flour in the Kenyan market was carried out in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Kilifi, Nakuru, Kwale, Kiambu, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet and Busia counties. The Ministry of Health, partnered with the European Union, Nutrition International and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) to make the surveillance possible. In attendance were County Public Health Officers, County Nutrition Officers and Industry players.

The main objective of the meeting was to evaluate the progress on food fortification and compliance in the market. The following were gathered from the meeting:

- Maize and wheat flour samples were analysed for presence of vitamins A, B, B3, folic acid, and minerals zinc and iron by National Public Health Laboratories and JKUAT laboratories.
- Results of fortification of both maize and wheat flour differed in the different counties where some met fortification standards while others did not.
- The brands for the maize and wheat flours were not specified.
- For maize flour, only 28% of total samples met the fortification standards.
- For wheat flour, 35.4% of total samples met the fortification standards.
- There was concern from the millers in attendance that their Certificates of Analysis (COAs) showed presence of all vitamins and minerals in recommended amounts in their premixes, however, the final products analysed showed different results.
- It was recommended by some participants that not only the products in the market, but also the premixes should be analysed to ascertain the reason for under fortification results.
- Overall recommendations from the meeting included:
 - i) To communicate the findings of this surveillance to all Community Public Health Officers (CPHOs).
 - ii) To ensure continuous surveillance of mandatory fortified foods and withdraw products not complying with the mandatory fortification.
 - iii) Capacity building of the small and medium manufacturers on how fortification should be done.
 - iv) JKUAT, DFS, NPHLS and KEBS to visit industries to assist in addressing gaps and guide policy direction.