

## Drink/Product for young children with added nutrients/Drink for young children (from the age of more than 12 months up to 36 months)\*

\*For the purpose of this factsheet, we will refer to 'Drink/Product for young children'

### A clear and precise definition for Drink/Product for young children is crucial in the revised Follow-up formula Standard.

The definition should read:

*“Drink/product for young children with added nutrients or Drink for young children means a product manufactured for use as a liquid part of the diversified diet of young children which may contribute to the nutritional needs of young children”* (footnote: In some countries these products are regulated as breast-milk substitutes).

Therefore the text<sup>1</sup> in square brackets [which may contribute to the nutritional needs of young children] must be retained to avoid confusion.

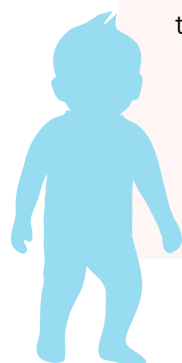
### A clear definition will allow:

To clarify the meaning of the standard<sup>2</sup> and fulfil the requirements established in the Codex Procedural Manual in relation to the purpose of the definition.

To capture the role and purpose of the product in the diet, a liquid part of the diversified diet of young children helps contribute to their specific nutritional needs by providing essential nutrients that may be lacking in their diet.

To properly categorize the products for regulators and food business operators to ensure the correct application of the Standard.

To differentiate from other beverages.



#### Key principles defined by Codex<sup>3</sup> to provide clarity and understanding of the nature and purpose of Drink/Product for young children to differentiate the product from other beverages.

- ✓ Contribution to the nutritional needs of young children where the consumption of the nutrient is widely inadequate; and/or
- ✓ Contribution of adequate amounts of key nutrients from milk, and if appropriate breast milk, where such nutrients are key contributors to the diet of young children; and/or
- ✓ The nutritional quality and integrity of product to ensure nutritional safety

A precedent exists with the definition of Formulated Supplementary foods for Older Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 08-1991) that stipulate these foods “provide those nutrients which either are lacking or are present in insufficient quantities in the basic staple foods”.

**Scientific evidence shows Drink/Product for young children helps achieve adequate nutrition<sup>4</sup>**

## YOUNG CHILDREN HAVE SPECIFIC NUTRITIONAL NEEDS AND MAY LACK ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS

- Higher energy and nutrient requirements compared to adults (7x vitamin D, 5.5x iron, 4x calcium per kg body weight) to support their rapid growth and development
- At least half of children worldwide, particularly in developing countries, aged 6 months to 5 years suffer from one or more micronutrients deficiencies<sup>5</sup>
- Transitioning to family food, nutrients often lacking include Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Zinc, Omega 3 fatty acids including DHA, Vitamin D, Fiber, Vitamin B12, C and folate<sup>6,7,8</sup>
- WHO and international experts recognize that iron, vitamin A, iodine and zinc as key nutrients often at risk among young children worldwide<sup>9,10</sup>

## THE PURPOSE OF DRINK/PRODUCT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

- To help address the nutrient inadequacies among young children by providing adequate levels of macronutrients (protein, carbohydrates and fat) and 8 essential micronutrients (Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Riboflavin, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Iron, Calcium and Zinc)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DRINK/PRODUCT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



### NUTRITION

- Contributes to the nutritional needs and to an improved health status by reducing the risk of nutrient inadequacies.



### ADEQUACY

- A practical vehicle for providing key nutrients young children may not receive from other foods, even with a diversified diet.
- Represents an important alternative to other sources of iron that may not be easily consumed or appealing to young children.



### SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Several diet and nutrition surveys<sup>11,12,13,14,15</sup> as well as high standard intervention studies<sup>16,17,18</sup> confirm **the consumption of Drink/Product for young children can make a significant contribution to improving nutrient supply and may help young children at risk of nutrient deficiency to meet their nutrient requirements**: the use of such products instead of inappropriate substitutes has been shown to compensate for common nutritional deficiencies in young children such as essential fatty acids, iron, vitamin A, D, E, most of vitamins B group and iodine.



In the EU, the vitamin D status of healthy young European children has improved through use of this type of product.<sup>19</sup>



In the Philippines,<sup>20</sup> young children consuming Drink/Product for young children have a substantially higher likelihood of meeting adequate amounts of iron, zinc, thiamin, folate and vitamins B6, C D and E compared to children who consume no dairy products.



In China,<sup>21</sup> young children consuming Drink/Product for young children have a higher intake of minerals and vitamins.

1. Text at step 5, Report of the Forty-first session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, p.56  
2. Codex Procedural Manual, 27th edition, Section II – Elaboration of Codex Standards, Format for Codex Commodity Standards, p.56  
3. Report of the Thirty-eighth session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), p.7  
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