

# Sustainability- Belarus

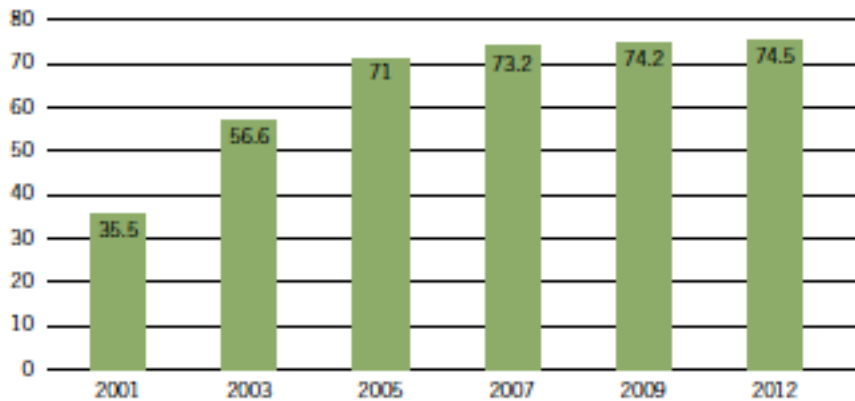
- After years of unsuccessful attempts to pursue “voluntary” model of salt iodization, **responding to sustained advocacy from ICCIDD/UNICEF**, in 2001 the government adopted a decree *“On the Prevention of Iodine Deficiency Disorders”*
- Stipulated only iodized salt could be used in the manufacture of processed foods and in all education and health facilities
- The sale of non-iodized salt was not prohibited, but all retail food outlets required to have iodized salt available

Sergei Petrenko, National Coordinator, ICCIDD Global Network Belarus with Gregory Gerasimov and Michael Zimmermann, ICCIDD GN MC

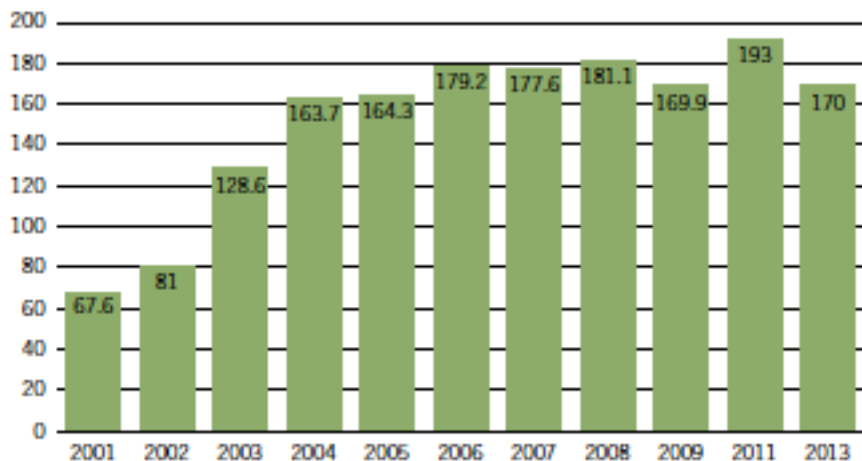


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**FIGURE 1** Iodized salt sales in Belarus, as a percentage of total food salt sales.



**FIGURE 3** Median UIC ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) based national and subnational surveys in Belarus



The Belarusian iodine prophylaxis model based on the extensive use of iodized salt in the food industry has had sustainable impact.

This approach is now being advocated by the **ICCIDD GN** for implementation by other countries in the region, particularly Russia and Ukraine.

Lessons learned from Belarus – translate to regional success

# Belarus ICCIDD GN National Coalition

- **Chair Prof. Tatiana Mokhort, ICCIDD GN National Coordinator**, and Dr. Sergei Petrenko, are the driving forces of this group for many years
- Annual or biannual meetings
- Last meeting in November 2013 with UNICEF participation; produced a summary report on success of Belarus USI program commissioned by ICCIDD GN in 2013, for use in neighboring countries in the region.

Tatiana Mokhort	Academia, Medicine
Anzhela Skuranovich	Government, Deputy Director, MOH
Irina Kondratova	Food Industry
Sergei Petrenko	Academia, Laboratory
Ekaterina Fedorenko	Government, Head of Nutrition MOH
Anatoly Brovko	Salt Industry, Chief Engineer
Natalia Kolomietz	Academia, Nutrition

# ICCIDD GN in Russia – never, never, never give up...

IDD eliminated in Soviet Union in the 1960-70s by salt iodization

1990s, program collapse. After initial ICCIDD success in addressing IDD in 1998-2002 (coverage increased from near zero to 30%), progress stalled

Several attempts of members of State Duma to adopt legislation on USI were not supported by Ministry of Health

**Nov 2013, the Bill “On salt iodization in the Russian Federation” was registered in the State Duma by group of high-ranking members of its Health Committee**

Advocacy campaign (policy meetings and parliament hearings) supported by UNICEF-GAIN, ICCIDD-GN. Changing focus to iodized salt use by food processing, baking industries

Continued advocacy for USI by ICCIDD after UNICEF closed its office in Russia in 2012

Consistency in efforts, close proximity to people with power of decision making, ability to bring together multidisciplinary coalitions – **all these helped ICCIDD GN to push forward USI legislation in Russia.**