

# ORSZCA and the Child Health Taskforce



## Working with the Commodities Sub-group

Simon Berry  
ORSZCA Secretariat

12-Apr-2022



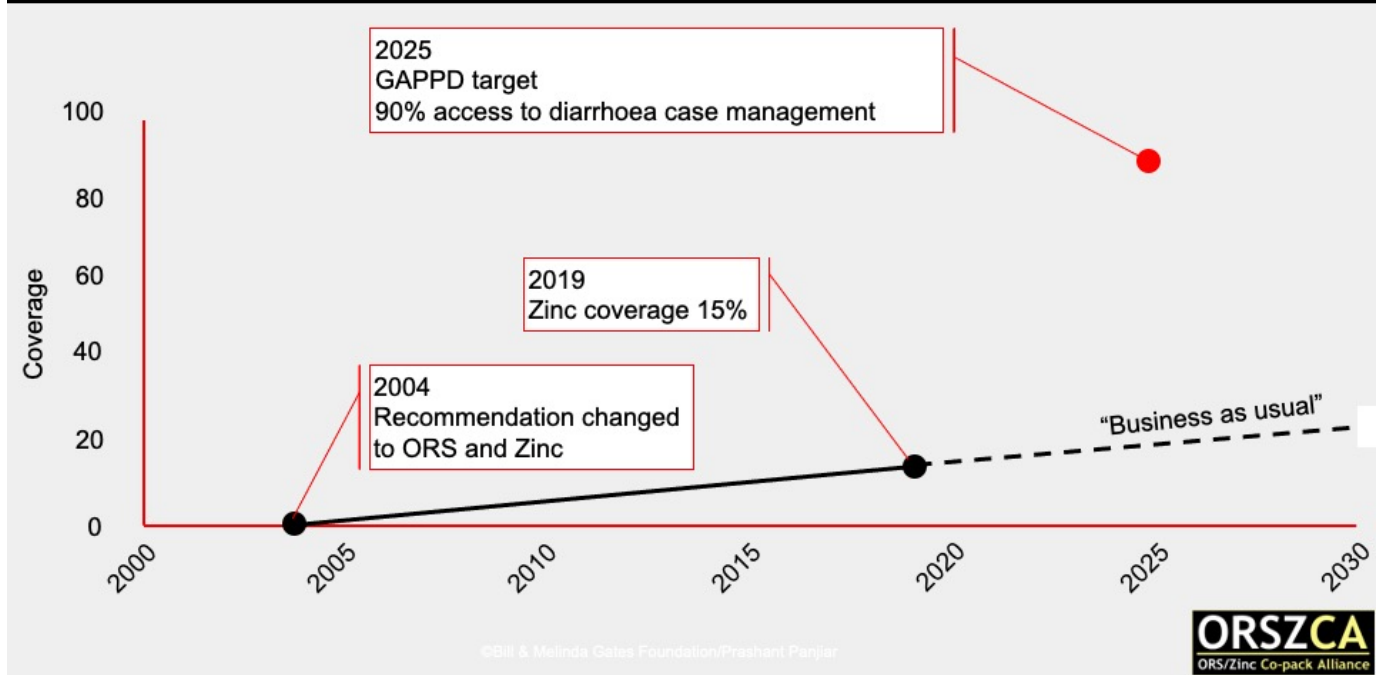
Thank you very much for inviting me to present at this meeting.

I'm going to introduce ORSZCA - the ORS/Zinc Co-pack Alliance - and outline our plans, our achievements so far, and how we might support the work of this sub-group.

So why was ORSZCA established? And why are we working to make co-packaged ORS and Zinc the 'go-to' treatment for diarrhoea?

To answer these questions, we need to be aware of some of the history of ORS/Zinc treatment and the role catalysts play in bringing about step-change.

# A short history of ORS and Zinc



It was in 2004 that the global recommendation for the treatment of diarrhoea was changed to ORS and Zinc.

[c]

Now, 18 years on, the ORS/Zinc coverage rate is just 15%.

[c]

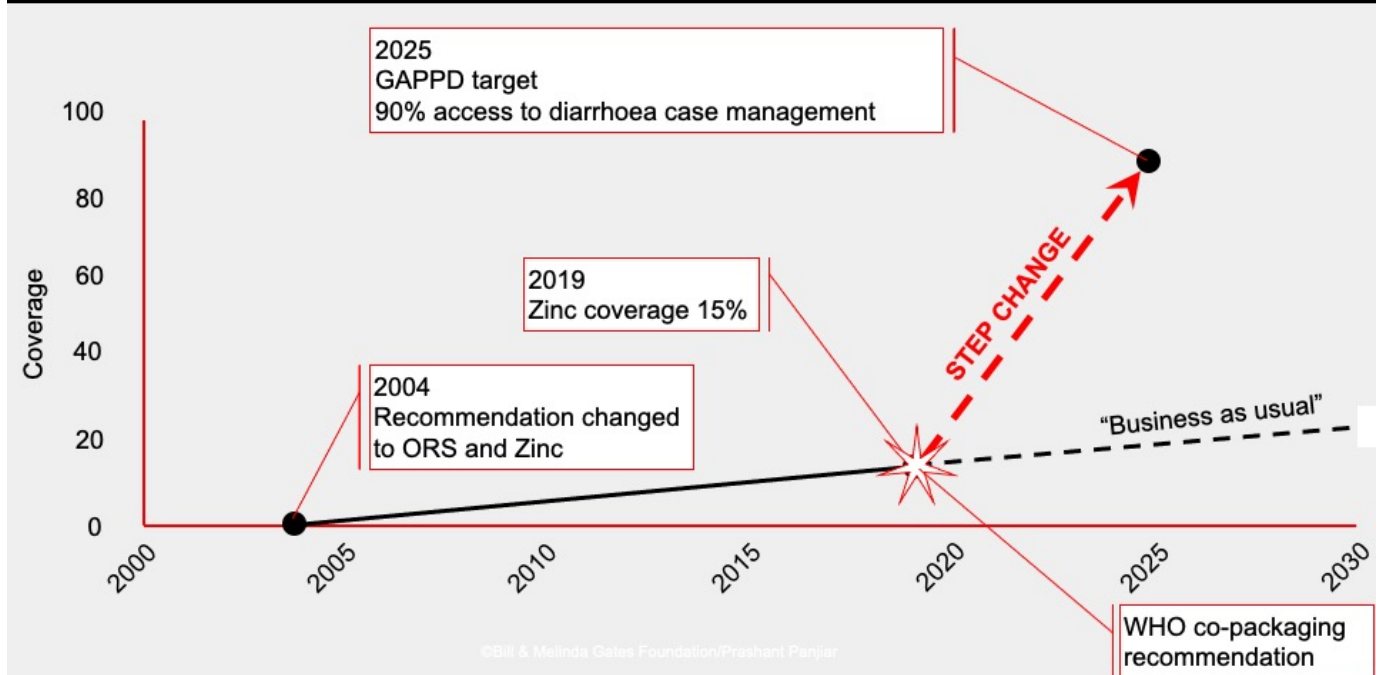
The target of the Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) is 90% access to appropriate diarrhoea case management by 2025.

[c]

But "Business as usual" won't deliver 90% coverage of ORS and Zinc until the end of the century - another 75 years.

[c]

# A short history of ORS and Zinc



[c]

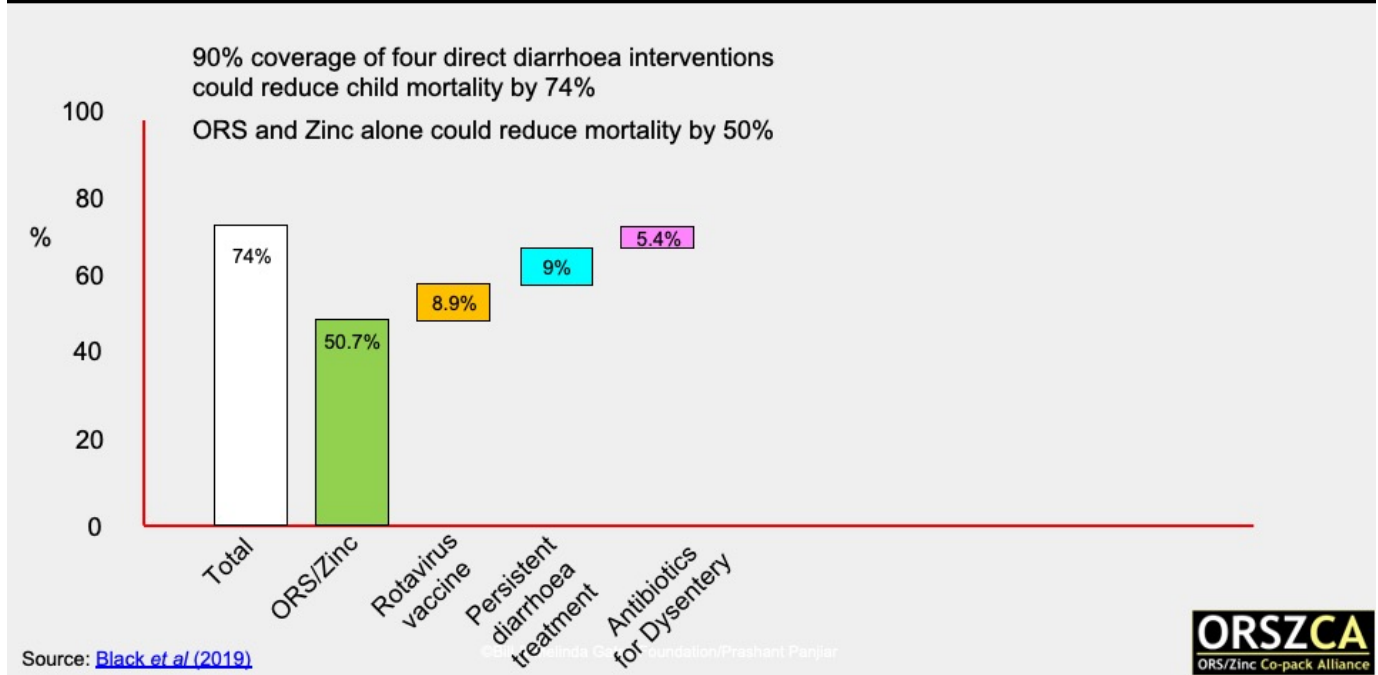
In July 2019, WHO changed its model Essential Medicines List to recommend that ORS and Zinc be co-packaged. This was in response to evidence that co-packaging increases coverage of ORS and Zinc and that co-packs available in the market were the cheapest way of providing the 2004 treatment recommendation.

[c]

It is clear that we need a step-change in progress on ORS and Zinc coverage, as "business as usual" isn't working anything like quickly enough. But step-change requires a trigger - or catalyst.

We believe that the co-packaging of ORS and Zinc could be that trigger. We believe that it would transform the coverage rate for ORS and Zinc but also deliver a higher rate of progress in the other areas needed to reduce mortality from diarrhoea.

# How significant is ORS and Zinc?



## So how important is ORS and Zinc in reducing diarrhoea deaths?

Modelling done by Black *et al* (2019) concluded that scaling up four diarrhoea interventions to 90% coverage could reduce global child diarrhoea mortality by 74%.

[c]

ORS and Zinc alone could reduce child deaths by 50%.

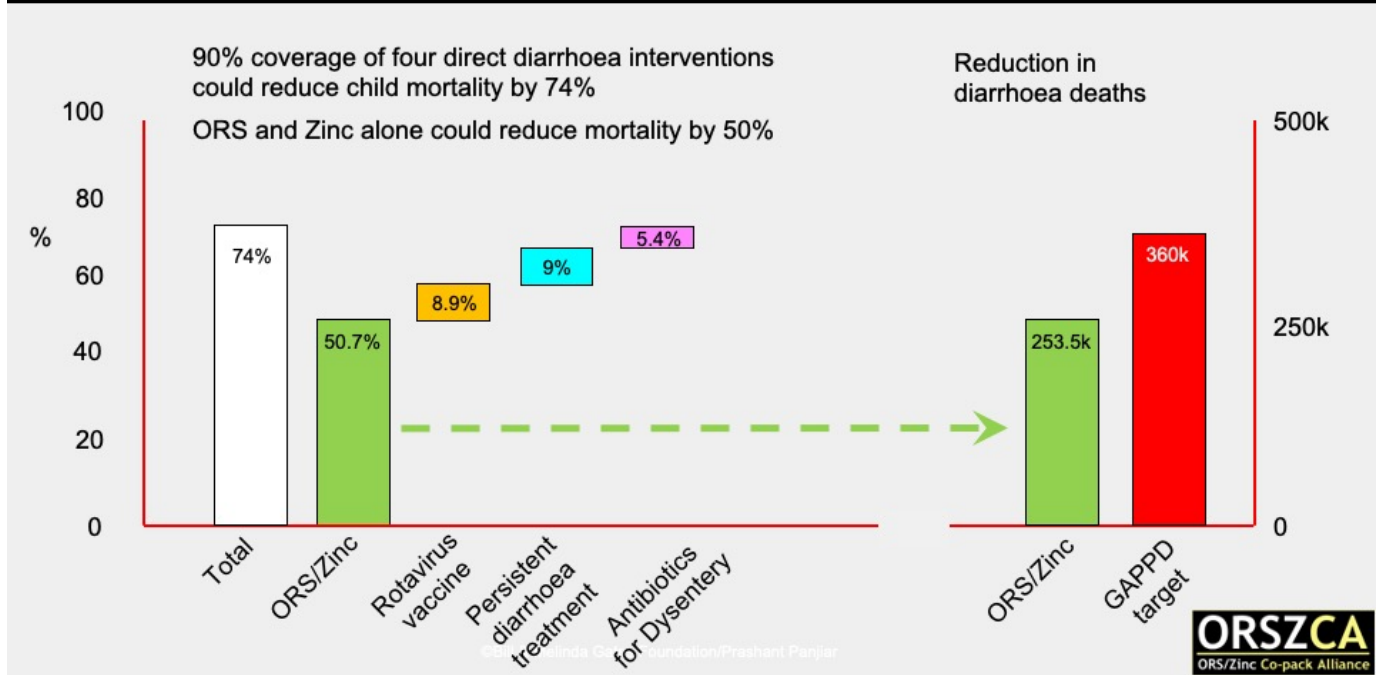
[c]

Adding rotavirus vaccine could increase that to 59%.

[c]

[c]

# What impact could we achieve?



## So how does this relate to the GAPPD target?

[c]

The GAPPD target is to have less than 1 diarrhoea death per 1,000 live births by 2025. That equates to less than 140,000 deaths - a reduction of 360,000 on today's annual mortality of 500,000.

[c]

At 90% coverage, ORS and Zinc alone could deliver 250,000 lives saved - nearly three quarters of the GAPPD target.

It is recognised that ORS and Zinc coverage is highly cost-effective and more feasible to scale up in the short term than interventions for nutrition and WASH.

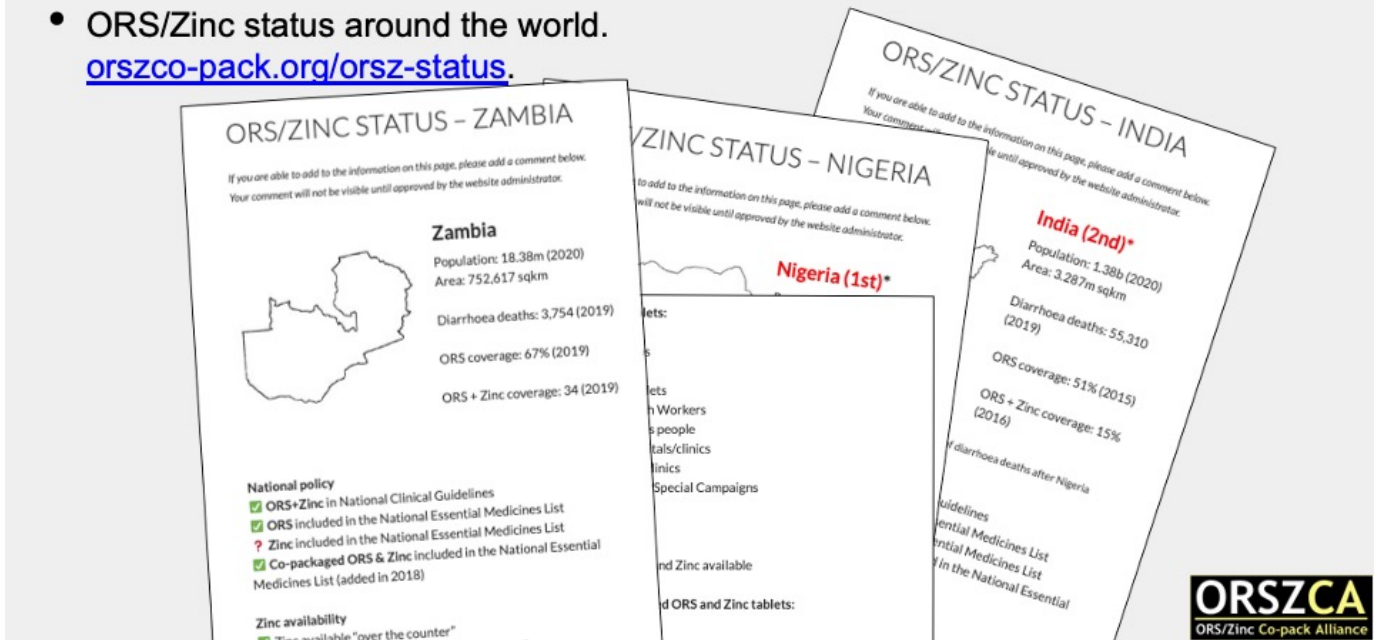
It could therefore act as a catalyst for the step-change in progress that is needed to set us on a new trajectory in our mission to eliminate avoidable deaths from diarrhoea as quickly as possible.

Although ORSZCA's focus is on co-packaged ORS and Zinc, we are clear that an integrated approach is required: rotavirus vaccine, more handwashing, exclusive breastfeeding, to mention just three. However, we believe that a focus on the new co-packaging recommendation could re-energise efforts in all of these other areas.



# ORSZCA's achievements so far 2/2

- ORS/Zinc status around the world.  
[orszco-pack.org/orsz-status](https://orszco-pack.org/orsz-status).



Our members and supporters are building a unique dataset on the current status of ORS/Zinc around the world.

This is a work in progress and the dataset is being built and shared in real time on the ORSZCA website.

We would like you to help us in this work.

# CALL TO ACTION!

If you do just one thing following this presentation, we'd like it to be this:

We need those with any knowledge at all in this area to help us by completing our ORS/Zinc status questionnaire for their country.

[c]

The questionnaire is available in [English](#) and [French](#) on the ORSZCA website and takes less than 10 minutes to complete.



## Working together

- The work plans are already closely aligned
- ORSZCA's focus on a single commodity means we will be able to deliver real progress on ORS and Zinc coverage for the Commodities sub-group
- We look forward to working together to do this.

Thank you.



So, finally, how might ORSZCA and this Commodities Sub-group work together?

Firstly, a quick look at our work plans show that they are are closely aligned

and with ORSZCA's focus on a single commodity, we will be able to deliver real progress on ORS and Zinc coverage for the Commodities Sub-group and we look forward to working together to do this.

Thank you.