With COVID-19 pandemic and the political instability in Myanmar, poor households suffer the most.

Poor diet diversity leading to malnutrition, that already affects children <5-year-old children and pregnant and lactating women will exacerbate (MOHS, 2019).

Fish, in particular small fish, is a nutritional powerhouse rich in vitamins and minerals that are important for growth, development and cognition of infants and young children (Bogard et al, 2015).

However, fish is introduced late in the diets due to fear of choking on fish bones (Rizaldo & Weatherson, 2018), which is a missed opportunity as fish is packed with essential micronutrients.

WorldFish through Fish for Livelihoods activity collaborated with FedWell Foods, a private business company based in Myanmar to develop fish-based products, using dried small fish powder.

Initial results showed that a strong smell of fish reduces acceptability of the products, thus, modifications by adding flavour enhancer, orange sweet potato, among others are necessary.

Cost-Benefit and market analyses are needed to determine the profitability with consideration on the seasonality of fish, demand from local consumers, including application of innovative business strategies.

Laboratory tests on heavy metals and microbiological contaminants (toxins) to ensure compliance on food and safety standards are important.

Fish-based products offer a solution for increasing intake of essential micronutrients in the first 1000 days of life.

Further modifications and evaluations are required, and strategic partnerships of several institutions and private sector companies providing technical and financial support are needed.

This novel approach has a huge potential in addressing nutrient gaps in Myanmar where natural (climate change and pandemic) and political crises continue to unfold.

