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# Food Aid Quality Review Phase III

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Natick Laboratory

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Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Tufts University

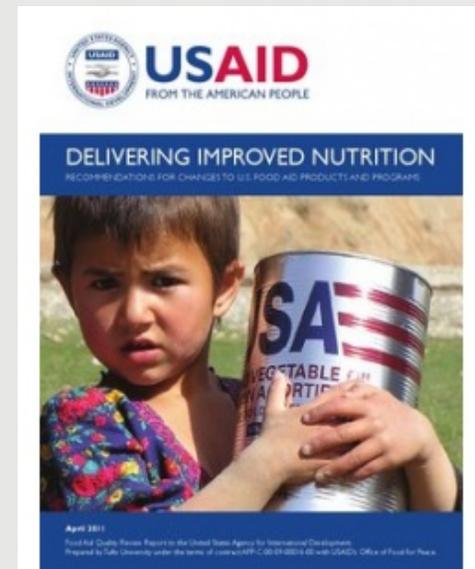
# Food Aid Quality Review

## Objectives

- Helping USAID/FFP ensure that food aid products are evidence-based to achieve best outcomes (**fit for purpose**)
- Focus on **cost-effectiveness** of outcome, not just cost of the products
- **Efficiency gains** across USG and global food aid players

# Food Aid Quality Review Overview

- **FAQR Phase I: Title II food aid ‘fit for purpose?’**
  - **April 2009 – October 2011**
  - *Delivering Improved Nutrition: Recommendations for Changes to U.S. Food Aid*
  - Scientific consultations
  - Identifying differences across specs.
- **FAQR Phase II: Implement recommendations**
  - **October 2011 – January 2016**
  - Multiple field studies
  - Stakeholder consultations
- **FAQR Phase III: Implement recommendations**
  - **February 2016 – January 2019**



# Food Matrices (bioavailability, absorption)

## Overview

- Ways to improve food digestibility and ability of consumers to absorb nutrients.
  - Physiological use of nutrients
  - Amylase addition
  - Processing techniques including extrusion
  - Other food ingredients (for shelf-life, digestibility)



# Food Matrices (bioavailability, absorption)

## Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

- Understand the 'real' effect of consuming the widely distributed food aid products on health outcomes of beneficiaries.
- Design and improve better food products that can carry energy and nutrition more effectively.
- Would help in achieving higher cost-benefit ratio in programming.

# Food Aid Packaging Overview

- Enhancing/retaining nutrients in food aid products
- Extending product shelf life
- Improving transportability
- Resisting pest infestation
- Packaging as a vehicle for messaging

# Food Aid Packaging

## Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

- Identification of **innovative packaging materials, sizes and forms** will improve resistance to insect and rodent infestation, reducing product losses, resulting in improved cost-effectiveness
- **Messaging** for beneficiaries on how to use the food aid product

# Food Aid Basket Overview

- Review the existing USG food aid basket with focus on:
  - Assessing new products
  - Exploring **dual-use products** for emergency response
  - Providing food and **ration technical guidance**



# Food Aid Basket

## Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

- **Modernizing the collection of food aid products used** in projects and programs administered by the Office of Food for Peace will lead to **more efficient, effective, and cost-effective programming**
- Food aid products are **safe and nutritious**
- Food aid products allow for various food baskets that are **sufficient and appropriate** to their programming contexts
- Sudden onset emergencies are responded to with appropriate, cost-effective food aid

# Field Research

## Overview

- **Ongoing Field research in Sierra Leone:** The study compares the relative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of four food aid products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Sierra Leone.

- Sub-study on Body Composition
- Sub-study on Environmental Enteropathy
- Sub-Study on Neurocognitive Function

- **Ongoing Field research in Burkina Faso:**

To test the relative effectiveness and cost effectiveness of four supplementary foods in the prevention of MAM and stunting in normal programmatic settings.



# Field Research

## Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

- **Efficacy, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness**
  - Determinants of recovery/optimal growth (drivers of relapse, sustained recovery, body mass, cognitive development, long bone growth)
- **Programming** innovations
  - Role of SBCC, last mile concerns, true costing of interventions in emergency/non-emergency settings
- Capacity strengthening of local community health workers, health and nutrition promoters, and beneficiary mothers
- The study results will guide decisions about **what commodities to use** in supplementary feeding programs.

## The current, and final, phase of FAQR (up to 2019) is essential to:

- i) Complete rigorous field-testing of new products,
- ii) Roll out new tools that assess product cost-effectiveness under emergency and non-emergency conditions,
- iii) Establish strategic options for accelerating responses to sudden-onset crises,
- iv) Establish new food safety standards to be included in product specifications, and finally
- v) Map out future directions for industry partnership with government on food aid.

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‘FAQR aims to establish information systems, tools, data-gathering and evidence-sharing platforms, that will support US government-wide actions for coming decades’





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