Food Aid Quality Review Project
Overview and Updates

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POOR DIETS pose a greater risk to health than unsafe sex, alcohol, drugs, and tobacco use COMBINED.

Food systems and diets: Facing the challenges of the 21st century
• Help USAID/OFFP ensure that food aid products are evidence-based to achieve best outcomes (products fit-for-purpose)

• Focus on cost-effectiveness of outcomes, not just price of products

• Facilitate efficiency gains across USG agencies and global food aid players
Phase I: Title II food aid ‘fit for purpose?’
  • Science, industry, practitioner consultations
  • Proposed new specifications, products

Phase II: Building new evidence
  • Of 29 recommendations carried forward -- 22 now implemented, 6 ongoing in Phase III

Phase III: Cost-effective choices, harmonized approaches
  • Field studies, REFINE, all-USG engagement, global partnerships
  • To January 2019
A lot achieved in a short time…

New specifications adopted for **21 food aid products**:

- **8 items had specifications upgraded**
  (e.g. wheat flour, soy-fortified bulgur, cornmeal, CSB+, veg. oil)

- **8 new products added to Title II list**
  (Dry dairy (WPC34 and WPC80,) HEBs, RUFs, Super Cereal+)

- **Milled rice specs. updated** (part of Fortified rice work)

- **New products in development, draft specs**
  (e.g. fortified rice, supercereal rice, sorghum-cowpea blends)
USAID, USDA, other USG (NIH, CDC, FDA)

- Technical working groups across agencies on auditing, food safety, and quality assurance

Global (USAID, WFP, UNICEF, MSF)

- Formal Terms of Reference adopted; FAQR as secretariat
- Harmonization of micronutrient, macronutrient specs
- Dialogue on common approaches (packaging, labeling)
- Food safety standards, joint-audits, novel product development
- Engagement with Codex Alimentarius on RUF standards

A lot still going on…
New evidence for programming

**FAQR field studies ongoing/complete** (with PPB, WFP, SAVE, Wash U., ACDI/VOCA, IRSS, PCI Intl., Africare, CSR/Malawi U., CRS, etc)

1. **Malawi** – achieving recommended oil use in CSB prep.

2. **Burkina Faso** – stunting prevention, wasting management (*ongoing, enrollment complete*)

3. **Sierra Leone** – wasting (*Ebola*)

4. **Sierra Leone** - wasting treatment, relapse prevention (*new study*)
Malawi: packaging/messaging/oil

- Beneficiaries *will add more oil to CSB* (if messages effective and they have enough oil)

- Messaging on packaging *did not improve compliance*

- … But ‘smaller’ *packaging has added benefits*  
  -- *e.g. hygiene, reduced distribution time, preference*

- ‘Sharing’ *higher in control group* (i.e. small packaging and messaging leads to focus on target child)
Sierra Leone – Managing wasting

Study closed down due to Ebola crisis – *results incomplete*

- No one food performed best on all growth outcomes
  - Different metrics give different conclusions

- FBFs had outcomes comparable to RUSFs
  - Recovery rate, time taken, rate of weight/length gain

- RUSF (at a lower calorie content per dose) most costly per treatment and per recovered child

- Recovery rates low (50-60% vz. 70-80%) – Ebola?
Burkina Faso – stunting prevention, wasting averted

Cost per ‘treatment’ (effect achieved), not ‘per ton’

- **SCOOPING**
- **TRANSPORT**
- **REPACKAGING**
- **BENEFICIARY**
- **DISTRIBUTION**
- **STORAGE**
- **LOSSES**

$/treated child

Final calculations

Adjusts for losses

Individual cost component

Individual cost component

Individual cost component

Individual cost component

Individual cost component
KSU: Tanzania Field Trial Outcomes
(February – July 2016: 2,000 children)

Preliminary data suggest:

• Equal or greater preference for new Sorghum-cowpea blend by children and caregivers, vz CSB+
• Positive impact on iron and vit. A status, but also on height and weight.
• Waiting for data growth and long term acceptability.
New research frontiers

- **Efficacy, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness**
  - Determinants of recovery/optimal growth (drivers of relapse, sustained recovery, body mass, cognitive development, long bone growth)

- **Food technology** innovations (amylase, extrusion, etc.)

- **Packaging** innovations (insect killer bags, re-seal bags)

- **Programming** innovations (role of SBCC, true costing of interventions in emergency/non-emergency settings)
Research Engagement on Food Innovation for Nutritional Effectiveness

This map shows ongoing studies that have been identified by searching clinical trials registries or that have been brought to the attention of REFINE. This list is not exhaustive and is constantly updated.
Phase III Work Streams

- Strategic planning for sudden-onset crises
- Supply chain modelling

- Approaches to food quality enhancement
- Cost-effectiveness calculators

- Bioavailability, absorption (food matrices)
- Shelf-life, packaging for nutrient protection

- New Food Aid Quality Review website coming…
Thanks from FFP’s Food Aid Quality Review team

Especially to Judy!!

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