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Food Aid Quality Review: Quarterly Technical Report No. 7

October 2010 – December 2010

This (draft) report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development.

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Glossary

AED	Academy for Educational Development
ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
ADA	American Dietetic Association
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
ARS	Agriculture Research Service (USDA)
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASA	American Soybean Association
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
C&F	Commodity and Freight
CRG	Commodities Reference Guide
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSB	Corn Soy Blend
DACO	Deputy Administrator, Commodity Operations (USDA)
DFID	Department for International Development (USAID)
DRI	Dietary Reference Intake
DSM	DSM Nutritional Products
EP	Expert Panel
FAD	Foreign Animal Disease (USDA)
FANEP	Food Aid Nutrition Enhancement Pilot
FANTA-2	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Program II
FAQR	Food Aid Quality Review
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service
FBF	Fortified Blended Food
FFI	Feed the Future Initiative
FFP	Office of Food for Peace (USAID)
FRAT	Fortification Rapid Assessment Tool
FSA	Farm Service Agency (USDA)
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GF&N	Global Food and Nutrition, Inc
GH	Bureau for Global Health (USAID)
HIDN	Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition (USAID)
HKI	Helen Keller International
IDA	International Disaster Assistance
IFAC	Interagency Food Aid Committee (FAQR recommendation)
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IHSA	International Humanitarian Studies Association
IRD	International Relief and Development
iTAG	interagency Technical Advisory Group (FAQR recommendation)
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition
KC	Kansas City
KCCO	Kansas City Commodity Office (USDA)

LNS	Lipid-Based Nutrition Supplement
LRP	Local and Regional Procurement
MT	Metric Ton
MCHN	Maternal Child Health and Nutrition
MFFAPP	Micronutrient Fortification Food Aid Products Pilot Project
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
MYAP	Multi-Year Assistance Program
NAMA	North American Millers Association
NFSQ	Nutrition, Food Safety/Quality (USDA)
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Disease
NIFA	National Institute for Food and Agriculture
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NUGAG	Nutrition Guidelines Expert Advisory Group
NUT	Nutrition Division (USAID/HIDN)
OCBD	Office of Capacity Building and Development
PATH	Program for Appropriate Technology in Health
PCHPA	The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Fund for Aids Relief in Africa
PLW	Pregnant or Lactating Women
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PM2A	Preventing Malnutrition in Children Under 2 Approach
PTD	Policy and Technical Division (USAID)
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
REE	Research, Education and Economics (USDA)
RNI	Recommended Nutrient Intake
RUCF	Ready-to-Use Complementary Food
RUSF	Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food
SC	Save the Children
SERD	Science and Education Research Development Unit (USDA)
SYAP	Single-Year Assistance Program
TOPS	Technical and Operation Performance Support Program (USAID)
UNSCN	United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDBC	The United States Dry Bean Council
USDEC	United State Dairy Export Council
USPB	United States Potato Board
WALA	Wellness and Agriculture for Life Advancement project
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
Y.R.G. CARE	Y.R.Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education

Background Information on the Activity

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Food for Peace program awarded two-year a contract to Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy in April 2009 to examine the nutritional needs of beneficiary populations across the developing world, and the nutritional quality of commodities currently available to meet those needs.

Scope of the Review

The project involves an assessment of Title II foods mainly intended for use in programs that seek a defined nutrition outcome. The study is reviewing:

- the nutritional value of existing products and their contribution to nutrition-related activities;
- whether these products and activities respond to beneficiary nutritional needs as effectively as they might; and
- how USAID could respond to defined needs better and more cost-effectively through potential changes in product formulation, the range of products provided, and modes of processing, procurement, and distribution to beneficiaries.

Among important issues being addressed: What guidance does current science provide about the need for inclusion/exclusion, levels and types, of macro and micronutrients in foods provided to highly vulnerable populations? What economic or food technology considerations come into play in seeking to optimize the nutritional content of food aid commodities and get the best nutritional impact for a given level of investment? Should new products or modes of processing, procurement, and distribution be considered for Title II activities? Innovative products are being investigated, as well as the potential for modifications to existing products. Activities to be considered include both non-emergency contexts (mainly maternal and child health and nutrition interventions, Food for Education and PEPFAR-funded programs) and emergency relief.

The review will provide recommendations on, a) how to improve existing products (updating formulations) that are mostly used with defined nutritional outcomes as their goal, b) what kinds of new formulations/products should be considered that would also be used to support clearly-defined nutritional objectives that are not easily met with existing products, c) how product formulations/specifications can be reviewed and updated in a more systematic and on-going manner, and d) steps needed to ensure quality throughout the value-chain. In addition, the review will provide recommendations related to the programming of these products for maximum and most cost-effective nutritional impact.

Reporting for the period October 1 – December 31, 2010**I. Research and Writing for Final Paper**

This quarter was characterized by intensive work on finalizing the first draft report for comment, which was posted for public comment on December 15, 2010 on the Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) website www.foodaidquality.org. In addition to finalizing the draft report, FAQR staff continued to hold expert consultations, and work on appendices and references throughout the quarter.

During this quarter the FAQR author team conducted final research and consultation with stakeholders, government officials, industry partners, and USAID Implementing Partners on topics relevant to the drafting of the final report. A final Expert Panel meeting, hosted by Tufts University on November 8th, 2010, served as a forum for initial review of FAQR draft conclusions and recommendations, which were then incorporated into the draft final report. This meeting was well attended with a total of 15 panelists and 11 FAQR authors, staff members, and consultants. Discussion was extensive, and all comments on the part of the Expert Panel were recorded for consideration during the drafting process.

The team conducted extensive writing to complete its draft final report to USAID. This working draft of the entire paper—including chapters on products, process, and programming—was reviewed by all Authors and submitted to USAID partners for initial review on December 14th. After this review, the draft report was then sent to the FAQR Expert Panel, and finally posted on the FAQR website for public comment.

The seven chapters making up the draft report cover product formulation and composition; product selection and usage in programming; HIV/AIDS context; cost and pricing; and processes surrounding product introduction, procurement, and quality assurance. The final chapter lists the FAQR conclusions and recommendations. The bibliography and references for this report are underway and will be completed in the coming quarter. Please see Annex II for a draft table of contents for the forthcoming report

I.1 Stakeholder Consultation and Surveys

- During December 2010, Patrick Webb held discussions with USAID Title II partners involved in Malawi's WALA project on issues relating to food aid product development, and on studies needed around usage (compliance) with RUTFs and RUSFs in various programming contexts.
- Dr. Webb traveled to Rome on October 14th-20th to meet with WFP regarding FAQR recommendations.
- The FAQR team began drafting proposals and scopes of work for follow-on studies and trials to be conducted based on recommendations from the final report to USAID. The draft scope of work is now under review by USAID.

- The Implementing Partner Field Survey concluded in October, and analysis was conducted on the final surveys and incorporated into findings for the draft report.
- Ongoing consultations with WFP, producers, stakeholders, and professionals continued throughout the quarter.
- Dr. Wanke held discussions with Tony Castleman of FANTA (10/4 and 12/24) to develop a proposal to study MUAC as predictor of body composition and malnutrition in HIV infected adults.
- From her position as Country Director at Helen Keller International (HKI), author Anu Narayan continued to provide input on the program chapter via phone and email.

1.2 Meetings and Events Organized and Attended

- The FAQR team held a meeting with representatives from Implementing Partner organizations at GF&N offices in Washington, DC on November 3rd. The meeting provided an opportunity for Dr. Rogers and Dr. Schlossman to present preliminary observations, conclusions, and recommendations, and to solicit NGO input and feedback, particularly in the areas of programming and agency processes related to programming and product development, and guidance relevant to NGO implementing partners (Please see Annex I for agenda). There was keen discussion about programming, timing of product development, field testing-testing of products and programming options, introduction of new products etc.
- The team also held a roundtable consultation with industry stakeholders at GF&N offices in Washington, DC on November 19th. This meeting was held for the purpose of soliciting industry input and feedback as FAQR readies the recommendations and report to a more public stage. Dr. Webb presented product recommendations and emphasized collaboration going forward. Dr. Schlossman presented process recommendations, including transparency, streamlining, oversight, fairness in industry standards and specifications, and the need for yearly guidance as the Commodities Reference Guide is not current. Those in attendance included ASA (American Soybean Association), Tabatchnick Fine Foods, USA Rice, USA Rice Federation, USAID/FFP, USDEC, Breedlove Foods, NAMA, American Peanut Council, Birdsong Peanuts, Edesia LLC, Sorghum Checkoff, US Grains Export Council, USDBC, USPB, and DSM. Industry feedback was substantial.
- A second *Expert Panel Meeting* was held on November 8th to receive input on the draft conclusions and recommendations for the FAQR final report. Authors presented findings, highlights, and key issues from each chapter of the draft report. The meeting provided an informal venue, with extensive discussion and comments recorded.
- An *Author Meeting* was held on November 9th, after the *Expert Panel Meeting*, to review and incorporate panelists' many comments, and discuss next steps.
- Dr. Wanke attended the *ADA Symposium* as a proposer and presenter on HIV and Nutrition on November 9th.

- Dr. Wanke attended the *NUGAG Meeting* (WHO Nutrition Expert Advisory Group) in Amman, Jordan on November 15th-17th. She presented updates on scientific evidence related to nutrition in HIV.
- GF&N staff attended the *PCHPA: Food Aid and Agricultural Cargo Preference* event on December 7th on behalf of FAQR (at no additional cost). The purpose of this event was to address the issue highlighted in Professor Chris Barrett's article of a financially burdensome cargo preference policy.
- GF&N staff attended the *Food for Peace Consultation: Title II Application and Review Process* on December 8th. This meeting discussed the proposed Annual Program Statement (APS), which would combine applications for Title II funding and International Disaster Assistance (IDA).
- GF&N staff also attended the *FACG Meeting* on December 19th in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on various food aid issues, many of which relate directly to the work of the FAQR.

1.3 Web-Mediated Outreach

Registration for the FAQR website (www.foodaidquality.org) increased sharply when the draft report to USAID was posted for public comment on December 15th, 2010. Membership is now at around 450. The draft report was posted electronically, accessible for public and private comment, chapter by chapter. The deadline for public comment was set for January 15th, 2011 in the coming quarter.

2. Administrative and Budget Issues

2.1 Staffing

The project has no staffing changes to report for this quarter.

2.2 Budget

The FAQR project is on track with its remaining budget, but will require a no-cost extension to cover two planned conferences and a report launch set to occur just after the official end of the FAQR contract: April 4th, 2011.

3. Plans for the coming quarter (January-March 2011)

- Patrick Webb will discuss issues surrounding new product development, testing and packaging studies with stakeholders in Nepal during January 2011 (World Bank, WFP, DFID, HKI). There is considerable partner and industry interest in these domains in this country.
- The draft Final Report to USAID will remain posted for comment on the FAQR website through January 15th, 2011. Throughout the coming quarter, authors will

- be receiving and reviewing comments. These comments are expected to come from Expert Panel members, stakeholders, government officials, and the public.
- The FAQR team will be holding a final USAID-USDA Interagency Meeting in DC in early March 2011. This meeting will also serve as a time to launch the FAQR-recommended ITAG (Interagency Technical Assistance Group).
 - Experimental Biology Conference 2011: The FAQR team will be holding a Symposium to present FAQR conclusions and recommendations on April 12th, 2011 (this will likely be covered by a no-cost extension).
 - Kansas City Food Aid & Development Conference 2011: The FAQR team will hold a side-event at this conference on topics presented in the final report.
 - During the upcoming quarter, the Food Aid Quality Review's final report will be published and printed. In mid-April, the FAQR team and USAID will hold a launch of the Final Food Aid Quality Review Report to USAID.
 - Quentin Johnson and Patrick Webb will be attending the Transatlantic meeting on Food Aid in Washington organized through Cornell.
 - Dr. Wanke plans to attend the Y.R.G. CARE Symposium on January 7-8 in Chennai, Tamilnadu as an invited speaker on HIV and nutrition. She will discuss the Y.R.G. CARE clinic and foundation approach to incorporation of nutrition into primary care, and their approach to the development of sustainability for nutritional support for HIV infected and affected families.
 - Dr. Rogers will travel to Ethiopia in January 2011 in conjunction with a separate project, which will provide the opportunity to observe the logistics of monitoring and distribution of alternative food aid products (Plumpy'Nut and CSMB) in a medical (HIV) context.

Annex I: Meeting Agendas

Food Aid Quality Review
 Second Expert Panel Meeting
 Boston, MA

Date: November 8, 2010**Time:** 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM *8:30 AM Breakfast and Registration**Location:** Tufts University, Arthur J. Sackler Building - Room 812, 145 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111*Agenda*

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration; coffee & light breakfast
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Introductory Remarks – <i>Patrick Webb (PI)</i> Introductions
9:15 AM – 10:45 PM	FAQR Presentation on Product – <i>Irwin Rosenberg, Jessica Tilahun</i> Comment from Expert Panel
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM	FAQR Presentation on Programming – <i>Beatrice Rogers (co-PI)</i> Comment from Expert Panel
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	FAQR Presentation on Costing – <i>Patrick Webb (PI)</i> Comment from Expert Panel
2:15 PM – 3:45 PM	FAQR Presentation on Process – <i>Nina Schlossman, Quentin Johnson</i> Comment from Expert Panel
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Coffee break
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	FAQR Presentation on HIV & Nutrition – <i>Christine Wanke, Kate Sadler</i> Comment from Expert Panel
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Closing Discussion; Next Steps

Food Aid Quality Review
Implementing Partner Meeting
Washington, DC
November 3, 2010

Attendees:

Kathrine Coon – IRD
Catherine Feeney – WFP
David Dyjack – ADRA
Jaspal Gill – WFP
Mary Hennigan – CRS
Joan Jennings – TOPS Program
Matthew Krause – Land O'Lakes
Lisa Kuennen-Asfaw – CRS
KD Ladd – ACDI/VOCA
Robert Laprade – Care
Guillermo Lizzaraga – ADRA
Naila Mohamed – Counterpart
Sara Netzer – Counterpart
Cindy Pfitzenmaier – Project Concern

Kathryn Reider – World Vision
Dorcas Robinson – Care
Catherine Seeney – WFP
Brendan Wachenreuter – SC
Emily Wei – Mercy Corps
Daniel Wortman – ADRA
Ellyn Yakowenko – Africare
Sonya Kibler – SC
Mary Chambliss – FAQR
Bea Rogers – FAQR
Amelia Reese Masterson – FAQR
Nina Schlossman – FAQR
Jessica Tilahun – FAQR
Stephen Ross – FAQR

Agenda

Introductions**Programming Findings and Recommendations – *Bea Rogers***

- Survey and Research Findings - highlights
- Programming Guidance
- Use of Field Level Data
- Preliminary Recommendations

Processes – *Nina Schlossman*

- Product introduction, procurement, supply-chain management
- Recommendations

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Acronyms

Procurement Flow-chart Acronyms

References cited

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