



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY TO FOOD AID RESEARCH

**REFINE** (Research Engagement on Food Interventions for Nutritional Effectiveness) was established in 2012 as an outcome of the **Food Aid Quality Review**. REFINE is a **knowledge-sharing mechanism** that aims to improve the effectiveness of **food-supported interventions** in emergency and non-emergency contexts. REFINE's ultimate goal is **to improve the nutrition or health status of vulnerable populations** worldwide.

REFINE catalogs the research activity on food-supported interventions by:

- Following and documenting **ongoing studies** relevant to food aid policy and programming
- Collecting policy **publications** and empirical literature
- Defining **research gaps**

Overall, REFINE helps answer the question: "What does the evidence tell us are the best food aid products, programs, and processes to improve nutrition and health?" REFINE is not an advisory service and does not respond to individual queries about study design or new product development.



56

Ongoing Studies

29

Countries

### ⚡ Research Gaps



- 14 Composition
- 3 Acceptability
- 1 Efficacy
- 29 Effectiveness
- 6 Cost
- 31 Innovation
- 1 Communication

Do you know of ongoing/planned research not listed here? Let us know!





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## IMPROVING FOOD AID QUALITY

The **Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR)** project led by faculty at Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy provides the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and its partners with **actionable recommendations on ways food aid can make a significant impact.**

FAQR has had 6 sustainable achievements:

1. US food aid products redesigned to be fit for purpose
2. Industry - standard product specifications and shelf - life testing protocols established
3. Global standards set for food aid (aligning UN and US agencies)
4. Open access evidence on successful food aid products and programming made possible
5. Innovations in food aid packaging
6. Cost - effectiveness tools and approaches applied to all food aid programming choices

### CONTACT

Patrick Webb, Principal Investigator [Patrick.webb@tufts.edu](mailto:Patrick.webb@tufts.edu)

Beatrice Rogers, Co-Principal Investigator [Beatrice.Rogers@tufts.edu](mailto:Beatrice.Rogers@tufts.edu)



PHOTO: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaids/15487443195/> (album-72157634665578063)