



Food Aid Quality Review Phase III Annual Report: Option Year I (February 2019-January 2020)

Summary of a Report by the Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) Project

FAQR PHASE III OPTION YEAR I ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) project provides actionable recommendations to USAID and its partners on ways to improve nutrition among vulnerable populations for whom the direct distribution of food aid can make a significant impact. During Option Year I, FAQR continued to build on Phase III accomplishments by: i) analyzing data collected as part of the Sierra Leone *Four Foods MAM Treatment Study* and associated sub-studies and reporting on key findings; ii) developing models and scenarios for improving the United States Agency for International Development Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) supply chain; iii) developing a tool for helping practitioners evaluate the cost-effectiveness of nutrition interventions; iv) analyzing the USAID/FFP website and making recommendations for improving the structure and content; v) continuing to add and update resources related to food assistance for nutrition to the Research Engagement on Food Interventions for Nutritional Effectiveness ([REFINE](#)) website; vi) sharing knowledge related to food assistance and nutrition, including materials generated by the FAQR team; and vii) facilitating the collaboration of domestic and international agencies engaged in food assistance programming and technology.

Sierra Leone: Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness Study on Treatment of MAM Study (C.3.1.13, C.3.1.14) and Sub-Studies on Body Composition, Neurocognitive Developmental Indicators, and Environmental Enteric Dysfunction (C.3.1.15)



Data collection for the Sierra Leone *Four Foods MAM Treatment Study* and associated sub-studies relating to body composition, neurocognitive developmental indicators, and environmental enteric dysfunction was completed during Project Year 3 of FAQR Phase III. The field study data were analyzed during Option Year I, and reports and manuscripts related to the main findings of these analyses were drafted. In addition, two dissemination events were held in Freetown, Sierra Leone and Washington, DC to share the findings of the main study and the three sub-studies with key local and international partners and stakeholders.

Food Assistance Resources Webpages (C.3.2.1)



Building on previous FAQR recommendations related to improving USAID/FFP web presence, the team spent Option Year I conducting an analysis of the current structure and content of FFP's Food Assistance Resources webpages and surveying FFP website users to determine how the website is currently used and to identify areas for improvement and barriers to use. A report provides additional recommendations for curating webpages regularly, providing resources and organizing webpages based on user needs, and increasing outward-facing communications.

REFINE Website and Research Protocol Guidance Document (C.3.2.6)



The Research Engagement on Food Interventions for Nutritional Effectiveness ([REFINE](#)) website was updated with an additional 79 published studies, 46 ongoing trials, and 16 other resources. The FAQR team conducted a survey of REFINE users to gather information about how they are currently using the website and how it can be improved to serve their needs better. And a report and two manuscripts related to field study design and analysis, research methods used to study food aid for nutrition, and the current landscape of food aid for nutrition research were revised.

Cost-Effectiveness (C.3.2.7)



The FAQR team developed a user manual with background information and step-by-step instructions for how to use FACET. Both the interface and the user manual were reviewed by USAID partners and stakeholders from external organizations over the course of the year, and their feedback was incorporated into subsequent versions of these products. In addition, reports and manuscripts related to the cost-effectiveness and costing methodology of FAQR field studies were drafted and submitted for publication to journals.

Knowledge Sharing (C.3.2.8)



FAQR shared new reports, events, and other project activities with stakeholders during Option Year I, including FAQR-related articles published in the *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, presentations of field study findings from Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone, surveys of REFINE and FFP website users, and an FAQR webinar related to improving food aid products, processes, and programs.

Interagency Harmonization (C.3.3.1, C.3.3.3, C.3.3.4)



Members of the U.S. Domestic Interagency Technical Working Group on Food Assistance Quality met once during Option Year I and engaged in multiple conference calls and sub-working group meetings to enhance collaboration between USAID and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The International Inter-Agency Working Group for Specialized Nutritious Food Products also met in Geneva, Switzerland, during Option Year I and continued to hold quarterly conference calls to discuss harmonizing specifications related to ready-to-use foods and shared challenges related to food safety/quality assurance.

Supply Chain Optimization (C.3.1.9, C.3.3.5)



The FAQR team developed case studies to analyze factors affecting cost-effectiveness throughout the supply chain of commodities including a port study based in Ethiopia and built a new mathematical optimization model for selecting global warehouse locations; FAQR prepared and analyzed an initial scenario for this model during Option Year I. The supply chain optimization team presented two of these case study scenarios at the 2019 Institute for Operations Research and Management Science (INFORMS) Annual Meeting and was awarded the second prize in the *Doing Good with Good Operations Research Student Paper Competition*.

CONTACT: FAQR Principal Investigator Patrick Webb – Patrick.Webb@tufts.edu

FAQR PHASE III

FOOD AID QUALITY REVIEW

Option Year I (Feb 2019 - Jan 2020)



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KNOWLEDGE SHARING: GLOBAL REACH

During Option Year I...

We attended **9** formal meetings and events

We delivered **12** presentations on FAQR activities

We reached an audience of **3,823** people

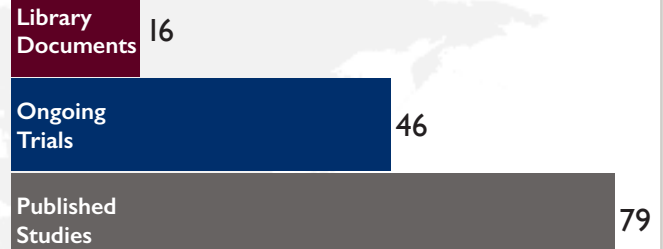
We prepared **1** dataset

We published **3** articles

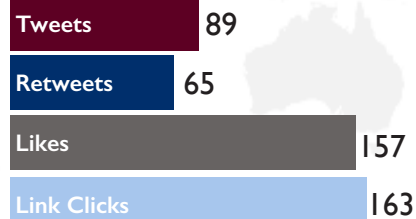
We prepared **14** reports

We presented **5** scientific poster abstracts

refinenutrition.org added



@foodaidquality



ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS: MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Knowledge Sharing

- Events, documents, and other information about FAQR and related activities shared



Food Assistance Resources Webpages

- Website structure analyzed and user survey deployed
- Comprehensive recommendations report drafted



REFINE Website

- Regularly updated with recent published studies, ongoing trials, and other resources
- User survey deployed



Food Assistance Cost-Effectiveness Tool

- Interface updated
- User manual drafted



Sierra Leone Four Foods MAM Treatment Study

- Data analysis completed and reports and manuscripts drafted



Interagency Harmonization

- Domestic interagency working group continued collaborating through meeting and sub-group on specifications
- International interagency working group met in Geneva and held quarterly conference calls



Supply Chain Optimization

- Supply chain cost-effectiveness case studies developed
- Model for selecting global warehouse locations built



OPTION YEAR 2 PLANS

Data Mining Activity
Food Assistance for Nutrition Evidence Summit II

visit us at www.foodaidquality.org