

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.

Field research and industry innovations are needed to allow the U.S. Government to respond more effectively to the world's food aid needs. Everything from designing and packaging food aid products to delivering them to beneficiaries must be based on evidence of what works and what can be improved.

FAQR IS FOCUSING ON THE FOLLOWING:

EVIDENCE GENERATION

Generating new field-based evidence to support cost-effective use of products for wasting and stunting



Identifying food aid packaging innovations



EFFICIENCY GAINS

Calculating cost effectiveness of food aid products and programming



Optimizing food aid supply chains



INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Enhancing food safety and quality assurance systems along food aid procurement and shipping claims



Promoting public-private partnerships in food aid



The goal of the Food Aid Quality Review project is to establish information systems, tools, data-gathering and evidence-sharing platforms to support the U.S. Government's humanitarian agenda. When the project ends in 2019, these systems will support government-wide actions and public-private engagement around food aid for the coming decades.

EVIDENCE GENERATION: Supporting best practices, FAQR identifies packaging solutions to optimize product integrity and reduce costs along the food aid supply chain and in shelf life and generating new field-based evidence to support cost-effective use of products.

EFFICIENCY GAINS: Across the food aid supply chain, the FAQR project team is developing tools to support cost-effective product and programming choices to make the best, most effective use of taxpayer dollars.

INDUSTRY STANDARDS: To enhance food safety, quality standards and improve efficiency, FAQR is working with the food aid industry to understand and incorporate industry standards for production, storage and distribution of foods.

CONTACT: WWW.FOODAIDQUALITY.ORG/WHOWEARE

Patrick Webb

Principal Investigator

Patrick.Webb@tufts.edu

Beatrice Rogers

Co-Principal Investigator

Beatrice.Rogers@tufts.edu

Shelley Walton

Project Manager

Shelley.Walton@tufts.edu

ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Generating new field-based evidence to support cost-effective use of products for wasting and stunting



FAQR Work: Ongoing field studies which will provide evidence on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of food aid products and packaging; food aid distribution combined with social behavior change communication (SBCC); and determinants of recovery/optimal growth.

FAQR Impact: *This research will improve and provide guidance on how to rigorously assess future food aid products and ingredients focusing on pricing the “real cost” to meet intended operational outcomes.*

Calculating cost effectiveness of food aid products and programming



FAQR Work: Through new tools, study protocols, and training, FAQR builds the toolbox to assess the real cost of effective intervention, not just the price per ton of a food.

FAQR Impact: *This toolbox will enable USAID and United States Department of Agriculture to make decisions based on the real cost of effective interventions. In addition, online tools will enable office and field personnel to determine the best range of cost-effective options among product choices to tackle malnutrition.*

Identifying food aid packaging innovations



FAQR Work: New field research has been documenting the programming, food safety and cost benefits of smaller packaging sizes and exploring the use of tech-advanced forms of packaging to better preserve nutrient quality and extend product shelf life.

FAQR Impact: *Identification of innovative packaging materials, sizes and forms will improve resistance to insect and rodent infestation, reducing product losses, which all translate to significant cost savings.*

Optimizing food aid supply chains



FAQR Work: FAQR develops tools and analyses to guide U.S. Government decisions on the most cost-effective routes for product delivery. Ports, routes, pre-positioning, storage capacity, time, cost and bottleneck potential will be identified and best options recommended.

FAQR Impact: *Strategic options for the U.S. Government for cost-effective responses to sudden onset or protracted emergencies.*

Enhancing food safety and quality assurance systems along food aid procurement and shipping claims



FAQR Work: Facilitating USDA, World Food Programme and UNICEF interactions on vendor audit standards, FAQR helps improve quality assurance feedback loops to promote uniform food safety and quality standards.

FAQR Impact: *This will create efficiency gains for all U.S., United Nations, and industry partners based on enhanced application of appropriate food safety standards, cross-agency common audits and technical assistance aimed at higher standards along the food aid procurement chain.*

Promoting public-private partnerships in food aid



FAQR Work: FAQR facilitates public-private partnerships, with more than 50 formal meetings already completed with food industry, packaging and shipping businesses to define commercial best practice, industry needs and potential innovation.

FAQR Impact: *This interaction will lead to strengthened partnerships with federal agencies responsible for food aid based on joint commitments, shared knowledge, commercial innovations and solutions that lower costs to vendors.*