



What to Consider when Programming Food Aid Products: **Operational Research findings from the Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) Project**

TOPS Knowledge Sharing Meeting
July 19, 2017

foodaidquality.org

As you come into the room please select a table with the session theme that you are most interested in discussing.

8-10 people max per table, please :)

1. Diversion of food aid products (Sharing, selling, or giving away)
2. Behaviors surrounding food aid products in the household
3. Messages and education on beneficiary uses of food aid products

Introduction to the Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR)



Four Food Emergencies

“We are facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the United Nations. 20 million people across four countries face starvation and famine.”

- USG/ERC Stephen O'Brien

Statement to the Security Council, March 10th, 2017

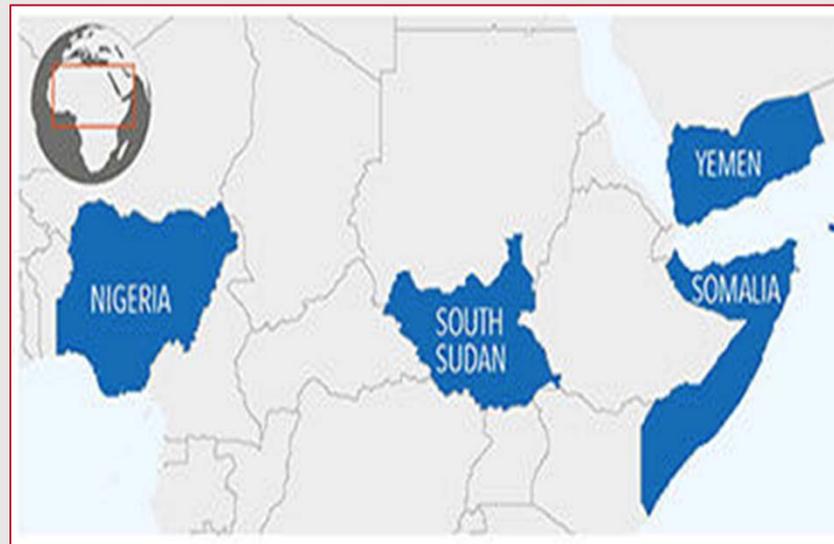


Image Source: globalsecurity.org

Optimizing Food Aid

We need to “identify strategic opportunities to make global humanitarian assistance more effective and efficient, including prioritizing needs and reducing duplication and costs.”

Statement to the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations by **Gregory C. Gottlieb**, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau For Democracy, Conflict, And Humanitarian Assistance, March 22, 2017



Image Source: UNICEF

Slide 5

SMW1

This is a great find!

Shelley Marcus Walton, 6/2/2017

LEG1

More important now then ever to have a harmonized approach to programming, processes etc.

Lindsey Ellis Green, 6/5/2017

Food Aid is Rapidly Evolving



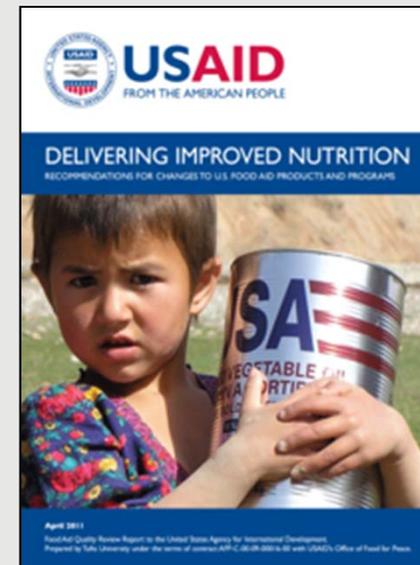


Photo courtesy of USAID

FAQR Overview

Food Aid Quality Review - Overview

- **Phase I: Is Title II food aid ‘fit for purpose?’**
 - *Delivering Improved Nutrition: Recommendations for Changes to U.S. Food Aid*
 - Scientific and practitioner consultations
 - Identifying differences across specifications.
- **Phase II: Oct 2011 – Jan 2016**
 - Multiple field studies initiated
 - Interagency harmonization
 - Published reviews (e.g. protein quality)
- **Phase III: Feb 2016 – Jan 2019**
 - Field study findings (impacts, C-E, SBCC)
 - Processing/packaging innovations
 - Supply chain optimization
 - Relative cost decision tools
 - Quality/safety monitoring, feedback reporting



The **GOALS** of FAQR Phase III:

EVIDENCE GENERATION

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



Identifying food aid packaging innovations



EFFICIENCY GAIN

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



Session Overview



Summary of the Session Structure

- FAQR Introduction and Overview of Session Themes **(10 min)**
- Initial Breakout Session to discuss experience with Session Themes **(10 min)**
- Plenary to share main discussion points **(5 min)**
- FAQR Presentation on Findings from Session Themes **(30 min)**
- Second Breakout Session to discuss and reflect on Findings **(20 min)**
- Plenary to share main discussion points **(10 min)**
- Closing **(5 min)**

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will have:

1. Gained a new evidence-base on food aid programming
2. Exchanged information about common issues on food aid programming to increase cost-effective decision making
3. Identified research needs and evidence gaps in food aid programming



Summary of Session Themes

Field Research in **Three Settings** Allows us to Generate Findings on **Three Thematic Areas** on Food Aid

- Research studies in three settings
- Need to assess what really happens to food aid products once they leave the final point of distribution



Three Thematic Areas

Theme 1: Diversion of food aid products (sharing, selling, or giving away)

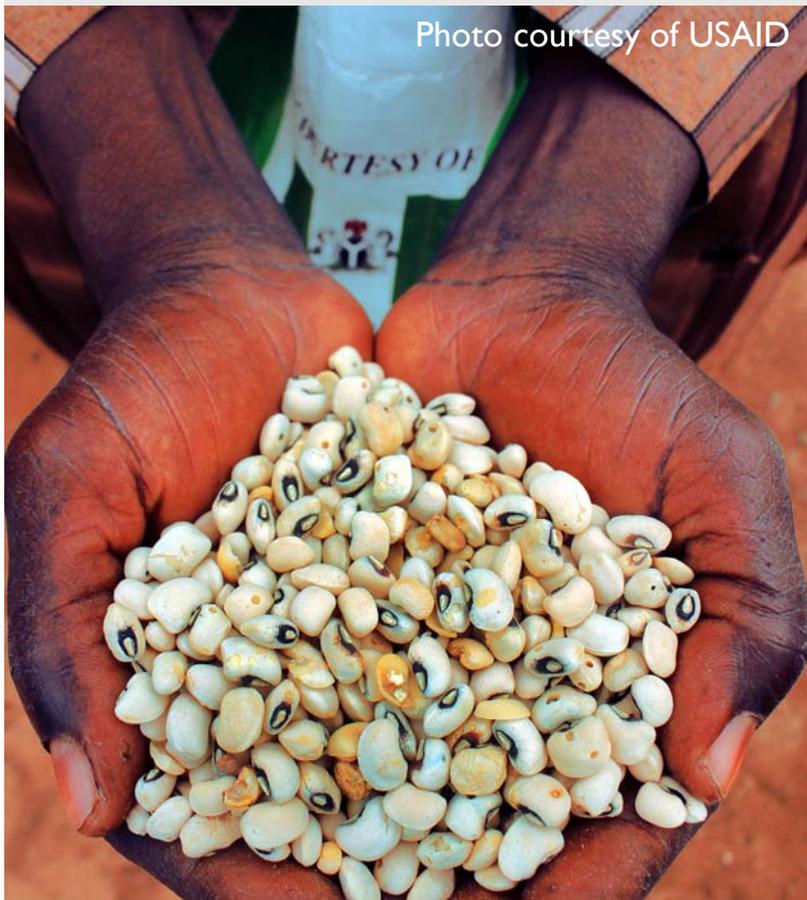
- Sharing, defined as “anyone other than the beneficiary child consuming the food”
- Selling, defined as “exchanging food for monetary or non-monetary benefit”
- Giving away, defined as “giving all or part of the ration to friends or others who directly ask for it”

Theme 2: Behaviors surrounding food aid products in the household

- Preparation and consumption adherence, hygiene practices, food storage, eating behaviors (including breastfeeding practices)

Theme 3: Messages and education on beneficiary uses of food aid products

- Materials and ‘avenues’ used to deliver key messages on food aid products
- Frequency of receiving the same message



Initial Breakout (10 minutes)

Please sit at a table with the session theme that you are most interested in discussing.

In your small group please discuss the below questions and be prepared to share your responses to question #2:

1) What is your experience with the selected theme? How is it relevant to your own program?

2) What are you interested to learn more about on the selected theme?



Summary of FAQR Research Findings

* Observed household in Burkina Faso, 2016

Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness field studies

- I. **Feasibility and Acceptability** of Corn Soy Blend and Fortified Vegetable Oil in **Malawi**, *complete**
 - *FAQR Phase I added oil recommendation (30g oil per 100g CSB)*
 - *Caregivers of children enrolled in a supplementary feeding program for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (n=584)*

- II. **Comparison of Four Supplementary Foods for the Prevention of Stunting and Wasting** in **Burkina Faso**, *analysis in progress*
 - *Young children, aged 6-23 mos., followed for up to 18 mos. (n=6,112)*

- III. **Comparison of Four Supplementary Foods for the Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition** in **Sierra Leone**, *results expected late 2018*
 - *Young children, aged < 5yrs. with moderate acute malnutrition, followed for up to 12 weeks of treatment (n=5,320)*

* Rogers et al, *Matern Child Nutr*, 2017

Four supplementary food aid products being studied

- Three **FBFs**

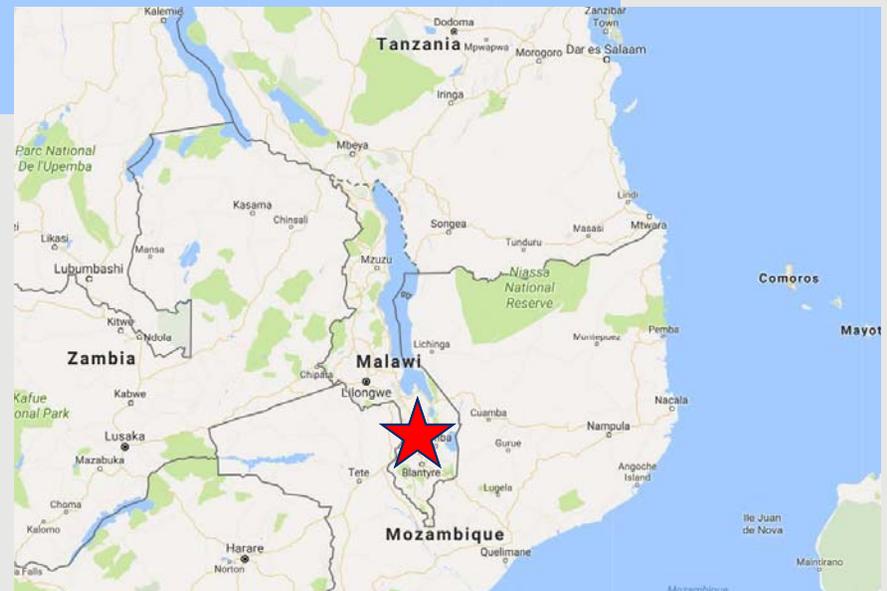
- Corn Soy Blend Plus, CSB+ (also called SC): typically provided with oil
- Super Cereal Plus, SC+ (also called CSB++): contains small amounts of oil and skimmed milk powder
- Corn Soy Whey Blend, CSWB: a newly developed food similar to CSB+ but containing whey protein concentrate, and delivered with oil at the ratio of 30 g oil to 100 g CSWB

- One lipid-based **ready-to-use supplementary food**

- Ready-to-use Supplementary food, RUSF: contains peanut paste, vegetable fat, soy protein isolates, whey, maltodextrin, sugar, cocoa, vitamin/mineral premix



Study Settings



Multiple data collection methods

- Anthropometric measurements collected at the food distribution sites (Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone)
- Self-report collected through in-depth interviews
- In-home observation (households are observed for 5 consecutive days)
- Laboratory analysis of prepared porridge samples
- Qualitative focus group discussions

Theme 1: Diversion of food aid products (sharing, selling, or giving away)

“Yes other people in the house also eat the porridge”

- Mother of a beneficiary child in Malawi

Sharing within the household commonly reported

- 54% reported sharing in Malawi, 61% reported sharing in Burkina Faso
- Most commonly with **other young children in the household**

- Other children eat the leftover porridge

“If there are leftovers, I give to other children”

“leftovers, we give to other **children** in the household”

“alone but if there are **leftovers**, we give to other children”

“leftovers, I give to other **children**”

- Mothers also eat the porridge

“I eat the porridge that remains after feeding the child if the other children are not around”

Some also described *not sharing* (Malawi)

“I cook Mgaiwa porridge or sweet potatoes for the other children”

“no, we do not share”

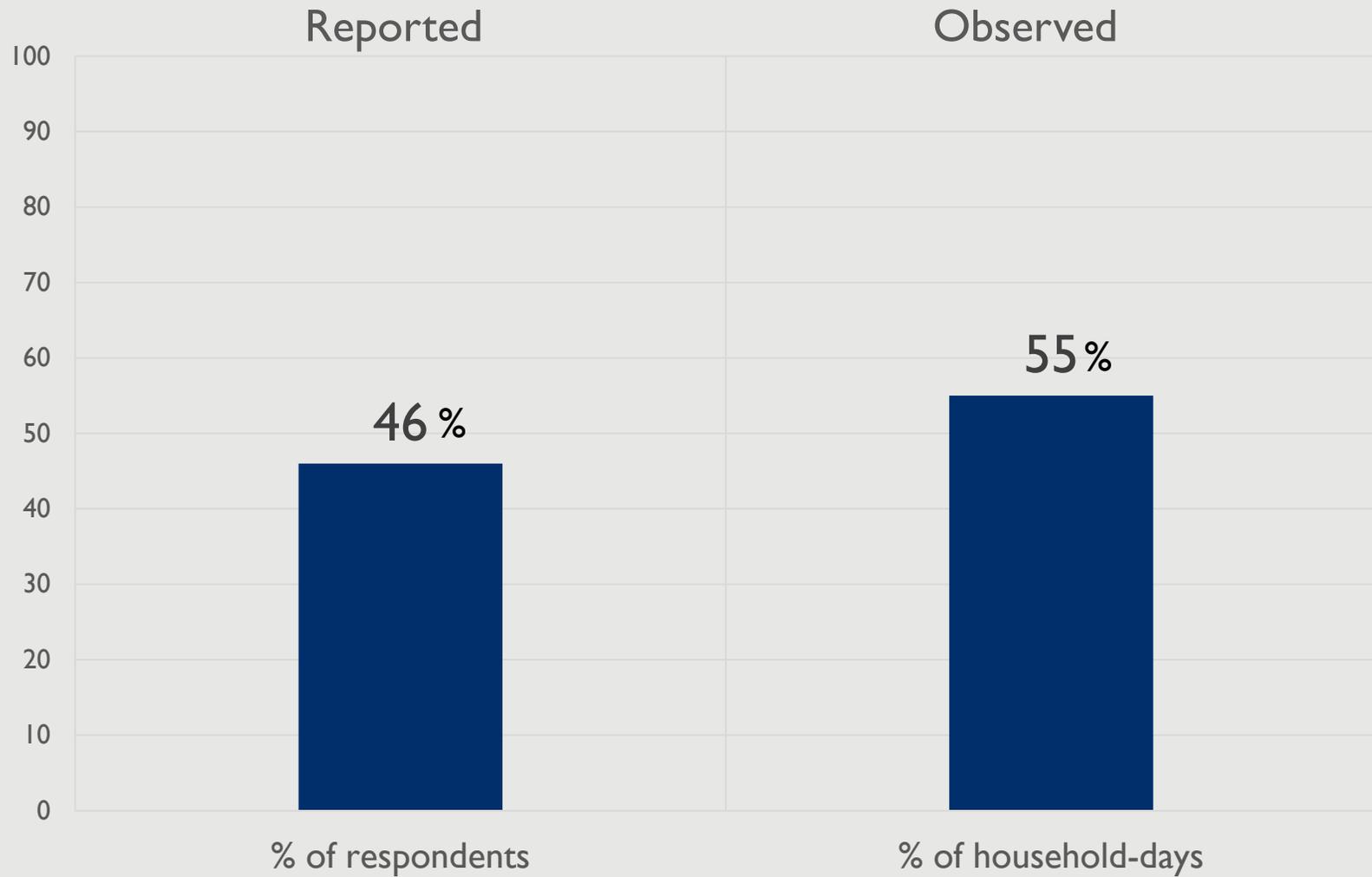
“Some children would want the porridge but I still do not give”

“Even our husbands understand that the ration is for the child alone”

“we do not share the porridge”

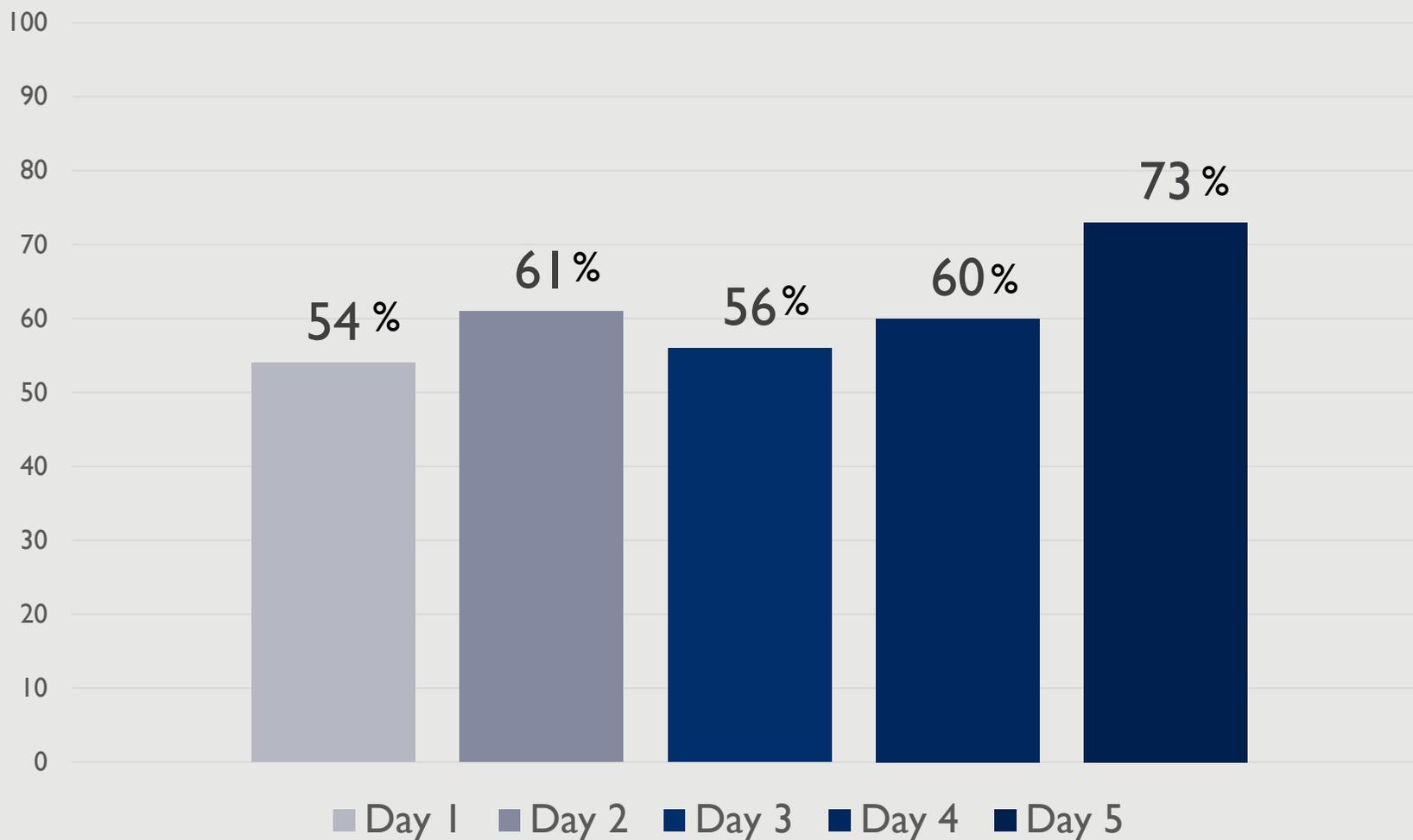
“I give it to the beneficiary child alone and she finishes all the time so her friends have no chance”

Reported and observed sharing (Malawi)



Direct observation revealed that sharing varies from day to day (Malawi)

Observed sharing by day of observation in Malawi



Sharing varies from day to day (Malawi)

- Only 13% of observed households *never* shared
- Most, 77%, shared only on some days
- Some, 23%, shared consistently on *all* days of observation

