

# USAID FAQR: FOOD AID QUALITY REVIEW PROJECT

## Going Farther

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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 of International Development (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and its partners with actionable recommendations on ways food aid can make a significant

Field research and industry innovations are needed to allow the US government to respond. Everything from designing and packaging food aid products to delivering them to beneficiaries must be based on evidence of what works well and what can be improved.

### OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, FAQR WILL FOCUS 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 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



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

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

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

**INDUSTRY STANDARDS:** To enhance food safety and quality standards, FAQR is working with the food aid industry on understanding and incorporating industry standards across spectrums.

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## ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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



**FAQR Work:** Several ongoing field research 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 the next 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 is developing tools and analyses to guide US government decisions on cost-effective optimal routes for product delivery. Ports, routes, pre-positioning, delivery point storage capacity, time, cost and bottleneck potential will be identified and best options recommended.

**FAQR Impact:** *Development of 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 audits standards, FAQR helps improve quality assurance feedback loops to promote 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.*