



FOOD AID QUALITY REVIEW

FAQR Decision Support Tool for More Cost-Effective Programming of Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNFs)

OBJECTIVE

To support evidence-based decision-making in the design and implementation of more cost-effective (value for money) specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) programming for food assistance

INTENDED USERS

Personnel from USAID/Food For Peace (FFP), implementation partner organizations, other donors, and government entities involved in making programming decisions regarding the use of SNFs

INTENDED USE

- 1) Support decision-making in program design and proposal development for programming of SNFs by providing:
 - a. a conceptual framework that focuses on decision factors important to cost-effectiveness, and identifies data needs and research/M&E gaps
 - b. a user-friendly, evidence-based tool for assessing site-specific programs involving SNFs
 - c. a ‘convening point’ for personnel involved in different aspects of the decision-making for food assistance programs to meet specific objectives more cost-effectively
- 2) Build capacity of relevant personnel through training in the use of the decision support tool

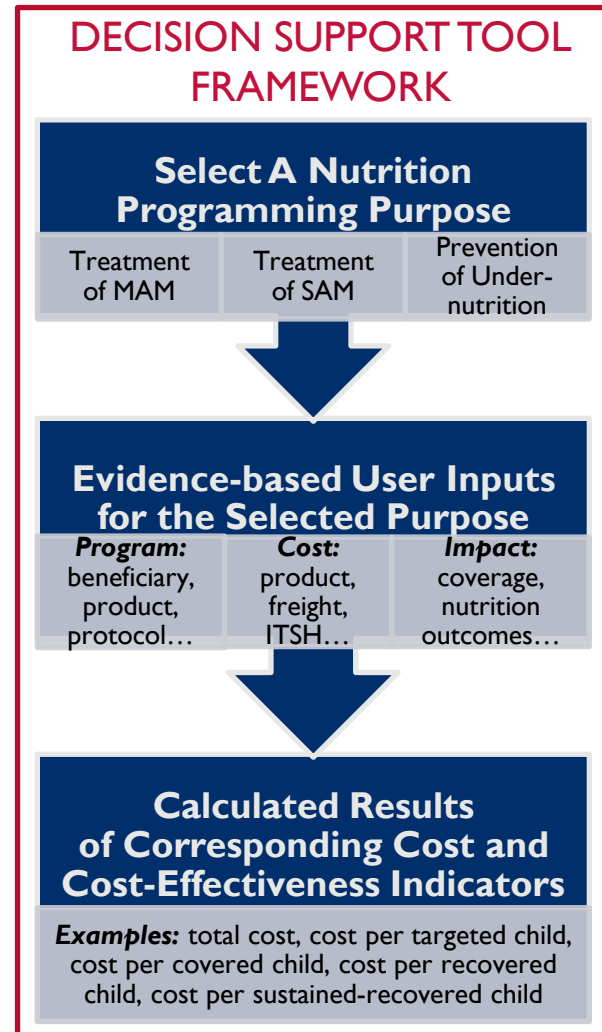
TOOL SUMMARY

The Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) project, managed by Tufts University and funded by USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP), seeks to provide actionable recommendations on ways to improve nutrition among vulnerable populations. Recognizing the operational gap to incorporate the cost-effectiveness objective into the complex decision-making around programming specialized nutritious foods (SNFs), the FAQR team developed this decision support tool.

The FAQR Decision Support Tool application will have an open-access interactive interface. The tool’s framework guides users through a series of decisions on parameters important to improving cost-effectiveness of food assistance programs involving SNFs. For each parameter, the tool provides users with up-to-date evidence (databases, literatures, etc.) via interactive texts and visualizations to assist in the selection of parameter. At each step of the process, users are informed of the effects of their choices on the overall cost and cost-effectiveness of the intended program. Each set of choices can be saved as a scenario, and all saved scenarios can then be easily compared online or be exported into an excel table. Flexibility for customized user input is also allowed. For example, while the tool only supplies USAID in-kind procurement cost data, users can directly input local and regional procurement (LRP) prices for a SNF product.

CURRENT SCOPE

- ❖ **Nutrition programming purposes involving SNFs:**
 - Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)
 - Recuperative Feeding (also known as Targeted Supplementary Feeding) for children under 5 with MAM
 - Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)
 - Therapeutic Feeding for children under 5 with SAM
 - Prevention of Undernutrition to Reduce Stunting, Wasting, and Underweight
 - Supplementary Feeding for children
 - Supplementary Feeding for pregnant/lactating women
- ❖ **Food Products:**
 - Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNFs)
 - Fortified Blended Flours (FBFs)
 - Ready-to-Use Foods (RUFs)
 - Vegetable Oil fortified with Vitamin A&D
- ❖ **Contexts:**
 - Development Programs
 - Humanitarian Programs (excluding onset emergency)



EXAMPLES OF DATA BASES AND EVIDENCE SOURCES

- ❖ USAID/FFP in-kind product procurement and international freight costs (projected and historical)
- ❖ Country-level Internal Transportation, Storage and Handling (ITSH) costs from World Food Programme Project documents
- ❖ Coverage data for MAM and SAM treatment programs from Coverage Monitoring Network, an inter-agency initiative led by Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- ❖ Scientific literatures on impact (e.g. recovery, relapse, reduction in prevalence, etc...)

CONTACT

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