

Harmonized Specifications and Templates

Brief Background

Significant progress was made during FAQR Phase II to harmonize products with WFP. This work stream is part of the broader FAQR Phase III agenda to streamline and unify U.S. food aid products and production practices with international practices. This iterative process includes developing modern commodity specification templates that are aligned with general industry practice standards, harmonizing U.S. product specifications with international specifications, and standardizing and enhancing interaction between USAID and USDA, and between government and the private sector about these matters. This work stream came about following the positive experience of the harmonizing of Ready to Use Foods (RUF) during FAQR II. This two year process identified the need for supplier-friendly specifications and highlighted the discrepancies between USDA and WFP product specifications and programming. This work stream will build upon the lessons learned during the RUF harmonization process and extend the process to other priority food aid products or priority areas in product specifications (e.g., microbiological testing, food safety modernization, etc.).

Overall Objective

- Create informational tools for USAID stakeholders to use during ongoing food aid product harmonization process
- Develop and propose a streamlined template for product specification that incorporates information from Commodity Requirement Document (CRD), Commercial Item Description (CID), and other relevant U.S. specifications (e.g., Federal Purchase Program Specification (FPPS)) and incorporates U.S. agency and private sector input from a stakeholder consultation