



# Improving the Nutritional Quality of Food Aid and Targeting

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## U.S. Government's Approach to Improving the Nutritional Quality of Food Aid

In mid-2000s, increased attention was given to the safety and quality of U.S. food aid contributions. After issues surfaced with processed food aid commodities, such as corn soy blend (CSB), the U.S. government began looking for solutions that addressed the quality of rations, particularly their micronutrient content and the appropriateness of foods in the ration.

### **October 2007** GAO Report – *Foreign Assistance: Multiple Challenges Hinder the Efficiency and Effectiveness of U.S. Food Aid*

- Examined key challenges to the efficiency of U.S. food aid programs and effective use of U.S. food aid.
- Found that many barriers hinder the efficiency of U.S. food aid programs by reducing the amount, timeliness and quality of food provided.
- Offered suggestions to improve the nutritional quality of U.S. food aid.

### **October 2007** SUSTAIN – *Food Aid Quality Project*

- USDA contracted with SUSTAIN to evaluate the quality assurance requirements and nutritional formulation of food aid products.
- USDA also sought review and recommended updates to the key quality oversight components of its food aid product procurement system.





## Improving Food Aid Quality

### **October 2009** GAO Report – *International Food Assistance: A U.S. Government-wide Strategy Could Accelerate Progress toward Global Food Security*

- Examined the types and funding of food security programs and activities of U.S. government agencies.
- Looked at progress in developing an integrated U.S. government wide strategy to address global food insecurity.
- Identified issues for Congressional consideration to ensure more efficient and effective international food assistance including nutrition and food quality control.

### **2009** Tufts University Friedman School – *Nutrient Quality of Food Aid: A Scientific Review*

- USAID's Food for Peace program awarded a grant to Tufts University to examine the nutritional needs of beneficiary populations across the developing world and the nutritional quality of commodities currently available.
- As part of its on-going efforts to improve the quality of food aid operations, USAID tasked Tufts to review the nutritional needs of targeted beneficiaries, while considering current vitamin/mineral enrichment, fortification technologies and methods for the delivery of the micronutrients.





## Taking Action to Improve Food Aid Quality

U.S. Congress allocates approximately \$14 million in FY 2010 to develop more nutritious and micronutrient-fortified food aid products.

### **February 2010** – USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

- Food Aid Nutritional Education Program (FANEP) supports the development and field testing of new ready-to-use foods, fortified blended foods, high-energy foods, micronutrient powders designed to improve the nutritional delivery and functional form of humanitarian food assistance.
- Approximately \$4 million in grants will be awarded in FY 2010.

### **April 2010** – USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

- Micronutrient-Fortified Food Aid Products Pilot (MFFAPP) Program administered under the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program.
- Under MFFAPP, participants will have access to resources to develop and field test new or improved micronutrient-fortified food aid products designed to meet the energy and nutrient needs of populations served by McGovern-Dole.
- Through this pilot program, FAS hopes to identify new products that could be regularly provided in other McGovern-Dole countries around the world.
- Up to \$10 million was made available in FY 2010.

