

Improving access to RUF

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Valid Nutrition



Principles

- **RUF should be produced in developing countries**
 - Improve self-sufficiency and decrease dependence
- **RUF price must decrease**
 - Currently major obstacle to CMAM roll-out
- **RUF quality and suitability must be maintained**
 - Efficacy dependent on balance of the complete spectrum of nutrients
- **RUF should be a mechanism to link nutrition and food security**
 - Overcome ideological barriers

Production in developing countries

- **Large improvements in cost-efficiency of Aid funding**
- **Stimulates local economies**
 - Industrial (employment, government revenue, spin off industry)
 - Agricultural
- **Increasing the responsiveness of RUF manufacture to local demands**
 - Lead times to delivery
- **Increase sustainability and decrease dependence**
 - “Gift of USAID” here today – gone tomorrow

Scale of local production

- **Small scale production of RUTF is not a viable mechanism to scale up supply**
 - QC overheads
 - High capital costs relative to production capacity
 - Absence of economies of scale in ingredient and packaging
- **Effect would be to raise prices and slow production scale up**
- **National and regional level production essential initial step**

Balancing scale-up of supply & demand

- **Upfront investment**
 - Stimulate production capacity
 - Create delivery capacity
- **Commercial catch 22**
 - No programmes no demand for RUTF
 - No RUTF no programmes
- **Threats.**
 - Relative overinvestment in production capacity
 - Relative over-investment in delivery capacity
- **Current imbalances in supply and demand threaten roll-out**

Cost of RUF

- **Ingredient costs ~60% of product costs**
 - Milk >50% ingredient costs (>30% total)
 - Peanuts >25%
- **Milk powder massive price increases in past year**
- **Full range of bio-available nutrients required**
 - No evidence animal protein required for recovery from acute malnutrition
- **Evidence that non-milk RUF formulation made from chickpea/sesame/maize promotes increase lean mass in wasted HIV positive adults**

Local ingredients

- **Range of RUF products made from local crops**
 - Palatability advantages
- **Decreasing cost & massively improving cost efficiency of aid delivery**
 - Links nutrition and food security interventions (especially at risk groups)
- **Improving agricultural markets**
 - Improved targeting of economic benefit on vulnerable households

Competition

- **Competition amongst RUF producers is vital in order to lower RUF prices.**
- **Competitive environment requires**
 - **Enforceable quality control standards**
 - **Standards must balance intensity of QC procedure with making procedures achievable / affordable**
 - **Institutional customers must adhere to standards**

Engagement with private sector

- **Extending treatment / prevention to all malnourished requires RUF to be made available on a huge scale at low cost.**
 - Humanitarian / aid sector is too small
- **Profound global change requires ethical engagement of large scale business**
- **Range of RUF products designed to address different types of under nutrition:**
 - RUTF for the treatment of SAM
 - RUSF for moderate acute malnutrition & P/L women
 - RUCF for the prevention/treatment of stunting and growth faltering
 - RUTF-H for treatment and prevention of malnutrition associated with HIV.
- **Markets currently under-developed**
 - Limited entry points for business to engage
- **Humanitarian/institutional interventions necessary to provide a viable entry points**
 - GMP