

**FOOD FOR PEACE
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

Date: April 6, 2012

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICERS AND TITLE II
AWARDEES**

TO: USAID/W and Overseas Distribution Lists; FFP Awardees

FROM: DCHA/FFP, Dina Esposito, Director

**SUBJECT: Establishment of a Micronutrient Fortification Program and Availability of
Micronutrient Pre-Mix for Title II Food Aid Programs**

FFPIB 12-01

I. Purpose and Authority:

This Food for Peace Information Bulletin establishes a Micronutrient Fortification Program as authorized by the Food for Peace Act of 2008, Section 415.

The purpose of this program is to assist developing countries in correcting micronutrient dietary deficiencies among vulnerable segments of their populations; encourage the fortification of grains and other commodities; and provide the necessary micronutrient premix for the fortification of grains and other commodities during overseas milling or at point of use when possible.

II. Background:

Many of the commodities provided as in-kind food donations for Title II food aid programs are fortified in the United States. Milled grains, flour, and vegetable oils are fortified with specific micronutrients to address deficiencies in vulnerable populations of developing countries. There are, however, instances when whole grains are shipped overseas for processing at commercial grain mills or distribution directly to end users. In those instances, the grains and cereals are not likely to be fortified.

In recognition of this potential gap in the ability to meet the micronutrient needs of food aid recipients, the Food for Peace Act provides authorization for a Micronutrient Fortification Program to be established and allows for the fortification of grains and other commodities in the United States and overseas. In accordance with the provisions of Section 415 of the Food for Peace Act, this program has been established in consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

III. Facilitation of Overseas Fortification:

The Agreement Officer (AO) may authorize the overseas fortification of Title II commodities when whole grains and other unfortified commodities are called forward for use in emergency or development food assistance programs. To facilitate this, the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) will publish a list of available micronutrient premixes that may be called forward with the Title II

commodities. Those premixes will be packaged in bulk or in individual sachets depending on their use as described in Sections A and B below.

A. Bulk premix for overseas milling operations.

Bulk premix will be formulated using the same micronutrient profile as would be used in similar Title II commodities when milled in the United States. The AO will only authorize the use of bulk fortificant when the proposal identifies that: 1) recipient countries have authorized the fortification during milling of food aid commodities; 2) milling operators have sufficient training and operational capacity to perform fortification as part of the milling process; and 3) detailed processing procedures, including food safety and quality controls, are established for the fortification process. When authorized by the AO, quantities of bulk micronutrient premix may be called forward in the amount necessary to fortify the whole grains. FFP will coordinate with procurement and logistics personnel and attempt to ensure that the premix is included in the same shipment as the Title II commodity that it will fortify.

1) The composition and target levels of micronutrients of the bulk premix are found in table 1. Detailed procurement specifications will be developed in coordination with the USDA to establish the technical requirements of the product and packaging.

Table 1. Target amounts of micronutrients in bulk premix.

Micronutrient Compound	Grams Per kg
Vitamin A Palmitate 250, 000 IU WS	29.33
Thiamine Mononitrate	9.88
Riboflavin	8.00
Niacinamide	80.00
Pyridoxine Hydrochloride	9.76
Folic Acid	3.42
Vitamin B12 0.1% WS	22.00
Vitamin D3 100,000 IU per gram	16.00
Sodium Iron EDTA	666.67
Zinc Oxide	60.00
Filler including free flow agent	94.95
Total	1000.00

2) When added at 500 grams per metric ton of milled cereal, the bulk premix will provide the levels of micronutrients (active ingredient) per 100 grams of finished milled and blended cereal as shown in table 2.

Table 2. Target levels of micronutrients in milled cereal.

Micronutrient Active Ingredient	milligrams Per 100 grams Milled cereal
Vitamin A	0.1100
Vitamin B ₁	0.4000
Vitamin B ₂	0.4000
Vitamin B ₃	4.0000
Vitamin B ₆	0.4000
Folic Acid	0.1540
Vitamin B ₁₂	0.0011
Vitamin D ₃	0.0020
Iron	4.0000
Zinc	2.4000

B. Individual premix sachets.

Individual sachets will be formulated using the same micronutrients as the bulk premix, but will be packaged in small packets that contain the amount of premix that can be safely used to fortify an individual serving for a child between the ages of six months and two years at the point of use. When specific dietary deficiencies are identified, the formulation may be based on the actual needs of the intended recipients. The AO will only authorize the use of individual sachets for point of use fortification when the proposal identifies that: 1) recipient countries have authorized micronutrient fortification at the point of use; 2) sufficient behavioral change communication is incorporated in the program to ensure the proper use of fortificant; and 3) detailed monitoring procedures are in place to ensure that the fortificant is being used properly for the intended target beneficiaries. Quantities of individual micronutrient premix sachets may be called forward based on the number of targeted individuals (children under two, pregnant and lactating women, etc.) identified in the proposal. Every attempt will be made to ensure that the premix is included in the same shipment as the Title II commodity that it will fortify.

The composition and levels of the micronutrients in the individual sachets may vary based on the particular needs of the target population of recipients.

Awardees who request the incorporation of individual micronutrient sachets in their food aid programs will be required to provide detailed information on their capacity to safely execute and successfully monitor the program.

IV. List of Available Micronutrient Premixes.

Beginning May 2012, a list of available fortificants will be published in conjunction with the Title II Commodity List. The Commodity Reference Guide will be revised to provide information on the micronutrient profiles, package sizes, and intended uses of the premixes available to be called forward. These micronutrient products will also be listed in the commodity price list, FFP annual program guidance, and the commodity calculator.