

Policy on the Use of Non-Fat Dry Milk for Supplementary Feeding¹
November 19, 2001

USAID's Office of Food for Peace will consider proposals for the use of Non-Fat Dry Milk (NFDM) for supplementary feeding under the following conditions:

1. The need for supplementary feeding (SFP) is justified through reliable data which includes malnutrition and mortality rates of the affected population(s), clearly defined entry and exit criteria, and the expected duration of the program.
2. The product should be energy dense and blended with other commodities (such as cereal/legume flour(s), sugar, oil) and vitamin/mineral pre-mix. The final blended commodity, mixed according to nutritional principles, may be used for on-site feeding or take-home ration. In order to avoid problems due to lactose intolerance, the use of NFDM as a constituent of a blended commodity should not be greater than 15% of the total cereal/legume by weight.
3. The Cooperating Sponsor (CS) will ensure that NFDM is stored in a secure and clean facility, and program controls and end-use monitoring are sufficient to prevent the inappropriate use or distribution of NFDM by program staff and/or beneficiaries. Further, CS must ensure that regular market checks are carried out to identify and deter possible leakage of NFDM into local markets.
4. Staff members receive training and supervision on the appropriate uses of NFDM for feeding programs. This will include the promotion of breastfeeding and protection of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. CS will ensure that guidelines for the proper use of NFDM are available in the appropriate language and that feeding centers are monitored on a regular basis by technically qualified personnel and are accessible to USAID personnel for monitoring purposes.
5. CS provides to USAID periodic reports (quarterly/six months) regarding any special problems, e.g., lactose intolerance or adverse impacts on breastfeeding, in accordance with international guidelines. CS will include information (monthly/quarterly) on recovery rates, death rates (case fatality rates), default rates, weight gain, average length of stay.
6. The Director of the Office of Food for Peace must approve any exceptions to the above policy.

¹ Supplementary feeding (targeted and blanket/on-site or take home) is aimed at rehabilitation of moderately malnourished persons usually in follow-up to therapeutic interventions or to prevent deterioration of nutritional status in an identified demographic group that is vulnerable to malnutrition. Supplementary feeding in this case, should not be confused with supplemental feeding using pre-blended commodities such as corn-soy milk, wheat-soy milk and instant corn-soy milk. There is no specific policy for the use of pre-blended commodities as their use is expected to be consistent with the use of corn-soy blend and wheat-soy blend.