

Working Group 1

“What to do when: Improving
Food Aid for Targeting
Malnutrition”

Objectives:

- How to better mobilize food aid and food resources to target undernutrition
- How commodities can better meet the nutritional needs of children under 2
- In addition to emergency assistance, how can food aid address the situation in high burden regions with chronic undernutrition
- How supplementary nutrition programs can target young children and pregnant/lactating women.
- How can food aid be reformed for effectively and efficiently meeting nutritional needs?

Outcomes/Recommendations

- Based on existing evidence, in particular presentations from Day 1, we must increase blanket distributions of supplemental RUFs to under 2s in areas with high prevalence of undernutrition and high mortality

Outcomes/Recommendations

- As such, we need to aggressively advocate for USAID, EU and other funding sources to implement more programs on a much larger scale that meet optimal nutrition standards (animal source foods for under 2s) in high burden areas.

Outcomes/Recommendations

- As demonstrated by the representatives from Sri Lanka, it needs to be recognized that addressing childhood malnutrition is first a state responsibility, even in impoverished areas.
 - governments must recognize the crisis
 - Countries with capacity need to devote resources to addressing under 2 nutrition

Outcomes/Recommendations

- Above and beyond the treatment of SAM: Food items that are nutritionally appropriate for under 2s must be incorporated into food baskets when food aid is delivered. To achieve dietary diversity, it appears that animal source foods are a necessary component.

Outcomes/Recommendations

- We need to recognize that the special set of nutritional needs for under 2s includes the nutritional status of mothers and households.

Outcomes/Recommendations

- People without nutritional backgrounds (e.g. those involved in ordering food aid) need clear tools to determine what foods are appropriate for under 2s.

Outcomes/Recommendations

- We need clarification on what commodities absent from today's food aid commodities list are appropriate for under 2s, so that clear demands and requests can be made from all levels e.g. country level aid implementers.

Outcomes/Recommendations

- A prerequisite for overcoming constraints in current food aid policy is to call for greater flexibility in using donor funds (e.g. unrestricted funding)

Outcomes/Recommendations

- A voluntary code will be useful for donors, agencies and national programs regarding optimal standards of food assistance for under 2s

Outcomes/Recommendations

- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation for vulnerable groups and specifically under 2s is needed

Outcomes/Recommendations

5 year goal

- Internationally, we need to aim to have sufficient resources to address this crisis (e.g. ECHUI's recommendation of 3-8 billion dollars per year)
- For US food aid, the reality is the farm bill has just been reauthorized for 5 years and cannot be undone. In 2-3 years, clear financial targets, policies, and asks are needed for the next reauthorization of the farm bill.

Outcomes/Recommendations

Immediate

- On the US side, we don't have to wait for the next farm bill. We need to develop clear short term financial and policy targets to push for resources from other appropriators i.e. foreign operations legislation etc.

Outcomes/Recommendations

- As part of an advocacy strategy:
 - Clear language/terminology is necessary
 - More motivation is necessary at the country level (implementers, national programs, etc.)
 - More cooperation is needed within medical, programmatic and policy fields

Outcomes/Recommendations

- We commit to following up and clarification these recommendations.