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Managing the Supply Chain of Specialized Nutritious Foods

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About this Guideline

Purpose

Specialized nutritious foods (SNF) are increasingly recognized as a viable and efficient component of programmes to treat and prevent undernutrition.

This publication has been produced to provide comprehensive guidance on the supply chain management of SNF. Its purpose is twofold:

1. to improve planning, procurement and delivery of nutritious foods to beneficiaries; and
2. to maintain the nutritional quality of SNF by promoting optimal control during transport, storage, stock management and distribution.

This guideline merges existing information on nutrition intervention planning, procurement, quality management and logistics. It will serve as an operational tool in the field, supporting staff from World Food Programme (WFP). However, it can also be used as reference for a wider humanitarian and development community, bearing in mind that some processes may reflect specific WFP corporate approaches. Each chapter presents guidance and 'golden rules' for practice at each stage of the supply chain.

Scope

This guideline addresses the use of SNF in nutrition interventions to:

- treat moderate acute malnutrition (wasting);
- prevent acute malnutrition (wasting);
- prevent chronic malnutrition (stunting); and
- address micronutrient deficiencies (MNDs) among vulnerable people.

SNF can also be used in other programming, for example general food distributions, school feeding, and food for assets. It is important to note that SNF are meant to be consumed in addition to the regular diet.

SNF differ from other commodities, such as staple foods, in several ways. Purchasing the right quality and maintaining it along the supply chain is challenging. For example:

- programme design can be complicated if the government hasn't incorporated SNF into their guidance and standards, or if programme designers are not familiar with using SNF;
- procurement planning needs to take into account the limited number of suppliers, limited stock availability, lead times and contingency planning;
- transport can be complex because the products need to be protected from high temperatures, and because cartons of different sizes complicate load plans for trucks;
- warehousing requirements may include temperature control, and monitoring will be necessary to maintain product quality;
- stock management must include detailed inventory data as Best Before Date (BBD) is one of the main considerations;
- traceability (tracking and tracing) must be in place in case of product recalls.

Use

This guideline consolidates information currently available and builds on core materials used by different organizations. In some areas, little formal guidance exists at present; in these instances, issues are presented for consideration. The guideline will be updated on a regular basis to include the most recent developments.

This publication does not provide in-depth technical information; instead it provides references for resources from which additional information can be obtained.

Users seeking guidance on a particular topic should consult the table of contents and the index. The Glossary in Chapter 8 explains the most common terms related to SNF.

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
API	Active pharmaceutical ingredient
ART	Anti-retroviral therapy
BBD	Best-before date
BMI	Body Mass Index
BSFP	Blanket supplementary feeding programme
CAPA	Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CO	Country Office
CP	Cooperating partner
CSB	Corn Soy Blend
DON	Deoxynivalenol
DOTS	Direct Observed Treatment Short-course (for TB)
EAR	Estimated average nutrient requirement
EDP	Extended delivery point
ER	Emergency Response
ETA	Expected time of arrival
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBF	Fortified blended foods
FDP	Final delivery point
FEFO	First Expired, First Out

FIFO	First In, First Out
FIM	Food incident management
FLA	Field-level-agreement
FPF	Forward Purchase Facility (WFP)
FPP	Finished pharmaceutical product
GAM	Global acute malnutrition
GCMF	Global Commodity Management Fund
GFA	General food assistance
GMO	Genetically modified organism
HAZ	Length-/Height-for-Age Z-score
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ	Headquarters
I.D.E.A.L.	Initiate, detect, estimate, act, learn
IDP	Internally displaced person
IMC	Incident Management Committee
IPF	Import Parity Form
IPO	Internal Purchase Order
IU	International Unit
IYCF	Infant and young child feeding
LNS	Lipid-based nutrient supplement
LQ	Large quantity (as in LNS)

LTSH	Land, transport, storage and handling
MAM	Moderate acute malnutrition
MDER	Minimum dietary energy requirement
MND	Micronutrient deficiency
MNP	Micronutrient powders
MQ	Medium quantity (as in LNS)
MUAC	Mid-upper arm circumference
NFC	New Food Committee
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PLW	Pregnant and lactating women
RB	Regional Bureau
RING	Rapid Incident Notification Grid
RNI	Recommended nutrient intake
RSB	Rice soya blend (in Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus)
RUF	Ready-to-use foods

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