

TO: Global Nutrition Cluster

FROM: Inter-Agency Working Group for Specialized Nutritious Food Products

DATE: October 2016

SUBJECT: Introduction of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Specialized Nutritious Food Products

The Inter-Agency Working Group for Specialized Nutritious Food Products is pleased to formally announce their existence and share an official Terms of Reference.

This group was formed in 2012, in order to formalize collaboration in applying WHO's recommended nutrient values for foods for treating MAM and SAM into workable specifications for procurement purposes. Current members include WFP, USAID, UNICEF, and MSF.

The overarching goal of the inter-agency group is to ensure that specialized nutritious food products are formulated, produced, and programmed consistent with guidance from normative bodies on nutritional value and safety, and taking into account advances in science, including product related R&D, operational needs of agencies, and empirical understanding of costs and effectiveness.

UNICEF, WFP and USAID, aligned with guidance from WHO and FAO, are harmonizing quality standards, formulations and packaging of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and Medium Quantity Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (LNS-MQ). MSF and Tufts University are also involved in the process. The note on this work provides further information on this work on ensuring nutritional quality, compliance with food safety requirements, harmonization of agency specifications, packaging standardization and facilitation of local production.

We encourage interested parties to read through the TOR to understand the inter-agency's objectives, criteria for organizational membership, and working rules. Please contact foodaid4nutrition@gmail.com for any queries.

Sincerely,

The Inter-Agency Working Group for Specialized Nutritious Food Products