
LNS in programs:
FANTA-2 research
and overview of current
programmatic uses of LNS

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FANTA·2
FOOD AND NUTRITION
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

LNS in programs: Outline

1. FANTA-2/UC Davis effectiveness research
2. FANTA-2 and the LNS Research Network
3. Current and proposed programs utilizing LNS for “prevention” of malnutrition

Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project (FANTA-2)

- Five year Cooperative Agreement (June 2008 – June 2013) funded by USAID
- Objective: To improve nutrition and food security policies, strategies and programming
 - Increase the evidence base, effective methods and competencies for effective nutrition and food security policy, strategy and program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

FANTA-2/UC Davis proposed effectiveness research with LNS

- Effectiveness of LNS for the prevention of chronic malnutrition (i.e., stunting) in children
- Effectiveness vs. efficacy research:
 - Effectiveness: intervention is delivered under less “controlled” conditions
 - Intervention delivered via regular program mechanisms = Less control over delivery or compliance with intervention
 - “Real-world” setting

FANTA-2/UC Davis proposed effectiveness research with LNS

- At least 2 studies to be conducted by FANTA-2/UC Davis
- Possible programmatic settings being explored:
 - Maternal, child health and nutrition program
 - *not* providing additional food supplementation
 - providing additional food supplementation (e.g., Title II program)

FANTA-2/UC Davis proposed effectiveness research with LNS

■ Guatemala example

- Very high prevalence of stunting
 - National levels: ~50% of children 6-59 months of age (indigenous children ~75%)
- Explored possibilities to collaborate with Ministry of Health “Extension of Coverage” (EC) program
 - Mobile medical teams providing health and nutrition coverage (including growth monitoring and promotion)
 - Currently incorporating a fortified soy-maize blended cereal into program (“Vitacereal”)

FANTA-2/UC Davis proposed effectiveness research with LNS

- Preliminary design:
 - (Acceptability determination and formative research regarding LNS use)
 - Cluster randomized controlled trial
 - Start with communities where Vitacereal not yet being distributed but EC program active
 - Comparison arms:
 - LNS (Nutributter, 20 g/d)
 - Vitacereal
 - “Control” (i.e., regular nutrition, health activities of EC program)
 - Target group: children 6 mo of age
 - Intervention length: 18 mo (6-24 mo of age)

FANTA-2/UC Davis proposed effectiveness research with LNS

- Preliminary outcomes to be assessed:
 - Biological:
 - Growth: length/height, weight
 - Stunting, underweight
 - Micronutrient status: iron, vitamin A
 - Anemia
 - Motor and cognitive development
 - Operational effectiveness:
 - Program delivery
 - Caregiver exposure and practice
 - Cost effectiveness:
 - Costs related to product, transportation, personnel time

FANTA-2 and the LNS Research Network

- Recognition of current interest in using LNS for prevention of malnutrition in addition to the treatment of SAM
 - Confusion between products and acronyms being used (e.g., RUF vs. RUTF vs. RUSF vs. LNS vs. RUTFH)
 - Questions regarding “correct” applications (“prevention” vs. treatment, timing and length of use, target groups)
 - Evidence for preventive use?

FANTA-2 and the LNS Research Network

- Currently evidence-base is limited for preventive use, and guidance materials are few
 - Combined research activities of LNS Research Network colleagues and others will eventually provide data for development of guidance and recommendations
 - Take advantage of current programmatic efforts?

LNS Research Network activities

- iLiNS Project will provide a web-based clearinghouse for technical information on LNS
- Forum in which organizations currently using LNS in their programs can be linked

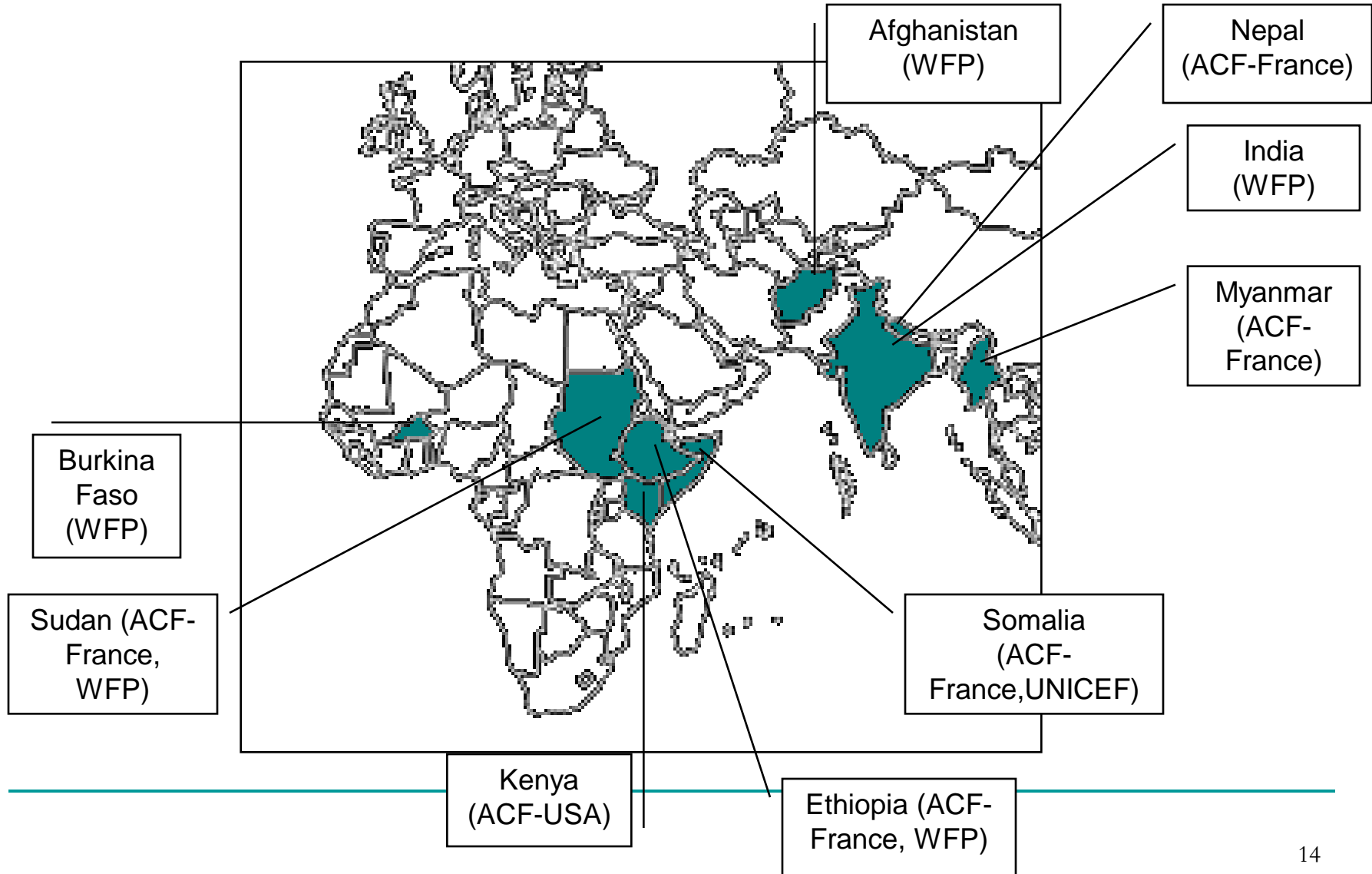
Mapping of organizations using LNS for “prevention” of malnutrition

- Preliminary information-gathering activity to determine where LNS is being used in programs (but not for treatment of SAM*)?
 - LNS product being used?
 - Use and distribution mechanism (e.g., blanket feeding)?
 - Any planned evaluation/research of impact or cost?
 - Any particular challenges encountered?
- * FANTA-2 will be mapping where RUTF is being used for CMAM/CTC

Mapping of organizations using LNS for “prevention” of malnutrition

- Worked with Nutriset to identify purchasers of LNS products other than Plumpy’nut* (i.e., Plumpy’doz or Supplementary Plumpy)
- Follow-up to request additional information
- “Prevention”:
 - Blanket feeding (non- and malnourished children)
 - Targeted supplementary feeding programs (SFP) (moderately acutely malnourished children) with evaluation

Current and proposed programs



Current and proposed programs: **ACF-USA (Kenya)**

- Planned evaluation of the impact of Plumpy'doz provided as a blanket distribution to children 6-23 months of age (n = 5000) in Mandera Central District on:
 - District-level mortality and morbidity rates and levels of malnutrition
 - Individual-level prevention of acute malnutrition, reduction in morbidity, and improvements in appetite and motor skills (sub-sample of overall population, initially not malnourished)
 - Intervention: 6 months, 46 g of Plumpy'doz per day, provided as a monthly ration

Current and proposed programs: **ACF-USA** (Kenya)

- ❑ Concurrent control areas (with similar SES characteristics and ACF services) will also be assessed
- ❑ Start date Feb. 2009
- Developing evaluation of Supplementary Plumpy as compared to CSB+ oil in targeted supplementary feeding programs in same region

Current and proposed programs: **ACF-France** (various countries)

- Using Supplementary Plumpy in supplementary feeding programs (SFP)
 - Somalia (Nov. '07-Nov 08): stopped due to security concerns
 - Ethiopia (Nov '08 to present)
 - Nepal (pilot, small scale)
 - Sudan, South Darfur (June – Nov 2007):
 - Previous high default rates and low cure rates using CSB in supplementary feeding programs
 - Implemented SFP using Supplementary Plumpy
 - Higher cure rates, and lower default rates compared to previous years (not concurrent control)

Current and proposed programs: **ACF-France** (various countries)

- Proposed projects not yet begun:
 - Comparison of 3 types of supplementary food for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and SFP performance: a randomised intervention trial in Northern Rakhine State, union of Myanmar:
 - Comparison of Supplementary Plumpy vs. Plumpy'doz vs. CSB for blanket feeding
 - March 2009

Current and proposed programs

MSF-France

- Plumpy'doz for blanket feeding to 6-36 month old children, Guidan Roumji, Maradi, Niger
- (Presentation by Géza Harczi, Epicentre)

Current and proposed programs: **WFP** (various countries)

- Ethiopia: Evaluation of Supplementary Plumpy vs. CSB + oil in supplementary feeding program on:
 - Recovery time for moderately malnourished children with WFH as main indicator
 - Recovery, default, death, non-response, transfer and re-admission rates
 - Cost-effectiveness (cost per beneficiary): product, storage and transportation costs, length of treatment time required for recovery
 - Feasibility of scale-up in Ethiopia
 - Caregiver exit questionnaire: Acceptability, usage, food sharing practices

Current and proposed programs: **WFP** (various countries)

Planned blanket feeding interventions using Plumpy'doz

Country	Operation*	Target group	Beneficiaries	Duration of intervention	Dates
Afghanistan	PRRO	6-23 mo children	37,000	12 mo	Jan –Dec 09
Burkina Faso	EMOP Rising food prices	6-23 mo children	76,000	12 mo	Jan - Dec 09
Sudan	EMOP	6-35 mo children	18,000	6 months	Apr-Oct 09

* EMOP = Emergency operation; PRRO = Protracted relief and recovery operation

Current and proposed programs: **WFP** (various countries)

Completed blanket feeding intervention with Indian RUF*

Country	Operation**	Target group	Beneficiaries	Duration of intervention	Date
India	EMOP floods	6-23 mo children	15,000	3 months	Oct - Dec 08 (Results not available)

**Indian RUF: developed by WFP's country office in India; contains chickpeas, milk powder, soybean oil, soy flour, rice flour, sugar, vitamins and minerals*

***EMOP= Emergency operation; PRRO = Protracted relief and recovery operation*

Future plans to study the efficacy and effectiveness of Indian RUF

Current and proposed programs

- **UNICEF:** Blanket feeding of 6-36 mo-old children with Plumpy'doz in Somalia (Dec 2008)

- Others?

Next steps...

- FANTA-2/UC Davis:
 - Selection of study sites for effectiveness studies
 - Investigate potential research collaborations with organizations already using or interested in using LNS
- FANTA-2/LNS Research Network:
 - Continue information gathering on current and proposed work of organizations with LNS
 - Eventual application? Database of current programs using LNS
 - Identify programmatic research needs regarding LNS for prevention of malnutrition

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