

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

NFSDU/40 CRD 21

Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Fortieth Session

Berlin, Germany
26 – 30 November 2018

PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINE FOR READY-TO-USE THERAPEUTIC FOODS *Comments of Egypt*

EGYPT

1. Preamble

Preamble

Question

Do you agree with the proposed texts of the preamble?

YES **NO**

Please give your comments on the texts

Yes, Egypt agrees with the following proposed texts of the preamble

Proposed texts for the preamble

Children affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM) need safe, palatable foods with high energy content and adequate amounts of vitamins, minerals and other nutrients. Children with SAM need timely treatment and RUTF is a critical part of the care. RUTF are primarily intended for children with uncomplicated SAM from 6-59 months. Although RUTF may be given to other age groups with various forms of malnutrition at the implementation level, the primary focus for these guidelines is children with SAM from 6-59 months. Since RUTF are prescribed according to weight, National Authorities may decide to include the provision of RUTF in their national protocols for use by other age groups.

These guidelines provide requirements for the production and labelling of RUTF. The guidelines are intended to facilitate the harmonization of requirements for RUTF at the international level and may provide assistance to governments wishing to establish national regulations. The guidelines are also intended for use as an instrument designed to avoid or remove difficulties which may be created by diverging legal, administrative and technical approaches to RUTF and by varying definitions and nutrient compositions of RUTF. These guidelines should be used in accordance with technical recommendations of the relevant evidence and related Codex texts¹. Governments and other users should ensure adequate provisions are made for competent technical experts for the appropriate use of these guidelines.

¹Joint Statement on Community-Based Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition by the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition and the United Nations Children's Fund, 2007; WHO. Child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children, 2006; A Joint Statement by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund; Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009; WHO. Guideline: *Updates on the management of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children*.

Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013; WHO. Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2003; WHO. *International code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 1981 and subsequent relevant WHA Resolutions on infant and young child feeding; *Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food including Concessional and Food Aid Transactions* (CAC/RCP 20-1979; FAO/WHO microbial risk assessment report (FAO/WHO Microbial safety of lipid-based ready-to-use foods for management of moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition; 2016.

2. Vitamins and Minerals

Vitamins and Minerals

Question

Please comment on the proposed texts for the vitamins and minerals section of the guidelines

Egypt supports the proposed text

Comment:

The Advisory lists of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children (CAC/GL 10-1979) are adequate and contain all the necessary requirements that a nutrient need to meet for it to be used in RUTF, beside that the absorbability of vitamins and minerals will also be covered.

Proposed texts

All added vitamins must be in accordance with the Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 10-1979). Examples of minerals for RUTF formulation can be found in the WHO Management of severe malnutrition: A manual for physicians and other senior health workers (1999).

3. Available Carbohydrates

Available Carbohydrates

Question

Do you agree with the proposed texts and its accompanying footnote?

YES NO

If No, provide alternative texts and justification for your answer

Yes, Egypt supports the proposed text

Proposed texts

Available Carbohydrates²

The palatability of the RUTF can be increased by the addition of available carbohydrates. Available carbohydrates must adhere to the relevant Codex Alimentarius texts.

Honey should not be used in RUTF due to the risk of infant botulism from *Clostridium botulinum*.

[2]Sucrose, plant starch, maltodextrin, should be the preferred carbohydrates in RUTF. Fructose, glucose and corn syrup as ingredients should be avoided in RUTF, because of potential adverse effects in SAM children. Only precooked and/or gelatinized starches gluten-free by nature may be added. Any carbohydrate added for sweetness should be used sparingly.

4. Food Additives

Food Additives

Question

Kindly complete the food additives spreadsheet in **Annexure A** and submit to the Chairs.

Egypt agree with the list of food additives present in the Standard for Processed Cereal- Based foods for Infants and young Children CODEX STAN 74-1981

