

# Highlights from the SQ-LNS meeting

Zeina Maalouf-Manasseh, FANTA/FHI 360

## EVIDENCE AND PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE USE OF SQ-LNS

October 14–16, 2015 | Washington, DC



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**FANTA III**  
FOOD AND NUTRITION  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**fhi360**  
THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

**iLiNS**  
PROJECT

# Motivation

- Research on efficacy and effectiveness of SQ-LNS for the prevention of malnutrition underway
- WHO guidelines for the use of LNS under development, expected 2016
- Programs adopting and implementing SQ-LNS as an intervention for the prevention of malnutrition

# Typical Nutrient content of SQ-LNS

[20 g/d; 118 kcal/d]

## **SQ-LNS-Child:**

- Includes 22 vitamins & minerals
  - ~1 RDA for most micronutrients except Fe (6 mg) & Zn (8 mg)
  - Macrominerals included (Ca, P, K, Mg)
- Essential fatty acids: 4.5 g linoleic acid; 0.6 g ALA
- Protein: 2.6 g

## **SQ-LNS-P&L:**

- Includes 22 vitamins & minerals; levels based on recent multiple micronutrient trials during pregnancy
- Iron content = 20 mg
- Essential fatty acids: 4.6 g linoleic acid; 0.6 g ALA
- Protein: 2.6 g

# Meeting objectives

- To share the efficacy and effectiveness evidence available on the use of SQ-LNS for the prevention of malnutrition in programmatic settings
- To discuss and summarize experiences on key operational topics in the use of SQ-LNS for the prevention of malnutrition including challenges and lessons learned
- To outline the key operational conditions needed to roll-out programs using SQ-LNS
- To identify an implementation research agenda

# Meeting participants



# Meeting agenda

- Day 1 am: efficacy and effectiveness evidence
- Day 1 pm & Day 2: experiences, challenges, lessons learned
- Day 3 am: programmatic considerations, implementation research agenda

# Topic areas

- SBCC related to SQ-LNS:
  - Counseling on intake mode and frequency
  - Messaging and counseling around potential undesirable effects of LNS
  - Packaging: type, size, label messages and claims, design, etc.
  - Integration into IYCF programs and multi-sectoral programs: use as incentives for participation in other activities, effect on breastmilk intake, dietary diversity and intake of other foods
- Use of SQ-LNS (women and children):
  - Acceptability in different contexts, variations in flavor and nutrient composition to address acceptability
  - Adherence to recommended consumption, enhancers/barriers to adherence, measurement of adherence
  - Mode of consumption: alone, with food- what seems to work better and why
  - Sharing with others (household members, neighbors, etc.) and selling: why is it happening and what are the consequences

# Topic areas

- Economics of SQ-LNS:
  - Production: local production, cost, quality control, inspection, etc.
  - Market models and distribution channels: private sector approaches, government financing
  - Demand: change over time, willingness to pay
- Shipping, transporting and other logistics of SQ-LNS:
  - Issues around the classification of SQ-LNS in shipping and customs documents
  - Transportation during distribution (the “last mile”)
  - Storage, shelf-life
  - Disposal of packaging after use



# List of programmatic considerations

- Situation assessment: potential to benefit, potential to respond
- SBCC considerations
- Use of SQ-LNS
- Programming at scale
- Economics
- Logistics
- Others (CHW load, product positioning)

# Research agenda

- Formulation
- Delivery
- Adherence
- Impact
- Unintended consequences
- Demand
- Logistics

# Next steps

- Meeting highlights
- Meeting report

[fantaproject.org](http://fantaproject.org)

- Support to USAID in translating report into guidance

# Thank you

This presentation is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the support of the Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition, Bureau for Global Health, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under terms of Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-12-00005, through the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA), managed by FHI 360. The contents are the responsibility of FHI 360 and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.