

## **SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON THE DEFINITION AND USE OF FY 2000 – FOOD FOR PEACE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS**

### **I. SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this document is to give field missions, regional, and central bureaus an operational definition of activities that fall within the parameters of the Title II/Food for Peace (FFP) resources put forward under the President's LIFE Initiative (Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic) for "Children Affected by HIV/AIDS" and guidance on the use of these resources. These guidelines are a follow up to State 001755 "FY 2000 Increase in Funding for HIV/AIDS."

The LIFE Initiative includes \$55 million in DA funds and \$10 million in Title II resources in support of the following elements: (1) primary prevention, which includes mother-to-child transmission, prevention, and voluntary counseling and testing; (2) improving home and community based care and treatment; (3) caring for children affected by HIV/AIDS; and (4) capacity and infrastructure development (including surveillance systems). The DA funding will cover elements 1, 2, and 4, while the Title II resources will cover element 3.

The following countries are included in the LIFE Initiative: Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as well as the regional programs for West and Southern/Eastern Africa. Food for Peace activities are targeted on a subset of these countries where existing Title II agreements are in place. These countries are as follows: Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Uganda. This document provides definitions and guidance on allowable uses of the Title II/Food for Peace resources for the LIFE Initiative. In general, resources provided under the LIFE Initiative are for direct distribution through PVOs.

### **II. DEFINITIONS:**

Child: A child is defined as being between the ages of birth through adolescence.

Vulnerable child: A vulnerable child is defined as a child in a household with a chronically ill parent/caregiver or a child living in a high-risk setting due to either a high HIV prevalence or proximity to high-risk behaviors (i.e. households on or near truck routes, etc.).

Orphan: An orphan is defined as a child who has lost one or both parents.

(Note: See also the draft child survival and disease fund guidance which was distributed for the supplemental child survival funds).

### **III. PROGRAMS TO BE SUPPORTED:**

Allowable Title II activities fall within the following two categories: 1) programs to increase household food security for highly vulnerable children, including orphans; and 2) programs to improve community based management of sick children in high HIV/AIDS prevalence areas.

Activities should fit within existing Title II agreements and fall under the rubric of general relief (General relief is broadly defined as those activities where commodities are directly distributed to “target” beneficiaries. The beneficiaries to be targeted in these programs are usually defined by the program but tend to be broader than those in MCH or food-for-education programs. In general relief programs, monetization proceeds can be used only to facilitate the movement, distribution, or monitoring of commodities).

To the degree practicable, USAID operating units should seek to integrate resources from Food for Peace with DA funds in order to provide a more complete package of services. Title II activities supported by the LIFE Initiative should not serve as “stand alone” activities.

The Title II resources for the LIFE Initiative can be used for one or more of the following purposes:

### **Increasing Household Food Security for Highly Vulnerable Children, Including Orphans:**

The following are illustrative examples of the types of activities that could be integrated within existing programs.

- Community-based approaches to strengthen the capacities of families and communities to care for vulnerable children and orphans – including safety net activities utilizing direct distribution commodities to assist in keeping families together during their greatest time of need.
- Activities that incorporate both child-focused care and support with ongoing prevention efforts for older children and adolescents.
- Inter-sectoral approaches, by which the needs of vulnerable children and orphans are integrated into current community mobilization efforts to address related issues such as child nutrition, education, or activities that address the needs of child-headed and other vulnerable households.

Food for Peace commodities can be used for the support of hospices, orphanages, and other institutions that provide care and support for children. Care should be taken, however, in order to avoid weakening established community and family support networks, and in creating incentives to abandon children. As with any Food for Peace activity, the focus should be on supporting those activities with the greatest potential for long term sustainability.

### **Improving Community Based Management of Sick Children in High HIV/AIDS Prevalence Areas:**

The following are illustrative examples of the types of activities that could be integrated within existing programs.

- Commodities may be used to for general relief programs targeting sick children. General relief activities will need to clearly define beneficiaries with a focus on avoiding possible stigma from “labeling” children or households as “AIDS Infected” or similar. Care should also be taken in choosing the ration size and composition to create a ration which will be nutritionally beneficial to sick children.

- Commodities may also be used to increase the size/scope of existing activities within general relief programs, including supplementary feeding for malnourished children in areas with high HIV prevalence – either through home based, community based, or formal medical structures. In some cases it will not be possible or beneficial to directly identify households with HIV infected persons (either adults or children) due to issues of stigma, however in some countries, communities have been able to identify households for home based care activities and others have been able to identify households in general need of assistance (through other community based activities). Where these organizations are in place, activities may benefit from utilizing their structures to identify beneficiaries and implement programs. The focus should remain on how food can be used to benefit those affected by HIV/AIDS.

#### **IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

Like any other USAID funded activity, programs supported with LIFE Initiative resources require monitoring and evaluation plans. Existing DAP monitoring and evaluation guidelines should be followed. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans should be amended appropriately to account for additional activities. If the PVO does not have sufficient funds in their budget to monitor these activities, monetization will be allowed to cover the monitoring and evaluation of these activities.

Missions undertaking activities under the LIFE initiative with Title II commodities will need to report on the following indicators:

- Percent of households in high HIV prevalence communities with increased access to food.
- Percent of households in high prevalence communities receiving assistance from community based organizations.
- Number of HIV/AIDS infected children receiving food aid.

All other guidelines surrounding the use of Title II resources remain in affect.

#### **V. MONETIZATION:**

Consultations with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) surrounding the use of the Title II commodities under the LIFE Initiative resulted in an understanding that these commodities would be used for direct distribution to the maximum level possible. This was based on the understanding that the most useful input of these commodities would be as food for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Ideally, food would be considered as an input into a wider HIV/AIDS activity resourced with both dollars (DA) and Title II commodities. With this in mind, agreements with PVOs under the LIFE Initiative will be for the provision of commodities for direct distribution. Limited additional commodities for monetization will be authorized only if/where necessary to facilitate the movement, distribution, and monitoring of the commodities. Exceptions to this policy may be considered where monetization proceeds are to be used for items that complement the food and are for the direct care of the beneficiaries. However, no large scale monetization activities will be authorized.

#### **VI. AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS:**

Missions and Cooperating Sponsors are encouraged to refer to the FY00 DAP/PAA guidelines issued by Food for Peace for the parameters required for a DAP Amendment. For FY00 a DAP Amendment will be required if a Cooperating Sponsor wishes to make significant changes. Significant change is defined as: a) a change in the purpose and/or outcome of the project (CS program or sub-program); b) a change requiring restructuring of implementation arrangements; and c) changes of 20 percent or more in anticipated total funding for the fiscal year. For FY01 a significant change is defined as: a) a change in the strategic objectives of the project (CS Title II program or sub-program); b) an increase in the total Life of Activity Resource Request (LOA) using the estimated total dollar value of commodity, freight, and Section 202(e) as the indicator for requests; or c) a cumulative increase of 10% or more in any line-item of the comprehensive LOA budget for that particular line item. FFP views these activities as multi-year commitments and therefore expects that any additions or amendments would cover the remaining DAP period and will be integrated with other food security activities.

## **VII. TIMELINE FOR ACTIVITIES**

FFP does not believe that it is within USAID's interest to initiate new program activities for only one year. Therefore, any approved activity would cover the remaining DAP period of the Cooperating Sponsor. In an effort to initiate activities in an expeditious manner, FFP will allow the transfer of commodities towards LIFE Initiative activities once the DAP Amendments are in effect.

## **VIII. CONTACT POINTS**

Operation units requiring further information on the Food for Peace activities under the LIFE Initiative, should contact René Berger ([rberger@usaid.gov](mailto:rberger@usaid.gov)) at (202) 712-0485 or Rich Newberg ([rnewberg@usaid.gov](mailto:rnewberg@usaid.gov)) at (202) 712-1828. Additional LIFE Initiative contacts are as follows: AFR – Alex Ross; ANE – Kai Spratt; G/PHN – Paul De Lay.