

INTRODUCTION

The Commodities Reference Guide (CRG) provides information on food commodities distributed under Title II of Public Law 480 (P.L. 480), as amended. This program is administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and comprises emergency and development activities. Since its inception in 1954, the P.L. 480 Program and other food assistance instruments have distributed 375 million metric tons of US food commodities valued at well over \$50 billion. In 1990, the Congress amended the P.L. 480 legislation, reasserting the United States' intent to use its agricultural productivity to enhance food security in the developing world.

The CRG is an information tool, providing relevant information about the food commodities used in P.L. 480 Title II program. All food commodities are available to the P.L. 480 Program as long as they are not determined to be in short supply by the US Secretary of Agriculture, a determination that is made every October (per Section 401(a) of the FAIR Act, 1996) by the Secretary of Agriculture. The CRG is intended for use by Title II cooperating sponsors as they develop new proposals or modify previously approved activities. The CRG is designed to provide these organizations with a description of available food commodities, their nutritional values and physical properties, a guide to appropriate storage and handling, and important general information regarding their safe and effective use as rations in Title II programs that distribute food directly to recipients. It is also designed as a reference for USAID Food for Peace officers (FFP), other USAID officers, the staff of cooperating sponsors, and recipient governments and agencies that are involved in decision-making for planning, managing, controlling, and evaluating appropriate uses of Title II food commodities.

The CRG provides information on the food commodities that are in general use in the Title II program in Part One (Title II Food Aid Commodities and Fact Sheets) and information and examples on selecting rations for different program scenarios in Part Two (Guidelines for Selecting Food Aid Commodities). It should be noted that the information here is not a substitute for the very detailed guidance provided by the Office of Food for Peace annual proposal guidance, the monetization manual, and the USAID food aid and food security policy paper. The CRG program examples are for illustration. It does not attempt to anticipate all the ways in which rations may enter into programs. The CRG is not intended to offer programming guidance, which is derived from USAID policies on program design, management, performance monitoring and evaluation which are all available elsewhere. Policy guidance is provided in other documentation from the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, Office of Food for Peace (BHR/FFP). The CRG web site does provide links to relevant representative complementary policy and program documents and key web sites.

Title II food assistance programs illustrated in the CRG are geared to impact food security through improved access to food, increased availability of food and/or improved nutrition and utilization of food of the target groups. In addition to providing emergency relief from hunger and malnutrition, Title II programs emphasize sustainable food security and nutrition goals.

The following is a major revision and update of the original CRG, issued in January 1988, by the

USAID/BHR/FFP. The decade following the publication of the CRG has seen significant changes that necessitate updating both the content of the CRG and the methods of dissemination of that content. New information regarding micronutrients and their importance in food assistance has become available. Understanding has evolved on the bioavailability of micronutrients (e.g., the advisability and feasibility of fortification of vegetable oil with vitamin A), the nutritional needs of food assistance recipients, methods for delivery of micronutrients, and changes in the fortification requirements for the U.S. food supply. Changes in the availability of key food commodities used to make blended products also have affected the composition of the P.L. 480 food assistance basket. The 1999/2000 revision process has incorporated input from all the stakeholders: USAID, USDA, the cooperating sponsors and the commodity groups and includes input from headquarters and field personnel.

Significant advances in communication and information systems (e.g., satellite/wireless communication, the Internet and the World Wide Web), have made it possible to present, publish and disseminate information in an entirely new fashion -- on the World Wide Web. Thus, the 1999 edition of the CRG is available in both hard copy and on the USAID Web site as a downloadable PDF file, and can be accessed at <http://www.usaid.gov>. This method has the added advantage of ensuring that the CRG is updated and revised quickly and inexpensively to reflect new commodity specifications or program requirements, making the CRG a vital, “evergreen” document.

Furthermore, users of the Guide anywhere in the world can share their decades of experience, offer recipes, preparation methods, specific anecdotal information or suggestions regarding ways in which the CRG can be made more useful to recipients of Title II P.L. 480 food commodities. Similarly, USAID and USDA can update the nutritional composition data, reflecting state-of-the art technology, bioavailability data, and other related issues. Manufacturers of Title II food commodities are also able to offer timely input on packaging, distribution, insect and rodent control, and other operations-related matters. The use of web site technology makes all of the information available at low cost and in short time frames.

The Commodities Reference Guide is organized into three parts:

Part One: TITLE II FOOD AID COMMODITIES AND FACT SHEETS

Section I provides a list of the food commodities generally used in Title II projects along with a brief description of each one, and explains the rationale for USDA exclusion of those in shortage in any given year.

Section II presents individual Commodity Fact Sheets. Included are detailed descriptions of commonly used food commodities, including their nutritional content, components, USDA specifications, and packaging information.

Section III addresses commodity storage and shelf life concerns.

Section IV provides information on controlling damages to food commodities.

Part Two: GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING FOOD AID COMMODITIES (Draft)

The Overview section outlines the features of the Food for Peace Program and a general guideline for selecting food rations. The guidelines consist of five steps: (1) Program Design, (2) Suitability of Food Commodities, (3) Ration Specifications, (4) Ration Calculation, and (5) Ranking and Selection. In five **Modules**, these steps are applied to types of programs in which food aid is commonly used. The following modules are designed so each can be read independently of the others:

Module 1 provides information for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition programs.

Module 2 provides information for Food for Work program components.

Module 3 provides information regarding Food for Education and school feeding program components

Module 4 provides information for Non-Emergency Humanitarian Assistance

Module 5 provides information for Emergency Programs

Part Three: ANNEXES (Draft)

Annex I – Definitions

Annex II – Tools and Indicators

Annex III – Recommended Energy Allowance Tables

Annex IV – Recommended Dietary Allowance Table

Annex V – Illustrative Commodity Prices

Comments on the draft parts of the guide and additional information on commodity specification and P.L.480 program management can be obtained from

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List of Acronyms

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|----------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| BHR | Bureau for Humanitarian Response | NIS | Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union |
| CCC | Commodity Credit Corporation | NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| CDO | Cooperative Development Organization | OCF | Other child feeding |
| CFW | Cash-for-Work | OFDA | Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID) |
| CIDA | Canadian International Development Agency | OE | Operating Expense (funds) |
| CS | Cooperating Sponsor | ORT | Oral Rehydration Therapy |
| CSB | Corn Soy Blend | OYB | Operating Year Budget |
| DA | Development Assistance (funds) | PAA | Previously Approved (Title II) Activity |
| DAP | Development Activity Proposal | SF | Soy Fortified |
| ERS | Economic Research Service (USDA) | SFB | Soy-Fortified Bulgur |
| EU | European Union | SFCM | Soy-Fortified Cornmeal |
| FAC | Food Aid Convention | SFSG | Soy-Fortified Sorghum Grits |
| FAC | Food Aid Coordinating Committee/Sierra Leone | P.L. 480 | U.S. Public Law 480 |
| FACG | Food Aid Consultative Group | PVO | Private voluntary organization |
| FAMP | Food Aid Management Plan | R4 | USAID's Results Report and Resources Request |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | REDSO | Regional Economic Development Support Office/USAID |
| FFE | Food-for Education | Section 202(e) | Section of USAID's P.L.480 authorizing funds to support Title II activities |
| FFP | Office of Food for Peace (in USAID/BHR Bureau) | SF | School feeding |
| FFP/DP | Development Programs Division in FFP | SO | Strategic Objective |
| FFP/ER | Emergency Response Division in FFP | SO1 | BHR/FFP's Strategic Objective #1 |
| FFPO | Food for Peace Officer | SO2 | BHR/FFP's Strategic Objective #2 |
| FFPr | Food for Progress Program of P.L. 480 Title I | SPO | Special Objective |
| FFW | Food-for-Work | UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| FTE | Full-time equivalent (direct-hire staff) | UNHCR | United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees |
| FVA | Bureau for Food and Voluntary Assistance | UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| GDP | Gross domestic product | USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| GHAJ | Greater Horn of Africa Initiative | USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| GNP | Gross national product | WFS | World Food Summit |
| ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross | WSB | Wheat Soy Blend |
| ICSM | Instant Corn-Soy Milk | WHO | World Health Organization |
| IFPRI | International Food Policy Research Institute | | |
| IGAD | Inter-Governmental Authority on Development | | |
| IMR | Infant mortality rate | | |
| IO | International organization | | |
| IR | Intermediate Result | | |
| ISG | Institutional Support Grant | | |
| LAC | Latin America and Caribbean Bureau (USAID) | | |
| LDC | Least developed country | | |
| LIFDC | Low-Income Food-Deficit Country | | |
| MCH | Maternal-Child Health | | |
| M&E | Monitoring and evaluation | | |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding | | |
| MT | Metric ton(s) | | |

List of Cooperating Sponsors (FY 1997)

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|------------------------|--|
| ACDI/VOCA | Agricultural Cooperative Development International/ Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance |
| ADRA | Adventist Development and Relief Agency |
| AFRICARE | Africare |
| AG.FOUND | Agricultural Foundation |
| AGUDATH | Agudath Israel of America, Inc. |
| AIA | American International Association of the Hematologists of the World for Children, Inc. |
| AKF | Aga Khan Foundation |
| ARC | American National Red Cross |
| CARE | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. |
| CARITAS/Bolivia | Caritas Bolivia |
| CARITAS/Peru | Caritas Peru |
| CFI | Counterpart Foundation Inc. |
| CHAMAH | Chamah |
| CITIHOPE | CitiHope International |
| CNFA | Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs |
| CRM | Christian Rescue Mission |
| CRS | Catholic Relief Services – USCC |
| DOULOS | Doulos Community, Inc. |
| DPPC | Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission/Ethiopia |
| EOC | Ethiopian Orthodox Church |
| FAR | Fund for Armenian Relief |
| FHI | Food for the Hungry, Inc. |
| FTC | Feed the Children |
| GJARN | Global Jewish Assistance Relief Network |
| IOCC | International Orthodox Christian Charities |
| IPHD | International Partnership for Human Development |
| LEA | Lishkas Ezras Achim |
| MCI | Mercy Corps International |
| NCBA/CLUSA | National Cooperative Business Association |
| NPA | Norwegian Peoples' Aid |
| OICI | Opportunities Industrialization Centers International, Inc. |
| PCI | Project Concern International |
| PRISMA | Projects in Agriculture, Rural Industry, Science & Medicine, Inc./Peru |
| PROJECT AID | Project Aid |
| REST | Relief Society of Tigray |
| RFCP/CBI | Russian Farm Community Project, Inc./Cooperative Business International |
| SALESIANS (SSI) | Salesian Missions |
| SAWSO | Salvation Army World Service Office |
| SCF | Save the Children Federation, Inc. |
| SHARE | World SHARE |
| SUSTAIN | Sharing U.S. Technology to Aid in the Improvement of Nutrition |
| TECHNOSERVE | TechnoServe |
| UMCOR | United Methodist Committee on Relief |
| WFP | World Food Program |
| WINROCK/WI | Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development |
| WVRD | World Vision Relief and Development, Inc. |

CONVERSION TABLES

Cubic Measure

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|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 cubic inch | = 16.39 cubic centimeters |
| 1 cubic foot | = 0.03 cubic meter |
| 1 cubic yard | = 0.76 cubic meter |

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 cubic centimeter | = .06 cubic inch |
| 1 cubic meter | = 35.31 cubic feet |
| 1 cubic meter | = 1.31 cubic yard |

Liquid Measure

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|----------|--------------|
| 1 pint | = 0.47 liter |
| 1 quart | = 0.95 liter |
| 1 gallon | = 3.79 liter |

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|-------------|------------------|
| 1 liter | = 1.06 quarts |
| 1 kiloliter | = 264.18 gallons |

Weights

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|---------|--------------------|
| 1 grain | = 0.06 gram |
| 1 ounce | = 28.35 grams |
| 1 pound | = 453.59 grams |
| 1 ton | = 907.18 kilograms |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1 gram | = 15.43 grains |
| 10 grams | = 0.35 ounce |
| 1 kilogram | = 2.2 pounds |
| 1 metric ton | = 2,204.6 pounds |
