



## Nutrition – an operational perspective

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- “Malnutrition” is ruthless but not intractable
- Current food programming is sound in context
- Smarter programming is possible and desirable
  - targeted, nutrition specific interventions
  - nutrition gear on emergency interventions
  - modest leverage from other interventions
  - impact-maximizing policy/procedures



# Ruthless, urgent, not intractable

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- Hunger claims more lives than AIDS, malaria, and TB combined (WHO)
- “malnutrition” contributes to more than half the 10-12m deaths each year of children under five (Lancet)
- FAO: 300 million hungry children
- 1 out of 3 people in developing countries are affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies (WHO)
- 1 out of 4 preschoolers suffer from under-nutrition (WHO)
- The number of stunted children dropped from 220 million in 1990 to 180 million in 2003 (UNICEF)
- The number of under-weight children dropped from 177 million in 1990 to 140 million in 2003



# Current food programming context

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- WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency, \$2.9b of food aid to 113m people in 82 countries in 2004
- USG about 40% of total donor contributions to WFP in 2005 – title II
- WFP is the world's largest HUMANITARIAN agency delivering more than 5million MT to 82 countries...
- In 1990 barely 20% of WFP resources were directed to emergencies. Today, about 85% of WFP resources are spent on emergency relief.
- technical expertise approaches problems of malnutrition within our operational reality



# Horrid definitions for non nutritionists

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- “Malnutrition” is the condition prevailing when the body has not synthesized the right nutrients in the right way
- Can arise because of lack of access to the right nutrients
- Or from body’s inability to process the right nutrients
- So “more food” is not necessarily the right or the relevant solution to malnutrition
- WFP is a food aid agency and our approach to nutrition must by mandate derive from our food aid capacity and related expertise



# Nutrition-smart food aid programming

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## Nutritional gearing in emergencies:

- Supplementary feeding – targeted or blanket to reduce severe acute malnutrition
- Therapeutic feeding – to prevent mortality, usually children
- Fortification
- It works – eg Darfur GAM 2004: 21.8% 2005 11.9%  
SAM 2004: 3.9% 2005 1.4%

## Nutritional gearing in non-emergencies using food:

- MCH, ART support, TB support
- Nutritional education



# Nutrition-smart food aid programming

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## Leveraging

Nutrition-related wins by supporting non-nutrition programs

- Food for education
- de-worming
- Supplementation
- food for work/training
- water and sanitation
- income generation



# Policy and procedures

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- Fund nutrition-specific interventions
- Rationalize limits on cash usage accompanying food
  - Fortification, health-related materials, education related materials,
- Rationalize de facto curbs on food usage to accompany non-food
  - Food is a health intervention
- Food, Ag, Health, Education, WES are all part of the same solution



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