Update on the Codex RUTF Guideline

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• *International standards for traded foods*
Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) Codex Guideline

Summary
RUTF has been scaled up since 2007 and the volumes of both production and coverage have increased dramatically over 10 years

- Lack of a suitable regulatory framework for these products makes it challenging to justify funding procurement through the national budgets.

- In 2015 the UNICEF proposal was accepted for the Codex Committee for Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCFSDU) to develop a commodity guideline for RUTF
The anticipated benefits of a CODEX guideline are:

- Provides the International regulatory framework for RUTF, by clarifying its regulatory status as a *food for special medical purposes*

- The Guideline will be an essential tool to assist in building regulatory capacity within national governments to establish their own regulatory framework for RUTF
The anticipated benefits of a CODEX guideline are:

• Provide an official reference for RUTF so the products are safe, efficacious and of good quality
• Provide an opportunity for advocacy for children’s rights to good nutrition and right to survival
• The process of the development provides an opportunity to clarify and improve the formulation e.g. contaminants, sugar level, proteins – which may allow for different formulations.
• Preamble of the guideline: this is where the background on SAM and also the proper use of RUTF will be described

• Vitamin and minerals: the forms of minerals should be as per the WHO Management of severe malnutrition: A manual for physicians and other senior health workers (1999), Appendix 4

• **Recommended mineral forms**: Potassium chloride, tripotassium phosphate, magnesium chloride, zinc acetate, copper sulphate, sodium selenite, potassium iodide
2018 (Q-4)

• Contaminants: risk assessment including all possible ingredients in RUTF (cereals, legumes)

• Proteins: an expert meeting has been coordinated by FAO to provide a recommended Protein digestibility-corrected amino acid score (PDCAAS) for RUTF. Results of this meeting are being finalized.