Tufts University Food Aid Quality Review Phase III (FAQR)

Position Title: FAQR Qualitative Data Analysis Interns, Sierra Leone Treatment Study

Background:

The United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) awarded the Food Aid Quality Review Phase III contract to Tufts University’s Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy for the period covering February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2019 with two option years. The Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) seeks to provide USAID and its partners with actionable recommendations on ways to improve nutrition among vulnerable people for whom the direct distribution of food aid can make a significant impact. The first phases of FAQR involved reviews of nutrition science; FAQR Phase I recommendations were published in Improving The Nutritional Quality Of U.S. Food Aid: Recommendations For Changes To Products And Programs.

FAQR Phase III will conclude phase II activities, while also responding to additional (new) USAID/FFP priorities. FAQR Phase III will focus on generating links between research on food product formulation with recommendations on cost-effective programming and policy-level action among national and multilateral institutions engaged in food assistance. Tufts will work closely with several key domestic and international collaborators, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and with United Nations (UN) partners, all of whom are committed to strengthening the evidence base for use of specialized food products for targeted nutrition goals.

In 2017, FAQR started data collection for its field trial in Sierra Leone which was completed in December 2018. The main study purpose is to determine the relative effectiveness and cost effectiveness of four supplementary foods in the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children 6-59 months in normal programmatic settings and to identify influencing factors that may impact overall effectiveness of programs. The results from this Sierra Leone study will directly inform policy and programming decisions related to use of specialized nutritious food products for treatment of MAM.

More information about FAQR is available at: www.foodaidquality.org

Scope of Work:
The FAQR Qualitative Data Analysis interns will work closely with the FAQR Data Team to assist with data cleaning and analysis needs for the Sierra Leone study. Data assistance tasks include:

1. **SBCC Case Study/Report (1 intern)**

   Starting immediately, this intern will work closely with the Field Research Manager in Boston to develop a case study or a short report on best practices and lessons learned from the Sierra Leone Treatment study. Specifically, the intern will synthesize information received from the field, conduct literature reviews, and write up the key themes for into a form that is disseminatable to USAID and the broader international nutrition community.

   *Work hours per week can be determined with the intern based on his/her availability but is expected to average 10hrs/week.*

   **Responsibilities will include:**
   - Conduct a literature review of SBCC field methods and best practices
   - Review transcripts from field-based focus groups and preliminary consultant report
   - Enter transcripts into NVivo and analyze as necessary and per protocol
   - Check in with the Field Research Manager every week to discuss progress and questions
   - Assist in additional report or case study writing and framing

2. **Qualitative Data (1 Intern)**

   This intern will work with the FAQR Data Team (two Data Analysts and one Data Manager) and the Field Research Manager on analysis of qualitative data from the Sierra Leone field study. Focus group discussions were conducted among beneficiary mothers and lead mothers to gather contextual information to supplement the main findings of the study. The qualitative data will contribute to a better understanding of perceptions of the foods and the supplementary feeding program, feeding practices, knowledge relating to child health and malnutrition, use of the foods in the household, etc.

   *Work hours per week can be determined with the intern based on his/her availability later but is expected to average 10hrs/week.*

   **Responsibilities will include:**
   - Read through transcripts, identify recurrent themes
   - Import data into NVivo software for analysis
   - Lead the line-by-line analysis of text into common conceptual themes using NVivo
   - Participate in periodic group coding with the data team
   - Create conceptual maps of themes
• Assist in the write-up or presentation of findings as needed

Ideal Qualifications Include:
• Current Graduate students only
• Previous experience with, or currently enrolled in a course on analyzing qualitative data
• Experience with NVivo or similar software (or currently in a course using NVivo)
• This is a paid position: rate is dependent on candidate’s qualifications and experience

Please submit CVs/Resumes to
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