



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID ROCHKIND, USAID

RANFOSE FINAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

HAITI EVALUATION AND SURVEY SERVICES PLUS (ESS+)

December 2023

Task Order #72052122F00001

Under EVAL-ME II IDIQ Contract #7200AA20D00026

This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of International Business Initiatives, Corp. (IBI) and Social Impact, Inc. (SI) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

RANFOSE FINAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

Haiti Evaluation and Survey Services Plus (ESS+)

December 2023

Submitted to: USAID/Haiti

Task Order #72052122F00001

Under EVAL-ME II IDIQ Contract #7200AA20D00026

[REDACTED]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	ii
Acronyms	iii
Executive Summary	iv
Background	iv
Evaluation Purpose and Evaluation Questions.....	iv
Evaluation Design, Methods, and Limitations.....	iv
Findings and Conclusions	v
Recommendations	vii
Introduction	1
Evaluation Purpose and Questions	2
Evaluation Purpose	2
Evaluation Questions	2
Evaluation Methods and Limitations	4
Findings and Conclusions.....	6
EQ 1. Considering the activity’s theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age and children under five?	6
EQ 2. To what extent has the activity’s stakeholder engagement and involvement been effective in accomplishing the rollout of large-scale food fortification (LSFF)?	12
EQ 3. To what extent has the activity’s implementation strategy been effective in strengthening the fortified foods supply chain?.....	16
EQ 4. What has the project done to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification?	18
EQ 5. How has RANFOSE evolved and adapted to the political, security, and economic challenges they encountered?.....	21
Recommendations	22
Continue LSFF Support in Haiti	22
Maintain the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG).....	22
Advocacy at the Highest Political Level	22
Premix Availability and Affordability of Fortification	22
Strengthen Laboratory Facilities	23
Couple Inspections for Enforcements.....	23
Social Audits: An Alternative for Monitoring Compliance of Fortified Foods	24
Awareness-Raising as the Key to Consumption	24
Annexes.....	25
Annex I: Evaluation Timeline	25
Annex II: Evaluation Scope of Work	26
Annex III: Evaluation Design & Inception Report.....	40
Annex IV: Data Collection Tools.....	68
Annex V: Sources of Information	119
Annex VI: Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations (FCR) Matrix	122
Annex VII: Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest.....	128
Annex VIII: Evaluation Team Members.....	134
Annex IX: RANFOSE Product mapping outputs.....	136
Annex X: Summary of production data (RANFOSE partners and non-partners).....	139
Annex XI: Technical Specifications Published.....	140
Annex XII. Assessment on the laboratory capabilities to analyze fortified foods.	142

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Planned vs Realized KIIs, FGDs, and RIs	5
--	---

ACRONYMS

BHN	Haitian Standards Bureau
COA	Certificate of Analysis
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CU5	Children Under Five
DCQPC	Direction for Quality Control and Consumer Protection
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
EQ	Evaluation Question
ET	Evaluation Team
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
FFWG	Food Fortification Working Group
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GoH	Government of Haiti
HP	Health Practitioner
IO	International Organization
KII	Key Informant Interview
LSFF	Large-Scale Food Fortification
MCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric Ton
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PaP	Port-au-Prince
PNCS	Programme National de Cantines Scolaires
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
RANFOSE	<i>Ranfose Abitid Nitrisyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé</i>
RI	Rapid Interview
SI	Social Impact
SOW	Scope of Work
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WFP	World Food Programme
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age
WTO	World Trade Organization
Yr	Year

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched *Ranfose Abitid Nitasyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé* (RANFOSE)—a food fortification project—to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Partner of the Americas implemented the project and worked with importers, distributors, and local food producers to fortify wheat flour with iron, folic acid, and other vitamins, as well as vegetable oils with vitamin A and salt with iodine. In 2021, the project received an initial two-year extension until June 2023 and a subsequent extension until January 2024 to allow planned activities to be implemented with the remaining funds.

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess progress to date and provide actionable recommendations to inform activity improvements or new approaches and opportunities. USAID, the primary user of this evaluation, may use the results to adjust and adapt its strategy in the Nutrition and Food Fortification program in Haiti. Secondary users include Implementing Partners, the Government of Haiti (GoH), local stakeholders from the private sector, civil society organizations, universities, and international organizations (IOs) in the country. This evaluation responds to the Evaluation Questions (EQ) drafted by USAID in the Scope of Work (SOW) (Annex II), namely:

- EQ1. Considering the activity's theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5)?
- EQ2. To what extent has the activity's stakeholder engagement and involvement been effective in accomplishing the rollout of large-scale food fortification (LSFF)?
- EQ3. To what extent has the activity's implementation strategy been effective in strengthening the fortified foods supply chain?
- EQ4. What has the project done to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification?
- EQ5. How has RANFOSE evolved and adapted to the political, security, and economic challenges it encountered?

EVALUATION DESIGN, METHODS, AND LIMITATIONS

Following a desk review of available literature, the evaluation used several qualitative methods to capture different perspectives: key informant interviews (KIs) with stakeholders, participation in the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG), focus group discussions (FGDs) or individual interviews with health practitioners (HPs), and rapid interviews (RIs) with shopkeepers, customers, and WRA. Some data collected by the evaluation were triangulated against secondary quantitative data from project monitoring data or other existing sources.

Data collection lasted five weeks (May 30, 2023, to June 30, 2023) instead of three as planned. FGDs and RIs were carried out in three key departments that RANFOSE facilitated training of trainers (ToT) with HPs, i.e., Port-au-Prince (PaP) and Petion-Ville in the Ouest department, Cap-Haitien in the Nord department, and Jeremie in the Grande Anse department.

All KIs were conducted remotely, reaching 55 percent of planned KIs, therefore limiting the number of perspectives obtained. Only reaching this percentage of planned KIs possibly created some bias in the results if those that refused or were unavailable did so because they held a less favorable view of the project or had nothing to say about the project. It should be noted that a separate USAID market analysis of fortified foods comprised conducting interviews with the same

stakeholders at the same time as the evaluation; this may have led to respondent fatigue and may explain the low response rate among KIs.

Three FGDs were held instead of five, and six individual interviews were conducted in lieu of an FGD, meaning 78 percent of planned HP were reached. Again, but to a lesser extent, only reaching this percentage of planned HP limited the range of perspectives obtained, especially in Grand Anse Department, where no HPs were reached. The response rate for RIs was 87 percent. The evaluation faced several challenges, including communication problems, the unavailability of key informants, an earthquake in Jeremie, and floods across the country, which delayed data collection.

A thematic analysis of the data was carried out using Dedoose software. While RIs provided a snapshot of population awareness of fortified foods, it did not allow any statistically significant inferences to be made about the population, which would have required a population-based survey applied to a representative sample.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Below, the evaluation presents high-level findings and associated conclusions for each EQ. The details of the evaluation findings can be found in the body of the report under the findings section. It is important to contextualize these findings as food fortification is not yet mandatory in Haiti. While the Food Fortification Law was passed in 2017, no application texts (regulations)—which form the basis for the enforcement and monitoring of food fortification—have been approved yet.

EQ1. Availability. While it is beyond the scope of this evaluation to measure the market share of fortified foods or the adequacy of fortification levels, which are best measured through market analysis, this evaluation found that RANFOSE has increased the availability of fortified wheat flour and oil and contributed to improving the quality of nationally iodized salt and fortified wheat flour on the Haitian market. According to KIs with key actors in fortification in Haiti, this increase has been influenced by the project's engagement with, as well as raising awareness to and providing technical support to the private sector, together with the latter's commitment to fortify or improve their fortification processes, if they were fortifying already. However, the evaluation found that fortified foods are not consistently available in all shops and markets, remote areas, or across all departments, which is often where populations need them the most. It is not clear in what way the project has strengthened the availability of fortified foods for women of reproductive ages and children under five specifically.

Awareness-raising and training events targeted different stakeholders and population groups through a variety of mass media campaigns, including WRA and CU5, through HPs and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working specifically with these target groups. According to RIs conducted, awareness exists of fortified foods and their benefits. However, RIs provided only a snapshot of the level of awareness in specific areas, whereas a national representative survey would more effectively measure population awareness and consumption behaviors, therefore allowing better targeting of awareness-raising activities (format, locations, and population groups). According to FGDs and RIs, the added cost of fortified foods is a barrier to consumption, in addition to limited availability, mainly due to distribution problems and the internal situation in Haiti.

EQ2. Stakeholder Engagement. Both private and public sectors have contributed to advancing large-scale food fortification through their engagement with the project. The MoH, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) were all listed in the Food Fortification Law as key players in its implementation. All have actively advocated for the approval of the application texts. The MoH collaborated with RANFOSE on the advocacy and behavior change strategy; the MCI, through the Haitian Standards Bureau (BHN), was key to reviewing the

fortification standards with the project; and the national laboratory under the MoA was involved from the start but has been out of operation since 2021.

The project further engaged stakeholders from industries, civil society organizations, universities, and international and non-governmental organizations. It carried out advocacy and capacity-building initiatives with the public and private sectors, as well as civil society actors. These activities have maintained motivation levels and strengthened collaborations within and between the private and public sectors to improve the legal environment. According to most stakeholders interviewed, the lack of approved regulations is a major barrier to private sector engagement in fortification, which subsequently limits the effective rollout of LSFF.

RANFOSE has influenced the legislative environment in the country by collaboratively reviewing and supporting the approval standards provided by WFP for fortified foods, which are voluntary, as well as the development of the application texts and continued advocacy for their approval to make fortification mandatory. The three key ministries identified by the Food Fortification Law (MoH, MCI and MoA) have independently and collaboratively advocated for its approvals, as has USAID. The lack of approval to date is out of RANFOSE's control, but advocacy must persist if the application texts are to be approved and guarantee mandatory food fortification. Only then will the country have the legal framework to implement monitoring and enforcement.

In the absence of approved regulations for fortification, which form the basis for enforcement, alternative solutions have not been found; there is no enforcement of food fortification to date despite the Food Fortification Law being approved in 2017. Since the MoH has been doing food safety inspections with salt producers, the food safety inspections could be extended to food fortification inspections, thereby strengthening enforcement.

The inaccessibility of the national laboratory, in addition to the lack of regulations, hinders the GoH's ability to monitor fortified foods. The equipment donated by the project to the laboratory could not be installed and remains unutilized. Industries received testing kits from RANFOSE and are reportedly using these to monitor fortification levels. Until the national laboratory is operational again, other laboratories could have been strengthened to conduct sample testing to monitor quality control (QC) of fortified foods.

EQ3. Supply Chains. Industries identified several factors that negatively impact their production and the supply chain, such as a) the unfair competition resulting from those factories not fortifying, who are able to make higher profits than those fortifying given the added cost of fortification; b) smuggled products flooding the market; c) the exorbitant customs tariffs which apply to premix and fortification equipment; and d) poor quality and limited raw material availability. Those who are fortifying do so voluntarily because they want to contribute to the population's health and because they can sustain the added cost of fortification.

All project partner importers and producers reported implementing Quality Assurance (QA) and QC procedures to control the production or importation of fortified foods, thanks to RANFOSE's training and technical assistance. Incentives for industries are needed to ensure that the cost of fortification does not render fortified products too costly to produce and, therefore, unaffordable for the population, especially for vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas.

EQ4. Sustainability. The sustainability of LSFF in Haiti cannot be guaranteed until the application texts are approved, resulting in mandatory fortification and enforcement. Some strong foundations for the implementation of LSFF have been laid by RANFOSE through the creation of multi-stakeholder networks, which are said to be beneficial to all stakeholders involved in the FFWG. However, LSFF takes time and requires persistence, especially in a challenging socio-political context

such as Haiti. Many key informants report that financial and technical support from IOs to the GoH to consolidate LSFF should continue and thereby build on the foundations that have been laid.

EQ5. RANFOSE Adaptability. The operating environment in Haiti entails a great number of significant challenges: the deteriorating national infrastructure, widespread and severe insecurity, national hyperinflation, and the COVID-19 pandemic are major factors that have limited the ability of RANFOSE to deliver a full rollout of LSFF. To overcome the challenges, RANFOSE developed and adopted alternative strategies to continue advocacy, awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, and capacity development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Priority. USAID should continue supporting LSFF in Haiti to capitalize on the achievements made by RANFOSE and to contribute to improving the nutritional intake of a population that greatly needs it.

Food Fortification Working Group. The FFWG should be structured through a steering committee where sensitive matters can be discussed and solutions can be proposed. Include an advisory committee.

Advocacy. The FFWG should advocate at the Inter-Ministerial Human Rights Committee, which is presided over by the Prime Minister, for the approval of the application texts (regulations), application of enforcement by GOH, and any other important matters related to fortified food that arise in the future.

Premix and Affordability of Fortification. The FFWG should advocate to the GoH to implement measures to facilitate imports of premix, such as tax exemptions for purchases of premix, equipment (feeders and reagents), and supplies for i-checks used in QA/QC, and to provide technical assistance to develop the technical criteria needed to implement these measures.

Strengthen Industry Production Process. USAID should strengthen the overall capacities of factories in food safety and food fortification so that they can comply with potential client requirements, such as organizations distributing fortified foods through government or other food aid programs.

Food Fortification Cost Analysis. USAID should carry out a cost analysis of fortification in Haiti and use that information as an advocacy tool for the food industry and GoH, showing that food fortification's impact on price is not as high as previously thought and that the industry can still have revenue.

Updating the Application Texts. Based on the standards approved by BHN, the FFWG should review the application texts to ensure that there are no contradictions between them and address any issues identified before they are approved. E.g.: consider the addition of vitamin B12 to wheat flour.

QC/QA Activities. While it is still ongoing, RANFOSE should analyze the data from industry reports and present a report periodically to the FFWG to discuss results and implement actions to improve the process. Consider praising the actions of those factories complying with the Food Fortification Law.

Laboratory Facilities. USAID should map laboratories around the country and assess their capacity to find an alternative laboratory to provide testing services

Enforcement. Food fortification inspections should be coupled with other inspections carried out by the MoH, MCI, and MoA to optimize available resources. While there is improvement in

laboratory capabilities, inspections should focus on verifying the QA/QC practices of the factories, with an equivalent approach for imported foods.

“Social Audits.” While enforcement is being established in the country, USAID could support consumer associations or consumer organizations to carry out “social audits”: purchasing fortified food samples at retail stores around the country and sending them to a laboratory to determine compliance.

Awareness-Raising Activities. USAID should continue raising awareness of fortified foods, especially in remote and hard-to-reach areas where the population is most vulnerable to malnutrition. Awareness raising must be coupled with the availability of fortified foods.

INTRODUCTION

In 2017, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched *Ranfose Abitid Nitrisyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé* (RANFOSE)—a food fortification project—to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Partner of the Americas implemented the project and worked with importers, distributors, and local food producers to fortify wheat flour with iron, folic acid and other vitamins, as well as vegetable oils with vitamin A and salt with iodine.

RANFOSE also supported the implementation of food fortification legislation by providing technical assistance to the Government of Haiti (GoH) to create a legislative and regulatory environment supporting the production and importation of fortified foods. In 2021, the project received a two-year extension to January 2024.

The project aimed to contribute to long-term health and economic benefits for the Haitian people, including the decreased prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies and related micronutrient deficiency disorders (e.g., anemia), increased nutritional resilience against future food security shocks, decreased morbidity and mortality via improved disease immunity, and increased economic productivity and growth. In addition, the project was to ensure that strong channels of communication and participation among the public sector, private sector, and civil society remain open in support of the nutrition strategy and its operationalization. Lastly, RANFOSE aimed to strengthen the national strategy for fortification and improve quality control (QC) for locally sourced or imported fortified food products.

RANFOSE aligned with both a) the *Plan Stratégique de Nutrition 2013-2018* of the GoH's MoH, which focuses on the prevention of malnutrition, and b) USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2014–2025), which seeks to decrease chronic malnutrition through the increased availability of and access to high-quality nutrition-specific services and commodities, increased political will and resources for nutrition programs, and strengthened engagement with the private sector to improve nutrition.

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND QUESTIONS

EVALUATION PURPOSE

The main purpose of this evaluation is to assess progress to date and provide actionable recommendations to inform activity improvements or new approaches and opportunities. As the primary user of this evaluation, USAID may use the results to adjust and adapt its implementation strategy in Nutrition and Food Fortification in Haiti. Secondary users include the Implementing Partners, GoH, MoH, and local stakeholders such as producers, importers, sellers in markets, consumers, as well as local universities, and major international organizations (IOs), such as UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and Iodine Global Network.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

This performance evaluation aims to answer the evaluation questions (EQs) drafted by USAID (see Annex II). For each EQ, USAID has requested that the Evaluation Team (ET) consider the project performance in relation to specific aspects. These are as follows:

EQ1. Considering the activity's theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5)?

- a. Identify specific areas in which RANFOSE's input has improved the availability of fortified foods, particularly for WRA and CU5.
- b. Consider key factors that facilitate or inhibit the availability of fortified foods, particularly among WRA and CU5.
- c. Highlight the relevancy and effect of the advocacy campaigns with consumers and the factors affecting consumers' awareness and consumption of fortified foods.

EQ2. To what extent has the activity's stakeholder engagement and involvement been effective in accomplishing the rollout of large-scale food fortification?

- a. Identify where RANFOSE's engagement with leadership in different areas (e.g., private sector; GoH) has proven to be instrumental in improving availability.
- b. Assess the project's accomplishments and influence on the local Food Fortification Alliance, the national standards, and legislative environment about fortified foods. For instance, consider the performance of the GoH in the areas of: 1) regulation; 2) enforcement (at factories, importation sites, and markets); and 3) the monitoring of fortified samples.
- c. Determine what—if anything—were the limiting factors or what RANFOSE could have done better to support the development and implementation of the national standards.

EQ3. To what extent has the activity's implementation strategy been effective in strengthening the fortified foods supply chain?

- a. Consider what factors and activities affected food fortification production and value/supply chain stakeholders (production centers, importers, distributors, markets and retailers, regulatory agencies, etc.).
- b. Capture business performance and practices as well as price and perceived affordability of fortified wheat flour and edible oil/ghee, how the project influences the premix and micro feeder market, and the technical challenges and lessons learned in strengthening the fortification compliance of the current food fortification programs (wheat flour, oil, and salt—including use of iodized salt in bouillon cubes).

EQ4. What has the project done to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification?

- a. Identify nutrition-related barriers and opportunities for sustainability.
- b. Consider synergy with other USAID projects, factors affecting public and private sector engagement, the regulatory and socio-political environment, and other factors that are likely to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification. Consider if there were opportunities and stakeholders that RANFOSE had hoped to use that did not materialize, and document why they were not possible.
- c. Explore emerging opportunities and alternative options for monitoring compliance of food fortification beyond reliance on the GoH.

EQ5. How has RANFOSE evolved and adapted to the political, security, and economic challenges it encountered?

- a. Explore how the environment has affected the project's ability to deliver from when it was awarded to what it is doing now. Document the lessons learned to avoid reinventing the wheel in the future.

EVALUATION METHODS AND LIMITATIONS

The evaluation adopts Social Impact's (SI) Evaluation, Quality, Understanding and Impact (EQUI) approach, ensuring quality checks are applied at each stage of the evaluation process. Based on the nature of the evaluation objectives and following the desk review, the ET chose a qualitative approach to data collection, to be triangulated against secondary data from project monitoring data or other existing sources, where possible. Please refer to Annex I for the evaluation timeline, Annex III for the Evaluation Design and Inception Report—including full details of the evaluation design and ethical clearances obtained—and Annex IV for the full list of data collection tools used.

Methods. The ET used various methods to capture different perspectives: Key Informant Interviews (KIs) with stakeholders, Food Group Discussions (FGDs) or individual interviews when FGDs were not possible with Health Practitioners (HPs), Rapid Interviews (RIs) with shop owners and managers, customers and WRA, as well as an observation of and participation in a Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG) meeting—instead of holding a planned FGD with FFWG members. The sampling was purposeful, with locations selected based on the departments in which the project facilitated the training of trainers (ToT) to HPs to disseminate the benefits of fortified foods among their colleagues and the wider population. The three selected departments were the Ouest (Port-au-Prince [PaP] and Petion-Ville), Nord (Cap-Haitien) and Grande Anse (Jeremie) departments.

Data Collection. █████, an ESS+ subcontractor, and the ET collectively carried out data collection. █████ organized a five-day training for enumerators and the supervisor (May 24 to 29, 2023), including a day of piloting, and carried out field visits for RIs and FGDs, which started immediately after the training and continued for two weeks. █████ then began outreach and scheduling for KIs. Data collection ended on June 30, 2023, having lasted five weeks instead of three as planned.

█████ teams conducted FGDs and individual interviews and RIs in person in the three departments and carried out both remote and face-to-face KIs. In Grand Anse, the few HPs that were reachable (six) were not available to attend an FGD; therefore, remote individual interviews were carried out with those who were available. All FGDs and RIs were carried out face-to-face either in health centers (FGD and RIs with WRA) or in shops (RIs with shopkeepers and customers), except one FGD in the Ouest, which took place in a private space as the sampled health center did not authorize the evaluation to conduct activities on the premises. In the Nord, HPs were either not reachable or unwilling to participate, meaning no HP was interviewed in the Nord.

The ET carried out remote KIs, with the assistance of two note-takers from ESS+ and performed data quality checks on the data collected by █████. The ET checked both the original transcripts (French or Kreyòl) and the English translated versions provided by █████, in addition to translating their own KI transcripts.

Data Analysis. A thematic analysis of the data was done in Dedoose software, using a hybrid approach of both deductive and inductive methods for coding the data. Before analysis, a codebook was prepared based on the EQs. During analysis, new codes were generated as required. The coded data was extracted from Dedoose and analyzed to allow themes and sub-themes pertinent to each EQ to emerge. Interactions between themes and sub-themes were analyzed to produce findings. Several analytical working sessions were held by the ET to triangulate the findings, draw conclusions, and produce recommendations. Data was disaggregated by department and respondent type wherever it was helpful to do so.

Limitations. The political insecurity in Haiti limited the team's mobility and geographic reach during data collection. Moreover, during the initial weeks of data collection, an earthquake in Jeremie and severe floods in Haiti (start of June) delayed teams from collecting RI and FGD data, given health

centers were overwhelmed with casualties. [REDACTED] identified an alternative health center to reach WRA in Jeremie. However, no alternative was found in Petion-Ville (Ouest) to replace the sampled health center that refused to participate due to a lack of awareness of RANFOSE's activities.

Table 1: Planned vs Realized KIIs, FGDs, and RIs

Method	Number of Planned Interviews	Number of Realized Interviews	Percentage of Realized Interviews	Number of Missing Interviews
KIIs	40	22	55%	18
<i>Industries-RANFOSE partners</i>	7	6	86%	1
<i>industries-not RANFOSE partners</i>	4	1	25%	3
<i>GoH</i>	7	5	71%	2
<i>Int. Organizations</i>	11	7	64%	4
<i>CSOs</i>	3	3	100%	0
FGDs	6	4	67%	2
<i>HP</i>	50	33	78%	11
<i>Individual int.</i>	0	6	78%	11
<i>FFWG</i>	1	1	100%	0
RIs	90	78	87%	12
<i>Customers</i>	30	30	100%	0
<i>Shopkeepers</i>	10	8	80%	2
<i>WRA with CUS</i>	50	40	80%	10

The evaluation also experienced challenges with reaching key informants, including unresponsive emails, incorrect contact details, and refusals to participate (often because they did not feel knowledgeable enough about the project). Key informants' limited availability created further delays. To address these challenges, the ET sought alternative communication channels or alternative stakeholders and explored strategies to engage informants despite their availability constraints. Because of these challenges, only 55 percent of the sampled key informants were interviewed. See Table 1 for planned versus realized data collection activities.

While RIs provided a snapshot of the population's awareness and consumption of fortified foods, it did not allow any statistically significant inferences to be made at the population level. Furthermore, the evaluation could not capture all perspectives, experiences, and insights related to food fortification, which could lead to missed opportunities for further recommendations.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

EQ 1. CONSIDERING THE ACTIVITY'S THEORY OF CHANGE, TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE PROJECT BEEN EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATELY FORTIFIED FOODS THAT ARE PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE?

PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS IN IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF FORTIFIED FOODS

The evaluation finds that RANFOSE has been effective in improving the availability of fortified foods in Haiti. One of the first initiatives undertaken by the project was the mapping of fortified products and associated stakeholders in 2018 and again in 2022; this initiative enabled the identification of a) industries already engaged in food fortification; b) the fortified products available on the market; and c) potential industries to approach to join food fortification efforts (see Annex IX for the RANFOSE mapping outputs). The project advocated the importance of food fortification to these industries and obtained the commitment of some industries that were already fortifying to strengthen their fortification practices (wheat flour [two] and salt [one]) as well as recruiting new industries and importers to begin fortifying (e.g., oil [two], importer [one] and wheat flour [one]).

Later in 2018, the project supported partner industries with site visits and observations of the factories' fortification capacities to provide technical recommendations for reaching adequate fortification levels. While providing this technical support to industries, the project collaboratively reviewed the fortification standards (see Annex XI for the final version of the technical specifications) with the Haitian Standards Bureau (BHN) and industries to ensure the adequacy of fortification. Producers also received rapid test kits to verify the adequacy of vitamin A levels in oil and iron levels in wheat flour.

AVAILABILITY OF FORTIFIED WHEAT FLOUR, OIL, AND SALT

It is beyond the scope of this evaluation to assess the availability of fortified foods on the market. However, according to the data collected by this evaluation, by 2020, the project had partnered with three wheat flour mills, three oil bottlers, and one salt producer to fortify to recommended levels.

Wheat Flour

One of the three wheat mill partners unfortunately ceased operations following a violent attack in October 2022, consequently reducing the availability of fortified wheat flour on the market. According to secondary data, there is a wheat mill that recently began fortifying and produces approximately 30,000 metric tons per year (MT/Yr). However, the evaluation has no information on the specifications used.

Collectively, the two remaining wheat mills that partnered with RANFOSE produce 95,000 MT/Yr of fortified wheat flour (equivalent to 129,960 MT/Yr of wheat).¹ The quantity of fortified wheat flour produced by these two factories alone represents nearly one-third of the total wheat flour and wheat products obtained from imported wheat grain into Haiti (405,000 MT/Yr).^{2,3} Wheat flour and wheat products (including pasta and other wheat products) are imported from the Dominican Republic and other countries (Turkey, Peru, Egypt, Argentina, European Union).⁴ It is

¹ Considering wheat grain imports were around 210,000MT, the flour yield from wheat grain being about 70-75%, therefore, that amount of wheat would yield 152,250 MT of wheat flour.

² USDA & GAIN "Grain And Feed Annual", Haiti 2022, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/haiti-grain-and-feed-annual-4>

³ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Food Balance Sheets (2010-). <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS/report>

⁴ USDA & GAIN "Grain And Feed Annual", Haiti 2022, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/haiti-grain-and-feed-annual-4>

estimated that illegal imports of wheat flour and wheat products comprise between 100,000 to 120,000 MT/Yr.⁵

Oil

Haiti imports 100 percent of the vegetable oil on the market. Palm is the most widely consumed oil (about 80 percent) followed by soybean oil (13 percent).⁶ It is mainly imported from Indonesia and Malaysia, with some from the Dominican Republic.⁷ There was no locally fortified palm oil before RANFOSE began; the project approached and obtained the engagement of two oil bottlers to start fortifying the oil they bottle and one importer to import fortified oil. It is not clear what share of the market is held by illegally imported oil, which reportedly remains the biggest competitor to fortified oil. Thanks to the increased availability of fortified oil on the Haitian market, WFP now reports being able to source fortified oil and wheat flour locally for their school feeding programs, which they couldn't before RANFOSE.

Salt

The only salt producer to iodize salt in the country has a market share of 3 to 5 percent, produces 2,500 MT/Yr of salt, and supplies both industries and the retail market. RANFOSE worked with this producer to improve the iodization process, thereby improving the adequacy of fortified salt for the Haitian market. Despite this low reported market share, according to the population and HPs interviewed, salt is the most readily available fortified food, possibly resulting from the technical support brought by UNICEF to salt iodization over the years.

Based on documents reviewed, either from RANFOSE or international reports,^{2,8} as well as data collected by the evaluation, information about the coverage of fortified wheat flour, oil, and salt in the country is sometimes contradictory and is not based on actual data from sampling and chemical analysis of products. However, most respondents report that availability is restricted to select shops in urban areas, with limited or no availability in markets, rural areas, and departments with low accessibility.

Even though RANFOSE is a policy project and therefore not directly targeting specific areas or population groups, the ET found that the project has made concerted efforts to raise awareness among WRA and mothers of CU5 (vulnerable groups targeted through the Nutrition Strategic Plan for Haiti)⁹ on the benefits of fortified foods by training HPs and partnering with civil society organizations (CSO) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that work directly with these target groups.

AVAILABILITY OF OTHER FORTIFIED FOODS

Although the law on food fortification is limited to specific products, there are other fortified products on the market, such as butter, margarine, mamba, peanut butter, and cereals. However, it is not clear what specifications are being used in these products. Moreover, according to both public and private sector actors, the widespread benefits of fortification could be strengthened by fortifying other products on the market, such as rice, pasta, and maize, which are widely consumed by the Haitian population.

⁵ USDA & GAIN "Grain And Feed Annual", Haiti 2023, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/haiti-grain-and-feed-annual-4>

⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Food Balance Sheets (2010-). <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS/report>

⁷ Malaysian Palm Oil Council. <https://mpoc.org.my/palm-oil-market-chain-in-haiti/>

⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Food Balance Sheets (2010-). <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS/report>

⁹ Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population. Unité de Coordination de Programme National D'alimentation et de Nutrition UCPNANU. Plan Stratégique de Nutrition 2013-2018. 2013.

FACTORS THAT FACILITATE OR INHIBIT THE AVAILABILITY OF FORTIFIED FOODS

Among the key factors facilitating the availability of food fortification in Haiti are the motivation of industries to fortify foods and the demand for these products, with the latter increasing as awareness of the benefits of fortified foods grows, according to a variety of respondents. However, these two aspects alone are stalled by difficulties associated with the availability of raw materials, the legislative and operational environment, economic instabilities, and product identification, all of which hamper the availability of fortified foods. KIIs collectively suggested the following key factors inhibit the availability of fortified foods.

“The micronutrients have to be cleared at exorbitant prices. They sometimes impose slips with false amounts on us and we cannot rectify it, we just have to give in. These factors push me to sell our products at a price that allows me to stay in the market and be able to order more products.” – KII Industry

“Sometimes we spend six months without reaching some areas because of insecurity.” – KII Industry

Raw Materials

The private sector has the will to fortify foods but is discouraged by the high customs tariffs that sometimes apply to premix imports into Haiti, which are not standardized. On the other hand, the Food Fortification Law states that the GoH will subsidize the premix,¹⁰ but this has not been implemented yet. Haiti does not produce wheat or oil but relies on imports to satisfy domestic demand¹¹ and, therefore, suffers the associated customs tariffs. With the additional cost of the premix and equipment related to fortification, which are also imported, production prices go up even further.

Legislative Environment

The evaluation finds that the lack of approved application texts is a key limitation to increasing the availability of fortified foods, as well as to ensuring the compliance of the ones already being fortified. It inhibits oil producers that are still not engaged from fortifying and discourages wheat flour producers from continuing to do so. Some industries refuse to fortify because of the absence of the application texts, while others refuse or are discouraged from continuing fortifying because there are non-compliant, sometimes illegal wheat flour and oil products entering Haiti that are more competitive. Controls and enforcement are lacking, making fortification unattractive to some industries.

Operating Environment

The operating environment is highly unstable, and the availability of fortified foods is highly volatile. Insecurity, bad roads, fuel scarcities, corruption, and COVID-19 hinder the production and distribution of fortified foods. At the production level, it creates irregularities in raw material supply, inhibiting the constant availability of fortified foods. At the distribution level, areas like Plateau Central and Bas Artibonite, where gangs operate, have difficulties receiving supplies. Some companies interviewed distribute fortified foods to St. Mark's via boats. This situation inhibits the availability of fortified foods for the population outside the metropolitan area or in remote areas.

¹⁰ Food Fortification Law. 2017. Le Moniteur. Journal Officiel de la Republique D'Haiti. 172 Année. Special No. 6

¹¹ USDA & GAIN “Grain and Feed Annual” Haiti 2022, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/haiti-grain-and-feed-annual-4>

"Tariffs reach 40–45 percent of Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIFs). In the end, it's the consumer who pays. Given living conditions, if this continues, I may stop fortifying." – FFWG

Economic Pressures

Food fortification incurs a cost that affects a) producers, who can't always afford the raw materials and equipment for fortification; b) importers, for whom customs tariffs are high; and c) consumers, who can't afford fortified foods, especially in a context of inflation.

Lack of Entry Barriers

According to KII respondents, smuggled imports (fortified and unfortified) compete with fortified foods as they are often cheaper but reportedly not adequately fortified or pose food safety issues. Smuggling cases are common in Bas Artibonite, Plateau centrale, Nord, and near the border. In the North, according to respondents, some smuggled oil is said to be made from recycled oil and not fortified, and some wheat flour is said to be expired, both of which come from the Dominican Republic. Unfortunately, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expects that in the short- and medium-term, illegal trade of wheat products across the Haiti–Dominican Republic border will continue.¹²

Identification

KII and FGD respondents agree that a logo is needed for consumers to identify fortified products, as stated in the 2017 Haiti Food Fortification Law. Currently, the population must read labels—requiring literacy—or recognize the fortified brands. While most stakeholders believe the logo to be a very good initiative as it will allow easy identification of fortified foods and serve as a quality certification, some producers worry about the added cost of adding a label to their packaging. To date, a logo has been developed and agreed collaboratively with GoH and industries and is with the MoH, waiting for the approval of the application texts.

RELEVANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

The project developed an advocacy strategy and behavior change activities in collaboration with the MoH's National Nutrition Program. However, campaign effectiveness would be best measured through a representative survey at the population level.

Awareness-raising activities included:

- Fairs and events to celebrate World Health Day, Vitamin A Day, Agriculture and Labor Day Fair, and others.
- Training and events to promote fortified foods to industries, universities, schools (via the Programme National de Cantines Scolaires [PNCS]), and local authorities.
- Training on iodized salt to over 400 street vendors to promote iodized salt use in cooking.
- ToT to over 200 HPs (nurses and health agents) with USAID Health program.
- Communication materials developed collaboratively with the Directorate of Health Promotion and Environmental Protection.
- Hiring of a Communication firm to manage the communication campaign.
- The launching of mass media campaigns with local and national coverage through television adverts and radio spots at peak viewing times, posters and brochures, Facebook, Instagram, and online platforms that disseminate the benefits of fortified foods for pregnant and lactating women, children, and youth.
- Interviews with project representatives on local PaP radio and television to talk about the benefits of fortified foods.
- The publishing of various press and academic articles on fortified foods.

¹² USDA & GAIN "Grain and Feed Annual" Haiti 2022, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/haiti-grain-and-feed-annual-4>

- The launch of a radio jingle contest with the National Nutrition Program with sponsorship from three industry partners.

While the project aimed to equip the HPs to replicate the training, they were not provided with sufficient knowledge, tools, resources, or the authorizations required to do so, thereby reducing their effectiveness. HPs say that training sessions should have lasted longer and that they should have been equipped with material and financial support to facilitate further dissemination. Moreover, they were not provided with any instruction or authorization from their internal structures to replicate the training, suggesting that the project did not coordinate the activity with the health structures. All HPs interviewed report promoting fortified foods to colleagues and community members, including WRA, in the scope of their work but only a few replicated the training to colleagues, as planned by the project.

In addition to RANFOSE's awareness-raising activities, the promotion of fortified foods is being done by the MoH and health centers, UNICEF, NGOs, and mothers clubs led by HPs that reach WRA and women with CU5. RANFOSE engaged with many of these organizations, many of whom participated in the FFWG.

RI respondents report having heard about fortified foods from a variety of sources: schools, hospitals, radio (most common) and television, churches, posters, women's groups, friends, and word of mouth (less commonly reported). RANFOSE targeted schools through its collaboration with the National School Feeding Program (PNCS). According to respondents, RANFOSE was the only project to launch a radio and TV campaign on fortified foods. Radio is reportedly more effective than television. Fairs and promotion events are considered highly effective and have led to increased sales, according to industries. The Facebook and Instagram pages, which have over 5,000 followers, received low reactions to posts. KII respondents report that Facebook is a good medium for reaching young people and urban populations, although there is no evidence to suggest that RANFOSE reached either of these population groups specifically.

Campaigns are not likely to have reached rural and remote areas, according to respondents, and some HPs had concerns about the format of the media campaign, saying the television and radio campaigns were too short, used the wrong platforms, or were not "catchy" enough. Only a few industries reported an increase in sales but did not quantify the increase.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT CONSUMER AWARENESS AND CONSUMPTION OF FORTIFIED FOODS

Awareness

RIs with customers, shopkeepers, and WRA show that awareness levels are higher in Grand Anse and higher among WRA—who seek care in hospital during pregnancy—except in Ouest where awareness levels are generally low across all the sampled population. Those who report knowing about fortified foods could also list their benefits, which confirms their knowledge goes beyond only having heard the term and suggests there is awareness of the benefits of fortified foods. Given that only RANFOSE promoted fortified foods through radios and schools, it appears awareness raising has been effective through these media, whereas awareness obtained from hospitals could have resulted from other interventions rather than RANFOSE's ToT activity.

"RANFOSE has contributed, educated and trained local consumers and manufacturers. But it's unfinished business." – KII Industry

Most RI respondents said they have no concerns about fortified foods. Among those who did express a concern, the main issues were cost, the fact that the oil curdles, that iodized salt tastes too salty, and that the foods might lose their beneficial properties if not stored properly. Such

concerns can mostly be overcome through better information dissemination on specific issues. Key informants emphasize the need for increased awareness raising at the community level to drive demand and, therefore, production.

Consumption

There are no reliable figures on fortified food consumption levels in the population. One key factor that prevents the population from consuming fortified foods is a lack of awareness. According to FGD and KII respondents, given that the Haitian markets are filled with smuggled or illegal products (fortified and unfortified), awareness becomes key to influencing the population to choose fortified products over unfortified ones. When awareness exists, the biggest hurdle to consumption is cost, followed by irregular supply and scarce availability of fortified foods on the market, especially in rural areas.

According to KII and FGD respondents, the availability and consumption of smuggled products are still common, primarily because of their cheaper price, regardless of fortification levels and quality (e.g., recycled oil or expired wheat flour). The existence of cheaper products on the market is a barrier to the consumption of fortified foods. Salt seems to be the most cited fortified food purchased by respondents in the population, either locally produced fortified salt or imported fortified salt, although many also listed buying wheat flour and oil.

CONCLUSION

Thanks to the advocacy and the technical support provided, and despite challenges such as the lack of raw materials, the legislative and operational environment, and economic instability, RANFOSE has improved the availability of fortified wheat flour and oil nationally by increasing the number of producers and importers fortifying in the country and by building capacities to fortify adequately. Although fortified salt was already on the market before RANFOSE, the project improved the adequacy of fortified salt through technical support to the only salt factory fortifying but did not extend salt iodization to other factories. Given the additional effort and cost of fortifying for the private sector, obtaining the commitment of industries to fortify despite the lack of regulations is a significant achievement in improving the availability of fortified foods.

Despite clear improvements in the availability of fortified foods, in the absence of a national market analysis, the ET could not provide a reliable estimate of the availability or adequacy of fortified products in the Haitian market. Efforts remain to be made to improve the availability, and therefore consumption, of fortified foods nationally, especially in markets, in rural areas, and in departments with low availability, particularly given that these are areas that comprise high proportions of vulnerable populations who are most in need of the health benefits brought by fortified foods.

The evaluation finds that the ToT of HPs was a good strategy for raising awareness in the population, especially in WRA and mothers of CU5, but it was not sufficiently supported to reach its intended potential. Better collaboration with health structures and more support and follow-up from RANFOSE would have undoubtedly increased ToT effectiveness significantly. It is not clear what the mass media campaign's overall reach was, but from the small and unrepresentative RI sample, radio appears to be the most effective media, and hospitals and schools the most effective locations. Furthermore, it is said by diverse KII and FGD respondents that a logo would not only ease product identification for consumers but would also represent a quality seal for producers that are fortifying adequately. A logo could, therefore, promote consumption for the population that will a) easily find the product and b) have confidence in its quality.

EQ 2. TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE ACTIVITY'S STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT BEEN EFFECTIVE IN ACCOMPLISHING THE ROLLOUT OF LARGE-SCALE FOOD FORTIFICATION (LSFF)?

EFFECTIVENESS OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR ACCOMPLISHING LSFF

Public Sector

According to KII's from the GoH and IOs, stakeholder engagement activities with the government have been fundamental to creating partnerships with key GoH representatives from different ministries (MoH, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry [MCI], the Ministry of Agriculture [MoA], and the Ministry of Education) involved in LSFF. Together with BHN and other stakeholders, the project developed standards for fortification and supported BHN's training and product certifications for fortifying industries. In collaboration with the PNCS of the Ministry of Education, the project rolled out training in 20 schools for children, parents, teachers, and cooks. RIs respondents cited schools as one of the most common sources of knowledge about fortified foods. Collaboratively with the MoH's National Nutrition Program, RANFOSE designed the advocacy strategy and trained food vendors. RANFOSE initiated and maintained constant engagement with the national Tamarinier laboratory of the MoA; however, the laboratory became inaccessible due to insecurity.

Private Sector

Stakeholder engagement activities have been fundamental to obtaining the commitment of the private sector (one wheat flour factory, two oil bottlers, and one oil importer) to fortify, which is essential to the rollout of LSFF. The project provided food fortification standards for importers and producers, including food fortification levels, technical specifications for premix, health protocols, equipment, transportation, and storage. Site visits, evaluations, and training were also provided.

As a result of RANFOSE-facilitated workshops, training, and a working group, industries have deepened their technical knowledge of the parameters to be respected in producing and testing products, according to industry respondents. They highlight the importance of advocacy, raising awareness, workshops, and training activities targeted to different sectors (consumers, industries, government, etc.). All sectors benefited from these activities; however, several industries have not embraced food fortification yet. For instance, six out of ten oil bottlers and importers do not fortify, according to one oil bottler (see Annex VIX for the full list of potential fortification vehicles compiled by RANFOSE in 2022).

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH THE LOCAL FOOD FORTIFICATION ALLIANCE

Before RANFOSE, there was a technical committee on fortification led by the MoH. RANFOSE planned to strengthen this committee to steer the implementation of LSFF. However, the slow progress prompted RANFOSE to pursue a meeting without the MoH in attendance. The meeting was a success, with many sectors represented, and led to the creation of the FFWG.

According to a KII, sometimes meeting agendas were used as minutes, with no documented conclusions, agreements, or follow-up. The ET was only able to obtain the minutes of a few FFWG meetings to understand the content and accomplishments of the working group. However, according to all interviewed FFWG members, the FFWG and its platform brought industries, government, civil society, IOs and NGOs together. It created a common understanding of the challenges and accomplishments in LSFF in Haiti, as well as a place to explore solutions and opportunities. It allowed the collaborative development of national standards and contributed to the promotion of fortified foods through information sharing, awareness raising, updates, and promotion of other activities such as trade fairs.

Despite members of the FFWG wanting it to continue, it is still unclear to all stakeholders whether the FFWG will continue beyond RANFOSE and, if so, who will lead it. Some FFWG members suggest the FFWG should be integrated into the MoH's Nutrition Technical Committee, given the relevance of food fortification to this committee. Others suggest BHN should lead, given its strong involvement in the FFWG in recent years, and some propose it could be a co-leadership or an annual rotating leadership that steers it. To date, there is no resolution or plan.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Public Sector

The ET found that the slow involvement of some key GoH players—either due to a lack of responsiveness from the players or due to the project's delay in engaging them, including the FFWG—was the main factor that negatively affected the engagement of the public sector. Respondents from several GoH entities mentioned that the GoH plays a key role in regulation and enforcement, and therefore, should have been an integral partner of RANFOSE by a) being involved in the project design; b) collaborating on project activities; c) providing political leadership and support, and thereby, ultimately; d) strengthening ownership and the sustainability of food fortification.

Private Sector

Industry and importer respondents noted that the lack of enforcement of the Food Fortification Law and unfair competition caused by having unfortified products on the market negatively affect their engagement. On the other hand, for some industries, that effect might be counteracted by the opportunity that fortification represents to contribute to the population's health through their products. As part of this initiative, respondents note that participating in the FFWG meetings and interacting with other stakeholders is very motivating.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH THE NATIONAL STANDARDS AND LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Once the Food Fortification Law was approved in 2017, the project started working on the implementation of LSFF. The WFP shared the technical specifications used in the foods distributed in the PNCS with RANFOSE, who reviewed each standard and made some minor changes. In 2019, RANFOSE shared these specifications with importers and producers of salt, wheat flour, and vegetable oil to start fortifying (three oil bottlers and one wheat flour mill) or adapt their fortification for those that were fortifying already (two wheat flour mills and one salt producer). At the same time, the ET found that the specifications used by RANFOSE as the basis to develop the application texts, which specify levels of fortification, food safety, analysis, storage, and labeling, will become mandatory technical regulations once approved.

Regulation of Fortified Foods

After four years of advocacy (2019 to 2023), the application texts have still not been approved, despite continuous advocacy carried out by RANFOSE and the 2023 SMART survey showing¹³ that child malnutrition is worsening. There have been numerous attempts by RANFOSE, the MoH, MCI, MoA, and USAID to advocate for their approval. However, this is not uncommon considering other countries in the region, such as Honduras, where the update of the obsolete salt regulation has been delayed for decades.¹⁴ This shows that LSFF requires continuous advocacy and persistence until its goal is achieved.

¹³ UNICEF, Haiti, Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3, May 2023.

¹⁴ Original salt regulation in Honduras dates to 1968 and despite discussions and review of the obsolete version, in addition to demands by the private sector, it has not been updated (USAID/JSI. Honduras report, 2022).

In May 2023, RANFOSE supported the MoH's Nutrition Program to present the application texts to the Prime Minister to advocate again for their approval; the meeting included participation by the European Union Ambassador and a representative of the US Embassy. Most respondents interviewed believe that food fortification is not a priority on Haiti's political agenda due to the country's political, economic, and insecurity situation. Other stakeholders from GoH recommended taking a new approach to advocacy through the Inter-ministerial Human Rights Committee, which the Prime Minister oversees, and advocating for the right to food and good nutrition.

"The [GoH] is cautious to take a decision that would harm the [food] supply." – KII IO

Respondents cite the lack of approval of the application texts as the main limiting factor for the mandatory implementation of LSFF. According to some stakeholders from IOs, there is fear from the GoH that the approval might worsen the food security situation of the country if the price of staples (oil, wheat flour, and salt) were to increase due to fortification or possible scarcity of products.

Standards

RANFOSE led the development of the standards for fortification of cooking salt, oil, and wheat flour based on the application texts to ensure there is no contradiction between them. To date, the final drafts of the wheat flour and salt standards have been approved by consensus and will be approved by BHN after the consultation period of three months. The standards will be shared with World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries to ensure they are aware of the Food Fortification Law.

Importantly, compliance with a standard is voluntary, whereas compliance with a technical regulation is mandatory.¹⁵ Therefore, if unfortified oil, wheat flour, and salt are imported, the fortification standards do not allow enforcement to stop these products from entering the market, whereas approved technical regulations do allow enforcement.¹⁶ The developed food fortification standards are complementary to the application texts and provide stakeholders interested in supplying fortified foods with the specifications for compliance and the standard for the certification of fortified foods.

Monitoring of Food Fortification

Based on the desk review, in 2018, RANFOSE carried out an assessment of the Tamarinier National Laboratory to identify training needs and to support the implementation of compliance tests for monitoring fortified foods. RANFOSE donated equipment to implement testing for vitamin A in oil, but due to insecurity, the lab is inaccessible, which prevents equipment installation. Annex XII elaborates on alternative laboratory capacities.

"We made the decision to fortify our products. There wasn't really any external pressure." – KII Industry

Based on Articles 15 and 16 of the Food Fortification Law and according to most respondents, the GoH is not fulfilling its duty to control that all food products mentioned in the law are fortified and is therefore not preventing the marketing and consumption of non-compliant foods.

Enforcement of Food Fortification

Stakeholders from different entities in the GoH acknowledge that they have a duty to enforce the Food Fortification Law; however, the approval of the application texts limits the operationalization of enforcement. Three of seven industries interviewed have received visits either from the MoH or

¹⁵ Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. Annex I. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/17-tbt_e.htm#annexI Consulted on August 2nd, 2023.

¹⁶ Difference between a technical regulation and a standard. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_info_e.htm. Consulted on August 2nd, 2023.

MCI to inspect iodization or food safety, respectively. Food safety inspections have been infrequent, and other industries report never receiving one. The MoH has carried out supervision of iodization in plants, and a stakeholder from the GoH suggested it should do the same with wheat mills and oil factories.

Based on the results of KII's, at customs, the GoH approves the entrance of products to the country based solely on documentation, such as a Certificate of Analysis (COA) of the product, but no samples are taken. In the past, the GoH had a contract with SGS (*Société Générale de Surveillance*), a world-leading testing, inspection, and certification company, to inspect imports; however, this ended. If the country subcontracted this duty in the past, they might need training and support to carry out the inspection process. In addition to the limitations listed above, the COVID-19 pandemic, a lack of budget and personnel, and limited mobility due to the insecurity situation are all factors that compound the lack of enforcement, according to KII respondents.

WHAT MORE COULD RANFOSE HAVE DONE?

Based on the responses provided by key informants, RANFOSE could have developed the application texts earlier, at the initial stage of the project, soon after the Food Fortification Law was approved, to avoid losing momentum when the fortification initiative had the political will.

Considering their standardization role in the country, BHN could have been engaged earlier to contribute to the development of the food fortification standards. Regarding the advocacy activities, while RANFOSE did carry out significant advocacy across a wider range of stakeholders, RANFOSE representatives admitted that they could have targeted decision makers in the GoH to further raise awareness through presentations, position papers, and press releases to potentially obtain stronger support from GoH entities. Finally, salt iodization was already implemented when the project started, but it could have worked on expanding salt iodization to ensure its availability in the country.

CONCLUSION

Stakeholder Engagement

The key engagement activities carried out by RANFOSE include the identification of and engagement with industries involved in fortification, namely advocacy and capacity-building initiatives with the public and private sector, as well as civil society actors. These have maintained motivation levels and strengthened collaborations within and between private and public sectors to improve the legal environment for food fortification.

The effectiveness of the awareness-raising and training events carried out by RANFOSE was evident in the private sector, which implemented food fortification voluntarily and practiced QC and quality assurance (QA) activities. As for other groups reached, each intervention would need to be assessed to identify where and through which formats awareness raising was most effective.

Legislative Environment and National Standards/Regulations

RANFOSE has influenced the legislative environment in country through the discussion and approval of the current draft standards for fortified foods, as well as the development of the application texts and the continued advocacy for their approval. The lack of approval to date is out of RANFOSE's control, but advocacy should persist if the application texts are to be approved.

The project has effectively and collaboratively reviewed and published the national standards. However, these standards are voluntary and complement the application texts, which must be approved to guarantee mandatory food fortification in the country. Furthermore, the current certification process applies only to those responsible for fortifying, making compliance monitoring

inconsistent. Hence, although the country now has food fortification standards to support the certification of fortified foods, this does not guarantee the sustainability of fortification.

Enforcement and Monitoring

Given the MoH's experience in doing inspections with the salt producer, food safety inspections could be coupled with food fortification inspections, thereby strengthening enforcement.¹⁷ Likewise, other laboratories need strengthening to conduct sample testing to monitor quality control of fortified foods to compensate for the void caused by the Tamarinier laboratory being out of action.

EQ 3. TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE ACTIVITY'S IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY BEEN EFFECTIVE IN STRENGTHENING THE FORTIFIED FOODS SUPPLY CHAIN?

Both producers and importers mentioned the importance of the advocacy and awareness-raising activities carried out by RANFOSE to engage them in the fortification. They learned about the importance and health benefits of food fortification for the people and made them conscious of their contribution to the population's health through fortification.

After engaging the private sector in food fortification, RANFOSE provided the information they needed to start the fortifying detailed in the technical specifications for foods, as well as contacts for premix, initial assessment and follow-up visits, and networking events and workshops with international experts. Most partner industries interviewed said that they absorbed the extra cost of fortification, at least at the beginning. One oil bottler mentioned that only four out of ten bottlers are currently fortifying and suggests that others are not doing so because they don't know how to do it, as opposed to a lack of interest. However, the ET was unable to verify this.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT FOOD FORTIFICATION PRODUCTION AND VALUE/SUPPLY CHAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Although the price of premix represents an added cost to food fortification production, industry project partners did not identify it as a hindering factor since most of them absorbed the cost and still had a profit margin, albeit lower than the ones not fortifying. However, when prices were adjusted due to inflation, some industries started to resent the added cost of fortification. To date, the GoH is not providing any support to import premix.

Industry respondents identified several factors that negatively affect the production and value/supply chain, such as a) the unfair competition by those factories not fortifying who are able to make higher profits than the those fortifying; b) smuggled products, e.g., it is said that when the border with the Dominican Republic was closed due to the pandemic, local producers were able to sell their products in areas near the border; c) customs tariffs are prohibitively high; and d) poor raw material quality. The last is particularly relevant for salt, as the quality of the salt available from local producers and delays in receiving it affect their production. The evaluation has no evidence that RANFOSE advocated on these issues during the course of the project.

PROJECT EFFECT ON BUSINESS PERFORMANCE AND PRACTICES

Salt fortification was already implemented when the project started; however, the ET found that the project provided additional technical assistance to improve the moisture content of salt, which is a critical factor during salt iodization. Regarding the iodization process, the project provided technical

¹⁷ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) & Project Healthy Children (PHC). 2018. Regulatory monitoring of national food fortification programs: A policy guidance document. *Global Fortification Technical Advisory Group (GF-TAG)*.

support when the iodine results were not satisfactory, advising on corrective actions to be taken, and supporting the salt factory to update their procedures manual.

The project trained producers on how to carry out food fortification, QA, and QC practices essential to ensure compliance with the specified levels of micronutrients. RANFOSE provided i-check devices to measure the content of either vitamin A or iron in their products as part of QA/QC activities. By accepting the i-check devices, the industries committed to sending the QC results to RANFOSE periodically; however, no QC reports were obtained from RANFOSE to determine whether this practice contributed to improving the fortification process. According to RANFOSE reports, the i-check training was carried out in the last quarter of 2022, but by March 2023, no industry report had been received by RANFOSE. The i-check results could have provided the most reliable measure of fortification levels in Haiti, given the absence of adequate laboratory testing facilities.

For importers, the project provided the technical specifications for fortified food suppliers abroad, including the requirements for fortification as well as the overdose to compensate for vitamin A losses. Importers also asked for all documents to be presented for customs clearance and a COA that proves the food is fortified at the levels indicated, therefore strengthening importers' business practices in ensuring the fortification levels of the products they are importing.

PROJECT EFFECT ON PRICE AND PERCEIVED AFFORDABILITY OF FORTIFIED FOODS

"The nutrient added to fortify the food has a cost, and it is additional work for the producer; therefore, the price of the product increases." – KII Industry

As mentioned previously, most industries said that the additional cost of premix did not affect the price of their products at the beginning. However, the pandemic, insecurity situation, and inflation caused a shortage of products in markets outside PaP, leading to an increase in the price of foods used as fortification vehicles.

"Price and availability drive consumers because people are used to consuming cheaper products. Therefore, since fortified products are more expensive and less available in local markets, the population will be inclined to buy non-fortified products than fortified ones." – KII CSO

According to the World Bank data, inflation and food prices¹⁸ have increased continuously since 2020, especially in 2022 and 2023. According to private sector respondents, fortified products cost more to produce and—according to most KIIs, RIs and FGD respondents—fortified products' prices are higher. RIs and FGDs further showed that iodized salt is more expensive than non-iodized salt. In the case of wheat flour and oil, most report that the fortified ones are more expensive. Some say the price depends on the brand.

PROJECT INFLUENCE ON THE PREMIX AND MICRO-FEEDER MARKET

The project provided several contacts of certified premix suppliers to oil and wheat flour producers from which to purchase premix. Some industries mentioned that they found more premix suppliers' contacts through interaction with other stakeholders in the FFWG. Based on a preliminary analysis of samples taken by the implementing partner, the premix purchased by the producers did not necessarily contain zinc, and the producers have difficulties finding premix suppliers for wheat flour with zinc. The project continues to look for a solution for the purchase of premix with zinc.

¹⁸ WorldBank: Monthly food price estimates by product and market, Haiti 2007-2023, <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/4494>.

KII with IOs note that the project could have supported the government to purchase the premix or that the government should provide the premix to avoid the increase in the price of fortified foods due to this additional cost. Article 17 of the Food Fortification Law states that the State of Haiti will subsidize the cost of premix, which is evidently not happening according to respondents. In the case of salt, the potassium iodate used by the factory was donated by UNICEF, but if this donation stops, they will have to manage the logistics of purchasing the premix and the cost impact.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN STRENGTHENING FOOD FORTIFICATION COMPLIANCE

The main challenges identified by KII respondents to strengthen the compliance of fortification are the approval of the application texts (regulations) to provide the legal support for mandatory fortification and implementation of enforcement by the GoH. The enforcement of fortification poses a series of challenges, such as a) finding an alternative laboratory to analyze food samples in the country; b) assigning enforcement activities and responsibilities based on the duties of each Ministry and their experience in inspections; c) availing personnel taking account of the mobility limitations; and d) allocating the budget to carry out enforcement and provide incentives for producers that demonstrate compliance.

CONCLUSION

Those who are fortifying do so voluntarily, although they feel disadvantaged by the unfair competition caused by industries that do not fortify and the lack of entry barriers for smuggled, cheaper goods on the market. Industry respondents identified several factors that negatively affect the production and value/supply chain; although, the evaluation has no evidence that RANFOSE advocated on these issues during the course of the project.

All project partner importers and producers have implemented QA/QC procedures to control the production of fortified foods as a result of RANFOSE training and technical assistance. Incentives for industries are needed to ensure the cost of fortification does not render fortified products unaffordable for the population, especially vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas.

While a possible alternative university laboratory has been identified by RANFOSE, conversations with the MoA and the Tamarinier laboratory director are required to define how they will proceed with the equipment donated to advance the implementation of testing, starting with its installation. Since the main obstacle to completing this activity is the insecure environment in which the laboratory is located, which is beyond the control of the laboratory authorities, the main lessons learned are to innovate new approaches for carrying out enforcement that rely mostly on the factory inspections and review of QA/QC records and less on sampling and analyzing samples in a government laboratory.

EQ 4. WHAT HAS THE PROJECT DONE TO SUPPORT OR INHIBIT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD FORTIFICATION?

FACTORS LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD FORTIFICATION

Advocacy

All KII respondents state that the advocacy carried out by the project to raise awareness about the importance of fortified foods for the population's benefit, as well as for the approval of the application texts, is likely to support the sustainability of LSFF.

Food Fortification Working Group

According to FFWG members, the FFWG has been the forum for discussions, awareness raising, advocacy, connection, and training of entities working in food fortification, thereby creating a multidisciplinary network and strengthening the capacities of stakeholders involved in food fortification.

Food Fortification Standards

According to KII's, despite the lack of approval of the application texts, food fortification continues thanks to the clear specifications provided by RANFOSE for producers to fortify against. KII respondents are confident that the standards can be used as a basis for certifying fortified foods and for the use of the logo on packaging to allow rapid identification of fortified foods by consumers.

Building Capacity of Producers/Importers on QA/QC

Producers and importers of fortified foods report being trained on QA/QC or on the requirements of imported foods and receiving i-check devices. As a result of RANFOSE support, producers say they know how to control their production, and importers know what to ask from their suppliers to ensure compliance with food fortification standards.

FACTORS LIKELY TO INHIBIT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD FORTIFICATION

"If nothing is done to enforce the Food Fortification Law, to take timely sanctions for deviations in food fortification, the consequences of unfortified food will have an impact on society in general and future generations, posing a threat to sustainable food fortification." – KII Industry

Lack of Enforcement

All stakeholders mentioned repeatedly that the lack of enforcement is a threat to the sustainability of food fortification and the RANFOSE project was not able to overcome this, despite repeated attempts. One producer stated that he does not understand why they are required to carry out QA/QC when the GoH is not controlling fortified foods.

Customs Tariffs and Lack of Incentives

The lack of incentives for the private sector to fortify is recognized by many stakeholders, including the GoH, as an inhibiting factor for sustainability. Respondents suggested incentives include tax exemptions on premix as well as for other goods related to food fortification, customs tariffs exemptions, tax deductions based on expenditures for food fortification, and access to finance granted by banks to develop food fortification. There is no evidence to suggest that RANFOSE advocated these issues during the course of the project, possibly given the project was focused on advocating the approval of the application texts.

"It is highly unlikely that elections will be held in the coming months. We don't have a parliament, and we won't have one for a long time. Taking into account the time it takes to hold an election and have an active parliament; we'll have to wait another two years." – KII IO

Momentum, Political Scenario, and Instability

According to several IOs, the political scenario is not optimistic, and the application texts require approval to consolidate the implementation of food fortification. Otherwise, there is a risk of losing the accomplishments to date made by RANFOSE to a loss of motivation by those in the private sector that have implemented fortification voluntarily.

Participation of GoH Entities

The ET found the degree of involvement of GoH entities in the food fortification program can be either a supporting or inhibiting factor. Respondents from the GoH, private sector, civil society, and

IOs highlight the need to strengthen communication and collaboration within GoH institutions and involve them actively in activities working in synergy to ensure the continuity of the activities carried out by the project.

Public Awareness and Affordability of Fortified Foods

According to the private sector, public awareness activities supporting food fortification need to continue. When people know about the benefits of fortified foods, they will choose to buy fortified foods over unfortified, and consequently, their sales will increase. However, stakeholders from the GoH mentioned that due to the current economic situation, people tend to buy the cheapest foods, and fortified foods are not always affordable.

SYNERGIES BETWEEN RANFOSE AND OTHER USAID PROJECTS

Based on project reports and interviews with stakeholders and HPs, RANFOSE collaborated with Project Santé, training HPs on the importance of fortified foods. It also collaborated with FONKOZE and Catholic Relief Services to target WRA. In the future, stakeholders from IOs noted that USAID's initiatives or activities might want to support micro-projects with small and medium enterprises in Haiti to help small producers in provincial towns to source and use fortified wheat flour, oil, and salt in their productions.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR MONITORING COMPLIANCE OF FOOD FORTIFICATION BEYOND GOH

According to the Food Fortification Law, the MoH, MoA, and MCI are responsible for the enforcement of the law. The use of the logo can be authorized once the compliance of the fortified product has been assessed by a joint visit of representatives from the three ministries mentioned above. Considering that the application texts required to make the law operational have not yet been approved, the project has been working with BHN to develop a certification scheme that will allow for monitoring compliance of fortified foods in factories that decide to apply for the certification¹⁹ and use the logo. However, BHN certification requires paying for service by the certified entity, whereas enforcement is a duty that the GoH should provide at no cost to those inspected. Although BHN is part of MCI, the Directorate for Quality Control and Consumer Protection (DCQPC) is the responsible body to authorize or refuse clearance of products through customs. Therefore, the certification scheme proposed is an opportunity and alternative process to monitor compliance of fortified foods, but it would only reach the industries that apply for certification, not all producers or importers of fortified foods.

The project planned to engage universities to play a role in implementing research studies or surveys about food fortification and strengthening relations with consumer associations. Carrying out tests in the university laboratories was also considered, without concrete results. No other alternatives have been proposed by RANFOSE for monitoring compliance or enforcement other than certification through the BHN.

CONCLUSION

The sustainability of LSFF in Haiti is fragile until the application texts are approved; however LSFF takes time and requires persistence, especially when in a challenging socio-political context such as Haiti. RANFOSE has been a key player in laying the foundation for the implementation of LSFF once the application texts are approved. Industry and GoH capacities in food fortification have been

¹⁹ La certification des produits et le label national. Bureau Haitien de Normalisation. <https://mci.gouv.ht/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Brochure-BHN-certification-2021.pdf>

strengthened by RANFOSE, with lessons learned from the implementation of RANFOSE serving to inform future engagement and capacity building in food fortification.

EQ 5. HOW HAS RANFOSE EVOLVED AND ADAPTED TO THE POLITICAL, SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES THEY ENCOUNTERED?

According to respondents, RANFOSE adapted to limited mobility due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic or insecurity challenges. Since meetings in person were not possible, the FFWG meetings took place virtually. However, stakeholders indicated that they were not as effective as in-person meetings due to internet connectivity issues. Visits to industries continued, and one-on-one meetings were held where possible. In general, the project focused on advocacy and awareness-raising activities, including social media campaigns and on-desk work to develop manuals for training or map brands and stakeholders involved in food fortification.

EFFECT OF THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE PROJECT'S ABILITY TO DELIVER

According to the literature and KII respondents, at the start of the project, the Food Fortification Law was approved, and there was political will for food fortification in the country. At that time, the normal path for the project would have been the approval of the application texts and the implementation of fortification across food factories. Due to the environment, the project had to implement fortification based on specifications and not approved application texts. Without approved texts, enforcement cannot be carried out either, so the project worked with BHN to develop the fortification standards and the certification scheme alone.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited in-person activities, with the cancellation of several events and training sessions and difficulties in implementing many activities due to the restrictions. However, the in-person meetings have resumed on a quarterly basis since March 2023. The insecurity situation limited activities in general, but especially the installation of the laboratory equipment donated by the project, which cannot be performed remotely. No alternative solution has been found at the time of this report. The political instability has affected the performance of the project, and in particular, the approval of the regulations as, with every change in the authorities, including Prime Ministers, the project needs to start advocating and raising awareness activities to the newly appointed authorities.

CONCLUSION

RANFOSE was forced to adapt to the challenging environment and to adopt a range of strategies to advocate for the approval of the application texts. However, the lack of approval has had a profound effect on the project's ability to roll out LSFF as planned, especially in a) strengthening the GoH's capacity for monitoring and enforcing food fortification and, therefore, b) engaging the private sector in fortification, both of which are vital to implementing sustainable LSFF.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are targeted to USAID, on the assumption that USAID will continue supporting the implementation of LSFF in Haiti, thereby a) capitalizing on what RANFOSE has achieved already and b) contributing to the health of the population, given this is one of the populations that need it most.

CONTINUE LSFF SUPPORT IN HAITI

The key recommendation proposed by this evaluation would be for USAID to continue the financial and technical support to implement LSFF in Haiti. Haiti's nutritional outcomes are among the worst in the world. The average time to implement LSFF is three to five years.²⁰ The initial duration of RANFOSE was four years, which was later extended to six years during the pandemic. However, Haiti is far from an average environment to implement LSFF. Therefore, it is inevitable that LSFF will take longer than average in Haiti. Support is required both to engage more private sector players in fortifying and to ensure the public sector takes full ownership of LSFF.

MAINTAIN THE FOOD FORTIFICATION WORKING GROUP (FFWG)

To keep stakeholders in the FFWG engaged and working together to advocate and advance LSFF, USAID should provide support for the re-organization of the FFWG. Doing so requires leadership, a balanced representation of all stakeholders with participation that is manageable, and likely a steering committee that presents proposals to all stakeholders. International organizations should accompany the FFWG to provide technical assistance as necessary. If a similar committee exists in-country, duplication should be avoided, and integration of both committees is recommended.

ADVOCACY AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL

Given that actors from the private and public sectors and international and civil society organizations participate in the FFWG, USAID should continue supporting it. USAID should involve other stakeholders to help ensure the FFWG is a multi-ministerial body that can advocate the approval of the application texts (regulations), enforcement by GoH, and other important matters related to food fortification. Advocacy of the application texts approval could be made at the Inter-Ministerial Human Rights Committee, which is presided over by the Prime Minister, leveraging on the right to food and good nutrition.

PREMIX AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF FORTIFICATION

Based on the responsibility assigned to the GoH in Article 17 of the Food Fortification Law, USAID should support advocacy to the GoH to implement measures to facilitate imports of premix, potassium iodate and other materials and supplies used in food fortification. These measures could include tax exemptions for purchases of premix, equipment (feeders and reagents), and supplies for i-checks used in QA/QC. The provision of technical assistance to the GoH can help develop the technical criteria that these products need to fulfill to qualify for the tax exemption.

USAID could organize a virtual meeting with premix suppliers abroad to explain the requirements of the premix for LSFF in Haiti, learn about any obstacles they have faced in exporting premix to Haiti, identify any issues in including zinc and vitamin B12 in the premix (including minimum purchase requirements or cost increases), and discuss possible solutions to the identified issues.

²⁰ Neufeld LM, Baker S, Garrett GS, Haddad L. Coverage and Utilization in Food Fortification Programs: Critical and Neglected Areas of Evaluation. *J Nutr*. 2017 May;147(5):1015S-1019S. doi: 10.3945/jn.116.246157. Epub 2017 Apr 12. PMID: 28404835; PMCID: PMC5404214.

STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY PRODUCTION PROCESS

Given the issues faced with distribution channels and marketing chains, it is recommended that USAID strengthen the overall capacities of factories in food safety and food fortification. This way, it can comply with potential clients' requirements, such as the organizations distributing fortified foods in the country as part of government food aid or other social programs carried out by other organizations or emergency assistance. This would be a way to ensure that fortified foods are distributed through alternative channels to general distribution and market chains.

FOOD FORTIFICATION COST ANALYSIS IN HAITI

Based on food producers' comments about the cost of food fortification lately, it is recommended that USAID carry out a cost analysis of fortification in Haiti and use the results as an advocacy tool to engage the food industry and the GoH, showing that food fortification's impact on price is not as high as previously thought and that the industry can still have revenue.

STRENGTHEN LABORATORY FACILITIES

Given the inoperable status of the Tamarinier laboratory, USAID should seek out alternative laboratories to analyze samples for enforcement, such as private labs, universities with research labs or other GoH facilities. In the event of a follow-on project, USAID should map laboratories around the country and assess their capacities. Once laboratories with a minimum capacity have been identified and selected, USAID should develop a training and support plan. Lastly, USAID should make a decision about the uninstalled equipment in the Tamarinier laboratory to take advantage of the equipment.

UPDATING THE APPLICATION TEXTS

Based on the standards approved by BHN, the FFWG should review the application texts to ensure there is no contradiction between them and to address any issues identified before they are approved. At this stage, the addition of vitamin B12 to wheat flour could still be included.

QC/QA ACTIVITIES

Before the RANFOSE project ends, a follow-up should be made on the agreement between the factories that received the i-checks and RANFOSE, which included sending periodical reports to RANFOSE about the fortification levels in samples tested at factories as part of QC activities. The data from the industry reports should be analyzed and presented periodically to the FFWG to discuss results and implement actions where improvements are required. Factories with satisfactory results could be complimented for their performance, and it could be advertised in the press or media, showing the efforts of the private sector for the benefit of the population's health.

The costs and sustainability of carrying out i-check test should be reviewed and compared to carry out cheaper qualitative tests such as the iron spot test in wheat flour. The frequency of the i-check tests administration should be discussed and agreed upon. This way, i-check could be used for confirmation purposes.

COUPLE INSPECTIONS FOR ENFORCEMENTS

USAID could consider providing technical assistance to the GoH to implement food fortification inspections with other inspections carried out by the MoH, MCI, and MoA, e.g., food safety, to optimize available resources. This assistance could include the development of an enforcement plan—together with manuals and procedures for inspections—and training, taking into consideration what is feasible given the current situation, especially regarding taking samples for analysis given the current laboratory resources. According to the Food Fortification Law, the three ministries should

make a joint technical visit to the factories; however, it would be more effective for each Ministry to focus inspections based on their delegated duty, e.g., retail establishments, factories, and customs.

SOCIAL AUDITS: AN ALTERNATIVE FOR MONITORING COMPLIANCE OF FORTIFIED FOODS

While enforcement is established in the country, USAID should conduct an assessment of consumer associations with the potential to carry out such activities, and provide training and financial support to carry out “social audits” in which fortified food is purchased at retail stores around the country and sent to a laboratory to determine compliance. Social audits are a form of commercial monitoring²¹ carried out by consumer protection organizations. During the visits to shops, the enumerators can give a small talk to the shopkeeper about the importance of fortified foods to raise awareness of the need to supply fortified foods. Taking samples all around the country throughout the year can be planned to obtain the information that enforcement would normally provide.

AWARENESS-RAISING AS THE KEY TO CONSUMPTION

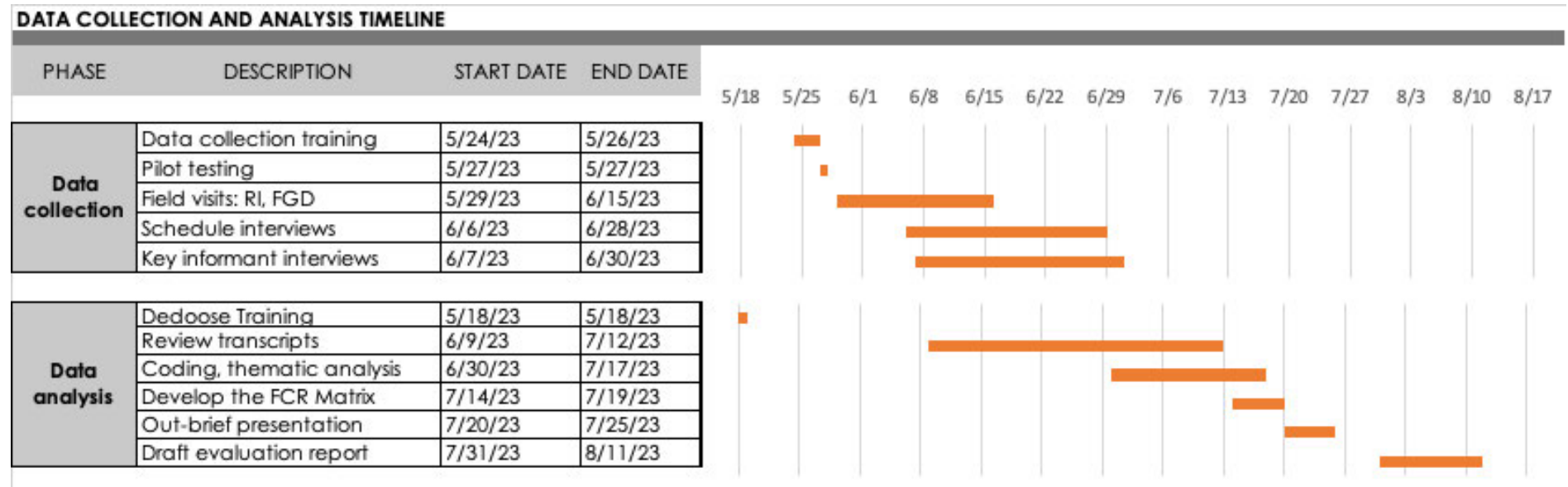
The GoH, CSOs, and IOs should continue to raise awareness about the benefits of fortified foods to the population as a priority for consumption, especially in remote and hard-to-reach areas where the population is most vulnerable to malnutrition. Increased awareness will create a demand for fortified foods, which will in turn drive production. USAID should support a representative survey to effectively measure population awareness and, therefore, identify where to target awareness-raising activities (locations and population groups). Producers must ensure sufficient availability of fortified foods on the market during awareness-raising campaigns and include a logo to ease market access to fortified foods.

Follow-up to the implementation of the logo through BHN certification process, which has been included as part of the standards and it has raised expectations of the industry.

²¹ Allen L, de Benoist B, Dary O and Hurrell R (Eds.). Guidelines on food fortification with micronutrients. FAO/WHO. 2006.p. 185.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: EVALUATION TIMELINE



ANNEX II: EVALUATION SCOPE OF WORK

STATEMENT OF WORK (SOW)

FOR ESS+

FINAL MARCH 24, 2023

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

OF

RANFOSE NUTRITION PROJECT

I. Introduction

II. Summary Information

III. Background

3.1 Description of The Problem and Context

3.2 Description of The Intervention to Be Evaluated

3.2.1 Goal and Strategic Approach

3.2.2 Development Hypothesis and Theory Of Change

3.2.3 Performance Information

IV. Evaluation Purpose

V. Evaluation Questions

VI. Design And Methodology

VII. Deliverables And Reporting Requirements

7.1 Report Quality Criteria

VIII. Team Composition

IX. Schedule

X. Final Report Format

XI. Other Requirements

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

OF

RANFOSE NUTRITION PROJECT

I. INTRODUCTION

In Haiti, nutritional deficiencies are long-standing challenges, and according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), roughly 50 percent of Haiti's population is undernourished. The 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) reported that one in three children under the age of

five years is stunted or has a low height for their age. Further, deficiencies in micronutrients lead to decreased cognitive development and productivity and weakened immune systems.

To address this challenge, USAID launched *Ranfose Abitid Nitisyon Pou Fè Ogmante Sante* (RANFOSE) - or “Strengthen Nutrition to Increase Health.” Ranfose is a food fortification project (2017-2023; initially for four years, then extended) intended to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, this project works with importers, distributors, and local food producers to fortify wheat flour with iron and folic acid, vegetable oils with vitamin A, and salt with iodine.

At this time – against a backdrop of poor security, social unrest, rampant kidnappings, fuel shortages, and a new cholera outbreak – USAID/Haiti is requesting a Performance Evaluation of its Ranfose Nutrition Project in order to assess progress to-date and inform future project design and implementation. This evaluation will provide valuable information to help inform possible strategic shifts in Nutrition and Food Fortification programming in the immediate term (next 2-4 years). USAID is the primary user of this evaluation; other stakeholders include implementing partners; local stakeholders; local universities; and international organizations.

II. SUMMARY INFORMATION

Project/Activity Name	<i>Ranfose Abitid Nitisyon pou Fè Ogmante Sante (RANFOSE) Project</i>
Implementer(s)	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cooperative Agreement/Contract #	[REDACTED]
Total Estimated Ceiling of the Evaluated Project/Activity	
Life of Strategy, Project, or Activity	<i>Start date: 07/17/2017</i> <i>End date: 07/06/2023</i>
Active Geographic Regions	<i>10 Departments in Haiti</i>
Development Objective(s) (DO)	<i>DO 2: More inclusive, locally driven economic growth and social development advanced.</i> <i>IR 2.1 More inclusive and productive workforce</i>
USAID Office	<i>USAID/Haiti Health Office (USAID Global Health)</i>

III. BACKGROUND

3.1 Description of the Problem and Context

The challenges Haiti faces are complex and interconnected. Economic and social development continue to be hindered by political instability, lack of governance, and fragility. Widespread dissatisfaction with the government and ongoing corruption scandals have resulted in frequent protests and social unrest. Gang violence and kidnappings are on the rise, along with internal displacement. The Haitian economy has been battered by multiple shocks and continues to face significant fiscal imbalances. Political turmoil and social discontent resulted in a contraction of 1.8 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021. Past marginal gains in poverty reduction have been undone by recent shocks, with current estimates pointing to a poverty rate of nearly 60 percent in 2020 compared to the last official national estimate of 58.5 percent in 2012. Economic woes result in further hardship, especially among Haiti’s most vulnerable populations, from the

recurrent shocks brought on by inflation to the ripple-effects on jobs and prices of basic needs to the threat of kidnappings and gang warfare.

Haitians struggle to face these challenges, which is further exacerbated by natural disasters, such as the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit southwestern Haiti on August 14, 2021, followed less than 48 hours later by Tropical Storm Grace. With each major shock and stress, it is more challenging for Haitian citizens and systems to recover to pre-shock levels of well-being and functionality. With a GDP per capita of \$1,8147.50 and a Human Development Index ranking of 170 out of 189 countries in 2020, Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and Caribbean region and among the poorest countries in the world.

In the health sector, improvements in human capital have stalled and, in some cases, deteriorated since 2012. Infant and maternal mortality remain high, and coverage of routine vaccination and vitamin A supplementation efforts are stagnating or declining, especially among the poorest households. According to the Human Capital Index, a child born today in Haiti will grow up to be only 45 percent as productive as they could have been if they had enjoyed full access to education and health services. Haiti is also struggling to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and remains vulnerable to devastating natural disasters and the ongoing droughts that affect food production.

These challenges highlight the difficulties in implementing an effective national health program in Haiti. However, USAID's close collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) has helped ensure access to a package of essential primary health care services at 164 health facilities across the country's ten departments. With USAID's assistance, approximately 40 percent of the population has access to basic health services, and activities have begun to address some of the key drivers of mortality and morbidity. In the 2017 DHS, several health indicators showed positive gains, such as a decline in under-five mortality, which fell from 61 per 1000 live births in 1994 to 24 per 1000 live births in 2017, and a decrease in the total fertility rate from 4.8 in 1995 to 3.0 in 2017.

Despite improvements, the health sector continues to face significant challenges. Less than half of all children aged 12-23 months are fully vaccinated; only 66 percent of pregnant women receive the full package of antenatal care (ANC); and only 39 percent of pregnant women deliver in facilities with a trained skilled provider. Contraceptive prevalence has remained stagnant at 31.8 percent and there was an increased unmet demand for family planning among women of reproductive age from 1995 to 2017 (2016-2017 DHS). The MOH suffers from weak governance and coordination, problems attracting and retaining qualified health staff, and inadequate domestic financing for health. These issues have stymied U.S. Government efforts to transition financial and program responsibility for health programming, particularly human resources, to the MOH. Only 4.1 percent of the total Government of Haiti (GOH) budget was allocated to the health sector in FY 2021, a drop from 10 percent in previous years.

3.2 Description of the Intervention to be Evaluated

In Haiti, nutritional deficiencies are long-standing challenges, and according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), roughly 50 percent of Haiti's population is undernourished. The 2012 DHS reported that one in three children under the age of five years is stunted or has a low height for their age. Further, deficiencies in micronutrients lead to decreased cognitive development and productivity and weakened immune systems.

To address this challenge, USAID launched *Ranfose Abitid Nitasyon Pou Fè Ogmante Sante* (RANFOSE) - or "Strengthen Nutrition to Increase Health." RANFOSE is a food fortification project to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH), this project works with importers, distributors, and local food producers to fortify wheat flour with iron and folic acid, vegetable oils with vitamin A, and salt with iodine.

With RANFOSE support, key stakeholders established an informal fortification alliance to build consensus and advocate for food fortification; support local industries and importers to comply with

fortification of foods; and expand distribution networks to increase consumer reach and product availability. Fortified cooking oil has been introduced in the Haitian market, and an ongoing mass media campaign to promote fortified foods will continue during the next fiscal year. RANFOSE will also continue to strengthen the Tamarinier Food Quality Control Laboratory.

Project Objectives:

1. Increase the availability and accessibility of fortified food staples (wheat flour, vegetable oil, and salt, and products made with them) across the country.
2. Improve awareness about the nutritional value and importance of fortified foods to support their consumption in Haiti.
3. Ensure that key local producers, processors, importers, distributors, and vendors create a sustained and safe supply of fortified foods for the Haitian market. Ensure that key local producers/processors make sustained commitments to fortify food vehicles for the Haitian market, including sufficient capacity to produce and distribute a high volume of the fortified food vehicles; and importers make similar commitments to import, distribute, and sell foods that comply with the fortification standards.
4. Strengthen the capacity of the Government of Haiti (GOH) to address critical issues (enforcement and monitoring) related to a sustained and effective food fortification program, including standards and regulations implementation, quality control and quality assurance (QC/QA), and monitoring and evaluation metrics and systems.

Activities:

1. Establish a National Fortification Alliance with key stakeholders to build consensus and advocacy for food fortification and support the technical capacity to fortify foods.
2. Support local industry and importers for adequate and safe fortification of foods.
3. Facilitate the expansion of distribution networks to increase consumer reach and product availability.

Geographic Coverage and Target Groups:

1. 10 departments in Haiti, including partners at regional and national levels.
2. At the national level, the program works with GOH and various stakeholders in the food industry and food fortification effort.
3. At the regional level, the program connects organizations and businesses in each of the 10 departments.

3.2.1 Goal and Strategic Approach

The project goal and objectives are framed by the following expected results:

1. The legislative and regulatory environment in Haiti supports production and import of fortified foods.
2. Fortified foods are compliant with national standards, available in sufficient quantities, and accessible to reach a significant percentage of the Haitian population.
3. Monitoring of fortification processes and products is effective and sustainable.
4. Consumers and commercial users understand and accept the benefit of fortified foods, creating a sustainable demand for such projects.

Ranfose uses a national approach and relies on partnerships with existing players in this sector. The project has as a core strategy embedded within national and local food systems and food markets. Ranfose advocates to improve the environment for food fortification and maintain the communication streams to enable consumers to make informed nutritional choices and adopt fortified food.

3.2.2 Development Hypothesis and Theory of Change

The activity's objectives will contribute to long-term health and economic benefits for the Haitian people, including decreased prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies and related micronutrient deficiency disorders (i.e., anemia), increased nutritional resilience against future food security shocks, [increase the availability of fortified food](#); decreased morbidity and mortality via improved disease immunity, and increased economic productivity and growth. In addition, these objectives will ensure that good channels of communication and participation between the public sector, private sector, and civil society remain open in support of the nutrition strategy and its operationalization.

The Ranfose project addresses the continuing problem of micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti by identifying constraints and targeting key stakeholders in the public sector, private sector, and civil society to stimulate a sustainable national program for fortified staple foods. Ranfose is aligned with the *Plan Stratégique de Nutrition 2013-2018* of the GOH's Ministry of Health and Population (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population, or MSPP), which focuses on the prevention of malnutrition. Ranfose aims to decrease micronutrient deficiencies, improve the national strategy for fortification, and improve quality control for locally sourced or imported fortified food products. Ranfose is also aligned with USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2014-2025), which seeks to decrease chronic malnutrition through the increased availability of and access to high-quality nutrition-specific services and commodities, increased political will and resources for nutrition programs, and strengthened engagement with the private sector to improve nutrition.

Ranfose is following three key operating approaches to ensure an effective and sustainable national fortification program throughout the three stages of the impact model and beyond USAID funding. These are:

4. Efficient and effective national implementation through the establishment of a National Fortification Alliance;
5. Leadership, partnership, and collaboration with key stakeholders already engaged in fortification to build from successes and appropriately scale up; and
6. Identifying and mitigating key challenges through innovative and sustainable approaches to ensure impact.

Refer to the activity MEL plan for more details on the Theory of Change (logic model) and strategic implementation approach.

3.2.3 Performance Information

Performance information collected and reviewed by USAID and partners will be available for this evaluation - such as strategic studies, quarterly reports, and annual qualitative and quantitative reporting.

IV. EVALUATION PURPOSE

The main purpose of this evaluation is to assess progress to-date and provide actionable recommendations to inform project/program implementation (such as activity improvements or new approaches and opportunities). This evaluation will ground truth and provide evidence of the project's progress and performance thus far against its Theory of Change and objectives and provide conclusions and recommendations for learning and adaptive management.

As the primary user of this evaluation, USAID will use the results to inform its implementation strategy. Alongside understanding the project's performance and outcomes, USAID plans to use the results to understand how to improve its strategic approaches supporting and targeting Nutrition and Food Fortification in Haiti. The evaluation will help inform priorities and adaptive management for the immediate future (next 2-4 years). Other stakeholders that will benefit from this information include implementing partners, GOH, MOH, and local stakeholders such as producers, sellers in

markets, consumers, and local universities; and major international organizations such as WHO/PAHO, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IGN, etc.

V. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluators will review and confirm a shared understanding of the evaluation questions in collaboration with USAID prior to finalizing the evaluation design. The evaluation questions (EQs) and guiding comments are as follows:

EQ1. Considering the activity's theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5)?

- a) The Evaluation Team (ET) will be expected to identify specific areas in which RANFOSE's input has improved the availability of fortified foods, particularly for women of reproductive age and children.
- b) The answer will also need to identify where RANFOSE's engagement with leadership in different areas (e.g., private sector; GOH) has proven to be instrumental in improving availability.
- c) In responding to that question, the ET should consider key factors that facilitate or inhibit the availability of fortified foods, particularly among WRA and CU5.

EQ2. To what extent has the activity's stakeholder engagement and involvement been effective in accomplishing the rollout of large-scale food fortification (LSFF)?

- a) The ET shall highlight the relevancy and effect of the advocacy campaigns with consumers and the factors affecting consumers' awareness and consumption of fortified foods.
- b) In responding to that question, the ET shall assess the project's accomplishments and influence on the local Food Fortification Alliance and the national standards and legislative environment about fortified foods. For instance, the ET shall consider the performance of the GOH in the areas of: (1) regulation; (2) enforcement (at factories, importation sites, and markets); and (3) the monitoring of fortified samples.
- c) The GOH introduced LSFF legislation in 2017, although national standards are yet to materialize. The ET needs to determine what - if anything - were the limiting factors or what RANFOSE could have done better to support development and implementation of the national standards.

EQ3. To what extent has the activity's implementation strategy been effective in strengthening the fortified foods supply chain?

- a) The ET shall consider what factors and activities affected food fortification production and value/supply chain stakeholders (production centers, importers, distributors, markets/retailers, regulatory agencies, etc.). For instance, the ET shall capture business performance and practices as well as price and perceived affordability of fortified wheat flour and edible oil/ghee, how the project influences the premix and micro feeder market, and the technical challenges and lessons learned in strengthening the fortification compliance of the current food fortification programs (wheat flour, oil, and salt - including use of iodized salt in bouillon cube).

EQ4. What has the project done to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification?

- a) This question is partly about identifying nutrition-related barriers and opportunities for sustainability. The ET shall consider synergy with other USAID projects, factors affecting public and private sector engagement, the regulatory and socio-political environment, GoH engagement (regulation, enforcement at diverse locations (factory, importation sites, markets)), and other factors that are likely to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification.
- b) The ET shall also consider if there were opportunities and stakeholders that RANFOSE had hoped to use that did not materialize and to document why they were not possible. Please explore emerging opportunities and alternative options (including non-traditional approaches, such as working with local universities to support food fortification monitoring) for monitoring compliance of food fortification beyond reliance on the GOH.

EQ5. How has RANFOSE evolved and adapted to the political, security, and economic challenges they encountered?

- a) How has the environment affected the project's ability to deliver from when it was awarded to what they are doing now? This question needs to document the lessons learned, to avoid reinventing the wheel in the future.

VI. DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This performance evaluation may include a mixed-methods approach that provides complete answers to the evaluation questions through an appropriate mix of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. These methods may include, but are not limited to, a thorough desk review, which includes assessing project monitoring data as well as relevant literature [required]; key informant interviews (KIs); focus group discussions (FGDs); and surveys.

The desk review should include global and national literature on food fortification; project documents and performance data; and USAID commissioned studies, at least. Aside from project documents, consultants may start by reviewing from the following list of useful documents: Micronutrient surveys; Cost analysis of large-scale food fortification (LSFF); Haiti Nutrition profile (May 2021); USAID LSFF Programming Guide; USAID Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2014-15); Haiti Market analyses; and Haiti Nutritional policies/legislation, strategies, and initiatives, such as the National Guiding Health Plan (2012–2022), Nutrition Strategic Plan (2013–2018), National Nutrition Policy (2012), Agricultural Development Policy (2010–2025), and the Law on Food Fortification (February 2, 2017).

Key informants for KIs and/or FGDs may include stakeholders such as USAID and IP staff, GOH, MOH, local authorities, and project participants including local producers. Considering the anticipated time frame of this evaluation (~6 months) and the rapidly changing context in Haiti, the evaluation team is expected to design the most appropriate methodology that can provide rigorous evaluation results in a timely and safe manner.

These methods are illustrative, and the evaluation team is expected to provide a matrix detailing the data collection and analysis methods suggested for each evaluation question. At a minimum, there should be descriptive analysis of any quantitative data and thematic analysis for any qualitative data. Data collected and reviewed from all data sources should be triangulated to allow for verification of findings as well as identification of evidence gaps. This data analysis process is illustrative and outlines only the bare minimum required to complete the evaluation.

VII. DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- I. Work plan:

Upon receipt of the final SOW, ESS+ shall submit, within twenty (20) business days, a draft work plan to the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). The work plan will include: (1) the anticipated schedule and logistical arrangements; (2) a list of the members of the evaluation team, delineated by roles and responsibilities with their level of effort; (3) the identification of other required personnel and relevant local subcontractors, their level of effort, roles and responsibilities and qualifications; and (4) the deliverable schedule (timeline with dates).

2. Combined Inception-Design Report:

Within five weeks of approval of all evaluation team members, ESS+ must submit to the COR an Inception-Design Report, which will become an annex to the final evaluation report. This combined report will document what the team learned from its document review (of Activity background documents and relevant literature) as well as the preliminary evaluation design plan and draft tools. The report will include: (1) a brief summary of key findings from the document review; (2) a brief summary of the gaps to be filled through the primary data collection; (3) a detailed study design, including key stakeholder groups and other expected participants, draft sampling approach, data collection and analysis methods, and a matrix linking each evaluation question in the SOW to the data sources, methods, and data analysis plan that will facilitate completely addressing the questions; (4) draft questionnaires and other data collection instruments or their main features; (5) the list of potential interviewees and sites to be visited; (6) known limitations to the study design and plans to mitigate them; and (7) a dissemination plan with any timeline updates.

USAID/Haiti will take up to 10 business days to review and consolidate comments through the COR. Once the ESS+ study team receives the consolidated comments on the Inception-Design Report, they are expected to return a revised Inception-Design Report within 5 business days.

3. In-briefing and other Presentations and Meetings:

Prior to finalizing the Inception-Design Report, the study team is expected to hold an In-briefing presentation, in person or virtually, to discuss the proposed methodology. This is a valuable opportunity to clarify assumptions and make sure that data collection plans and tools will capture the information needed to answer the study/evaluation questions.

The evaluation team and USAID will also plan to meet bi-weekly (every other week, virtually) starting after the In-briefing presentation, until the end of the assignment.

4. Outbriefing and other Presentations:

Within 20 business days after the data collection (fieldwork) concludes, the evaluation/study team is expected to hold an Out-briefing presentation, in person or virtually, for USAID key staff. This first Out-briefing presentation is a valuable opportunity to discuss the findings, conclusions, and preliminary recommendations, and essentially explore the data more deeply as a team. The first Out-briefing will include key staff from the USAID/Haiti Program and Technical Offices (and possibly the IP); and a second presentation will be held at a later date, open to the entire Mission (and the IP or other stakeholders). It is possible to include another tailored Out-briefing or review workshop with the IP and key stakeholders.

5. Draft Report:

The draft report should be consistent with the guidance provided in Section X: Final Report Format. The report will address each of the questions identified in the SOW and will present any other issues/findings the team considers bearing on the study objectives. Any such issues can be included in the report only after consultation with USAID (such as during the regular coordination calls). The draft report will be submitted fifteen (15) business days after the first Out-briefing.

Once the draft report is submitted, USAID will have 10 business days to review and comment on the draft, after which the ESS+ COR will submit the consolidated comments. The evaluation/study team will then be asked to submit a revised final report 10 business days hence, and again USAID will review and approve the final report within 10 business days of its submission.

6. Final Report and other Deliverables:

The evaluation team will be asked to take no more than 10 business days to respond to/incorporate USAID's comments on the draft report. ESS+ will then submit the final report to its COR. All activity data and records shall be submitted in full and should be in electronic form in easily readable format, organized, and documented for use by those not fully familiar with the intervention or baseline, and owned by USAID.

The evaluation team is also expected to produce, along with the final report, summary briefs (approx. two pages each) in English and French. In this case, the 2-page Executive Summary can serve this purpose. To better support learning across external stakeholders, these easy-to-digest materials must focus on high-level takeaways. As relevant, these materials may also provide data visualization of key concepts, indicators, conclusions, and recommendations, tailored for the audience if/as specified.

7. Collected data and documents:

All quantitative data collected under this Contract must be provided in machine-readable, non-proprietary formats, as required by USAID's Open Data policy (see ADS 579). Unless otherwise specified, all data sets must be de-identified and submitted to the USAID Data Development Library (DDL). The data must be organized and fully documented for use by those not fully familiar with the activity or the evaluation. USAID will retain ownership of the survey and all datasets developed.

The Contractor must also upload the final report to the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC). The Contractor must also provide USAID/Haiti a full Close-out file of the evaluation or research. USAID/Haiti will retain unlimited use rights to all data and systems resulting from this contract, including all rights to use, disclose, reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and perform publicly and display publicly, in any manner and for any purpose, and to have or permit others to do so. USAID/Haiti will also retain all underlying and related Intellectual Property rights and interests to all data systems resulting from this contract.

7.1 Report Quality Criteria

To help ensure a high-quality evaluation report, these quality criteria (as described in ADS 201maa, Criteria to Ensure the Quality of the Evaluation Report) must underlie all work under this SOW:

1. Evaluation reports should represent a thoughtful, well-researched, and well-organized effort to objectively evaluate the strategy, project, or activity.
2. Evaluation reports should be readily understood and should identify key points clearly, distinctly, and succinctly.
3. The Executive Summary of an evaluation report should present a concise and accurate statement of the most critical elements of the report. The Executive Summary may be translated into French or Kreyol, upon request.
4. Evaluation reports should adequately address all evaluation questions included in the SOW, or the evaluation questions subsequently revised and documented in consultation and agreement with USAID.
5. The evaluation or research methodology must be explained in detail; for instance, the sampling strategies and sources of information must be properly identified.
6. Limitations to the evaluation should be adequately disclosed in the report, with particular attention to the limitations associated with the evaluation methodology (selection bias, recall

bias, unobservable differences between comparator groups, etc.) and a description of the mitigation measures applied.

7. Evaluation and research findings should be presented as analyzed facts, evidence, and data and not based on anecdotes, hearsay, or simply the compilation of people's opinions.
8. Findings and conclusions must be specific, concise, and supported by strong quantitative or qualitative evidence. Quantitative data must go beyond descriptive or simple statistics and should at least examine relationships between two or more variables. Qualitative data must be coded and analyzed, going beyond obvious or simple statements.
9. Data and information must be disaggregated, analyzed, and presented in ways most relevant to the research; for instance, by gender, stakeholder type, geographic area, or other useful criteria. If evaluation and research findings assess household or person-level outcomes or impact, they must also be separately assessed for both males and females. If evaluation and research findings assess community-level outcomes or impact, they must also be separately assessed by region.
10. When recommendations are included, they must be supported by a specific set of findings and must be action-oriented, practical, and specific.

VIII. TEAM COMPOSITION

At a minimum, there should be a Team Lead for the evaluation accompanied by an assistant team lead/evaluation specialist and/or subject matter expert. Suggested team member roles and qualifications are outlined below.

I. Team Lead (TL):

Roles & Responsibilities: The TL should have significant experience conducting and leading project evaluations and/or assessments. The TL will be responsible for: providing team leadership; managing the team's activities; ensuring that all deliverables are met in a timely manner and the evaluation purpose is fulfilled; and leading briefings and presentations.

Qualifications:

1. Minimum of 10 years of experience in public health and/or nutrition, including experience in implementation of health and/or nutrition activities in developing countries
2. Demonstrated experience leading health sector project/program evaluation/assessment activities, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods
3. Excellent skills in planning, facilitation, and consensus building
4. Excellent interpersonal skills, including experience successfully interacting with host government officials, civil society partners, and other stakeholders
5. Excellent skills in project management
6. Excellent organizational skills and ability to keep to a timeline
7. Good writing skills, with extensive report writing experience
8. Experience working in the region (prior experience in Haiti is highly desirable)
9. Proficient in written and spoken English and French [Kreyol is highly desirable]
10. Familiarity with USAID policies and practices including Evaluation policy; Results frameworks; and Performance monitoring plans

2. Evaluation Specialist

Roles & Responsibilities: This consultant serves as a member of the assignment team, providing quality assurance on analytic issues, including methods, development of data collection instruments, protocols for data collection, data management, and data analysis. S/He will oversee the training of all engaged in data collection, ensuring the highest level of reliability and validity of data being collected. S/He is the lead analyst, responsible for all data analysis, and will coordinate the analysis of

all data, assuring all quantitative and qualitative data analyses are done to meet the needs for this evaluation. S/He will participate in all aspects of the assignment, from planning, data collection, and data analysis to report writing.

Qualifications:

1. At least 10 years of experience in USAID M&E procedures and implementation
2. At least 5 years managing M&E, including evaluations and/or assessments
3. Experience in design and implementation of evaluations and/or assessments
4. Strong knowledge, skills, and experience in qualitative and quantitative analytic tools
5. Experience implementing and coordinating others to implement surveys, key informant interviews, focus groups, observations, and other evaluation and assessment methods that assure reliability and validity of the data
6. Experience in data management
7. Able to analyze quantitative data, which will be primarily descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations
8. Able to analyze qualitative data
9. Experience using analytic software
10. Demonstrated experience using qualitative evaluation methodologies, and triangulating with quantitative data
11. Experience conducting secondary analysis of existing quantitative datasets
12. Able to review, interpret, and reanalyze, as needed, existing data pertinent to the evaluation
13. Strong data interpretation and presentation skills
14. Proficient in written and spoken English and French [Kreyol is highly desirable]
15. Good writing skills, including experience writing evaluation and/or assessment reports
16. Familiarity with USAID health and nutrition programs/projects, particularly in the area of Food Fortification
17. Familiarity with USAID and/or PEPFAR M&E policies and practices including Evaluation policies; Results frameworks; and Performance monitoring plans

3. Nutrition and Food Fortification Specialist

Roles & Responsibilities: Serve as a member of the Team, providing subject matter expertise in Nutrition and/or Food Fortification. S/He will participate in planning and briefing meetings, development of data collection instruments, data collection, data analysis, development of presentations, and writing of the final report.

Qualifications:

1. At least 8 years of experience with Nutrition and Food Fortification projects; USAID project implementation experience preferred
2. Expertise in supply and demand for Nutrition and Food Fortification services at the community and clinical levels; Subject matter experience in Haiti is desirable
3. Familiarity with health and nutrition integration is desirable
4. Excellent interpersonal skills, including experience successfully interacting with host government officials, civil society partners, and other stakeholders
5. Proficient in English and French [Kreyol is highly desirable]
6. Good writing skills, including experience writing evaluation and/or assessment reports
7. Experience conducting USAID evaluations of health/nutrition programs/activities

Note: Travel to Haiti for international consultants is contingent upon the security situation in-country. ESS+ is expected to rely on its network of knowledgeable and qualified local

consultants and subject matter experts who can safely work in-country for this evaluation.

Since the assassination of the Haitian President in July 2021, the security situation in Haiti has continued to rapidly deteriorate. Widespread dissatisfaction with the government and ongoing corruption scandals have resulted in frequent protests. Gang violence and kidnappings are on the rise, along with internal displacement. There was a 58 percent increase in kidnapping during the first quarter of 2022, including several cases among the implementing partners (IP) community. In previous months, two additional IP kidnappings in health occurred, which has had a significant impact on the community and staff morale. In addition, travel to and from the office for local staff has become increasingly more dangerous, stressful, and costly. The security situation has also severely impacted USAID and IPs' capacities for routine onsite monitoring.

IX. SCHEDULE

The following schedule, to be completed by the evaluation team and ESS+, lists major milestones and key deliverables, most of which are specified in Section 7: Deliverables and Reporting Requirements (which also specifies the timeframe).

Tasks/Deliverables	Timeline/Deadline
Assignment Kick-off with USAID	
Desk Review; Inception Phase	
Work plan submitted to USAID	Within 20 business days
Combined Inception-Design Report submitted to USAID	Within 5 weeks of ET onboarding
Inception-Design Report in-briefing with USAID and necessary stakeholders	
In-briefing with project partners and participants	
Routine USAID briefings	Biweekly
Data collection and analysis	
Debriefing with USAID: presentation on progress of the assignment and preliminary findings, conclusions, and recommendations	
Review workshop with USAID and Implementing Partner and other key stakeholders: presentation about preliminary findings, conclusions, and recommendations	

Debriefing with USAID: Mission wide presentation for wider USAID learning	[flexible]
Submission of Draft evaluation report	
Submission of Final evaluation report, with all raw data (cleaned datasets in CSV or XML with code sheets, etc.)	
Report posted to the DEC	
Submission of other deliverables, such as 2-pagers in French and English	

X. FINAL REPORT FORMAT

The final report format for evaluations, surveys, or research is as follows (see also the [2021 USAID template](#)):

- Executive Summary (2 pages)
- Evaluation purpose
- Evaluation questions
- Background on the context and the Strategies/Projects/Activities being assessed
- Methodology with detailed approach and sampling
- Limitations and mitigation measures
- Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations (Findings should be organized by evaluation questions and must be substantiated with evidence/data)
- Annexes

Final reports must be well organized and must include Findings and Conclusions Matrices that clearly depict how the evaluation or research team arrived at their conclusions and recommendations. This table can be annexed to the final report. Key information is expected to be presented in the body or annexes of the report, and every effort must be made to present data succinctly and with visualization.

The executive summary will be a maximum of 2 pages in length and must summarize the purpose, background of the activity being evaluated, main evaluation questions, methods, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and lessons learned (as applicable).

The final report should be **no more than 15 pages of text**, excluding the table of contents, acronyms, and Executive Summary. It should include Background and Purpose, Methods and Limitations, and Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations (FCR). All 15 pages and the Executive Summary should be in English with a separate translation. If the evaluation team deems that additional pages are required due to major evidence (in the FCR) or perhaps a focus on limitations or other commentary, up to 5 additional pages can be added OR these major findings (FCR or methodology/limitations) can be annexed to the report; **the final report should focus on the conclusions and recommendations, and lessons learned (as applicable)**. The report should be in English, and both the Executive Summary and the 15-page Report should be translated into French (no page restriction for the translation).

The annexes to the report shall include:

- Evaluation SOW
- All sources of information properly identified and listed - including but not limited to documents reviewed
- All data collection and analysis tools used in conducting the evaluation or research, such as questionnaires, checklists, and discussion guides - complete with consent forms (introductory protocols)
- The data collection plan or schedule
- NEW: Additional evidence/findings, description of the methodology and limitations, etc.
- Signed disclosure of conflict-of-interest forms for all evaluation team members, either attesting to a lack of conflicts of interest or describing existing conflicts of interest
- Any “statements of difference” regarding significant unresolved differences of opinion by funders, implementers, and/or members of the evaluation team, if applicable
- Any evaluation or research tables/frameworks used during analysis, including Findings and Conclusions matrices or Evaluation/Research Design matrices
- Summary information about the team members, including qualifications, experience, and role on the team

XI. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with ADS 201, the Contractor will make the final evaluation reports publicly available through the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) within three months of the evaluation’s conclusion.

All quantitative data collected by the evaluation team must be provided in machine-readable, non-proprietary formats as required by USAID’s Open Data policy (see ADS 579). The data should be organized and fully documented for use by those not fully familiar with the activity or the evaluation. USAID will retain ownership of the survey and all datasets developed.

All modifications to the required elements of the SOW of the contract/agreement, whether in technical requirements, evaluation questions, team composition, methodology, or timeline, need to be agreed upon in writing by the COR. Any revisions should be updated in the SOW that is included as an annex to the final report.

ANNEX III: EVALUATION DESIGN & INCEPTION REPORT

RANFOSE FINAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INCEPTION/DESIGN REPORT

Haiti Evaluation and Survey Services Plus (ESS+)

April 2023

Task Order #72052122F00001

Under EVAL-ME II IDIQ Contract #7200AA20D00026

This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of International Business Initiatives, Corp. (IBI) and Social Impact, Inc. (SI) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

[The Inception and Design Report table of contents, including the list of tables and figures, has been removed in this annex to avoid conflict with the primary document's table of contents.]

ACRONYM LIST

AFFORD	Advancing Food Fortification Opportunities to Reinforce Diets
BHN	National Haitian Standards Bureau
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CU5	Children Under 5
DCQPC	Direction for Quality Control and Consumer Protection
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DSA	Data Sharing Agreement
EQ	Evaluation Questions
EQUI	Evaluation, Quality, Use and Impact
ET	Evaluation Team
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
FFI	Food Fortification Initiative
FFWG	Food Fortification Working Group
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
g/c/d	Grams per Capita per Day
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoH	Government of Haiti
HPLC	High-Performance Liquid Chromatographer
IGN	Iodine Global Network
IRB	Internal Review Board
KIs	Key Informant Interviews
LNSP	Laboratoire National Santé Publique
LSFF	Large-Scale Food Fortification
LVCQAT	National Laboratory for Food Quality Control
MARNDR	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development
MCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric ton(s)
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
PaP	Port-au-Prince
PIH	Partners in Health
PNCS	Programme National de Cantines Scolaires
POA	Partners of the Americas
QA	Quality Assurance
RANFOSE	<i>Ranfose Abitid Nitrisyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé</i>
RIs	Rapid Interviews
SI	Social Impact
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOW	Scope of Work
ToT	Training of Trainers
UCPNaNU	<i>L'Unité de Coordination Nationale de Programme de Nutrition</i>
UN	United Nations
UNDH	University of Notre Dame d'Haiti
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

UNIQ	Quisqueya University
UPS	Health Protection Unit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WHO	United Nations World Health Organization
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread and are considered a public health problem in Haiti. According to the most recent Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) conducted in 2016-2017, half of non-pregnant women of childbearing age and two-thirds of children aged 6-59 months had iron deficiency anemia. Roughly half of the Haitian population is undernourished, one in three children under the age of five years (CU5) is stunted or has a low height for their age.

According to the National Nutritional and Mortality Survey conducted in Haiti in January 2020, acute malnutrition in CU5 stands at 6 percent, a slight increase from 2012 when acute malnutrition in CU5 stood at 4.1 percent whereas there has been no significant improvement in chronic malnutrition in the general population nationally between 2012 (23.4 percent) and 2020 (22.7 percent).

These poor health outcomes for Haiti are further exacerbated by recurring natural disasters, such as the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck southwest Haiti on August 14, 2021, followed by Tropical Storm Grace less than 48 hours later. The political and security situation further compounds the situation; since 2018, Haiti has been plunged into strong political instability marked by regular and violent unrest.

In 2017, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commissioned Partners of the Americas to implement Ranfose Abitid Nitisyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé (commonly referred to as RANFOSE or “Strengthen Nutrition to Increase Health”) – a food fortification project – to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. With the RANFOSE project nearing completion in July 2023, the main purpose of this evaluation is to assess progress to-date and provide actionable recommendations to inform activity improvements and/or new approaches and opportunities.

The Evaluation Questions (EQs) are focused on assessing the effectiveness of the RANFOSE project in a) increasing the availability of adequately fortified foods in Haiti, b) promoting stakeholder engagement and the fortified food supply chain, c) supporting the legislative environment around food fortification, d) enhancing the sustainability of food fortification and e) adapting to the challenges that arise in implementing large-scale food fortification in Haiti political and economic environment.

Based on the nature of the EQs and following a desk review of available literature, the evaluation team has opted for the use of several qualitative methods to collect the data, including key informant interviews (KIs), focus group discussions (FGDs) and rapid interviews (RIs). All data collected by the evaluation will be triangulated against secondary quantitative data from project monitoring data or other existing sources where such data exists.

Project documents were reviewed from which detailed information about project objectives, approaches, activities, locations, and stakeholders was identified and informed the evaluation design. A data collection subcontractor from ESS+ will assist with data collection, which will occur in three departments: Ouest, Nord and Grand’Anse.

Key informant interviews will be carried out with project stakeholders to investigate the project’s progress to-date and gather recommendations to inform activity improvements and/or new approaches and opportunities for advancing food fortification in Haiti. Stakeholders include industry partners (producers and processors) that are fortifying foods, importers and distributors of fortified foods, industries that are not fortifying foods, entities from the public sector involved in food fortification (Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Commerce and Trade, and Education), civil society and international organizations (USAID, consumer’s associations, United Nations, implementing partners, NGOs and academia), and laboratories that might be considered for testing fortified food samples for enforcement or social auditing. Subsequent to the KIs, the evaluation would like to

envisage a discussion with members of the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG) to explore opportunities and challenges for the sustainability of Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) in Haiti.

Focus Groups Discussion will be carried out with the health practitioners trained in the Training-of-Trainers (ToT). The FGDs will assess a) understanding of the benefits of food fortification, b) opportunities and challenges for promoting food fortification in the scope of their work and c) opinions about population perceptions of fortified foods (awareness, consumption, price perception). A consent form will be signed by FGDs participants, permissions from appropriate authorities will be obtained as required, and a suitable location to conduct the discussions will be identified, ideally in a health center in the selected location.

Once FGDs have taken place at the health centers, rapid interviews will be carried out with women of reproductive ages or women with CU5, as well as with customers and the shopkeeper in select shops in the locations where trained health practitioners operate. The objective of the rapid interviews is to assess consumer awareness, consumption, and perceptions of fortified foods in the locations where health practitioners have been equipped by RANFOSE to promote fortified foods in their catchment areas.

The ET will apply for ethics approval by the Internal Review Board (IRB) including the informed consent texts which explain the evaluation purpose and use, the type of data to be collected, a guarantee of respondents' confidentiality and the different data collection tools to be used by the data collection firm. The ET has requested an introduction letter from USAID prior to data collection to ensure the ET can meet with relevant government stakeholders.

All data will be analyzed using Dedoose, a qualitative data analysis software used by ESS+. While the evaluation is keen to assess awareness and consumption of fortified foods from the population's perspective, it was decided that a national population-based survey was not a cost-effective way of answering the small proportion of EQs that necessitate population-based data.

The political insecurity in Haiti limits the possibility for carrying out data collection activities given the limited mobility induced by the situation. The ET is therefore working entirely remotely. However, the fact that the data collection firm is based in Port-au-Prince should strengthen the data collection planning by ensuring security considerations are adequately assessed. The data collection schedule will need to remain flexible to account for accessibility issues arising.

USAID has commissioned a project called **Advancing Food Fortification Opportunities to Reinforce Diets** (AFFORD) to undertake a market analysis on food fortification in Haiti scheduled to take place around the same time as the RANFOSE evaluation meaning the same informants could be approached for KIs by both studies. To minimize duplication of efforts, the two studies will inform relevant stakeholders of the other's remit and timing, and select data points will be shared between the two studies to avoid respondent fatigue from repeated interview questions. Data sharing will be preceded by a Data Sharing and Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) between the two organizations.

The primary users of this evaluation are USAID who will utilize the results of this evaluation to inform the implementation strategy of further activities in food fortification in Haiti. Secondary users include the Implementing Partners, the Government of Haiti, including the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Commerce and Industry. The evaluation results will further be shared with United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, WFP and FAO and other stakeholders in country such as universities, laboratories and others in the food fortification networks.

INTRODUCTION AND EVALUATION PURPOSE

In Haiti, nutritional deficiencies are long-standing challenges, and according to the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), roughly 50 percent of Haiti's population is undernourished. The 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) reported that one in three children under the age of five years is stunted or has a low height for their age. Further, deficiencies in micronutrients lead to decreased cognitive development and productivity and weakened immune systems.

To address this challenge, USAID launched Ranfose Abitid Nitrisyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé (RANFOSE) - or "Strengthen Nutrition to Increase Health." Ranfose is a food fortification project (2017-2023; initially for four years, then extended) intended to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, this project works with importers, distributors, and local food producers to fortify wheat flour with iron and folic acid, vegetable oils with vitamin A, and salt with iodine. RANFOSE also supported the implementation of food fortification legislation by providing technical assistance to the Government of Haiti (GoH) to create a legislative and regulatory environment supporting the production and importation of fortified foods.

USAID/Haiti is commissioning a Performance Evaluation of its RANFOSE Nutrition Project to assess progress to-date and inform future project design and implementation. This evaluation will provide valuable information to help inform possible strategic shifts in Nutrition and Food Fortification programming in the immediate term (next 2-4 years). USAID is the primary user of this evaluation; other stakeholders include implementing partners; local stakeholders; local universities; and international organizations.

ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

CONTEXT

Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread and are considered a public health problem in Haiti. According to the most recent DHS conducted in 2016-2017, half of non-pregnant women of childbearing age and two-thirds of children aged 6-59 months had iron deficiency anemia. Roughly half of the Haitian population is undernourished, one in three children under the age of five years (CU5) is stunted or has a low height for their age.

Pregnant women and young children are the most vulnerable to deficiency malnutrition because of their higher nutrient requirements, the small amounts of food they consume, and the fact that deficiencies during this life stage can lead to permanent disabilities. According to the Copenhagen Consensus, gestational anemia is associated with a higher risk of infant mortality, preterm delivery, and low birth weight.

According to the National Nutritional and Mortality Survey conducted in Haiti in January 2020, acute malnutrition in CU5 stands at 6 percent, a slight increase from 2012 when acute malnutrition in CU5 stood at 4.1 percent whereas there has been no significant improvement in chronic malnutrition nationally between 2012 (23.4 percent) and 2020 (22.7 percent).

These poor health outcomes for Haiti are further exacerbated by recurring natural disasters, such as the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck southwest Haiti on August 14, 2021, followed by Tropical Storm Grace less than 48 hours later. More than 2,200 people lost their lives to the earthquake, more than 12,000 were injured and thousands of families were displaced from their homes. The earthquake caused significant damage to the already limited infrastructure in the country such as damaging healthcare infrastructure, drinking water sources and heavily affecting agricultural

production thereby further hindering access to basic hygiene, adequate nutrition, and health services for the population.

The political and security situation further compounds the situation; since 2018, Haiti has been plunged into strong political instability marked by regular and violent unrest. In July 2021, the president, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated. Then followed a wave of institutional instability that considerably weakened state institutions. The country functions without a constitutional council, without a parliamentary assembly, nor a functional senate or a credible electoral commission. Tensions are escalating as opposition groups challenge the validity of the new transitional government's authority and there appears to be no consensus on how to move forward towards holding elections. This political instability further weakens health and other infrastructures and services that are vital to maintaining a healthy population.

With each major shock and stress, it is more difficult for Haitian citizens and systems to return to pre-shock levels of well-being and functionality. With a GDP per capita of \$2,925 and a Human Development Index ranking of 170 out of 189 countries in 2020 according to the World Bank, Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and Caribbean region and among the poorest countries in the world.

EVALUATION PURPOSE

In 2017, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commissioned Partners of the Americas to implement *Ranfose Abitid Nitasyon Pou Fè Ogmante Santé* (commonly referred to as RANFOSE or “Strengthen Nutrition to Increase Health”) – a food fortification project – to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. While the project aims to improve the availability of adequately fortified foods nationally, the project’s activities have been mostly focused on Port-au-Prince and the Ouest Department where industry, government and civil society stakeholders are predominantly located. The project also conducted five Training of Trainers (ToT) with health practitioners from three departments to promote the benefits of fortified foods in their work. At the population level, the project launched a mass media campaign (posters, brochures, radio spots and TV adverts) nationally to promote fortified foods among the population.

With the RANFOSE project nearing completion in June 2023, the main purpose of this evaluation is to assess progress to-date and provide actionable recommendations to inform activity improvements and/or new approaches and opportunities. As the primary user of this evaluation, USAID will use the results to adjust and adapt its implementation strategy in Nutrition and Food Fortification in Haiti. Secondary users include the Implementing Partners; Government of Haiti (GoH), Ministry of Health (MoH), and local stakeholders such as producers, importers, sellers in markets, consumers, as well as local universities; and major international organizations such as UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IGN, etc.

DEVELOPMENT HYPOTHESIS

The Activity’s objectives were intended to contribute to long-term health and economic benefits for the Haitian people, including decreased prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies and related micronutrient deficiency disorders (e.g., anemia), increased nutritional resilience against future food security shocks, increased availability of fortified foods, decreased morbidity and mortality via improved disease immunity, and increased economic productivity and growth. In addition, these objectives aimed to ensure that strong channels of communication and participation among the public sector, private sector, and civil society remain open in support of the nutrition strategy and its operationalization.

The RANFOSE project addresses the continuing problem of micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti by identifying constraints and targeting key stakeholders in the public sector, private sector, and civil

society to stimulate a sustainable national program for fortified staple foods. RANFOSE is aligned with the *Plan Stratégique de Nutrition 2013-2018* of the GoH's Ministry of Health and Population (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population), which focuses on the prevention of malnutrition.

RANFOSE aims to decrease micronutrient deficiencies, improve the national strategy for fortification, and improve quality assurance and control and monitoring for locally sourced or imported fortified food products. RANFOSE is also aligned with USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2014-2025), which seeks to decrease chronic malnutrition through the increased availability of and access to high-quality nutrition-specific services and commodities, increased political will and resources for nutrition programs, and strengthened engagement with the private sector to improve nutrition.

In this regard, RANFOSE aims to

- 1) Increase the availability and accessibility of fortified food staples (wheat flour, vegetable oil, and salt, and products made with them) across the country;
- 2) Improve awareness about the nutritional value and importance of fortified foods to support their consumption in Haiti;
- 3) Ensure that key local producers, processors, importers, distributors, and vendors create a sustained and safe supply of fortified foods for the Haitian market, that key local producers/processors make sustained commitments to fortify food vehicles for the Haitian market, including sufficient capacity to produce and distribute a high volume of the fortified food vehicles, and that importers make similar commitments to import, distribute, and sell foods that comply with the fortification standards;
- 4) Strengthen the capacity of the GoH to address critical issues (enforcement and monitoring) related to a sustained and effective food fortification program, including standards and regulations implementation, quality control and quality assurance (QA), and monitoring and evaluation metrics and systems.

RANFOSE is following three key operating approaches to ensure an effective and sustainable national fortification program throughout the three stages of the impact model listed below and beyond USAID funding.

- 1) Efficient and effective national implementation through the establishment of a Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG), formerly conceived as National Fortification Alliance (NFA);
- 2) Leadership, partnership, and collaboration with key stakeholders already engaged in fortification to build from successes and appropriately scale up; and
- 3) Identification and mitigation of key challenges through innovative and sustainable approaches to ensure impact.

Program activities under RANFOSE are organized around seven expected results (see [Figure 1](#)).

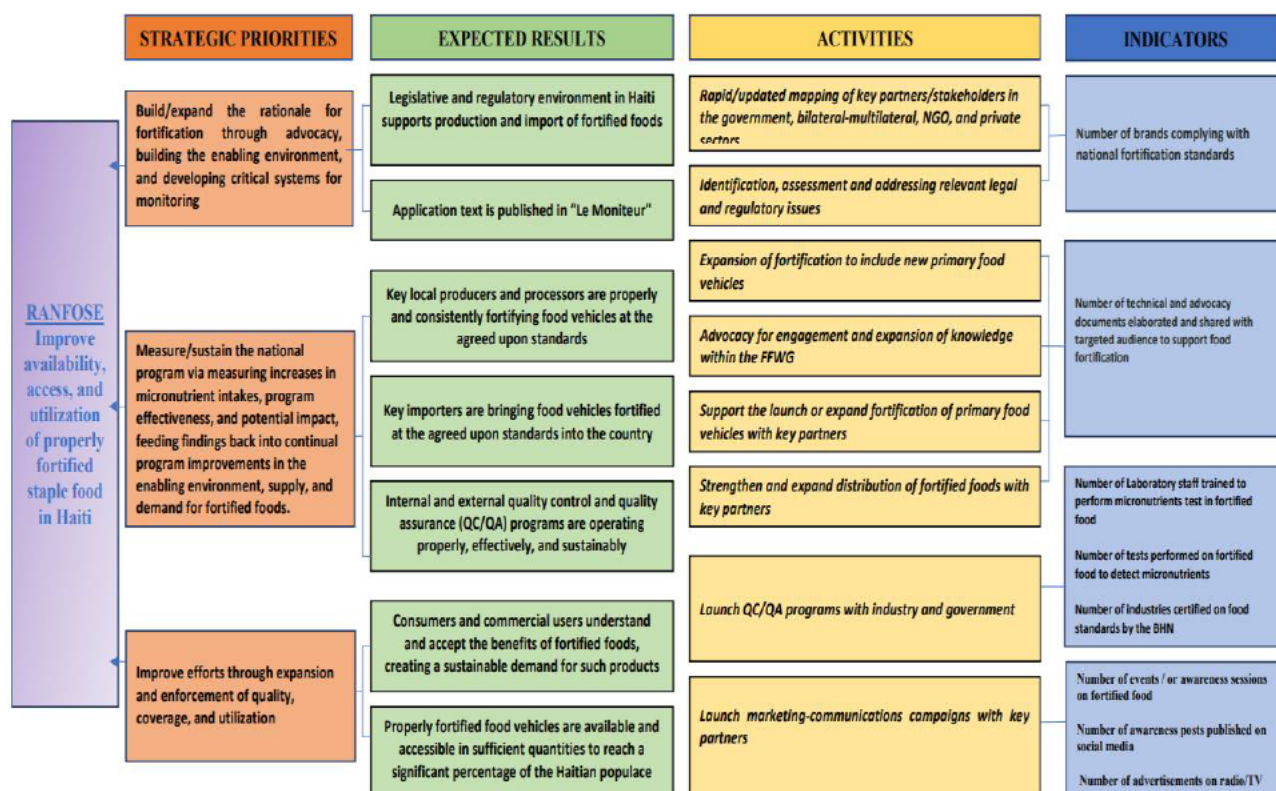


Figure 1: RANFOSE Logic Model

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

This performance evaluation aims to answer the Evaluation Questions (EQ) drafted by USAID in the Scope of Work (SOW – Annex 6). The questions were reviewed by the Evaluation Team (ET) and discussed together with USAID to ensure a shared and thorough understanding of the questions. The evaluation questions are as follows:

EQ1. Considering the activity's theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5)?

- The Evaluation Team (ET) will be expected to identify specific areas in which RANFOSE's input has improved the availability of fortified foods, particularly for women of reproductive age and children.
- The answer will also need to identify where RANFOSE's engagement with leadership in different areas (e.g., private sector; GoH) has proven to be instrumental in improving availability.
- In responding to that question, the ET should consider key factors that facilitate or inhibit the availability of fortified foods, particularly among WRA and CU5.

EQ2. To what extent has the activity's stakeholder engagement and involvement been effective in accomplishing the rollout of large-scale food fortification (LSFF)?

- The ET shall highlight the relevancy and effect of the advocacy campaigns with consumers and the factors affecting consumers' awareness and consumption of fortified foods.

b) In responding to that question, the ET shall assess the project's accomplishments and influence on the local Food Fortification Alliance and the national standards and legislative environment about fortified foods. For instance, the ET shall consider the performance of the GoH in the areas of: (1) regulation; (2) enforcement (at factories, importation sites, and markets); and (3) the monitoring of fortified samples.

c) The GoH introduced LSFF legislation in 2017, although national standards are yet to materialize. The ET needs to determine what - if anything - were the limiting factors or what RANFOSE could have done better to support development and implementation of the national standards.

EQ3. To what extent has the activity's implementation strategy been effective in strengthening the fortified foods supply chain?

a) The ET shall consider what factors and activities affected food fortification production and value/supply chain stakeholders (production centers, importers, distributors, markets/retailers, regulatory agencies, etc.). For instance, the ET shall capture business performance and practices as well as price and perceived affordability of fortified wheat flour and edible oil/ghee, how the project influences the premix and micro feeder market, and the technical challenges and lessons learned in strengthening the fortification compliance of the current food fortification programs (wheat flour, oil, and salt - including use of iodized salt in bouillon cube).

EQ4. What has the project done to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification?

a) This question is partly about identifying nutrition-related barriers and opportunities for sustainability. The ET shall consider synergy with other USAID projects, factors affecting public and private sector engagement, the regulatory and socio-political environment, GoH engagement (regulation, enforcement at diverse locations (factory, importation sites, markets)), and other factors that are likely to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification.

b) The ET shall also consider if there were opportunities and stakeholders that RANFOSE had hoped to use that did not materialize and to document why they were not possible. Please explore emerging opportunities and alternative options (including non-traditional approaches, such as working with local universities to support food fortification monitoring) for monitoring compliance of food fortification beyond reliance on the GoH.

EQ5. How has RANFOSE evolved and adapted to the political, security, and economic challenges they encountered?

a) How has the environment affected the project's ability to deliver from when it was awarded to what they are doing now? This question needs to document the lessons learned, to avoid reinventing the wheel in the future.

EVALUATION DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The evaluation adopts Social Impact's (SI) Evaluation, Quality, Understanding and Impact (EQUI) approach, ensuring quality checks are applied at each stage of the evaluation process. This approach promotes exchange between the ET and the primary user of the evaluation to ensure the evaluation remains on track to meet the users' demands.

Based on the nature of the evaluation objectives, and following a desk review of available literature, the evaluation has opted to utilize several qualitative methods, including key informant interviews,

focus group discussions, and rapid interviews. Some data collected by the evaluation will be triangulated against secondary quantitative data from project monitoring data or other existing sources where such data exists. Please see Annex II for the evaluation design matrix with data sources and collection methods for each evaluation question listed.

In consideration of options as to whether, when, and how to continue support to LSFF, USAID has commissioned a project called **Advancing Food Fortification Opportunities to Reinforce Diets (AFFORD)** to undertake a market analysis on food fortification in Haiti. This is scheduled to take place around the same time as the RANFOSE evaluation meaning many of the same informants could be approached for KIs by both studies. However, both studies have different objectives making it difficult to merge data collection activities without burdening one study or the other unnecessarily.

To minimize the overlap and duplication of efforts, the evaluation and AFFORD study teams have exchanged ideas on their planned design and are collaborating to ensure as much synergy and as little duplication as possible. The two studies will inform relevant stakeholders of the other's remit and timing, for which their participation may also be required, thus demonstrating a coordinated effort. Additionally, it is proposed that select data points collected will be shared between the two studies to avoid respondent fatigue from repeated interview questions. Data sharing will be preceded by a Data Sharing and NDA between the two organizations.

DESK REVIEW

The ET reviewed project documents from which detailed information about project objectives, approaches, activities, locations, and stakeholders was identified. The documents reviewed include project overviews, strategy frameworks, work plans, quarterly reports, annual progress reports, and yearly activity, monitoring, and evaluation plans.

Further documents were requested from the implementing partner to provide additional detail on specific project activities, e.g.: stakeholder lists, survey and mapping results, minutes of meetings and attendance lists, yearly sales figures for fortified and unfortified wheat flour, salt and oil, stakeholder lists, technical and advocacy documents, action plans elaborated.

In addition, the ET explored academic literature and global reports on current approaches and outcomes in micronutrient deficiencies as well as lessons learned and best practices from large-scale food fortification programs. Online media were scanned for articles relating to the legislative environment of food fortification, the project's activities, and current data on micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti.

Online open-source databases and dashboards such as UNICEF's nutrition database, the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), the Global Fortification Data Exchange, the Humanitarian Data Exchange (WFP), USDA Foreign Agricultural Services (Global Agricultural Information Network) and FEWSNET's staple food price data were consulted for relevant secondary data on micronutrient deficiencies rates and data on fortified foods production, imports and sales – See Annex 4 Bibliography for a full list of documents reviewed.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND INFORMATION GAPS

Based on the RANFOSE documents reviewed which included project work plans, M&E plans, and quarterly and annual reports on project progress, the ET has identified key findings that are relevant to answering the EQs. Where possible, the ET tried to confirm information presented in project documents through other sources such as online media articles, open-source databases, and academic literature. In general, the project has carried out advocacy activities, trainings, preparation of food fortification specifications, visits to factories to provide technical assistance in the implementation process and facilitates a Food Fortification Working Group. A summary of the main

findings of the desk review is presented below, together with the most significant gaps identified for the purpose of answering the evaluation questions.

EQ1.

Considering the activity's theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5)?

FINDINGS

Availability

- 2018 – Ministry of Commerce issues statement urging all industries to comply with Food Fortification Act of Oct 2018
- 2019 - Start of a) fortified oil sales (local & imports), b) wheat flour formula trials and c) marketing and comms strategy developed with salt producers/packagegers.
- 2019 - 76 percent of flour in Haiti is fortified, 65 percent of oil in Haiti is fortified
- 2020 – The project initially approached 13 food producers, and three of them were already fortifying foods. The project managed to engage three other producers, doubling the number of factories fortifying compared to the beginning of the project. RANFOSE reports that a sampling and testing of oil showed that seven out of eight oil (87.5 percent) brands were fortified, although not all producers are project partners.
- 2021 - The three project partner wheat mills (Les Cereales d'Haiti, Les Moulins d'Haiti and Caribbean Milling) are still fortifying. During the pandemic, the prices of fortified foods increased. In Cap-Haitian, the increase in price for wheat flour was significantly higher than in other areas of Haiti. The pandemic and limitations for mobility caused a shortage of products in markets outside Port-au-Prince and affected the Ministry of Education national school-canteen program where food rations (including bread and oil) could not be delivered as planned.
- 2022 – Random sample testing performed in lab in Dominican Republic on wheat flour produced in Haiti shows the correct iron levels but zero zinc in tested samples.
- 2023 - According to FF Data Exchange, the availability of FF in Haiti is: 59 g/c/d for wheat flour, 6.8 g/c/d for salt and 18 g/c/d for oil.
- Imports of vegetable oil fortified with vitamin A: More than 74,988 MT/year representing 60 percent of available oil in Haiti.
- Wheat flour production is around 217,000 MT/year and 72,000 MT/year are imported.
- According to the wheat flour producers, fortification adds between 0.04 to 0.06 USD/kg to the cost of wheat flour.
- The total availability of edible salt is around 30,000 MT/year and it comprises different types of salt such as coarse, coarse/washed, coarse/washed/ground. Approximately 19,368 MT/year corresponds to national production

Table 2: List of Brands Fortifying Foods in Haiti Identified by RANFOSE

Industry	Product	Brand
Les Cereales d'Haiti (LCH)	Wheat flour	Reina du Sud, Macaya, Sans Souci
Les Moulins d'Haiti (LMH)	Wheat flour	Wheat flour Les Moulins d'Haiti & Lacay
Caribbean Milling	Wheat flour	Bongu
Carribex SA	Oil, butter & other fats	Ti Malice
HUHSA	Oil, butter & other fats	Gourmet
Deka Group	Oil	Bongu
Sodipal	Oil	Tropicale
Unknown	Oil	Nina & Mitra
Rika	Oil	Rika
Bon sel Dayiti	Salt	Sél Yode, Bon sél Dayiti & Flamingo

Source: Ranfosé Project

GAPS

1. Although premix is being added, it is unknown whether the fortified food market reported for Haiti is fully compliant with the specifications provided by the project or the draft regulation pending to be approved, this will be investigated further through KIs with partner industries.
2. It is unknown whether the flour millers are using a premix that contains zinc and if they were able to find a supplier that provides the premix according to the micronutrient specifications for wheat flour.
3. The effectiveness of the different stakeholder engagement activities remains to be understood from the perspective of different stakeholders and will thus be investigated through KIs with stakeholders.
4. Salt from only one brand is being fortified. The reasons why other salt producers/processors are not being included in the project to fortify salt are not clear. This will be investigated through KIs with stakeholders.
5. It is not clear in what way the project has strengthened the availability of fortified foods for women of reproductive ages and children under five specifically. This will be explored through interviews with the implementing partner and project stakeholders as well as health practitioners trained by the project and members of the community, including pregnant women.
6. The actual production and imports of fortified foods remains unknown due to lack of report by the food industry. Thus, the information reported by RANFOSE are estimations based on other sources. The evaluation will try to obtain this information through the KI's from the food industry.

EQ2.

To what extent has the activity's stakeholder engagement and involvement been effective in accomplishing the rollout of large-scale food fortification (LSFF)?

FINDINGS

Standards

- 2018 - A Gain Mission recommended adding vitamin B12 to wheat flour also.
- 2019 - RANFOSE provides FF standards for imports and producers: FF levels, tech specs for premix, health protocols, equipment, transportation, and storage. Followed by site visits to check. Although these standards are available, they need to be reviewed to ensure that the micronutrient content to comply with is clear. During the review of project documents, the

ET identified some inaccuracies in the specifications and no tolerance levels are included for the micronutrients to be added. The latter are important for the enforcement and avoid controversy between the public and private sectors for lack of clarity and misinterpretation of the requirements. The wheat flour specification includes important micronutrient premix instructions for reception of purchased product and handling which should be included also in the other specifications. The project distributed rapid tests.

- 2021 – RANFOSE report that, following discussions with the project, the Chambre de Commerce d’Haiti published standards for wheat flour, oil and salt. Together with BHN, the project organised a workshop on a national system for quality assurance and control with panellists from the Lebanese Standards Institution and Haitian Association for Quality Management. RANFOSE and BHN agree on a one-year action plan to guide the collaboration in developing standards for enriched wheat flour, salt and oil.
- 2022 – Collaboration on water standards (water is used in industries who produce fortified foods) and a certification workshop was held with the Tennessee University’s Laboratory of Public Health & Microbiology on preventive food quality control measures. BHN initiated a certification process to ensure manufacturing processes are followed by industries in each economic sector. RANFOSE coordinated the Technical Committee on Agrofood to review of standards for salt and wheat flour. Some activities are still pending approval of the implementing decrees, approval of the standardized logo for fortified food products, establish quality assurance and control, and carrying out enforcement of the FFL and its implementing decrees.

National Laboratory Capacity

- 2017 – The RANFOSE project carried out a capacity assessment of the Tamarinier National Laboratory, overseen by the Health Protection Unit (UPS) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development (MARNDR)
- 2020 – Consultant to develop Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for testing micronutrients in fortified foods is identified. Partners In Health (PIH) identified to have testing capacity to test fortified foods and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) considered for PIH to support the National Laboratory until they are functional.
- 2021- Recruitment of a consultant to draft National Laboratory Quality Check protocols. A High-Performance Liquid Chromatographer (HPLC) (Perkin Elmer) was purchased for the National Laboratory. Usually, the HPLC is equipped with a detector to quantify different components. The most common is an ultraviolet detector, which would allow testing for vitamin A in oil and, if the proper methodology is chosen and implemented, probably folic acid. However, the information on the type of detector included in the HPLC purchased is not available. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to install the equipment in the laboratory and then, due to the social unrest in the country, now the laboratory is located in an insecure area which makes difficult the installation of the equipment, as well as the access to the interested stakeholders. RANFOSE suggested installing the equipment in the University of Notre Dame d’Haiti (UNDH) or Quisqueya University (UniQ), as they have a food quality laboratory, but agreement must be reached with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 2022 – Challenges and opportunities to strengthen the lab capacity were identified. Director of National Laboratory reportedly plans to put together an action plan however, by the end of 2022, the project reports not receiving replies to their communications with the director.

Advocacy Activities

- 2018 – Terms of Reference for partnership with MoH drafted. A number of awareness raising events and information sessions on making fortified foods available to customers with industries, food vendors, CSO, Dir. Of Nutrition
- 2019 – The RANFOSE advocacy strategy was developed, and Behaviour Change activities

were designed collaboratively with the MoH and the Dir. For Nutrition. Brochures and posters were developed collaboratively with Dir. Health Promotion and Environmental Protection. Celebrations of World Health Day, Vitamin A Day and Agriculture and Labor Day Fair.

- 2020 – RANFOSE recruited a communication firm to manage the communication campaign. Various awareness raising activities including several events with students to promote fortified foods, a press conference to launch the jingle contest. The project began talks with the National School Feeding Program to expand events to schools and organized awareness and training sessions in schools, health centers with nurses, community agents and with local authorities in Port-au-Prince (PaP) metropolitan area to learn about fortified foods and support in promoting their benefits. Various press articles were published on fortified foods via news outlets such as Le National, Le Nouvelliste, HCI Haiti, Vant Bèf Info.
- 2021 – The mass media campaign reached obtained local and national coverage through TV adverts and radio spots, Facebook, Instagram, and online platforms also disseminated the benefits of fortified foods for pregnant/lactating women, children, and youth. The jingle competition on the radio organised with the Nutrition Direction took place with sponsorship from Caribex, Les Cereales d'Haiti and the Cristo et Deka group). Various press articles were published on fortified foods via news platforms such as the Emergency Nutrition Network, Le Nouvelliste, HCI Haiti, Vant Bèf Info and RHI news.
- The social media report produced by the project reports that RANFOSE's Facebook campaign gathered more than 5,000 followers, 55 percent of which were women, 45 percent were men and almost 90 percent of which were aged between 18 and 44 years old. The followers of the Facebook campaign are mostly in Port-au-Prince (55 percent), followed by Delmas (10 percent), Petion-Ville and Cap-Haitien (5 percent in both cities).
- 2022 – Continued airing on radios nationally and locally at peak viewing times. RANFOSE staff were invited to three interviews on local (PaP) radio and TV to talk about availability of fortified foods, benefits for different population groups. Development of materials for promotion in schools with the National School Feeding Program. Various press articles were published on fortified foods in Le Nouvelliste and RHI News.

Training of Trainers with Health Practitioners

- 2019 – 19 health practitioners attend ToT on the benefits of fortified foods (nurses and community health agents) in Petionville, Ouest Department in December
- 2021 – 84 health practitioners attend ToT on the benefits of fortified foods (nurses and community health agents) in Port-au-Prince, Ouest department in May
- 2022 – 20 health practitioners attend ToT on the benefits of fortified foods (nurses and community health agents) in Jeremie, Grande Anse department in January and 20 participants in Cap-Haïtien, Nord department in March

Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG) or “Partner” Meetings

- 2018 – Several stakeholders meetings to engage partners in fortification occurred. Establishment of the FFWG with two meetings held in 2018. Information session with stakeholders on the “Micronutrient Deficiencies in Haiti Survey”
- 2019 – FFWG define priorities and strategy, three meetings held with 50 percent attendance
- 2020 – Meeting with partners in food fortification to assess progress made to date and agree on next steps
- 2023 – FFWG reactivated

GAPS

1. The limiting factors that have not allowed the implementing decrees to be approved are unknown. This will be investigated through KIIs with stakeholders, including the GoH.
2. The specifications for iodized salt and fortified wheat flour are being revised by the members

of the sub-committees of the Technical Committee of Agrifood coordinated by RANFOSE. However, it is not clear if critical information such as clarity in addition levels of micronutrients and tolerances are being taken into consideration.

3. It is not clear what RANFOSE's contribution to the BHN certification process was but KIIs with GoH and the BHN more specifically should shed light on this.
4. The activities carried out by the GoH to strengthen food fortification in Haiti remain unclear and will be assessed through KIIs with key stakeholders, including the GoH.
5. The status of the cooperation between the RANFOSE project and the National Laboratory under the new director is unclear but will be explored further through KIIs with the GoH, project partners and the National Laboratory.
6. The actual capacity of laboratories from Notre Dame and Quisqueya Universities is unknown. These laboratories have been considered as alternatives to install the equipment purchased by the project. Their capacity will be explored through the KIIs.
7. Minutes of FFWG meetings were not systematically taken by RANFOSE, it has therefore not been possible to capture the content (or frequency) of the FFWG meetings from the documentation, and therefore ascertain achievements made by the FFWG. KIIs and the discussion with the FFWG will delve into this.

EQ3.

To what extent has the activity's implementation strategy been effective in strengthening the fortified foods supply chain?

FINDINGS

Supply chain

- 2018 - Industry and importers are connected with the Premix Facility. RANFOSE distributed food fortification standards to importers and industries, providing information on fortification levels, premix specifications, equipment, transportation, and storage conditions. RANFOSE conducted site visits to review recommendations with stakeholders. The project presented information on the GAIN Premix Facility (GPF), a platform for procuring premix for fortification of various food products. Caribex acquired vitamin A to fortify their local production of shortening. A new industry in the iodized salt sector received support from GPF to request their permit to import potassium iodate and receive technical assistance to implement good manufacturing practices. Tika established a plant to produce iodized salt and used the Bon Sel Dayiti facility to commercialize iodized salt.
- 2019 – RANFOSE organized a workshop with bakeries in the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan area who use wheat flour, salt, and oil in their productions. The purpose of the workshop was to reinforce knowledge about the consequences of micronutrient deficiencies and invite them to use fortified products. There is no documentation to clarify how many or which bakeries took part in the workshop, nor when the workshop took place.
- 2020 – RANFOSE held discussions with Papyrus (maize producers) on fortifying maize and entrepreneurs in Grande Saline in Artibonite Department regarding producing fortified salt. Caribbean milling starts fortifying wheat flour to supply Cristo & Deka Group. Agreement to work with Sel iode distributors, supplied by Bon Sel Dayiti thus enlarging the availability of fortified salt. Industries were trained on understanding hygiene and best practices in manufacturing human food.
- 2021 - RANFOSE held a workshop webinar on SOP for pasta fortification. The closure of border with the Dominican Republic was identified as an opportunity for local producers in border areas. The FFWG express an interest in AKAMIL fortification, and a SoW was published to identify a volunteer to support the fortification of AKAMIL.
- 2022 – Workshop on food fortification for bakers and related industries. Discussions take

place about the joint procurement of premix with CARRIBEX, HUHSA, Caribbean Milling and Les Moulins d'Haiti.

GAPS

1. It remains to be seen how effective the project's activities have been in the food fortification sector and whether the supply chain has been strengthened from the industry perspective. The KIs and the FFWG discussion with project stakeholders aim to capture the project activities that have been effective in strengthening food fortification and its supply chain.
2. It is unclear what the impact of fortifying foods has had on industries and the consumers and will be explored through KIs with industries and rapid interviews with potential consumers.
3. Knowledge of the extent of GAIN's involvement in the project is limited (technical support, equipment) and will be investigated through KIs with the implementing partners.
4. Lessons learned in strengthening the fortification compliance need to be documented; these will be collected through KIs with project stakeholders.
5. Although food fortification is taking place, it is not clear the actions taken by the project to ensure that wheat flour producers use the premix containing zinc as required by the specifications, other than providing a list of premix suppliers. This will be investigated through KIs with the implementing partner, with industries and with the GoH.

EQ4.

What has the project done to support or inhibit the sustainability of food fortification?

FINDINGS

FF Logo

- 2019 – MoH & some companies agree to a unified logo for FF
- 2020 – The unified logo is designed and under review by MoH Communication Unit before being shared with industry.
- 2021 – The unified logo is awaiting approval from Nutrition Direction of MoH. Meanwhile, discussions began with CARICOM to adopt Caribbean wide logo.

Sustainable actions

- Integration of food fortification in a) Nutrition Action Plan on Child Wasting and in b) the Food Systems Summit/ MoH
- The main concern from the private sector fortifying is the lack of enforcement from the national authorities, leading to unfair business environment.
- Awareness-raising sessions delivered with the Ministry of Health support.
- Industries and importers connected to global platforms for fortification and premix procurement.

GAPS

1. Limited information about the specific actions carried out by the project to advocate for the approval of the implementing decrees. This will be investigated through KIs with all stakeholders, including the GoH.
2. The effectiveness of stakeholder activities and feedback from the supply chain stakeholders will shed better light on the perceived sustainability of fortified foods.
3. The status of the unified logo to date is not known but it is hoped that respondents to KIs will refer to this project activity during interviews.
4. Documentation about why some engagement processes have been stopped or discontinued is missing but will be investigated through KIs with the implementing partner and project partners.

EQ5.

How has RANFOSE evolved and adapted to the political, security, and economic challenges they encountered?

FINDINGS

- The project moved stakeholder activities and focused awareness-raising online during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With the political environment changing, the Project had to approach and engage again the new authorities when there were changes in the government.
- 2022 – Delays in installing and training laboratory personnel on newly purchased lab equipment due to mobility issues.

GAPS

1. The information regarding how the project adapted to the change in security and economic challenges is limited and will be explored further through interviews with the implementing partner and project partners.
2. Information regarding how the project has deviated from the award still remains to be understood from the implementing partner and from USAID, as the donor.

DATA COLLECTION

The evaluation will use several qualitative data collection methods, namely, KIIs, FGDs and rapid interviews. [REDACTED], one of the ESS+ data collection subcontractors, will assist with in-country data collection. Both [REDACTED] and the ET will collect qualitative data.

The ET comprises three persons; Georgina Anderson, the team leader, Monica Guamuch, the nutrition specialist and Jacques Francky Solomon, the evaluation specialist (see Evaluation Team section of this report for more information on the ET composition). Both Jacques and Georgina speak French and will a) carry out some remote KIIs with the assistance of two note-takers from ESS+ and b) carry out daily data quality checks on the data collected by [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] teams, on the other hand, will conduct both remote and face-to-face KIIs - in instances where the respondent prefers to meet face-to-face - as well as collect data from FGDs and rapid interviews in person. In-country data collection activities will run between June 5, 2023, and June 23, 2023 (see Annex I: Gantt Chart of Evaluation Activities).

The evaluation had hoped to capture the project's performance nationally however, it was agreed with the client that to run a national survey exclusively to measure the reach of the mass media campaigns was not a cost-effective approach in this instance. Instead, the evaluation will visit the three locations where health practitioners participated in a training of trainers facilitated by RANFOSE on fortified foods to promote the benefits of fortified foods across the population. The three evaluation locations are in color on the map below: Port-au-Prince (PaP) and Petion-Ville in Ouest department, Cap-Haïtien in Nord department and Jeremie in Grande Anse department (see Figure 2 below for a map of Haiti).



Figure 2: Map of Haiti

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Key informant interviews will be carried out with project stakeholders to investigate the project's progress to-date and gather recommendations to inform activity improvements and/or new approaches and opportunities for advancing food fortification in Haiti.

The evaluation will interview RANFOSE industry partners to investigate the support received by the project, assess existing gaps as well as lessons learned and remaining challenges in food fortification. The evaluation also wants to approach industries that are not fortifying but who have, during the project timeframe, been invited to join food fortification advocacy activities to explore barriers to implementing fortification.

Stakeholders involved in the regulation or enforcement of food fortification from the GoH will be invited for interviews, including the MoH, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) as well as several national programs or directorates such as the National Haitian Standards Bureau (BHN), the Direction for Quality Control and Consumer Protection (DCQPC), the National Laboratory for Food Quality Control (LVCQAT) and the National Directorate for Nutrition (UCPNuNU), National Council for Food Security, among others.

In addition to interviewing the implementing partners (IP), Partners of the Americas (POA) and GAIN, and USAID technical staff for RANFOSE, the evaluation will meet with consumer associations and international organizations such as WFP or UNICEF who are working in food fortification and nutrition. Finally, laboratories that are, or could be, involved in food fortification will be invited for interviews to assess their interest, capacity, and opinion with regards to fortified foods monitoring.

Given the insecurity in the Ouest department and, given that almost all KII stakeholders are in Port-au-Prince in Ouest department, the KIIs will take place online and will be divided between the data collection teams and the evaluation team. If a respondent voices a strong preference for a face-to-

face interview, [REDACTED] will then consider the latest security advisories before agreeing to a suitable location with the respondent.

Structured interview guides with open-ended questions and prompts, where relevant, will be used to administer the interviews. There are different interview guides for different stakeholder groups to ensure the questions remain relevant to the respective respondent and to reduce the number of questions to under one hour (see Annex 5 for all interview guides).

- Interview guide for operations or marketing managers of industries that have partnered with RANFOSE (producers and processors, of wheat flour, oil, salt)
- Interview guide for managers of industries that are NOT fortifying (producers, importers, processors, distributors of wheat flour, oil, salt, laboratories)
- Interview guide for public sector / GoH stakeholders
- Interview guide for civil society and international organizations (CSO, NGO, UN, IP academia)
- Interview guide for director or technician in laboratories (Tamarinier, Cap-Haïtien, Laboratoire National de Santé Publique (LNSP))

MEETING WITH THE FFWG

The evaluation would like to conduct a discussion with up to ten members of the FFWG to explore opportunities and challenges for the sustainability of LSFF in Haiti. The discussion would take place online and will be moderated by members of the data collection team and the evaluation team. Getting the FFWG together would require a special meeting, outside of the FFWG regular quarterly slots that were recently agreed when the FFWG was reactivated in March of this year. The discussion does not intend to obtain the participation of all FFWG members; should a selected FFWG member be unable, or refuse, to participate, an alternative FFWG member will be approached in an attempt to maintain the discussions size at ten people.

The ET will ask for assistance from POA in introducing the discussion to stakeholders, after which, the ET together with [REDACTED] will coordinate the discussion preparations with attendants (time, links, sharing consent forms and topics for discussion) and facilitate the discussion on the day. Given the discussion wants to capture the FFWG's honest feedback on the effectiveness of RANFOSE's contribution to the sustainability of food fortification in Haiti, the implementing partner POA will not be invited to join the discussion. The discussion guide can be found in Annex 5.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The RANFOSE project invited nurses and community health agents from three departments to join a series of Training-of-Trainers (ToT) on food fortification in December 2019 (Petion-Ville), May 2021 (PaP), January 2022 (Cap Haïtien) and March 2022 (Jeremie). Once trained, the health practitioners were expected to replicate the trainings in their respective communities and promote the benefits of fortified foods through their work. The participants were identified through Projet Santé, a USAID funded health project implemented by the Caris Foundation in Haiti that ended in 2021.

The evaluation wishes to invite some of the health practitioners trained in the ToT to join a structured focus group discussion on a) their understanding of the benefits of food fortification, b) opportunities and challenges for promoting food fortification in the scope of their work and c) their opinions about population perceptions of fortified foods (awareness, consumption, price perception). There will be no payments offered for taking part in the discussion, but participants will receive compensation for their transportation costs to the discussion venue and drinks and snacks will be provided during the discussion.

The data collection teams will be equipped with a structured FGD guide and a consent form and will obtain the necessary permissions to conduct the FGDs with the appropriate authorities. The data collection teams will also need to identify a suitable location to conduct the discussions in privacy and comfort, ideally located in a health center in the selected location.

RAPID INTERVIEWS (RI)

Once FGDs have taken place at the health centers, data collection teams will conduct rapid interviews with WRA or women with CU5. To expand the sample for RIs away from health centers, the evaluation team also plans to conduct RIs with customers and the shopkeeper in select shops in the locations where health practitioners have been trained.

The objective of the RIs is to assess consumer awareness, consumption, and perceptions of fortified foods in the locations where health practitioners have been equipped by RANFOSE to promote fortified foods in their catchment areas. There will be a short tool to ease the administration of the interviews, which should take no longer than five minutes to complete. All RIs will obtain informed consent from the respondent.

SAMPLING

KIs

The selection of key informants is purposeful to obtain a wide array of perspectives from public and private sectors stakeholders and civil society actors involved in food fortification in Haiti (production, importation, processing, distribution, regulation, enforcement, compliance, monitoring).

Sampling key informants was done by compiling a list of all institutions who have participated in project activities identified through the review of project documents. The ET will provide the full list of institutions identified to POA who will provide the names and contacts of individuals to represent each institution. Once the full list of stakeholders is complete with names and contact details, the ET will select respondents from the public sector, industries, civil society, international organizations, and academia to invite for interview. Up to 40 individuals will be sampled for KIs.

FGDS

Focus group discussion participants were harder to sample as the only information available to the ET were hand-written attendance lists with very limited information about the participants.

Participants in these trainings were originally identified from the USAID health project *Projet Santé* which closed in 2021 meaning the ET could not approach the project to obtain detailed information about participants. The attendance lists only contain names and telephone numbers with no information on where participants are from, which is vital to sampling for FGDs, nor on whether they are women or men.

Having transcribed all participants' information from attendance lists into an electronic file, the ET will sample from a list of sixty potential participants in the Ouest department, and approximately twenty participants in both Cap-Haïtien and Jérémie. The potential participants that the sampling will be made from are those whose telephone numbers are available in the attendance lists provided by the project. Should the telephone numbers not work, the evaluation will sample the remaining potential participants on the list in each area.

The evaluation will invite half of these participants to join in 5 FGDs of up to ten people each, totaling up to 50 respondents. The data collection teams will locate a suitable room to carry out the FGD, ideally, in the health center that is central to the FGD participants' locations. Participants are

from Petion-Ville and PaP in the Ouest department (three FGDs), Cap Haïtien in Nord department (one FGD) and Jeremie in Grande Anse department (one FGD).

Data collection teams will phone potential participants to verify a) their identity, b) that they participated in the training, c) where they are located, d) obtain their preliminary consent to participate in the FGD, e) obtain their availability. Based on the location and availability of participants, the data collection teams will decide whether the proposed FGD location is a) considered a safe location, with safe access from the participants' locations and b) ascertain the best time to have the FGD considering the availability of the participants and of the FGD location (see recruitment scripts in Annex 5). Should the location for the FGD be deemed insecure by [REDACTED] or the participants, the FGD will be moved to a different safer location to be identified by [REDACTED] together with the participants.

RAPID INTERVIEWS AT HEALTH CENTERS

Following the FGD, the teams will head to the maternity ward in the health center to enquire about antenatal sessions being organized within the facility and identify a suitable location to carry out rapid interviews. The data collection teams will revisit the same health centers on the day of the antenatal sessions to approach pregnant women, women of reproductive ages and/or mothers with children under 5 years old to conduct up to ten rapid interviews giving a total of 50 women to be interviewed (ten women/health center in five health centers). It was agreed that spending up to 50 minutes on interviews (plus the time to recruit the respondents for each RI) in health centers was the longest the data collection teams should spend in the antenatal sessions hence capping the number of respondents to ten.

Importantly, the ET has considered the suitability of interviewing women during their antenatal sessions. While it is hoped that the women are healthy when they attend antenatal sessions, it must be noted that they are attending the health center to receive care which should not be interfered with by the evaluation. The consent form will stipulate that participation is entirely voluntary and will not compromise their right to treatment and care. The consent form will also give the respondents the option to opt out of the interview should they not wish to participate for any reason (inc. not feeling well or strong enough) so to avoid causing any unnecessary discomfort.

Women will be approached randomly either before their antenatal session, (as they wait in line for their session (ensuring they do not lose their spot in the line)) or after they have finished the session in instances where women prefer to delay the interview until afterwards. If women suggest they prefer to return after their appointment to conduct the rapid interview, they will be instructed to approach one of the data collection team members upon exit if they so choose.

RAPID INTERVIEWS IN SHOPS/MARKETS

The data collection teams will visit the two largest shops in the vicinity of the FGD location. The choice of approaching the largest shops uses the assumption that the largest shop a) attracts a large clientele, including those from further afield, b) stocks a large variety of goods, and c) most likely supplies other smaller shops or vendors in the area.

Once in the shops, the data collection teams will ask permission from the shopkeeper to conduct rapid interviews with the shopkeeper and three customers who happen to be in the shop at the time of the visit – or the next three customers to enter the shop. Inviting more than three customers for interviews would require spending more than 20 minutes in the shop which could deter the shopkeeper from granting permission, hence keeping the number of customers to interview to three people. With a total of two shops visited per location and up to five locations visited, up to ten shopkeepers and 30 customers will be interviewed.

The sample for RIs does not intend to be representative and allow inferences to be made about awareness of fortified foods at the population level. Instead, the sample is derived based on a) the feasibility of collecting data from the target groups (WRA & population) in suitable locations close to the FGD locations (shops/antenatal sessions in health centers), b) the maximum acceptable time for data collection teams to spend in each RI locations (20 minutes in shops and 50 minutes in antenatal sessions) and c) the maximum number of RIs that can be carried out in that time and location. See Table 2 below for the planned distribution of evaluation respondents by data collection method which total 190 once all three proposed methods and locations are combined.

TABLE 3: ANTICIPATED DISTRIBUTION OF KIIS, FGDS AND RAPID INTERVIEWS	
KIIs	# participants
Implementing Partners	4
Government of Haiti	7
Laboratories	2
Industries (Partners)	7
Industries (Non-Partners)	4
UN Agencies	2
NGOs	7
CSO	3
USAID	2
Academia	2
FGDs	#
Health practitioners	50 participants or 5 FGDs
FFWG	10 participants or 1 discussion
RIs	#
Consumers	30 participants or 3 customers/shop in 10 shops
Shopkeeper	10 participants or 1 shopkeeper/shop in 10 shops
WRA / Women with CU5	50 participants or 10 women/health facility in 5 health facilities

TRAINING AND PILOTING

To ensure the data collection teams are adequately equipped to carry out the data collection, a five-day training facilitated by the ET will precede the data collection activities. The training will comprise a) an introduction to the project background and activities, b) an introduction to food fortification, c) a session on the evaluation purpose and methodology, d) a review of data collection methods and techniques and e) a review, translation and piloting of the data collection instruments to ensure a common and thorough understanding of the evaluation questions.

Possibly, the ET will share sessions of the training with AFFORD who will be carrying out the market analysis thus capitalizing on the training to introduce the projects and food fortification jointly. The ET will then train data collection teams on the evaluation purpose and the KII, RI and FGD tools for the evaluation and AFFORD would run sessions on their study purpose and data collection tools and methods.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The ET members will participate in the Protection Human Research Participants (PHRP) online training prior to applying to the Internal Review Board (IRB) for ethics approval. The IRB application will be submitted early April to allow sufficient time for an expedited review, if required. Included in the IRB application are the recruitment scripts that will be used to initiate contact with stakeholders

as well as informed consent texts which explain the evaluation purpose and use, the type of data to be collected and a guarantee of respondents' confidentiality. All consents will be obtained verbally. Also included in the IRB are the different data collection tools to be used by the data collection firm. USAID will provide an introductory letter prior to data collection to ensure the ET can meet with relevant government stakeholders.

Depending on the outcome of the collaboration with AFFORD, some respondent's consent may include a clause on the possibility of sharing up to three data points (production, sales, locations of fortified foods) with Technoserve to avoid the AFFORD team requesting a second interview with these stakeholders to ask the same questions. Any data sharing with AFFORD will be defined as a Data Sharing Agreement to be signed by SI and Technoserve stipulating the type of data to be shared, the purpose of the shared data and data handling processes after sharing.

The ET members will not be traveling to Haiti. The team member who is based in Port Au Prince will conduct remote interviews thereby not requiring travel support or security assistance. As of April 13th, 2023, the ET, and the local data collection firm (██████) have received copies of the ESS+ Security plan (dated January 13, 2023) which details policies and procedures to ensure travel and vehicular safety, check in regularity, and personal safety.

██████ data collection teams will be responsible to check in daily with the ET, share all travel schedules, locations for lodging, points of contact and any changes to plans of maneuver. ██████ will also receive a security briefing from IBI/ESS+ personnel prior to beginning data collection. The Nord and Grande Anse departments are not considered red zones or restricted areas currently by USAID whereas Ouest department is predominantly delineated as a red zone hence opting for remote/online data collection methods where possible (KIs and FFWG discussion).

DATA ANALYSIS

DATA PREPARATION

All the data collected will be stored on password protected devices and shared exclusively between the data collection firm and the ET using an online shared drive with access restrictions limited to the data collection firm and the ET. Data collection teams will transcribe key informant interview notes in French at the end of each interview day. During transcription, all data collected will be assigned to the correct EQ in the evaluation matrix and ensure that all data collected is clear. Once transcribed and entered into the matrix, the data collection teams will transfer transcripts and the matrix to the ET daily for the ET to respond quickly should any issues with data quality arise during data collection.

DATA ANALYSIS

The nature of the data collected is entirely qualitative. Data will be analyzed using the Dedoose software and will follow a thematic analysis approach. Thematic analysis is the process of identifying patterns or themes within qualitative data that are important or interesting, and to use these themes to answer the EQs. The first step to identifying themes is to defining codes to identify the themes within the data.

CODING

A hybrid approach will be used for coding the data, both deductive and inductive. Before data analysis, a set of pre-established codes will be prepared based on the EQs that will be used to generate themes. Some of the general codes are already being used as prompt in the tools to gather data, e.g., premix, quality assurance and quality control, stakeholder engagement, training, lack of, law, regulations, etc. During the analysis, the coding set will be improved based on the codes that

emerge from data, e.g., premix code might change to a more specific one such as premix availability, premix cost and premix suppliers.

THEMES

Themes will be detected to determine which factors are most pertinent to each EQ, or the ones that are mentioned several times. Once themes have been identified, they will be reviewed to ensure that a) the themes are coherent, b) the data clearly supports the theme, c) not too much information is being fitted into one theme, d) themes do not overlap, e) look for subthemes and f) check for other themes in the data. The final step is refining the themes to identify the 'essence' of each theme and interactions between themes and sub-themes to derive reliable findings and conclusions.

DISAGGREGATION

Where possible, data will be disaggregated and compared by the type of sector to which KII respondents belong, such as public sector, private sector, academic sector, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

For the customer and shopkeeper interviews, data will not be disaggregated considering that the methodology described is focused on getting information from customers present in the shop or the next customers to enter the shop. If there are more than three customers in the shop, a mix of women and men should be approached for interview, in such cases the analysis will disaggregate RIs with customers by sex.

TRIANGULATION

There is limited updated secondary data that can address the EQs. However, some areas for triangulation might include data related to production and sales figures of fortified foods obtained from the KII, FGD and RIs which could be triangulated against the information reported by POA in the project documents, as well as other information obtained from other documents or dashboards (e.g., Global Fortification Data Exchange/FFI). Likewise, specifications for micronutrient content that should be added to foods reported by the food industry will be triangulated against the specifications provided by POA.

GENDER AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS PLAN

Given that key informants interviews and focus groups discussions are targeted to individuals for their role within a given institution and their involvement in the RANFOSE project, as such there are no specific gender or social dimensions to consider in the selection of the participants for KIIs. However, gender and social dimensions will be considered in the analysis of the data collected.

The evaluation unfortunately has no information on the sex of the health practitioners that attended the ToT and therefore cannot group participants by sex which would normally be preferable for FGDs. However, it is noted that health practitioners are overwhelmingly female in Haiti and so the FGDs would likely be single sex rather than co-ed. The note-takers will record participants' inputs so that statements made can be assigned to specific participants.

The rapid interviews in the health centers are targeted predominantly to women as a way of reaching women of reproductive ages and women with young children whereas the customers and shopkeepers will not undergo any specific gender-based selection; the data collection teams will interview those present in the shop at the time of their visit, ideally striving to reach a mix of women and men.

With regards to the data collected, the tools include prompts to enquire about the availability of fortified foods from the perspectives of specific population groups, namely, women of reproductive

ages and women with children under five years old as prescribed by the EQs, and any intended or unintended outcomes for these groups.

All data collected from KIs, FGDs and RIs will be disaggregated by sex where possible, and, in addition, during analysis, the ET will note and identify any themes that arise associated with responses from different groups (e.g.: stakeholder type, region, WRA or not).

LIMITATIONS AND BIASES

The political insecurity in Haiti limits the possibility for carrying out data collection activities given the limited mobility induced by the situation. The ET is therefore working entirely remotely, across different time zones. However, the fact that the data collection firm is based in Port-au-Prince and therefore knowledgeable about the context should strengthen the data collection planning by ensuring security protocols are adequately assessed. The data collection schedule will need to remain flexible to account for accessibility issues arising.

While the evaluation is keen to assess awareness and consumption of fortified foods from the population's perspective, it was decided that a national population-based survey was not a cost-effective way of answering the small proportion of EQs that necessitate population-based data. As such, it was decided not to conduct a quantitative survey but to carry out qualitative rapid interviews with fewer respondents instead. It is hoped that the RIs will provide a snapshot of the population's awareness and consumption of fortified foods in areas where the project has trained health practitioners to promote fortified foods. It must be noted that this snapshot will not allow any statistically significant inferences to be made about the population which would require a population-based survey applied to a representative sample. However, without this snapshot, the evaluation would not be able to capture any sense of the population's perception of fortified foods and would not be able to address EQ 1 and EQ 2 on the availability, awareness, and consumption of fortified foods from the population perspective.

In trying to understand the availability of fortified foods, the evaluation will ask industries for their production, packaging or import yearly capacity, volumes, and sales. However, the evaluation is cognizant that this might be sensitive information for the business who may not be willing to share such information with the evaluation. The evaluation will nonetheless make a concerted effort to collect this data.

The tool designed for the KI's interviews contains open questions to let the respondent explain the points of views and experiences. However, some prompts are added to guide the interviewer and help to explain the question in case it is not understood. Giving examples of aspects to consider might lead to bias in the response, although the risk is minimum.

DISSEMINATION AND UTILIZATION

The primary users of this evaluation are USAID who will utilize the results to inform the implementation strategy of further activities in food fortification in Haiti. Secondary users include the Implementing Partners, the Government of Haiti, including the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Commerce and Industry. The evaluation results will further be shared with UN agencies such as UNICEF, WFP and FAO and other stakeholders in country such as universities, laboratories and others in the food fortification networks.

Once finalized, the evaluation report will be shared with these stakeholders directly and will be uploaded to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) from where it will be publicly available. Further dissemination will include two presentations on the findings: an internal presentation for USAID and another with the Implementing Partners and key stakeholders. In

addition, a two-pager summary of the evaluation findings in French and English will be widely circulated.

EVALUATION TEAM

TEAM COMPOSITION

[REDACTED] Team Leader:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sector Specialist:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Evaluation Specialist:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Program Manager:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Program Director:

Chief of Party:

ANNEX IV: DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

RECRUITMENT SCRIPTS – ALL KIIS

Recruitment Script RANFOSE EVALUATION (Letter from IP to Stakeholders)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Note:

When sending the emails, the ET should be put in CC.

EMAIL:

Dear [[Stakeholder_Name](#)],

On behalf of the RANFOSE project team, we express our sincere gratitude for your valuable contributions as a partner in this project. We are writing to inform you that as part of the end of the project, USAID/Haiti is commissioning a Performance Evaluation to assess progress to-date and inform future project design and implementation. The evaluation will be led by Social Impact, a reputable development consulting firm, and will provide crucial insights to help inform possible strategic shifts in Nutrition and Food Fortification programming in the immediate term (next 2-4 years).

As a key partner of the project, you may be invited to participate in interviews or a focus group discussion to share recommendations on how to improve activities or explore new approaches and opportunities for advancing food fortification in Haiti. If you are selected to collaborate, the evaluation team will contact you to schedule a suitable date and time. Prior to the meeting, you will be provided with a questionnaire to ensure that you have a clear understanding of the interview's content and can prepare the necessary information.

We understand that your participation in this study is voluntary, and there is no obligation to participate. Please note that POA will not be part of the discussions and will not have any knowledge of the exact participants list.

We appreciate your commitment to the project and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Partners of the Americas (POA)

RECRUITMENT SCRIPT TO PARTICIPATE IN the RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Key informant interviews with Stakeholders)
(1st call)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon/evening!

Am I speaking to [StakeHolder_name]?

My name is _____, I am calling on behalf of Social Impact, and we are conducting research into the performance of USAID'S RANFOSE project, which was tasked with improving access to fortified food in Haiti. Is now a good time to talk?

“Yes”:

- We are conducting research on the performance of RANFOSE and therefore collecting information about different activities carried out by RANFOSE, and we would kindly like to invite you to an interview.
- [Pause]
- We are asking you to participate as one of the stakeholders because your position would make you knowledgeable about this topic in Haiti. We would like to schedule a key informant interview with you at a time that's convenient for you. The interview will last approximately 1 hour of your time.
- Your decision to participate will not affect your ability to receive services, now or in the future, and this will be a confidential discussion. Partners of the Americas will not know if you chose to participate or not.
- Would that be something you'd be interested in?
- [Pause]
- *“I'm not the right person to talk to about this”*
 - I completely understand. Do you happen to know who would be the best person to speak with in your organization?
 - (Note the contact)
 - (Go to the next question)
- *“I'm interested, but I need more information”*
 - We are making a performance evaluation of the project RANFOSE. The evaluation results will be used to determine future actions to improve the availability of fortified foods with micronutrients in Haiti to ensure that the population benefits from this strategy aimed to decrease micronutrient deficiencies, especially among the most vulnerable groups.
 - Are you interested in scheduling an interview?
 - (Go to the next question)
- **“Yes”**
 - (Go to the next question)

“NO”:

- “I'm busy right now, can you call back later?”
- No worries, I completely understand.

- When would be a better time for me to call you back?
- (Go to conclusion)

Next question:

- We would like to share with you the questions for the interview and the consent form for this study by email, so you have the time to read them, have a precise idea of the information we are searching for, and get prepared for the interview.
- Can you confirm your email address please? (Note, repeat and spell the email address)
- We plan to do the interviews between (period of time). What date and time would suit you best?
- (Note the date and time)
- Great. We plan to do the interview online via Zoom/TEAMS. Is it ok, or do you prefer to meet in person?
- “Yes, online is ok”
 - Great.
 - Can you confirm your email address, so we can share the invitation link with you?
 - (Note, repeat and spell the email address)
- “No, in person will be best”
 - That is ok too.
 - Can you confirm your address please?
 - (Note and repeat address)

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

If you have any further questions or if you're interested in learning more about the interview, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great day!

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN the RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Key informant interviews with Stakeholders)
(2nd call)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon/evening! Am I speaking to [StakeHolder_name]?

My name is _____, and I am calling on behalf of Social Impact to confirm the details of the interview we scheduled for [Date and Time of Interview].

Stakeholder response	Your response	Next step
<i>"Yes, I remember. That time and date still work for me."</i>	Great to hear that! We look forward to meeting you at the scheduled time.	(Go to the conclusion)
<i>"I'm sorry, I forgot about the interview. I won't be able to make it at that time anymore."</i>	No problem at all, we completely understand. Can you let me know when you would be available to reschedule the interview? We really value your input and want to make sure that we can find a time that works for you.	(Take the new date and time) (Go to the conclusion)
<i>"I'm sorry, but I do not want to participate anymore."</i>	No worries, it's OK.	(Go to the conclusion)

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

If you have any further questions or if you're interested in learning more about the interview, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great day!

CONSENT FORM – KIIS

Introduction and Purpose: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. My name is [NAME]. I am a researcher from Social Impact, a company based in the United States. Our team is conducting an evaluation study of the RANFOSE project, a food fortification project to reduce some micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess progress to-date and provide recommendations to inform project improvements or new approaches and opportunities.

Request: We would like your honest impressions, opinions and thoughts about various issues related to this project's implementation and outcomes. We are independent consultants who have no affiliation with the firms and institutions that implemented Ranfose, nor do we represent any other private sector firm/partners working with Ranfose, nor are we from or represent the Government of Haiti.

Voluntary Participation: Participation in this interview is completely voluntary. You do not have to agree to be in this study. You are free to end the interview at any time or to decline to answer any question which you do not wish to answer. If you decline to participate in the interview, no one will be informed of this. If you choose to participate you will be 1 of xxx interviews that are being conducted. You can opt out later if you wish by informing the facilitator at any time during the discussion.

Risks/Benefits: There are no significant risks to your participation in this study. You will not receive any direct benefit or compensation for participating in this study. Although this study will not benefit you personally, we hope that our results will help improve potential future programs to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti.

Procedures: If you agree to participate, the interview will take about one hour of your time.

Data Sharing:

The study team will have access to the information you provide, including personally identifiable information such as your name, contact information and organizational affiliation.

*** **Applicable to select KIIs only***** In parallel to this study, USAID has commissioned a market analysis of fortified food in Haiti. To avoid you being asked the same or similar questions twice, the evaluation team and the market analysis teams will share specific answers that are strictly relevant to avoid duplication.

*****Applicable to ALL KIIs***** After all information that could identify you and your company is removed from the data, the evaluation team will compile the findings from this evaluation into a report to be shared publicly on USAID's DEC platform. Data on specific commercial practices (production, sales or other business information) that may identify your company will not be shared. The anonymized data will then be shared with USAID for future research on food fortification. The data will be destroyed by Social Impact up to one year after completion of this study.

*** **Applicable to select KIIs only***** The Market Analysis team complies with the same laws and will follow the same procedure following completion of their study.

*****Applicable to ALL KIIs*****

Contacts:

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I will leave a copy of this form with you.

Do you have any questions? [Interviewer should answer any questions]

Permission to Proceed

Do you understand the purpose of the interview as outlined above and understand that you can withdraw from the interview at any time and for any reason?

Do you agree to participate?

***** Applicable to select KII's only*****

Do you agree to have your name, organizational affiliation and answers relevant to the market analysis shared with the market analysis team? *(This will give the respondent the option to opt out of sharing their information with AFFORD).*

Yes / No

Initials of facilitator to indicate receipt of verbal consent to be interviewed:

Initials of note-taker to indicate receipt of verbal consent to be recorded:

Date _____

INTERVIEW GUIDE: INDUSTRY PARTNERS PRODUCERS, IMPORTERS, PACKAGERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

Stakeholder information

Name of contact:

Position:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

Company name:

Location:

- Department:
- Arrondissement:
- Commune:
- Venue:
- Venue#:

Data collection method: KII

Date:

Questions

A. General information

1. Type of commercial activity related to fortified foods (check all that apply):
 - d. • Producer
 - e. • Importer
 - f. • Packager (does not produce, only packages)
 - g. • Distributor (does not produce, only distributes)
2. Type of fortified foods commercialized.
 - Wheat flour
 - Vegetable oil. *Please specify what type* (palm, soy, sunflower, mixture of different oils):
 - Salt
 - Other. *Please specify:*
3. Does your company participate in the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG)?
 - a. Yes. If yes, go to a.1.
 - b. No. If no, why not?
 - a.1. Could you please explain your experience participating in the FFWG?
 - a.2. What are the benefits of participating in the FFWG?
 - a.3. What are the main outcomes and accomplishments of the FFWG?

a.4. Do you have any recommendations for improving the performance of the FFWG?

B. Production/imports/packaging

1. In which year did you start fortifying foods?
2. For each food produced/imported/packaged:
 - a. Do you fortify all the factory production/all the food packaged/all the food imported?
 - b. Do you fortify only part of the production/part of the food packaged/part of the imports of this food? Please specify which part of the production/imports (*for example, only the retail packaging line, only the production/imports destined to a specific client based on its requirements*)
3. What is the geographic area supplied with your fortified products? Check the departments that apply. Has the situation changed since you started fortifying? If yes, how?
 - a. Artibonite.
 - b. Centre.
 - c. Grand'Anse.
 - d. Nippes.
 - e. Nord.
 - f. Nord-Est.
 - g. Nord-Ouest.
 - h. Ouest.
 - i. Sud
 - j. Sud-Est.
4. Mention any factors that limit the expansion or distribution of your product to other areas of the country.
5. For each fortified food that you produce/import/package/distribute please provide:
 - a. Production/imports/packaging capacity in MT per year:
 - b. Production/imports/packaging/distribution of fortified foods in MT per year;
 - c. Percentage of market share for the produced/imported/packaged/distributed food.
6. How has food fortification affected the price of fortified foods?
7. Based on your experience fortifying foods, what are the actions that RANFOSE has taken that contributed to ensure that fortified foods reach the market, strengthening the supply chain?
 - Mass media campaigns
 - Technical assistance
 - Other

8. Based on your experience with fortified foods, what are the activities/factors that affect the production of fortified foods and the value/supply chain?

- Premix availability/price
- Transportation delays
- Relation production cost/consumer price
- Other

C. Fortification

1. What are the specifications (nutrients to be added and levels of fortification) for fortification that you follow to add the vitamins and/or minerals to your product?

2. How did the RANFOSE project contribute to define these specifications?

3. Please describe the support/technical assistance you have received from the RANFOSE project for the implementation of the fortification? (*Check which of the aspects below the respondent mentions and ask for explanation*)

- Technical advice for premix and feeders purchase
- Implementation of quality assurance/control practices
- Information of potential suppliers of fortified foods in the international market.
- Introduction of a national logo for rapid identification of fortified foods
- Other. Specify

4. Producers only: Please describe the quality assurance/quality control practices that you follow to ensure the fortification levels in the foods? (*Read to the respondent each item from the list below and check all that apply*)

- Premix certificate from the supplier.
- Verified feeder discharge according to the product flow in the line, periodically.
- Ratio food produced/premix used is calculated every shift or at the end of the day.
- Taking samples periodically for qualitative analysis. Specify which nutrients are tested.
- Taking samples periodically for quantitative analysis. Specify which nutrients are tested.
- Samples are analyzed in an external laboratory. Specify which laboratory.
- Samples are analyzed internally. Please specify what type of test is carried out, for example, using i-check, kits, etc.
- Training to personnel.
- Keep records of the above.
- Actions are taken when results are not as expected.
- Other. Specify.

4.b Importers only: please describe the requirements for the fortified food supplier?

4.c. Describe how RANFOSE project has supported you in defining and implementing the requirements for imported foods. *An example of a requirement might be: The imported food*

supplier must present a laboratory report of micronutrient content of the food that is being purchased.

5. How has the RANFOSE project supported the implementation of quality controls?
If yes, ask for details or further explanation:
Effectiveness of the support,
What more could RANFOSE have done
6. Do you keep laboratory records of the vitamins/minerals levels in the foods fortified?
If yes, is it possible to share this information with the Evaluation Team? (*Records or a database might be shared via e-mail. If they are not willing to share, they might provide a summary of the results. For example: 90 percent of samples have iron levels above XX.)*

D. Fortification Standards

1. How has the fortification process been affected by the delayed publication of the fortification standards?
2. Do you consider that the current specifications and fortification standards proposed have enough information and clarity to allow i) the producers to follow them for the fortification process; ii) the sanitary authority to interpret properly the monitoring results to decide whether a product is complying or not.

2.a. If not, please describe which aspects need to be improved.

3. **a. Producers only:**
Have you received any visits from the sanitary authority to inspect compliance with food safety or food fortification? Are you aware if RANFOSE has carried out any actions to support the implementation of enforcement and monitoring of fortified foods? If yes, which actions? *Examples: Technical assistance to the GOH to inspect/monitor compliance of fortified foods at factories, import sites, points of sale (markets, supermarkets, retail stores, etc.)*

- How to take samples
- Other

b Importers only:

Are you aware if RANFOSE has carried out any actions to support the implementation of enforcement and monitoring of fortified foods at imports sites? If yes, which actions?

- Support to comply specific technical requirements for imported fortified foods
- When to take samples for testing
- Others. Ask to specify.

4. In your opinion, what are the actions that RANFOSE can take to support the GoH in implementing and consolidating large-scale food fortification as a national program and ensure its sustainability?
 - Approval of standards

- Enforcement of legislation
 - Other. Specify
5. Do you have suggestions to facilitate/improve the independent monitoring compliance of fortified foods in Haiti?
- Involve other stakeholders
 - Social audits carried out by Consumer associations or universities
 - Other Agreements between consumers associations or universities with GOH to perform some tasks of the monitoring process

E. Stakeholder Engagement

1. In your opinion, what factors (i) help and (ii) hinder the private sector's engagement to sustain the large-scale food fortification?
Positive and negative effects
2. Regarding the activities carried out by the RANFOSE project to engage stakeholders, which activities were the most instrumental for promoting food fortification? Please explain your reasons for your rating.
 - FFWG
 - Advocacy
 - Development of standards
 - Other
3. Which activities were not useful in your opinion and why?
4. What additional actions would you recommend and what would you recommend doing differently, especially to engage those factories that are not fortifying currently?
5. In your opinion, have the advocacy campaigns targeted to consumers had any effect on whether consumers choose to purchase and consume fortified foods or not? If so, how? If not, why not?
 - Any increase in sales observed after fortification started
 - Expansion of the distribution area of your product.
6. Do you consider there are any factors that have positively influenced the availability of fortified foods to the consumers? Also indicate if the actions taken by RANFOSE project to address these factors were sufficient or other actions should have been implemented.
 - Price change
 - Media campaigns
 - Food aid distribution
 - Health care personnel advice
7. What key factors contribute to consumers' a) awareness and b) consumption of fortified foods? Indicate how RANFOSE project contributed to address these factors.

F. Sustainability of food fortification

1. Please describe any technical/financial limitations faced during the implementation of the fortification and how they were solved?
2. What systems or structures has the RANFOSE project put in place to support the sustainability of food fortification? Do you think these systems or structures are serving their purpose and what could be improved?

Premix acquisition system

- Inspection system (manuals/ procedures/training)
 - Laboratory infrastructure
 - FFWG
 - National logo
 - Communications system (mass media/HHP advice).
 - Other
3. Have there been any unintended consequences of the RANFOSE project that have hindered the sustainability of food fortification?
 4. How have the changes in the political, economic and security situation of the country affected the implementation process of food fortification in which you have participated?
 5. What actions were taken to overcome the challenges faced?
 6. From your organization perspective, what further actions are still required to ensure the sustainability of food fortification in Haiti?
 7. What can RANFOSE do to support the implementation of these actions?
 8. What threats exist for the sustainability of food fortification?

INTERVIEW GUIDE: PUBLIC SECTOR/GOH

Stakeholder information

Name of contact:

Position:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

Entity name:

Department/Division/Unit:

Location:

- Department:
- Arrondissement:
- Commune:
- Venue:
- Venue#:

Stakeholder type : Public sector / GoH

Data collection method : KII

Date:

Questions

A. General Information

1. What is the role of your entity in the implementation of food fortification in the country?
2. Does your entity participate in the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG)?
 - a. Yes. If yes, go to a.1.
 - b. No. If not, why not?
 - a.1. Could you please explain your experience participating in the FFWG?
 - a.2. What are the benefits of participating in the FFWG?
 - a.3. What are the main accomplishments of the FFWG?
 - a.4. Do you have any recommendations for improving the performance of the FFWG?

B. Legislative Environment

1. What is the current state of the national standards and legislative environment about fortified foods in Haiti right now?
2. What factors have limited or delayed the approval and implementation of national standards in LSFF? *(Let the respondent answer and relate the explanation to any of the aspects listed in the prompts and check to which ones. Write down any explanation related to any of the items.)*
 - Lack of awareness
 - LSFF perceived as technical barrier to trade.
 - Uncertainty about the impact of LSFF on FF price.
 - LSFF is not prioritized in the public health agenda.
 - Others
3. What have been the actions carried out by RANFOSE to influence the national standards and legislative environment about fortified foods? *e.g.: in getting the law or standards passed*

4. Do you consider that the current specifications and fortification standards proposed have enough information and clarity to allow i) the producers to follow them for the fortification process; ii) the sanitary authority to interpret properly the monitoring results to decide whether a product is complying or not.
4.a. If not, please describe which aspects need to be improved.
5. Do you have any recommendations on how RANFOSE could have improved its contribution to the national standards?
6. What are the additional actions that need to be taken by the GoH to influence the approval of national standards and how could RANFOSE support those actions?
e.g.: Advocacy to other members of GoH

C. Stakeholder Engagement

1. In your opinion, what factors (i) help and (ii) hinder the public sector's engagement to sustain the large-scale food fortification?
2. Do you consider there are any factors that have influenced the availability of fortified foods to the consumers? Also indicate if the actions taken by RANFOSE project to address these factors were sufficient or other actions should have been implemented.
 - Price change
 - Media campaigns
 - Food aid distribution
 - Health care personnel advice
3. What key factors contribute to consumers' awareness and consumption of fortified foods? Indicate how RANFOSE project contributed to address these factors.
4. Regarding the activities carried out by RANFOSE project to engage stakeholders, which activities were the most instrumental for promoting food fortification? Please explain your reasons.
 - FFWG
 - Advocacy
 - Development of standards
 - Introduction of a national logo for rapid identification of fortified foods.
 - Other. *Specify*
5. Which activities were not useful in your opinion and why?
6. What additional actions would you recommend and what would you recommend doing differently? Especially to engage those factories that are not fortifying currently.
7. In your opinion, have the RANFOSE advocacy campaigns targeted to consumers had any effect on whether consumer's choose to purchase fortified foods or not? If so, how? If not, why not?

D. Enforcement and monitoring

1. What actions has RANFOSE carried out to support the GOH to implement the enforcement of the Food Fortification Law? And what additional support can RANFOSE provide to the GOH?
2. Based on your experience working with RANFOSE, has the project carried out any activities to support the GOH in planning and implementing the monitoring of fortified foods?
3. Has the GoH carried out inspection activities to enforce the Food Fortification Law?

Examples:

- Identification of already existing plans (food safety, food imports inspection or other) that could be used as starting point
 - Training in monitoring fortified foods
 - Taking samples at
 - o Factories
 - o Import sites
 - o Points of sale (markets, supermarkets, retail stores, etc.)
4. What are the factors that have limited the enforcement of the Food Fortification Law and how RANFOSE project has contributed to overcome the limitations? (*Check all that the respondent mentions and record all the explanation provided*)
 - Standards not approved
 - Training
 - Laboratory facilities, equipment, reagents.
 - Human resources
 - SOP
 - Others. *Ask to specify.*
 5. Are there any areas of collaboration with other stakeholders that could improve the enforcement of food fortification? (*Record all the areas that the respondent mentions and ask for explanation*). The possible areas of collaboration might include:
 - Coupling inspections with other inspections carried out by the sanitary authority (i.e., food safety)
 - Establishing alliances with universities or private labs
 - Are there any obstacles to improving collaborations
 6. What aspects require attention and actions to achieve enforcement of the Food Fortification Law? And what additional support RANFOSE can provide?

E. Sustainability of food fortification

1. Please describe any technical or financial challenges faced during the implementation of the fortification and how they were solved?
2. What systems or structures has the RANFOSE project put in place to support the sustainability of food fortification? Do you think these systems or structures are serving their purpose and what could be improved?
 - Premix acquisition system
 - Inspection system (manuals/procedures/training)

- Laboratory infrastructure
 - FFWG
 - Communications system (mass media/HHP advice)
 - Other
3. Have there been any unintended consequences of the RANFOSE project that have hindered the sustainability of food fortification?
 4. How have the changes in the political, economic and security situation of the country affected the implementation process of food fortification that you carried along with RANFOSE and what actions were taken to overcome the challenges faced?
 5. From the perspective of the entity you belong to, what further actions are still required to ensure the sustainability of the food fortification in Haiti?
 6. How RANFOSE can support the implementation of these actions?
 7. What threats exist for the sustainability of food fortification?

INTERVIEW GUIDE: CSO, IP, USAID, NGO, UN, ACADEMIA

Stakeholder information

Name of contact:

Position:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

Organization name:

Division/Department/Unit:

Type of organization:

- a. NGO
- b. Academia
- c. International organization
- d. Consumer Association
- e. Other. Specify

Location:

- Department:
- Arrondissement:
- Commune:
- Venue:
- Venue#:

Data collection method: KII

Date:

Questions

A. General Information

1. What is the role of your organization in the implementation of food fortification in the country?
2. Does your organization participate in the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG)?
 - a. Yes. If yes, go to a.1.
 - b. No. If not, why not?

- a.1. Could you please explain your experience participating in the FFWG?
- a.2. What are the benefits of participating in the FFWG?
- a.3. What are the main accomplishments of the FFWG?
- a.4. Do you have any recommendations for improving the performance of the FFWG?

B. Availability of Fortified Foods

1. What are the key factors that facilitate or limit the availability of fortified foods' positive or negative effects
 - Price change
 - media campaigns
 - food distribution

- health care personnel advice
2. In your opinion, what factors (i) help and (ii) hinder the public sector's engagement to sustain the large-scale food fortification?
 Positive effects
 Negative effects
 3. From the point of view of the work that your organization carries out on food fortification, in what way has RANFOSE contributed to the availability of adequately fortified foods in Haiti?
 What worked well
 What didn't work
 4. Do you have any recommendations on how RANFOSE could have improved its contribution to food fortification?
 What worked well
 What didn't work
 5. Were there any factors that hindered or limited the work or contribution of RANFOSE to LSFF, resulting in delays or not achieving the established goals?
 5.a How did RANFOSE respond to these issues?
 What worked well
 What didn't work?
 6. From the point of view of the work that your organization carries out on related to food fortification, are there any activities or projects that are actively aiming to reach vulnerable groups such as women of reproductive age and children less than 5 years old?
 6.a If yes, why did you decide to provide fortified foods?
 b. How do you ensure you reach these groups?
 - Direct purchase in the market or retail stores
 - Social programs targeted to specific vulnerable groups
 - Food aid distribution
 - Emergency food aid
 6.b Has your organization conducted any study related to this? If yes, is there a report available that can be shared with the ET?
If there is a report or any information available, ask if can be shared through e-mail.
 7. Does your organization has any knowledge of the Ministry of Education's National School Feeding Program?
 7.a. If yes, please describe what actions/aspects of the program changed after RANFOSE started the food fortification project, as compared with the way the national school feeding program was doing before?
 7.b. What was the contributions of the RANFOSE project to the already existing National School Feeding Program?
 7.c. Do you consider the actions/aspects implemented are sustainable? If yes, please specify which ones.

8. Regarding the advocacy activities carried out by RANFOSE project to engage stakeholders, (i) what actions are you aware of; (ii) what additional actions would you recommend and (iii) what would you recommend doing differently?
9. In your opinion, have the advocacy campaigns targeted to consumers had any effect on whether consumer's choose to purchase and consume fortified foods or not? If so, how? If not, why not?
10. What key factors contribute to consumers' a) awareness and b) consumption of fortified foods? Indicate how RANFOSE project contributed to address these factors.

C. Legislative Environment

1. In your opinion, what factors have limited the approval and implementation of national standards in LSFF? *(Let the respondent answer and relate the explanation to any of the aspects listed and check to which ones. Write down any explanation related to any of the items.)*
 - Lack of awareness
 - LSFF perceived as technical barrier to trade
 - Uncertainty about the impact of LSFF on FF price.
 - LSFF is not prioritized in the public health agenda.
 - Other. Explain.
2. Are you aware of what actions RANFOSE has carried out to get the regulations/standards approved and enforce the Food Fortification Law?
3. Do you have any recommendations on how RANFOSE could have improved its contribution to the national standards?
4. What aspects require additional attention and actions to get the regulations/standards approved and enforce the Food Fortification Law? And what additional support RANFOSE can provide to the GOH? *e.g.: Advocacy to other members of GoH*

D. Enforcement and monitoring

1. What aspects require attention and actions to improve the performance of the GoH in its role to approve standards and enforce the Food Fortification Law?
2. Are there any areas of collaboration with other stakeholders that could improve the enforcement of food fortification? *(Record all the areas that the respondent mentions and ask for explanation)*
The possible areas of collaboration might include:
 - Coupling inspections with other inspections carried out by the sanitary authority (i.e., food safety)
 - Establishing alliances with universities or private labs

E. Sustainability of food fortification

1. How have the changes in the political, economic and security situation of the country affected the food fortification activities carried out by RANFOSE?
2. What actions were taken by RANFOSE project to overcome the challenges faced?

3. How has RANFOSE project contributed to improving the sustainability of food fortification activities to achieve a fully implemented food fortification program in Haiti?
What worked well
What didn't work
4. What further actions are still required to ensure the sustainability of food fortification in Haiti?
5. How RANFOSE can support the implementation of these actions in the future?
6. What threats exist for the sustainability of food fortification?

F. Qs to Implementing Partners (POA & GAIN) & USAID ONLY

1. 1a. How has the environment affected the project's ability to deliver from when it was awarded to what they are doing now?
How did RANFOSE respond to these challenges?
 - Remote follow-up
 - Prioritize desk activities (preparation of manuals, procedures, others)
 - Remote training where possible
 - Other
- 1 b. Do you think the actions taken in response were effective?
 - a.1 If yes, why
 - a.2 Or why not?
2. What actions remain to be done by RANFOSE to consolidate the implementation of the food fortification program in Haiti?
3. What synergies exist between RANFOSE and other USAID projects?

INTERVIEW GUIDE - LABORATORIES

Laboratory information

Name of contact:

Position:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

Laboratory name:

Entity name:

Department/Division/Unit

Location:

- Department:
- Arrondissement:
- Commune:
- Venue:
- Venue#:

Stakeholder type : Laboratory

Data collection method : KII

Date:

Questions

1. Please specify to which entity the laboratory belongs to and to which sector? (public, private or academic sector).
2. What type of work does the laboratory perform, or what is the purpose of the samples received in the lab? *(Read the list to the respondent and check the options he/she indicates.)*
 - a. Monitoring or other purpose within the public sector (specify which purpose).
 - b. Research
 - c. Teaching laboratory
 - d. Service (private)
 - e. Other
3. Do you have any knowledge about the Law for food fortification approved in 2017 and the activities carried out in Haiti by the RANFOSE project? If yes, please explain?
4. Have you participated in any RANFOSE project activities around food fortification? If yes, please describe what they were about.
5. Have you participated in any meetings in the Food Fortification Working Group? If yes, please explain what the objective of your participation was.
6. In your opinion, what factors (i) help and (ii) hinder the public/private sector's engagement to sustain the large-scale food fortification?
7. Have you tested any samples from factories (i.e., wheat mills, salt producers or oil producers) or other entity for vitamins or minerals? If yes, please explain and specify the purpose of the testing. • Monitoring

- Quality control
 - Other
8. What aspects require additional attention and actions to get the regulations/standards approved and enforce the Food Fortification Law? And what additional support RANFOSE can provide?
 9. In your opinion, what factors have limited the approval and implementation of national standards in LSFF?
 10. What are the additional actions that need to be taken by the GoH to influence the approval of national standards and how could RANFOSE support those actions?
 11. From your perspective, what are the factors that have limited the enforcement of the Food Fortification Law? How can RANFOSE contribute to overcome these limitations?
 12. The current government monitoring laboratory is inaccessible due to gang violence. Do you think your organization has the skills and capacity to assist in the monitoring of fortified foods? If yes, what are the possible areas of collaboration that could be explored? What assistance might you need for that to happen?
 13. Which of the following equipment do you have? (*Read the list to the respondent and check all that apply*)
 - a. Spectrophotometer UV-VIS
 - b. Spectrophotometer VIS (only)
 - c. High performance liquid chromatographer or equivalent with detector:
 - i. UV
 - ii. Fluorescence
 - iii. Other. Specify
 - d. ELISA Plate reader. Specify the wavelengths.
 - e. Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, Induced Coupled Plasma (ICP) or equivalent.
 - f. Other. Specify
 14. In the context of fortification of wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt, where samples need to be analyzed for iron, zinc, folic acid and other B vitamins, vitamin A and iodine, what is the laboratory capacity to test samples? Please consider:
 - a. Implemented tests to determine any of these nutrients. Specify which ones.
 - b. Number of people working in the lab.
 - c. Equipment availability
 - d. Maximum number of samples that can be tested in a month.
 - e. Average response time, that is, how many days the laboratory issues a laboratory report for instrumental methods and iodine test in salt.
 - f. Other
 15. Has RANFOSE carried out any diagnostic of the current capacity of the lab and followed-up to implement actions? Please describe.
 16. Explain how the quality management system works in the laboratory. Please specify if it is based on an ISO standard and specify which standard.
 17. Does the laboratory follow a quality assurance process to ensure reliability of results? Has RANFOSE included this aspect as part of the technical assistance plan to be implemented

18. What technical assistance would the laboratory need to test fortified foods for vitamins or minerals? Has RANFOSE provided any technical assistance already? Please describe.
- Training
 - Equipment
 - Reagents and consumables
 - Human resources
 - Methods
 - Certified reference materials
19. Please describe any technical/financial limitations faced during the implementation of the fortification related to testing fortified foods. If the lab does not test fortified foods, mention any limitations that can be extrapolated to fortified foods, how they were solved and if how RANFOSE contributed?
20. How have the changes in the political, economic and security situation of the country affected the testing activities you carry out, whether they were related to food fortification or not and what actions were taken to overcome the challenges faced? Specify and describe if RANFOSE contributed to overcome the challenges.
21. In the context of food fortification and testing fortified foods for compliance, what further actions are required to ensure the sustainability of food fortification in Haiti and how RANFOSE can contribute to it?

INTERVIEW GUIDE - NON-PROJECT PARTNERS PRODUCERS, IMPORTERS, PACKAGERS, DISTRIBUTORS

Stakeholder information

Name of contact:

Position:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

Company name:

Location:

- Department:
- Arrondissement:
- Commune:
- Venue:
- Venue#:

Stakeholder type : Non-project partners

Data collection method : KII

Date:

Questions

A. General information

1. Type of commercial activity related to fortified foods (check all that apply):
 - Producer
 - Importer
 - Packager (does not produce, only packages)
 - Distributor (does not produce, only distributes)
2. Type of foods commercialized, if any?
 - Wheat flour
 - Please specify what type (palm, soy, sunflower, mixture of different oils):
 - Salt
 - Other. **Please specify:**

B. Production/imports/packaging

1. For each food that you produce/import/package/distribute please provide:
 - a. Production/imports/packaging capacity in MT per year:
 - b. Production/imports/packaging/distribution of foods in MT per year:
 - c. Percentage of market share for the produced/imported/packaged/distributed food:
2. What is the area covered by your products? Check the departments that apply. Mention any factors that limit the expansion or distribution of your product to other areas of the country?
 - a. Artibonite.

- b. Centre.
- c. Grand'Anse.
- d. Nippes.
- e. Nord.
- f. Nord-Est.
- g. Nord-Ouest.
- h. Ouest.
- i. Sud
- j. Sud-Est.

C. Fortification

1. Do you know of any factories/importers/ distributors that commercialize fortified foods?
2. Have you been approached by RANFOSE project to fortify foods? *Whether they have been approached or not, the next question is whether they fortify any foods, (2).*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

3. Do you fortify any of the foods produced/imported/packaged/distributed by the company?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

If fortification is taking place, ask which foods are fortified and what specifications they follow.

4. *(Skip this question if they are fortifying foods and go directly to B.7.)*

If answer to C.3. is negative, then ask:

Could you mention your main reasons for not fortifying foods?

- Knowledge
- Financial resources for investing on equipment/premix
- Training
- Factory location
- Market demand
- Cost of fortification
- Lack of rapid identification of fortified foods by the consumer (e.g. a logo in the package for fortified foods)
- Other

5. Are there any other technical/financial limitations that could influence whether you decide to fortify foods?
6. In case you were interested in fortifying foods, what kind of support/technical assistance would you need for the implementation of the fortification? Has RANFOSE project offered to provide assistance on the aspects you mentioned? If yes, why the assistance has not been materialized?

(Check which of the aspects below the respondent mentions and ask for explanation)

- Technical advice for premix and feeders purchase
- Implementation of quality assurance/control practices
- Information of potential suppliers of fortified foods in the international market.

- Other. Specify

7. Do you think that food fortification might affect the price of the final product? If so, how?

D. Legislative Environment

I. Have you heard there is a Law on Food Fortification in Haiti that was approved in 2017?

- a. Yes. If yes go to 1a.
- b. No

1a. How did you hear from the Law of Food Fortification? What do you know about this Law? Did RANFOSE play a role in the knowledge you have about the Law?

2. Have you heard about the Food Fortification Working Group (FFWG) in Haiti?

- a. Yes. If yes, go to a.i.
- b. No.

a.I. Have you been invited to participate in the FFWG?

a.2. Who invited you?

a.3. Did you accept or decline?

a.4. Why?

E. Regulations and enforcement

I. Producers only:

Have you received any visits from the sanitary authority to inspect compliance with food safety? If yes, what is the inspection process? *Try to get:*

- Date of last visit
- Frequency of visit
- Take samples for analysis

2. Importers only:

Do the sanitary and customs authorities have any requirements related to food safety compliance prior to authorizing entrance of the product to the country? *Try to get:*

- Documents demonstrating
- Taking samples and testing
- Other

F. Stakeholder Engagement

I. In your opinion, what factors affect the private sector's engagement in food fortification?

Positive and negative effects

2. What actions would you recommend to engage factories that are not fortifying currently? How RANFOSE project can contribute to these actions?

3. Have you heard about the advocacy campaigns targeted to consumers about the benefits of consuming fortified foods?

4. In your opinion, have the advocacy campaigns targeted to consumers influenced consumers' choice to purchase fortified foods over unfortified foods? And why do you think it has?

- Any decrease in sales observed in unfortified foods after fortification started

- Market demand to fortify your products
 - No apparent change observed in market
5. Do you consider there are any factors that have influenced the availability of fortified foods to the consumers?
 - Price change
 - Media campaigns
 - Food aid distribution
 - Health care personnel advice
 6. What key factors contribute to consumers' preference for non-fortified foods even when there are fortified foods that provide an additional benefit to health over unfortified foods?

G. Sustainability of food fortification

1. Have the changes in the political, economic and security situation of the country that have taken place in the country in the last years affected your decision to participate in the process of food fortification?
2. In your opinion, what further actions are still required to engage other stakeholders in food fortification in Haiti?
3. What can RANFOSE do to support the implementation of these actions?
4. In your opinion, what threats exist for the sustainability of food fortification in the country?

CONSENT TEXT: CUSTOMERS/WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

We work for Social Impact, a USAID contractor that provides performance monitoring and evaluation support for various development projects in Haiti. The purpose of this interview is to gain further knowledge and insight into the work of the USAID-funded RANFOSE project; a project supporting the fortification of food in Haiti. As a member of the community, we value your input to our evaluation.

*** **ALL** ***

We do not anticipate any risks to participating in this interview, and there are no direct benefits though we anticipate that your responses will help us gain further knowledge of RANFOSE's contributions to promoting food fortification in Haiti and develop recommendations for future programming.

This will take no more than 5 minutes to answer. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate nor to answer any questions; you have the right to refuse to participate or you can end the interview at any time. Your decision to participate or not will not affect your ability to continue shopping here.

*** **For pregnant women at antenatal sessions only** ***

Your participation in this interview will not affect or interfere with your right to receive the healthcare services you came here for today or in the future.

*** **ALL** ***

Your answers will be used for data analysis purposes only and will be kept **strictly confidential**. **No interview respondents will be identified by name in the report or in any data shared with USAID.**

Contacts:

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I will leave a copy of this form with you.

Do you have any questions? [Interviewer should answer any questions]

Permission to Proceed

Do you understand the purpose of the interview as outlined above and understand that you can withdraw from the interview at any time and for any reason.

Do I have your permission to ask you some questions please?

Yes

No

I would also like to ask your permission to take notes to capture your responses so that we can further enhance our notes for data analysis.

Thank you very much for your participation.

RAPID INTERVIEW GUIDE: CUSTOMERS/WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

Interviewee information

Interviewee #:

Sex of interviewee: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Interviewer #:

Location : - Department:
 - Arrondissement:
 - Commune:
 - Venue:
 - Venue#:

Respondent type : ☐ customers ☐ women of reproductive age

Data collection method : Rapid interview

Date:

Questions

1. Are you familiar with the term “food fortification” or “fortified foods”?

If yes:

- I.a Where did you hear about food fortification?
- I.b Have you ever heard anything on the radio, tv or seen posters or brochures about fortified wheat flour, oil or salt or other foods?
- I.c What is your opinion about foods being fortified?
- I.d Do you know the benefits of fortifying food?
- I.e Do you have any concerns about foods being fortified?

Now go to Question 2

If no: *Explain what food fortification is:*

“Fortification is the addition of vitamins and minerals to foods or condiments to provide a health benefit to people who consume them. This practice is safe for consumers.”

Explain the 2017 Law on food fortification:

“In 2017, the Haitian Government passed a law saying that all wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt imported or locally produced in Haiti should be fortified to improve health benefits to the population.”

Say thank you:

Thank you for participating in this short survey.

2. When you go shopping, do you choose to buy products that are fortified?

If yes:

- 2.a. Which foods do you usually buy that are fortified? (Wheat flour, salt, oil, butter, margarine, other)

Now go to Question 3

If no:

2.b. Why do you choose not to buy fortified foods?

Thank you for participating in this short survey.

3. Why do you choose to buy fortified products over others?
4. Do you find fortified foods in all shops or only some shops?
5. Is there always availability of the fortified foods in the shop you usually buy from?
6. Is there more than one type of fortified wheat flour, oil and salt to choose from?
7. Do you usually buy the same brand of fortified?
 - a) wheat flour,
 - b) salt and
 - c) oil
8. How do the brands you choose compare in price to other brands of fortified?
 - a) wheat flour
 - b) salt
 - c) oil?
9. Do you know if there is a price difference between fortified and non-fortified ?
 - a) wheat flour
 - b) salt
 - c) oil
10. Do you know if there is a price difference between fortified over non-fortified products?
11. Is there any other reason that prevents you from being able to buy fortified foods?
12. Do you know many households like yours that choose to buy fortified products?

Thank you for participating in this survey.

CONSENT TEXT: SHOPKEEPERS

When you enter the store, ask an employee if you can speak to, in order of priority, owner, manager or person in charge of the shop. When you identify the person to interview, proceed with the consent text.

We work for Social Impact, a USAID contractor that provides performance monitoring and evaluation support for various development projects in Haiti. The purpose of this interview is to gain further knowledge and insight into the work of the USAID-funded RANFOSE project; a project supporting the fortification of food in Haiti. As an important retailer in this community, we value your input to our evaluation.

We do not anticipate any risks to participating in this interview, and there are no direct benefits though. We anticipate that your responses will help us gain further knowledge of RANFOSE's contributions to promoting food fortification in Haiti and develop recommendations for future programming.

This will take no more than 5 minutes to answer. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate nor to answer any questions.

We would also like to approach up to 3 customers in your shop to ask them about their knowledge and consumption of fortified foods. These interviews will take a maximum of 5 minutes each as well and are completely voluntary; the customer has the right to refuse to participate.

All answers collected will be used for data analysis purposes only and will be kept **confidential**. **No interview respondents will be identified by name in the report or in any data shared with USAID.**

Contacts:

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I will leave a copy of this form with you.

Do you have any questions? [Interviewer should answer any questions]

Permission to Proceed

Do you understand the purpose of the interview as outlined above and understand that you can withdraw from the interview at any time and for any reason.

Do I have your permission to ask you some questions please?

Yes

No

Do I have your permission to ask your customers questions please?

Yes

No

I would also like to ask your permission to take notes to capture your responses so that we can further enhance our notes for data analysis.

Thank you very much for your participation.

RAPID INTERVIEW GUIDE: SHOPKEEPERS

Interviewee #:

Interviewer #:

Location : - Department:
 - Arrondissement:
 - Commune:
 - Venue:
 - Venue #:

Respondent type : Shopkeepers

Data collection method : Rapid interview

Date:

Questions

1. Are you familiar with the term “food fortification” or “fortified foods”?

If yes:

1.a Where did you hear about food fortification?

1.b Have you ever heard anything on the radio, tv or seen posters or brochures about fortified wheat flour, oil or salt or other foods?

1.c What is your opinion about foods being fortified?

1.d Do you know the benefits of fortifying food?

1.e Do you have any concerns about foods being fortified?

Now go to Question 2

If no: *Explain what food fortification is:*

“Fortification is the addition of vitamins and minerals to foods or condiments to provide a health benefit to people who consume them. This practice is safe for consumers”

2. Do sell products that are fortified in your shop?

If yes: 2.a. Which foods do you usually sell that are fortified? (Wheat flour, salt, oil, butter, margarine, other)

Now go to Question 3

If no: 2.b. Why do you choose not to buy or sell fortified foods?

Now go to Question 11

3. Why do you choose to stock and sell fortified products?

4. Do most of your suppliers have fortified foods available?

5. Is there regular availability of fortified foods from your suppliers or are there sometimes shortages?

5.a Do you experience the same availability/shortages with unfortified foods?

6. Is there more than one type of fortified wheat flour, oil and salt to choose from?

6.a If not, why not?

7. Do you know if it costs the same price for you to buy fortified products over unfortified ones?
8. Do you sell fortified products at the same price as unfortified foods?
9. Is there any other reason that prevents you from being able to source fortified foods?
10. In general, does your shop sell more fortified or unfortified a) wheat flour, b) oil, and c) salt products?
 - 10.a Why do you think that is?
11. Do you think there is any financial gain or profit gained from stocking and selling fortified foods?
12. Do you think customers are aware whether they are buying fortified or nonfortified wheat flour, oil or salt?
13. Do customers ever ask or make comments about the benefits of fortified foods?
 - 13.a If so, what type of feedback or questions do you receive?
14. Have you heard about the Food Fortification Law of 2017?

If no: Explain the law stipulates that all wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt sold in Haiti (import or locally produced) should be fortified
15. To your knowledge, do the authorities conduct inspections in shops to check for fortified foods?

Thank you for participating in this survey.

RECRUITMENT SCRIPTS FGD: HEALTHCARE WORKERS

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN the RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Focus Group Discussions with health practitioners) (1st call)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon/evening!

Am I speaking to [Health practitioner name]?

My name is _____, I am calling on behalf of Social Impact, and we are conducting research on the performance of RANFOSE. Is now a good time to talk?

“NO” or “I’m busy right now, can you call back later?”:

- No worries, I completely understand. When would be a better time for me to call you back?
- (Go to conclusion)

“Yes”

- We are conducting research on the performance of RANFOSE and therefore collecting information about different activities carried out by RANFOSE, and we would kindly like to invite you to a focus group discussion.
- [Pause]
- We are asking you to participate because we understand you have received a training course with RANFOSE on the importance of fortified foods and how it can help to reduce deficiencies among the population.
- Did you participate in this training?
- **No:**
 - Thank you very much for the clarification. We are sorry for the disturbance.
 - (Go to conclusion)
- **Yes:**
 - Thank you very much for the confirmation.
 - Can you tell us in which region you were when you participated to the training?
(Note the information in the list provided in the specific column)
 - Could you confirm where you are located currently?
 - (Note the information)
 - (Continue with the text below)
- We would like to schedule a Focus Group Discussion with other health practitioners who attended the training. The discussion will last approximately 1 hour of your time.
- Your decision to participate will not affect your ability to receive services, now or in the future, and this will be a confidential discussion. Partners of the Americas will not know if you chose to participate or not.
- Would that be something you'd be interested in?
- [Pause]

- “I’m not the right person to talk to about this”
 - I completely understand. Do you happen to know who would be the best person to speak with in your organization?
 - (Note the contact)
 - (Go to the conclusion)
- “I’m interested, but I need more information”
 - We are making a performance evaluation of the project RANFOSE. The evaluation results will be used to determine future actions to improve the availability of fortified foods with micronutrients in Haiti to ensure that the population benefits from this strategy aimed to decrease micronutrient deficiencies, especially among the most vulnerable groups.
 - Are you interested in participating in the discussion?
 - No
 - No worries, I completely understand.
 - Yes
 - (Continue with the text below)
- “Yes”
 - (Continue with the text below)

We plan to do the discussion between on [DATE], at [TIME], at [THE LOCATION]

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.
 If you have any further questions or if you're interested in learning more about the focus group discussion, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great day!

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN the RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Focus Group Discussions with health practitioners)
(2nd call - reminder)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon/evening!

Am I speaking to [Health practitioner name]?

My name is _____, and I am calling on behalf of Social Impact to confirm the details of the focus group discussion we scheduled for [Date, Time, and location of Interview].

Health practitioner response	Your response	Next step
<i>"Yes, I remember. That time and date still work for me."</i>	Great to hear that! We look forward to meeting you at the scheduled time.	(Go to the conclusion)
<i>"I'm sorry, but I do not want to participate anymore."</i> Or <i>"I'm sorry, I forgot about the interview. I won't be able to make it at that time anymore."</i>	No worries, it's OK.	(Go to the conclusion)

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

If you have any further questions or if you're interested in learning more about the interview, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great day!

CONSENT TEXT: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH HEALTH WORKERS

Hello, my name is _____ and I am here on behalf of Social Impact, an evaluation company based in the United States. We are working on behalf of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Ranfòse Abitid Nitrisyon pou Fè Ogmante Sante, conducting research on the awareness of the population of fortified food in your work area as healthcare practitioners and we are looking forward to capturing your impressions about the attitudes and behaviors of the population around fortified foods.

We are asking you to participate because your position would make you knowledgeable about this topic in Haiti. We kindly request approximately 1 hour of your time.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate nor to answer any questions you don't feel comfortable with or join in conversations if you do not want to. If you start the discussion and wish to stop at any time for any reason, simply let us know. If you don't know the answer or have the information to answer a question it is fine. However, kindly try your best to stay involved as much as possible.

There are no direct benefits, though your participation may broadly inform improvements in future food fortification programs. We will not ask anything sensitive, but you are free to say you do not want to answer specific questions. Your privacy and anonymity will be fully respected, and your identity will remain confidential. No data will be collected that can allow you to be identified based on your responses. The study team will have access to the information you provide.

After all information that could identify you is removed from the data, the evaluation team will compile the findings from this evaluation into a report to be shared publicly on USAID's DEC platform. The anonymized data will then be shared with USAID for future research purposes. The data will be destroyed by Social Impact following completion of this study.

Due to the private nature of this research, we ask that all participants agree not to share anything that is discussed with anyone outside of this group once this conversation ends. Nonetheless, there is a risk that other discussion participants will repeat what is shared here today. Remember that you are free to refuse to answer any question.

Contacts:

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact _____

_____ I will leave a copy of this form with you.

Do you have any questions? [Interviewer should answer any questions]

Permission to Proceed

Do you understand the purpose of the Focus Group Discussion as outlined above and understand that you can withdraw from the discussion at any time and for any reason.

Do I have your permission to ask you some questions please?

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION PROTOCOL - HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Objective

This protocol sets out the rules and procedures to be followed when conducting focus group discussions with health practitioners. It is designed to safeguard the safety and wellbeing of participants, as well as provide valid and reliable results. It outlines the steps to take to guide the discussions and establishes rights and responsibilities for participants and researchers. The implementation of this protocol is necessary to carry out the task or experiment consistently, adhering to ethical and scientific standards.

Unit

The focus groups mainly concern healthcare practitioners: nurses and community health agents who participated in training of trainers on fortified foods in Haiti.

Planning for the FGDs

Planning the FGDs in advance plays a great role in succeeding the activity. Therefore, it is important to:

- Have at least two members in the team: a note taker and a moderator,
- Have all the necessary tools for the activity.
- The moderator should have great listening skills, be neutral and non-judgmental when interacting with the participants.
- Identify the location for the FGDs in advance for each group. It is important to take into account the availability and safety of the place.
- Organize the room in advance so it can take from 6 to 10 people, plus a notetaker and a moderator. The participants should be organized in a circle to help them interact comfortably. It is also advised to provide names tags and refreshments.

Guidelines for the discussions

I.- Introduction	
The introduction is really important as it sets the tone for the focus group.	
I.- Welcome The moderator introduces themselves and any others who are playing a role in the activities.	<i>"Hello everyone, and welcome to this focus group discussion. We thank you for accepting to take part in this focus group. My name is [Moderator Name] and I will be facilitating this discussion today. I would like to introduce our note-taker, [Name], who will be taking notes during the discussion. We are here to talk about fortified food in your work area as healthcare practitioners and we are looking forward to hearing your thoughts."</i>
2. Consent form Hand out the consent form	Read the consent statement, Ask participants to review, Answer any questions. Retrieve the signed forms. Offer a copy of the consent form (unsigned) to each person. Some will want a copy, others will not, but always offer. Distribute name tags (first names only)
II.- Organization and ground rules	

1.- Explanation of the organization and logistics Agenda and time boundaries of the focus group, including any planned breaks, and logistics.	Please be informed that the focus group discussion will take no more than one hour. We will take some notes and may take some pictures. With regard to logistics: • Smoking is not permitted inside the event venue. • Restrooms are available on site. Please ask staff for directions if needed. <i>If you have any other questions or concerns about the event logistics, please do not hesitate to ask a staff member for assistance.</i>
2.- Ground rules	The list of rules should be developed with the participants. The following is a guideline. Please, consider posting them for everyone to see. 1. Basics rules, such as: - turning cell phones, - two people do not talk at the same time 2. There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your opinions and perspectives. 3. You do not have to agree with everyone else in this room if that is not how you really feel. We expect people will have different views on these questions. 4. We want you to feel comfortable saying good things as well as critical things. We are not here to promote a particular way of thinking. We just want to understand your viewpoints. 5. Everybody has the right to pass on a question. 6. Open up to the group to suggest other ground rules Do you have any questions before we begin? If not, let's get started!
III.- Discussion Questions	
1.- Warm-up Questions	Ask the participants some questions designed to help participants get comfortable and start thinking about the topic of discussion. <i>"Can you tell us a bit about yourself? For example, what is your occupation, age? Is there anything else you'd like to tell us before we move on to our main discussion topics?"</i>
2.- Main Discussion Questions	Now we can start with the main questions designed to explore the research objectives and gather data from participants. See the interview guide for the FGD with the health practitioners. The questions should be open-ended and allow participants to share their experiences and opinions. The moderator should cover all the points outlined in the discussion guide but doesn't need to stick to a specific order. The conversation should be as organic as possible, and certain topics may be brought up by the group. The moderator should follow the lead of participants, asking questions and exploring any relevant topics they bring up during the discussion. It is essential to record the exact quotes during the discussion since they can be significant components of the report and hold great influence.

IV.- Conclusion	
1.- Recap of the key points discussed.	To conclude the discussion, you may want to summarize the main points covered. You could say something along the lines of: <i>"As we're getting towards the end of our conversation, I would like to highlight the key takeaways we've discussed today. We've identified several themes, such as [...]. Overall, it appears that [...]. These insights are very valuable to us, as they will inform our [...]."</i>
2.- Opportunity for participants to ask questions or share additional thoughts	Invite participants to ask any remaining questions or share any additional thoughts they may have. You should give participants time to think and then to come up with any comments. <i>"Before ending the discussion, let's see if anyone else has any last questions or remarks. Is there anything else you'd like to add? Please, don't be shy!"</i>
3.- Thank you and closing remarks.	When ending the discussion, it's important to thank the participants for their contributions and express your gratitude for their time. It is also another opportunity to encourage them to think and share any last comments before ending. You could use a message like the following: <i>"I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your time and thoughtful contributions during this discussion. Your feedback is invaluable and will play an essential role in informing our efforts to improve future food fortification programs.</i> <i>We truly appreciate your willingness to share your insights and experiences with us. If you have any additional questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you again for your participation, and we wish you all the best."</i>

Reporting

- Immediately after each focus group discussion, the moderator and note-taker should meet to review the main themes of the discussion and ensure that the notes are organized and include any missing information or reflection notes. It's important to do this within 24 hours of the focus group because it can be challenging to recall the details of what was said after this time frame. Make sure your notes are easy to understand and accessible to anyone who did not participate in the focus group by expanding any shorthand and filling in any gaps.
- It is recommended that the notes from the FGDs are transcribed using the FGD reporting template provided, and that all personal details, such as the names of the participants, are removed.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE – HEALTHCARE WORKERS

FGD # :

Location :

- Department :
- Arrondissement :
- Commune :
- Venue :

Moderator :
Note taker#1 :
Note taker#2 :

Group type : Healthcare workers
Data collection method : Focus group discussion
Date:

Questions

A - ICE BREAKER

1. Can you introduce yourself and where you come from?
2. How long have you been working in your area?
3. Please tell us which organization you worked for when you were trained on Food Fortification?

B - EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRAINING

4. How did you find the training on Food Fortification?
5. Do you think you have received all the necessary knowledge to replicate the training?
6. Did you receive any material to help you with the task?

C - REPLICATION OF THE TRAINING

7. Did you have a chance to replicate the training?
 - 7.1. If no, why?
 - 7.2. If yes,
 - 7.2.1. In which area?
 - 7.2.2. How many times did you replicate it?
 - 7.2.3. How many people have you trained?
 - 7.2.4. How did you replicate it?
 - 7.2.5. What was the main profile of your public?
 - 7.2.6. Did you have women in your group?
 - 7.2.7. Did any of your group already know about fortified foods?
 - 7.2.8. Did the training have modules on proper nutrition and how to prepare fortified food?
 - 7.2.9. Did you encounter any challenges when replicating the training? Which?

D - EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REPLICATION

8. Did you have a chance to follow up with the participants from your training? How? Did you visit them?
9. What did you observe while talking to them about their understanding of fortified foods?
10. According to you, are the population aware of the benefits of fortified foods?

11. According to you, are fortified foods available in your region? Does the population have access to them in your area? Do they know where to find them? Do they know which food is fortified or not?
12. RANFOSE has carried out training and mass media campaigns to promote the consumption of fortified foods, do you think these have influenced the consumption of fortified foods now that there is the fortified and not fortified option in the market? If so, how? For any population groups in particular (women, wealthier HH...)?
13. Based on the feedback you received during the training, how likely is that the people you trained buy fortified foods?
 - 13.1. If not likely, why not?
 - If likely, why? (*Prompt: any benefits or concerns?*)
14. What about pregnant women, and households with children under 5, do you think they are aware of the benefits of fortified foods for their health?
15. If so, do you think this means they consume more fortified foods now?

E - PRICE PERCEPTION

16. Have you received any feedback on how the population in your region perceives the price of Fortified Foods?

F - ENDING QUESTION

17. Do you have any suggestions for how to improve information about and access to nutritious and fortified food in your area?

RECRUITMENT SCRIPTS FGD: FFWG

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN the RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Focus group with the FFWG) (1st call)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon/evening!

Am I speaking to [FFWG_MemberName]?

My name is _____, and I am calling on behalf of Social Impact, and we are conducting research on the performance of RANFOSE. Is now a good time to talk?

“NO”

- “I’m busy right now, can you call back later?”
- No worries, I completely understand. When would be a better time for me to call you back?
- (Go to conclusion)

“Yes”

- We are conducting research on the performance of RANFOSE and therefore collecting information about different activities carried out by RANFOSE, and we would kindly like to invite you to an interview.
- [Pause]
- We are asking you to participate as one of the stakeholders because your position would make you knowledgeable about this topic in Haiti as a member of the Food Fortification Working Group. We would like to schedule a Focus Group Discussion with other members of the FFWG. The discussion will last approximately 1 hour of your time.
- Your decision to participate will not affect your ability to receive services, now or in the future, and this will be a confidential discussion. Partners of the Americas will not know if you chose to participate or not.
- Would that be something you'd be interested in?
- [Pause]
- **“I’m not the right person to talk to about this”**
 - I completely understand. Do you happen to know who would be the best person to speak with in your organization?
 - (Note the contact)
 - (Go to the conclusion)
- **“I’m interested, but I need more information”**
 - We are making a performance evaluation of the project RANFOSE. The evaluation results will be used to determine future actions to improve the availability of fortified foods with micronutrients in Haiti to ensure that the population benefits from this strategy aimed to decrease micronutrient deficiencies, especially among the most vulnerable groups.
 - Are you interested in scheduling an interview?

- (If yes, continue with text below)
- “Yes”
 - (Read consent)

We plan to do the discussion between (period of time) online via Zoom/TEAMS. Is it ok, or do you prefer to meet in person?

- “No, in person will be best”
 - That is ok too.
 - Can you specify the best place to organize the meeting according to you?
 - (Note and repeat the place)
- “Yes, online is ok”
 - Great.
 - Can you confirm your email address, so we can share the invitation link with you?
 - (Note, repeat and spell the email address)

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

If you have any further questions or if you're interested in learning more about the interview, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great day!

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN the RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Focus group with the FFWG)
(2nd call)

Evaluation title: RANFOSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation Commissioner: USAID/Haiti

Implementer of the program: Partners of the Americas:

Principal Evaluator: Social Impact, a development consulting firm based outside of Washington D.C. commissioned by USAID/Haiti to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation Data Collector in Haiti: [REDACTED]

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon/evening!

Am I speaking to [FFWG_MemberName]?

My name is _____, and I am calling on behalf of Social Impact to confirm the details of the Focus Group Discussion we scheduled for [Date and Time of Interview].

Member response	Your response	Next step
<i>"Yes, I remember. That time and date still work for me."</i>	Great to hear that! We look forward to meeting you at the scheduled time.	(Go to the conclusion)
<i>"I'm sorry, but I do not want to participate anymore."</i> or <i>"I'm sorry, I forgot about the interview. I won't be able to make it at that time anymore."</i>	No worries, it's OK.	(Go to the conclusion)

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

If you have any further questions or if you're interested in learning more about the interview, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great day!

CONSENT TEXT: FFWG

We are also including the consent language below for your awareness to inform your decision to participate. I am going to read it to you:

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate nor to answer any questions you don't feel comfortable with or join in conversations if you do not want to. If you don't know the answer or have the information to answer a question it is fine, just tell us and we will move on. If you start the interview and wish to stop at any time for any reason, simply let us know.

We do not anticipate any risks to participating in this interview, and there are no direct benefits, though your participation may broadly inform improvements in future food fortification programs. We will not ask anything sensitive, but you are free to refrain from answering specific questions if you choose.

The study team will have access to the information you provide, including personally identifiable information such as your name, contact information and organizational affiliation. After all information that could identify you is removed from the data, the evaluation team will compile the findings from this evaluation into a report to be shared publicly on USAID's DEC platform. The anonymized data will then be shared with USAID for future research purposes. The data will be destroyed by Social Impact following completion of this study.

Contacts:

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I will leave a copy of this form with you.

Do you have any questions? [Interviewer should answer any questions]

Permission to Proceed

Do you understand the purpose of the Focus Group Discussion as outlined above and understand that you can withdraw from the discussion at any time and for any reason.

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes / No (facilitator to record verbal response)

Initials of facilitator to indicate receipt of verbal consent to be interviewed:

Initials of note-taker to indicate receipt of verbal consent to be recorded:

Date _____

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION PROTOCOL: FFWG

Objective

This protocol sets out the rules and procedures to be followed when conducting focus group discussions with members of the FFWG. It is designed to safeguard the safety and wellbeing of participants, as well as provide valid and reliable results. It outlines the steps to take to guide the discussions and establishes rights and responsibilities for participants and researchers. The implementation of this protocol is necessary to carry out the task or experiment consistently, adhering to ethical and scientific standards.

Unit

The focus groups mainly concern members of the FFWG in Haiti.

Planning for the FGDs

Planning the FGDs in advance plays a great role in succeeding the activity. Therefore, it is important to:

- Have at least two members in the team: a note taker and a moderator,
- Have all the necessary tools for the activity.
- The moderator should have great listening skills, be neutral and non-judgmental when interacting with the participants.
- Depending on the current way that FFWG meetings are held, the location for the FGDs will be the same where regular presential meetings take place, or the FGDs will be held virtually, through a meeting platform, if this is preferred.
- If the meeting is presential, organize the room in advance to accommodate the FFWG members that confirmed attendance, plus a notetaker and a moderator. The participants should be organized in a circle to help them interact comfortably. It is also advised to provide names tags and refreshments.

Guidelines

I.- Introduction	
The introduction is really important as it sets the tone for the focus group.	
I.- Welcome The moderator introduces themselves and any others who are playing a role in the activities.	<i>"Hello everyone, and welcome to this meeting. We thank you for your time and accepting to take part in this focus group discussion. My name is [Moderator Name] and I will be facilitating this discussion today. I would like to introduce our note-taker, [Name], who will be taking notes during the discussion. We are here to talk about the role of the FFWG and Ranfose project in implementing the food fortification strategy in the country. We are looking forward to hearing your thoughts."</i>
2. Consent form Hand out the consent form	Read the consent statement, Ask participants to review, Answer any questions. Retrieve the signed forms. Offer a copy of the consent form (unsigned) to each person. Some will want a copy, others will not, but always offer. Distribute name tags (first names only)

II.- Organization and ground rules	
I.- Explanation of the organization and logistics Agenda and time boundaries of the focus group, including any planned breaks, and logistics.	<i>Please be informed that the focus group discussion will take no more than one hour. We will take some notes and may take some pictures.</i> <i>With regard to logistics:</i> • Smoking is not permitted inside the event venue. • Restrooms are available on site. Please ask staff for directions if needed. <i>If you have any other questions or concerns about the event logistics, please do not hesitate to ask a staff member for assistance.</i>
2.- Ground rules	The list of rules should be developed with the participants. The following is a guideline. Please, consider posting them for everyone to see. <i>1. Basics rules, such as:</i> - turning cell phones, - two people do not talk at the same time <i>2. There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your opinions and perspectives.</i> <i>3. You do not have to agree with everyone else in this room if that is not how you really feel. We expect people will have different views on these questions.</i> <i>4. We want you to feel comfortable saying good things as well as critical things. We are not here to promote a particular way of thinking. We just want to understand your viewpoints.</i> <i>5. Everybody has the right to pass on a question.</i> <i>6. Open up to the group to suggest other ground rules</i> Do you have any questions before we begin? If not, let's get started!
III.- Discussion Questions	
I.- Warm-up Questions	Ask the participants some questions designed to help participants get comfortable and start thinking about the topic of discussion. <i>"You already know each other since, but we would like to know more about you. Please introduce yourself mentioning which organization or entity you represent, your position and how long you have represented your organization in the FFWG. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us before we move on to our main discussion topics?"</i>
2.- Main Discussion Questions	Now we can start with the main questions designed to explore the research objectives and gather data from participants. Please, see the interview guide for the FGD with the FFWG. The questions should be open-ended and allow participants to share their experiences and opinions.

	The moderator should cover all the points outlined in the discussion guide but doesn't need to stick to a specific order. The conversation should be as organic as possible, and certain topics may be brought up by the group. The moderator should follow the lead of participants, asking questions and exploring any relevant topics they bring up during the discussion. It is essential to record the exact quotes during the discussion since they can be significant components of the report and hold great influence.
IV.- Conclusion	
1.- Recap of the key points discussed.	To conclude the discussion, you may want to summarize the main points covered. You could say something along the lines of: <i>"As we're getting towards the end of our conversation, I would like to highlight the key takeaways we've discussed today. We've identified several themes, such as [...]. Overall, it appears that [...]. These insights are very valuable to us, as they will inform our [...]."</i>
2.- Opportunity for participants to ask questions or share additional thoughts	Invite participants to ask any remaining questions or share any additional thoughts they may have. You should give participants time to think and then to come up with any comments. <i>"Before ending the discussion, let's see if anyone else has any last questions or remarks. Is there anything else you'd like to add?"</i>
3.- Thank you and closing remarks.	When ending the discussion, it's important to thank the participants for their contributions and express your gratitude for their time. It is also another opportunity to encourage them to think and share any last comments before ending. You could use a message like the following: <i>"I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your time and thoughtful contributions during this discussion. Your feedback is invaluable and will play an essential role in informing our efforts to improve future food fortification programs.</i> <i>We truly appreciate your willingness to share your insights and experiences with us. If you have any additional questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you again for your participation, and we wish you all the best."</i>

Reporting

- Immediately after each focus group discussion, the moderator and note-taker should meet to review the main themes of the discussion and ensure that the notes are organized and include any missing information or reflection notes. It's important to do this within 24 hours of the focus group because it can be challenging to recall the details of what was said after this time frame. Make sure your notes are easy to understand and accessible to anyone who did not participate in the focus group by expanding any shorthand and filling in any gaps.
- It is recommended that the notes from the FGDs are transcribed using the FGD reporting template provided, and that all personal details, such as the names of the participants, are removed.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: FFWG

FGD # : I

Location :
- Department :
- Arrondissement :
- Commune :
- Venue :

Moderator :

Note taker#1 :

Note taker#2 :

Group type : Food Fortification Working Group

Data collection method : Focus group discussion

Date:

Questions

A - ICE BREAKER

1. Can you introduce yourself, the name of the organization or entity you represent?
2. How long have you been representing your entity in the FFWG?

B - PROJECT ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES TO CONFORM THE FFWG

3. How did you learn about the food fortification project?
4. What motivated your organization to engage in the FF project?
5. How long have you been participating in the FFWG?

C - PROJECT INFLUENCE ON THE FFWG

6. What do you think is the importance and main role of the FFWG?
7. Could you please describe the development of a regular meeting?
 - a. Which organization calls for the meeting?
 - b. Is there a specific agenda?
 - c. What topics are discussed?
 - d. If someone brings up a challenge or barrier faced related to the activities in food fortification, do the dynamics of the meetings allow for discussion and propose possible solutions?
 - e. Are there minutes of the meetings and who is responsible for writing them?

D - PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

8. What do you think are the main actions that have led to having fortified foods already available in the country?
9. How do you think the project has contributed to that?

E - BARRIERS AND LIMITATIONS

10. What have been the main barriers or limitations when implementing food fortification?
11. What has been the role of RANFOSE Project in overcoming the challenges or barriers faced?
12. In your opinion, how have the actions by the RANFOSE project been effective in overcoming the limitations and barriers encountered?

F - SUSTAINABILITY

13. What do you think are the main threats to ensure the sustainability of food fortification in the country?
14. What actions would you recommend that need to be taken to guarantee the sustainability of food fortification? Who do you think are the main actors responsible for those actions (as relevant)?

G - ENDING QUESTION

15. Do you have any suggestions to improve the food fortification in the country?

ANNEX V: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Document Title	Author(s)	Pub. Date
Project Documents		
Haiti Nutrition Profile	POA	May-21
Food Fortification Factsheet	POA	Jul-17
RANFOSE Presentation Deep Dive	POA	N/A
National Laboratory Equipment Installation Issue Brief	POA	Feb-22
AM&E Plan FY18	POA	Sep-17
AM&E Plan FY19	POA	Sep-18
AM&E Plan FY20	POA	Oct-19
MEL Plan FY21	POA	Oct-21
MEL Plan FY22	POA	Sep-22
Work Plan FY18	POA	Apr-18
Workplan FY19	POA	Sep-18
Work Plan FY20	POA	Oct-19
Work Plan FY21	POA	Sep-20
Work Plan FY2021-2023	POA	Oct-21
Work Plan FY2022-2023	POA	Sep-22
Final Report Jun 18 to Sept 20 - GAIN	POA	Sep-20
Annual Progress Report FY19 - POA	POA	Oct-19
Annual Progress Report FY20 - POA	POA	Oct-20
Annual Progress Report FY21 - POA	POA	Oct-21
Annual Progress Report FY22 - POA	POA	Oct-22
Q1 FY18 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jan-18
Q2 FY18 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Apr-18
Q3 FY18 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jul-18
Q1 FY19 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jan-19
Q2 FY19 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Apr-19
Q3 FY19 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jul-19
Q1 FY21 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jan-21
Q2 FY21 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Apr-21
Q3 FY21 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jul-21
Q1 FY22 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jan-22
Q2 FY22 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Apr-22
Q3 FY22 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jul-22
Q1 FY23 Quarterly Progress Report	POA	Jan-23
USAID Documents		
LSFF Programming Guide	USAID	Feb-22
Nutrition Strategy 2014-2025	USAID	
USAID RFA Summary	USAID	Nov-16

Document Title	Author(s)	Pub. Date
USAID RFA	USAID	Nov-16
USAID RFA Amendment 1	USAID	Dec-16
USAID RFA Amendment 4	USAID	Feb-17
Market Research		
RTAC Haiti Market Analysis North	USAID	Feb-21
RTAC Haiti Market Analysis South	USAID	Feb-21
Haiti-Food-Security-2-pager-North	USAID	Aug-22
Haiti-Food-Security-2-pagers-South	USAID	Aug-22
RTAC Poverty-and-Malnutrition-in-Haiti North-Report	USAID	Oct-20
RTAC Poverty-and-Malnutrition-in-Haiti South-Report	USAID	Oct-20
Edible Cooking Oil Market Chain in Haiti	Schwartz RG	Apr-19
Haiti Grain and Feed Annual	USAID & GAIN	Jun-22
GoH Policies and Strategies		
Plan Directeur de Sante 2012-2022	GoH	
Politique et Stratégie Nationale de Souveraineté et Sécurité Alimentaires et de Nutrition en Haïti	GoH	Jun-18
Plan Stratégique de Nutrition 2013-2018	GoH	
Politique et Stratégie Nationales Alimentation Scolaire 2016	GoH	
Politique de Développement Agricole 2010-2025	GoH	Mar-11
Loi sur la Fortification Alimentaire	GoH / Le Moniteur	Feb-17
Food Fortification or Food Security Dashboards and Databases		
https://www.ffinetwork.org/haiti		
https://fortificationdata.org/country-fortification-dashboard/?alpha3_code=HTI&lang=en		
https://fews.net/latin-america-and-caribbean/haiti		
https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/latin-america-and-caribbean/caribbean/haiti/?country-search=Haiti		
https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/womens-nutrition/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email-button-link&utm_campaign=womens-nutrition-thematic-page&utm_id=womens-nutrition-thematic-page		
https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/4494 .		
Reports, Strategies, Policies		
Brief to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022	FAO	2022
The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022	FAO	2022
Undernourished and Overlooked	UNICEF	Mar-23
Food fortification	WFP	Feb-22
Fortification- Leveraging evidence for improving nutrition	WFP	Aug-22
Haiti The Hunger Map-summary	WFP	Mar-23
Haiti, Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3	UNICEF	May-23
Honduras report, 2022	USAID/JSI	2022
Regulatory monitoring of national food fortification programs: a policy guidance document.	GAIN & PHC	2018

Document Title	Author(s)	Pub. Date
Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. Annex I.	WTO	Aug-23
Difference between a technical regulation and a standard.	WTO	Aug-23
Food Balance Sheets	FAO	2010
Haitian Press about Food Fortification/RANFOSE/Nutritional Status		
https://www.icihaiti.com/article-25223-icihaiti-politique-fortification-des-aliments-importes-moratoire.html		Oct-18
https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-8982-haiti-politic-the-council-of-ministers-approved-15-preliminary-draft-laws-and-orders.html		Nov-13
https://www.enonline.net/fex/65/enrichissementalimentairehaiti		Jul-21
https://www.chokarella.com/2020/02/27/concours-de-jingle-pour-la-promotion-de-la-fortification-alimentaire-en-haiti/#_ftnref1		Feb-23
https://hci-ht.com/articles.php?id=256		Oct-23
https://hci-ht.com/articles.php?id=197		Jan-23
https://vantbeinfo.com/les-changements-climatiques-une-menace-pour-la-securite-alimentaire-selon-le-programme-ranfose-de-lusaid/		Oct-22
https://vantbeinfo.com/linsecurite-alimentaire-des-femmes-et-des-enfants-preoccupe-ranfose/		Nov-22
https://vantbeinfo.com/le-diabete-peut-etre-prevenu-ou-etre-mieux-controle-grace-a-une-diete-riche-en-micronutriments-selon-le-projet-ranfose/		Nov-22
La certification des produits et le label national. Bureau Haitian de Normalisation. https://mci.gouv.ht/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Brochure-BHN-certification-2021.pdf		Jul-22
Academic Papers		
Allen L, de Benoist B, Dary O and Hurrell R (Eds.). Guidelines on food fortification with micronutrients. FAO/WHO. 2006.p. 185.		2006
Neufeld LM, Baker S, Garrett GS, Haddad L. Coverage and Utilization in Food Fortification Programs: Critical and Neglected Areas of Evaluation. J Nutr. 2017 May		May-17

ANNEX VI: FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS (FCR) MATRIX

	Findings	Data Source: KII, RI, FGD, Desk Review	Conclusions	Recommendations
EQ1. Considering the activity's theory of change, to what extent has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods that are priorities for improving the health of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5)?				
EQ1.1 Has the project been effective in improving the availability of adequately fortified foods?				
National Availability of Fortified Foods				
	WFP is now able to source FF locally for the school feeding program which they could not before RANFOSE (other than salt)	KII	RANFOSE has improved the availability of adequately fortified wheat flour and oil nationally by increasing the number of producers and importers in the country but efforts remain to be made on improving availability of FF nationally, especially in markets, in rural areas and departments with low availability. Although fortified salt was already on the market before RANFOSE, the project	Continue engaging more industries in FF to increase availability. Focus efforts on availability in remote areas and community markets by connecting the private sector to other suppliers and retailers in the country (civil society organization, local NGO, consumer protection associations, distributors at the local level, wholesalers at Department level) to ensure availability. A larger network could fill the gaps in
	FF are reportedly not available in all supermarkets and not available in markets where the majority of the population shop	KII, RI, FGD		
	Availability is often focused in cities with reportedly low availability in remote areas	KII, RI, FGD		
	FF supply is irregular meaning availability is interrupted	KII, RI, FGD		
For WRA and CU5 specifically				
	The project is not targeting these groups directly as it is a policy program but has collaborated with NGOs that work specifically with these sub-groups, inc. ASCP, mobile clinics and institution working with lactating mothers and children under five are engaged in promoting FF.	KII	Awareness levels were higher among interviewed WRA than among shop customers which, coupled with the fact that hospitals are one of the most cited sources of information about FF, suggests that awareness raising through health practitioners by RANFOSE or other organisations/interventions have been effective in reaching these groups.	Continue partnerships with organisations working with these target groups, in addition to reaching young/teenage girls and boys in schools who will be entering reproductive ages in the coming years. Availability and affordability are key to reaching these target groups and other vulnerable populations.
	The project carried out awareness raising providing a 1day ToT to health practitioners to disseminate the message to these groups.	KII		
	One partner organisation is promoting peanut butter fortification as an IGA for women.	KII		
Fortified Wheat Flour				
	Before RANFOSE, 1 wheat mill started fortifying in 2012 but not to the fortification level recommended by the MoH. Some micronutrients were missing hence adding iron and other micronutrients.	KII	RANFOSE has increased the availability of fortified wheat flour by engaging and supporting wheat flour factories to fortify according to recommended levels although information regarding the percentage of wheat flour fortified in the country is not based on actual data from sampling and chemical analysis of products meaning actual market share is unknown (RANFOSE calculation method is unclear). The closure of one of the factories due to insecurity in 2022 will lead to a reduced availability of fortified wheat flour.	Carry out a countrywide market analysis to assess market shares of fortified products and fortification levels, this will also assist in identifying areas of low availability to strengthen distribution in those areas
	2019 - RANFOSE reported that 76% of flour in Haiti is fortified	RANFOSE reports		
	2021 - 3 wheat flour factories are fortifying to recommended levels	RANFOSE reports		
	2022 –Random sample testing performed in lab in Dominican Republic on wheat flour produced in Haiti shows correct iron levels but zero zinc in tested sample.	RANFOSE reports		
	2022 - 3 wheat flour factories are fortifying wheat flour which has reduced imports into the country by 40% and translates to 76% of imported and locally produced wheat flour is fortified in Haiti (RANFOSE source).	KII		
	With the closure of Les Moulins d'Haiti in Oct 2022, only 2 factories are fortifying wheat flour	KII		
	Wheat flour production from the interviewed wheat mills: 95,000 MT/year.	KII		
	One wheat mill indicated confirmed that they fortify all the wheat flour production.	KII industry		
	One stakeholder from the GOH mentioned that the project carried out an inventory of fortified foods. They found that 25% of flour is fortified.	KII-GOH		

Fortified Oil				
	2019 - 65% of oil in Haiti is fortified	RANFOSE reports	RANFOSE has increased the availability of fortified oil by engaging and supporting oil importers to fortify according to recommended levels. Information regarding the percentage of oil fortified in the country is contradictory and is not based on actual data from sampling and chemical analysis of products.	Carry out a countrywide market analysis to assess market shares of fortified oil and fortification levels, this will also assist in identifying a) areas of low availability to strengthen distribution to those areas b) assess the availability and fortification levels of oil on the Haitian market, identify brands/companies that fortify that could be engaged in advocacy for the regulations to be approved.
	2020 - A sampling and testing of oil showed that 7 out of 8 oil brands are fortified, covering 85.7% of the oil market with fortification, although not all producers are part of the project partners.	RANFOSE reports		
	Before RANFOSE, there were no oils enriched with vitamin A and no company was fortifying.	KII		
	2021, 8 brands were tested and contained Vit A.	RANFOSE reports		
	According to one respondent, oil importers are fortifying in country before distributing	KII		
	According to one respondent, there are 10 oil importers, only 4 import fortified oil, the other 6 do not know about the obligation to fortify.	KII		
	One oil producer indicated that they fortify all their production for internal consumption. They export between 3-5% of their production which is not fortified.	KII industry		
	80% of oil found in country is fortified (RANFOSE 2023)	RANFOSE reports		
	According to data from producers and importers, the amount of oil/butter/margarine produced/imported is 124,000 MT/year.	KII	It is not clear why RANFOSE has not worked with the other fortified oil importers and producers identified through stakeholder and brand mapping.	
	2022 RANFOSE brand mapping shows 7 fortified oil brands on the market, across 5 companies with 2 brands not matched to a company	RANFOSE reports		
Fortified Salt				
	Salt iodization started in 2006.	KII	There is no evidence supporting the fact that RANFOSE has increased the availability of iodized salt per se given the one factory that fortifies salt was operational before RANFOSE. No other factories are fortifying since the project begun. However RANFOSE has most likely improved the quality of the fortified salt available	Carry out a countrywide market analysis to assess market shares of iodized salt and iodization levels, this will also assist in identifying a) areas of low availability to strengthen distribution to those areas b) assess the availability and fortification levels of salt on the Haitian market, and c) identify new producers (raw materials and fortifiers) who could start fortifying.
	Only 1 company iodizes in the West department (Port-au-Prince), but supplies the entire country, at least in cities.	KII		
	The salt producer has 5-6% market share	KII		
	Salt: Goal for production 300 MT/month. They could produce up to 4,000 MT. Their production is 2000-2500 MT/year.	KII		
	Fortified salt was supported by UNICEF and seems the most readily available FF according to the population.	RI, FGD		
	The salt producer produces unfortified salt for specific clients in the industry and fortified salt for the general public.	KII		
	One industry interviewed indicated that they buy fortified salt from the only producer that is iodizing salt.	KII		
	Refined and coarse salt is produced. The salt used as raw material from Haiti producers is coarse and wet (not good quality) and it cannot be processed in their machines. They use this coarse, wet salt to iodize it.	KII		
	The national salt (raw material) does not arrive on time for processing, causing delays in the production schedule.	KII		

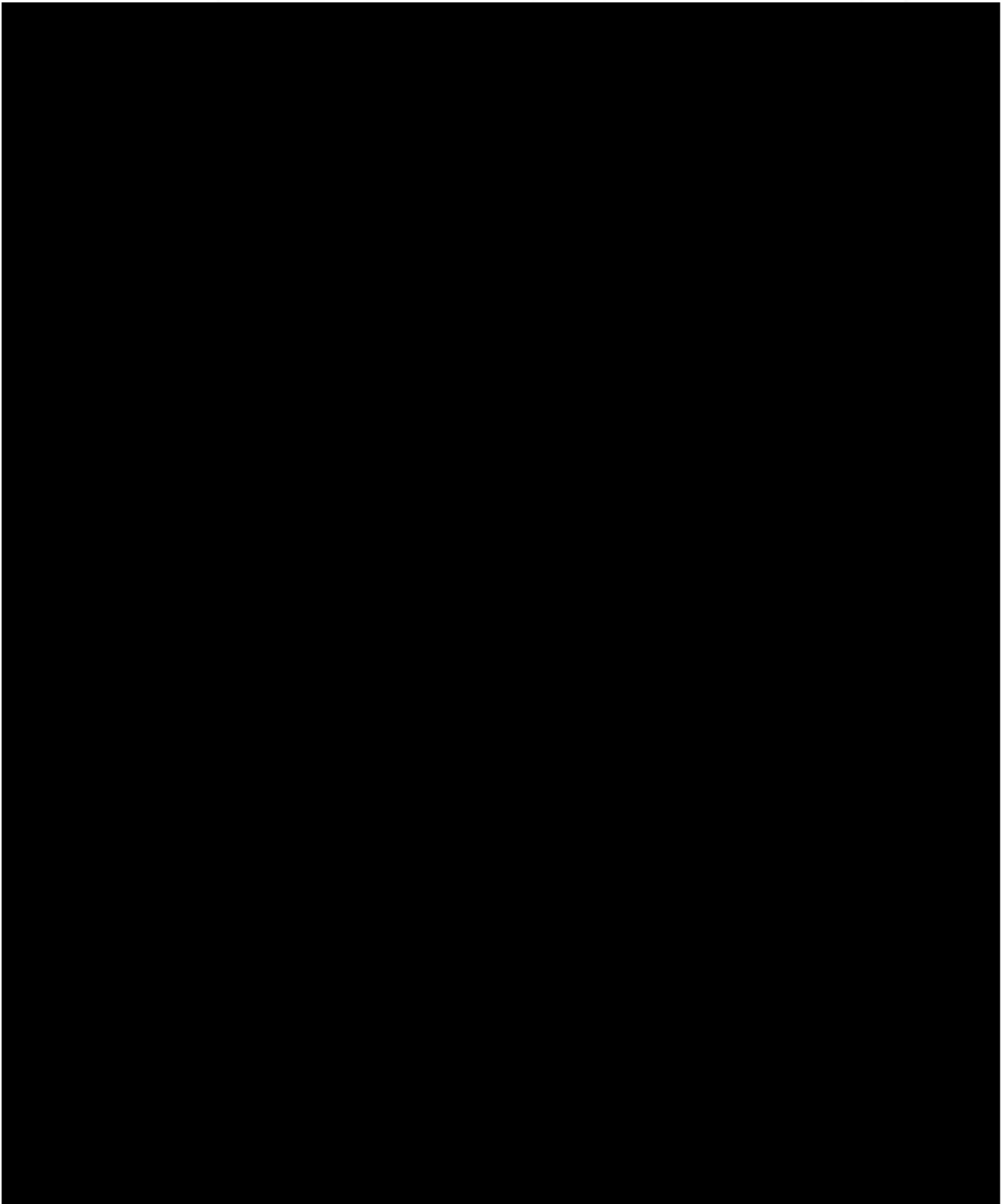
Other Fortified Foods				
	There is fortified butter, margarine, peanut butter, cereales ... on the market however it is not clear what specifications are being used in fortification	Desk Review / KII	The law of FF does not include the compulsory fortification of other foods. An industry fortifying other foods says they follow international fortification standards however, with no controls or comprehensive market analysis, it is not clear to what level foods are fortified in Haiti.	Once the LSFF of wheat flour, oil and salt is fully implemented (approved regulations + industries fortifying + population awareness and consumption), consider expanding fortification of other products such as rice, pasta, cereals and other commonly consumed foods in Haiti if demand is high. Build on lessons learned from LSFF can be integrated into the expansion of fortification into other foods.
	An industry (non partner) was not willing to share their specification and production levels or market share information as it is sensitive information. This industry does not produce oil, WF or salt but fortifies all their production and supplies other brands in Haiti with their fortified products	KII-Industry		
	There is demand for fortified rice which is a staple food in Haiti	KII, FGD	Including other foods in the list of fortified products would require further advocacy which might be better tackled once the existing law on FF is fully implemented.	
	Two shop managers in Grand Anse mentioned that they sell fortified foods because they are important for health, to satisfy the market demand and to maximize their profit.	RI	Raising awareness among retailers might contribute to them sourcing fortified foods	Consider specifically targeting shop owners and managers in awareness-raising to promote them sourcing and selling fortified foods

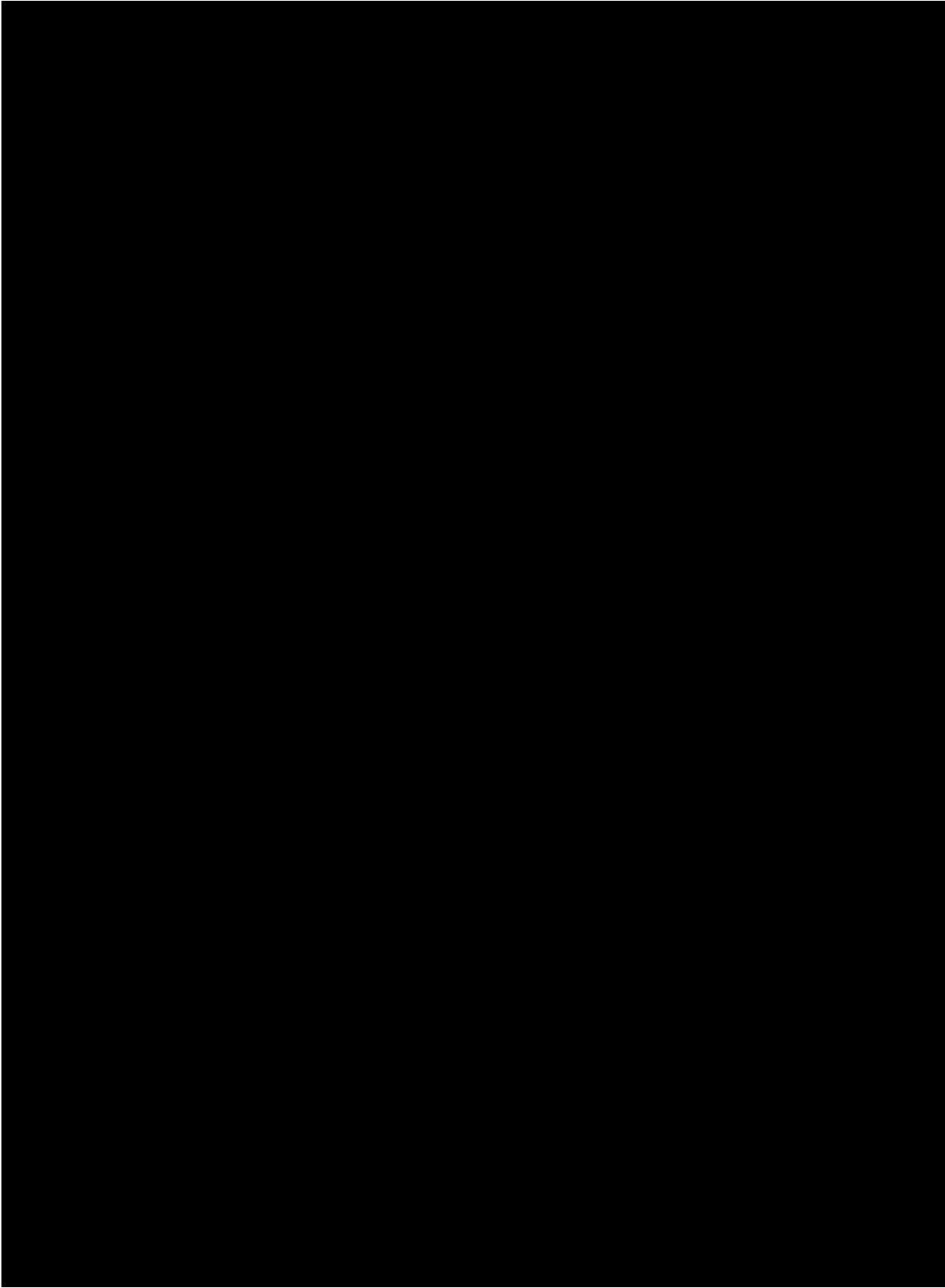
EQ1.a How has RANFOSE's activities/inputs improved the availability of adequately fortified foods?				
Stakeholder engagement				
	2018 - Site visits and evaluations of industries fortification capacity with technical recommendations for reaching adequate fortification levels	RANFOSE reports	Obtaining the commitment of industries to fortify despite the lack of implementation texts is a big achievement given the added cost of fortifying for the private sector. The industries that fortify say they do so to contribute to the population's health, and were grateful for the support received from RANFOSE in establishing fortification levels and testing procedures.	The commitment of industries needs maintaining and scaling-up to new industries beyond RANFOSE partners to further advance LSFF and therefore the availability of FF. Mapping exercises and surveys are a good way of identifying market actors and brands to approach to fortify. It is recommended to support companies by building capacity on fortification standards and specifications, QA/QC...
	2019 - Start of a) fortified oil sales (local & imports), b) wheat flour formula trials and c) marketing and comms strategy developed with salt producers/packagers.	RANFOSE reports		
	2020 – The project initially approached 13 food producers; 3 of them were already fortifying and managed to engage three other producers, duplicating the number of factories fortifying compared to the beginning of the project.	RANFOSE reports		
	The industries or importers that were not fortifying before RANFOSE started fortifying or importing fortified products between 2018 and 2020.	KII industry		
	Project collaboratively developed the specification levels with BHN/MCI to allow industries to fortify despite the lack of implementation texts.	KII		
	The project obtained the commitment from several private sector actors to fortify despite the lack of implementation texts	KII		
	A number of awareness raising events and information sessions on making fortified foods available to customers with industries, food vendors, CSO, Dir. Of Nutrition	RANFOSE reports		
	The project worked with importers who shared their suppliers' import certificates, which give detailed information on the products content	KII		
	The project has strengthened the capacity of industries and state institutions after identifying their strengths and weaknesses.		Identifying and strengthening the capacities of key actors might play a role in encouraging them to continue to fortify	
	The project provided producers with rapid test kits to test fortified products to verify vitamin A levels in the oil and iron levels in flour.	KII	Test-kits are a quick way to check the product content, but is not as accurate and precise as laboratory testing which uses more advanced techniques and quality control measures. However, Final tests need to be carried by the government to certify if the imported or produced products are fortified and compliant with official regulations and standards.	
	The project carried out product and stakeholder mapping in 2018 and 2022 of the entities involved in food fortification and the products available on the market.	KII	Identifying fortified products is a good way to help the consumers.	
	The market is always changing	KII	But if the products are getting in and out of the markets too rapidly, the consumers might be confused.	

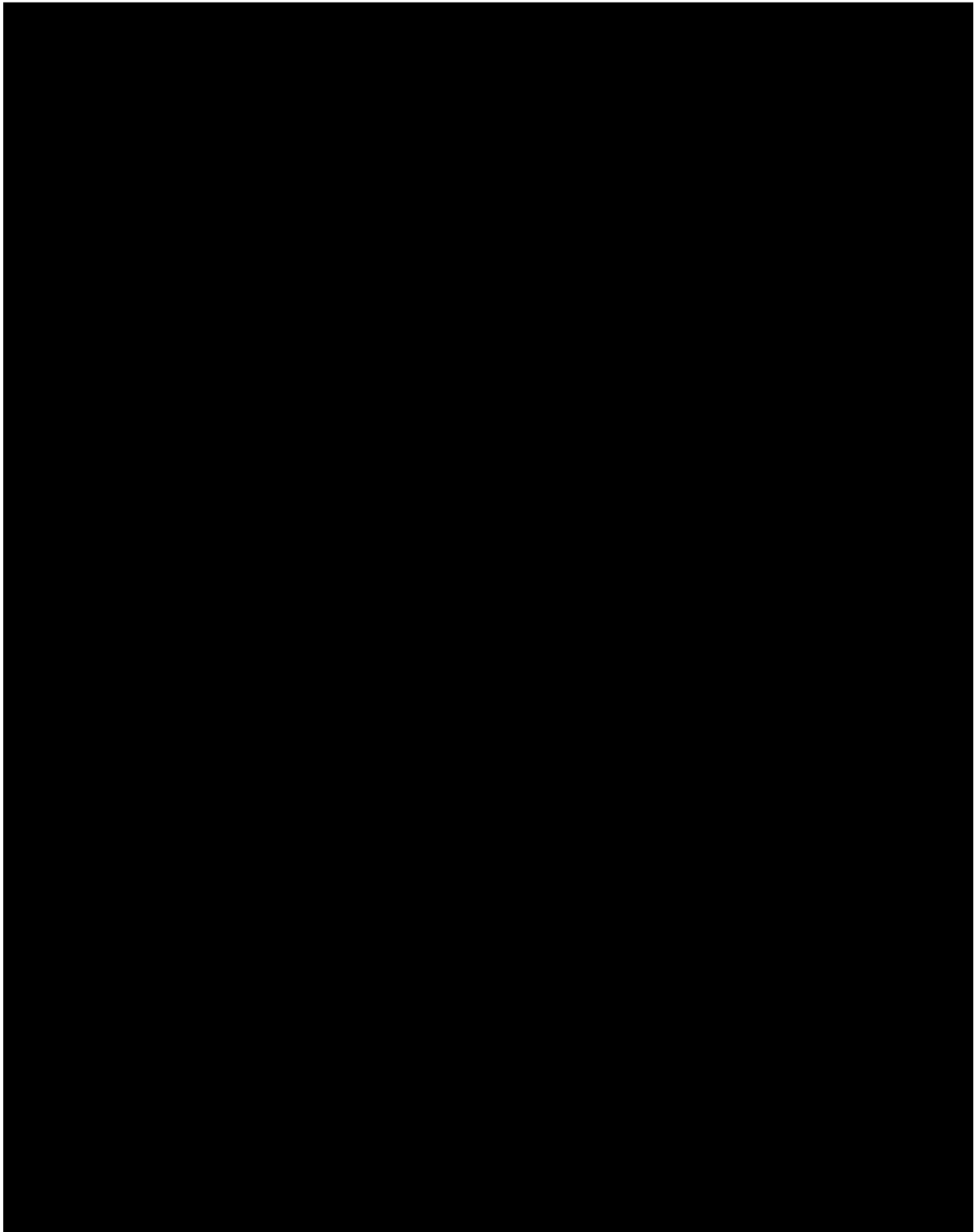
EQ1.b Which stakeholder engagement activities have been instrumental in improving the availability of fortified foods?				
	Advocacy carried out on the importance of food fortification to get commitment from industries and support from GoH.	KII		Create or continue linkages with different ministries or national programs as well as with industries, e.g.: a) use health structures to raise awareness and promote FF through healthcare services, b) Integrate awareness raising FF into school curriculum. Support the establishment of multi-stakeholder networks in fortification by promoting collaborations nationally and internationally.
	Engagement was bilateral initially but eventually became multi stakeholder (FFWG) which allowed for exchanges on challenges encountered in FF	Desk Review / KII		
	FFWG and the platform it provided to bring industry, government and civil society together, creating a common understanding of the challenges and advancements in food fortification. It has contributed to the promotion of FF through information sharing, awareness raising, updates and promotion of other activities like trade fairs where the industries are accompanied with their marketing teams.	KII	Despite all those who participate in the FFWG wanting it to continue, it is still unclear whether the FFWG will continue beyond RANFOSE and who will lead it if so.	
	The workshops carried out offer a communication platform to government entities such as the Nutrition Division of MSPP, DINEPA, Haitian Bureau of Standardization; and allowed the private sector to strengthen their relationship with international experts. It also helped a lot with the importation of fortified foods.	KII		
	Collaboration with MCI/BHN, and other stakeholders, on developing and publishing the standards as well as trainings and certification for industries	KII		
	Collaboration with MoH/Nutrition program to design advocacy campaign	KII	Collaboration with MoH could have been strengthened and got off to a slow start which lead to the creation of the FFWG which potentially caused further friction.	
	Collaboration with Min of Education/PNCS on awareness raising in schools and RIs cited schools as one of the most common source of knowledge about FF	KII, RIs		
	Fairs and awareness raising events were said to be effective	KII		
	There is demand from large distributors to be connected with other providers inside and outside the country.	KII		
	There was engagement with bakeries but this is not a large contributor to availability.	KII		

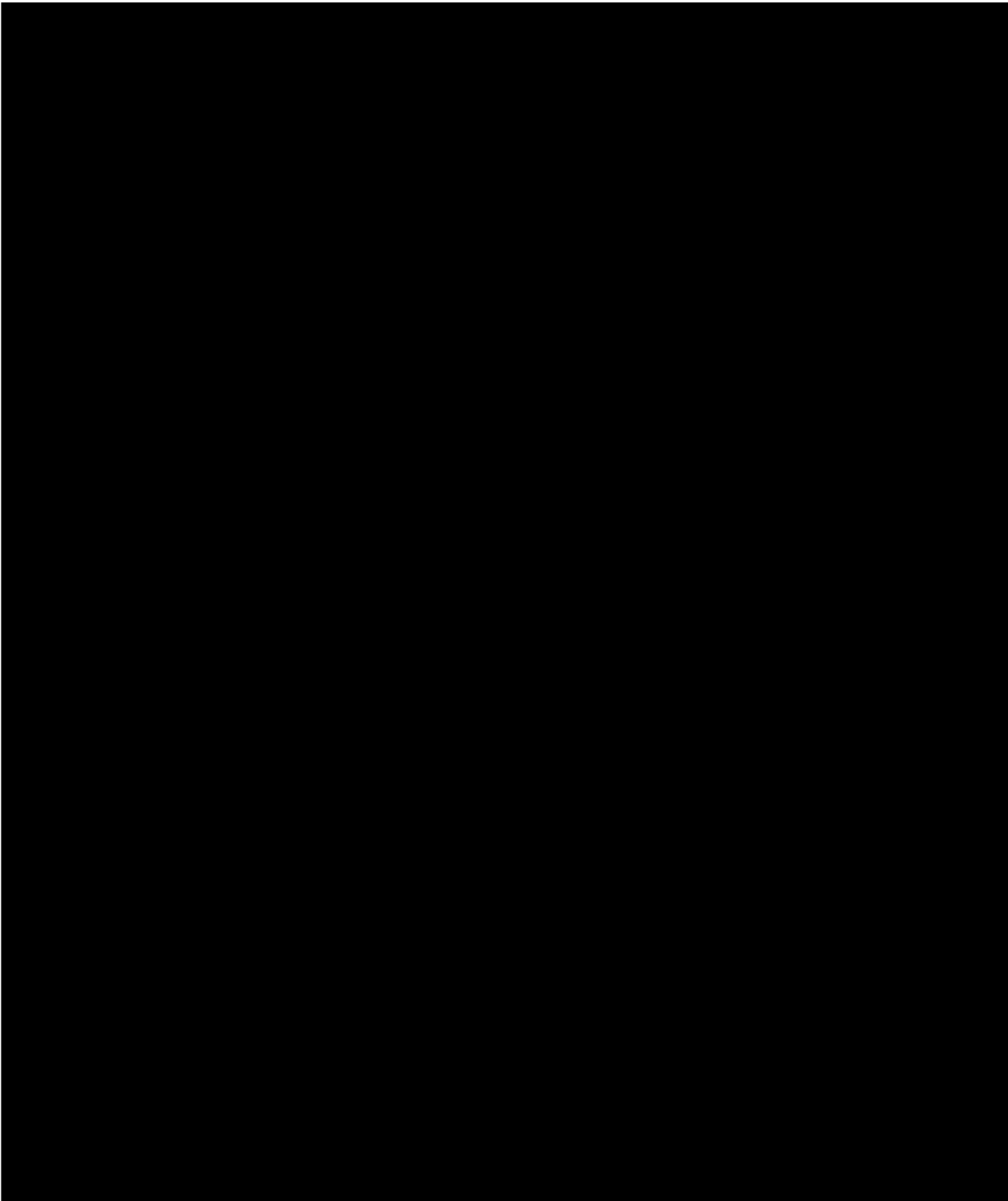
EQ1.c.1 Which key factors facilitate or inhibit the availability of fortified foods? And for WRA and CU5 specifically?				
Identification of FF				
	Currently, the population must read the labels (which requires being literate) or know/recognize the brands of fortified products.	KII, RI, FGD	The logo not only allows easy recognition for consumers but also represents a quality seal for producers that are fortifying adequately. A logo could therefore promote consumption by the population who will easily spot the product and have confidence that it is of good quality.	Get the logo approved together with the regulations
	Some say fortified oil is distinguished by its lighter color.	RI		
	A logo has been developed and agreed collaboratively with GoH and industries and is sitting with MSPP for approval.	KII		
	Most believe the logo to be a very good initiative as it will provide recognition of FF and a quality certification	KII		
	Some producers worry about the added cost of adding a label to their packaging.	KII		
Raw Materials				
	Agricultural production in Haiti is too low to feed the population therefore reliance on imports which pushes prices up.	KII	The private sector has the will to fortify but is discouraged by a) the high import duties coupled with poor quality or quantity local supply, b) the absence of government controls or c) other industries that are not fortifying.	Explore local industries that could support the FF value chain with raw materials and support local production of raw materials for FF (salt, wheat, oil, and ultimately premix)
	Salt is available locally but the local salt is not compatible with the fortification machines for making fortified fine salt causing a reliance on imports.	KII industry		
	One respondents suggests producing micronutrients in Haiti to avoid high import costs	KII		
	Raw materials (e.g. premix or potassium iodate) for fortification are costly to import (duties).	KII		Advocate for exemptions on import duties on premix and provide incentives to fortify.
	Some suggest the state should subsidize the import fees for premix to reduce the cost to industries.	KII		
	Some say the government should subsidise the premix for producers	KII		
Legislative environment				
	Lack of regulations inhibit producers from fortifying.	KII	The lack of regulation approvals are a key limitation to the sustainability of LSFF	There is a need to obtain the approval of the standards to increase private sector engagement to FF and to allow the
	Lack of controls/enforcement leaves adequacy of fortification in question	KII		
Operating environment				
	One of the largest mills closed in 2022 due to violence therefore reducing the amount of fortified foods on the market (volumes unknown)	KII	The operating environment, and therefore availability of FF is highly volatile.	
	Insecurity, bad roads, fuel scarcities, corruption, Covid hinder the distribution of FF	KII	The further away from PaP, the harder it is to supply (danger, time and cost) hitting remote areas hardest, where the IGA's are the lowest and populations are the most vulnerable.	
	Insecurity hinders product distribution to some areas like the Central Plateau and Bas Artibonite.	KII		
	Some producers mentioned that in some areas they have not able to distribute for up to six months because of insecurity	KII		
	Some companies distribute foods to St. Marks with boats, due to road blockages.	KII		
	Irregular deliveries of raw material orders due to the environment inhibits the constant supply of FF	KII	This confirms what the population say about FF not always being available	

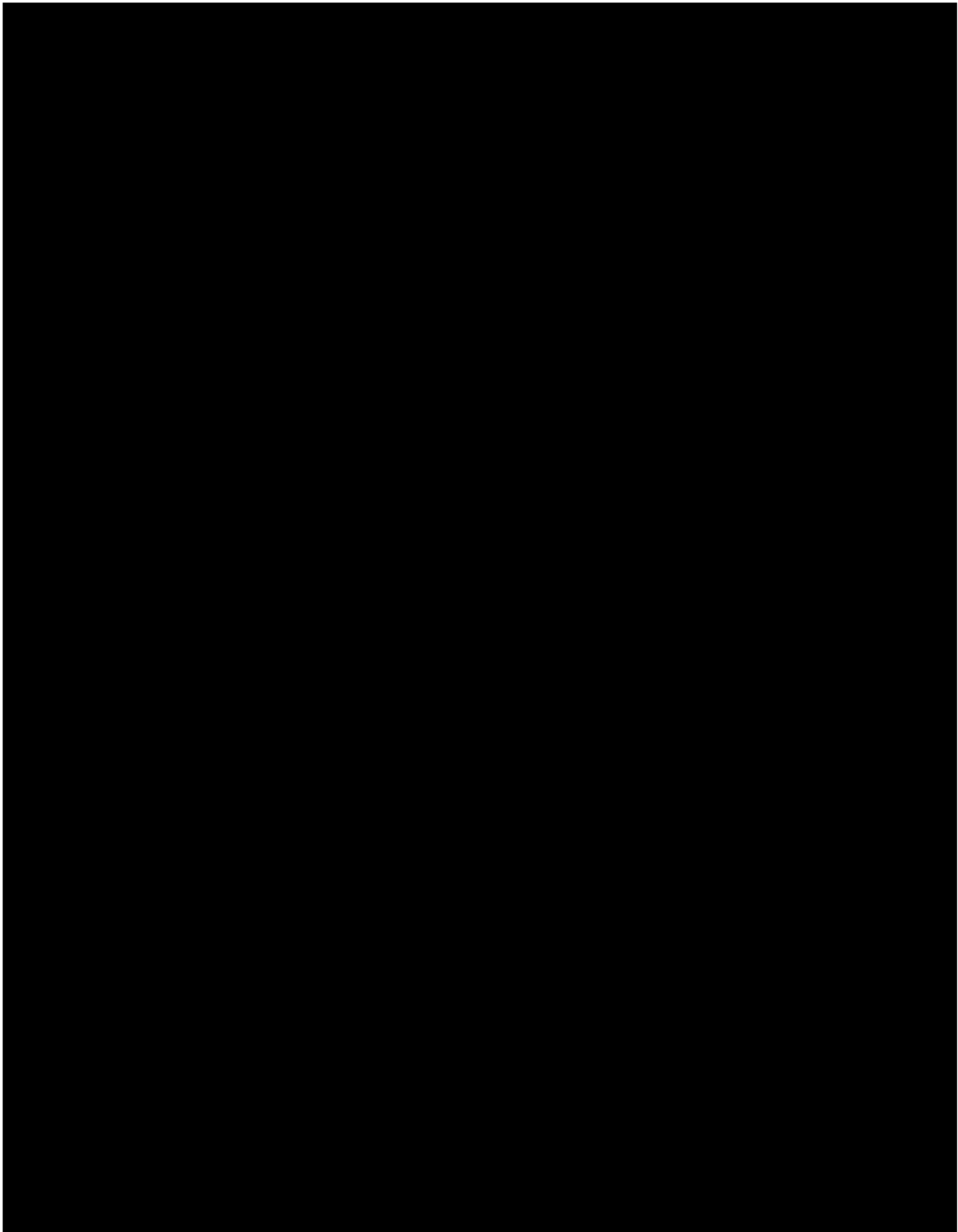
ANNEX VII: DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

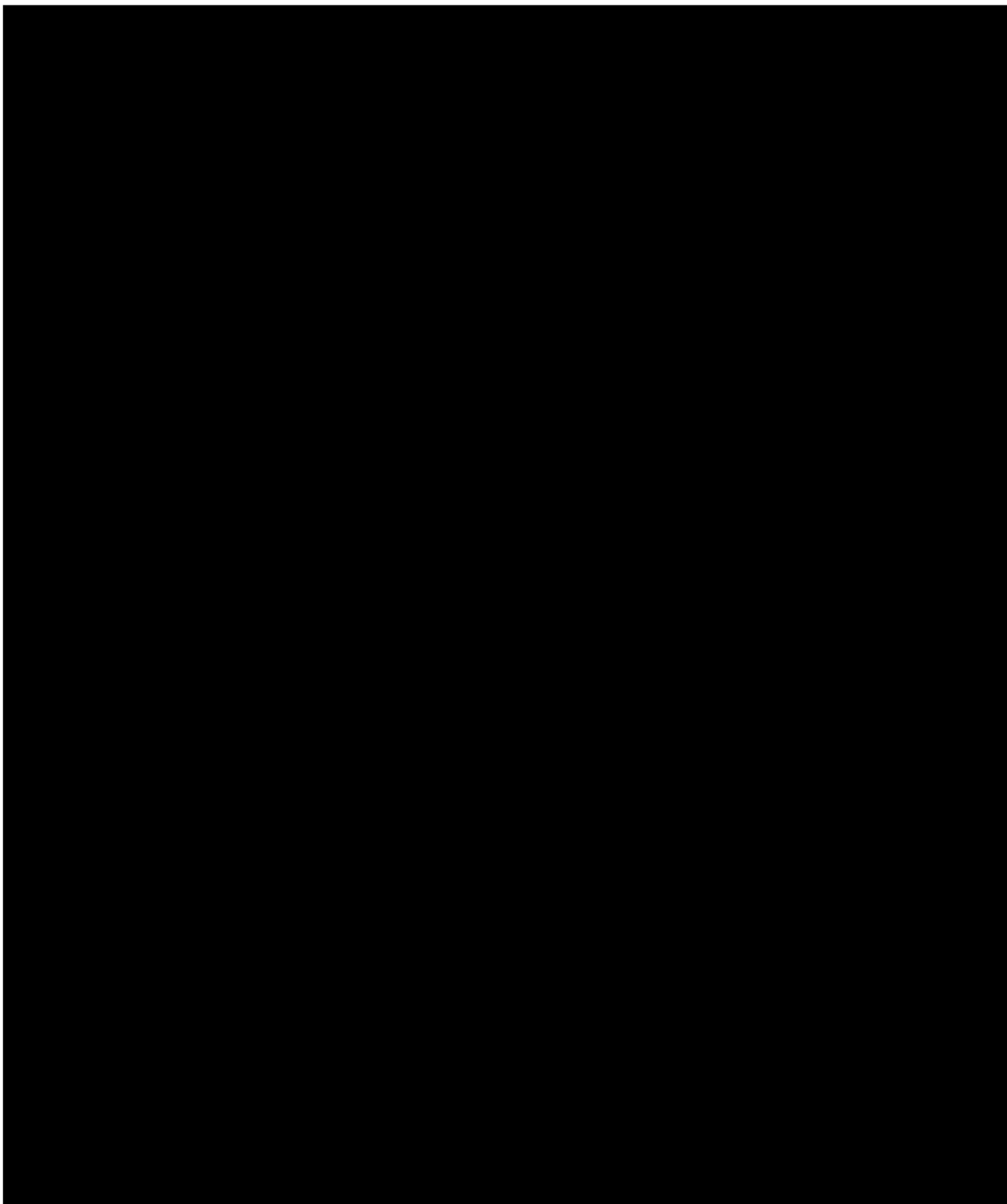












[illegible]

[REDACTED]

ANNEX IX: RANFOSE PRODUCT MAPPING OUTPUTS

2017/18 – List of fortified foods on the market

Company	Product	Brand
Les Céréales d'Haiti(LCH)	Wheat flour	Farine Reine du Sud Farine Macaya Farine Sans Souci
Les Moulins d'Haiti (LMH)	Wheat flour	Farine Les Moulins d'Haiti Farine Lakay
Canbbean Milling	Wheat flour	Bongu
Carribex SA	Oil	Ti Malice
Carribex SA	Butter and other fats	Ti Malice
HUHSA	Oil	Gourmet
HUHSA	Butter and other fats	Gourmet
Deka Group	Oil	Bongu
Sodipal	Oil	Tropicale
Unknown	Oil	Nina
Unknown	Oil	Mitra
Rika	Oil	Rika
Bon Sel Dayiti	Salt	Bon Sel Dayiti, Flamingo

Source: Data provided by the implementing partner.

2022 – List of potentially fortifiable products	Product Brand	Commercial Name
Wheat flour	Alberto	Alberto
Wheat flour	Belle France Farine De Ble	Not specified in the packaging
Wheat flour	Farine De France	Pi Bon Gou
Wheat flour	Francine	Grands Moulins De Paris
Wheat flour	Gabelus	Gabelus
Wheat flour	Innovation	Innovation
Wheat flour	Loralus Production Local	Not specified in the packaging
Wheat flour	Meyou Farine Bebe/ Ble	Not specified in the packaging
Wheat flour	Paditex	Paditex
Wheat flour	Plaisir	Plaisir Production Nationale
Wheat flour	Quisqueya	Quisqueya Food Products
Oil	Alberto	Alberto
Oil	Crisol	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Louana Coconut Oil	Ventura Foods
Oil	Badia	Badia Spices Inc
Oil	Bertolli	Deoleo USA Inc
Oil	Gabriela	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Bouton Dor	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Canola Oil	Red & White
Oil	Cibo	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Classico	Pompelan
Oil	Corn Oil	Federated Group Inc
Oil	Crisco	The J. M. Smucker Company
Oil	Crisco Blends	The J. M. Smucker Company
Oil	Crisco Pure Canola	The J. M. Smucker Company
Oil	Crisco Pure Corn	The J. M. Smucker Company
Oil	Crisco Pure Corn Oil	The J. M. Smucker Company
Oil	Crisco Pure Vegetable	The J. M. Smucker Company
Oil	Crisol	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Diamante	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Essential Evryday	Supervalu Inc
Oil	Extra Virgin	Aceites Del Sur - Coosur SA
Oil	Filippo Berio	Filippo Berio
Oil	Fruit Dor	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Goya	Andalucia
Oil	Hot Chili	Roland
Oil	Kirkland	Costco Wholesale Corperation
Oil	La Espanola	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	La Perla Extra Virgin Olive	Cassis Freres S.A

2022 – List of potentially fortifiable products	Product Brand	Commercial Name
Oil	Lider	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Mazeite	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Mazola	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Mazola Aceite De Soya	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Mazola Canola Oil	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Mazola Corn Oil	Mercasid S.A
Oil	Mega	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Olive Oil	Essential Everyday
Oil	Philipo Berio	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Pure Vegetable Oil	Essential Everyday
Oil	Saifan Extra Virgin Olive Oil	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Sedona Avocado Oil	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Sesame Oil	Kikkoman
Oil	Sol De Oro	La Fabril
Oil	Supremo Italiano	Rd Jet Llc
Oil	Tournesol	Leader Price
Oil	Vegetable Oil	Not specified in the packaging
Oil	Vierge Extra	Leader Price
Oil	Vigo	Vigo
Oil	Vigo Extra Oil Virgin	Vigo
Oil	Wesson	Richardson Food & Ingredients
Refined salt	Pink Himalayan Salt	Badia Spices Inc
Refined salt	Reffets De France	Not specified in the packaging
Refined salt	Sea Salt	La Baleine
Refined salt	Alessi Sea Salt	Not specified in the packaging
Refined salt	Carey Salt	Carey Salt
Refined salt	Crilling Sea Salt	Goya Food Inc
Refined salt	Essentiel Everyday	Supervalu Inc
Refined salt	Goya	Andalucia
Refined salt	Morton Salt	Morton Salt Inc
Refined salt	Roland	Not specified in the packaging
Refined salt	Salt	Essential Everyday
Refined salt	Sea Salt	La Baleine
Refined salt	Sel Fin	Leader Price

Source: Data provided by the implementing partner.

ANNEX X: SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION DATA (RANFOSE PARTNERS AND NON-PARTNERS)

Food product	Production (2022)
Wheat flour (3 wheat mills)	95,000 MT/year (129,960 MT/year of wheat)
Oil and derivatives (3 oil producers/importers)	124,000 MT/year
Salt (1 salt fortification factory)	2000-2500 MT/year

ANNEX XI: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED

The nutrient content in fortified foods included in the specifications is presented below. These specifications were used as reference to develop the wheat flour and table salt standards approved by BHN.

Table X. Summary of the nutrient fortification levels established in the specifications.

Food	Nutrient	Chemical form	Nutrient content
Salt	Iodine	Potassium iodate	40 ± 10 mg/kg (33.7 to 67.5)
Oil	Vitamin A	Not specified	50,000 UI/kg
Wheat flour	Iron	Sodium iron EDTA	30 mg/kg
	Zinc	Zinc oxide	60 mg/kg
	Thiamin	Thiamin mononitrate	5.4 mg/kg
	Riboflavin	Riboflavin	3.6 mg/kg
	Niacin	Nicotinamide	40 mg/kg
	Folate	Folic acid	1.5 mg/kg

An analysis of the technical specifications adapted by RANFOSE to fortify wheat flour and palm oil is presented below.

Technical specifications for iodized salt:

- Iodine units are ppm/kg. The correct expression is mg/kg or only ppm.
- In section 4.1 the iodine content required in salt is expressed as iodate, not iodine. The tolerance interval indicated (± 10) is not coherent with the limits indicated in section 7, expressed as iodine (33.7 to 66.5)
- Review of appropriate expression of required content is needed prior approval of the regulation (technical texts).^[1] The list of potassium iodate in the specification does not include the actual suppliers of this compound listed in GAIN's premix facility website.^[2]

Technical specifications for the manufacture of fortified refined bleached deodorized - palm olein-.

- Vitamin A content indicated (50000UI/kg oil) but the chemical source for vitamin A is not indicated.
- It is not clear if retinyl palmitate will be used or other.
- There is not a tolerance interval for vitamin A which is important to include for enforcement purposes, especially considering the decrease of vitamin A during shelf life due to environment and packaging effects.^[3]

Technical specifications for the manufacture of wheat flour.

- A link to a list of certified suppliers is included.
- It indicates that a certificate of analysis must be included along with the premix purchase.
- Storage instructions for premix are included. The same information should be included in the other specifications since the same QA principles apply.
- Table 1 (Section 4.2.1) describes the vitamin and minerals content in flour, as well as the chemical form. A "permitted variation" value is indicated, but no interval is included. A

GAIN Mission recommended addition of vitamin B12^[4] but it was not included in the formulation as part of the adaptation of the specifications by RANFOSE.

^[1] Technical Specifications for iodized salt. Partners of the Americas-GAIN.

^[2] Gain's premix facility website.

^[3] Technical specifications for the manufacture of fortified refined bleached deodorized -palm olein-. Partners of the Americas-GAIN.

^[4] Mansour M. Mission GAIN en Haïti Visite au projet RANFÒSE 4 – 13 Avril, 2018. 54 p.

ANNEX XII. ASSESSMENT ON THE LABORATORY CAPABILITIES TO ANALYZE FORTIFIED FOODS.

On March, 2018 an evaluation on the laboratory capabilities of the Tamarinier Laboratory was carried out by the implementing partner. The report²² presented several recommendations, but it was not specific about the equipment that the laboratory had at the time of the assessment that could be used to implement test to determine specific nutrients added to fortified foods in Haiti. It recommended to supply equipment to implement mycotoxins tests and reagents and supplies to carry out heavy metals tests, in addition to training the personnel on tests for fortified foods.

The laboratory received a High-Performance Liquid Chromatographer (HPLC) to determine vitamin A in oil, but it has not been possible to install it due to the current situation in Haiti and the laboratory is currently closed. The HPLC is a sophisticated equipment that would allow the laboratory to determine vitamin A accurately for monitoring purposes provided that it is operated under proper laboratory environment conditions (temperature, relative humidity, electric installation), reagents are supplied and resources for annual maintenance are allocated to guarantee proper functioning.

Since it is uncertain when the Tamarinier laboratory will restart activities, it is recommended to identify other laboratories that have the capability to implement the test for fortified foods. In addition to common glassware used in physicochemical tests, specific capabilities are described below:

1. Iodine in salt.

The test to determine iodine is simple and only requires an analytical balance and a burette, in addition to other common glassware used in the laboratory.

2. Iron in wheat flour

Any laboratory equipped with an analytical balance, furnace, fume hood and a UV/VIS spectrophotometer can implement the colorimetric test for iron. If the laboratory already has an Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS), it can implement both the iron and zinc tests, considering that the specifications require fortification with zinc. However, the tests using AAS are more expensive than the colorimetric test for iron and it is only recommended if zinc is being added.

3. Vitamin A in oil

Vitamin A testing with HPLC in oil is accurate, but more expensive than other options, as well as time consuming. Any laboratory with a UV spectrophotometer could implement the "Quantitative Spectrophotometer Method to Determine Vitamin A in Oil" described in the ECSA Manuals²³. The disadvantage of this option is that an irradiation chamber should be built to carry out the test and standardize the irradiation conditions to obtain accurate results, but the costs are cheaper than with HPLC.

The other option is to carry out vitamin A tests using the I-Check, which the project has already provided to the oil bottlers. Quantitative results would be obtained also, no purchase of sophisticated equipment would be required and it does not need additional equipment in a laboratory, except for basic glassware and chemical waste management. It is recommended to identify a laboratory willing to implement the test and analyze the samples they receive.

²² Partners of the Americas/GAIN. Rapport d'évaluation du Laboratoire de Vétérinaire et de Contrôle de Qualité des Aliments de Tamarinier (LVCQAT) Mars 2018

²³ East, Central and Southern African Health Community. Manual of Laboratory Methods for Fortified Foods (vitamin A, riboflavin, iron and iodine). PART II Determination of vitamin A in sugar and oil.

United States Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20004

