

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TO LAOS**ACTION MEMO**

No. 72-04

August 16, 1971

TO : All Offices and Divisions

FROM : Charles A. Mann, Director *AMM*

SUBJECT : Policy and Procedures for the PL 480, Title II
Refugee Feeding Program (Subject Index 1500)

During the recent Refugee Relief and Resettlement program review it was agreed that to the extent possible, PL 480 foods would be used to replace 25% of the calories in refugee rations. 1/ PL 480 foods, particularly concentrated food preparations such as Corn Soya Milk (CSM) and Wheat Soya Blend (WSB) will be utilized to the extent possible to replace 30% of the general protein requirement. 1/ It was further decided that under circumstances of dire malnutrition or other valid health reasons, PL 480 foods would be used to supplement the basic rice ration.

The caloric requirement for refugees is determined by the Chief Medical Officer of the Mission's Public Health Division. For administrative purposes the Mission uses 500 grams of cereal foodstuffs per person per day for calculating daily average consumption rates. Actual consumption varies between individuals and areas. The average consumption rate is subject to change across the board according to the judgment of staff medical officers.

1/ Determined by equivalent food value, not by weight.

DISTRIBUTION: D & F

For purposes of FY 72 program planning it was agreed that an estimated 186,000 refugees would receive a replacement ration. PL 480 foods will continue to be used to feed natural disaster victims (fire, flood, crop failure, etc.) as needed.

Partial replacement (or supplement) of rice by PL 480 Foods in the refugee ration has begun at 23 sites on the Vientiane Plain. Replacement has been at the monthly rate of 5 kgs of PL 480 foods for 5 kgs of rice. Though the replacement "mix" varies throughout Laos, the following is a representative utilization of PL 480 Foods:

Vientiane Plain - PL 480 Replacement for Rice

<u>Food</u>	<u>Kg.</u>	<u>Grams</u>	<u>Energy Calories</u>	<u>Protein Grams</u>
Rice	10.0	10,000	36,100	560
Noodles	3.0	3,000	11,640	420
WSB	0.9	900	3,375	180
NFD Milk	0.45	450	1,633	161
Veg. Oil	0.6	600	5,304	0
Total	14.95	14,950	53,052	1,321

Compared to a Rice Only Ration/Month

	<u>Kg.</u>	<u>Grams</u>	<u>Energy Calories</u>	<u>Protein Grams</u>
Glut. Rice				
Total	15.0	15,000	54,150	840

This comparison of the two rations shows a definite advantage to the replacement ration in total grams protein.

The ration cited is to be considered as an example only. It is expected that PL 480 commodities in the ration can, and in fact must, at times be varied in kind and/or quantity due to availability. It may be necessary to vary the ration in certain areas due to health conditions and among ethnic groups due to food acceptance. It is recognized that some foods are

more rapidly and readily incorporated into Lao refugee diets than others. However, PL 480 food preparation demonstrations on the Vientiane Plain have indicated a wide acceptance of PL 480 foods when properly presented and when refugees are taught to prepare and use them. Foods such as Bulgur, cornmeal, noodles, CSM, WSB, and NFD Milk have been distributed in various combinations as a rice replacement; vegetable oil is also distributed, increasing total available calories. Using these foods the refugees have developed a wide variety of dishes that are highly acceptable to their tastes.

In view of the experience gained from the use of PL 480 foods on the Vientiane Plain, Ban Houei Sai, Site LS-272 and most recently at Pakse, it is reasonable to conclude that these foods properly presented will be acceptable in time to refugees throughout Laos.

In line with Mission policy regarding the use of PL 430 foods, the following information has been prepared for field distribution. (PHD states that they are preparing broader guidelines on general nutrition for field use). It is intended that this memorandum translate Mission policy into functional PL 430 guidelines and procedures. The procedures as outlined should be adhered to, however, we do have authorization to vary the number, category of recipients and levels of rations being fed as circumstances direct. Any substantial variation in the programmed feeding of PL 430 foods should be made on recommendation of PHD and have prior approval of both the AC and the Food for Peace Officer/ORAs.

I. PL 430, Title II Refugee Feeding - Guidelines and Procedures

A. General Procedures

Under the basic PL 430, Title II Refugee Feeding Program agreement TA-0606, certain PL 430 commodities such as cornmeal and bulgur will be distributed to the extent possible as an addition or a partial substitute for rice. Wheat flour, or bread and noodles therefrom, is also for general distribution to refugees as an addition or partial replacement for rice. Vegetable oil cannot be air-dropped and its use will be limited to refugee areas reachable by surface transport or where this commodity can be air-landed.

Wheat Soya Blend (WSB), Corn Soya Milk (CSM) and nonfat dry milk is being and will continue to be used mainly for Maternal/Child Health and other child feeding amongst the refugee population. These are high protein foods and will be used as supplements or partial replacements for protein of other sources in the refugee diet, and in the hospital environment upon recommendation of PHD in consultation with ORA/FFP.

Within the general program agreement there is a provision that "USAID may adjust the amounts and kinds of commodities distributed, and permit variations by types of recipients to the extent the emergency situation dictates."

B. Daily Rates of Distribution Per Person

Daily rates of distribution will follow general average rates as follows:

1. Cornmeal, bulgur and flour or flour products (noodles), 63 grams/day
2. WSB and CSM, 40 grams/day
3. Nonfat dry milk, 20 grams/day
4. Vegetable oil, 10 grams/day

C. Composition of Foods per 100 Grams ^{1/}

<u>Food</u>	<u>Energy</u> <u>Calories</u>	<u>Protein</u> <u>Grams</u>
Rice (Glutinous)	361	5.6
Cornmeal	364	7.9
Bulgur	354	11.2

^{1/} Food values reported, i.e., Energy and Protein, were determined by chemical analyses. Results were compiled and reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CSM	374	20.0
WSB	375	20.0
Wheat flour	365	12.0
Noodles	388	14.0 <u>1/</u>
NFD Milk	363	35.9
Vegetable Oil	334	0.0
Rolled Oats	390	14.2

These figures are for comparative purposes but must be interpreted within the Lao context. USAID Public Health points out that due to malabsorption syndrome and parasitic infections such as malaria and intestinal parasites peculiar to this region, local food (protein) utilization will vary downward when compared with norms established under basically U.S. conditions.

D. Requisition of PL 480 Commodities

Requests for PL 480 commodities, food, cloth and cotton should be submitted from the field using Lao Form 180. Requests should be countersigned by the local MSW representative. Information in the request or attached thereto should include the following: (1) Type of recipients to be fed (refugees or disaster victims); (2) Number and location of recipients; (3) Level of ration to be fed monthly by commodity; (4) Is PL 480 food to be a supplement or replacement ration; (5) Approximate length of time PL 480 feeding will be required.

E. Reporting on Distribution and Use of Commodities

Currently, there is no separate provision for field reporting of PL 480 commodity distribution and use. In the past this has resulted in repeated requests to the field for this information. Applicable Manual Orders require that

1/ Estimated - with 5% NFD milk and 10% WSB added.

adequate records be maintained and timely reporting made of food distributions and numbers of recipients. Effective immediately, all field stations distributing PL 430 commodities will report on a monthly basis the numbers and categories of recipients, the rate of distribution and total quantities distributed and on hand. Commodities being distributed under sponsorship of Catholic Relief Services should not be included since this is a separate program and reports are made directly by the sponsoring agency.

Reports should be addressed to the AD/RA, attention Food for Peace Officer.