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HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-21: Nutrition in emergency situations - Ready-to-use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)

Call: Cluster 6 Call 02	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 4.00

<i>contribution per project</i>	million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 8.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: the proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the General Annexes, consortia must include at least three independent legal entities established in Africa. The places of establishment of at least two of these legal entities must be in the same geographical region of Africa (as defined by the African Union: https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2).</p> <p>International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or Associated Country are exceptionally eligible for funding.</p> <p>Due to the scope of this topic, legal entities established in in all African Union member states* are exceptionally eligible for Union funding. * "African Union member states" includes countries whose membership has been temporarily suspended.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties (FSTP). The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60000.</p>

Expected Outcome: Ready-to-use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) rely often on imported components while local resources are not exploited. A sustainable and healthy food systems approach is needed for corrective action. Research and Innovation will increase the use of locally available sources of protein, micronutrients and fatty acids (plant-, marine-, and other locally available ingredients) in the local production and food processing of RUSF and RUTF, the latter in line with Codex Guidelines CXG 95-2022 in Africa. Identify options that allow for the safe use of new, locally produced, alternative supplementary foods to be certified by WHO and used, based on the

health status of the child and the local conditions, as alternatives to the current ‘all RUTF’ approach. An approach that is more and more challenged by the increasing production and transportation costs, lack of access to beneficiaries, mainly in fragile and conflict affected countries and with a large carbon footprint.

The topic follows the Food 2030 approach, in particular its co-benefits on nutrition, climate, circularity and innovation and implements the FNSSA roadmap of the AU-EU research and innovation partnership. It is also part of a humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus action.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- scaling up locally produced RUSF and RUTF will help improving access to the life saving nutrition products for more children in need;
- sustainable and locally produced RUSF and RUTFs will enable national governments to develop versions of these products that are best suited to the local context, having higher acceptability, and provide the regulatory frameworks to manufacturers for national production in line with the relevant Codex Alimentarius Guidelines, such as CXG 95-2022.
- supporting African countries’ governments in their effort of local production of energy, protein and micronutrient supplements contributing to the objectives of climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable and efficient management of natural resources, resilience and disaster risk reduction and biodiversity preservation.

In parallel research could be developed around new safe and efficacious, science based recipes that could complement and replace under specific circumstances, in collaboration with the Nutrition Technical Advisory Board and after the validation by WHO, the exclusive use of RUTF for persons not affected by severe acute malnutrition, while making sure that relevant quality criteria, information practices and use criteria are established (based on the child health status and local circumstances).

Scope: Research and innovation collaboration between Europe and Africa will help the African countries (health specialists, producers, seed companies, SMEs and food industries) to develop/ scale up the relevant and sustainable local production of RUSF and RUTF or any other types of supplements and related ingredients, using varieties adapted to local climate and agro-ecological conditions. Thereby contributing to reduce the climate footprint of production and transport in line with the objectives of climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable and efficient management of natural resources. Implement the multi-actor approach by involving a wide range of food systems actors and conducting interdisciplinary research. Link up for clustering to other projects of the AU-EU research and innovation priorities, in particular linked to Food Systems transition projects and the wider range of projects in Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA), Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE) and the AU-EU Innovation Union using the

network linkages to the CEA-First project and the International Research Consortium on FNSSA.

Innovation: Proposals should foresee a space for mentoring and accelerating innovative business concepts, including social innovation and upscaling in view of African or European food business entrepreneurs and start-ups with special consideration of women and the diaspora using cascading funding opportunities. Proposals should involve financial support to third parties e.g. to academic researchers, health institutes, start-ups, SMEs and other multidisciplinary actors, to, for instance, develop, test or validate developed assessment approaches or collect or prepare data sets or provide other contributions to achieve the project objectives. Consortia need to define the selection process of organisations, for which financial support will be granted. Maximum 20% of the EU funding can be allocated to this purpose.

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