



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety
Manuscript Number:	Ms_EJNFS_37833
Title of the Manuscript:	FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF READY-TO-USE THERAPEUTIC FOODS USING LOCALLY AVAILABLE INGREDIENTS IN BAUCHI, NIGERIA
Type of Article:	Original Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
very weak conclusion	<p>The conclusion has been revised</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Local production of RUTF is critical for the sustainable management of Severe Acute Malnutrition. This study has demonstrated that RUTF formulated from locally available ingredients satisfied the WHO minimum nutrient requirements for RUTF, and can be useful in the treatment of SAM without complications. The nutrient content of these alternative RUTF formulations are also comparable to existing RUTF.</p> <p>The reduced content of milk which is an expensive ingredient has helped to lower the costs of producing these alternative RUTF formulations. The lower production costs and the use of ingredients available in the locale of RUTF production have the potential of reducing the costs of CMAM programs, and increasing the availability of RUTF in North-Eastern Nigeria where there is a high burden of SAM. Increased availability and lower costs can also lead to an increase in the number of children who receive this essential intervention to aid their recovery from SAM.</p> <p>The alternative RUTF formulations in this study are also highly acceptable due to the fact that their aroma and flavour were similar to an indigenous snack commonly consumed in the study area. Sample BOC which does not contain peanuts has a reduced risk of aflatoxin contamination and can also be used for children with allergies to peanuts.</p> <p>There is a need for further studies on the shelf life and microbiological safety of these RUTF formulations. Clinical trials of the efficacy of these RUTF formulations in the treatment of SAM should be carried out. Studies on the applicability of these RUTF formulations in the management of persons living with HIV/AIDS and other wasting diseases should be carried out.</p>