



SENAC monthly E-letter - Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity
Update on progress to improve the quality and transparency of assessments

Welcome to the 13th issue of the SENAC e-letter!

The e-letter provides an update on progress made to enhance WFP's emergency needs assessment practice. This issue covers the month of August and upcoming events in September.

In addition to ECHO's support, WFP also receives funding for this project from the Danish and German governments, the Citigroup Foundation and CIDA.

For a printable version, click on: [The Assessor No.13 - September 2007](#)

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Emergency Needs Assessments

Major assessments recently completed or ongoing:

Sudan

Darfur: Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) - (mid August - mid September): This yearly exercise has been conducted by WFP, UNICEF, FAO and the Sudanese government since 2004. For 2007, special attention is being paid to markets to understand the extent and impact of food aid sales on agricultural production and household food security. Preliminary results will be available by mid-October. For more information, contact daniel.molla@wfp.org.

Central and East Africa

O **Burundi:** FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) - (late June). The report is available. Contact: evaline.diangA@wfp.org

O **Ethiopia:** Belg and Gu (crop and pasture) assessments (June - July). The assessment and analysis for the cropping and pastoral areas has been completed and the Government has issued a report for the Non Safety Net Districts (click on: <http://www.dppc.gov.et/pages/earlywarningsystems.htm>). Analysis in the pastoral areas of the Somali region has been completed and individual zonal draft reports are now available.

Contact: elliot.vhurumuku@wfp.org

O **Kenya:** Long Rains Assessment (23 July - 10 August). The report is being finalised. Contact: joao.manja@wfp.org or allan.kute@wfp.org

Southern Africa

O **Malawi:** Assessment of the appropriateness and feasibility of a cash-based intervention in the southern part of the country (May): The report is being finalised. Contact anette.haller@wfp.org.

West Africa

O **Chad:** Baseline nutrition survey in WFP and UNICEF intervention areas (25 May - 25 June). The report is being finalised. Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org

O **Senegal:** Joint Food Security Assessment in Casamance (June - July). The report is being finalised. Contact: jean-noël.gentile@wfp.org

O **Burkina Faso:** Baseline nutrition survey (March - April) conducted with UNICEF and the Government. The data analysis is ongoing. Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org.

O **Côte d'Ivoire:** Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). The IPC process was officially launched in early August at an IPC national workshop; technical discussions on how to classify food security using recent

information have begun. The IPC working group will establish the work plan later in the month. Contact: moustapha.toure@wfp.org

Asia

○ **Sri Lanka:** WFP/FAO Emergency Food Security Assessment, Trincomalee, (9 - 17 July). The report is being finalised. In addition, a rapid needs assessment of fishermen in the Vanni (north of Sri Lanka) was conducted.

Contact: anna-leena.rasanen@wfp.org

○ **East Timor:** Emergency Food Security Assessment (5 - 28 September) in Dili. Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

○ **DPRK:** Rapid Flood Assessment (August). Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org

Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia

○ **Tajikistan:** Integrated Phase Classification (ongoing): A Situation Analysis Workshop was held 13 August to discuss the applicability of the IPC to Tajikistan. It was concluded that, based on the variations in topography and livelihoods, a vertical classification (based on altitude) would best capture the diversity in food security. Supplementary data sets were identified and a follow-up workshop will be convened in the autumn. Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org or malohat.shabanova@wfp.org

○ **Yemen:** WFP/FAO Assessment of the impact on rural households' livelihoods of a possible locust outbreak (ongoing). FAO is assessing the extent of locust presence to launch an insecticide spraying process. WFP is conducting the livelihoods assessment. Contact asif.niazi@wfp.org or ahmed.ismail@wfp.org

○ **Moldova:** WFP/FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (August). The purpose was to assess the impact of the drought on the agricultural sector. The report is being finalised. Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org

Latin America:

Peru: Two assessments have been conducted, in close cooperation with the National Food Assistance Program of the Ministry of Women and Social Development (PRONAA):

○ Initial/rapid EFSA in the areas affected by the earthquake (August). A preliminary report is available.

○ Follow-up assessment on the effects of extreme low temperatures on food security. The preliminary report for four of the most affected departments (Huancavelica, Apurima, Puno and Ayaucho) is now available. Findings will be discussed with regional authorities to prepare an action plan to assist the affected population.

Contact: margarita.lovon@wfp.org or ramon.cisneros@wfp.org

Upcoming assessments:

○ **Ghana:** UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) - (September). Contact: trudy.bower@wfp.org

○ **Central African Republic:** Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, including IDPs (20 September - 4 October). Contact: mamadou.diouf@wfp.org

○ **Benin:** UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) - (September / October). Contact: Edouard.Nizeyimana@wfp.org

○ **Chad:** Self-reliance capacity assessment of IDPs and refugees at the border with Sudan (September-October). It will be done in collaboration with OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO and WHO. Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org

○ **Iraq:** National level food security and vulnerability survey (November). The survey has been postponed. The survey is a collaborative effort, including WFP, UNICEF and the Ministries of Planning and Health. Contact: hazem.almahdy@wfp.org or asif.niazi@wfp.org

○ **Liberia:** UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) - (October). Contact: Claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org

○ **Sudan:** Annual Needs Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) in the South (September). The assessment in the north will take place in October. Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org

○ **Georgia (Abkhazia):** A UN Assessment Mission will review the socio-economic needs in the region (15 - 29 September). As part of the UN Country team, WFP and FAO will look into the region's needs related to food security, agricultural production and agricultural infrastructure. Compilation of background documents is already underway. Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org

2. Pre-crisis Information

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) recently completed or ongoing:

○ **Sudan** (June - July 2006): The draft report is being finalised. Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org

- **Laos** (September 2006): The report is being finalised. Key findings and preliminary recommendations were presented to high level government representatives on 5 September. The report will be launched simultaneously with the recent UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The CFSVA paid special attention to market and risk aspects. Contact: stein.vikan@wfp.org
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (June 2007): Data has been collected in the 6 most food insecure provinces (Equateur, northern Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Province Orientale) and data entry is underway. The next step is the data analysis and report preparation. WFP plans to follow up with a second phase to cover the remaining provinces. Contact: mark.gordon@wfp.org
- **Cameroon**: The draft report is being finalised. Key findings and preliminary recommendations will be discussed at a workshop with partners at the end of September or early October. Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org
- **Haiti**: Data collection will start in early October. The survey is led by Coordination Nationale pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA) and is funded and supported by WFP and other partners. Contact: raphael.chuinard@wfp.org
- **Sao Tome**: Data collection supported by WFP and the Government will start in late September. Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org
- **Guatemala**: The CFSVA is led by the Government with the support of WFP for the data analysis. The report is expected by the end of October. Contact: rossella.bottone@wfp.org

Update on Food Security Monitoring Systems in the Sahel: WFP supports a regional FSMS covering five Sahelian countries in partnership with CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel).

- **Mali**: The analysis has been completed for the first round of data collected in June/July. The draft report should be ready by the end of September. A second round of data collection is planned for November. Contact: moise.ballo@wfp.org
 - **Mauritania**: The analysis of the data collected in May/June shows that food insecurity has increased since the previous period and that close monitoring is required. Contact: papamoussa.ndoye@wfp.org
 - **Burkina Faso**: The source of monitoring information is presently based on filed missions. After the CFSVA is conducted in 2008, a more systematic FSMS will be established. Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org
 - **Niger**: The second round of data collection is currently underway. The first round of data collection for the new sentinel site system ended in June and showed relatively high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Contact: koffi.akakpo@wfp.org
 - **Chad**: The release of the report is pending validation by partners and the government. The next round of data collection is planned for October, 2007. Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org
- For additional information, contact susan.gannon@wfp.org who coordinates the regional efforts from Dakar.*

Workshop on Food Security Monitoring and Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses in the Northern Sahel countries (1-3 October) in Dakar: The workshop is intended for VAM officers involved in the design and implementation of FSMSs and CFSVAs in Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Chad and Burkina Faso. The FSMS are at various stages of implementation. The workshop's aims are to exchange information and lessons on: the evolution of FSMS and CFSVAs in the Northern Sahel, the extent to which food security and nutrition can be better integrated, the priorities and role for WFP, and recent data collection exercises - including ways to harmonize survey instruments and increase comparability across the five countries. The Workshop is funded by CIDA in the framework of a project to strengthen the integration of food security and nutrition in assessment and information tools. Contact: margot.vandervelden@wfp.org

Uganda Food Security Monitoring System: The FSMS in Uganda is now up and running. Data collection will take place in mid-September and the first bulletin should be issued at the end of the month. Contact mark.gordon@wfp.org

For information on pre-crisis studies, contact jan.delbaere@wfp.org, Pre-Crisis Information Specialist

3. Methods and Tools

Workshop on Guidance for Forecast and Response Analysis of Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessments (21-22 August, Rome): The participants, mainly staff with experience in conducting assessments and programming, provided useful inputs that will be used to draft Part VI of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) handbook currently under revision. *For more information, contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org, SENAC Methodology Specialist*

Technical Guidance Sheets: Several Technical Guidance Sheets have been or will soon be finalised on the following subjects:

- **Initial Emergency Food Security Assessments** (finalised): It provides practical guidance on implementing EFSAs that are carried out during the first days after a sudden-onset crisis or when access is allowed in previously inaccessible areas.
- **Strengthening Rapid Food and Nutrition Security Assessments** (finalised): It clarifies the objectives of integrated food and nutrition security rapid assessments, and provides options and advice on how to carry them out in practice, including insight on the selection of core indicators, the appropriate use of anthropometric measurements, and options for sampling approaches.
- **Area-Methods for Estimating Population Size in EFSAs** (finalised): The guidance sheet reviews how to apply area-based methods which extrapolate the number of people in a known area to a larger area. Two other guidance sheets on methods to estimate population numbers are being prepared (T-square and Delphi method).
- **Qualitative data analysis** (being circulated for comments). Two guidance sheets will be made available: the first will provide an overview of qualitative data and qualitative methods; the second one will provide practical advice on qualitative data collection and analysis for EFSAs. People interested in providing comments should contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org.
- **Food security and nutrition assessments for Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations** (draft). A draft guidance is in circulation.

For more information, contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org, SENAC Methodology Specialist

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) methodology workshop (17-20 April): This technical workshop reached a consensus on the methodology, conceptual framework and analytical steps used for CFSVAs. The report is now available online: [CFSVA Methodology workshop](#). Contact joyce.luma@wfp.org, Chief, ODAV

CFSVA Guidelines consolidation: Over the years, VAM has prepared a number of normative technical guidance documents on the analysis of food security and vulnerability. VAM is now compiling, reviewing and consolidating the guidance relevant to conducting baseline studies (CFSVAs) into a handbook and has also identified four experts to review the draft CFVSA guidelines. The first draft is expected in December and a final handbook by June 2008. Contact joyce.luma@wfp.org, Chief, ODAV.

Guidance on the Food Consumption Score: A Technical Guidance Sheet outlining the use of the Food Consumption Score (FCS) is being circulated for comments. The Guidance Sheet will provide methods for the analysis of diet/consumption as a component of food security analysis, as well as background and justification of the FCS indicator. Anyone interested in commenting can contact peter.horjus@wfp.org, Food Security Information Specialist.

Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC): In August, FAO, WFP, FEWS NET, Oxfam, CARE, SCF UK and US and the EC's Joint Research Center circulated a draft five-year, multi-agency proposal to develop a standard food-security classification system to potential donors. This programme builds on pilots to apply the IPC approach (pioneered in Somalia by FAO) to several other countries in 2006-7 (including three in Asia, five in the Horn of Africa, Cote D'Ivoire and Tajikistan). FAO is preparing an addendum to the IPC technical guidance (expected in September.); WFP is providing input to the addendum, based on its experience to date. For information, contact: darlene.tymo@wfp.org (multi-agency programme) or tobias.flaemig@wfp.org (technical development).

HIV/AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security in Ethiopia: The study explores the complex relationship between HIV/AIDS, livelihoods and food security by integrating HIV/AIDS related indicators with the food security and

livelihoods indicators that are typically collected in the food security analyses. The study will be conducted in urban and rural areas. Data collection is planned for September/October. Contact: elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org

4. Market Analysis

Market Analysis: Market analysis is now directly integrated into needs assessments, VAM baseline studies and FSMS. Ongoing stand-alone market studies include:

O **Afghanistan:** A joint wheat market study has been undertaken with FEWS NET to better understand regional and domestic cereal market integration. The report is being finalised. Contact: ahmadshah.shahi@wfp.org

O **Burundi:** Burundi Agricultural Market Survey. The report is being finalised. Contact: evaline.dianga@wfp.org

O **Georgia:** Market assessment (26 August - 8 September). The market analysis is part of a baseline study to assess the suitability of Cash-for-Work schemes. The market analysis will focus on the seasonality and accessibility of food markets; market infrastructure, integration and functioning; and imports/exports to and from local markets. Contact: thomas.beuter@wfp.org or wolfram.herfurth@wfp.org.

O **Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador:** The purpose is to obtain more systematized and better information on staple food prices in the region, on their seasonal variations and on the anomalies that are currently affecting markets, and their link to household food security. Initial findings are expected in December. Contact: andrew.stanhope@wfp.org or ludovic.subran@wfp.org

O **Southern Africa:** Market analysis of the food security situation (July 2007). The report is available. National and regional 'cereal gaps' and implications for import and export are analysed in light of trends in prices and formal and informal trade. The report proposes that lower than normal availability and shift in production in the region, along with rising cereal prices, could have adverse effects on household food access through markets. This in turn increases humanitarian need in the region, particularly in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland. In addition, low availability and rising prices would preclude cash transfers as a response option in these countries. The report recommends monitoring prices, trade in cereals and government policies to inform programming. Contact: simon.dradri@wfp.org

O **Uganda:** Making the Market Work for the Food Insecure: Uganda's Agricultural Market Profile (August). The study examines the structure and functioning of food markets and the role of past reforms on food security. It outlines the trend in food production and consumption; market situation in different regions of the country; seasonality and any recurrent crisis (shocks) that have affected the market; and market linkages especially between relatively food surplus areas and the food deficit areas. The profile provides variables that can be reviewed during an emergency food security assessment and regularly monitored as part of a food security monitoring system. Contact: naouar.labidi@wfp.org

Market Analysis Tools: Two new tools to understand how markets influence food security are available. The first tool helps to understand whether markets are integrated, which is important for programming because prices fluctuate less, the impact of food aid on markets is smaller and cash transfers might be an option. The second tool is on the terms of trade which helps to understand the purchasing power of households in order to access food.

The tools are now available internally on the following website:

<http://home.wfp.org/organisation/divisions/pd/pdp/index.asp#pdpe>

Other tools are available on: import parity prices, shock scenarios, price and income elasticities.

For more information on market analysis, contact henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org, Chief, PDPE (responsible for the market tools) or getachew.diriba@wfp.org, ODAN Senior Programme Adviser.

5. Capacity Building

Food Security Assessment Facilitator's Toolkit available on WFP intranet: It offers a menu of modules and training sessions on food security assessment and provides exercises and detailed instructions on implementation, suggested background reading, and guidance on how to analyse learning needs and select the appropriate combination of activities to meet those needs. It is aimed at facilitators, trainers and coaches who design and deliver learning/training events. Click on: <http://home.wfp.org/oen/>. Contact: charisse.tillman@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Officer.

Upcoming Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) trainings: Basic skills training will take place in:
O Côte d'Ivoire (3-7 September). Contact: moustapha.toure@wfp.org or mamadou.diouf@wfp.org
O Liberia (15-21 October). Contact: claudia.Ahpoe@wfp.org or mamadou.diouf@wfp.org
O Malawi (1-5 October). Contact: andrzej.golebiowski@wfp.org

Regional assessment and analysis meeting for the Southern African region (9-12 October): This technical meeting is intended for staff involved in vulnerability analysis and assessment activities. The purpose is to train the regional VAM team on recent technical developments, exchange views on the regional training strategy by clarifying the training needs at country level and exchange experiences such as the recent targeting exercise in Zimbabwe or the cash/ food debate in Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland. Contact: andrzej.golebiowski@wfp.org

Data analysis workshop (5-9 November) Bangkok: This intermediate level training focuses on the skills required to perform data management and analysis for pre-crisis baseline studies, emergency needs assessments, monitoring systems or other quantitative assessments. Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

Spatial information management training (22-26 October) in Rome: The training is intended for VAM officers. It will include sessions on: risk analysis, to basic spatial analysis techniques, introduction of software application and tools for systematic management of substantial data sets, standardised field data collection and tools (PDA, GPA), and VAM SIE (Spatial Information Environment). Contact: paola.desalvo@wfp.org

6. More Information?

The e-letter provides links to online material. All the documents can also be found at www.wfp.org/odan/senac
For a copy of the first twelve Assessor e-letters, go to: www.wfp.org/odan/senac
For more information about the Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan and SENAC, click on: [Overview of the Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan](#)

List of acronyms

CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
CFSAM	Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission – conducted with FAO
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
EFANA	Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
ENA	Emergency Needs Assessment
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring Systems
IPC	Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission - conducted with UNHCR
ODAN	WFP HQ Emergency Needs Assessment Service
ODAV (VAM)	WFP HQ Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Branch
PDPE	WFP HQ Economic Analysis Unit
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee

* If you would prefer not to receive future updates please email us at odan_info@wfp.org with the subject heading "SENAC E-letter unsubscribe".

For more information about 'The Assessor' contact: caroline.chaumont@wfp.org, SENAC Communication Officer.