



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

Welcome to the twelfth 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 months of July and August.

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

For a printable version of The Assessor, click on: [The Assessor No.12 - July/August 2007](#)

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Best Practice

Preparations well under way for the 2007 Darfur Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA): Since 2004, the exercise conducted by WFP, UNICEF, FAO and the Sudanese government has fed directly into the planning and programming of humanitarian assistance in Darfur. **Food security and nutrition indicators** will be collected on the same sample of households as the previous year, allowing a better understanding of the causes of malnutrition. In 2006, acute malnutrition was associated with a lack of safe water and some infectious diseases but not with household food consumption. This year, special **attention will be paid to markets** to understand the extent and impact of food aid sales on agricultural production and household food security. The market assessment will contribute to the enhanced understanding of food security and the role of food aid in Darfur, and inform decisions on food and possibly non-food (market based) assistance.

At a lessons-learned workshop, which brought together about 40 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and the government at the end of June, participants agreed on a need to **transition to a more frequent and regular food security monitoring system**, rather than rely on a single annual assessment exercise.

The data collection will start on 9 August and will last one month. Preliminary results should be available in mid-October. For more information, contact daniel.molla@wfp.org, Senior VAM Officer, Khartoum.

2. Executive Briefs

A new Executive Brief covering the findings of a recently completed assessment is available.

Click on: [Sri Lanka Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification](#)

If you want to prepare an Executive Brief for an Emergency Needs Assessment or a VAM baseline study, please contact caroline.chaumont@wfp.org, SENAC Communication Officer, for assistance.

3. Emergency Needs Assessments

Major assessments recently completed or ongoing:

Central and East Africa

O **Somalia**: Needs Assessment in Puntland (mid March - April). The report is being finalised. Contact: genevieve.chicoine@wfp.org

- O **Burundi**: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) - (late June). The report is being finalised. Contact: evaline.diangA@wfp.org
- O **Ethiopia**: Belg and Gu (crop and pasture) assessments (June - July). The report should be completed at the end of July. Contact: elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org
- O **Rwanda**: Seasonal crop and livestock evaluation (5-26 July). A WFP and National Institute of Statistics mission is taking place until early August, and will use an updated method based on the revised CFSAM (Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission) guidelines. The results will be compared to an evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners in mid-June. Both surveys and methods will be discussed at a later stage with the plan to adopt a revised crop evaluation methodology to be used in subsequent seasonal evaluations. Contact kiganzi.nyakato@wfp.org
- O **Kenya**: Long Rains Assessment (23 July - 10 August). Contact: joao.manja@wfp.org or allan.kute@wfp.org

Southern Africa

- O **Mozambique**: Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) - (26 March - 15 June) managed by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee. The report, now available, concludes that access to food could further deteriorate because households lost their main source of income (i.e. crop production) and prices have increased. Diet could also deteriorate as most households use extreme strategies to cope. It recommends immediate food assistance to 520,000 people and to assist 660,000 from October to March 2008. Contact: nadia.vaz@wfp.org
- O **Zambia**: Vulnerability Assessment as follow up to the flood assessment (May), managed by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee. The results are expected at the end of the month. Contact: allan.mulando@wfp.org regarding the assessment; simon.dradri@wfp.org regarding the market analysis.
- O **Madagascar**: Rapid Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) - (May) to assess the impact of the recent floods and cyclones. Preliminary recommendations suggest providing immediate assistance to severely food insecure people in the North. Moderately food insecure households that rely on own production and have lost more than 60 percent of their crops should be assisted with food/cash throughout the lean season (October to March). Contact: maherisoa.rakotonirainy@wfp.org or sylvie.montembault@wfp.org
- O **Malawi**: Assessment of the appropriateness and feasibility of a cash-based intervention in the southern part of the country (May): The meeting with stakeholders took place on 16 July and the report is now being finalised. contact anette.haller@wfp.org.

West Africa

- O **Chad**: Baseline nutrition survey in all WFP and UNICEF intervention areas (25 May - 25 June). Data analysis is ongoing with a final report expected at the end of July. Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org
- O **Senegal**: Joint Food Security Assessment in Casamance (June - July). Preliminary results are expected in mid-August. 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. Preliminary results show that the nutritional situation remains critical. Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org.
- O **Côte d'Ivoire**: Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). An IPC national workshop is planned for 31 July to 2 August in Abidjan to officially launch the process and begin technical discussions on how to classify food security using recent information, including the 2006 in-depth multi-agency food security assessment. This will be facilitated by FAO regional staff. For further information, please contact: moutapha.toure@wfp.org

Asia

- O **Sri Lanka**: WFP/FAO Emergency Food Security Assessment, Trincomalee, (9 - 17 July). This district has been heavily affected by conflict and recent information on the food security situation is lacking. General objectives were to assess the current food security situation amongst displaced, returned and fishing families as well as to identify food and non-food assistance needs over the next 3 to 6 months. The report is expected in mid-August. Contact: anna-leena.rasanen@wfp.org
- O **East Timor**: Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment (August). Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia

- O **Iraq**: National level food security and vulnerability survey (August). The survey is a collaborative effort, including WFP, UNICEF and the Ministries of Planning and Health. Field data collection is planned for August. Contact: hazem.almahdy@wfp.org or asif.niazi@wfp.org

O **Tajikistan:** Integrated Phase Classification (ongoing): The country has been selected to pilot the IPC (in addition to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Ivory Coast). This pilot is considering the use of IPC as a food security monitoring tool for the country. The team is currently conducting a situation analysis which assigns a standard food security classification to geographic areas. Contact: Asif.Niazi@wfp.org or Malohat.Shabanova@wfp.org

O **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

Latin America:

Peru: Initial Emergency Food Security Assessment (July) to identify emergency food and non-food requirements of people affected by record low temperatures. A follow-up rapid EFSA will be conducted in August. It will assess the effects of the extreme cold on the food security situation of people in four of the most affected departments: Huancavelica, Ayacucho, Puno and Apurimac. It is done in partnership with the National Food Assistance Program of the Ministry of Women and Social Development. Contact: margarita.lovon@wfp.org or ramon.cisneros@wfp.org

Upcoming assessments:

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

O **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

4. Pre-crisis Information

Launch of the Greater Monrovia Food Security and Nutrition Survey and the Liberia Market Survey:

About 90 representatives from the Government, UN agencies, donors, NGOs and the media attended the launch on 20 July. Both studies are part of the Government's efforts to build a knowledge base to support the development of a National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy and the establishment of the Food Security Monitoring System. They were conducted by the government with the technical support of various UN agencies including WFP. The Food Security and Nutrition survey shows that 14 percent of households in Greater Monrovia are food insecure and 16 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. One fourth of children under five are stunted and one fifth are wasted. The key factors causing both food insecurity and malnutrition are poverty and inadequate education. The market survey shows that the vast majority of Liberians depend on markets to purchase their food, many derive their livelihoods from petty trading while farmers depend on markets to sell their products. Contact: claudia.AhPoe@wfp.org

For copies click on [Greater Monrovia Food Security and Nutrition Survey](#) and the [Liberia Market Survey](#)

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

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

O **Laos** (September 2006): The report is being finalised. The CFSVA paid special attention to market and risk aspects. Contact: stein.vikan@wfp.org

O **Democratic Republic of Congo** (June 2007): Data collection has started in the 6 priority provinces (Equateur, northern Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Province Orientale). WFP plans to follow up with a second phase to cover the remaining provinces. Contact: massimo.martini@wfp.org

O **Cameroon:** Data analysis and report writing are ongoing. A draft report should be available in August. Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org

O **Haiti:** Discussions are underway for the baseline which will be conducted from September onwards. Contact: raphael.chuinard@wfp.org.

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

5. Methods and Tools

Needs assessments and decision-making: This SENAC Brief presents the main conclusions of the *Review of the links between needs assessments and decision-making in response to food crises* prepared by the Overseas

Development Institute. Click on: [Needs assessments and decision-making: how strong is the link?](#)

Technical Guidance Sheets: Several Technical Guidance Sheets are being prepared and should be available to assessors in the coming weeks. They cover the following subjects:

- **Initial Emergency Food Security Assessments** - circulated internally for comments on 23 July. Should you wish to receive it and provide comments, contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org
- **Strengthening Rapid Food and Nutrition Security Assessments** (finalised): It provides clarifications on the objectives of integrated food and nutrition security rapid assessments, and a range of 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.
- **Estimating population numbers/area-based methods** (being finalised): The guidance sheet will review 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 prepared). Two guidance sheets will be made available: the first will provide a synthetic overview of qualitative data and qualitative methods; the second one will provide practical advice on qualitative data collection and analysis for EFSAs.
- **Assessment of the food security and nutritional situation for Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations** (draft). Draft guidance was prepared and circulated within the Emergency Needs Assessment Service, prior to a wider dissemination for comments.

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

Workshop on Guidance for Response Analysis of Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessments

(tentatively 21-22 August, Rome): The purpose of the workshop - which will bring together staff with experience in conducting assessments - is to be briefed on, and provide inputs to, the Response Analysis section of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) handbook currently under revision.

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

CFSVA guidance materials under development:

- A Technical Guidance Sheet outlining the use of the Food Consumption Score (FCS) in combination with an analysis of dietary patterns (Cluster Analysis) is currently being prepared. WFP primarily uses food consumption as a proxy indicator of food insecurity. The food consumption score is calculated on the basis of diet diversity (defined as the number of food groups consumed in the last seven days) and the food frequency (the number of days for which each food group was eaten during the last seven days). 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. The draft will be shared soon for comments before finalization. Anyone interested in commenting can contact peter.horjus@wfp.org, Food Security Information Specialist.
- CFSVA questionnaire guidance sheets are in development. A workshop was held in Kampala in late June to create draft guidance sheets for both focus group and household questionnaire modules. These guidance sheets are currently being complete and compiled. Contact samir.wanmali@wfp.org, Programme Adviser.

Monitoring the quality of needs assessments: WFP monitors the quality of its needs assessments using a Quality Monitoring Checklist (QMC) - which rates final reports on a variety of topics - and peer review of selected reports by food security experts from academia and research institutes. In 2005 and 2006, 67 percent and 79 percent of the Emergency Needs Assessments (ENAs) met the quality requirements, respectively. WFP is constantly refining its quality monitoring process, by revising the QMC and developing a quality checklist for WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission reports.

For more information, contact alexis.hoskins@wfp.org, Programme Adviser

Assessing Government Response Capacities in Food Security Crises: Development of Guidance:

With the financial support of the Danish government, WFP's Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) is launching a new project to better assess to what extent governments can respond to a disaster on their own. Existing WFP guidance provides very little information on how to assess governments' response capacities. In general, obtaining a full picture of governments' interventions is a challenge for assessments teams, particular in sudden-onset crises. The objective is to formulate a systematic and practical approach to assess response capacities based on key indicators and benchmarks (such as, for example, strategic grain reserves, contingency

plans, etc). This will directly feed in the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) handbook which is currently being revised. *For more information, contact angie.lee@wfp.org, Programme Officer.*

6. Market Analysis

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

O **Afghanistan:** A joint wheat market study with FEWS NET is underway to better understand regional and domestic cereal market integration. Contact: ahmadshah.shahi@wfp.org

O **Burundi:** Burundi Agricultural Market Survey. Analysis and report writing are ongoing. Contact: evaline.dianga@wfp.org

O **Georgia:** Market assessment (26 August - 8 September). The objective is to assess the suitability of Cash-for-Work schemes with regard to availability of food commodities and access to food markets, to establish a pre-crisis market profile, to assess how markets would be affected by a shock and how they could contribute to food insecurity in case of natural disaster or political instability (to feed into a contingency planning exercise) and analyze the functioning of food markets in the light of WFP's planned phase-out operations. Contact: thomas.beuter@wfp.org or wolfram.herfurth@wfp.org.

O **Liberia:** See the pre-crisis section above.

O **Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador:** These countries are planning to undertake market studies 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, possibly linked to global speculations. More specifically, this exercise should provide a regional view of markets, establish baselines and seasonal price "calendars" by country and region, and give hints about the type of changes that can be expected. It would also consider how erratic and/or abnormal rains affecting most countries may further affect prices and people's access to food and other commodities. Contact: mahadevan.ramachandran@wfp.org

O **Southern Africa:** Market analysis of the food security situation in Southern Africa (July 2007). Report is being finalised. The study analyzes price trends and food trade flows in light of droughts, floods and low production. The preliminary conclusions show that there are large cereal gaps in the region and that Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho are the most affected countries. Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique (north) will be the main source of exports in the region replacing South Africa. High prices will affect household purchasing power and could lead to higher humanitarian needs in the region. Contact: simon.dradri@wfp.org

O **Tajikistan:** The markets assessment report is available. It provides a consolidation of the December 2005 market assessment and combines market assessment with an updated contingency plan for the country. Despite the improvement of the food security situation in recent years, the poor segments of the population remain vulnerable to shocks such as natural disasters or sudden changes in income and are still at risk to suffer at least temporarily from food insecurity. Contact: thomas.beuter@wfp.org

O **Uganda:** The central objective of this market study is pre-crisis market analysis. The final report is expected at the end of July. Contact: naouar.labidi@wfp.org

Market Analysis Tools: The first tools to understand how markets influence food insecurity are now available on the following website. <http://home.wfp.org/organisation/divisions/pd/pdp/>.

The tools are:

O **Import Parity Prices:** This tool helps understand whether private sector imports take place when domestic prices rise to levels approximating import prices. If this is the case, domestic shortfalls in food supply are likely to be mitigated through imports and domestic prices are likely to stabilize at import parity levels. A good assessment of import supply is critical for accurate estimates of food aid needs.

O **Shock Scenarios:** This tool helps to disentangle the effects of a market shock (production falls, drastic price changes, etc.) on the food security of different livelihood groups, predict the magnitude of changes in food consumption and identify those who will suffer the most. An Emergency Needs Assessment mission would be able to use the information to identify which groups should be assessed as a matter of priority.

O **Price and Income Elasticities:** This tool helps analysts understand how markets and consumers will react to

price and income fluctuations and how the market will respond to food aid influxes.

Other tools are being prepared, in particular on the **Terms of Trade** containing information on the purchasing power of households, and on **Market Integration** and **Marketing Margins**.

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.

7. Capacity Building

Training Needs Analysis in Liberia: WFP is currently conducting a 2-week Training Needs Analysis to build the foundation for implementing the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy as well as the National Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Unit (both efforts strongly supported by WFP). Over 100 Skill Gap Questionnaires (more than half completed by Government of Liberia counterparts) are being analyzed to guide the preparation of a 3-year training strategy and several learning events (including an Emergency Food Security Assessment training) scheduled later this year.

For more information, contact: claudia.AhPoe@wfp.org

Emergency Needs Assessments training for WFP stand-by partners (Sweden, 25 - 29 June). This second basic emergency food security assessment training for stand-by partners was hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA). Staff from the Norwegian Refugee Council, Irish Aid, Danish Refugee Council, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and SRSA attended the training. Care and World Vision also participated. The objective was to familiarize participants with WFP's approaches and methodologies in emergency needs assessments and to convey the necessary knowledge and skills to enable NGO stand-by partner staff to participate in EFSA planning, implementation and analysis.

For more information, contact anette.haller@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Adviser

Update on Learning Programme:

- **Basic EFSA training and technical trainings:** Since 2005, **1,289 WFP staff members and partners have been trained** in basic Emergency Needs Assessments and the most advanced of them, have received technical trainings (on markets, qualitative analysis, etc). This has contributed to a higher awareness in house of the importance of needs assessments but also to a strengthened capacity. The responsibility to maintain and further develop skills and capacities is now being decentralised, regional bureaux are preparing strategies to strengthen their assessment capacities on the basis of their operations, programming cycle and types of assessments to be carried out.
- **On-the-job learning:** So far, 20 people have participated in that programme where EFSA training participants can apply the skills learned and participate in an assessment or part of it under the supervision of an advanced assessor. ***ODAN is looking for Advanced Assessors who would be interested in coaching. People interested should contact their regional VAM officer or their Regional Assessment Officer.***

To facilitate the trainings efforts, a number of tools have been prepared:

- **Food Security Assessment Facilitator's Toolkit:** It offers a menu of modules and sessions for trainings on food security assessment or WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessments 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. *The toolkit CD is available on demand, and the toolkit will be available online in mid-August. Contact charisse.tillman@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Officer or steve.oziel@wfp.org.*

- **The Learning Repository:** It is an on-line library archiving all the documents relevant to the Food Security Assessments learning strategy (the Facilitator's Toolkit, guidelines, etc) and the results of learning events (workshop reports, evaluations, lessons-learned, etc). It is available to users who are planning to conduct an EFSA learning activity as well as those wishing to track the results of learning events. It will provide a link to The Assessor's database, which list all the WFP staff members who have assessment skills. The repository will start functioning in August.

- **EFSA Distance Learning CD**: This CD ROM will be launched in August; it is for WFP and partner programme staff interested in expanding their knowledge and understanding of assessments and preparing for training workshops.

In addition, a module is being developed to help raise awareness in house, in particular for decision-makers, of the importance of ENA's for advocacy and programming and ensure that programme decisions are based on the results of assessments.

For more information, 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 Mozambique (15-17 August). Contact: nadia.vaz@wfp.org or sylvie.montembault@wfp.org

8. Staff News

Geert Beekhuis, who has been the Regional Assessment Officer for markets for West Africa for the last 3 years, has returned to The Netherlands and is now working as an economist for the International Department of the Ministry of Finance. He can be reached via gebeekhuis@hotmail.com. During the last few years, he has worked with partners such as FEWS NET and CILSS on market analysis in the Sahel, in particular Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. Geert has been instrumental in developing a better understanding of the roles of markets for household food security in the region.

Nicole Steyer, Deputy Chief for the Emergency Needs Assessments Service (ODAN) is leaving at the end of July on a one-year leave for family reasons. Nicole has participated in elaborating the WFP Plan to strengthen its emergency needs assessment practice and the first phase of the SENAC project. She had overall responsibility for the capacity building component. She also led high profile or complex assessments, in particular in Indonesia after the tsunami, in the Great Lakes and recently in Algeria and provided support to the field to ensure quality assessments. Nicole was also instrumental in ensuring that WFP interventions were based on proper needs assessments and that ENAs results were correctly reflected in projects.

9. 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 eleven 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
EFSNA	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.