



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

Welcome to the eleventh 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 May and events coming up in June. 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.11 - June 2007](#)

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Executive Briefs

Several Executive Briefs covering the findings of recently completed assessments are available.

Click on: [Darfur 2006 Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment](#)

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

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

2. Emergency Needs Assessments

Needs assessment for a pilot cash scheme in Malawi (May): The Malawi country office has decided to pilot a cash scheme in selected districts in Southern Malawi, in the context of the Special Initiative for Cash and Voucher Programming (SICVP) in Southern Africa, funded by DFID. The Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) and the Economic Analysis Unit (PDPE) provided support to assess the appropriateness and feasibility of cash-based interventions in the context of chronic and acute food insecurity, and to recommend specific types of cash responses including objectives, number of beneficiaries, targeting criteria, transfer value and modalities as well as market monitoring indicators. Market analysis was an integral part of the assessment. The report is expected by the end of June.

The findings will help the two HQ units develop tools and guidance for assessing markets and identifying the most appropriate assistance modality (food and/or cash), to be incorporated in the revised EFSA Handbook and the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) guidelines, currently being revised.

For more information, contact niels.balzer@wfp.org, Malawi Programme Officer or anette.haller@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Adviser or ludovic.subran@wfp.org, PDPE Economic Affairs Officer

Major assessments recently completed or ongoing:

Central and East Africa

O Needs Assessment in Puntland, **Somalia** (mid March - April). The final report is expected at the end of June.

Contact: genevieve.chicoine@wfp.org

O Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Uganda** (April). The draft report is expected at the beginning of July. This will be the baseline for the next round of food security monitoring data collection in July/August.

Contact: mark.gordon@wfp.org

O Qualitative Refugee Self-reliance assessment in **Tanzania** (Mid March). The report is being finalised. Contact:

juvenal.kisanga@wfp.org

Southern Africa

- Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Mozambique** (26 March-15 June) managed by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee. Contact: nadia.vaz@wfp.org
- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Zambia** (23 April-8 June). Contact: mutinta.hambayi@wfp.org or eric.kenefick@wfp.org
- Vulnerability Assessment as follow up to the flood assessment in **Zambia** (May), managed by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee. The preliminary 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.
- Rapid Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) in **Madagascar** (May). The preliminary results are expected during the third week of June. Contact: maherisoa.rakotonirainy@wfp.org or sylvie.montembault@wfp.org
- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Swaziland** (9-23 April). The report is now available. Click on [Swaziland CFSAM](#). Contact: romina.woldemariam@wfp.org or eric.kenefick@wfp.org
- FAO/WFP CFSAM in **Zimbabwe** (25 April-22 May). The report is now available. [Click on Zimbabwe CFSAM](#). Contact: getachew.diriba@wfp.org or veronica.rammala@wfp.org
- FAO/WFP CFSAM in **Lesotho** (23 April-5 May). The report is being finalised. Contact: sylvie.montembault@wfp.org or andrzej.golebiowski@wfp.org

West Africa

- Baseline nutrition survey in all WFP and UNICEF intervention areas (including IDPs) in **Chad** (May). Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org
- Joint Food Security Assessment in Casamance, **Senegal** (June- July). Contact: jean-noël.gentile@wfp.org
- Baseline nutrition survey in **Burkina Faso** (June). The data analysis is ongoing. Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org

Asia

- Food Security Assessments, based on the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) approach in **Sri Lanka** (15-30 April). The report is available. Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org
- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Timor Leste** (17 March - 8 April). The report is being finalised. Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

Latin America

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Bolivia** (9-28 April). Contact: raoul.balietto@wfp.org
- Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Bolivia** (9 April - 7 May). Contact: oscar.antezana@wfp.org

Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Tajikistan** (May). Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org
- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Yemen** (26 April - 4 May). Contact: anne.callanan@wfp.org

Upcoming assessments:

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Burundi** (late June). Contact: evaline.diangA@wfp.org
- Seasonal crop and livestock evaluation in **Rwanda** (June). WFP and the National Institute of Statistics will conduct a mission in mid-July using an updated method based on the revised CFSAM guidelines, which was developed during the April -May joint WFP/FAO training. The results will be compared to an evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners, which will start 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
- Belg and Gu assessments (Crop and pasture) assessment in **Ethiopia** (June - July). Contact elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org
- Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment (IDPs) in **Central African Republic** (late July). Contact: pierre.lucas@wfp.org
- Long Rains Assessment in **Kenya** (mid July). Contact: zippy.mbatu@wfp.org
- National level food security and vulnerability survey in **Iraq** (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

- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Ghana** (September). Contact: anahit.sadoyan@wfp.org
- UNHCR/WFP JAM for Sudanese refugees from Darfur in the **Central African Republic** (dates to be confirmed soon). Contact: jose.pita-gros@wfp.org

3. Pre-crisis Information

Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) for data collection: PDAs are increasingly used for collecting data for VAM assessments and food security monitoring. During household surveys, responses are recorded on PDAs rather than on paper. This technology allows significant time saving and reduction of errors: the data are immediately available for processing and analysis; there is no need to wait for the data entry clerk to capture the data and less time is required for data cleaning. In the Southern Africa region, WFP already has used PDAs for 32 surveys since 2002. The experience has been positive and VAM plans to use PDAs in eight other surveys this year (for CFSVAs and FSMS). PDAs were used for the first time in West Africa in the CFSVA in Cameroon.

For more information, contact menghestab.haile@wfp.org, ODAV Programme Adviser.

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

- **Sudan** (June - July 2006). Analysis is ongoing. The report is expected in July. Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org
- **Laos** (September 2006). A draft report should be available in mid-June. Market and risk analyses will be integrated into the CFSVA. Contact: stein.vikan@wfp.org for the CFSVA, issa.sanogo@wfp.org for the market analysis and paola.desalvo@wfp.org for the risk analysis.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (June 2007). Preparatory work is ongoing. Training of enumerators has started; data collection by the National Statistics Institute should start on June 18th. The exercise will cover 6 priority provinces (Equateur, northern Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Province Orientale). Contact: massimo.martini@wfp.org or anne-claire.mouilliez@wfp.org
- **Cameroon:** data collection is completed. The use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) was successful, reducing in certain provinces the data collection time by half. Data cleaning is ongoing; the analysis will be finalized in July. Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org

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

Progress made on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into CFSVAs: Since January 2006, the HIV/AIDS and VAM units have been working together to include an HIV/AIDS component in the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses to better understand the links between HIV/AIDS and household food security. Technical Guidelines on "Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) into Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis" will be finalized in close cooperation with the ODJ Regional Bureau (June-July, 2007). A new thematic page on HIV/AIDS and OVC has been posted on the VAM website: <http://vam.wfp.org/thematic-pages/hiv-aids-and-ovc/>

For more information, contact chiara.brunelli@wfp.org, Data and Social Research Specialist, ODAV

Update on Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS):

- **Central African Republic:** The first food security monitoring bulletin has been issued. It covers the months from August 2006 to January 2007 for 4 prefectures (Ouham Mpende, Ombello Mpoko, Basse Kotto and Ouaka) Contact: albert.bango-makoudou@wfp.org
- **Darfur:** Discussions on the full development of the FSMS are ongoing. Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org
- **Sahel:** WFP supports an FSMS in the following countries in the Sahel in partnership with CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel). For information, contact susan.gannon@wfp.org, who coordinates these efforts from Dakar.
 - Ø **Mali:** The first round of data collection is about to begin. Results are expected by mid-July. A second round is planned for November. Contact: moise.ballo@wfp.org
 - Ø **Mauritania:** Food security monitoring is ongoing with preliminary results expected in mid-June. Contact: papamoussa.ndoye@wfp.org
 - Ø **Burkina Faso:** Final analysis is underway for the complementary nutritional component of the national agricultural production survey, as well as for the new nutrition baseline study undertaken in five regions. The results of both studies should be released by the end of June. In addition, the results of the joint

Ministry of Agriculture/WFP/FEWS NET/NGO food security monitoring mission will be finalized in mid-June. Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org

Ø **Niger:** The FSMS survey work is ongoing with the participation of the government, UNICEF, FEWS NET, AGRHYMET, CARE and ACF. Market and nutrition monitoring are also integrated. Contact: koffi.akakpo@wfp.org

Ø **Chad:** The FSMS and nutrition baseline study data collection is ongoing with preliminary results expected by the end of June. Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org

○ **Rwanda:** Technical consultations on the Food Security and Nutrition surveillance system are ongoing with UNICEF, the National Institute of Statistics and the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. Contact: silvia.biondi@wfp.org or kiganzi.nyakato@wfp.org.

○ **Uganda:** The first round of data collection took place in April. The FSMS covers the north and north-east. The next round of data collection is planned for July or August. An expanded EFSA will be used as a baseline. Contact: mark.gordon@wfp.org

○ **Haiti:** The fifth round of data collection will start at the end of June. The FSMS covers two departments with eight sentinel sites. An evaluation of the first year of functioning at the end of April identified several recommendations, including (a) adding nutrition indicators and information on food sources; (b) disseminating the bulletins more widely; and (c) allowing more flexibility to issue a bulletin in case of a shock. Technical recommendations to strengthen the reliability and quality of the information collected were also made. Contact: jeancarel.norceide@wfp.org

For information on food security monitoring systems, contact samir.wanmali@wfp.org, ODAV Programme Adviser or jan.delbaere@wfp.org, Crisis Information Specialist.

4. Methods and Tools

Review of the links between needs assessments and decision-making in response to food crises: The study prepared by the Overseas Development Institute is now available. The review found that WFP response options are increasingly informed by formal needs assessments and that the situation analysis available to decision-makers has strengthened in the last three years with the introduction of new tools, in particular market analysis. However, while decisions are usually well informed by a needs assessment at the beginning of a programme, this isn't necessarily the case throughout the life of a programme as situations are rarely re-assessed or changes monitored. Furthermore, the influence of WFP needs assessments on the decisions of NGOs, donors and partners remains weak and depends largely on the way findings are communicated and their perceived credibility. The study makes several recommendations to improve the linkages between needs assessments and decision-making.

To read the study, click on [Review of the links between needs assessments and decision-making in response to food crises](#). For more information, contact darlene.tymo@wfp.org, SENAC Senior Project Coordinator.

Linking Food Security and Nutrition in Emergency Needs Assessments: In April, the Emergency Needs Assessment Service and the Nutrition Service organised an inter-agency technical meeting to review the key conceptual, technical and practical issues that limit the integration of food and nutrition security information in rapid assessments carried out in emergency situations, and to discuss ways to overcome them. The report is now available, click on: [Technical meeting on linking food security and nutrition](#). The background technical paper is also available, click on: [Background Technical Paper](#). A WFP technical guidance note on Food and Nutrition Security in Rapid Emergency Needs Assessments has also been prepared as follow-up to the meeting. Its purpose is to provide clarifications on the objectives of integrated food and nutrition security assessments, and a range of options and advice on how to carry them out in practice. For a copy, contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org

Other follow-up activities include: carrying out a similar exercise to review the integration of food and nutrition security data and analysis in comprehensive large-scale assessments; a review of EFSA and nutrition WFP training packages to examine possibilities of strengthening their integration; and the application of the results of the meeting in the upcoming Darfur 2007 EFSNA.

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

Workshop on Guidance for Situation Analysis of Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessments (12-13 June, Rome): The purpose of the workshop - which will bring together field staff with experience in conducting assessments such as Regional Assessment officers, VAM officers and HQ staff - is to be briefed on, and provide inputs to, the Situation Analysis section of the EFSA handbook currently under revision. Participants will discuss the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework and the Situation Analysis process. The proposed revised analytical guidance will be applied to two scenarios: the 2006 EFSA in Chad and the 2007 EFSA in the Philippines.

For more information, contact anette.haller@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Adviser or agnes.dhur@wfp.org, SENAC Methodology Specialist.

Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC): The IPC is a tool for classifying food security into five phases (from generally food secure to famine/humanitarian crisis) developed by the Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) in Somalia. Last May in Oxford, a stakeholder group comprised of FAO, WFP, Oxfam GB, FEWS NET, Save the Children UK, Save the Children US and CARE International decided to prepare a multi-year, multi-agency programme to achieve a commonly accepted, standardized approach for classifying food insecurity. The next step is to develop a programme to include in a funding proposal to be submitted to the European Commission at the end of June. WFP supports a product-oriented approach with the immediate aim of fine-tuning the classification approach to come up with a common standard. It also supports longer-term processes in countries which focus on building up food security structures and capacities. The food security community in each country will decide on the appropriate approach and timing.

For more information on the IPC multi-year programme, contact darlene.tymo@wfp.org, SENAC Senior Coordinator.

5. Market Analysis

Market Analysis: Market analysis is now directly integrated into needs assessments, VAM baseline studies and FSMS. This is the case for example for the Mozambique EFSA (April), the Laos CFSVA (ongoing), the Cameroon CFSVA (on-going), the Afghanistan and Burundi FSMS and the CFSAMs in Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Other currently ongoing studies include:

O **Afghanistan**: A joint wheat market study with FEWS NET has recently been launched. The main objective is to better understand regional and domestic cereal market integration in order to develop a coherent food policy for Afghanistan that promotes domestic economic growth while supporting household food security. Contact:

issa.sanogo@wfp.org

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

O **Chad/Cameroon/Nigeria/Niger**: As one component of a regional market study being conducted together with FEWS NET, WFP is assessing markets in north Cameroon and their links with markets in Chad and Nigeria. A regional workshop took place in Dakar in April; the draft report is available. Contact: geert.beekhuis@wfp.org

O **Guinea-Bissau**: The report of the Joint WFP/FAO/Government Cashew Market and Food Security Review (10-24 April) is available. Click on: [Cashew Market and Food Security Review](#). Contact: geert.beekhuis@wfp.org

O **Southern Africa**: Synthesis of Food Security and Food Trade (May). This study analyzes price trends and food trade flows in light of droughts and floods in the region, and low production in South Africa. Report is in progress. Contact: simon.dradri@wfp.org

O **Tajikistan**: The markets assessment report should be available in mid-June. Contact: thomas.beuter@wfp.org

O **Uganda**: The central objective of this market study is pre-crisis market analysis, which will contribute to improved food security assessments and help guide WFP's interventions. The final report is expected at the end of July. Contact: naouar.labidi@wfp.org

O **Zimbabwe**: Market Analysis: Grain Marketing System (29 March - 04 April). The analysis was carried out to understand the food market and the distribution network and their implications for food security. The report should be available soon. Contact: simon.dradri@wfp.org

Market Analysis Tools: Tools to understand how markets influence food insecurity are being developed. The first tool on import parity prices is available. Click on: <http://home.wfp.org/organisation/divisions/pd/pdp/>. Before the end of June, tools on shock scenarios, elasticities and market integration will be available.

For more information on the market analysis tools, contact henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org, Chief, PDPE.

Documenting the impact of market analysis on programming: PDPE (Economic Analysis Unit) and ODAN (Emergency Needs Assessment Service) have initiated a process to track cases where markets analysis has made a difference for programming and decision-making. Several cases have already been documented. For example, in the Darfur 2005 EFSNA, the market analysis led to a reduction of the food ration from 2300 kcal to 2100 kcal as the analysis found that food production had increased and food prices had declined. After the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, a market analysis recommended targeting food aid distribution only to rural areas as markets were recovering in urban areas. To further raise awareness - both internally and externally - on the importance of market analysis and of understanding the links between households' food security and markets, PDPE is looking for more information on recent cases where market analysis made a difference on the design of programmes. Should you have an interesting case to share, please fill out the standard form prepared for this purpose and return it to henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org. The form is available on the Community of Practice or by contacting PDPE (ludociv.subran@wfp.org).

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

6. Capacity Building

Building National Capacities in Emergency Needs Assessment and Preparedness: A consultation workshop was organized on 31 May in Rome by ODAN to review the action plans for the three pilot countries (Madagascar, Tanzania and Nicaragua) and the draft strategy paper for developing national capacities in emergency food security assessment and preparedness. The participants included WFP HQ and field staff, partners (FAO, FEWS NET), two senior government representatives from Tanzania and Madagascar and donors (Denmark, USAID, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, EC). The revised draft strategy paper is now available. It provides a list of recommendations for WFP senior management, HQ services and country offices to further assist national counterparts in developing their capacities to assess and prepare for emergencies.

For more information, contact angie.lee@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Officer

Upcoming Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) trainings: Basic skills training will take place in:

- **Mauritania** (25-29 June). Contact: mamadou.diouf@wfp.org or papa-moussa.ndoye@wfp.org
- **Côte d'Ivoire** (3-7 September). Contact: moustapha.toure@wfp.org
- **Liberia** (15-21 October 2007). Contact: mamadou.diouf@wfp.org or claudia.Ahpoe@wfp.org

Awareness workshop on WFP assessment activities in Southern Africa: An awareness workshop is being organised for Food for Peace and USAID officers involved in rapid food security assessments and monitoring of program performance of their partners on 23-24 July in Johannesburg. The purpose is to provide a general overview of WFP assessment activities in the region, including the various types of assessments conducted and their methodology. Participants will practice using a number of information collection tools and methods for determining possible food and non-food needs in a crisis, be briefed on the links between WFP assessments and programme response recommendations; and be provided with information on how to engage with WFP assessments in individual countries.

For more information, contact sylvie.montembault@wfp.org, Regional Assessment Officer.

Capacity Building Strategy for WFP's West Africa Region: WFP's regional bureau in Dakar (ODD) and the regional office in Yaoundé (ODDY) will be formalizing a regional Learning Programme for Staff Capacity Building and Reinforcement by the end of the summer. While the Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) led training initiatives during the SENAC project, the objective is now to ensure that regional bureaux have a sustainable and sound capacity building strategy for the coming years to ensure that they will always have a sufficient pool of experienced assessors to conduct high quality assessments. The strategy will be based on an assessment of existing capacities. One of the objectives of this exercise is to enable staff to integrate the assessment and analytical skills received during trainings into other activities in the Country Offices.

For more information, contact mamadou.diouf@wfp.org, Regional Assessment Officer.

7. SENAC Steering Committee

The next SENAC Steering Committee is taking place on 18-19 June in Rome. The SENAC team will give an update on activities and mainstreaming plans after 2007, present the results of the study prepared by the Overseas Development Institute on the links between needs assessments and decision-making in response to food crisis and the preliminary results of the evaluation led by WFP's Office of Evaluation, and provide an update on efforts to prepare a multi-year programme for the IPC.

For more information, contact darlene.tymo@wfp.org, SENAC Senior Coordinator

8. 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 nine 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
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
EFSNA	Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
ENA	Emergency Needs Assessment
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.