



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

Welcome to the fourteenth 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 September and upcoming events in October and November.

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.

The SENAC website is momentarily down while we are revamping it. By October 16th, you will be able to find assessment reports, the last thirteen e-letters, and all the SENAC documents at www.wfp.org/odan/senac

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Best practice

➤ **The new EFSA guidance is now being used:** Assessors have started to use the new Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) guidance which is being compiled in the updated EFSA handbook (2008). Some examples include: Margarita Lovon, Regional Assessment Officer in Panama, used the new situation analysis guidance for the two EFSA's that took place in Peru in July and August, and for the EFSA in Nicaragua further to the hurricane; Anette Haller, Programme Adviser in Rome, used it for the Malawi Cash Assessment (May); and Yvonne Forsen, Regional Assessment Officer in Bangkok, used both the new situation and response analysis guidance for the EFSA in East Timor in September. The situation analysis allows to **distinguish between people whose lives are at risk, and people whose livelihoods are at risk**, on the basis of their food consumption, access to food and coping strategies.

For more information on the new guidance contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org, SENAC Methodology Specialist

➤ **Providing more accurate estimates of people in need:** After Hurricane Felix hit Nicaragua in September, the initial estimates based on government figures determined that around 100,000 – 120,000 people were in need of assistance. WFP conducted an EFSA which looked at people's food consumption patterns and access to food, and concluded that around 78,000 people were in need of assistance. The rigor and transparency of WFP's analysis resulted in a more targeted WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP). The EFSA results were also used as a reference by other agencies. *For more information, contact margarita.lovon@wfp.org, Regional Assessment Officer.*

➤ **Finding the right assessor:** Country Offices can now more easily find a suitable person to lead or participate in an assessment mission, to conduct assessment trainings or to provide technical support. The Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) has developed an Assessors' Database which contains the profile of WFP staff and partners who have needs assessment skills and who, depending on their availability, can provide support. So far more than 170 people have registered. Country offices who need an assessor should contact their Regional Assessment or VAM Officers who have access to the data base. The WFP Regional Bureau in Kampala has been particularly successful in encouraging staff to enter their profiles. So far, information is available on 53 assessors in the region, which helps the bureau to properly plan and target capacity building activities.

If you also want to sign up, go to this link: <http://odan.wfp.org/assessors>

For questions, contact: anette.haller@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Adviser

2. Emergency Needs Assessment / Executive Board

The October 2007 Executive Board will discuss two documents related to the Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan (SENAIP): the *WFP Evaluation of SENAIIP* and *Emergency Needs Assessment: Final Progress Report on the Implementation Plan and Next Steps*. They are also both available on WFP's website. For more information, contact: wolfgang.herbinger@wfp.org

3. Emergency Needs Assessments

Major assessments recently completed or ongoing:

Flood related assessments in East and West Africa

O **Uganda:** Several initial assessments have taken place in the last weeks further to the floods that have affected more than 300,000 people. The government has declared a state of emergency. To get more information on the impact of the floods in the medium-term, several other assessments are planned:

- WFP/FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (end of October)
- Follow up EFSA (end of October)
- Nutrition assessment (end of October)

Contact: dipayan.bhattacharyya@wfp.org

O **Rwanda:** Joint WFP/UNHCR/Government initial assessment in the Nyabihu and Rubavu districts (18-21 September). About 9,000 people are affected by the floods. Contact kiganzi.nyakato@wfp.org

O **Ghana:** *The Country Office is urgently looking for an Emergency Needs Assessment Coordinator. Please contact Sibi.Lawson-Marriott@wfp.org if you are interested.*

- UNICEF/WFP joint rapid appraisal (4-7 September).
- Initial appraisals conducted by WFP staff (13-17 September).
- UNDAC rapid assessment (September).
- EFSA (October).
- CILSS Crop supply assessment mission in flood-affected regions (10-12 October). WFP is participating.

Contact: Trudy.Bower@wfp.org or Sibi.Lawson-Marriott@wfp.org

O **Togo:** Inter-agency rapid EFSA (September). 60,000 people are found to be in need of food assistance for the next two months. A more in-depth EFSA will be carried out in the next two months to elaborate the longer term strategy and assistance options for the affected populations. Contact: edouard.nizeyimana@wfp.org

O **Burkina Faso:** Two inter-agency initial needs assessment missions, one in the North and Centre-south, and another in the West of the country (September). UNCT field missions confirmed that the immediate food needs are covered either by government food distribution or by population itself. Contact: olga.keita@wfp.org

O **Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Liberia, Guinea and Niger:** local assessments have taken place, and the situation is being monitored.

Other assessments:

Sudan

O **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. Preliminary results for 2007 will be available by mid-October. For more information, contact daniel.molla@wfp.org.

O **South Sudan:** Annual Needs Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) in the South is currently ongoing. The assessment in the north will take place in October/November. Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org.

West Africa

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

O **Burkina Faso:** Baseline nutrition survey (March - April) conducted with UNICEF and the Government. It looked into the link between food diversity and the nutritional status of the population. The results were shared with partners in July. The final report should be available in November. Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org

O **Senegal:** Joint Food Security Assessment in Casamance (June - July). The report is being finalised. Contact:

jean-noël.gentile@wfp.org

O **Côte d'Ivoire**: Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). Work is ongoing. Contact: moustapha.toure@wfp.org

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

Asia

O **Philippines**: Food Security Assessment in Mindanao (22 October - 16 November). Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

O **Dili** (East Timor) EFSA (September). The report and an executive brief presenting the main findings are available. Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia

O **Tajikistan**: Integrated Phase Classification (ongoing): 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 (9-20 July). The report is being finalised. Contact asif.niazi@wfp.org or ahmed.ismail@wfp.org

O **Georgia** (Abkhazia): UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR Socio-economic Assessment (15 - 29 September). WFP and FAO looked into needs related to food security, agriculture production and agricultural infrastructure in the region. A draft report is expected in mid-October. Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org

Upcoming assessments:

O **Chad**: Self-sustenance capacity assessment of IDPs and refugees at the border with Sudan (20 October to 5 November) will be conducted in collaboration with OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, WHO. Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org

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

O **Syria** UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF/Government Joint Assessment to review overall food and non-food supply situation of the Iraqi and Palestinian refugees in Syria (20-29 October). Contact: Anne.Callanan@wfp.org

O **Iraq**: National level food security and vulnerability survey (postponed to November). 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

4. Pre-crisis Information

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

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

O **Laos** (September 2006): The report is being finalised. Key findings and preliminary recommendations were presented to high level Government representatives on 5 September. The CFSVA pays special attention to market and risk aspects. Contact: stein.vikan@wfp.org

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

O **Cameroon** (May 2007): The report is being finalised. Key findings and preliminary recommendations will be discussed at a workshop with partners in October. Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org

O **Haiti**: Data collection started in early October and should be completed by the end of the month. The survey is led by the Coordination Nationale pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA). Contact: raphael.chuinard@wfp.org.

O **Sao Tome**: Data collection has started on 23 September. The survey is led by the Government with the support of WFP. Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org

O **Guatemala** (May 2007): The CFSVA is run by the Government with the support of WFP for the data analysis. A draft report is expected at the end of the month. Contact: rossella.bottone@wfp.org

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

Workshop on Food Security Monitoring and Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses in the Northern Sahel countries (1-3 October) in Dakar: The workshop brought together the VAM Officers and Focal Points and their Government counterparts, who are involved in the design and implementation of FSMSs and CFSVAs in the five Northern Sahelian countries. The workshop concluded that tremendous efforts have been made in the collection and analysis of data. However, there is a need for more efficient processes, in particular regarding data collection. Chad and Niger FSMSs served as successful examples. Participants expressed enthusiasm to pilot PDAs to reduce errors, time and costs associated with the data collection. Preliminary results were presented on the use of the food consumption score and the integration of nutrition indicators into the FSMS and CFSVAs. The Workshop was funded by CIDA and SENAC in the framework of a project to strengthen the integration of food security and nutrition in assessment and information tools. Contact: susan.gannon@wfp.org

5. Methods and Tools

Revision of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Handbook: The revised version, due to be issued early next year, will bring together the methodological advances made over the past two years and assessor's experience from field work. The status to date is as follows:

- Part I “*Objectives of an EFSA and analytical framework*”, Part II “*Overview of the analytical process and types of EFSA*” and Part V “*Situation Analysis*” have been finalised.
- Part VI “*Analysing EFSA data and forecasting and response analysis*” is being circulated for comments.

Should you wish to comment on Part VI or receive drafts of Parts I, II or V, please contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org.

Technical Guidance Sheets:

- **Two new Technical Guidance Sheets (TGS) on qualitative data collection and analysis** are available. TGS No.10 provides an introduction to qualitative approaches and data, and their usefulness for food security assessments. It is intended for field staff who are not familiar with this topic. TGS No.11 provides detailed guidance on how to collect, organize and analyse qualitative data for food security assessments.
- **Food security and nutrition assessments for Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations** (draft). A draft guidance will be disseminated shortly.

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

Assessing Government Response Capacities in Food Security Crises: With the support of the Danish government, the Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) is developing practical guidance to assess government response capacities to respond to food security crisis. A first checklist of indicators (at different levels, i.e. macro-economic, institutional / policy, organizational and programming) and guidance have been developed and are currently being circulated for comments. Once consolidated, the tools will be field tested and eventually integrated in the revised EFSA handbook. *To comment on the draft guidance and indicator checklist contact angie.lee@wfp.org, Programme Officer.*

Consultation with National Governments on Emergency Needs Assessments (19-21 November) Rome: The objective is to familiarize some key government partners with the technical progress made in emergency needs assessment methods and tools; and to foster collaboration in developing procedures and capacities to undertake emergency needs assessment. Government representatives from 14 countries will participate, as well as representatives of CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse), SADC (South African Development Community) and INCAP (Instituto de Nutricion de Centro America y Panama). *For more information contact: getachew.diriba@wfp.org*

Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC):

- WFP provided suggestions for an addendum being developed by FAO (Nick Haan) for the IPC Technical Manual - Version 1, based on pilot experiences to date. *For a copy of our input, contact: tobias.flaemig@wfp.org*

➤ A Regional IPC Technical Workshop, organized by the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), will take place from 30 October to 1 November in Nairobi. A total of 60 participants are expected representing 11 countries (Burundi, Djibouti, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Somalia,

Tanzania and Uganda). The aim is to undertake a training and awareness exercise on the use of the IPC, and to elaborate each situation analysis into a consistent regional prototype map. Contact: scott.ronchini@wfp.org.

Monitoring the quality of needs assessments: WFP monitors the quality of its needs assessments through a Quality Monitoring Checklist (QMC) - which rates final assessment reports on a variety of aspects - and through peer review of selected reports by food security experts in academia and research institutes. Country offices and regional bureaus are responsible for the quality of their assessments. Regional Assessment and VAM Officers are responsible for completing the checklists. In 2005 and 2006, 67 percent and 79 percent of the Emergency Needs Assessments (ENAs) met the quality requirements, respectively. **A revised checklist for Emergency Food Security Assessments and a new checklist for WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Missions are now available** to review the quality of the assessments. Similar checklists are being developed for CFSAMs and CFSVAs. *For more information contact valerie.ceylon@wfp.org, Programme Adviser.*

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:** The joint wheat market study with FEWS NET seeks to better understand regional and domestic cereal market integration. The report is available. Contact: ahmadshah.shahi@wfp.org

O **Georgia:** A market assessment (26 August - 8 September) assessed the suitability of Cash-for-Work schemes. The report is being finalised. Contact: thomas.beuter@wfp.org or wolfram.herfurth@wfp.org.

O **Syria:** A market assessment (5 to 13 October) assessed the feasibility of a cash/voucher programme for providing assistance to Iraqi refugees in Syria, and analysed the functioning of markets with regards to sufficient and affordable food supplies for the refugee population. Contact: thomas.beuter@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 the link to household food security. Initial findings will be available in December. Contact: andrew.stanhope@wfp.org or ludovic.subran@wfp.org

Workshop on partnerships in market analysis for food security (11-13 December), Pretoria (location to be confirmed): This workshop is being organized jointly by ODAN (Needs Assessments) and PDPE (Economics Analysis Unit) to bring together professionals from WFP and key partners (FAO, World Bank, FEWS NET, NGOs and academic institutions) to share best practice on market analysis in support to food security programming. Since early 2007, WFP has made specific efforts to integrate market analysis into its needs assessments, food security baselines and monitoring systems and has developed tools to better understand how markets influence food insecurity (available at <http://home.wfp.org/organisation/divisions/pd/pdp/>). Participants will discuss lessons learned on the use of the tools, how market analysis has influenced decisions on programs, and what is the capacity needed to conduct market analysis. They will also discuss future plans for capacity building, potential partnerships and setting up a roster of practitioners. Contact: henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org

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

7. Capacity Building

Capacity Building Strategy for the WFP's East and Central Africa Region: The regional bureau is now implementing a strategy to strengthen country office capacity in assessment, analysis preparedness and planning. Field based assessment training took place in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Participants are mixed groups of WFP, government, and NGO staff - all of whom are engaged in routine assessment activities. Trainings begin with providing a foundation of food security and livelihoods, before guiding participants through practical planning, analysis, and reporting on an initial investigation. Training plans are being finalised for Uganda, Djibouti, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and DRC. *For more information, contact patrick.foley@wfp.org, Capacity Building Coordinator or scott.ronchin@wfp.org, Regional VAM Adviser.*

Upcoming Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) trainings: Basic skills training will take place in:
O **Ethiopia** (22 October to 2 November) in Mekele and Harar. Contact: elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org.

O **Bangkok** (5 - 9 November). Contact: michael.sheinkman@wfp.org

Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Training in Malawi: An EFSA training was conducted in Malawi between 1st and 4th of October by the WFP Southern Africa Regional Bureau in collaboration with the WFP Country Office and the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC). 21 WFP and partner staff (government and NGO) were trained. Contact: andrzej.golebwoski@wfp.org.

Intermediate quantitative analysis training (9-23 November) Bangkok. Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org

Spatial information management training (22-26 October) Rome: Contact: paola.desalvo@wfp.org

8. Staff News

Alexis Hoskins, ODAN Programme Adviser, joined OCHA in Geneva where she will work on developing a common approach to interagency needs assessment and classification. Alexis Hoskins was a key member of the SENAC team which she joined in 2005. She contributed to several initiatives, including monitoring the quality of assessments, reporting annually to the WFP Executive Board on SENAC-related progress, and applying interagency needs assessment, analysis and classification approaches.

Valérie Ceylon is replacing Alexis Hoskins as Programme Adviser. Valérie has worked with WFP since 1998. She started as a Programme Officer in Côte d'Ivoire, moved on as a Contingency Planning Officer in Rome, and more recently as a Programme Officer in the HIV/AIDS Service. Among other tasks, she will work on the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification and on the Quality Monitoring System. Welcome Valérie!

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
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
EFSNA	Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
ENA	Emergency Needs Assessment
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring Systems
INCAP	Instituto de Nutricion de Centro America y Panama
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
SADC	South African Development Community

* 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.