

Welcome to the sixteenth issue!

The newsletter provides an update on Food Security Analysis / VAM activities at WFP. The issue covers the last quarter of 2008.

Dear readers,

We are re-launching The Assessor newsletter after requests from donors and the field. Please feel free to email information on your activities and feedback to caroline.chaumont@wfp.org. Enjoy your reading!

Joyce Luma, Chief, Food Security Analysis Service

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1. What is new?

Launch of the “Enhanced capacity in food security and response analysis” (ENCAP) project: this project, funded by ECHO, addresses the need to further enhance food security analysis in line with the new WFP Strategic Plan, through capacity building activities (see section 6). *Contact:* agnes.dhur@wfp.org.

Launch of the Response analysis project (RAP): This 18 month project, funded by the German Government in two phases, focuses on strengthening the interface between analysis and programme through solid response analysis (see section 7). The ENCAP and RAP projects are complementary to each other. *Contact:* paula.hidalgo@wfp.org

Informal consultation on needs assessments and emergency preparedness: organised at the request of donors the consultation will take place on 15 January at headquarters. Food security analysis issues, challenges, ongoing projects and plans will be shared with donors attending. *Contact:* joyce.luma@wfp.org

WFP to join the International Household Survey Network (IHSN): This will enable to share household survey information/data with other agencies. *Contact:* joyce.luma@wfp.org

[Food Security Analysis Fact Sheet](#) provides the basic information on WFP Food Security Analysis at HQ and in the field. The fact sheet is available in [French](#).

2. Pre-crisis baseline studies

Iraq Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) released: an estimated 930,000 people are food insecure (3% of the population). About 6.4 million (22% of the population) are extremely dependant upon the monthly food ration distributed by the Government, without which they could become food insecure. Almost 26,000 households were interviewed and the anthropometric data of about 24,000 children was collected. [Iraq CFVSA Executive Brief](#), [CFSVA full document](#). Contact hazem.almahdy@wfp.org

[List of completed, ongoing / upcoming Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis \(CFSVA\)](#)

The **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** is providing support to conduct 32 CFSVAs in 16 Sub Saharan countries over a six year period. Eight surveys are currently under way in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. Four additional surveys funded by Citigroup Foundation are also under way in Burundi, Cambodia, Haiti and Pakistan. Contact: arif.husain@wfp.org

3. Food Security Assessments

[List of ongoing / upcoming food security assessments \(global\)](#)

[List of assessments conducted in Asia in 2008](#)

[List of assessments conducted in Latin America and Caribbean in 2008](#)

[List of assessments conducted in the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe in 2008](#)

[List of assessments conducted in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa in 2008](#)

[List of assessments conducted in Sudan in 2008](#)

[List of assessments conducted in West Africa in 2008](#)

[List of Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions \(CFSAM\) conducted in 2008.](#)

Price Monitoring Bulletin: The bulletin presents the trends in prices of the staple food commodities and the overall cost of the food basket. [First price monitoring bulletin](#). The 2nd bulletin will be available this week. Contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org

Price Impact Assessments: WFP has conducted more than 20 assessments to determine the impact of high food prices on households' food security. All reports are available at: www.wfp.org/fsavam. Another 18 assessments are either ongoing in particular in urban areas of Madagascar, in Bangladesh and Ethiopia with most of them to be completed by December 2008. Full list: [List of Price Impact Assessments](#)

Assessment tracking database: it provides the list of completed, ongoing and planned assessments, baselines, JAMs and Crop Food Supply Assessment Missions. It tracks their link with operations and Country Strategy Documents. This database will be soon accessible by WFP staff who request access and Regional Bureaus will be able to upload the information directly. Please send assessment plans and final reports to wael.attia@wfp.org

4. Monitoring Food Security

Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS): In the last few years, WFP has contributed to the setting up of several FSMS. However many challenges remain to ensure the comprehensiveness, sustainability, and cost effectiveness of the systems. WFP is looking for consultants to work on the strengthening of the existing FSMS. Work will include a stock taking exercise of best practices,

development of guidelines, the design and development of an implementation strategy. *Contact: wanja.kaaria@wfp.org*

Latest bulletins published: [Nepal Food Security Bulletin - 21, November 2008](#)
[Nepal Market Watch -8, November 2008](#)

[West Africa: Markets, hazards and food security - No 3, October 2008](#). This briefing note prepared by WFP, FEWSNET, FAO and CILSS provides an update on the food security situation in West Africa. *Contact: jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org*

[Informal Cross Border Food Trade in Southern Africa – September 2008](#): this report is prepared jointly by WFP and FEWS NET, with support from USAID. It covers 29 borders. *Contact eric.kenefick@wfp.org; or veronica.rammala@wfp.org*

5. Guidelines

Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook: the new version will be available in its electronic version in January 2009 and in hard copy in March. The methodology is already used and an edited word version is available. The translation into French and Spanish is ongoing. *Contact: jan.delbaere@wfp.org*

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) Guidelines: they will be available in an electronic format in February and then in hard copies in April. *Contact: jan.delbaere@wfp.org*

Revised Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) Guidelines (for assessing refugees, IDPs and returnees situation): They have been revised jointly by WFP and UNHCR and to take into account WFP's latest food security assessment methodologies, the UNHCR's IDP policy and the new 4R (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation, reconstruction) strategy and incorporate the latest field experience related to nutrition. Hard copies will be available in early 2009. *Contact: kathryn.ogden@wfp.org*

Food and Nutrition Security Assessments in urban areas: A [Technical Guidance Sheet](#) to conduct **assessments in urban areas** is available. It was prepared in collaboration with the WFP Cairo Regional Bureau, which has had several experiences of urban assessments and programming. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org or paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

Strengthening urban targeting guidance: WFP is increasingly requested to intervene in urban centres, as a result of high food and fuel prices and urbanisation. With the support of Denmark, WFP will strengthen the part on targeting in the existing urban programming guidelines. Urban targeting has specificities related to the difficulty to define adequate targeting criteria, and to integrate the most vulnerable, especially the unregistered and the recently-turned vulnerable. The WFP Food Security Analysis Service is looking for a consultant to conduct a desk review and field-level case studies of urban targeting approaches used by WFP and partners. *Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

Estimating population numbers: a technical guidance sheet is in preparation to explain the T-square method. Two other technical guidance sheets are available to estimate population numbers, one presenting the area method, the other one presenting the Delphi method. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: a new website www.ipcinfo.org has been launched by the IPC global partners (FAO, WFP, FewNet, Care, Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK and US, and EC-JRC). It is administered by FAO. The IPC is a tool in development whose purpose is to

provide a common scale for classifying food security crisis according to severity. *Contact: valerie.ceylon@wfp.org*

IPC technical working group: WFP organised with its IPC partners a technical workshop to discuss remaining and outstanding technical issues on 11-12 December. *Contact: valerie.ceylon@wfp.org*

6. Capacity building activities

Enhance Food Security Analysis Capacities (ENCAP): ECHO is providing funding to **upgrade WFP advanced assessors' skills** based on the latest guidance, build **WFP and partner capacity in market analysis and initial assessments** (sudden onset crisis), and strengthen WFP staff and partners' capacity **to communicate food security assessments findings**. ENCAP funding is also available for activities to further understand the assessment analysis required to check the feasibility and relevance, and to design cash or voucher interventions. This assistance includes the development of a baseline/feasibility study, project monitoring and impact evaluation. ENCAP activities also include support to urban assessments with the view to adjust the recently produced guidance on urban assessments. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

Upcoming Food Security Analysis trainings:

- **Asia region:** training on food security indicators for the VAM officers of the region will take place in Bangkok (12-17 January 2009). *Contact: rita.bathia@wfp.org or chiara.brunelli@wfp.org*

7. Response analysis

Response analysis project (RAP): The project funded by the German Government is implemented by the regional bureaux in coordination with HQ. The field focal points are Luc Verelst (Cairo), Patrizia Papinutti (Dakar), Rita Bathia (Bangkok), Margaretha Barkhof (Panama) and Tamara Nanitashviui (Uganda). A first workshop took place early September to launch the project and define the regional workplans that are now under implementation. [Response Analysis Project / Workshop report](#). *Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

National response capacity: A tool to analyse the national capacity to respond to food security crisis has been developed as part of a project funded by Danish Government. Click: [National Response Capacity Matrix, User Guide](#). The tool has been tested in Bolivia, Indonesia, Yemen and Tajikistan, and applied in Pakistan and Madagascar. A tool to analyse capacity at sub-national level is under development and has been tested in Indonesia and West Timor. *Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

8. Others

VAM Global retreat will take place in Rome at the end of January. The objective is to reposition VAM to address the new WFP Strategic Plan (2008-2011) and emerging global challenges such as high food prices or climate change. One day and a half will be hold jointly with the Programme design service to deliberate on cross cutting issues. *Contact: wanja.kaaria@wfp.org*

Our website is updated daily. Check it for more information! www.wfp.org/fsavam
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