

Welcome to the seventeenth issue!

The newsletter provides an update on Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis at WFP. This issue covers January, February and March 2009.

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1. What's new?

Assessing the impact of the global financial crisis - Several activities are ongoing: 1) macro-economic level analysis to identify the most vulnerable countries; 2) selection of key indicators (likely encompassing remittances, wage labours, reliance on cash crops) to capture the impact of the crisis on households; 3) implementation of five country case studies which will, for the first time, explore the impact of the crisis at household level. The conclusions of the studies will feed into WFP's contribution to the annual FAO report on the State of the Food Insecurity in the world. This year, VAM seats on the editorial board. *Contact arif.husain@wfp.org (macro-analysis), issa.sanogo@wfp.org (case studies).*

Cash and vouchers - a consultation process has started between VAM and the Cash and Vouchers unit at HQ to design and strengthen analysis tools for covering information needed for cash and voucher programming. An indicative list of cash/voucher related information captured by VAM data collection tools has been prepared. Information gaps will be examined and assessment tools will be revised appropriately. *Contact issa.sanogo@wfp.org or claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org*

Food Security Analysis service (HQ) organigram presents the latest organigram of the Food Security Analysis Service at WFP headquarters.

VAM logo - At the VAM global retreat, it was decided to use the revamped logo (see above). To obtain a high resolution copy, *contact wael.attia@wfp.org*

VAM - Food Security Analysis Fact Sheet provides the basic information on WFP Food Security Analysis at HQ and in the field.

2. Pre-crisis baseline studies

2009 priorities - As discussed at the Global VAM retreat (see section 9), work related to CFSVA will focus on the following priorities this year: 1) better alignment of the timing of surveys and the in-country programme cycles, 2) explore opportunities to link CFSVAs with other households' surveys, in particular the

World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Studies, 3) adapt the CFSVA tools to address information needs emerging from the new WFP Strategic Plan (such as for Purchase for Progress and cash/vouchers). Contact claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org

Collaboration with the World Bank: WFP and the World Bank are discussing the possibility to sign an MoU to collaborate on CFSVAs and Living Standards Measurement Studies. This would enable WFP and the World Bank to easily access each other's data such as the World Bank's data on income and expenditure and WFP's data on food consumption and coping strategies. The World Bank plans to undertake seven studies in the near future. The possibility to collaborate on a few FSMS is also being discussed. Contact joyce.luma@wfp.org

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

3. Food Security Assessments

[List of ongoing or planned food security assessments \(global\)](#)

[List of ongoing or planned assessments in Asia in 2009](#)

[List of ongoing or planned assessments in the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe in 2009](#)

[List of ongoing or planned assessments in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa in 2009](#)

[List of ongoing or planned assessments in West Africa in 2009](#)

[List of ongoing or planned assessments in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2009](#)

[List of ongoing or planned assessments in Sudan in 2009](#)

[List of ongoing or planned Joint Assessment Missions in 2009](#)

Please send updates to wael.attia@wfp.org

Price Monitoring Bulletin - The bulletin presents the trends of prices of staple food commodities and the overall cost of the food basket on a quarterly basis. [The second Price Monitoring Bulletin](#) was prepared in December. The next one will be prepared in March. Contact issa.sanogo@wfp.org

Impact of High Food Prices: [High Food prices in the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, Assessing Impact and Tracking Progress Towards Meeting the CFA Objectives](#), Contact eric.kenefick@wfp.org

Using Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) for assessments - PDAs are increasingly used to collect and store household data during assessments, allowing for greater efficiency, refined analysis and the elimination of paper. Further to a workshop on PDA configuration and programming tools last October in Nairobi, several countries are proceeding to purchase PDAs and to develop questionnaires for their upcoming assessments. In Goma, DRC, an assessment is underway using PDAs which were programmed at Sub Office level and an FSMS in Ethiopia will be performed using PDAs prepared by the country office. Contact george.muammar@wfp.org

4. Monitoring Food Security and prices

Strengthening Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS) - VAM is working towards strengthening its FSMS. Work is still at the inception phase, and will include a stock-taking exercise of existing practices. Best practices will inform the development of guidelines, the design and development of an implementation framework and strategy. Initial guidance material may be developed first to guide country offices in the process of setting their FSMS (for example in Sudan, Laos, Bangladesh), followed at a later stage by more in-depth guidelines. The project will look at three types of situations: countries with a FSMS run by the Government; countries with a FSMS run by WFP; and partners and countries with no system in place. Contact wanja.kaaria@wfp.org

Indonesia Food and Nutrition Surveillance System (FNSS) - WFP is providing support to revitalize the Government's FNSS. Simplified Field Technical Guidelines and tools, and a user-friendly system using SMS

for data transportation have been developed and being tested in two districts of Nusa Tenggara Timor province. The first Bulletin is expected in May 2009 and will cover data from these piloted districts. *Contact thivan.hoang@wfp.org*

Latest bulletins published:

o **Afghanistan** - [Market Watch Bulletin \(January 2009\)](#) and [Food Security Monitoring Bulletin \(December 2008\)](#) *Contact wahida.azizi@wfp.org*

o **Nepal** - [Food Security Bulletin No. 22 \(January 2009\)](#) and [Market Watch No. 10 \(January 2009\)](#). *Contact: siemon.hollema@wfp.org*

o **Pakistan** - [Market Price Monitoring Bulletin \(January 2009\)](#). Since July 2008, VAM operates a system of price monitoring in Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and a cross-border trade monitoring along the Afghan border. They feed into this bulletin that covers the entire country and neighbouring countries. *Contact: sahib.haq@wfp.org*

o **Tajikistan** - [Food Security Bulletin: 1 \(December 2008\)](#). The second round of data collection which included nutrition data took place in late January with the participation of WHO, UNICEF and the National Institute of Statistics. This will allow WFP and partners to target food aid during the lean season, in March and April. *Contact cedric.charpentier@wfp.org*

o **Swaziland, Lesotho (report, fact sheet), Zambia, round 11 CHS findings 2008** - Community and Household Surveillance (CHS) is a biannual food security and outcomes monitoring system that is conducted during the post-harvest and the lean season each year, since 2003. CHS covers 7 countries in the Southern Africa region and so far 11 rounds have been implemented with the 12th round due in March/April 2009. *Contact eric.kenefick@wfp.org*

5. Guidelines

The new version of the [WFP/FAO Joint Guidelines for Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions \(CFSAM\)](#) is available - CFSAMs analyse the supply and demand for staple foods, estimate any uncovered staple food import requirements and analyse households' access to food. The new version represents an update and refinement of the 1996 version taking account of progress made in:

- o understanding markets, the interactions between public and private sectors, and factors that determine domestic demand and influence commercial imports;
- o analysis of crop-related remote sensing data;
- o importance of considering a range of potential food and on-food response options.

This is reflected in the new name of the guidelines (previously Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions). *Contact joyce.luma@wfp.org*

Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook - the new version will be available in its electronic version in English, French and Spanish in March and in hard copy in May. This second edition builds on the first version and includes new tools such as an analysis plan, forecasting and response analysis. The methodology is already used and an edited Word version is available. *Contact jan.delbaere@wfp.org*.

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

Revised Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) Guidelines (for assessing refugees, IDPs and returnees situation) - The revision has been completed. Hard copies will be available in English and French in May. *Contact kathryn.ogden@wfp.org*

Strengthening urban targeting guidance - WFP is launching a study to identify and systematize best practices in urban targeting by WFP, its partners and other stakeholders operating in urban settings. Approximately six in-depth, field-level case studies of urban targeting approaches and project implementation modalities by WFP and partners in different regions and crises settings will be conducted. *Contact paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

Assessing Government Capacity to Respond to Food Insecurity - The WFP Indonesia country office is adapting a sub-national tool for response capacity analysis in chronic food insecure contexts. It will be applied in an upcoming UN Joint Assessment in the Nusa Tenggara Timor province. In 2008, the CO tested the national and sub-national tools for response capacity analysis mostly in relation to sudden-onset disasters. *Contact thivan.hoang@wfp.org*

The Technical Guidance Sheets are now posted on www.wfp.org/food-security/guidelines
[Integrating migration and displacement into Emergency Food Security Assessments \(EFSAs\)](#)
[Integrating non-food responses to food insecurity into EFSAs](#)
[Analysing food aid dependency and disincentive effects in EFSAs](#)
[Trigger criteria for an EFSAs in slow-onset crises](#)
[Distinguishing between chronic and transitory food insecurity in EFSAs](#)
[Initial EFSAs](#)
[Area method to estimate population size and demographics in EFSAs](#)
[Introduction to qualitative data and methods for collection and analysis in food security assessments](#)
[Qualitative data collection and analysis for food security assessments](#)
[Using the Delphi method to estimate population size and demographics in EFSAs](#)
[Using the T-square sampling method to estimate population size, demographics and other characteristics in EFSAs](#)
[Complementary methods and tools for emergency food security assessments](#)
[Short Guide to Applying the National Response Capacity Matrix](#)
[Strengthening rapid food and nutrition security assessment](#)
Contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - important technical refinements are ongoing and major results should be available by June 2009. *For the latest check www.ipcinfo.org. 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, strengthen **WFP and partner capacity in market analysis and initial assessments** (sudden onset crisis), and their capacity **to communicate food security findings**. Funding is available for coaching missions to support potential and advanced assessors in acquiring key assessment skills. Given the tight timeframe to implement the project and use funds available, countries and regional bureaus are encouraged to come forth with concrete proposals. *Contact aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

ENCAP support for guidance on cash and voucher feasibility and urban assessments: 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 includes the development of a baseline/feasibility study, project monitoring and impact evaluation. ENCAP activities also include support for urban assessments, with the view to adjust the recently produced guidance on urban assessments. *Contact aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

Upcoming Food Security Analysis trainings

Southern, Eastern and Central Africa region

- o **Quantitative Analysis:** training for the national VAM officers of the Eastern and Central Africa (tentative date in late March). Location: Kampala. *Contact mark.gordon@wfp.org*
- o **VAM Regional Workshop:** Update on the latest guidance and analytical approaches for food security situation and response analysis (2-6 March). Location: Durban. *Contact sylvie.montembault@wfp.org*

West Africa region

o **Market analysis:** workshop for VAM officers, and partners from FEWS NET, CILSS, and national market information systems. It will cover market structures, market integration, and government interventions. A session on developing writing skills has also been introduced. (23-27 February in Dakar). Location: Dakar. Contact jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org

o **Nutrition Data Analysis:** training for advanced assessors from all regions. Location: Dakar. Contact peter.horjus@wfp.org

Emergency Food Security Assessment: A training package has been developed to reflect the new EFSA Handbook. Country offices which have included Advanced Assessor training in their 2009 work plans are invited to get these from HQ, in consultation with their Regional Bureau. Contact aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org

Simulation training on initial EFSA: A new form of training, largely simulation-based, is proposed for field-based staff who are frequently requested to assess needs immediately after a rapid onset shock. The training focuses on what information to collect, how to collect and analyse to ensure that the assessment informs initial decision-making in an emergency. The training can be adapted to specific country contexts. HQ support and funding from the ENCAP project are available. Suitable country locations to conduct this training are being sought and suggestions are welcome. Contact aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org

7. Response analysis

Response analysis project (RAP): The first phase of the project will be completed in March 2009, with a second phase that will continue for a total of a 2 year period. During the first phase, workshops and on the job learning about response analysis have been conducted, and initial work will have started to develop response analysis guidance. Phase II will focus on strengthening the collaboration and consultation between assessment and programme staff and partners. For details on the achievements per region, contact paula.hidalgo@wfp.org

8. Food Security Atlas

Indonesia: WFP is providing support for the methodology, analysis and reporting for the second Food Security Atlas done jointly with the Government. The launch is expected in August. Contact ThiVan.Hoang@wfp.org

Pakistan: WFP, jointly with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), is conducting an exercise to rank 136 districts of the country based on the level of food insecurity and expand and update the 2003 analysis. Completion is foreseen at the end of the year. Contact sahib.haq@wfp.org

9. Others

The VAM Global retreat took place in Rome at the end of January. The objective was to reposition VAM to address the new WFP Strategic Plan (2008-2011) and emerging global challenges such as high food prices or climate change. Several issues were discussed in particular how to assess the impact of the financial crisis, the need to further strengthen market analysis, capacity building and human resources issues. It was the opportunity to better align Regional Bureaus and HQ workplans. One day and a half was held jointly with the Programme design service to deliberate on cross cutting issues and how to strengthen the link between analysis and programming. Concrete suggestions were made on how to work closer together. The report is being prepared and will be available soon. Contact wanja.kaaria@wfp.org

Gender-based inequalities from the perspective of food poverty: VAM undertook an analysis of gender-based inequalities from the perspective of food poverty (using food consumption as a proxy). Five CFSVAs

datasets were explored for this purpose. Findings will be presented at the FAO-IFAD-ILO Workshop on "Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty" (Rome, 31 March - 2 April 2009). Contact issa.sanogo@wfp.org or ceren.gurkan@wfp.org

10. Staff news

Several new people have recently joined the Food Security Analysis service at HQ.

Aurélie Larmoyer manages the ENCAP project. She previously worked in Monitoring and Evaluation, in particular with WFP Office of Evaluation and in programme management with international NGOs in the field.

Claudia AhPoe, Programme Advisor, coordinates CFSVAs and other assessments. Previously she worked for WFP as a Programme / VAM officer in Liberia and for UNDP and NGOs in the field.

Ceren Gurkan will work on market analysis, food security and market monitoring systems. She previously worked on issues related to food security and markets with WFP's Policy, Planning and Strategy Division.

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

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For questions, comments and suggestions contact caroline.chaumont@wfp.org

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