

Welcome to the eighteenth issue!

This newsletter provides an update on food security and vulnerability analysis at WFP. This issue covers the months of April and May 2009.

In this issue:

1. What's new?
2. Pre-crisis baseline studies
3. Food security assessments
4. Monitoring food security and prices
5. Guidelines
6. Capacity building activities
7. Response analysis
8. Spatial analysis
9. Risk analysis
10. Others

1. What's new?

Assessing the impact of the global financial crisis: VAM is conducting five country case studies to explore the impact of the crisis at household level. The results will contribute to the annual FAO report on the State of the Food Insecurity in the world. This year, VAM sits on the editorial board. The case studies are conducted in Nicaragua, Ghana, Bangladesh, Armenia, and Zambia. Consultations are ongoing to expand the case studies to Ethiopia, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. *Contact: joyce.luma@wfp.org*

Quarterly Price Trends Bulletin: The bulletin presents the trends in prices of staple food commodities in 32 of the most vulnerable countries and the overall cost of the food basket. The March issue is available: [Trends in staple food prices in vulnerable countries](#). *Contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org*

2. Pre-crisis baseline studies

[List of completed, ongoing and upcoming Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses \(CFSVA\) for 2009.](#) CFSVA reports available soon for Uganda, Ghana, Benin. *Contact: claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org*

Burundi CFSVA: [Report](#) and [Executive Brief](#) available.

CFSVA data available online soon: VAM will be able to publish its CFSVA datasets on the food security analysis website (www.wfp.org/food-security) in the coming months. Data will be accessible from the CountryStat software used by FAO for administrative unit data, and on the International Households Survey network for household data. VAM is considering using Devinfo from the UNDG for publishing data by indicators. Work is in progress. *Contact: george.muammar@wfp.org or wael.attia@wfp.org*

3. Food Security Assessments

Assessing the impact of high food prices: Despite a decrease since the summer of 2008, food prices remain significantly high compared to long-term averages. WFP continues to conduct assessments on the impact of higher prices on households' food security. The last assessments to date are:

o **Madagascar urban assessment:** *Situation de la sécurité alimentaire en milieu urbain: analyse des besoins.* Contact: sylvie.montembault@wfp.org

o **Bangladesh in-depth assessment** (urban and rural areas). It is representative nation-wide (10,400 households, 900 traders interviewed) and results can be compared to earlier surveys dating from 2000. Results show that 25% of the population is food insecure and 2 million children are malnourished. Rising prices have led to a decrease of households' purchasing power and an increase of the percentage of income spent on food. Report available soon. Contact issa.sanogo@wfp.org

[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

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: Important technical refinements are ongoing and major results should be available by June 2009. A meeting of the IPC Technical Working group took place end of April to solve some of the most pressing issues. In the last quarter, IPC analyses have been conducted in the following countries: Côte D'Ivoire, Somalia, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda. In May and June, analysis workshops will take place in DRC, Zimbabwe, Northern Sudan and a pilot in Ethiopia. Check www.ipcinfo.org. Contact: valerie.ceylon@wfp.org

4. Monitoring Food Security and prices

Madagascar / impact of the financial crisis and recent political instability: WFP and partners are currently setting up a Food Security surveillance to measure the impact of the decline of economic activities on households' food security in urban areas (several indicators underscore the severity of the recession in industry and services). The urban situation is already a source of concern. Contact: maherisoa.rakotonirainy@wfp.org

Strengthening Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS): VAM continues to work towards strengthening FSMS. A stock-taking exercise of existing practices is ongoing based on desk research and field visits (thus far undertaken in South and East Africa). This will culminate in a technical consultation workshop that will be organised in the coming months. All these activities will inform the development of guidelines, the design and development of an implementation framework and strategy. A communication strategy is also being developed. Initial guidance material including preliminary draft guidance on national institutional analysis is being developed first, in order to guide country offices in the process of setting up their FSMS, followed at a later stage by more in-depth guidelines. VAM is also exploring areas of collaboration on FSMS with a variety of stakeholders such as governments, UN agencies, NGOs, research institutions, etc. Contact: wanja.kaaria@wfp.org

Latest bulletins published:

o **Afghanistan** - *Fourth Market Price Bulletin*, March 2009. Contact: wahida.azizi@wfp.org

o **Guinea Bissau** - *Système de suivi de la sécurité alimentaire, Round d'octobre 2008*, February 2009. Contact: kaori.ura@wfp.org damieta.mendes@wfp.org

- o **Mauritania** - [Bulletin bimestriel de suivi des marchés des produits alimentaires No.1](#), January-February 2009. The bulletin outlines the price stabilisation and the cereal availability in the country. Contact: papamoussa.ndoye@wfp.org
- o **Nepal** - [Market Watch No.12 \(March 2009\)](#) and [Emergency Alert – 5](#), April 2009. The alert details the impact of the 2009 winter drought in Nepal which is pushing 2 million people into hunger. Contact: siemon.hollema@wfp.org
- o **Tajikistan** - [Food Security Bulletin No.2 \(March 2009\)](#). Contact: cedric.charpentier@wfp.org

Indonesia Food and Nutrition Surveillance System (FNSS): WFP is providing support to revitalize the Government's FNSS. The first Bulletin covering two pilot districts in the Nusa Tenggara Timur province is expected in late May 2009. The FNSS methodology and tools have been adopted by the Nusa Tenggara Barat province and implementation will start in June. Contact: thivan.hoang@wfp.org

Southern Africa: for an update of the situation check [Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update Matrix - April 23, 2009](#). Contact: eric.kenefick@wfp.org
The monthly bulletin of the Informal cross border trade monitoring system is also available. Check www.wfp.org/food-security

5. Guidelines

Launch of the 2009 edition of the World Hunger Series: The report explores the complex relationship between markets and hunger. It was prepared by the WFP Policy Department, with substantial inputs from several VAM staff. It is a reference document and presents the main concepts on why markets matter. The report also includes a compendium of data relevant for market and food security analysis. VAM officers are encouraged to consult it. [World Hunger Series 2009: Market and hunger](#). Contact: henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org

Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook (EFSA) and Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) Guidelines: The electronic versions of the second edition of the EFSA Handbook and the first edition of the CFSVA Guidelines will be available in May. The EFSA Handbook will be available in English, French and Spanish. Hard-copy printing has started, with an expected delivery date towards the end of 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 June. Contact: kathryn.ogden@wfp.org

Strengthening urban targeting guidance: WFP is conducting an analysis of current urban targeting approaches by WFP Country Offices and partners with the objective of refining current and/or designing upcoming urban targeting approaches. The analysis will be based on field studies that have taken place in Lesotho and Zambia and others planned in Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Liberia and Haiti. Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org

Cash and vouchers : VAM and the Cash and Vouchers Unit (CVU) at HQ are working together to design and strengthen analysis tools for covering information needed for cash and voucher programming. In particular, a joint programme/market assessment mission was undertaken to complement the latest Emergency Needs Assessment in Goma, DRC. Guidelines on cash and vouchers assessment and the programme decision process will be developed. Assessment tools will be revised accordingly at a later stage. Contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org (market analysis) and claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org (food security analysis).

The VAM Technical Guidance Sheets (TGS) are available on www.wfp.org/food-security/guidelines.

No. 1 - Integrating migration and displacement into EFSA's

- No. 2 - Integrating non-food responses to food insecurity into EFSAs
- No. 3 - Analysing food aid dependency and disincentive effects EFSAs
- No. 4 - Trigger criteria for an EFSAs in slow-onset crises
- No. 5 - Distinguishing between chronic and transitory food insecurity in EFSAs
- No. 6 - Initial EFSAs
- No. 7 - Area method to estimate population size and demographics in EFSAs
- No. 8 - Introduction to qualitative data and methods for collection and analysis in food security assessments
- No. 9 - Qualitative data collection and analysis for food security assessments
- No. 10 - Using the Delphi method to estimate population size and demographics in EFSAs
- No. 11 - Using the T-square sampling method to estimate population size, demographics and other characteristics in EFSAs
- No. 12 - Complementary methods and tools for EFSAs
- No. 13 - Short guide to applying the National Response Capacity Matrix
- No. 14 - Strengthening rapid food and nutrition security assessment guidance note

Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org. Most of the TGSs are also available in French. For a copy of the TGS in French and of annexes in an Excel format, contact caroline.chaumont@wfp.org

6. Capacity building activities

The activities are part of the ENCAP project (Enhanced Capacity in food security and response analysis), funded by ECHO.

Training on initial EFSA, including field simulation: A training package on how to conduct an initial EFSA after a sudden-onset emergency has been developed. The training is to be tailored to specific country contexts. HQ support and funding from the ENCAP project are available. The training was conducted for the first time in Somalia from 20-26 April. Additional training sessions are planned in Zambia (3-10 May), in Haiti (tentatively early July) and possibly in Timor Leste, Ghana and Mozambique in the coming months. Contact: aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org

Regional VAM workshop (2-6 March), Durban: This workshop conducted under the ENCAP and RAP (Response Analysis Project) umbrella brought together the VAM staff from the Central, Eastern and Southern African region and the officers in charge of RAP in all the WFP regions. An update on the latest guidance and analytical approaches for food security situation and response analysis was provided. Report available. Contact: sylvie.montembault@wfp.org

Training workshop on nutrition data management: A first training workshop took place in Dakar in March. Key nutrition data analysis packages were presented and case studies carried out for each package with explanation of their advantages and disadvantages. Materials from this workshop will be available soon along with some brief guidance on how best to use the modules. Contact: kathryn.ogden@wfp.org

Upcoming Food Security Analysis training

Southern, Eastern and Central Africa region

o **Quantitative Data Analysis:** Training for the national VAM officers of the Eastern and Central Africa (tentative dates 18-22 May). Location: Kampala. Contact: andrea.berardo@wfp.org

o **Urban assessment and programming:** It will bring VAM and Programme staff with experience in urban areas with regards to assessment, programming and monitoring systems and partners staff who have experience in this field (tentative June). Contact: mads.lofvall@wfp.org

Sudan

o **Market monitoring review and analysis workshop:** the purpose is to conduct a review of the current WFP price monitoring, its outputs and usage, and train VAM staff in analysing and interpreting market indicators. Location: Khartoum. (tentative dates: 15-25 June). Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org

7. Response analysis

Response Analysis Project (RAP): The German Government has granted a contribution of USD 942,000 to implement the Phase II of the RAP project. The Phase II strategy consists of:

- o Improving the capacity to link assessment results with existing data on vulnerability and food insecurity, and livelihood-based programme response options of WFP and partners;
- o Strengthening the collaboration and consultations in assessments and programme design between WFP Programme and Assessment staff and partners;
- o Ensuring the application of improved methods and guidance for response analysis by Country Office Assessment and Programme staff. *Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

8. Spatial analysis

Partnership with CGIAR: VAM is exploring a possible partnership with the Consultative group on International Agricultural Research - CSI (Consortium for Spatial Information) based on exchange of methodologies and data in the fields of drought modelling, market prices, poverty mapping and climate change. *Contact: george.muammar@wfp.org*

9. Climate change and risk analysis

Partnering with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI): VAM is exploring the possibility of setting up a partnership with IRI (Columbia University) in order to get support for a more comprehensive consideration of climate-related hazards in food security risk analysis. Preliminary discussion have covered climate data (availability, quality and the use of historic climate records for risk analysis), climate change (together with WFP's new climate change unit), and early warning (seasonal climate forecasts, crop monitoring and food production forecasts) and regional food security outlook forums in sub-Saharan Africa. *Contact: jan.delbaere@wfp.org*

10. Others

Gender-based inequalities from the perspective of food poverty: VAM undertook an analysis of rural gender-based inequalities from the perspective of food poverty, by using CFSVA datasets from Cameroon, Laos, Madagascar, Mauritania and Tanzania. The purpose was to understand whether factors related to rural employment status (access to land, education, production assets, etc) impact the level of poverty of female-headed households compared to male-headed households. Findings show that both types of household face the same problems, meaning that targeting should not be necessarily focused only on food insecure women. Read the paper at www.fao-ilo.org/more/workshop/papers/en/. *Contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org or ceren.gurkan@wfp.org*

Programme and VAM Global Retreat (Rome, 26 - 29 January 2009): The main objective of the meeting was to discuss WFP's new Strategic Plan (2008 – 2011) and understand the implications for VAM and programme strategies & priorities in 2009 / 2010. The report of VAM and joint discussions with Programme is available [Global Retreat VAM and Programme](#). *Contact: wanja.kaaria@wfp.org*

Inter-agency matters: VAM is contributing to the development of Terms of Reference for an inter-agency Needs Assessment Group led by OCHA. The NAG will essentially aim at improving multisectoral needs assessment in emergencies, by strengthening inter-agency processes and developing technical guidance to improve the quality and use of emergency needs assessments for decision-making. VAM is also engaged into the production of a Guide for Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) under the leadership of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Global Cluster Early Recovery Working

Group (CGERWG) chaired by UNDP. A draft of the PDNA Guide is expected by June 2009. *Contact:* agnes.dhur@wfp.org

Our website is updated daily. Check it out for more information! www.wfp.org/food-security

For a printable version of the newsletter, please check www.wfp.org/food-security/news

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

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