

The Assessor No.19 – July 2009

Welcome to the nineteenth issue!

The newsletter provides an update on food security and vulnerability analysis at WFP. This issue covers the months of June, July and August 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. Interagency collaboration
9. Spatial analysis

1. What's new?

New VAM guidelines available on-line: www.wfp.org/food-security/guidelines

o **EFSA (Emergency Food Security Assessment) handbook**: this second edition is available in English, French and Spanish. An EFSA measures the impact of a shock on the food security situation of households in the area affected by the shock.

o **CFSVA (Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis) guidelines**: this first edition provides guidance in conducting an in-depth analysis of the food security situation in a country in a non-crisis year.

o **JAM (Joint Assessment Mission) Guidelines**: a JAM assesses the needs, risks, capacities and vulnerabilities of refugees and IDPs with collaboration with UNHCR.

o **CFSAM (Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission) guidelines**: a CFSAM assess the crop and food security situation with emphasis on the supply and demand for staple foods, uncovered import requirement, and access to food.

o **Topic-specific VAM guidelines**: covering, for example, population estimates, qualitative analysis, sampling, etc.

Contact: joyce.luma@wfp.org or jan.delbaere@wfp.org. For hard copies contact: caroline.chaumont@wfp.org

Implications of the global financial crisis (GFC) for household food security: At a VAM-organized workshop on 15-17 June, food security experts and economists from WFP, partners and governments discussed findings on the impact of the GFC on the food security of vulnerable households and also explored ways to improve analyses and monitor the unfolding situation. Results showed that new groups - traditionally those non-food insecure/vulnerable and usually a support entity for the more vulnerable - are being affected and that new policies and programming strategies must be designed to support them. Enhancing monitoring and analysis of the channels through which the GFC is transmitting impacts to national economies and households is essential to mounting effective responses. Contact: joyce.luma@wfp.org or issa.sanogo@wfp.org. **Find out about the impact in five case study countries: Ghana, Nicaragua, Armenia, Zambia, Bangladesh**. Analysis is under way in Ethiopia and Tajikistan. Contact: joyce.luma@wfp.org, or issa.sanogo@wfp.org

Quarterly Price Trends Bulletin: The bulletin presents the changes in prices of staple food commodities in 56 of the most vulnerable countries and the overall cost of the food basket. The July issue is available: [Changes in Staple Food Prices in selected 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](#). Contact: claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org

3. Food security assessments

[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 (IPC):

o A two-day global workshop (Johannesburg – June) reviewed the IPC implementation to date and reached agreement on a framework for the future development of IPC in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the next few months, IPC activities are planned in Ethiopia, Central African Republic and Somalia. A regional analysis based on the Cadre Harmonisé Bonifié, the common framework for analysis that was upgraded following the IPC model, will be conducted in July in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad and Mauritania.

o On 14-15 July, a technical meeting reviewed the nutrition and mortality indicators and thresholds used in the IPC. Guidance will be reviewed on the most relevant indicators and thresholds for the IPC. This and other technical revisions of the IPC are being consolidated and will be available by end of July. Subsequently, a revised version of the IPC Technical Manual and User's Guide will be produced by end of 2009.

Visit www.ipcinfo.org. Contact: Angie.Lee@wfp.org or valerie.ceylon@wfp.org.

4. Monitoring food security and prices

Strengthening Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS): VAM continues to work towards strengthening WFP's and national Government's capacity to implement sustainable, effective and efficient FSMS.

o A stock-taking exercise of existing practices has recently being completed. The final report will be available at the end of July;

o Two consultation workshops took place recently in Rome: 1. In-house technical consultation (May 20-21) brought together a core group of VAM staff from the field and HQ to work on the initial conceptualization and way forward for the FSMS. 2. Stakeholder consultation (June 18-19), with the objective of sharing practices and harmonizing efforts towards achieving sustainable FSMS. Participants included staff from USAID, FEWSNET, ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute), IRI (research Institute for Climate and Society), ACF, Joint Research Center, FAO and WFP. Reports of both consultations will be made available. Contact: wanja.kaaria@wfp.org

Informal cross border food trade among selected countries in Southern Africa: This joint FEWS NET / WFP bulletin is issue no 51. It covers April and May 2009 and provides cumulative informal trade flows in maize, rice and beans at selected border points in the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A brief analysis of informal trade flow trends since monitoring began in 2004/05 and some key food security implications of the trends for the current 2009/10 season is also provided. *Contact: eric.kenefick@wfp.org*

Latest bulletins published:

o **Ethiopia:** [Market Watch](#), June 2009. *Contact: Elliot.Vhurumuku@wfp.org*

o **Myanmar:** [Household Food Basket Bulletin](#), May 2009. *Siddharth.Krishnaswamy@wfp.org*

o **Nepal:** [Market Watch No 14](#) and [Food Security Bulletin No.23 \(May 2009\)](#). *Contact: siemon.hollema@wfp.org*

o **Pakistan:** [Food Security Market Price Monitoring Bulletin](#), No.10, May 2009. *Contact: sahib.haq@wfp.org*

o **Southern Africa:** [Southern Africa regional Food Security Update](#), July 2009. *Contact: eric.kenefick@wfp.org*

o **Tajikistan:** [Food Security Bulletin No3 \(May 2009\)](#). *Contact: cedric.charpentier@wfp.org*

5. Guidelines

Strengthening urban targeting guidance: The study to review and systematize context-related best practices in urban targeting by WFP Country Offices and partners has concluded. The results of the study based on a desk review exercise and field studies, will be validated and completed during a technical meeting after the summer. The meeting will, against the backdrop of the study findings, contribute to the refinement of WFP urban targeting procedures. *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. Guidelines on cash and vouchers assessment and the programme decision process are being developed. *Contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org (market analysis) and claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org (food security analysis).*

6. Capacity building activities

The activities are part of the ENCAP project (Enhanced Capacity in Food Security and Response Analysis), funded by ECHO. The first phase of the project ended on June 30. A proposal has been submitted for a second phase, with similar activities.

Training on Initial EFSA: A training package on how to conduct an initial EFSA after a sudden-onset emergency has been developed. The package is to be adapted to specific country contexts. Training was carried out in Timor Leste and Haiti early July and sessions are planned in Ghana, Mozambique, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Tajikistan. *Contact: aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

Training conducted recently

o **Quantitative analysis and market assessment:** three workshops took place in Sudan, Guinea and Chad to update staff skills in SPSS and market data analysis in June and July. *Contact issa.sanogo@wfp.org*

o **Joint Assessment Mission:** training took place mid-July in Rwanda in collaboration with UNHCR for the staff of the Great Lake region. *Contact: Kathryn.ogden@wfp.org*

o **Emergency Food Security Assessment (advanced level):** advanced assessors from HQ and the field were trained in the latest EFSA approach in mid June in Rome. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

Upcoming training:

o **Basic market analysis:** for the VAM staff of the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe region. *Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org*

o **Report writing and communication:** two training sessions are planned for the VAM staff of the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa region in the second half of July. Part of the training will focus on preparing an Executive Brief presenting the key findings of an assessment. *Contact: caroline.chaumont@wfp.org*

Training material on nutrition data management: modules on different nutrition data analysis packages and how to use them are available, as well as guidance for trainers are available. To access them, check the [Learning Repository](#). *Contact: kathryn.ogden@wfp.org*

Urban assessment and programming workshop: This workshop took place in Nairobi early July. It brought together VAM and Programme staff in order to share experiences on specific challenges regarding assessment, programming and monitoring in urban settings. Report available soon. *Contact: mads.lofvall@wfp.org*

Corporate strategy for capacity building in food security analysis: A strategy and implementation plan for corporate capacity building in food security and response analysis are being developed based on a review of gaps and priorities, available training packages, and resource considerations. This exercise reflects WFP's commitment to address future food security and response analysis capacity building needs, acknowledging the progressive nature of learning processes and bearing in mind customary staff attrition and rotation. Staff in Regional Bureaus and Country Offices will be contacted as resource persons. *Contact: aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

Refining tools to measure learning events results: A simple methodology is being developed to design KATs (Knowledge Assessment Tests) and allow training facilitators to measure progress made during a training. KATs are commonly used tools and once applied they will enhance WFP's ability to report on capacity building results. *Contact: aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

7. Response analysis

Response Analysis Project (RAP): Regional workplans have been developed to roll out Phase II of the project. Phase II strategy specifically 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.

A Response Analysis exercise took place in Syria, facilitating a consultative process to validate JAM assessment findings and contribute to the design of WFP's new EMOP operation in 2010. *Contact: paula.hidalgo@wfp.org*

8. Interagency collaboration

Needs Assessment Group (NAG). The NAG was recently established by OCHA at the request of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Its main purpose is to support and improve the implementation of coordinated multi-agency, multi-sectoral assessments, particularly in the few days following a sudden-onset emergency. WFP is a member of the NAG and intends to follow-up closely the work of the group so that the experience of WFP is taken into account. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Post-Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA). The PDNA is a joint multi-agency, multi-sectoral assessment conducted shortly after a disaster, while PCNA is a similar exercise conducted after a conflict. Guidance on PDNA is being developed under the leadership of UNDP which is leading the IASC Early Recovery Working Group. WFP is contributing actively to the PDNA Guidelines to ensure that it is compatible with its approach for food security analysis. PDNA Guidelines should be finalized in the autumn 2009. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

9. Spatial analysis

VAM on-line discussion forum: A new online service will be launch very soon for discussing and sharing experiences and material on VAM issues. It will initially cover two topics only: PDA usage in assessments and VAM SIE. Each working group will have web page and a discussion forum where to write and to discuss technical matters, collaborative documents that can be edited by the group, and file upload facilities to share material with other colleagues. In a second stage new groups can be established. *Contact: george.muammar@wfp.org*

PDA Field Kit - new version: During the CFSVA training in Senegal, the PDA Field Kit has been upgraded with new functions that allow re-usability of questionnaires. It now allows questionnaires to be imported and exported from one system to another, and for questions or entire sections or subsections to be moved around within the questionnaire. The user friendliness has also been enhanced making questionnaire creation faster. *Contact: george.muammar@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*

= = = = =

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, unsubscribe by sending an email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line to: caroline.chaumont@wfp.org or wael.attia@wfp.org
