

# **The Assessor** No.20 – September 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 September and October 2009.

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## **1. What's new?**

**Urban assessments** in the spotlight... check section 2.

Work on **Strengthening Food Security Monitoring** Systems is **progressing**....check section 4.

**Funding** to build **capacity for food security** analysis is available...check section 6

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## **2. Food security assessments**

**Enhancing urban analysis:** The third Task Force meeting on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, co-hosted by FAO and WFP in Rome (7-9 September), highlighted the need to strengthen urban situation and risk analysis. It was recommended to 1) develop methodologies to collate, co-ordinate and share urban vulnerability data, 2) better factor in urbanization trends and urban quality indicators into other vulnerability analysis, 3) better monitor regional and national trends and patterns of vulnerability, and 4) develop tools and techniques to enhance hotspot mapping, and indicators and criteria to determine vulnerability thresholds. *Contact: [joyce.luma@wfp.org](mailto:joyce.luma@wfp.org)*

**Urban assessment and programming workshop (Nairobi, July 09):** This workshop 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](mailto:mads.lofvall@wfp.org)*

An urban assessment is planned for October in Kenya. *Contact: [joao.manja@wfp.org](mailto:joao.manja@wfp.org)*

**Understanding the impact of shocks:** VAM and the FAO Global Information and Early Warning (GIEWS) are undertaking a joint project to develop a modeling system to profile population groups (in both urban and rural areas) that are vulnerable to various shocks based on secondary data analysis. The project focuses first on five selected low-income and food-deficit countries (Bangladesh,

Pakistan, Nepal, Malawi and Burkina Faso). This advance information will guide decision-making during the early phases of crises and help focus assessments on the most affected places and groups. Contact [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org) or [Cheng.Fang@fao.org](mailto:Cheng.Fang@fao.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](#)

Please send updates to [wael.attia@wfp.org](mailto:wael.attia@wfp.org)

#### **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC):**

- o **Regional Technical Workshop for Central and Eastern Africa** (6-9 October): The purpose is to develop a regional 'Food Security and Nutrition Situation Analysis' using the IPC approach and building on the unique data collection and institutional settings in each country.

- o **IPC pilot in Tajikistan** (August 2009). Consultations were organised to adapt the IPC methodology to the context and needs of the country and to conduct the analysis both at national and sub national levels. The analysis templates, updated IPC map, lessons-learned report and executive brief will be available in the coming weeks.

- o Three **Cadre Harmonisé Bonifié (CHB)** pilot exercises (the IPC equivalent/alternative in CILSS countries in West Africa), were conducted in Niger, Senegal and Mauritania in the last weeks. The analytical report is available and the exercise will be presented to other countries in the CILSS region with the aim of rolling out the use of the CHB.

Visit [www.ipcinfo.org](http://www.ipcinfo.org). Contact: [Angie.Lee@wfp.org](mailto:Angie.Lee@wfp.org)

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### **3. Monitoring food security and prices**

**Strengthening Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS):** At a stakeholder consultation last June, WFP, Donors, Governments, research institutions and collaborating agencies agreed on a key set of indicators for food security monitoring. [Stakeholder Consultations report](#). In 2009-2010, technical support will be provided to the following countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Cuba, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda, and Zambia. Work has also begun to develop technical guidance. The report of the [FSMS Stock taking](#) of existing practices is now available. Contact: [wanja.kaaria@wfp.org](mailto:wanja.kaaria@wfp.org)

**Global Food Security Update:** A template is being developed to synthesize food security information from country offices and regional bureaux into a global update to be released on a regular basis. Contact: [wanja.kaaria@wfp.org](mailto:wanja.kaaria@wfp.org)

#### **Latest bulletins published:**

- o **Darfur:** The next issue of the three Darfur (South, West and North) Food Security Monitoring Bulletins will come out next week. Check [wfp.org/food-security](http://wfp.org/food-security). The FSMS was launched in early 2009 and provide quarterly in-depth information on food security, market situation, agriculture, households' income sources and expenditure, food consumption and sources of food, coping strategies and nutrition (MUAC). Contact: [yvonne.forsen@wfp.org](mailto:yvonne.forsen@wfp.org)

- o **Ethiopia:** [Food Security Update](#), August 2009. Contact: [elliot.vhurumuku@wfp.org](mailto:elliot.vhurumuku@wfp.org)

- o **Nepal:** [Food Security Bulletin No.24](#), August 2009. Contact: [siemon.hollema@wfp.org](mailto:siemon.hollema@wfp.org)

- o **Southern Africa:** [Regional Food Security Update](#), September 2009. Contact: [eric.kenefick@wfp.org](mailto:eric.kenefick@wfp.org)

- o **Tajikistan:** [Food Security Bulletin](#), September 2009 - [Annexes](#). Contact: [cedric.charpentier@wfp.org](mailto:cedric.charpentier@wfp.org)

[Quarterly Price Trends Bulletin](#), July 2009: The bulletin presents the changes in prices of staple food commodities in 56 of the most vulnerable countries. The next bulletin is in preparation. *Contact: [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org)*

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#### **4. Pre-crisis baseline studies**

[List of completed, ongoing and upcoming Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses \(CFSVA\) for 2009.](#)

*Contact: [claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org](mailto:claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org) or [chiara.brunelli@wfp.org](mailto:chiara.brunelli@wfp.org)*

**CFSVA Database:** a database to store all the CFSVA primary data collected is being set up. The database will allow for better coordination and prevent loss of data by working on multiple datasets.

*Contact: [george.muammar@wfp.org](mailto:george.muammar@wfp.org)*

**CFSVA Data available soon on WFP /VAM website:** the project to make the data of CFSVA easily searchable and publicly accessible by posting it on the WFP/VAM website is moving forward. The pilot project focusing first on 10 CFSVA datasets is near completion. The public launch is scheduled for November. This project is conducted with the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) whose mission is to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of survey data to encourage their use by the international development community. *Contact: [george.muammar@wfp.org](mailto:george.muammar@wfp.org) or [amit.wadhwa@wfp.org](mailto:amit.wadhwa@wfp.org)*

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#### **5. Guidelines**

**Market analysis technical guidance sheets (TGS):** VAM is preparing three new TGS on how to conduct a trader's survey, on net buyers/net sellers status and on value chain analysis. The guidance on trader's survey is completed and will be posted soon. All TGS related to market and price analysis are available at [www.wfp.org/food-security/guidelines](http://www.wfp.org/food-security/guidelines). Use the search tool at the bottom of the page. *Contact: [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org)*

**REMINDER:** new VAM guidelines available on-line: [www.wfp.org/food-security/guidelines](http://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 in 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.

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## 6. Capacity building activities

### **Enhanced Capacity in Food Security and Response Analysis.**

o The first phase of the ENCAP project funded by ECHO ended in September. Under Phase I, 15 workshops covering a wide range of skills necessary to conduct assessments (market analysis, qualitative and quantitative analysis, report writing, nutrition data management, etc), took place, training 226 people, of which 53 were from partner organizations. In addition, over twenty people benefited from on-the-job training.

o A second, multi-donor phase has started, with approved contributions from Germany and ECHO. Donors interested in food security analysis and capacity building activities are encouraged to approach VAM as the project is only 75% funded. Regional bureaux can contact HQ to discuss capacity building priorities and present their proposals. *Contact: alexis.hoskins@wfp.org and aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

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## 7. Response analysis

**Response Analysis Project (RAP):** Phase II of the project whose purpose is to strengthen the link between assessment findings and programming is ongoing. A stock-taking and lessons learning workshop is tentatively scheduled in late October/early November, in consultation with field and HQ focal points. *Contact: alexis.hoskins@wfp.org*

**Desk review of Assessment-programme links:** A review of the WFP assessments' recommendations and related project documents is ongoing to examine the links between the two. It is a follow up to a similar exercise conducted two years ago. *Contact: aurelie.larmoyer@wfp.org*

**Assessment to inform interventions in pastoralist areas in Ethiopia:** A joint mission OMXD (programmes), OMEP (preparedness) and OMXF (food security analysis) will take place early October to analyse needs and support the development of WFP pastoral programmes in Ethiopia. The mission should identify key elements to be included in pastoral assessments to support programming decisions, for use by WFP and partners, possibly within and outside of Ethiopia. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

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## 8. Interagency collaboration

**Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF):** The NATF was recently established at the request of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and is co-chaired by OCHA and IFRC. Its main purpose is to support and improve the implementation of coordinated multi-agency, multi-sectoral assessments in emergencies. WFP actively participates in the NATF to share its expertise. The workplan of the Task Force has four components: guidance, capacity building and information management, fund-raising and communication. The Task Force meets once a month face-to-face and through teleconference. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org*

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## 9. Spatial analysis

**VAM on-line discussion forum, focus on PDAs:** A new online service has been launched for discussing and sharing experiences and material on VAM issues. Initially it is covering the usage of PDAs in assessments. Users can download software, training and advocacy material and participate in discussion forums and blogs. Spatial Analysis and VAM SIE will be the next topics to be covered. The address is <http://vam.wfp.org/groups>. All VAM staff have already received a username and password for access. *Contact: george.muammar@wfp.org*

**Global Monitoring for Food Security** ([www.gmfs.info](http://www.gmfs.info)): VAM is renewing its agreement with GMFS to obtain satellite data and analysis on vegetation, in particular the NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) including areas of anomalies in vegetation health on a 10 day basis. *Contact: [george.muammar@wfp.org](mailto:george.muammar@wfp.org)*

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## 10. Staff news

**Alexis Hoskins** has recently joined the HQ Food Security Analysis service (OMXF), as Programme Officer, Capacity Building. She will head a small team which supports training, lessons learning and improved partnerships on food security situation and response analysis. Alexis rejoined WFP after an 18 month assignment in OCHA, where she led a review of assessment initiatives and helped launch the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF). Previously, she worked for nine years in WFP's needs assessment and policy services, including three years (2005-2007), as part of the team implementing the SENAC (Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity) project.

**Ifeanyi Nwike** joined the OMXF team early September from South Sudan where he has been working on programmes. Ifeanyi, an Ag-Economist by background, has a long record working with WFP in RBM, M&E and Programme, especially in Sudan and the former ODK region. He is bringing that experience to support OMXF and will be contributing to the work of the market analysis team.

**Caroline Chaumont** is leaving the OMXF service in October after three years as communications officer. Her replacement is expected in October.

**Sabine Bongi** has left the HQ VAM team where she worked on CFSVAs and is now working in the Policy division on the Disaster Risk Solutions project.

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## 11. Others

The HQ Food Security Analysis Service (OMXF) is setting up a **donor consultative forum** to keep donors regularly informed on WFP's food security analysis initiatives, progress and challenges and jointly discuss activities. A first meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. *Contact: [joyce.luma@wfp.org](mailto:joyce.luma@wfp.org)*

**Contribution to IFRC World Disaster Report:** OMXF will contribute to the 2010 issue. This contribution will deal with livelihood and food security in urban areas and WFP responses. Summaries of such interventions stating the activities and when they were carried out or if ongoing as well as the results are welcome. *Contact: [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org)*

OMXF will go on a **retreat** to discuss 2010-2011 priorities on 30 September 2009. The conclusions will feed into the Programme Design and Support Division (OMX) retreat scheduled on 5-6 October. *Contact: [joyce.luma@wfp.org](mailto:joyce.luma@wfp.org)*

**Climate change and food security:** At the 3d World Climate Conference in Geneva (31st August-4th September), a working session addressed climate change and food security. The session focused on how climate variability alters the landscape for food production and availability and ways to improve climate services for use in sustainable land management. A presentation by OMXF also highlighted the dimension of access to food and utilisation. *Contact: [jan.delbaere@wfp.org](mailto:jan.delbaere@wfp.org)*

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For questions, comments and suggestions *contact: [caroline.chaumont@wfp.org](mailto:caroline.chaumont@wfp.org)*

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