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Welcome to the **thirty-first issue** of the Assessor, the WFP Food Security Analysis newsletter, covering the months of **November and December 2011**.

1. WHAT'S NEW

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LATEST REPORTS AVAILABLE ON THE WFP FOOD SECURITY WEBPAGE (click on the title to access the report)

Afghanistan - Drought impact Emergency Food Security Assessment, November 2011
Afghanistan - Market Price Bulletin, December 2011
Bangladesh - Food Security Bulletin: No. 6, July - September 2011
Benin - Système d'information sur les marchés, Bulletin Mensuel No. 26, Octobre 2011
Cambodia - Food Price and Wage Bulletin: No. 32, October 2011
Chad - Bulletin mensuel des prix: No. 4, Août 2011
China - Analysis on Food Security and Vulnerability in Six Counties in Rural China, 2011
Côte d'Ivoire - Note mensuelle sur l'évolution des prix, Octobre 2011
Côte d'Ivoire - Rapid Food Security Assessment in the West of Côte d'Ivoire, August 2011
République de Centre Afrique - Analyse du fonctionnement des marchés en relation avec la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, November 2011
Republique de Centre Afrique - Evaluation rapide de la sécurité alimentaire en situation d'urgence, September 2011
République Démocratique du Congo - Bulletin trimestriel d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire, October 2011
République Démocratique du Congo - Résultats de l'enquête approfondie sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages dans la province du Kasaï Oriental, Octobre 2011
République Démocratique du Congo - Résultats de l'enquête approfondie sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages dans la province du Kasaï Occidental, Octobre 2011
République Démocratique du Congo - Résultats de l'enquête approfondie sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages déplacés, retournés et les ménages hôtes de la province orientale, Septembre 2011
DPRK - FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, November 2011
Egypt - Food Observatory: Issue No.1, September 2011
Ethiopia - Monthly Market Watch, November 2011
Ethiopia - Cross Border Trade, October 2011
The Gambia - Food Security and Market Information Bulletin, November 2011
Liberia - Market Price Monitor: No. 21, October 2011
Mauritania - Note d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire, October 2011
Myanmar - Quarterly Market and Food Price Update: Quarter 3, October 2011
Nepal - Market Watch: No. 35, November 2011
Niger - Albichir: Analyse approfondie des marchés et de la sécurité alimentaire: No. 23, Septembre 2011
Sao Tome and Principe - Market and Food Security Profile, November 2011
South Sudan - Food Security Monitoring System: Round 5, October 2011
Sri Lanka - A Food Security Assessment Report, April 2011
Tajikistan - Market Price Bulletin, November 2011
Togo - Mission d'évaluation conjointe HCR-PAM des besoins des réfugiés Ivoiriens à Lomé, Octobre 2011
West Africa and the Sahel - Food Security and Humanitarian Implications, September 2011

[CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST CFSVA REPORTS AVAILABLE](#)

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[Click here](#) for a **List of completed, ongoing and upcoming Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses (CFSVA) for 2010 and 2011.**

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2. FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

a. Baseline studies

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)

The CFSVAs for **Cameroon, Madagascar and Senegal** are released. The reports for **Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Kenya** (urban), **Moldova** and **Nepal** are under preparation. Data collection is underway in **Yemen**. Analysis has started in **Malawi** and will soon start in **Uganda**.

Preparatory work is on-going for **Ghana** and **Tanzania**, while funding is sought for CFSVA in **Rwanda**, planned for February-March 2012.

Other baseline studies

Haiti conducted a National Food Security Survey in May 2011, followed by a crop forecasting exercise in June. The resulting Food Security and Vulnerability map is being updated in collaboration with the National Commission for Food and Nutrition Security (CNSA), WFP and partners. Time-bound risk maps will also be developed.

b. Emergency food security assessments

Initial emergency assessments were conducted during October and November 2011 in **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua** to assess the impact of the floods caused by Tropical Depression 12E on the food security of affected households. Follow-up assessments are underway in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Afghanistan The drought impact assessment has been finalised. The EFSA team is looking at analysing further the consumption related data.

The **Pakistan** 2011 Cluster Assessment report and the EFSA reports for **Tunisia** and **Kyrgyzstan** are under finalization. A flood impact assessment is being prepared for **Cambodia**.

WFP is also closely monitoring the food security situation in **the Sahel region**, where food security analysis and emergency preparedness experts are working together on scenario building and analysis.

Somalia The findings of the Danish Refugee Council/WFP Food Security and Nutrition Assessment and the Mogadishu Rapid Assessment were presented in Nairobi and Mogadishu in December. Reports are being finalized.

Uganda Data collection for the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment in the Acholi Region has been completed and the report is expected to be released in January-February 2012.

c. Monitoring food security and prices

Guinea Bissau The first round of the FSMS data collection is completed from about forty sentinel sites in eight regions of the country. Smartphones and SMS-based technology were used to collect data on food security at household and community levels. These tools will be used in the upcoming months for food security monitoring in other countries as well, starting with Senegal.

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Click here for the latest **Market Monitor**

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WFP **El Salvador**, in collaboration with Mesoamerica Famine Early Warning System (MFEWS), is cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock through the National Centre for Agricultural and Forestry Technology (CENTA) to strengthen its capacity to monitor crop production, including data collection and management, analysis and preparation of monitoring reports.

Jordan The government has requested second round of data collection for the FSMS. Government experts will be trained by WFP on the analysis of food security indicators.

The market assessment conducted in **Mauritania** during late November-early December is being finalized. Another market assessment scheduled for eastern Chad in January 2012.

Market Monitor Issue no. 14 covering 4th quarter 2011 will be released in January 2012. This bulletin is based on the analysis of staple food price data collected by more than 60 WFP Country Offices.

In September, the first bulletin of the Food Monitoring and Evaluation System was published in **Egypt**. The bulletin is the result of a successful partnership between the Egyptian Government Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) and WFP Egypt Country Office. It monitors the cost of main food commodities, analyses prices variations between rural and urban areas, and tracks households food security situation and coping strategies.

Occupied Palestinian territory Field work for two case studies on impacts of cash-based interventions (vouchers and cash for work) on markets started in October 2011. These studies aim to identify the most relevant indicators and methods for assessing the short-term impacts of cash-based interventions and other transfer modalities. This initiative is funded by a French Trust Fund.

d. Joint assessments

Joint Assessment Missions (JAM)

A JAM was concluded in December in **Uganda** and the report will be released in January 2012.

A Rapid Food Security Assessment is currently underway in the Refugees camps of Dolo Ado in **Ethiopia** in cooperation with UNHCR and ARRA (Government of Ethiopia).

FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM)

In November, a CFSAM was conducted in **Ethiopia** to estimate the 2011 crop production for the main *Meher* season. The CFSAM will provide an analysis of household food security and an estimate of the number of food insecure people in the country and of the food assistance requirements for 2011/12.

A CFSAM was conducted in **South Sudan** during October-November to assess crop production, general food and economic situation and identify key factors that will affect food supply and demand as well as household food security for the coming year of 2012. The final report is expected to be released by mid-January.

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CLICK HERE to download the new TGSs

TGS are available in English and French. Spanish versions will be available early 2012.

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Other joint assessments

Tanzania The Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, led by the Government of Tanzania with support from partners including WFP, World Vision and CARE, was carried out in 60 most drought-affected districts in August-September. The report is being finalized.

In **Ethiopia**, the 2011 *Meher* multi-partners emergency needs assessment, led by the Government of Ethiopia, is being completed. The final report is expected in January 2012.

Food Security assessments are underway in **Chad**, in collaboration with the government and FAO and in **Mali**, with the Government and NGOs. Results of the assessments carried out in **Niger** – with Government and FAO – and in **Mauritania** are expected now.

3. RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Bolivia The Government is working closely with WFP to develop a Food Security and Monitoring Observatory following the issuance of new laws and policies impacting food security. A consultation workshop was held to present the findings of the Secondary Data Analysis carried out in October. The secondary review will also feed into the Country Strategy that is currently being developed for the country.

A Response Analysis workshop is scheduled for 10-11 January 2012 in **Mauritania**. Similar workshops are planned for other Sahel countries.

4. GUIDELINES

As part of the overall project aimed at strengthening national food security monitoring systems, WFP has released the first two **Food Security Monitoring Technical Guidance Sheets**: *Technical Guidance Sheet #1: Reporting Structure and Content* and *Technical Guidance Sheet 2: Indicators Compendium*.

Two other guidance sheets on survey methodology and on the implementation of a national FSMS are being prepared.

A **Market Analysis Framework (MAF)** is now also available. It provides an overview of various market analysis tools and helps understand the links between market and food security analysis and select the appropriate tool according to the context, objectives and information requirements.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

Measuring food security using household budget surveys

A training workshop for VAM officers undertaking CFSVAs based on national household budget and living standard measurement surveys was organized from 5th-9th December 2011 in Rome. The training covered several statistical techniques to derive and analyse food security indicators.

A **Trader Survey Training** was held in Kampala, **Uganda** from 5th-10th December, 2011. The training was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The objective of this training was to enhance the capacity of WFP and partner staff to conduct trader surveys to support food security analysis and decision making.

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Please contact us if you want to suggest any content for inclusion in the VAM resource centre.

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Training on Price and Volume Monitoring at cross border points was held for border trade enumerators in **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania** from 28th November to 2nd December 2011. The training was funded by the French Trust Fund. The objective of the training was to review the existing data collection methods for cross border monitoring in order to also capture wholesale and retail prices and volumes in the markets of border towns.

A market workshop took place mid-December 2011 in **Central African Republic** looking at methodologies and adaptation of Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) tool for the Sahel region.

EFSA E-Learning Training An Emergency Food Security Analysis e-learning package will be launched now, available for all WFP staff and interested stakeholders. It provides a description of the methods, processes and expected outputs of emergency food security assessment.

A **VAM resource centre** featuring a comprehensive screencast library is under preparation to be launched in March 2012. Through instructional recordings of on-screen activity, software training – focussed on all levels of food security data analysis– will become immediately available via streaming. Tutorial content spans from data-cleaning and management, to the construction and interpretation of different food security indicators including Food Consumption Score (FCS), Coping Strategies Index (CSI), and kilocalorie estimates from Household Budget Surveys.

The centre will also offer technical guidelines, downloadable syntax and other useful information for those undertaking food security assessments.

6. INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

The **FAO/WFP Joint Strategy on Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security (ISFNS)** was presented to the FAO Programme Committee in October and shared with the WFP Executive Board in November. This is the first strategy ever developed jointly by the two organizations and will be implemented over the period 2012-2017. The strategy calls for increased cooperation among FAO, WFP and partners to strengthen food security information systems at national and regional levels, through joint work in capacity development; monitoring and assessments; standards methods and tools; statistics, information and analyses; communications and advocacy.

Integrated Phase Classification

In November, the Version 2.0 of the IPC Manual was endorsed by the IPC Steering Committee. The IPC Global Support Unit organized several trainings on new IPC version 2.0 in Eastern Africa with the support of the FAO Sub-Regional Emergency Office for Eastern & Central Africa. Practitioners from Kenya and Somalia with experience in using Version 1.1 attended the trainings, which represent the first stage of the IPC Facilitator Certification.

IASC Needs Assessment Task Force IASC-WG endorsed NATF Operational Guidance and provisional MIRA (Multi-Sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment) technical guidance. WFP will be part of small team developing roll-out action plan for MIRA during 2012.

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Measuring food insecurity

Several methods are used to ascertain whether a household is food secure or food insecure. Sometimes the application of different methods to the same problem results in different answers which can be problematic. Professor Diego Rose from Tulane University will be looking at this issue over the next six months to be able to explain the differences in methodologies and also to help standardise some of this work.

Basic food security research and validation

Validation of the food consumption score as a key food security indicator is currently underway in Nepal, Malawi and several countries of Latin America.

Several papers are being prepared for two major conferences on measuring food insecurity (International Scientific Symposium on Food & Nutrition Security Information – January 2012; and the 8th International Conference on Diet and Activity Methods – May 2012). The papers prepared by WFP will focus on: validation of dietary diversity indicators using LSMS datasets; drivers of undernourishment; and household food consumption.

Impact of price volatility and shocks on households' food security

The Food Security Analysis Service working with several academic institutions to study the impacts of food price volatility on households' food security. Concept notes are being developed with the University of Birmingham, the University of Amsterdam (SOW) and the University of Auvergne.

The **joint FAO/WFP modelling of the impacts of shocks** (including prices) is in progress. The case studies of Pakistan and Bangladesh are finalized. The shock impact modelling project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Irish Government.

8. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The new **VAM Staple Food Prices Data Store** is now available **online**. By facilitating the sharing of WFP-originated price information the VAM Data Store provides a user-friendly tool for analysing the effects of price dynamics on vulnerable households. Currently, it provides information for key staple food commodities in 527 markets across 43 countries worldwide.

A **new tool for mobile data collection** is being developed. The tool will be based on open source software and will run on Android phones and tablets. Data will be transmitted by SMS text messaging or mobile internet. The database can be hosted at country, regional or HQ level. It will also feature a web-based system for data entry and reporting. The first part of the system will be ready by mid-2012.

ODXF has procured 10 SPSS (v.20) network licenses that can be used by WFP VAM globally as back-up support, for example when conducting a CFSVA.

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NEXT ISSUE WILL BE RELEASED IN FEBRUARY 2012

Access to **food security information on WFP corporate website** has been recently changed. Users can now get more rapidly to the food security section either through the corporate homepage (www.wfp.org/food-security) or through the newly created *Hunger Info* section in each country page. Search functions and report presentation have also been enhanced.

9. STAFF NEWS

Susana Moreno has joined the EFSA team to continue operational research on nutrition indicators in EFSA's.

Sylvie Montembault will leave WFP to take up a new assignment with ECHO in January 2012.

Birute Pocius, senior administrative assistant retired in December 2011.

Noemi Di Marcello has joined ODXF as an administrative assistant.

Noriko Takahashi and **Amy Chong have** joined as interns in the Market and the GIS teams respectively.

10. OTHER

The **third consultative group meeting on food security analysis** took place on 5th December 2011 in Rome. The main objective of the meeting was for FAO and WFP to present the joint ISFNS strategy to donors and partners to get their feedback on the strategy itself and its implementation plan. The note for the record will be released shortly.

