



the assessor

Issue 35
November - February 2013

Welcome to
Issue 35 of the
Assessor, WFP's
Food Security
Analysis quarterly
E-Newsletter!

What's new

- Resilience Measurement—Expert consultation in Rome on February 19-21, 2013
- Household Food Consumption Score - a new perspective
- The VAM Resource Center now available!— A collection of video tutorials, user forums and useful tools for conducting food security assessments
- The Global Food Security Update latest issue available
- The Market Monitor latest issue available
- Changes in the global VAM team



vam
food security analysis



Recently posted on wfp.org

[Philippines - Monthly Price and Food Security Update, January 2013](#)

[Jordan - Food Insecure and Vulnerable People, December 2012](#)

[Sudan - Food Security Update, December 2012](#)

[Senegal - Bulletin sur l'évolution des prix: No.14, Décembre 2012](#)

[West Africa and the Sahel - Food Security and Humanitarian Implications, December 2012 - January 2013 \[French\]](#)

[Tajikistan - Market Price Bulletin, January 2013](#)

[Jordan - Food Insecure and Vulnerable People, December 2012](#)

Resilience Measurement – Building a broader community of practice

In a food security context, resilience is defined as “the ability of a household to maintain a certain level of well-being (i.e. being food secure) by withstanding shocks and stresses”. This depends on available livelihood options and on how well households are able to handle risks.

Methods and tools are needed to measure resilience outcomes at household, community and national levels. Importantly for policy, programming and resource procurement, the development of robust measures of resilience to food insecurity will also enable evaluation of the effectiveness of various initiatives specifically aimed at enhancing resilience to food security shocks. Collectively there are a number of measurement models that are being proposed by agencies working to address these measurement challenges. Particularly, WFP has been doing trends analysis in Niger to measure resilience and together with FAO, the service has been working on a shock impact simulation model that has been tested in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Tajikistan.

To move the measurement of resilience agenda forward, FAO and WFP held an Expert Consultation in Rome on February 19-21. The objective was to discuss the latest work that has been carried out in the measurement of resilience. Researchers and practitioners from the agencies involved were invited to present their work followed by an open discussion on similarities and differences between approaches. A second meeting will be held after this consultation to present the key findings to a broader audience.

Household Food Consumption Score – a new perspective

To measure food access, WFP developed the food consumption score which is **extensively used in WFP’s baseline, monitoring and emergencies assessments. It is a frequency weighted diversity score that classifies households into poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption groups.** WFP wishes to extend its use to better understand the nutrient deficits of household members with particular focus on Vitamin A and iron. Outputs from this innovative analysis will help select the appropriate food transfer modalities – **in-kind food, cash transfers or food vouchers.** **WFP VAM will be presenting “Household food consumption score – A new perspective” at the Hidden Hunger International Congress** organised by the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart on 6-9 March 2013. For more information, please contact [Kate Ogden](#).

Emergency Assessments*

Syria Crisis: In December 2012, WFP declared Syria and the sub-region as a Level 3 Corporate Emergency due to the consequences of the protracted conflict in Syria. Several million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance, over 1.2 Million are displaced within the Country and there are about 550 000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. Refugees have concentrated in camps and urban areas with small numbers taking refuge in rural areas. In the case of Turkey, all refugees are in camps while in Egypt all have taken residences in urban areas. The Food Security Analysis Service is providing support to both the regional operations based in Amman, to the regional bureaux in Cairo and to the Syria country office. Plans are underway with OCHA to carry out a multi-sector coordinated assessments and a Joint Rapid Food Security Assessment was carried out in December. The key findings will be available in February.





Staff news



Francesco Slaviero is taking up a field assignment in Madagascar

Marie Enlund, a JPO from Finland, has joined the FSMS unit from October 2012 as food security analyst

Central African Republic: security and access permitting, an inter-agency assessment is currently underway to assess the needs of the populations affected by the current political crisis.

Djibouti: The October-November [urban EFSA](#) highlighted that 18.1% of households (32,500 individuals) living in the urban districts in the capital of Djibouti are food insecure and registers a very low daily energetic intake of 1,490 Kcal per person compared to the recommended 2,100 Kcal and will need humanitarian assistance through the July-September 2013 lean season. In October 2012, an evaluation of the urban Cash&Voucher (C&V) pilot project was conducted through a grant from the German Quality Improvement Grant. This study indicated the relevance of a scaling up of C&V activities in Djibouti during the lean season - based on the needs as recognized by the urban assessment. Vouchers were identified as the most efficient modality for assisting vulnerable urban households in Djibouti.

DRC: An EFSA was conducted by WFP, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture in October 2012 in South Kivu, showing that almost one million people (18%) are affected by severe food insecurity resulting from recent instability in the region.

Haiti: [a post-Sandy EFSA](#) was carried out in Haiti following a call from the Haiti government to provide support to affected families to mitigate the deterioration of their food security and nutrition status. **Key findings:** In terms of impact on food security, the cumulative effects of shocks have led to a sharp increase in the number of food insecure households (moderate and severe) compared to the situation in 2011. The report (in French) is available [online](#).

Paraguay: An in-depth EFSA was carried out in collaboration with the Government and Plan International in October 2012 in Paraguay to assess the impact on household food security of heavy floods which had occurred during the first part of 2012. A total of 10,284 families were affected by this phenomenon. The assessment results are based on a representative sample of 612 households in 35 indigenous communities taken among these households. The results reveal a serious deterioration of the household food security situation in the departments of Presidente Hayes, Boqueron and Alto Paraguay.

Guatemala: An EFSA was carried out in December 2012 to assess the impact of a prolonged drought period in Guatemala, which affected traditional and non-traditional dry corridor departments, including El Progreso, Zacapa, Jutiapa, Jalapa, Chiquimula, Santa Rosa, Baja Verapaz, Quiché, Sololá, Totonicapán and Huehuetenango. The preliminary findings of the assessment show that 81 percent of the interviewed households depend on agriculture (subsistence agriculture or agricultural wage labourers) as their first livelihood source. The assessment confirms a crop loss of at least 58 percent of maize cultivated during the first agricultural cycle and reveals that 78 percent of the affected population has insufficient resources for ensuring their basic food needs.

**Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) are undertaken following a disaster or a shock. It covers affected geography areas to determine the impact on households and their livelihoods and to provide response recommendations on food and non-food assistance options. It serves as the basis for the design of relief and recovery operations as it identifies the number of people in need and the appropriate type and duration of assistance.*

Baseline Studies*

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis* (CFSVA) using Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) data in Malawi has been published in October 2012 and is available [online](#). This CFSVA is the product of a joint-analysis between WFP and the Malawi National Statistics Office. The report states that the food supply situation in Malawi is extremely precarious. An earlier dry spell with an impact on crops, subsequent floods, spiraling food and fuel prices, all in combination, have created a perfect storm for severe food insecurity.

Other LSMS derived CFSVAs have been completed in Uganda, Tanzania, and Nigeria and the reports will be published by February. A CFSVA in Ethiopia which has been conducted in cooperation with the Central Statistics Agency is nearly complete with the



Contact us

Headquarters Team

Management:

Joyce Luma, John McHarris
Emergency assessments/
JAM:

Kathryn Ogden, Rossella
Bottone

Baseline studies/CFSVA:
Amit Wadhwa, Astrid
Mathiassen

Market analysis:

Issa Sanogo

Food security monitoring:
Jean-Martin Bauer, Claudia
Ahpoe

GIS/remote sensing:
Rogerio Bonifacio, George
Muammar

Capacity development/
IPC:

Alexis Hoskins

Information Management
Wael Attia

Communication:

Véronique De Schutter

Regional Advisers

Asia:

Siemon Hollema, Elliot
Vhurumuku

Middle East, North Africa,
Eastern Europe and
Central Asia:

Asif Niazi

Western Africa:

Naouar Labidi, Cedric
Charpentier

Easter Africa:

Simon Dradri

Southern Africa:

Joao Manja

Latin America and the
Caribbean:

Margaretha Barkhof

report expected by March. This will be the first CFSVA in Ethiopia and is based upon an existing surveys on household income, expenditure and consumption as well as a welfare monitoring survey which has core WFP modules included on food consumption, shocks and coping.

Furthermore, a CFSVA was conducted in late 2012 in Rwanda in cooperation with the National Statistics Institute of Rwanda (NISR) and the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). The findings show that chronic malnutrition among children **under five years of age is extremely high and is now among WFP's key priorities.**

Furthermore, food consumption has not significantly improved since the previous CFSVA in 2009.

The South Sudan report on Food Security and Nutrition is available [online](#). It states that the food security situation in South Sudan requires sustained attention to not only foster longer term improvements, but to mitigate the potential for wide spread critical levels of hunger.

** Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), also referred to as pre-crisis baseline study, provides an in-depth picture of the food security situation during a non-crisis year (normal times). It is used as a benchmark against which to measure change after crisis, and also inform contingency planning and preparedness.*

Market Analysis

Field Market Assessments

Burkina Faso WFP has undertaken a study on market opportunities for Farmer Organizations (FO) in Burkina Faso beyond the Purchase for Progress (P4P) project. The preliminary results suggest a need for Farmer Organizations to strengthen business ties with traders and SONAGESS (the National Food Reserve Agency). The draft report has been shared with P4P partners for feedback.

Ethiopia A market assessment was undertaken in Ethiopia and the results were released in January 2013. The study, covering the regions of Amhara, Somali and Tigray, consist of an analysis of market integration in Ethiopia as well as an assessment of trader capacity to **respond to increases in food demand. Findings are expected to inform WFP's** implementation of cash transfers in the country. The report is available [online](#).

Market Analysis Tools

A comparative review of market assessment approaches (WFP trader surveys, EMMA and MIFIRA) that was commissioned by WFP has been finalized. The review examined the strengths and opportunities for each approach in identifying appropriate transfer modalities (food, cash or vouchers). The findings will be shared with partners at a learning event organized by OXFAM GB on the role of markets in humanitarian programming in March 2013.

WFP Price Monitoring Database

Since 2008, the VAM Unit of the World Food Programme has been gathering market prices for most consumed staples to strengthen food security analysis and support programmes. The data covers about 70 countries, more than 1000 markets and 200 commodities. In addition to secondary sources, the price database benefits from data collected by WFP country offices in most food insecure areas. Besides its use for internal WFP operational needs (cash, voucher and local procurement interventions), it also serves as a source of information to aid professionals, scholars, students and anyone interested in food security, and specifically in staple food price dynamics. The data can be accessed at <http://foodprices.vam.wfp.org/>

WFP Market Monitor – October-December 2012 released

The October-December 2012 WFP Market Monitor bulletin has just been released and is available [online](#). The bulletin examines trends and impacts of staple food prices in vulnerable countries. This issue contains special focus on recent price dynamics in [Syria](#) and [Mali](#) as well as a brief case study on the impacts of the global summer drought on Kyrgyzstan.



Contact us

Headquarters Team

Management:

Joyce Luma, John McHarris
Emergency assessments/
JAM:

Kathryn Ogden, Rossella
Bottone

Baseline studies/CFSVA:

Amit Wadhwa, Astrid
Mathiassen

Market analysis:

Issa Sanogo

Food security monitoring:
Jean-Martin Bauer, Claudia
Ahpoe

GIS/remote sensing:

Rogério Bonifacio, George
Muammar

Capacity development/
IPC:

Alexis Hoskins

Information Management
Wael Attia

Communication:

Véronique De Schutter

Regional Advisers

Asia:

Siemon Hollema, Elliot
Vhurumuku

Middle East, North Africa,
Eastern Europe and

Central Asia:

Asif Niazi

Western Africa:

Naouar Labidi, Cedric
Charpentier

Easter Africa:

Simon Dradri

Southern Africa:

Joao Manja

Latin America and the
Caribbean:

Margaretha Barkhof

Interagency Work

Joint Assessment Missions (JAM)*

Syria Crisis: Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) in collaboration with UNHCR are taking place in Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon to assess the food security and nutrition situation of refugees from Syria in the first quarter of 2013.

JAMs were completed in **Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Gambia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Bangladesh** in last quarter 2012. The reports will be available shortly.

The “practical guide to planning and implementation of Joint Assessment Missions” will be disseminated in February 2013. It includes the process for JAMs (timelines, steps, roles and responsibilities) as well as technical guidance sheets on JAMs in urban areas, protection issues in JAMs, transfer modalities, market analysis in JAMs and rapid JAMs for new refugee influx.

**Joint Assessment Missions are conducted in collaboration with UNHCR to understand the situation, needs, risks, capacities and vulnerabilities of refugees or internally displaced people regarding food and nutritional needs.*

Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM)

South Sudan: The 2012-13 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission for South Sudan took place from October 14 to November 17, 2012. The Mission analysed the agricultural production, overall economic situation and market conditions of the country. Assessment objectives included assessing food availability and staple food requirements, analysing the **impacts on household's access to food (through their own production or market purchases)** and providing estimates of the assistance required for 2013. The report will be released shortly.

**CFSAMs are undertaken jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP at the request of national governments. They assess agricultural production and overall food availability as well as the extent to which the population can meet their basic food needs.*

**Crop and Food Security Missions are conducted jointly with FAO usually for emergencies related to agricultural production or overall food availability problems always in response to a government request.*

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

IPC analyses were conducted in October in Djibouti, Tanzania and DRC with logistical, technical and financial support from WFP. Information from independent and joint food security assessments were shared in order to conduct such analyses. The analysis showed that key indicators on acute food security in the region have generally improved from mid-2012, except for DRC where the current instability has led to an increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Since the beginning of November 2012, [Jose Veiga](#) has joint WFP regional office in Panamá as an IPC Regional Coordinator to support activities related to the IPC in Latin America and the Caribbean.

WFP continues to support and actively participate in IPC trainings. During the second half of 2012, the Latin America region has been particularly active with IPC training. Learning events have occurred in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In Honduras, two IPC acute analysis exercises were carried out during the first week of December. For more information about IPC activities in Latin America, contact [Jose Veiga](#).

An analytical workshop to pilot the chronic scale is planned to take place in Honduras during the last week of February. This pilot is one of the five of its kind that will take place in different countries of the world as part of the process for developing an IPC scale to classify chronic food insecurity conditions.



Contact us

Headquarters Team

Management:

Joyce Luma, John McHarris
Emergency assessments/
JAM:

Kathryn Ogden, Rossella
Bottone

Baseline studies/CFSVA:
Amit Wadhwa, Astrid
Mathiassen

Market analysis:

Issa Sanogo

Food security monitoring:
Jean-Martin Bauer, Claudia
Ahpoe

GIS/remote sensing:

Rogério Bonifacio, George
Muammar

Capacity development/
IPC:

Alexis Hoskins

Information Management
Wael Attia

Communication:

Véronique De Schutter

Regional Advisers

Asia:

Siemon Hollema, Elliot
Vhurumuku

Middle East, North Africa,
Eastern Europe and
Central Asia:

Asif Niazi

Western Africa:

Naouar Labidi, Cedric
Charpentier

Easter Africa:

Simon Dradri

Southern Africa:

Joao Manja

Latin America and the
Caribbean:

Margaretha Barkhof

Capacity Development

The [VAM Resource Center](#) is now available. The Resource Center is a collection of step-by-step video tutorials, user forums and useful tools for conducting food security assessments. Its purpose is to help you find quick answers to questions you may encounter as you carry **out food security assessments. Whether you're planning a survey, need help calculating a sample size estimation or are working with data and unsure on how to compute an indicator, the Resource Center can help you find the information you're looking for and provide a space to ask questions to food security experts.**

Food Security Monitoring

The [Global Food Security Update](#) issue no.9 has just been released and is available [online](#). The bulletin covers the food security situation in more than 50 countries for the period October 2012-January 2013. This issue contains special focus sections on the food security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the effects of a series of shocks on food security in Haiti.

Trend analysis in Niger: the FSMS team and the Niger VAM team are working on a trend **analysis of household food security, using historical data from the country's annual post-harvest food security assessments from 2006 through 2011**. The objective is to establish an approach that allows analysts to measure how household food security indicators evolve following a large covariate shock, and how recovery patterns vary among geographic areas and livelihood groups. The analysis is expected to feed into discussions about measuring household resilience to food shocks.

Household data collection by SMS in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) : the FSMS and GIS/IM teams are supporting the DRC country office to test data collection from households by SMS. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Kivus will be asked to respond by SMS to simple questions about their food consumption patterns and coping strategies. Data quality, cost and speed will be compared with data from the existing FSMS system in camps. The test will help WFP assess the challenges of using SMS as a data collection mechanism.

Mission to Nicaragua – November 2012: the FSMS team supported the design and facilitation of a 4-day WFP/FAO/Government workshop in Nicaragua. The core objective was to explore opportunities for a regular bulletin on food security monitoring in Nicaragua, based on existing secondary data. Agreements on contents, structure and frequency of the proposed bulletin were achieved with all national institutions attending the workshop.

Mission to Mozambique – November 2012: the FSMS team provided technical support to the VAM/M&E team in Maputo during a two-week mission. The mission helped with the review and validation the recent baseline study, review of the current sampling strategy of the Food Security and Outcome monitoring system, and development of a new calendar of activities for early 2013. In addition, the mission advised and supported the implementation plan and analytical framework of the joint study on poverty, food security and vulnerability conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, SETSAN, WFP and World Bank.

Mission to Tajikistan – December 2012: The FSMS team conducted a strategic review mission to Tajikistan. Mission activities included enhancing the use of FSMS data for IPC, testing the new standard food security classification and exploring opportunities with strengthened partnerships with the newly established Food Security Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and World Bank. Preliminary findings of the FSMS were presented to a donor/UN food security working group which was attended by USAID, EC, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Zerkalo. Key food security indicators have been disaggregated by livelihood zone and will feed into the IPC regional workshops. In addition, national staff from Tajikistan and Cairo were trained in basic statistical analysis.



FSIN (Food Security Information Network) – a global community of practice

Following its official Launch in Rome on October 11, 2012, the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) was endorsed in a series of technical and consultative meetings by over 50 country, regional and international experts. The Executive Summary and Proceedings of these meeting are available on request. Initiated by WFP, FAO and IFPRI, the FSIN is a global community of practice that aims to link a broad range of partners to help countries and regions strengthen their food security information systems. The three organizations developed a work plan and detailed funding proposal for a 3-year project, to complement funds already received from the EU and USAID for year 1 start-up activities. In January, a Steering Committee comprising senior representatives from IFPRI, FAO and WFP was established to establish and oversees the work of a joint FSIN Secretariat, which will implement the FSIN work plan. The FSIN Secretariat will be established in February, and will be hosted by WFP in Rome. For more information please contact [Alexis Hoskins](#).

Knowledge and Information Management

A data catalogue of VAM surveys is available [online](#). The data catalogue provides metadata **for 33 surveys as part of VAM's contribution to the IHSN (International Household Survey Network)**. **The catalogue's primary application is for WFP to archive information** related to household surveys and in turn allow researchers online access to the metadata, raising the visibility of our survey work and increasing the utility of the data.

Contact us

Headquarters Team

Management:

Joyce Luma, John McHarris
Emergency assessments/
JAM:

Kathryn Ogden, Rossella
Bottone

Baseline studies/CFSVA:

Amit Wadhwa, Astrid
Mathiassen

Market analysis:

Issa Sanogo

Food security monitoring:

Jean-Martin Bauer, Claudia
Ahpoe

GIS/remote sensing:

Rogério Bonifacio, George
Muammar

Capacity development/ IPC:

Alexis Hoskins

Information Management

Wael Attia

Communication:

Véronique De Schutter

Regional Advisers

Asia:

Siemon Hollema, Elliot
Vhurumuku

Middle East, North Africa,
Eastern Europe and

Central Asia:

Asif Niazi

Western Africa:

Naouar Labidi, Cedric
Charpentier

Easter Africa:

Simon Dradri

Southern Africa:

Joao Manja

Latin America and the
Caribbean:

Margaretha Barkhof