

Welcome to Issue 37 of the Assessor, WFP's Food Security Analysis quarterly E-Newsletter!

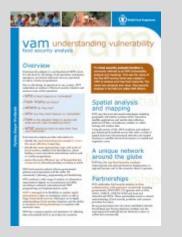
What's new

- Food Security Analysis (VAM) Key initiatives and achievements in 2013
- VAM innovative mobile tools for data collection and transmission
- **FSIN** Launch of the FSIN (Food Security Information Network) Community of Practice
- **Resilience Measurement Agenda** Establishment and first meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Focus on Asia Key initiatives and achievements in the region





VAM key initiatives and achievements in 2013



Food Security Analysis (VAM) – Key initiatives and achievements in 2013

The 2013 factsheet provides updated information on activities and priorities of the Food Security Analysis Service. It not only describes the different assessment tools but <u>highlight our key</u> <u>initiatives and facts for 2013 such as:</u>

- The launch of the FSIN Community of Practice and the establishment of a Technical Working Group on resilience measurement for food and nutrition security
- The Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) as a new tool in the WFP food price database
- Collaboration with Global Pulse in the use of Big Data for monitoring
- Partnership with Geopoll to develop an innovative data collection mechanism using text messaging
- and much more....

It is available online in English, French and Spanish.

VAM innovative mobile tools for data collection

In line with its strategy to modernize data collection in order to reduce costs and the delays between data collection and reporting, WFP VAM is increasing the use of mobile technology for face to face and remote data collection.

Several tools are currently being piloted for different contexts:

Enhanced face-to face data collection using mobile devices

Face-to-face surveys remain the main approach for the collection and transmission of detailed statistical household data.

GRASP (georeferenced realtime acquisition of statistics platform)

This application allows questionnaire design, data collection, transmission and analysis in realtime through the use of mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. It is designed to work offline during data collection and can send data using either mobile internet, SMS or wifi. It has been piloted in **El Salvador**, **Ghana**, **Tanzania**, **Ethiopia** (for a <u>Purchase for Progress (P4P)</u> <u>Farm Gate exercise</u>) as well as in **Palestine** and **Lebanon** for VAM and M&E data collection.

eWIN (electronic WFP Information Network)

The WFP Regional Bureau for Asia is in the process of promoting eWIN as a single system for data management in Asia. eWin is an enterprise level web based real-time information management system that is capable of collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating primary data. As such, it provides a platform for support and cross-country synergies for both VAM and M&E. Based on the success of eWIN in Nepal, two additional countries, **Lao PDR** and the **Philippines**, were selected to pilot the system in order to explore the feasibility of upgrading eWIN to a regional platform for data management. Find out more in the "focus on Asia section " on page 10.

WFP VAM is exploring interoperability between GRASP and eWIN to leverage respective strengths and provide WFP with **one unique corporate system for data collection**, **management and transmission using mobile technology**.



WFP VAM Key Publications

Latest trends in staple food prices



Latest trends in food security



Remote data collection: voice and mobile text surveys (mVAM)

These tools are used to collect food security data from households living in areas that may not otherwise be easily reached for face to face interviews or in contexts that would put the enumerators in danger. Remote data collection takes place through the devices that respondents possess, eliminating the reliance on roving teams of enumerators. These tools are appropriate when simple answers to a short set of simple questions are required. Decision makers benefit from the ability to conduct a rapid survey in the immediate aftermath of a quick onset crisis, higher frequency data collection to inform changes in programming, more timely data, and the ability to collect information in areas where access is restricted.

While there are trade-offs between the cost/time benefit and the depth of information that can be collected in a mobile text survey as compared to a face to face survey (in-depth, less frequent), remote surveys can complement existing data collection systems.

Remote mobile text surveys

Mobile text survey respondents receive a questionnaire on their phone. The questions are 160 characters or less, and involve a short series of simple questions and answers. Responding to a mobile text survey is free for respondents, who commonly receive an incentive when a questionnaire is completed.

From July through September, WFP carried out over 6,000 short food security surveys through text messaging (SMS) in the volatile and insecure North Kivu in eastern DR Congo. Respondents answered the food consumption score or the reduced coping strategies index. The surveys were implemented in partnership with GeoPoll, a mobile technology surveying company. The field test showed that high frequency, remote data collection directly from households is possible in a conflict zone. The modality should be tested at scale in different environments and for different indicators to better understand bias issues. A paper on the findings is available. For more information, please contact: Jean-Martin.Bauer@wfp.org.

mVAM – Data collection tool using voice technology for monitoring and trend analysis purposes

As part of this project, short surveys are conducted through live calls and through an Interactive **Voice Response (IVR) system.** The households respond to survey questions through their mobile phones. A respondent receives either a call from a live operator, who asks short questions. Alternatively, respondents receive an automated call and key in responses after hearing questions recorded in their own language. In both cases, call duration should remain below 10 minutes.

The mVAM approach has the potential to increase timeliness and cost-effectiveness of data collection. The high frequency data collected could be used for enhanced monitoring and trend analysis. Face to face surveys were carried out in **Somalia** in September and in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** to validate the results of <u>mVAM</u>. The mVAM voice pilot is funded by a grant of the Humanitarian Innovation Fund. To find out more, visit the <u>mVAM</u> blog.

Tools piloting data collection using Big Data

WFP is collaborating with the United Nations <u>Global Pulse</u> on research initiatives that involve leveraging digital data sources (Big Data) to inform food security responses. Such information can reveal well-being and emerging vulnerabilities in real-time through the analysis of specific key words .It has the potential to constitute an essential information source for humanitarian organization, particularly for early warning, to track and monitor the impact of global and local socio-economics crisis.



NEW Special Focus

The Special Focus series

provide latest information on countries, regions or key initiatives that are of high importance and/or concern from a food security and humanitarian perspective.

Find out the latest issues...



FSIN -Launch of the Community of Practice

In October 2012, FAO, IFPRI and WFP officially launched the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) to enable developing countries to build sustainable food and nutrition information systems. In September, FSIN just launched **a global community of practice (CoP)** linking a broad range of partners to facilitate the exchange of experiences and field practices in food security and nutrition information and analysis among national, regional and other global or thematic networks. The CoP already counts more than **400 members from 65 countries.**

Food Security Information Network

Why join the FSIN Community of Practice?

<u>www.fsincop.net</u> is the platform supporting the FSIN initiative and the FSIN CoP, which includes representatives of national, regional or global institutions, NGOs or individual food security professionals. It provides public access to professional development tools and offers registered members the opportunity to:

- Receive regular e-alerts to be kept up-to-date on the latest news and events related to food and nutrition security information systems;
- Propose content to share with the community (news, events or resources)
- Automatically receive invitations to participate in e-consultations;
- Access CoP members' profiles for information exchange and networking: and
- Participate in dedicated discussion groups on emerging topics (e.g. the CoP on resilience measurement)

To find out more about FSIN and to join the community of practice, visit <u>www.fsincop.net</u> or contact the <u>FSIN secretariat</u>.

Resilience Measurement Agenda – Establishment and first meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG)

Since resilience has only recently emerged as a priority within the development community, there is an understandable scarcity of robust, verifiable measures for assessing and monitoring resilience over time. As recommended by an expert consultation involving over 60 stakeholders, <u>the Food Security Information Network (FSIN)</u> is facilitating the improvement and harmonization of resilience measurement approaches. A **Technical Working Group** (TWG) composed of 17 renowned experts in the field has been established to help develop guidelines on resilience measurement and support field testing, validation and adoption of best practices. At the first official meeting that took place in Rome (9th - 10th Oct.), the members:

- Proposed a common definition of resilience: "Resilience is the capacity to ensure that adverse stressors and shocks do not have long-lasting adverse development consequences."
- Began working on an analytical framework which would outline a common set of indicators for measuring resilience;

The Assessor Issue 37



WFP VAM Tools



WFP food price database covers about 70 countries, more than 1000 markets and 200 commodities. Besides its use for internal WFP operational needs, 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.

- Acknowledged that on-going efforts to measure or model resilience are at an early stage, and that additional research, piloting, validation and "mining" of existing data are essential.
- Discussed opportunities to support work at the field level e.g. through technical support to the proposed Resilience Analysis Unit in Nairobi.

If you want to know more or be kept up to date on future developments, please visit <u>www.fsincop.net</u>.

Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA)*

Mali: An EFSA was carried out in northern Mali in the regions of Gao, Tombouctou, Kidal and Mopti last July. Despite an improvement in the food consumption of household due to the massive food aid support, the food security situation remains precarious and 3 out of 4 households (around 1.3 million people) are moderately or severely food insecure. The report (in French) is available <u>online</u>.

Guinea Bissau: An EFSA was carried out between September and October 2013 to measure the impact of the decrease of international market prices on the cashew nut production. Due to overproduction at international level, the price at which people are selling their production is now much lower. As this represents the main cash crop in Guinea Bissau, the impact on the food security situation of rural households is considerable.

Central African Republic: The EFSA carried out in September 2013 found that 30 percent of the population outside of Bangui (around 1.1 million people) is estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure. Internally displaced people (IDPs) have been most affected, half of them suffering from severe or moderate food insecurity. An executive summary of the preliminary results is available <u>online</u>.

Cote d'Ivoire North and West: A food security assessment was carried out in the Savanes and Montagnes regions in North and West Cote d'Ivoire respectively, to better understand the food security situation and identify the possible consequences of population movements due to i) populations fleeing the Malian crisis and ii) returnees from Liberia on the livelihoods of households in host communities. Results are expected by end of November.

Syria: A joint food security assessment (FAO-WFP) is currently on-going through focus group discussions . The results are expected by end of November.

South Sudan: An EFSA was carried out for the populations displaced by conflict in Labrab, Pibor County—Jonglei State (September, 2013). From the study, over 100,000 people are estimated to have been affected since the onset of the conflict representing the bigger proportion of the County Population. An estimated 26% and 61% of the assessed households were severely and moderately food insecure respectively. Furthermore, 37% of the children were found to be acutely malnourished and 5% severely malnourished based on MUAC measurement.

State of Palestine: Socio-Economic & Food Security Survey 2012: West Bank and Gaza Strip, August 2013. This annual survey assesses the socio-economic and food security situation in the State of Palestine. The report is available <u>online</u>.

In-depth EFSA's are ongoing in the **Dominican Republic**, **El Salvador**, **Honduras**, and **Nicaragua** to assess the impact of coffee rust on vulnerable households. A flood assessment was implemented in **Nicaragua** in September in the Atlantic Region, while a rapid assessment was carried out in **Honduras** in the same month to evaluate the impact of an extended dry spell affecting the first growing season. A rapid EFSA will be implemented in the coming weeks in **Bolivia** to evaluate the impact of drought on affected communities in the Chaco region.

*Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) are undertaken following a disaster or a shock. It covers affected geographic 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.



Recently posted on wfp.org

Central African Republic -Food Security Assessment, October 2013

Afghanistan - <u>Market Price</u> <u>Bulletin, October 2013</u>

Cambodia - Food Price and Wage Bulletin, October 2013

Liberia - <u>Market Price</u> <u>Monitor, September 2013</u>

Mozambique - <u>Review of the</u> <u>Trends of Staple Food</u> <u>Prices, September 2013</u>

West Africa and the Sahel -Food Security and Humanitarian Implications, October 2013

Ethiopia - <u>Monthly Market</u> Watch, October 2013

Madagascar <u>- Mission FAO/</u> <u>PAM d'évaluation de la</u> <u>sécurité alimentaire,</u> <u>Octobre 2013</u>

Pakistan - <u>Market Price</u> Bulletin, October 2013

Yemen - <u>Updated Food</u> Security Monitoring Survey, September 2013

Lao PDR - <u>Food and</u> <u>Nutrition Security Atlas,</u> <u>September 2013</u>

DPRK - Food Security Atlas, October 2013

Baseline Studies*

Nigeria: The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) relies on national household data to examine the different factors that influence food security and vulnerability in **Nigeria**. The findings from this analysis will serve as an input into the policymaking process and as a resource not only for the World Food Programme (WFP) to optimize program delivery but also for other development stakeholders working to address hunger and food insecurity in Nigeria. The report is available <u>online</u>.

Tanzania: The CFSVA focuses primarily on data generated by the Tanzania National Panel Survey (NPS) conducted as part of the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) in collaboration with the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). A distinctive feature of the National Panel Survey is that it generated data for the same selection of households at two separate points in time. This allowed the tracking of households' food security over a two-year period. The CFSVA reports on levels, patterns and trends of food insecurity indicators in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The report is available <u>online</u>.

Sudan North Kordofan: A comprehensive food security assessment was conducted in April 2012 by the State Ministry of Agriculture with support from WFP Sudan. The main objectives of the assessment are: to provide a reliable and detailed assessment of the current food security and vulnerability situation of the North Kordofan population; to assess the causes and risk factors for food insecurity and vulnerability and; to identify pockets of vulnerability where assistance and targeting may be required in the future. The report is available <u>online</u>.

Guinea: A comprehensive food security assessment was conducted in June/July 2012 by the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of WFP Guinea. The main objective of the report was to fill an important information gap on food security as no data was collected since 2009. The survey is the first to present food security information in Guinea at the prefecture level in both rural and urban areas. The executive summary (in French) is available online.

* 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

Markets assessments are ongoing in Ghana, CAR, Chad and Mali.

Sudan/Darfur: A market assessment in Darfur is currently being designed with a view of primary data collection later in November and subsequent analysis and report preparation. The overall objective of the market study is i) to assess the capacity and potential of Darfur's local markets for cash voucher programming and to compare with the 2014 C&V expansion plans; ii) to estimate the impacts of the planned 2014 voucher expansion on local markets and prices; and iii) to the extent possible, to review the impact of the 2011 to 2013 voucher programme on markets in Darfur in terms of prices, local production, market integration etc. The assessment has been initiated by the WFP Country Office and receives expert support from WFP HQ.

The **WFP Market Monitor issue no. 21** has just been released and is available <u>online</u>. The bulletin examines trends and impacts of staple food prices in vulnerable countries for the period July 2013-September 2013. This issue contains a special focus on the food security implications of drought and economic slowdown in **Zimbabwe**.



Contact us

Headquarters Team

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Market Analysis Tools

Price database review: Under the umbrella of the <u>Food Security Information Network</u> (<u>FSIN</u>), the economic and market analysis team of WFP will undertake a review of existing global market price databases and related analysis in the coming months. The objective of the comparative study is to assess the complementarities and overlaps of existing market price databases and recommend options and actions for further collaboration and harmonisation, where possible. Ultimately, the development of more harmonized approaches will facilitate efforts to build country level capacities for market analysis.

Capacity Building

WFP and FAO will co-facilitate a market assessment training in **Pakistan** in collaboration with the cash working group of the <u>Food Security Cluster</u> in November.

Interagency Work

Joint Assessment Missions (JAM)*

Joint Assessment Missions are on-going in **Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Niger, Ghana, CAR (**Sudanese and Congolese refugees), **Algeria, Djibouti and Uganda.**

Guinea – Ivorian refugees in the "Guinée Forestière" region: the report was aiming at taking toll of the situation of the 5,200 Ivorian refugees in the south of the country, prefecture de Macenta. The survey was undertaken jointly with the Government of Guinea and UNHCR in June 2013. The report (in French) and annexes are available <u>online</u>.

New The new "pratical guide to planning and implementation of Joint Assessment Missions" outlines JAM processes and provides tools to support senior managers and JAM coordinators to design, coordinate, and implement JAMs in a variety of situations. It has been prepared in collaboration with UNHCR and facilitates:

- Timely planning of the JAM
- Effective collaboration in the planning and organisation of the joint UNHCR / WFP assessment mission;
- Adherence to agreed procedures and standards;
- Effective analysis and use of information; and
- Consistent production of high quality outputs, including a final JAM report

The guide is available online. A hard copy can be requested from Noemi Dimarcello.

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)

Nepal: The Crop Situation Update is issued by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), WFP and FAO. It is published twice a year. While periodic updates on the crop performance and food security situation are provided through Food Security Bulletins (issued by MoAD and WFP on a quarterly basis), the crop situation update provides a comprehensive overview on the food supply situation. This crop situation update covers the 2012/13 winter crop production and provides an overview of the National Food Balance for 2012/13 agricultural year. The report is available <u>online</u>.

Madagascar: A CFSAM mission was conducted in June/July 2013. The report states that as many as 4 million people in rural areas of Madagascar are food insecure following this year's reduced harvest. Production of rice – the Indian Ocean Island's staple – and maize has been badly hit by erratic weather and a locust invasion. A further 9.6 million people are at risk of food insecurity. The extent of the island's food crisis is revealed in the report. It blames the season on a combination of factors: erratic weather conditions last year, cyclones early this year – causing flooding – followed by a period of poor rains. The report (in French) is available <u>online</u>.



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DPRK: The 2013 CFSAM mission for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) took place in September/October 2013. The mission assessed the 2013 main crop harvest, forecasted the 2014 production of winter and spring crops, estimated cereal import requirements for the 2013/14 marketing year (November/October), assessed the household food-security and nutrition situation, and estimated food assistance needs. The mission visited 27 counties in all provinces, and had unprecedented access to farmers' markets, state shops, hospitals, and children's institutions to better understand the food security situation in the DPRK context. The report is available <u>online</u>.

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

Food Security Monitoring

Democratic Republic of Congo: From July through August, WFP DRC carried out food security questionnaires (FCS and rCSI) through remote text surveys (SMS) in the conflict-affected region of North Kivu (Eastern DR Congo). The surveys were implemented in partnership with <u>Geopoll</u>. This data collection mechanism has the potential to allow WFP to carry out short food security monitoring surveys without relying solely on face to face data collection, with gains in time and cost-efficiency. Key findings and lessons learned will be available soon. For more information, contact <u>Jean-Martin Bauer</u> or <u>Koffi Akakpo</u>.

Yemen: The report provides updated information on the current food security and nutrition situation in Yemen. I t states that currently, about 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure, of whom 4.5 million are severely food insecure and over 6 million moderately food insecure. The major causes of the high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition include unemployment, a reduction in remittances, deterioration in economic growth, extreme poverty, high population growth, volatility of prices of food and other essential commodities, increasing cost of living. The report is available <u>online</u>.

The **Global Food Security Update** issue no.12 has just been released and is available <u>online</u>. The bulletin covers the food security situation in more than 50 countries for the period August 2013-October 2013. This issue contains In Focus sections on food insecurity projections in Karamoja, **Uganda** and rural **Zimbabwe** as well as an update on the increasing vulnerability in **Syria** and neighbouring countries.

Capacity Development

In the context of the collaboration with the Department of Social Prosperity, **WFP Colombia** organized a workshop with the National University of Colombia on VAM analysis and experiences in Latin America in the second week of November, as well as a VAM workshop with representatives of various departments of the Caribbean region where departmental VAM studies will be implemented in the coming months.



Contact us in Asia

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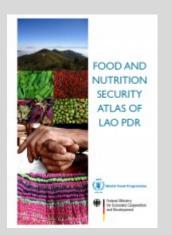
eWIN: Ruangdech Poungprom

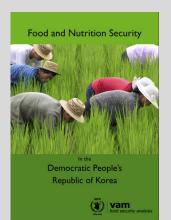
Cooperation with NSS: Ellen Kiosterud

Food Security Atlases: Emily Turano

IPC: Soo Mee Baumann

Food security and climate change: Krishna Krishnamurthy





Focus on Asia - Key initiatives and achievements in the region

<u>More mileage from national statistical systems – cooperation with the National</u> <u>Statistical Offices</u>

VAM Asia is currently planning an inception workshop aimed to strengthen VAM's working relationships with National Statistical Offices (NSO) and to build the capacity of National Statistical Systems (NSS) in generating food security indicators and analysis. The purpose of the workshop is to formally initiate the second thrust of the VAM regional strategy on outcome monitoring and 'getting more mileage' out of national surveys.

The workshop aims to contribute directly to several key VAM Asia objectives. One objective is to encourage NSS to include food security into their National Strategies for Development of Statistics and routinely monitor key food security indicators. To achieve this, WFP Asia is collaborating closely with Statistics Norway, who has seconded a statistics expert to support country offices around the region in strengthening relationships with and building capacity in NSS. A second objective is to support the initiation and production of a number of new VAM 'flagship' publications, including baseline reports and thematic food security monitoring reports that make use of consumption and expenditure modules available in many countries.

Food Security Atlases released (DPRK, Laos) and on-going

Throughout the Asia region, WFP has been coordinating with national governments to produce comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Atlases. The objective of the Atlases is to provide disaggregated spatial and temporal analysis of the drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition across the country that can serve as a national baseline against which to measure progress, inform policy, guide programming design and improve targeting. To-date, WFP Asia has supported the production of several Atlases in the region including Indonesia (currently producing its second update), Lao PDR (February 2013) and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (October 2013). An Atlas for Sri Lanka is currently underway with the projected completion in January 2014.

Use of Small Area Estimation (SAE), a powerful statistic tool

Small Area Estimation (SAE) of poverty or other key outcomes (e.g. malnutrition) is a powerful statistical tool that enables the generation of estimates at greater resolution than available in national surveys. The estimations greatly enhance the ability to monitor change and effectively target the most vulnerable. Since 2004, WFP Asia has been working closely with Massey University to conduct SAE of poverty in a number of countries including **Nepal** and **Cambodia**, and is in the process of initiating SAE projects in **Lao PDR**, B**angladesh**, **Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka** within the coming year.

In **Lao PDR**, unique conditions in data availability provide an exciting opportunity for WFP to engage in innovative research on a new SAE methodology. Small Area Estimations depend on both census and survey data and as a result are typically conducted within the years immediately following the national census, with relevancy of estimations declining as the census data ages. To address this challenge, Massey University has developed a new methodology that will allow estimates to be updated in the intercensal years as new survey data becomes available. The validation of this innovative methodology would greatly improve the ability to routinely monitor key indicators such as poverty at more disaggregated levels.

Joint FAO/WFP IPC proposal for Phase 2 of IPC Asia Project

Following the success of Phase 1 of the IPC Asia Project, FAO and WFP are jointly proposing Phase 2, which will consist of two main components: a Consolidation Phase to strengthen and build on the platform laid down in the pilot phase; and an Expansion Phase to expand IPC in countries that have already requested it (Bhutan, India, East Timor, Laos) as well as in other countries to be identified by the IPC Global Partners. A joint Concept Note has been developed by WFP and FAO and discussions are on-going with key donors. During Phase 1, IPC was successfully introduced in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.