



# THE ASSESSOR

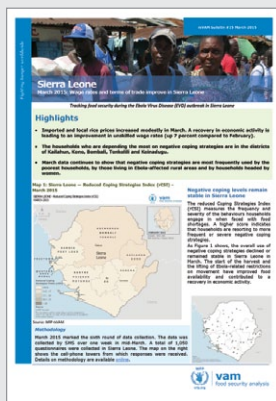


**Welcome to Issue 40 of THE ASSESSOR,  
WFP's Food Security Analysis e-Newsletter!**

- Continued Food Security Monitoring in the Ebola-Affected Countries
- Expansion of Remote Data Collection
- WFP's Collaboration with Nielsen
- The VAM One Stop Shop
- The Seasonal Monitor
- Gender Analysis in VAM
- Food Security Information Network (FSIN) Update
- Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA)
- Baseline Studies
- Market Analysis
- Inter-Agency Work
- Capacity Development and Guidance
- Focus on Asia



Sierra Leone,  
Special mVAM Bulletin





**Liberia**  
February 1983: Food shortages and wars had pushed thousands into seeking refuge across the border.

Seeking food security during the 2008-2009 famine crisis in Liberia

### Highlights

- In Padarua, Monrovia, in Liberia used the same number of hours for negative coping strategies as in other locations.** The number of hours spent on negative coping strategies was similar in all locations. However, the percent household with their coping strategies in Liberia was higher than in other locations.
- Negative coping strategies are most prevalent in the northeast and western counties of La.** Negative coping strategies are most prevalent in the northeast and western counties of La.
- More households in Liberia used negative coping strategies than in other locations.** More households in Liberia used negative coping strategies than in other locations.
- Household income and food security were negatively correlated.** Household income and food security were negatively correlated.
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Map 1. Map of Liberia in West Africa showing the location of the study area.



**Map 1. Map of Liberia in West Africa showing the location of the study area.**

The map shows the location of the study area in the northeast and western counties of Liberia. The map includes the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Ivory Coast to the southwest, and the Ivory Coast to the south. The map shows the location of the study area in the northeast and western counties of Liberia.

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## Expansion of Remote Data Collection

In DR Congo and Somalia, monthly food security surveys through live calls and interactive voice response have been carried out for a year now in Mugunga 3 IDP camp and Galkayo area respectively. Over the past months the Somalia office progressed with using IVR; at present about a third of the monthly surveys to respondents are made using IVR.

Since January 2015, WFP Niger has been piloting the use of voice surveys in Abala camp, home to refugees from Mali. Activities are implemented in partnership with UNHCR and ACTED.

In February 2015, WFP started remote phone-based data collection and food security monitoring in [Iraq](#). Survey respondents are contacted via live calls and asked to respond to a short series of questions on food markets and household food consumption and coping. The food price data is being collected weekly through short phone surveys to key informants and household data is collected through monthly phone interviews in partnership with a call centre. The bulletins published are available [online](#).

Preparations are also underway to start remote data collection in areas including two refugee camps in Chad, Kenya and parts of Darfur, Sudan.

With support from the Cisco Foundation, the mVAM project will incorporate a two-way communication system to give respondents access to real-time information.



# WFP's Collaboration with Nielsen

While expanding its use of remote mobile technology for data collection, WFP has been receiving pro bono support from Nielsen's global corporate social responsibility program, Nielsen Cares. The guidance from Nielsen has covered four key areas—data collection, methodology, analysis and in-country expertise. For example, Nielsen provided guidance on how to develop a sound methodological approach to collect and analyze data received via mobile phones and to address potential mode effects—or potential differences that could arise in the validity of data—when collecting information through new phone surveys, compared with face-to-face interviews. An article on WFP's work with Nielsen can be found [here](#).

## The VAM One Stop Shop: a new platform for WFP information on hunger

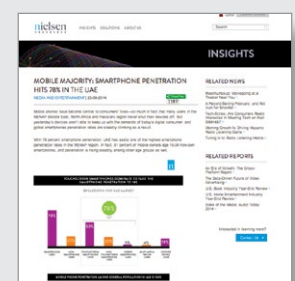
The VAM One Stop Shop is an innovative platform launched recently which allows access to the latest food security data, publications and analytical tools. The VAM publications include baseline studies, household/market monitoring, emergency assessments/market studies and secondary data analysis. The publications are navigable by year, assessment type and field work status, as well as by country through the world map. As seen from the screenshot below, the three main boxes give direct access to the VAM global products, as well as latest country publications and a repository of analytical tools.



### Iraq, Special mVAM Bulletin



### Collaboration with Nielsen





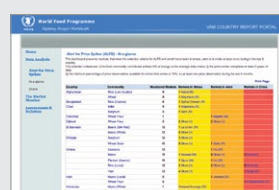
## Global Food Security Update No. 17



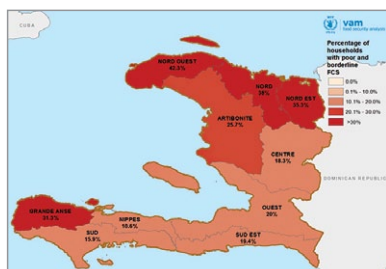
## The Market Monitor No. 26



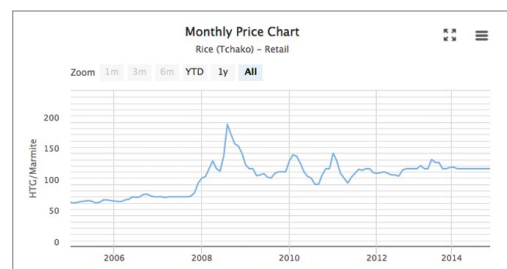
## ALPS at a glance



An example map and graph from the VAM Shop website appears below and demonstrates how users can visualize a range of indicators on maps or charts, generate tailored reports and download them for each country monitored by WFP food security analysts:



Food consumption score by region in Haiti (2009).



Evolution of rice price from 2005 to 2015 on the market in Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

The VAM Shop also provides a global overview of the food security situation in the world through the [Global Food Security Update](#), [Special Focus](#), [The Market Monitor](#) and [Seasonal Monitor](#) products.

The VAM Shop is continuously updated with new information that becomes available as WFP staff conduct more surveys and analyses around the world. Please click [here](#) to visit the VAM Shop.

# The Seasonal Monitor: now covering additional regions

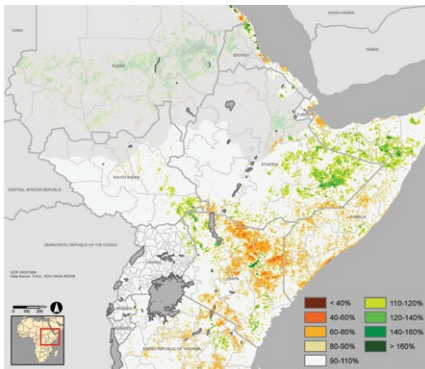
The Seasonal Monitor launched last year, examines satellite imagery of rainfall and vegetation to track the growing season and assess how conditions might impact the lives and livelihoods of resident populations. The Seasonal Monitor is now covering additional regions including [Southern Africa](#) and [East Africa](#). For further details on all the regions covered by the Seasonal Monitor, please click [here](#).

The Seasonal Monitor provided clear evidence of the problems affecting maize production in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Namibia and South Africa), as well as highlighting another poor season in some pastoral areas of East Africa (NE Kenya, southern Somalia) – please see on the next page the note on the Alert for East Africa.

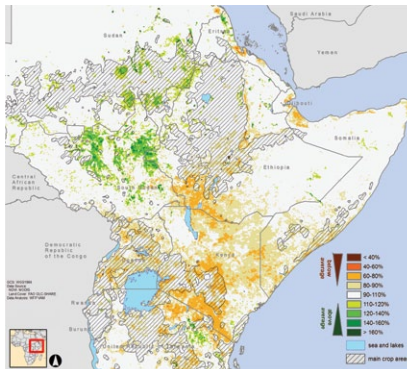


## East Africa October-December Vegetation Development Compared to the Average

NDVI % of Average OND 2014



NDVI % of Average (2-18 Feb 2015)



The map above shows the comparison of October-December 2014 vegetation development compared to the average (green for above average vegetation and orange/red for below average vegetation). The map above clearly shows below average conditions in North/East Kenya, Somalia and part of Tanzania.

## Contribution of Seasonal Monitor Outputs to a Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) Alert

The [FSNWG for East Africa](#) issued an alert in March 2015 based on the seasonal forecasts for the current season of March to May. Kenya, Somalia, SE Ethiopia in particular are expected to receive normal to below normal rains during the March to May season. The outputs of the Seasonal Monitor provided evidence in favour of the issuance of the alert, by identifying the last season (October to December) as part of a sequence of predominantly poor seasons. These past developments increased the vulnerability of the region's population to the impact of another possible drought. Please click [here](#) to see the alert.

**See the latest Seasonal Monitor reports:**

East Africa – [No.2, February 2015](#)

Southern Africa – [No.2, February 2015](#)

# Gender Analysis in VAM

Together with the Gender Office (GEN), VAM has stepped up efforts to strengthen its gender analysis capacity, recruiting a Gender Specialist to provide gender analysis capacity support to VAM HQ and field staff. Over the course of the first quarter of 2015, the Specialist provided support to assessments in Yemen, Liberia, Sudan, and Mali, in the development of data collection tools, analysis planning and reporting. These assessments form the basis for good practices in how gender can be practically mainstreamed into VAM assessments for gender-sensitive programme design. These joint past GEN/VAM collaborative outputs from 2014 include the Chad Gender and Food Security Assessment and Cameroon RFSA.



## The FSNWG Website



## The FSNWG Alert, March 2015



## Southern Africa Seasonal Monitor Report



## East Africa, Seasonal Monitor Report

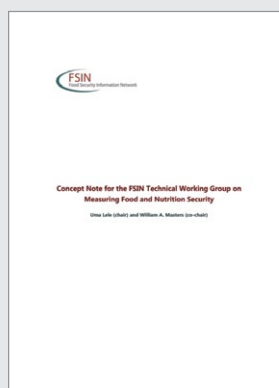




#### [FSIN TWG on Measuring Food and Nutrition Security](#)



#### [FSIN TWG on Measuring Food and Nutrition Security Concept Note](#)



#### [FSIN Review of Global Food Price Databases Paper](#)



VAM looks forward to building on and expanding these activities, in line with the WFP 2015-2020 Gender Policy (set for release this year) which emphasizes the importance of strong gender analysis at all levels. Gender analysis strengthens programme capacity to ensure beneficiaries equal access to food and nutrition services, and supports participation in planning and decision-making processes. WFP programmes rely on VAM food security analysis to inform such efforts. A strong VAM gender analysis component ensures that programmes will have the necessary information to design targeted and equitable activities for the most vulnerable populations.

## Food Security Information Network (FSIN) Update

To support FSIN's aim to help develop countries build sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) information systems, the following activities were undertaken in order to improve and harmonize FNS analysis methods and approaches:

- **Launch of the new Measuring Food and Nutrition Security Technical Working Group (FNS TWG)**

In response to the recent proliferation of food and nutrition indicators, a Technical Working Group (TWG) on Measuring Food and Nutrition Security was established under the FSIN. The primary objective of this TWG is to recommend the most effective possible dashboard of indicators to help FSIN stakeholders monitor progress towards meeting their food and nutrition security objectives over the coming decades, in a variety of settings and at national and subnational levels. Use of shared indicators will facilitate data harmonization and sharing and help local, national and global actors adopt the necessary policy and programme measures to support their food and nutrition security goals. For further details on the TWG composition and specific tasks, please visit: <http://www.fsincop.net/topics/fns-measurement/en/>

- **Release of the Review of Global Food Price Databases Paper**

Given wide interest in market price data and analysis, various agencies with a global mandate in addressing food security concerns (including FAO, FEWSNET, IFPRI and WFP), as well as national government agencies and private sector entities maintain their own market information systems and corresponding databases. Hence, a three-phased approach was developed to enhance harmonization of food price and market information systems maintained by key development agencies. The first phase to assess the complementarities and overlaps of these databases/information systems was completed in January 2015, with the release of the Review of Global Food Price Databases paper available [here](#). In Phase 2, an informal working group has been formed by FAO, FEWS NET and WFP staff to begin implementing the recommendations of the Phase 1 report, and begin exploring how market price data are collected and analyzed at country level. Depending on the results of the Phase 2 work by end 2015, Phase 3 would seek to build country level capacities for market price data harmonization and analysis.

## • External Review

A mid-term review of the FSIN by a team of two external consultants was commissioned by the FSIN Steering Committee and donors in August 2014, and took place from December through March. The purpose of the review was to assess the FSIN's achievements, challenges and governance structures over its first two years of implementation, and provide recommendations on the way forward. Interviews were conducted with over 50 respondents both associated with, and independent of, the FSIN and a range of relevant initiatives and CoPs were consulted. It was found that FSIN was relevant and had received positive feedback. The main recommendations were for FSIN to be: 1) more demand-driven by its constituents, including improving two-way communication with FSIN members; 2) more inclusive by inviting additional partners to participate in governance and networking activities, and 3) more focused on enabling national capacity development over the long-term. A management response outlining next steps is being prepared in consultation with the Advisory Board, Steering Committee and Secretariat.

To find out more about FSIN, visit [www.fsincop.net](http://www.fsincop.net) or contact the FSIN secretariat at [fsin-secretariat@wfp.org](mailto:fsin-secretariat@wfp.org)

# Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs)<sup>1</sup>

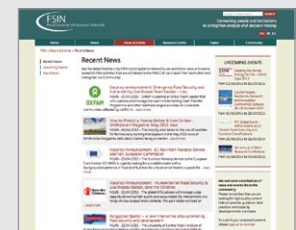
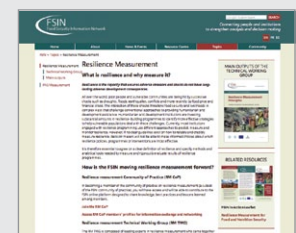
**EFSAs in Ebola Affected Countries:** There are presently three EFSAs that are undergoing in the Ebola affected countries – Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The purpose of the EFSAs is to find out about the impact of the disease on food security and the general food security conditions of the population. The EFSAs will inform WFP's response in these countries from June to December 2015. As the three countries are moving away from the emergency it will be important to support the most vulnerable population during the transition and recovery period. The three exercises will cover the entire countries and are planned to be finalized by the end of May.

**Adapting Food Security Assessments for Urban Environments:** Millions of poor, urban households are faced with structural problems and threats related to poverty, including lack of security of tenure, precarious living conditions often in overcrowded slums, poor or no access to basic services, unemployment, violence, public health risks and poor sanitation. The overall project objective, led and managed jointly by WFP and gFSC, is to strengthen the humanitarian response to food security crisis in urban and peri-urban areas. More specifically the project aims to develop tools, training and guidance to a) identify levels of food security vulnerability in urban and peri-urban areas; b) assess different types of urban food security vulnerability; c) organise appropriate responses to urban food security problems; d) establish an effective collaborative mechanism for food security responses in crisis. This objective will be achieved

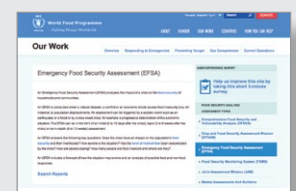
1. Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs) are undertaken following a disaster or a shock. They study the affected geographic areas to determine the impact on households and their livelihoods and to provide recommendations on food and non-food assistance options. They are used to design relief and recovery operations as they identify the number of people in need and the appropriate type and duration of assistance.



## FSIN Website



## Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs)







### [Food Security Cluster Website](#)



### [Urban Food Security Pilot Assessment Harare, Zimbabwe](#)



#### ADAPTING TO AN URBAN WORLD

URBAN FOOD  
SECURITY PILOT  
ASSESSMENT HARARE,  
ZIMBABWE  
NOVEMBER 2014



over a period of two years and will be implemented in at least six urban and peri-urban areas, which will be selected to represent a variety of contexts in which food security is a particular risk.

The first pilot on the project took place in Harare, Zimbabwe with data collection done in November 2014. The report was released in February 2015 and can be found by clicking [here](#). A few key findings and recommendations are highlighted below: 1) although most meals are consumed within the house, food consumption outside the house is a common practice. It is recommended to capture food consumed outside the household as this can contribute greatly to the diets of household members; 2) with food bought at the market being the most common way for households to access food in urban areas, there is a need to include a market component in future studies; 3) it was found that the difficulties households experienced in obtaining enough food were not necessarily related to a specific season, but more often the time of the year or the month when school fees or bills had to be paid.

## Baseline Studies<sup>2</sup>

**Rwanda:** The government of Rwanda represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), WFP and partners are in the process to conduct the fourth CFSVA and Nutrition survey in Rwanda. The previous ones took place in 2006, 2009 and 2012 respectively. This CFSVA will follow up on recommendations made in the previous CFSVA in 2012 and track progress against reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. Data collection will take place in April-May and preliminary results will be presented during the second half of 2015.

**Mali:** The National Food Security and Nutrition Survey (ENSAN: Enquête Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutrition) was completed in October 2014. Over 8,000 households were surveyed and more than 15,000 MUAC measurements of children were collected. This was followed by a national Cadre Harmonisé analysis workshop. Data collection and analysis involved the Système d'Alerte Précoce, WFP, FAO, FEWS NET and almost 20 organisations involved in the Food Security Cluster. An updated round of data collection and another Cadre Harmonisé analysis workshop took place in March 2015. These two rounds will contribute to the CFSVA report, expected to be published in May 2015.

**Kenya:** The upcoming Kenya CFSVA will rely on data derived from a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) that includes WFP food security modules. This is the first time WFP's food security modules have been included within a DHS survey. This general approach of including food security modules into already existing and well established national surveys is a more sustainable approach which VAM supports. Data collection was completed in October 2014, and WFP VAM trained the Kenya Bureau of Statistics staff on calculation of food security indicators in early 2015. Preliminary results were presented on 8th April, while the full cleaned dataset is expected in July 2015. A complete CFSVA will be generated in late 2015.

2. The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) is also referred to as pre-crisis baseline study. It gives 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. It also informs contingency planning and preparedness.



**Mozambique:** Analysis of 2006, 2009 and 2013 baseline data is ongoing in Mozambique, with the intention of producing a food security trend analysis report. The analysis includes key food security indicators, in addition to monitoring and evaluation data from the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN), and WFP/SIMA market price information. The work is ongoing and a publication is expected in mid-2015.

# Market Analysis

## Lebanon Market Assessment

WFP provides food assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon since June 2012 in response to the impact of the conflict in Syria. The e-card programme is the primary modality of assistance following the assumption that local markets were elastic enough to meet increased demand without adversely affecting local supply and prices. A WFP internal audit in Q2-2014 rated in-country monitoring as medium risk, noting that the impact of WFP's interventions on markets and local communities or the capacities of local markets and merchants to sustain a scale up of C&V activities was not being measured nor systematically analysed. As a result, the Country Office in Lebanon started to improve market monitoring considering a market assessment to be necessary to provide further evidence on the transfer modality choice and to guide future programming decisions regarding market interventions.

The objectives of the market assessment were to:

- Assess whether market interventions can leverage food security outcomes of Syrian Refugees;
- Estimate the micro level impact of the current voucher programme on local markets including traders/shops and food prices;
- Provide recommendations on the best transfer modality option, also taking into account opportunity costs and value for money considerations.

Data is collected through key informant interviews including field visits, focus group discussion with refugees and a nationwide trader survey.

The Market team was on mission from the 3-22 March. Data collection started on the 23 March and ends around the 10 April. The report will be published mid-year.

## Food Prices Desktop Application

Food Prices data are managed in the [WFP VAM Online Reporting System](#), which is a centralized system for reporting on food security and vulnerability analysis information. Data uploading is done at the country offices using a standard excel template. Staff in the country offices work offline to input the data in the Excel template and then upload it to this centralized server. The system performs a number of validation checks when the file is being uploaded to ensure data quality on the server. Overtime, data standardization requirements were needed to ensure more data quality. For this to happen, a Desktop Application was developed (in the testing phase) that will interface with the existing Excel template. This interface will highlight price outliers and allow for other data quality checks. This application will be able to work offline.



## Lebanon, Syria Crisis Response



## WFP VAM Online Reporting System





## Ghana, Farm-Gate Price Monitoring Report

FARM-GATE PRICE MONITORING IN SELECTED IMPACT COUNTRIES	
GHANA	
February 2015	
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<b>KEY FINDINGS</b>	
Between July 2014 and January 2015, maize was the primary crop sold by farmers in the data sample and represented the main share of sales in northern, central, and southern areas of Ghana. It was the most product sold by farmers in the data sample, followed by rice and sorghum. The analysis of sales trends suggests that the allocation of sales volumes across marketing channels varied greatly throughout the collection period. The analysis of sales trends suggests that the allocation of sales volumes across marketing channels varied greatly throughout the collection period. The analysis of sales trends suggests that the allocation of sales volumes across marketing channels varied greatly throughout the collection period.	

## Tanzania, Farm-Gate Price Monitoring Report

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Between July 2014 and January 2015, maize was the primary crop sold by farmers in the data sample and represented the main share of sales in northern, central, and southern areas of Tanzania. It was the most product sold by farmers in the data sample, followed by rice and sorghum. The analysis of sales trends suggests that the allocation of sales volumes across marketing channels varied greatly throughout the collection period. The analysis of sales trends suggests that the allocation of sales volumes across marketing channels varied greatly throughout the collection period.	

## El Salvador, Farm-Gate Price Monitoring Report

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## Report on Simulating Economic Impacts of Ebola on Household Food Security in 2015: Application of Shock Impact Simulation Model

VAM have developed a light version of the Shock Impact Simulation Model (SISMod), an economic modelling system, which provides early quantitative estimates of food insecurity for the current situation as well as the anticipated scenarios in the near future. The paper presents VAM's preliminary estimates of the impact of Ebola on household food security in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia based on the possible trends of economic and market factors which affect household's income, expenditure and food consumption. The SISMod tool is designed to support early warning and early response to prevent a further deterioration of food security. The priority is to provide appropriate assistance to the most vulnerable people, support agricultural households to ensure timely and sufficient food production, and increase income-generating activities for the poor households. Frequent monitoring on food security and food prices is also crucial for better understanding of the rapidly changing situation and allow flexible responses and actions needed in 2015. The paper will be released in early May and will be available online.

## P4P Farm-Gate Price Monitoring

In 2013, WFP launched the P4P-VAM Farm-Gate Price Data Collection pilot establishing a monitoring system for prices and sales of P4P-supported Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in three impact countries (El Salvador, Ghana, Tanzania) using GRASP-based mobile technology. The primary aim of the pilot was to enhance the understanding of farmers' marketing decisions in P4P-supported countries through the integration of farm-gate prices into VAM's online price tools.

**See the latest Farm-Gate Price Monitoring report:**

**Ghana**  
[Farm-Gate Price Monitoring in Selected Impact Countries, February 2015](#)

**Tanzania**  
[Farm-Gate Price Monitoring in Selected Impact Countries, February 2015](#)

**El Salvador**  
[Farm-Gate Price Monitoring in Selected Impact Countries, March 2015](#)

Specifically, the reports aim to: 1) analyse regularity in data reporting and its impact of data availability; 2) identify main commodities sold across different marketing channels; 3) analyse main trends in the allocation of sales volumes by marketing channel at aggregate and individual levels; 4) compare price levels of respective commodities and the evolution of price differentials; 5) report on the shares of income received by monitoring farmers by marketing channel.

**The WFP Market Monitor issue no. 26** was released in January 2015 and is available [online](#). The bulletin examines trends in staple food and fuel prices, the cost of the basic food basket, and consumer price indices for 68 countries in the fourth quarter of 2014 (October to December).

# Inter-Agency Work

## Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Nutrition Working Group

VAM and the nutrition unit in headquarters and the field have been actively involved in developing and piloting the IPC nutrition classification focusing on acute malnutrition. VAM HQ participated in the Nutrition Working Group (NWG) meeting in February to adapt the indicators following pilot activities in Kenya, Sudan, Bangladesh and Central African Republic. The focus for the next pilots will be on taking into account contributing factors. VAM is contributing by integrating the basic causes of malnutrition as part of the analysis through its participation in a sub-group of the NWG.

VAM representatives on the IPC NWG and the Chronic Working Group participated in a one-day joint meeting to discuss nutrition/nutrient related indicators in the IPC Chronic Classification.

As a member of the IPC Technical Advisory Group, VAM was part of a teleconference in March to finalise the input to the forthcoming technical guidance notes on: i) IPC product and IPC Compatible Product; ii) using direct and indirect information.

## Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) ad-hoc Needs Assessment Group

VAM contributed to the finalisation of the Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) guidance. Version 1 of the guidance was used in the field, feedback was given and a revised version of the guidance was produced. VAM teams in the field contributed their experiences which were transmitted through the ad-hoc Working Group of which VAM is a member. VAM staff are contributing to the development annexes on the application of the MIRA tool in conflict/complex emergencies and in urban areas. The ad-hoc NA group has become the informal Needs Assessment Reference Group which VAM continues to be an active member of.

## Joint Assessment Missions (JAM)<sup>3</sup>

VAM is working with UNHCR to finalise training films on the JAM process. Video footage from a JAM in Ethiopia is being edited and will be available in May. The films will also be incorporated into an e-learning module to be part of WFP's Learning Management System (LMS).

3. JAMs are conducted in collaboration with UNHCR to understand the food and nutrition situation, needs, risks, capacities and vulnerabilities of refugees or internally displaced people.



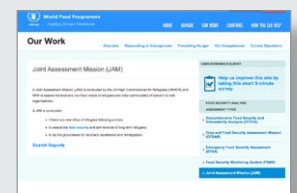
[Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) Nutrition Working Group](#)



[Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) ad-hoc Needs Assessment Group](#)



[Joint Assessment Missions \(JAM\)](#)



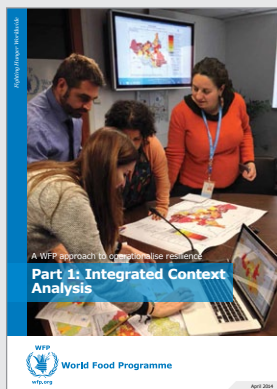




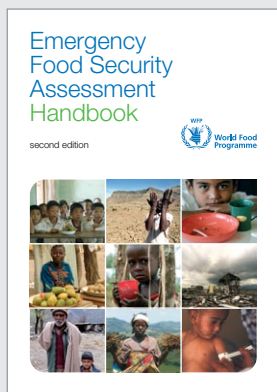
### [Southern Africa Development Community \(SADC\) Urban Training of Trainers](#)



### [Integrated Context Analysis \(ICA\)](#)



### [Emergency Food Security Assessment \(EFSA\)](#)



# Capacity Development and Guidance

## **Southern Africa Development Community Urban Training for Trainers**

During the weeks of 9-20 February 2015, the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) organised an urban Training of Trainers (ToT) in Swaziland. The main aim of the ToT was to train National Vulnerability Assessment Committees and relevant humanitarian agency staff on adapting vulnerability assessment tools from a rural to an urban setting. WFP VAM facilitated a week of this training, with sessions focused on adapting the CARI methodology for urban settings, and market analysis.

## **Cost of Diet Workshop**

A Cost of Diet (CoD) workshop took place in Rome on 9-13 March 2015 and involved WFP staff from Headquarters, Regional Bureau and Country Offices including Nutrition, VAM and Innovation. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the new version of the CoD software (Cost of Diet, Version 2) and discuss opportunities for its use within the broader framework of WFP's nutrition situation analysis.

## **ICA Training in Panama and Dakar**

The 5-day ICA (Integrated Context Analysis) Training took place in Panama from 23-27 March and is planned to take place in Dakar from 20-24 April. The training in Panama presented information on the methodology of the ICA, specifically addressing the steps required to carry out the historical trend analysis of food security indicators, natural shock data (both rapid and slow onset) and land degradation. Data on nutrition, population and livelihoods was elaborated and analysis of findings from seasonal perspective was also covered. The training highlighted how ICA findings may be used to inform programme by providing general recommendations and guidance based on the emerging contexts. It also highlighted how ICA findings may be used strategically to support a wide range of corporate and development objectives. Participants included Programme and VAM officers from 6 countries (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru and Colombia). The training in Dakar will have the same objectives and will include participants from Programme and VAM officers from 5 countries (Senegal, Chad, Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso).

## **EFSA 72-hours Trainings**

An EFSA 72-hours training was carried out in Ecuador during the week of 23-27 February. The event was organized in collaboration with the Secretaria Nacional de Gestion de Riegos (SNDGR). The objective of the training was to strengthen the capacities of SNDGR staff in the initial assessment of food security situation in the first days after an emergency.

A regional Training-of-Trainers (ToT) in the EFSA 72-hours took place in Panama in the week of 2-6 March. The objective was to train a pool of WFP Country Office and Regional Bureau staff in facilitation of EFSA-72 hours training events for different agencies and institutions involved in disaster management. The facilitator's training and EFSA 72-hours training packages are being finalized and will be ready by May 2015.

# Focus on Asia

## 72-hours Post-Disaster Emergency Assessment

The VAM Asia team is testing a new approach for post-disaster emergency assessments, focused on speed and usability for immediate programmatic decision-making. The objective is to establish a standard assessment framework that ensures that, in the hours and days following a natural disaster, humanitarian actors and governments have access to the basic information needed to plan immediate relief efforts. The aim is not to provide a perfect, comprehensive assessment, but rather to provide the best possible information, when it's most needed.

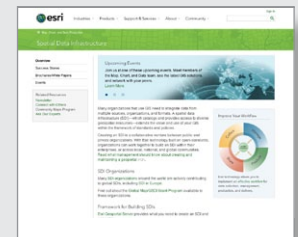
The idea is to release an initial assessment - within the first 72 hours following a disaster - showing what areas and how many people are most affected. This initial assessment can then be updated and refined in the following weeks, using field verifications, aerial photos, satellite imagery, social media, and other secondary sources (until a more in-depth assessment is carried out). In order to be able to release the initial assessment within 72 hours, key baseline geographic, demographic and infrastructure data must be ready to map and analyze. The 72 hours assessment process therefore builds heavily on the data preparedness work carried out in the Asia region over the past year, in particular the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) initiative. Though this is still ongoing work, a centralized database of ready-to-map data (geographic, food security and socio-economic) is being established for each of the region's Country Offices.

The 72 hours assessment method was tested for the third time (after the simulated earthquake scenario in Nepal and simulated typhoon in the Philippines) during Typhoon Pam, which hit Vanuatu in March 2015, and was used to inform WFP's Immediate Response EMOP. This time, the VAM Asia team was on the grounds to test the second - equally critical - phase of the 72 hours assessment approach: regularly updating the initial assessment, over the course of the two weeks following the disaster.

To verify the priority areas initially identified in the 72 hours assessment, WFP and partners -in particular assessment teams from the [National Disaster Management Office \(NDMO\)](#) and the [United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination \(UNDAC\)](#) - completed an observation checklist for each visited area. These were completed either during or following the in-field evaluations. The checklist was specifically designed to be concise and quick to complete, relying primarily on the assessment team's observations, complemented by short community interviews. The checklist provided a classification of the severity of impacts in six sectors: overall physical/infrastructure damage; agriculture/livelihoods; food needs; markets; housing; and health. Visited locations were assigned a single severity score for each of these sectors. This enabled VAM not only to adjust the initial 72 hours overall priority map, but also to create specific priority maps for each sector, for use by various humanitarian partners.



## 72-hours Post-Disaster Emergency Assessment



## National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)

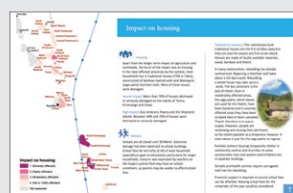
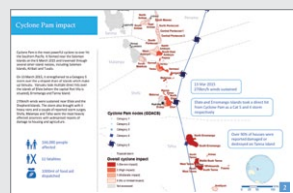


## United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

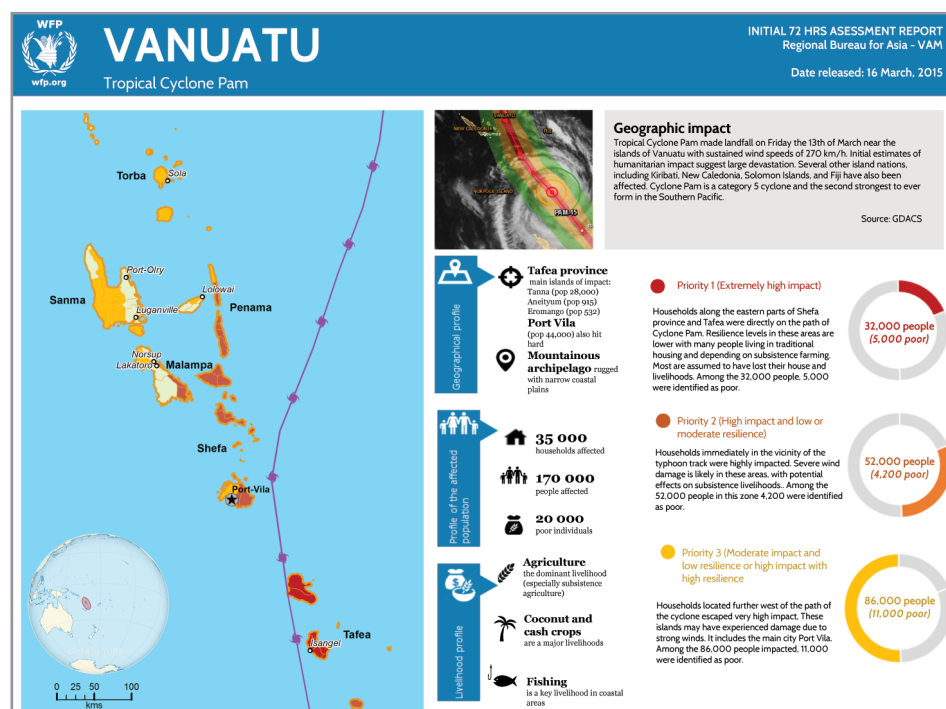




## Vanuatu Report: The Impact of Cyclone Pam



The final, revised Vanuatu Assessment, including sectoral impact maps and the template for the verification checklist, can be found [here](#). Below is the cover page of the initial assessment, done in the first 72 hours.



## OVERVIEW

### Resilience profile

**Resilience:** Vanuatu is prone to natural disasters which create local devastation and loss of livelihoods. The localised nature and significant scale of these disasters means that they tend to overwhelm the local coping capacity and mutual assistance capabilities of extended families and relatives living on other islands.

Urban areas tend to be poorer than rural ones. The worst affected islands, Tanna and Erromango, have relatively high poverty levels (10-33%). In the other two most affected islands, Aniwan and Efate, poverty ranges between 3 and 10%, except in Port Vila city, where rates are much higher (18%) (Census 2009).

People in urban areas are mostly dependent on wage or salaried income. In rural areas, own home production and household enterprise are the main income sources. Despite lower poverty in rural area, the rural subsistence type of livelihoods are more likely to be impacted.

Housing conditions are precarious. About 65% of households in Tafea province live in houses with walls and roofs made of traditional material. This contrasts with about 2% of households in Port Vila (Census 2009).

**Social assistance programs:** There are four main social assistance programs in the Republic of Vanuatu. The existing social assistance programmes include Home Island Passage Allowance, scholarship allowance, family assistance support program, and disaster assistance.

While there is no public sector cash social assistance, there are some elements of direct service provision to broader population groups which replace some of the needs for specific social assistance.

When disasters strike, the government usually seeks external aid when resources are needed, since there is no permanent government fund to assist those affected by disaster. For the duration of the emergency, assistance such as food, clean water, clothing, blankets, temporary shelter, and transport may be provided to disaster victims.

### Livelihood profile

**Livelihoods:** The major livelihood activities in the affected areas are related to agriculture - predominantly coconut, roots and tubers, coconuts, and fruits and vegetables. Copra, the dry meat of coconut, is by far the most significant agricultural export.

**Agriculture:** Over 80% of the population in Vanuatu is engaged in agriculture, both for subsistence and cash crops, such as coconuts and kava. Coconut plantations - the key agricultural commodity in the country - are likely to have been severely damaged. Given the heavy reliance of communities on coconuts and coconut products, impact on livelihoods is likely to be long-lasting.

**Fisheries:** Fishing may have been disrupted due to severe winds resulting in loss of fishing boats and other assets.

**Daily labour:** Demand for daily labour (for debris removal, etc.) is likely to be high in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone.

**Cyclone season:** Normally during November-April.

### Food consumption

**Typical diet:** There is a large disparity between urban and rural diets. Rural populations rely mostly on self-grown root crops such as yam, manioc and taro, starchy fruits such as plantain, breadfruit and banana, fresh fish, and coconut products. Two thirds of their food is from own production. Dried breadfruit is particularly important as a survival food after cyclones, when other crop plants have been destroyed. Most food is boiled or grilled. Food is rarely fried and vegetable oil is rarely used.

Urban populations, on the other hand, buy most of their food and have a less traditional diet, with imported items such as rice, instant noodles, oil/ fats and canned fish being commonly consumed.

**Nutrition:** Obesity, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes are significant problems, particularly amongst urban populations. One quarter of infants receive complementary food before the age of 6 months. Malaria represents a public health concern especially during and after the rainy season.

**Assistance food basket:** See Page 4 for potential options.

### Logistics, Infrastructure & Markets

**Air airport:** There are 26 domestic airstrips and three airports able to accommodate international flights in Tafea, Luganville and Port Vila. Not all islands have airports. The airfield at Port Vila, the main international airport, has been badly damaged but military and commercial flights have already begun to arrive.

**Land and sea transport:** Maritime transport is the main means of inter-island freight transport. Not all islands have wharfs or landing sites. Road access is generally good in Vanuatu, with 1% of the population living less than 10 minutes from a main road.

**Communications:** Limited mobile communication is back up in Port Vila, but not in islands from Tafea province. Preliminary estimates suggest 80% of power lines are down in Port Vila and will not be fully restored for several weeks. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), located in Port Vila, has sustained damage to its HF radio, and is unable to communicate to emergency services or to send community announcements.

**Market Capacity & Constraints:** Reliance on markets varies widely between urban and rural households: rural households only buy one third of their food, compared to 80% for urban ones. Of the food items bought on markets, some are produced locally and the rest are imported, mostly from Australia (35% of imports) and Fiji (30%). Market constraints are likely to include transport and storage constraints, stock loss, poor food quality, high buying price, lack of demand, lack of credit, and irregular supply.

### Impact of previous cyclones

**Lusi (March 2014):** Category 2. Affected livelihoods of 20,000 people. Food security risk for a total of 4,867 households were identified in Penama, Malampa, Torba, Senma and Shefa Provinces. Vanua (January 2011): Category 1. Affected 32,000 people, mostly in Tafea Province. Damaged 70-100% of manioc and banana plants, which took 6 months to recover. Food assistance was provided by NDMO for up to 3 months.

**Uma (February 1987):** Category 4. Caused damages of USD 80 million. 48,000 people were affected. Death toll tallied at 48. Most affected islands were the same as for cyclone Pam: Efate (including Port Vila), Tanna and Erromango.

The Philippines Country Office intends to replicate other 72 hours assessments for planning purposes in the coming year, for locations that are regularly hit by typhoons. In parallel, the VAM Asia team will continue to test and further improve the process for the initial 72 hours assessment in other disaster scenarios (simulated or real), to establish a standard method which can be rolled out across the region in a systematic manner. Building on lessons learnt from the Vanuatu experience, the team will also continue testing field verification tools for rapidly updating the initial assessment in the weeks following a disaster.



## Analysing the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security to Inform Programme Design: the Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR) in Cambodia



Vulnerability ranking in Lvea Village, Chey commune.



Community visioning exercise in Prey Tup Village, Chey commune.

In Cambodia, WFP is working with the Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) project, funded by USAID, to implement programmes which help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change – including weather-related disasters.

In order to inform the project sites and activities, the Cambodia Country Office carried out an in-depth analysis of how current and future vulnerability to climate risk affect food security and livelihoods, working closely with local authorities and communities. By collecting and mapping in-depth information on livelihoods and combining it with existing climate science from the Mekong ARCC project, the Cambodia VAM team was able to identify the livelihoods most vulnerable to climate change.

This provides precise, contextually rich targeting information for WFP, the government, and development partners. It also provides important information on the types of livelihood enhancement and adaptation activities which are most appropriate to reduce food insecurity in the face of climate change.

The analysis results are also being packaged into toolkits and distributed to national, regional and local policymakers, to help integrate climate science and impact scenarios into regular development and disaster management efforts.



WFP facilitator explains community vulnerabilities to villagers in Koun Tnaot village, Chey commune.



Villagers in Prey Tup Village and vulnerability cards exercise.

## VAM food and commodity prices data store



### Recently posted on wfp.org

[Cambodia – Food Price and Wage Bulletin: No. 71, March 2015](#)

[Niger – mVAM dans le camp de refugies d'Abala, March 2015](#)

[Vanuatu – The Impact of Cyclone Pam, March 2015](#)

[Liberia, Sierra Leone – mVAM Regional Bulletin #5: Wage rates improve in Liberia and Sierra Leone, March 2015](#)

[Iraq – Food Market Monitoring Bulletin #4: Conflict drives food insecurity in Ninewa and Anbar, March 2015](#)

[Ukraine – Food Security Update, March 2015](#)

[Ukraine – Market Update 2: Price Monitoring of key food items in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, March 2015](#)

[Iraq – Food Market Monitoring Bulletin #3: Conflict disrupts food markets in Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Kirkuk, March 2015](#)

[Syrian Arab Republic – Market Price Watch, February 2015](#)

[Uganda – Monthly Market Monitor, February 2015](#)

[Yemen – Monthly Market Watch, February 2015](#)

[Ethiopia – Monthly Market Watch, February 2015](#)

[Afghanistan – Market Price Bulletin, February 2015](#)

[Nepal – Market Watch, February 2015](#)

[Sierra Leone – mVAM Bulletin #13: Food security improves in the districts of Bo and Kenema, February 2015](#)

[Liberia – mVAM Bulletin #14: Land borders are open, but poorer households are using more coping strategies, February 2015](#)

[Liberia, Sierra Leone – mVAM Regional Bulletin #4: Although post-harvest food security improvements continue, the poorest households are using more coping strategies, February 2015](#)

**Link to VAM Food and Commodity Prices Data Store:**  
<http://foodprices.vam.wfp.org>

# THE ASSESSOR

## WFP's Food Security Analysis e-Newsletter

### Contact Us

#### Headquarters Team

##### Management

**Arif Husain:** [arif.husain@wfp.org](mailto:arif.husain@wfp.org)

**John McHarris:** [john.mcharris@wfp.org](mailto:john.mcharris@wfp.org)

##### Emergency Assessments/JAM

Kathryn Ogden: [kathryn.ogden@wfp.org](mailto:kathryn.ogden@wfp.org)

Rossella Bottone: [rossella.bottone@wfp.org](mailto:rossella.bottone@wfp.org)

##### Baseline Studies/CFSVA

Aysha Twose: [aysha.twose@wfp.org](mailto:aysha.twose@wfp.org)

##### Market Analysis

Tobias Flaemig: [tobias.flaemig@wfp.org](mailto:tobias.flaemig@wfp.org)

##### Food Security Monitoring

Jean-Martin Bauer: [jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org](mailto:jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org)

##### GIS/Remote Sensing

Rogério Bonifacio: [rogerio.bonifacio@wfp.org](mailto:rogerio.bonifacio@wfp.org)

##### Food Security Information Network

Alexis Hoskins: [alexis.hoskins@wfp.org](mailto:alexis.hoskins@wfp.org)

##### Information Management

Wael Attia: [wael.attia@wfp.org](mailto:wael.attia@wfp.org)

##### Communication

Anuj Anand: [anuj.anand@wfp.org](mailto:anuj.anand@wfp.org)

#### Regional Advisers

##### Asia

Siemon Hollema: [siemon.hollema@wfp.org](mailto:siemon.hollema@wfp.org)

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

Mariko Kawabata: [mariko.kawabata@wfp.org](mailto:mariko.kawabata@wfp.org)

##### Western Africa

Anne-Claire Mouilliez: [anne-claire.mouilliez@wfp.org](mailto:anne-claire.mouilliez@wfp.org)

Simon Renk: [simon.renk@wfp.org](mailto:simon.renk@wfp.org)

##### Easter Africa

Elliot Vhurumuku: [elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org](mailto:elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org)

Simon Dradri: [simon.dradri@wfp.org](mailto:simon.dradri@wfp.org)

##### Southern Africa

Joao Manja: [joao.manja@wfp.org](mailto:joao.manja@wfp.org)

##### Latin America and the Caribbean

Margaretha Barkhof: [margaretha.barkhof@wfp.org](mailto:margaretha.barkhof@wfp.org)

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**Contact:** Arif Husain

Chief Economist and Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division – Analysis and Trends Service  
[arif.husain@wfp.org](mailto:arif.husain@wfp.org)

**For further information:** [wfp.vaminfo@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.vaminfo@wfp.org)

Website: <http://www.wfp.org/food-security>

Twitter: @wfpvam

#### World Food Programme

Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68/70 - 00148 Rome, Italy  
[www.wfp.org/food-security](http://www.wfp.org/food-security)



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