



THE ASSESSOR



Welcome to Issue 41 of THE ASSESSOR, WFP's Food Security Analysis e-Newsletter!

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[Humanitarian Exchange, Magazine Issue 64](#)



[WFP's Collaboration with Nielsen Brochure](#)



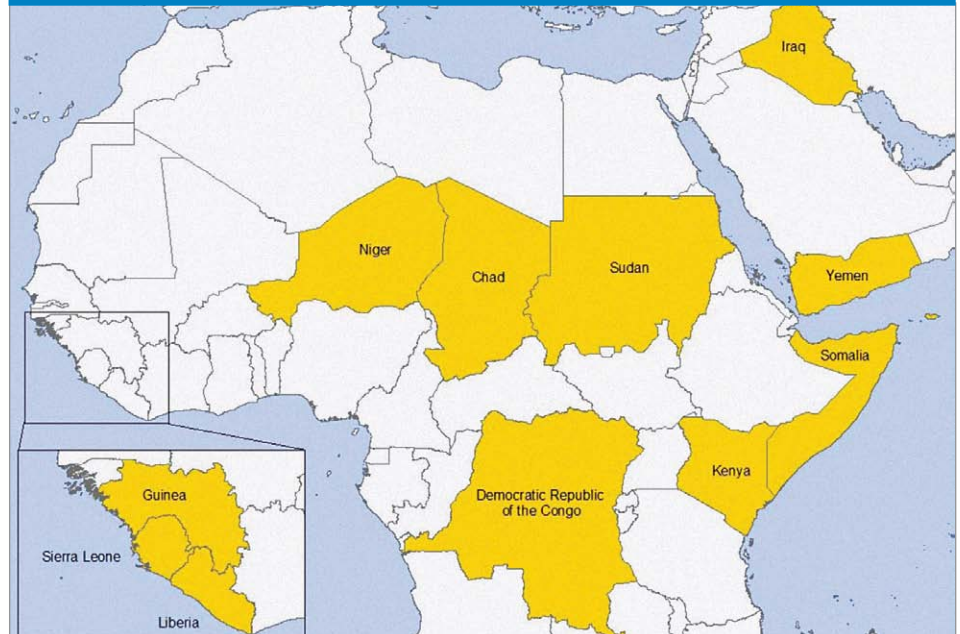
[Global Food Security Update No. 18](#)



mVAM Rollout Update

WFP has been using voice calls, SMS and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) calls technology to collect real-time, household, nutrition and market-related food security information. The approach has now been tested in eleven countries. As shown in the map below, the approach has supported emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak and the Iraq crisis.

Countries Participating in the mVAM Initiative



mVAM Featured in the Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

In 2014, WFP set up the first fully automated food security monitoring system during the response to the Ebola crisis. The experience has been documented in an article published in the June edition of Humanitarian Exchange, a publication of the Overseas Development Institute. The article considers the strengths and weaknesses of remote data collection for food security monitoring in an emergency setting. To access the article please click [here](#).

Nielsen Case Study

Nielsen, a global information and measurement company, and WFP worked together on a year-long pro bono project to revolutionize WFP's mobile data collection. As part of Nielsen's commitment to skills-based volunteering and the in-kind giving of data and insights, a team of Nielsen measurement science associates worked to help WFP move from solely in-person interviews to incorporating remote mobile data collection into WFP's survey toolkit.

The collaboration resulted in outcomes that aligned with the initial project goal of building the agency's digital capacity. The Nielsen team learned innovative ways to apply its knowledge, while WFP gained a more sophisticated level of expertise in mobile data collection. For further details on WFP's collaboration with Nielsen, please click [here](#).

WFP and OCHA's Open Data Partnership

VAM and the Emergency Preparedness and Support Response Division teamed up with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to provide access to global data on hunger and food insecurity. The data can be used to understand the type of food available in certain markets, how families cope in the face of food insecurity and how WFP provides food assistance in emergencies to those in need. The data is being made available through OCHA's [Humanitarian Data Exchange \(HDX\)](#), an open platform for sharing crisis data.

Examples of WFP datasets shared through HDX include the following:

- The **Global Food Prices** Database has data on food prices (e.g., beans, rice, fish, and sugar) for 76 countries and some 1,500 markets. The dataset includes around 500,000 records and is updated monthly.
- The **Food Consumption Score (FCS)** is a proxy indicator for food security that measures the diversity of household diets, and how frequently food is consumed. This data is available sub-nationally for 38 countries.
- The **Coping Strategy Index** measures the severity and frequency of the strategies that households use to cope with acute food insecurity. This data is available for 31 countries at a sub-national level.
- The **Income Activities** dataset includes data on income generation at the household level. Sources of income listed include labor, agriculture, asset sales, and remittances, among others. It is available for 32 countries.
- The **Food Assistance** dataset contains data on the number of people reached with food assistance in emergency settings from August 2014 to May 2015. This data covers 25 countries and is updated every four weeks.

HDX built an interactive visualization (see "[Price by Commodity](#)") for Food Prices data that allows a range of users, from the general public to a data scientist, to explore the data in insightful ways. More visualizations for Food Consumption Score, Coping Strategy Index and Income Activities will soon become available. WFP has made the interactive visualizations available on the [WFP VAM One-Stop Shop](#) and the [WFP Operations](#) website. For further details, please see the [Press Release](#) or click [here](#) to access our recently published Factsheet.



WFP VAM One-Stop Shop



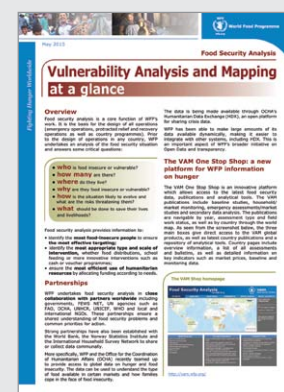
Price by Commodity, Democratic Republic of Congo



Press Release: WFP and OCHA Join Forces to Make Data More Accessible



VAM Factsheet





Seasonal Monitor Webpage



West and East Africa Seasonal Monitor Report



El Niño Seasonal Monitor Report



Central America Seasonal Monitor Report



West Africa Seasonal Monitor Report

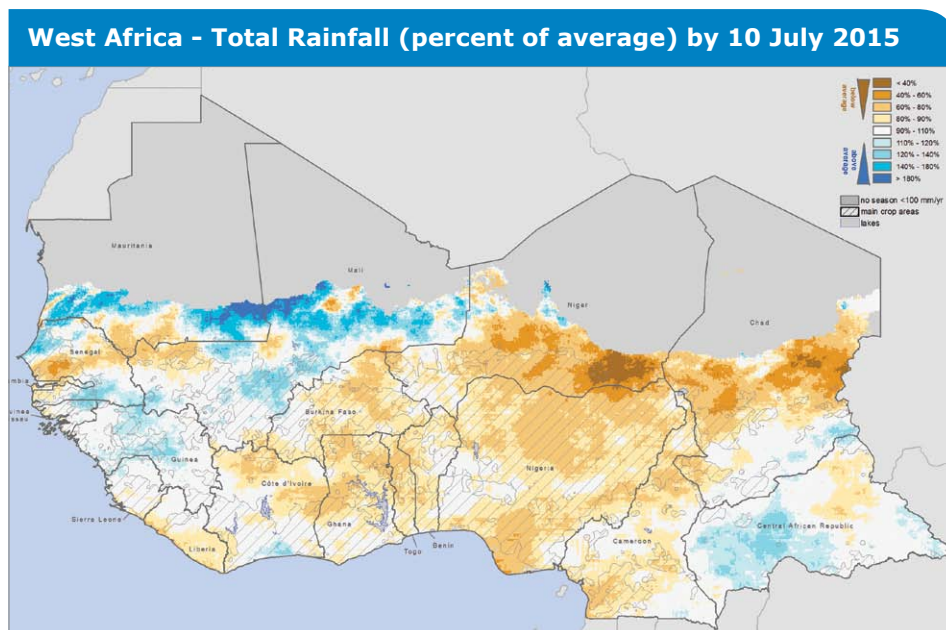


Seasonal Monitor: implications of the El Niño event

The Seasonal Monitor has just completed a fairly busy first year of activity. During this period it has monitored an intense drought in Central America, the worst drought in more than 20 years in [Senegal-Mauritania](#) and a major crop production shortfall in southern Africa, among other events of note.

The Seasonal Monitor team is now gearing up for what promises to be a number of busy seasons due to the current El Niño event that has developed from March 2015 and is expected to run until early 2016. This has the potential to impact the food security of a vast number of people across the globe.

To put the El Niño event in perspective, and the *when* and *where* of its potential impacts; the team issued an El Niño thematic Seasonal Monitor, which will be updated as the event unfolds. El Niño implications and scenarios for 2015 to date, can be found by clicking [here](#). The region specific Seasonal Monitors will keep providing a more detailed view of the impacts on the various growing seasons around the globe. The first assessments for [Central America](#) and [West Africa](#) can already be found [here](#).



Seasonal cumulative rainfall until early July 2015, as a percentage of the 20-year average. Hashed pattern indicates main agricultural areas.

Brown shades indicate below-average rainfall; blue shades indicate above-average seasonal rainfall.

The map above shows that the early stages of the growing season in West Africa have been dominated by significant rainfall deficits across most of the region. Until late June, central areas of Senegal, southern Mauritania and western Mali had received less than half of the usual rainfall. However, wetter than average conditions in early July improved this situation. A similar situation developed in eastern Niger, northern Nigeria and Chad – regions also affected by a poor growing season in 2014. There has been no reprieve in the first half of July which has further deepened seasonal rainfall deficits. Rainfall has also been irregular and poorly distributed across northern Cote d'Ivoire, northern Ghana and Togo - Benin.

Gender Analysis: cross-unit collaboration to strengthen gender-sensitive reporting

VAM has completed the first phase of a collaborative effort with OIM, GEN and COM to improve how gender-sensitive information is captured through WFP. A key output of this has been parallel after-action reviews conducted by the OIM and VAM Gender Advisors, targeting key products from the Vanuatu Cyclone crisis (72 hr assessment and in-depth assessment for VAM, and several SitReps for OIM). These reviews have been shared with colleagues at RB and CO levels.

VAM and OIM have also coordinated the development of guidance materials and HQ support to RBs and COs to strengthen gender analysis and reporting capacities cohesively across the units.

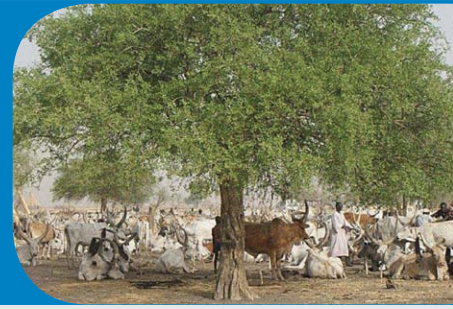
As the collaboration moves into the second phase, the units have planned key outputs to focus on increasing VAM staff awareness of the emergency information needs from Operations to inform targeted and gender-sensitive reporting. Building on the support provided by OIM and VAM to RB and CO teams from March to June, the collaborative team will begin to identify "gender champion" RBs and COs reflecting exemplary cases of collecting, analyzing, reporting on, and communicating findings for sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender analysis in emergencies. Such exemplary cases will be highlighted to promote greater gender sensitive content and reporting for future VAM products.

Food Security Information Network (FSIN)

To support FSIN's aim to help countries build sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) information systems, the following activities were undertaken:

• Capacity Development in South Sudan

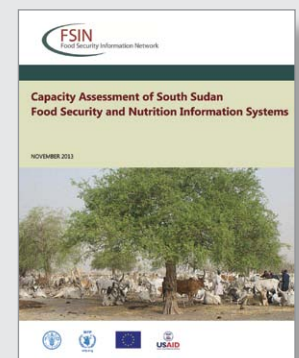
Building on the recommendations of a comprehensive 2013 [assessment](#) of needs and opportunities to strengthen capacities of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on food and nutrition security information systems, FSIN sponsored a follow-up mission in June 2015. The mission resulted in development of a FAO, FEWS NET and WFP Operational Strategy outlining joint activities on data collection, analysis and dissemination, and related capacity building. The overarching goal is to support South Sudan in improving and harmonizing its information systems for effective and timely decision making.



[Capacity Assessment of South Sudan on FSIN Website](#)



[Capacity Assessment of South Sudan Report](#)

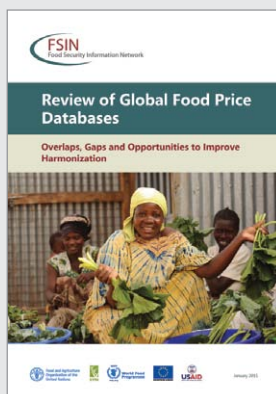


[FSIN Website: updates on Resilience Measurement Technical Working Group](#)





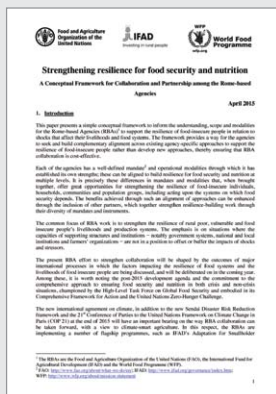
FSIN Review of Global Food Price Databases Paper



FSIN Policy on Building Resilience for Food Security Webpage



Strengthening Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition Paper



● Launch of the Working Group on Harmonization of Global Food Price Datasets

In response to the January 2015 paper on the [Review of Global Food Price Databases](#) which identified opportunities to improve cost-efficiency and interoperability of the datasets held by FAO, FEWS NET and WFP, an informal working group on Harmonization of Global Food Price Datasets was established. This group has begun exploring ways to address three key issues that were identified after completing a detailed comparison of these institutions' datasets: 1) Discrepancies in market and commodity names, 2) Data gaps, and 3) Differences in price values in overlapped series. The next steps include harmonizing the coding system (geo and commodity), further investigating price value discrepancies to avoid mixed and misleading messages from the 3 agencies, and exploring dataset complementarity.

● Update on the work of the Food Nutrition Security Technical Working Group

FSIN's Technical Working Group (TWG) on [Measuring Food and Nutrition Security](#) (FNS) was tasked in early 2015 to build a detailed inventory of food and nutrition indicators and to evaluate their value to FSIN stakeholders for guiding policies and programs. The TWG will undertake: 1) an expert assessment of key food and nutrition security indicators along with a user's guide; 2) a survey by users of FNS indicators on the usefulness and reliability of widely used indicators in their work; and 3) a final report including key recommendations for future use and development of FNS indicators. The TWG held its first face-to-face meeting in May in Rome to discuss the list of indicators and complete the criteria for their assessment. In June, the TWG met again in Rome with the Expert Advisory Panel to get feedback on their work, including the preliminary design of the survey (to be launched in September/October).

● Update on the work of the Resilience Measurement Technical Working Group

A meeting of the TWG members who are working on thematic papers with FAO and WFP took place on May 30 in Rome, to provide feedback on the draft papers (forthcoming). French and Spanish versions of the *Resilience Measurement Paper 1: An agenda for resilience measurement* and *Paper 2: A common analytical model have been released*. To request hard copies of the papers, please contact the FSIN Secretariat. These publications have been referenced in [WFP's Policy on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition](#) and [Strengthening Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition](#) as well as by the Karamoja Resilience Context Analysis report produced by IGAD with WFP's support.

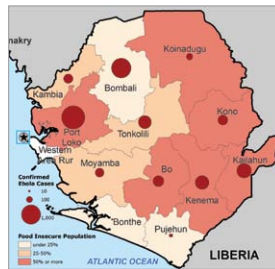
To find out more about FSIN, visit www.fsincop.net or contact the FSIN secretariat at fsin-secretariat@wfp.org

Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA)¹

EFSA in Ebola Affected Countries: The EFSA in the three Ebola countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) were recently completed. Results show that despite the current food security situation is similar to pre-crisis, the Ebola disease had a considerable impact on the agricultural sector. It can be anticipated that the situation will worsen during the lean season.



Liberia

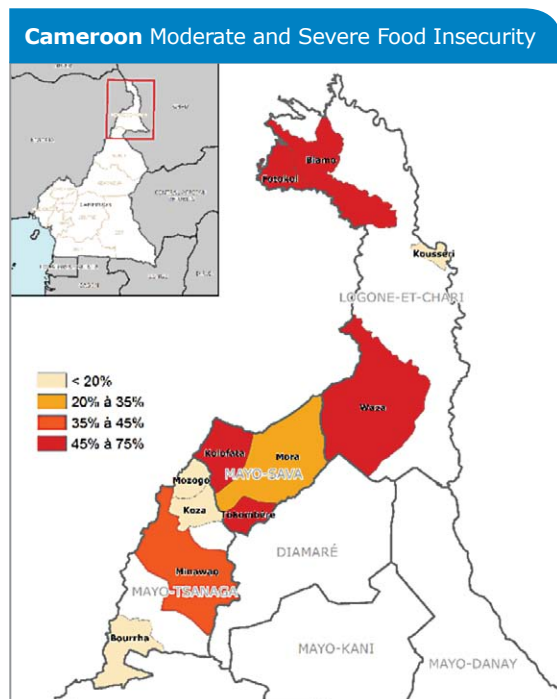


Sierra Leone



Guinea

Cameroon: An EFSA was conducted in North Cameroon to assess the impact of the displacement due to the Boko Haram crisis. Main preliminary results show the following:



- Food insecurity affects mainly the poorest households with few assets, livestock or those which do not have access to land for farming.
- The results of this survey reveal high food insecurity rates for Nigerian refugees and internally displaced persons.
- Emergency strategies are more frequently adopted by IDPs (46%).
- In general, prices of major agricultural products experienced an increase in June 2015 compared to June 2014.
- Food aid, health and support for agricultural activities remain priority needs.

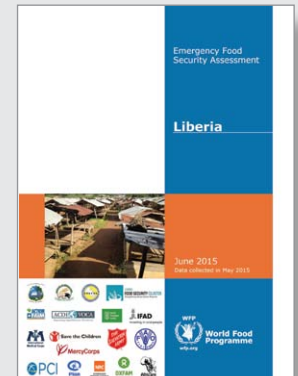
For further details, an EFSA report will be released shortly.

Please see the [Focus on Asia](#) section for details on the EFSA in Nepal.

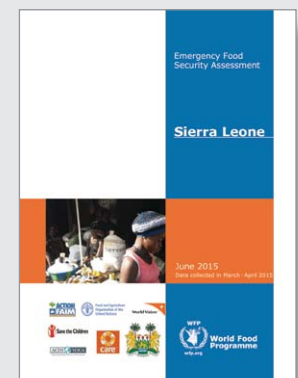
1. Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) are undertaken following a disaster or a shock. They study the affected geographic areas to determine the impact on households and their livelihoods and to provide recommendations on food and non-food assistance options. They are used to design relief and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



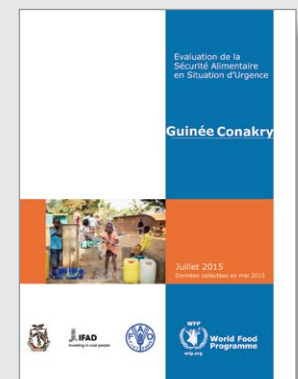
[Liberia EFSA Report](#)



[Sierra Leone EFSA Report](#)



[Guinea EFSA Report](#)

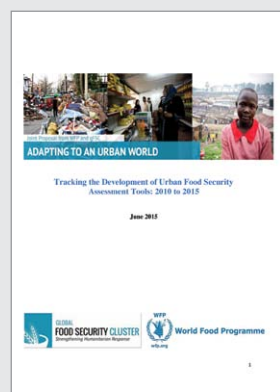




The Assessor n. 40: CFSVA activities in Rwanda, Mali, Kenya and Mozambique



Adapting to an Urban World Report



Baseline Studies²

Ongoing CFSVA activities are taking place in **Rwanda, Mali, Kenya** and **Mozambique**. For details on the activities please see The Assessor Issue 40 by clicking [here](#).

Update on Rwanda: The CFSVA will update the previous 2012 CFSVA and track progress against reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. Data collection took place in April-May, analysis is ongoing, and preliminary results will be presented late 2015.

Update on Mali: 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; the draft report is currently being circulated for comments, and the final report will be published in mid-late 2015.

Update on Kenya: The CFSVA will rely on data derived from a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) that includes WFP food security modules. Data collection was completed in October 2014 and preliminary results were presented on 8 April. The completed CFSVA will be released in late 2015.

Update on Mozambique: A food security trend analysis report is in the process of being finalized. Analysis of 2006, 2009 and 2013 baseline data has been completed. 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.

Ethiopia: The Central Statistics Agency (CSA) carries out the Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey every 5 years, and the Welfare Monitoring Survey approximately every 3 years. WFP partnered with the CSA for the 2010/2011 surveys, and is continuing this partnership for the 2015 surveys. WFP has provided computer tablets and kitchen scales, and has incorporated select modules to enable calculation of the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI). Data collection will start in July, with final cleaned data expected in early-mid 2016. A CFSVA report will be published in mid-late 2016.

Adapting Food Security Assessments for Urban Environments

- In June 2015, WFP VAM and the gFSC (Global Food Security Cluster) completed a desk review, a key deliverable of the Adapting to an Urban World project. The desk review serves to update the 2010 review, tracking the progress of the humanitarian community in the development of urban food security assessment tools. A key finding of the review is that the majority of recent initiatives have been desk reviews and catalogues, rather than much needed development of practical tools. The review recommends that gFSC partner organisations should increase efforts to develop tools, which will require investing in common initiatives and partnerships. The full report can be found online on the [cluster website](#).

- 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 period (normal times). It is used as a benchmark against which to measure change after crisis. It also informs contingency planning and preparedness.

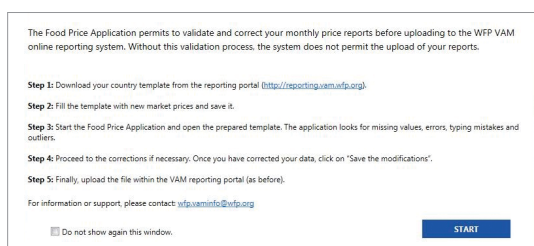
- gFSC and WFP VAM colleagues travelled to Amman and Beirut to interview humanitarian practitioners about urban assessment methodology, challenges and adaptations. A variety of UN agencies and NGOs gave feedback about their experiences, ongoing issues and innovations. Key findings included a lack of clear delineation between urban/rural definitions. The findings of the case study have been analysed and written into a report which can be found on the [cluster website](#).
- The Madagascar country office is planning an urban vulnerability assessment in Antananarivo, Tulear and Tamatave. The Adapting to an Urban World project is working closely with the country office to capture lessons from this exercise and pilot new modules. In June, preliminary data collection took place in order to make urban-specific adaptations to the household survey modules. The data collection will end in August and a report will be published in September/October.

Food Security and Vulnerability Atlas of Indonesia: The 2015 Food Security and Vulnerability Atlas (FSVA) identifies which districts are most vulnerable to food and nutrition security, and what makes them vulnerable. As such, the FSVA is a powerful tool to ensure that policies and resources have the maximum effect. The Indonesia FSVA was issued on 8 July. This atlas expands the discussion as Indonesia has prioritized stunting. Since the first Atlas was published in 2005, levels of poverty have fallen, improving access to food for many households across Indonesia. At the same time, Indonesians have better access to health facilities, and electricity and roads have reached more areas. The report notes that inequality, infrastructure, natural disasters and climate change continue to pose challenges to Indonesia's food security. Please click [here](#) to read the Atlas.

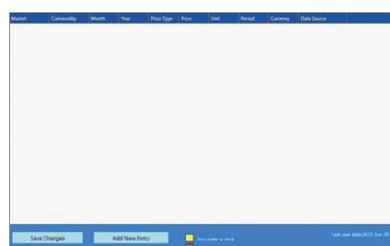
Market Analysis

Rollout of Food Prices Desktop Application

[WFP VAM Online Reporting System](#) is a centralized system for reporting on food security and vulnerability analysis information. Food Prices data is managed in this system. The Food Prices Desktop Application was developed to interface with the Excel template used by country offices for uploading data. The system performs a number of validation checks to ensure data quality on the server. The Desktop Application has been rolled out in 53 countries to date, covering all regions. The country offices were contacted to agree on standardizing the list of commodities and units of measure for each market. VAM carried out a data cleaning exercise on price values on the existing data in the database to improve the quality and ensure consistency. The data labeling of commodities is being harmonized to allow for data comparability. This also includes mapping commodity codes with internationally applied codes which is the first step towards interoperability of the data between the three agencies (WFP, FAO and FEWS NET) as noted in the [FSIN section](#).



Introductory window



Desktop Application open



Food Security Cluster Website



Press Release: New Atlas Charts Indonesia's Food Security Progress



Food Security and Vulnerability Atlas of Indonesia Report



WFP VAM Online Reporting System





P4P Farm-Gate Price Monitoring



Food Insecurity on the Rise as Ebola Abates Report



The Market Monitor No. 27



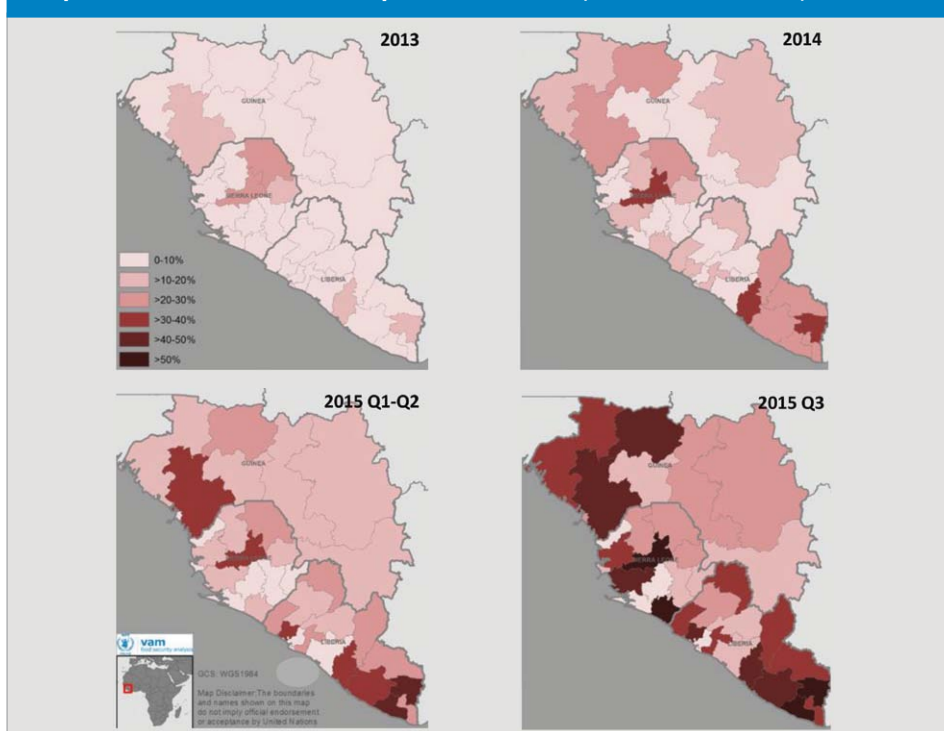
P4P Farm-Gate Price Monitoring: Lessons Learned

In 2013, WFP launched the P4P-VAM Farm-Gate Price Data Collection pilot in three countries (El Salvador, Ghana, Tanzania) using GRASP-based mobile technology. The 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. The pilot phase is over and a report is currently being finalized in collaboration with P4P and feedback from the country offices which examines the main lessons derived from the implementation of the pilot. Some key lessons learned include: 1) Data quality was lower than expected; 2) The set-up and dissemination of data analysis needs to be better communicated; 3) Mobile technology based data collection has the potential to fill gaps in farm gate price data; 4) The use of GRASP can benefit country offices monitoring activities.

Shock Impact Simulation Model: Focus on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

VAM has 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. VAM released a [report](#) on simulating economic impacts of Ebola on household food security in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The paper presents the SISMod methodology and estimates of the impact of Ebola on household food security in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, based on possible trends of economic and market factors. The aim is to provide insights into potential food security developments in 2015.

Proportion of Food-Insecure People in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, 2013-2015



The **WFP Market Monitor Issue No. 27** was released in April 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 67 countries in the first quarter of 2015 (January to March).

Inter-Agency Work

Malawi Post Disaster Needs Assessment

Malawi was hit by the highest rainfall on record in early 2015, which caused significant flooding – predominantly in the Southern Region, and exacerbated an already precarious situation for rural households. A Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was undertaken with WFP leading the food security analysis sector. The effects of the substantial damage and losses caused by the floods have been felt in the productive, public infrastructure and social service sectors, including private and community assets. It's expected that the floods have pushed even more households further into poverty. Key recommendations from the PDNA, can be found in the report by clicking [here](#).

Global Urban Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit

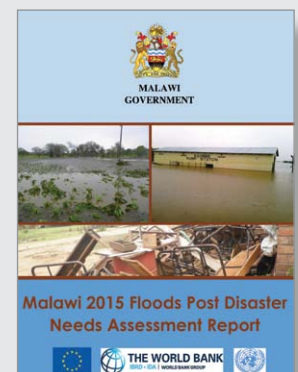
Preparations for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to be held in May 2016 are underway. A Global Urban Consultation was held on 22-23 June 2015 in Barcelona to make recommendations to the WHS on the urban agenda. Organized by UN Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), it brought together 50 representatives from INGOs, the UN system, and from local governments of Central African Republic, Senegal, and Indonesia. The consultation reviewed some key urban recommendations to put forward to the WHS and other processes such as Habitat III. Inputs into a Global Alliance and an Urban Charter were provided which are to be presented at a Global Consultation in Geneva, October 2015. WFP was present as one of the stakeholders with an active interest in better defining assessment tools for urban food security and vulnerability surveys as part of a project with the global Food Security Cluster. For further details, please visit the Urban WHS dedicated webpage by clicking [here](#).

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Global Meeting

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Event took place on 20 May at the Milan Expo under the theme: *Chronic Food Insecurity and Nutrition Classifications – Learning from country application*. It was hosted by the [Joint Research Centre of the European Commission \(JRC\)](#) in Ispra, Italy. The event focused on the country application of the new IPC tools and procedures to classify chronic food insecurity and nutrition in order to analyse potential use of these for improved food and nutrition programming and policy. WFP's IPC Steering Committee representative participated in the event and delivered an introductory presentation on IPC's history and achievements. Other participants included representatives of global IPC stakeholders, partners and donor agencies, Regional Inter-government Bodies (ASEAN, CILSS, IGAD, SADC, SAARC and SICA), and relevant food security programming and policy organizations. Countries that were invited - Burundi, El Salvador, Nepal, Philippines and Uganda - shared their plans to utilize these new tools to contribute to decision making and inform policy and programming. The outcomes of the event were reviewed in the Meeting of the IPC Global Steering Committee that took place on May 21. The achievements of the new IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018) and priority strategic direction and action plan on the way forward were also discussed. WFP continues to be actively involved at global and field level in the nutrition working groups and pilots.



[Malawi Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report](#)



[Urban World Humanitarian Summit Webpage](#)



[IPC Global Event Milan EXPO 2015 Paper](#)

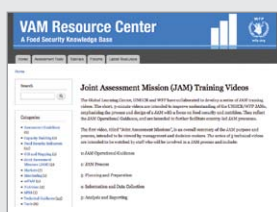




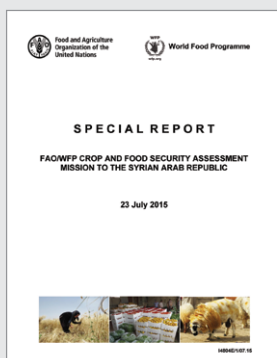
[Joint Research Center Website](#)



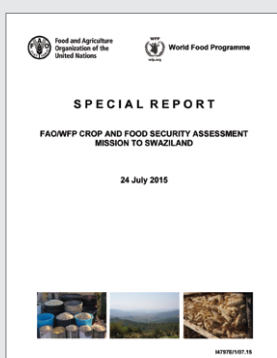
[VAM Resource Center Website](#)



[CFSAM Syria Report](#)



[CFSAM Swaziland Report](#)



Targeting Food Assistance for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt

A report was produced to review the process of developing protocols for targeting cash and food assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan during 2014. Under the auspices of the High Level Meeting between WFP and UNHCR (May 2014) and the WFP and UNHCR Joint Action Plan on cash and vouchers (2014), WFP and UNHCR made a commitment to explore methods and mechanisms for ensuring complementary targeting of multi-sector cash and food assistance. Both agencies have dedicated considerable time and expertise to joint activities on targeting in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt (among other countries). The main objective of the report is to document the process, capture the viewpoints and reflections of the people involved, and to examine emerging issues and lessons which should be considered in future guidance and operations. The report provides a summary of issues and challenges described by stakeholders in these processes, together with observations by the consultant (drawing on international targeting literature and experience), and some indication of lessons emerging from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) process so far. The report will be published in September.

Joint Assessment Missions (JAM)³

WFP, UNHCR, and the Global Learning Centre have collaborated to develop a series of JAM training videos. The training videos have been finalized and can be viewed on the [VAM Resource Centre](#). The focus will be on five technical areas and include: 1) JAM Operational Guidance; 2) JAM Process; 3) Planning and Preparation; 4) Information and Data Collection; 5) Analysis and Reporting. The footage used within the videos was filmed during the Ethiopia 2014 JAM.

The 2015 **Mozambique** JAM is focused in the Maratane Refugee Camp and surrounding areas, which is the only camp for refugees and asylum-seekers in Mozambique. It currently accommodates an average of 13,217 refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities, mainly coming from the Great Lakes Region and Somalia. The JAM aims to evaluate if the current assistance meets their needs; to be able to better respond to needs through future interventions; and to ensure that all interventions are sustainable. The Mozambique JAM fieldwork took place from 4 to 16 May. The data analysis is complete, the report is being prepared and should be finalized by the end of September.

Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM)⁴

Syria: On the request of the government, a joint CFSAM visited the Syrian Arab Republic between 11 and 31 May 2015. The objective of the mission was to assess crop and livestock production levels and food-access issues caused by the conflict which continues to disrupt agricultural activities and food markets. For highlights of the Mission and details on the recommendations please click [here](#) to access the report.

Swaziland: On the request of the Government of Swaziland, a CFSAM visited the country from 11 to 22 May 2015 to estimate the 2014/15 maize production and assess the food security situation. The invitation was prompted following an extended dry period between January and March 2015 that raised serious concerns over the impact on 2015 maize production. For highlights of the Mission and details on the recommendations please click [here](#) to access the report.

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.
4. Crop and Food Security Missions (CFSAM) are conducted with FAO in response to a government request. They are usually used for emergencies related to agricultural production or for overall food availability problems.

VAM Global Meeting

A VAM Global meeting was held from 30 June to 2 July 2015. VAM colleagues from Regional Bureaus and Country Offices were in Rome to discuss key methodological and strategic issues relevant to VAM's food security analysis work. The Global meeting focused on a number of themes including: 1) Global and corporate expectations/drivers; 2) The building/creating/nurturing and developing of strategic/technical partnerships; 3) Creating, developing and implementing new technologies; 4) Improving VAM methodology and analysis. A meeting document is being prepared which will provide an overview of each of these themes along with expectations from internal and external partners. In addition, a Global VAM Strategy is being drafted following the outcomes of the meeting.



VAM Initiatives Showcased at the ECOSOC HAS Event

The [Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) (HAS) of the UN Economic and Social Council is a platform for Member States, UN agencies, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector and affected communities to discuss emerging and pressing humanitarian issues. This year, the event took place from 17 to 19 June 2015 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Segment was accompanied by a [humanitarian fair](#) providing insights on what it feels like to live and work in humanitarian settings, through equipment/material used in the field and visual projects. VAM showcased four of its initiatives: 1) mVAM; 2) Seasonal Monitor; 3) Food Security Information Network; 4) Innovative Assessments for post-disaster emergencies with a focus on the Nepal Earthquake.

Overall, the event provided a great opportunity to have in-depth discussions with donors and member countries, who are our core constituency. The event also provided VAM with an opportunity to raise awareness of its work through interactions with a wide range of people including the press, civil society, organizations, students and private sector organizations.



[Humanitarian Affairs Segment Webpage](#)



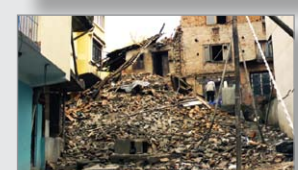
[OCHA Trade Fair Webpage](#)



[ECOSOC 2015 Webpage](#)



[ECOSOC 2015 Movie](#)

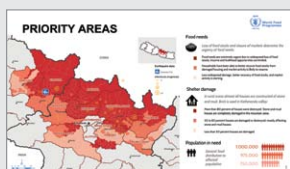




Nepal - Earthquake 2015 Publications Webpage



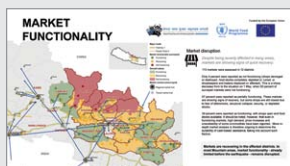
Nepal - Earthquake: Release 1, 1 May 2015



Nepal - Earthquake: Release 2, 4 May 2015



Nepal - Earthquake: Release 3, 8 May 2015



Nepal - Earthquake 2015 Food Security Cluster Report

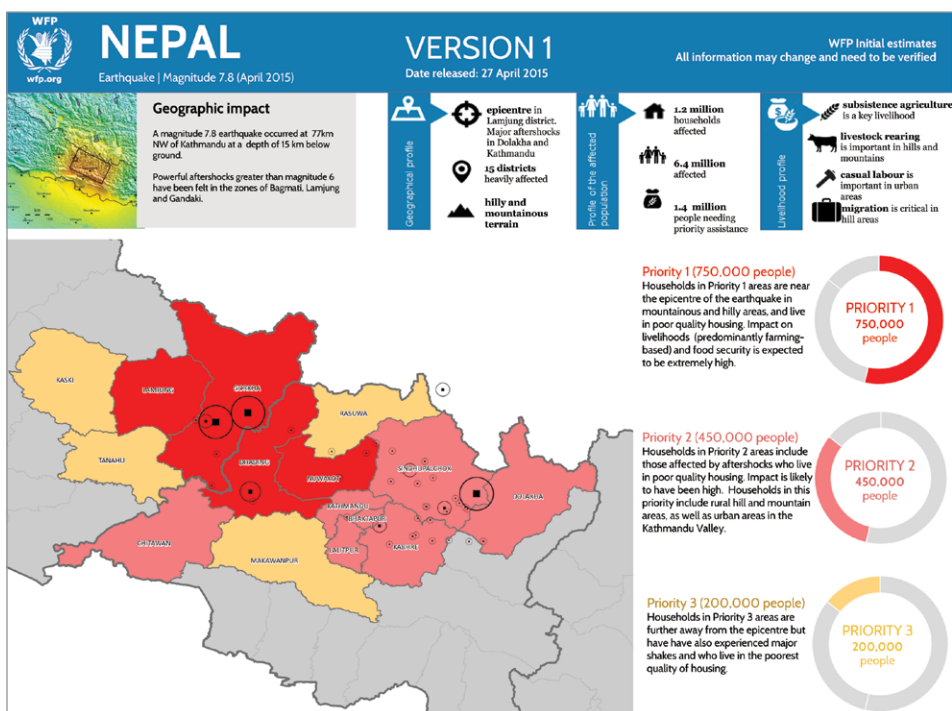


Focus on Asia

Nepal Earthquake

Following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which hit Nepal on April 25th 2015, VAM released a series of assessments – the first less than 24 hours after the earthquake and the last a month later – each tailored to the rapid evolving information needs and availability. Three different assessment products were released: a series of initial emergency assessments within the first 72 hours, a series of rapid assessments based on field observations within the first two weeks, and finally an in-depth assessment based on a household survey within a month.

The **72 hour assessment** included an initial estimate of most affected areas and number of people likely to need immediate food assistance. It was based on seismic impact data and baseline socio-economic data. Three versions of this initial assessment were released, approximately one day apart (April 26, 27 and 29).



Please click [here](#) to visualize the entire initial assessment released on April 27.

The subsequent **rapid assessment** provided a more detailed analysis of the situation. It was based on a simple observation checklist compiled by WFP and government field staff from the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP). The checklist was also distributed to other partners through OCHA. Again, three versions were released, each about three days apart (May 1, 4 and 8). All three rapid assessments can be accessed [here](#).

Finally, the **in-depth household assessment** was released a month after the earthquake and provided a comprehensive overview of the food security situation in the country, including impacts on livelihoods, remittances, and migration. It was based on a household survey conducted by WFP and NeKSAP on behalf of the Food Security Cluster, as well as food security phase classification meetings held in each affected district.

VAM's ability to release a series of assessments in rapid succession was heavily dependent on the human and technical capacity that WFP invested in prior to the earthquake – in particular the field staff presence built through the [NeKSAP](#) network, and the data preparedness work done through the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) project. Both the rapid and in-depth assessment reports included market analysis, to inform WFP's cash programmes. Similar to the food security assessments, the market analysis was done sequentially: an initial rapid assessment based on observations, followed by a more in-depth assessment based on trader surveys, key informant interviews, and the household survey.

Philippines: In close collaboration with the [Department of Social Welfare and Development](#) (DSWD), WFP conducted a Food and Nutrition Security Assessment in Eastern Samar province in April 2015. The province was affected by the strong typhoons Haiyan (2013) and Hagupit (2014), and the assessment provided information on the typhoons' longer-term impact on households' food and nutrition security. The assessment also helped understand which livelihoods were most affected, to inform WFP or government programmes on supporting alternative livelihoods – given the coastal province's recurrent vulnerability to typhoons.

Cambodia: In Cambodia, the Platforms for Real-Time Information Systems (PRISM) project is building government capacity to transform routine government reporting systems into real-time, actionable platforms for decision-making. PRISM's success is changing how WFP and the government approach monitoring and evaluation, as well as emergency preparedness and response. PRISM uses the latest information management technologies to streamline and integrate reporting systems, displaying key information in clear, visual format – making it much easier to use for concrete decision-making. It also uses automatic real-time alerts to allow managers to deal with issues efficiently when they emerge. Beyond regular monitoring and reporting, PRISM also has practical applications in emergencies. WFP Cambodia is supporting the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) to streamline and automate existing government emergency information systems, developing a mapping platform to display the information in real time and linking NCDM information with regional emergency information systems. In the event of an emergency, information from civil society and the Cambodia Humanitarian Response Forum will be automatically integrated into NCDM's information system, allowing seamless information sharing between the humanitarian community and the government. The general public will also be able to contribute real-time information via crowdsourcing applications. These systems are currently being used by WFP and the government to monitor the ongoing drought conditions in parts of Cambodia.



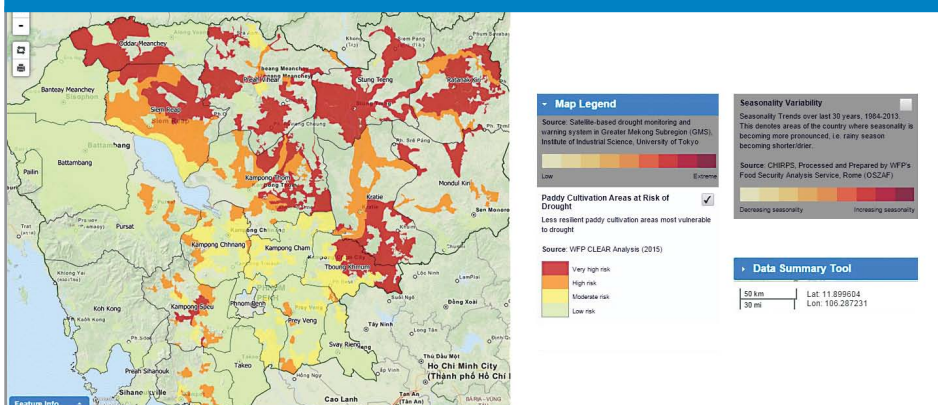
VAM food and commodity prices data store

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- Sierra Leone - [mVAM Bulletin #17: Coping remains high in Ebola-affected Kambia and Port Loko](#)
- Liberia - [mVAM Bulletin #18: Rice and oil prices rise significantly in Lofa County](#)

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

PRISM Interface Installed throughout the Country Office



THE ASSESSOR

WFP's Food Security Analysis e-Newsletter

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All food security assessment reports are available online: <http://vam.wfp.org>

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