



SENAC monthly E-letter - Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity  
Update on progress to improve the quality and transparency of assessments

## Welcome to the tenth issue of the SENAC e-letter!

The e-letter provides an update on progress made to enhance WFP's emergency needs assessment practice. This issue covers the month of April and events coming up in May.

For a printable version of The Assessor, click on: [The Assessor No.10 - May 2007](#)

## WHAT'S NEW?

### 1. Emergency Needs Assessments

#### Major assessments recently completed or ongoing:

##### Central and East Africa

- Needs Assessment in Puntland, **Somalia** (mid March-April). Field work was completed at the end of April. Workshops to discuss the results with partners are planned in Nairobi and Bosasso in early June. The final report is expected at the end of June. Contact: [genevieve.chicoine@wfp.org](mailto:genevieve.chicoine@wfp.org)
- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Burundi** (24-29 April). Contact: [evaline.diangA@wfp.org](mailto:evaline.diangA@wfp.org)
- Follow-up assessment to better understand the role of markets and self reliance in **Tanzania** (March - April). Contact: [juvenal.kisanga@wfp.org](mailto:juvenal.kisanga@wfp.org) or [kaija.korpi-salmela@wfp.org](mailto:kaija.korpi-salmela@wfp.org)
- Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Uganda** (April). Data analysis will start at the end of the month. Contact: [ernest.mutanga@wfp.org](mailto:ernest.mutanga@wfp.org) or [mark.gordon@wfp.org](mailto:mark.gordon@wfp.org)

##### Southern Africa

- Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Mozambique** (26 March-19 May) managed by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee. Contact: [nadia.vaz@wfp.org](mailto:nadia.vaz@wfp.org)
- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Zambia** (23 April-18 May). Contact: [mutinta.hambayi@wfp.org](mailto:mutinta.hambayi@wfp.org) or [eric.kenefick@wfp.org](mailto:eric.kenefick@wfp.org)
- Vulnerability Assessment as follow up to the flood assessment in **Zambia** (May) managed by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee. Discussions have been initiated on including a market analysis component. Contact: [allan.mulando@wfp.org](mailto:allan.mulando@wfp.org) regarding the assessment; [simon.dradri@wfp.org](mailto:simon.dradri@wfp.org) regarding the market analysis.
- Rapid Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) in **Madagascar** (May). Contact: [maherisoa.rakotonirainy@wfp.org](mailto:maherisoa.rakotonirainy@wfp.org) or [sylvie.montembault@wfp.org](mailto:sylvie.montembault@wfp.org)
- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Swaziland** (9-23 April). Contact: [romina.woldemariam@wfp.org](mailto:romina.woldemariam@wfp.org) or [eric.kenefick@wfp.org](mailto:eric.kenefick@wfp.org)
- FAO/WFP CFSAM in **Zimbabwe** (25 April-22 May). Contact: [getachew.diriba@wfp.org](mailto:getachew.diriba@wfp.org) or [veronica.rammala@wfp.org](mailto:veronica.rammala@wfp.org)
- FAO/WFP CFSAM in **Lesotho** (23 April-5 May). Contact: [sylvie.montembault@wfp.org](mailto:sylvie.montembault@wfp.org) or [andrzej.golebiowski@wfp.org](mailto:andrzej.golebiowski@wfp.org)

##### Asia

- Needs assessments in **Sri Lanka** (15-30 April). Contact: [yvonne.forsen@wfp.org](mailto:yvonne.forsen@wfp.org) or [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org)

##### Latin America

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Bolivia** (9-28 April). Contact: [raoul.balietto@wfp.org](mailto:raoul.balietto@wfp.org)
- Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Bolivia** (9 April - 7 May). Contact: [oscar.antezana@wfp.org](mailto:oscar.antezana@wfp.org)

## **Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia**

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Tajikistan** (May). Contact: [asif.niazi@wfp.org](mailto:asif.niazi@wfp.org)
- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Yemen** (26 April - 4 May). Contact: [anne.callanan@wfp.org](mailto:anne.callanan@wfp.org)

### **Upcoming assessments:**

- FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Burundi** (late June). Contact: [evaline.diangA@wfp.org](mailto:evaline.diangA@wfp.org)
- FAO/WFP CFSAM in **Rwanda** (June). Contact: [nyakato.kiganzi@wfp.org](mailto:nyakato.kiganzi@wfp.org)
- Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment (IDPs) in **Central African Republic** (late July). Contact: [pierre.lucas@wfp.org](mailto:pierre.lucas@wfp.org)
- UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) and Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in **Benin** (June or July). Contact: [edouard.nizeyimana@wfp.org](mailto:edouard.nizeyimana@wfp.org)
- Baseline Nutrition survey in all WFP and UNICEF intervention areas (including IDPs) in **Chad** (May). Contact: [ibrahima.diop@wfp.org](mailto:ibrahima.diop@wfp.org)
- National level food security and vulnerability survey in **Iraq** (August). The survey is a collaborative effort, including WFP, UNICEF and the Ministries of Planning and Health. Field data collection is planned for August. Contact: [hazem.almahdy@wfp.org](mailto:hazem.almahdy@wfp.org) or [asif.niazi@wfp.org](mailto:asif.niazi@wfp.org)
- UNHCR/WFP JAM in **Ghana** (September). Contact: [anahit.sadoyan@wfp.org](mailto:anahit.sadoyan@wfp.org)

## **2. Pre-crisis Information**

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### **Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) methodology workshop (17-20 April):**

The objective of this technical workshop - which brought together regional Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) officers, WFP Headquarters staff from VAM, the Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) and the Economic Analysis Unit (PDPE), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) - was to reach a consensus on the methodology, conceptual framework and analytical steps used for CFSVAs. CFSVAs play a critical role as they provide an evidence base for the design of WFP operations and of food security monitoring systems. Participants agreed:

- To adopt a standard approach to measuring household food consumption and deriving food scores, thresholds and the classification of food consumption (poor/borderline/acceptable). Food consumption and food access will be calculated in a similar way from country to country to allow for comparability (WFP uses household food consumption as a proxy indicator for household food insecurity).
- To adopt a standard approach to collecting data on livelihoods.
- To conduct risk (vulnerability and hazard) analysis and build scenarios. The purpose is to identify populations that are likely to experience declines in their future food security status due to a shock.
- To better contextualize the CFSVA by using the seasonal calendar and the analysis of secondary data to capture seasonal variations (e.g. in prices, markets, rainfall and vegetation). An approach was developed for Laos and proposed for future CFSVAs.
- To undertake causal analysis to understand the underlying causes of food insecurity, using regression analysis as a standard analytical approach.
- Include market analysis (focusing on prices); the Laos CFSVA exercise will be the first which includes market analysis.
- Include nutrition analysis, e.g. by strengthening data collection, ensuring that childrens' birthdates are captured correctly, using appropriate weighing equipment and introducing measurement of mother's body mass index (BMI) as standard practice.
- On the analytical steps to be followed for each CFSVA.

The conceptual framework revised by IFPRI was also discussed. IFPRI insisted on the need to strengthen the analysis of the social and political environment. The report of the workshop will be available in the coming weeks.

*For more information, contact [joyce.luma@wfp.org](mailto:joyce.luma@wfp.org), Chief, ODAV*

### **CFSVAs recently completed or ongoing:**

- **Sudan** (June - July 2006). Analysis is ongoing. The report is expected in July. Contact: [daniel.molla@wfp.org](mailto:daniel.molla@wfp.org)

- **Laos** (September 2006). A draft report should be available at the end of the month. Market and risk analyses will be integrated into the CFSVA. Contact: [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org) for the market analysis, [Paola.DeSalvo@wfp.org](mailto:Paola.DeSalvo@wfp.org) for the risk analysis, [stein.vikan@wfp.org](mailto:stein.vikan@wfp.org) for the CFSVA.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (June 2007). Preparatory work is ongoing, including efforts to pilot the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) approach in collaboration with FAO, Oxfam and other partners. Training of enumerators should take place in mid-May. The National Statistics Institute will conduct the data collection after the training. The exercise will cover 6 priority provinces (Equateur, northern Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Province Orientale). Contact: [massimo.martini@wfp.org](mailto:massimo.martini@wfp.org) or [scott.ronchini@wfp.org](mailto:scott.ronchini@wfp.org)
- **Urban Liberia** (ongoing). The report is being finalized. The general food security situation is much better in Greater Monrovia compared to rural Liberia. However, levels of chronic and acute child malnutrition are of concern. Key underlying factors for food insecurity in the urban context are related to access and utilization. Contact: [claudia.AhPoe@wfp.org](mailto:claudia.AhPoe@wfp.org)
- **Cameroon**: data collection is ongoing. For the first time in the region, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are being used to collect data. This permits quicker and more efficient data entry and data cleaning. The CFSVA will cover the entire country. Market aspects will also be analyzed. Preliminary results should be available at the end of June. Contact: [wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org](mailto:wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org)

For information on pre-crisis studies, contact [jan.delbaere@wfp.org](mailto:jan.delbaere@wfp.org), Crisis Information Specialist

### **Update on Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS):**

- **Central African Republic**: The first food security monitoring bulletin has been issued. It covers the months from August 2006 to January 2007 for 4 prefectures (Ouham Mpende, Ombello Mpoko, Basse Kotto and Ouaka) Contact: [albert.bango-makoudou@wfp.org](mailto:albert.bango-makoudou@wfp.org)
- **Darfur**: Discussions on the full development of the FSMS are ongoing. Contact: [daniel.molla@wfp.org](mailto:daniel.molla@wfp.org)
- **Sahel**: WFP supports an FSMS in the following countries in the Sahel in partnership with CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel). For information, contact [susan.gannon@wfp.org](mailto:susan.gannon@wfp.org), who coordinates these efforts from Dakar.
  - **Mali**: The first round of data collection begins in mid-May, with the findings to be released in July; the second round of data collection is planned at the end of the harvest period, in November. [moise.ballo@wfp.org](mailto:moise.ballo@wfp.org)
  - **Mauritania**: The survey begins in mid-May, with preliminary results expected in mid-June. Contact: [papamoussa.ndoye@wfp.org](mailto:papamoussa.ndoye@wfp.org)
  - **Burkina Faso**: The nutritional survey has ended and the data are being analyzed. The survey findings are due at the end of June. Contact: [paola.dossantos@wfp.org](mailto:paola.dossantos@wfp.org)
  - **Niger**: The establishment of sentinel sites in 132 vulnerable zones is progressing, with enumerator training underway and data collection due to begin in mid-May. Data will be collected at two-month intervals from now until the end of the year. Contact: [koffi.akakpo@wfp.org](mailto:koffi.akakpo@wfp.org)
  - **Chad**: The fourth round of data collection is ongoing. It is combined with the ongoing baseline nutrition survey. The FSMS is implemented through a partnership with the government, the National Centre for Research Support, Africare, World Vision, UNICEF and FAO. Contact: [ibrahima.diop@wfp.org](mailto:ibrahima.diop@wfp.org)
- **Rwanda**: Technical consultations are ongoing with UNICEF, the National Institute of Statistics and the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. Contact: [nyakato.kiganzi@wfp.org](mailto:nyakato.kiganzi@wfp.org)
- **Uganda**: The first round of data collection took place in April. The FSMS covers the north and north-east. Contact: [mark.gordon@wfp.org](mailto:mark.gordon@wfp.org) or [ernest.mutanga@wfp.org](mailto:ernest.mutanga@wfp.org)
- **Haiti**: The second year of data collection has been finalised. Contact: [jeancarel.norceide@wfp.org](mailto:jeancarel.norceide@wfp.org)

For information on food security monitoring systems, contact [samir.wanmali@wfp.org](mailto:samir.wanmali@wfp.org), ODAV Programme Adviser or [jan.delbaere@wfp.org](mailto:jan.delbaere@wfp.org), Crisis Information Specialist.

## **3. Methods and Tools**

### **Technical Meeting and Guidance Note on Linking Food Security and Nutrition in Emergency Needs**

**Assessments:** The Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) and the Nutrition Service (PDPN) organized a technical meeting to discuss issues related to the integration of food security and nutrition in emergency assessments at the end of April. It was attended by representatives from UNICEF, FAO, ICRC, the Food and Nutrition Technical and Assistance Project (FANTA), Save the Children, MSF, IRD (French Cooperation) and independent consultants.

One of the main action points arising from the meeting is the preparation of a guidance note to assist with the integration of food security and nutrition in assessments. The note will provide general 'guiding principles', from the formulation of the objectives to data analysis, rather than detailed step-by-step guidelines which already exist (such as on anthropometric measurements, sampling, data collection and analysis techniques). The guidance note is currently being finalised. A report of the technical meeting is also being prepared.

*For more information, contact [agnes.dhur@wfp.org](mailto:agnes.dhur@wfp.org), SENAC Methodology Specialist.*

**Revision of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Handbook:** ODAN is proceeding with the revision of the EFSA Handbook. The revised version, due to be issued at the end of the year, will bring together the methodological advances made over the past two years and assessors' experience from field work. A working group comprising regional assessment officers, VAM officers, programme officers and advisers, WFP HQ staff members and external food security experts has been established to provide feedback on the draft sections of the handbook.

The status to date is as follows:

- The first part of the handbook "Objectives of an EFSA and Analytical Framework" has been circulated for comments.
- An e-mail consultation of about 150 people who participated in EFSA trainings last year will be launched soon to enlarge the feedback on the draft handbook.
- **A workshop on situation analysis** will take place on 12-13 June in Rome. It will bring together field staff with different levels of experience in conducting assessments to provide inputs to the section of the handbook dealing with situation analysis (part V).

*For more information, contact [agnes.dhur@wfp.org](mailto:agnes.dhur@wfp.org), SENAC Methodology Specialist.*

**Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC):** The IPC is a tool for classifying food security into five phases (from generally food secure to famine/humanitarian crisis) developed by FAO Somalia Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU). A stakeholder group comprised of FAO, WFP, Oxfam GB, FEWS NET, Save the Children UK, Save the Children US and CARE International is working to develop a standard approach to food security classification based on the IPC. In consultation with the Regional Bureaux, a number of countries have been identified for piloting this approach in CFSVA and FSMS work during 2007. The next pilots will be a CFSVA update in Tajikistan (contact: [asif.niazi@wfp.org](mailto:asif.niazi@wfp.org)) and an FSMS update in Cote d'Ivoire (TBC contact: [marc.regnauldelaunoy@wfp.org](mailto:marc.regnauldelaunoy@wfp.org) or [pierre.lucas@wfp.org](mailto:pierre.lucas@wfp.org)) both starting in June. The guidelines for conducting these pilots have been revised and generic TORs prepared. IN addition, the regional bureau for East and Central Africa (ODK) is collaborating with FAO and other partners on piloting the IPC approach in a number of countries in the region.

In late May, the stakeholder group will meet to develop a common strategy/implementation plan from now until mid-2008, and a multi-agency, five-year proposal for further developing and refining a common food security classification approach beginning in mid- 2008.

*For more information and guidelines on piloting the IPC, contact [alexis.hoskins@wfp.org](mailto:alexis.hoskins@wfp.org), ODAN Programme Adviser or [tobias.flaemig@wfp.org](mailto:tobias.flaemig@wfp.org), ODAV Programme Officer*

#### **4. Market Analysis**

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**Market Analysis:** In 2007, market analysis will be directly integrated into needs assessments, baseline studies and FSMS. Specific plans include integrating market analysis into the Mozambique EFSA (April), the Laos CFSVA (ongoing) and the Afghanistan and Burundi FSMS. However, some stand-alone market profiles are still being finalised and specific studies are underway. These include:

O **Burundi:** Analysis and report writing are ongoing. Contact: [dekha.sheikh@wfp.org](mailto:dekha.sheikh@wfp.org)

O **Guinea-Bissau** - Joint WFP/FAO/Government Cashew Market and Food Security Review (10-24 April). The main objective was to analyze the functioning of cashew and rice markets and the implications on rural households' food security. The technical report is being finalized. Contact: [geert.beekhuis@wfp.org](mailto:geert.beekhuis@wfp.org)

O **Malawi:** A market analysis is ongoing to prepare for a cash pilot project. It is integrated in the Needs Assessment Contact: [anette.haller@wfp.org](mailto:anette.haller@wfp.org) or [ludovic.subran@wfp.org](mailto:ludovic.subran@wfp.org)

O **Uganda:** A desk review has been completed and the field assessment will begin in mid-May. Contact: [dekha.sheikh@wfp.org](mailto:dekha.sheikh@wfp.org)

O **Zimbabwe** - Market Analysis: Grain Marketing System (29 March - 04 April). The analysis is carried out to understand the food market/ distribution network and implications for food security. Contact:

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

O **Chad/Cameroon/Nigeria/Niger**: (ongoing). As one component of a regional market study being conducted together with FEWS NET, WFP is assessing markets in north Cameroon and their links with markets in Chad and Nigeria. A regional workshop took place in Dakar in April; the draft report is available. Contact:

[geert.beekhuis@wfp.org](mailto:geert.beekhuis@wfp.org)

O **Tajikistan**: A markets assessment is currently in progress (May). Contact: [thomas.beuter@wfp.org](mailto:thomas.beuter@wfp.org)

O **Southern Africa**: Synthesis of Food Security and Food Trade (May - in progress). This study will analyze price trends and food trade flows in the light of droughts and floods in the region, and low production in South Africa. Contact: [simon.dradri@wfp.org](mailto:simon.dradri@wfp.org)

*For more information on market analysis, contact [getachew.diriba@wfp.org](mailto:getachew.diriba@wfp.org), ODAN Senior Programme Adviser or [henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org](mailto:henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org), Chief, PDPE.*

## 5. Capacity Building

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**Fact sheet on ENA capacity building**: The fact sheet "*Investing in people's capacities for strengthening Emergency Needs Assessments*" presents the objectives and learning strategy for building WFP and partner capacities to conduct high quality assessments. The fact sheet is a communication tool for use at HQ, the Regional Bureaux and the Country Offices.

To get a copy, please click on [Investing in people's capacities for strengthening Emergency Needs Assessments](#)

*For more information on market analysis, contact [nicole.steyer@wfp.org](mailto:nicole.steyer@wfp.org), ODAN Senior Programme Adviser*

**Workshop on Building National Capacities in Emergency Needs Assessment and Preparedness** (31 May, Rome). Last October, ODAN launched a project with support from the Danish Government to (i) strengthen the capacities of governments to accurately assess the emergency food security needs of populations affected by crises and (ii) provide guidance to WFP field staff and partners on building national capacities in needs assessment and preparedness. On the basis of three capacity building action plans developed for Madagascar, Tanzania and Nicaragua (the latter is still under preparation), a draft strategy on national ENA capacity building has been prepared. ODAN is organising, with the support of the Social Protection and Livelihoods Service (PDPS), a workshop to review the action plans and discuss the strategy. Staff members wishing to provide comments on the strategy can do so until 18 May. The workshop will also touch upon WFP's corporate position on Strategic Objective 5 "*strengthen the capacities of countries and regions to establish and manage food-assistance and hunger reduction programmes*" and introduce the operational framework currently being developed by PDPS.

*For more information, contact [angie.lee@wfp.org](mailto:angie.lee@wfp.org), ODAN Programme Officer*

**Upcoming Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) trainings**: Basic skills training will take place in:

○ **Mauritania** (25-29 June). Contact: [mamadou.diouf@wfp.org](mailto:mamadou.diouf@wfp.org) or [papa-moussa.ndoye@wfp.org](mailto:papa-moussa.ndoye@wfp.org)

○ **Ivory Coast** (3-7 September). Contact: [mustapha.toure@wfp.org](mailto:mustapha.toure@wfp.org)

○ **Liberia** (15-21 October 2007). Contact: [mamadou.diouf@wfp.org](mailto:mamadou.diouf@wfp.org) or [claudia.Ahpoe@wfp.org](mailto:claudia.Ahpoe@wfp.org)

**Capacity Building Strategy for WFP's East and Central Africa Region** (ODK - regional bureau in Kampala): The Regional Bureau VAM unit has developed a strategy to strengthen country office capacity in assessment, analysis, preparedness and planning. Building on a 2007 calendar of assessment activities in the region, ODK proposes a series of tailored learning events as a foundation against chronic shocks such as drought, flood, conflict and displacement. The strategy emphasises country- or sub-office level rather than regional training; synchronising the timing and structure of workshops with assessment activities; specific participant selection criteria; modules based on assessment phases and thematic areas; qualitative and quantitative analytical skills; inclusion of partners; and continued reinforcement of emerging staff skills through guided on-the-job learning. Implementation planning is currently underway.

*For more information, contact [patrick.foley@wfp.org](mailto:patrick.foley@wfp.org), Capacity Building Coordinator or [scott.ronchini@wfp.org](mailto:scott.ronchini@wfp.org), Regional VAM Adviser.*

**The Learning Repository:** The Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) is preparing an on-line repository which will archive documents and other information related to thematic or technical country office and regional learning activities. The repository will help training facilitators to easily access documents such as session guides, power point presentations and learning exercises. A database will also allow the regional bureaux to track their training activities (participants' list, quiz results, participants' evaluation and on-the-job learning). The repository will start functioning in July.

For more information, contact [charisse.tillman@wfp.org](mailto:charisse.tillman@wfp.org), ODAN Programme Officer.

## 6. Staff news

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Wisam Brayek, ODAN's finance officer left last week to start a new career path. Good luck Wisam! Welcome to Ruth Habtemariam who will have a challenging task as our new finance officer.

## 7. More information?

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The e-letter provides links to online material. All the documents can also be found at [www.wfp.org/odan/senac](http://www.wfp.org/odan/senac)

For a copy of the first nine Assessor e-letters, go to: [www.wfp.org/odan/senac](http://www.wfp.org/odan/senac)

For more information about the Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan and SENAC, click on:

[Overview of the Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan](#)

### List of acronyms

CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
CFSAM	Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission – conducted with FAO
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
ENA	Emergency Needs Assessment
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring Systems
IPC	Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission - conducted with UNHCR
ODAN	WFP HQ Emergency Needs Assessment Service
ODAV (VAM)	WFP HQ Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Branch
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee

\* If you would prefer not to receive future updates please email us at [odan\\_info@wfp.org](mailto:odan_info@wfp.org) with the subject heading "SENAC E-letter unsubscribe".

For more information about 'The Assessor' contact: [caroline.chaumont@wfp.org](mailto:caroline.chaumont@wfp.org), SENAC Communication Officer.