

The Assessor

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World Food Programme



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

Welcome to the fifteenth 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 months of November and December.

WHAT'S NEW?

1. Best practice

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) in Laos: The preliminary report was successfully launched in Vientiane in November. About 75 people representing the Government, UN partners, NGOs and donors participated in the event. The study revealed that despite the economic growth of the last ten years, every second child is chronically malnourished in rural Laos. Two thirds of the rural population are either food insecure or live on the edge of food security and could become food insecure should a shock occur during the year. Among them 13% are food insecure with either poor or borderline food consumption. This CFSVA is the first one to include a full analysis of risks and the likely impact of predictable shocks on household food security, thus providing a forward looking perspective on the situation. The Ministry of Health will use the results to develop its national nutrition policy. The report is now being finalized, and an Executive Brief presenting the main findings is available. *Contact: christa.rader@wfp.org, Country Director or jan.delbaere@wfp.org, Senior Food Security Specialist.*

No food aid recommendation for Moldova: Further to an exceptional drought last summer, WFP and FAO conducted a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in September. The assessment team made 23 recommendations for short to long-term interventions. In particular it concluded that there was no need for international food aid but that some vulnerable groups would need to be assisted through existing governmental programmes. To refine the profile of the vulnerable groups, WFP is conducting, at the Government and UNDP's request, a Household Food Security Survey of rural areas (first one in the country). The survey is being conducted by a regional assessment officer and local staff members from Armenia and Georgia who recently participated in an Emergency Food Security Assessment training. The report is expected in late December. *Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org, Regional Assessment Officer.*

2. Food Security Analysis Service

Food Security Analysis Service at HQ and in the Regional Bureaux: The SENAC project will be winding down at the end of April 2008. Until then, it will continue to support efforts to mainstream technical guidance on the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) and provide training to ensure a consistent standardized approach to analysis. At HQ, the Emergency Needs Assessment (ODAN) and Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (ODAV) Services will be merged into a single "Food Security Analysis Service" in the Programme Design and Support Division. The re-organized HQ Service will support greater integration of the assessment activities and products that WFP undertakes at various

stages of a crisis and project cycle, including CFSVA, food security monitoring systems (FSMS) and EFSAs. It will maintain strong capacities in the areas of methodology development, capacity building, spatial analysis and provide technical support to regional and country offices. *For more information, contact: john.aylieff@wfp.org, ODA Chief.*

3. Emergency Needs Assessments

Major assessments recently completed or ongoing:

Central and East Africa

O **Ethiopia:** Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) - (17 November - 17 December). *Contact: elliott.vhurumuku@wfp.org*

O **Uganda:** Several initial assessments have taken place further to the floods that affected more than 300,000 people last September. The report of the WFP/FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission should be available soon. A follow up Emergency Food Security Assessment is now ongoing. *Contact: dipayan.bhattacharyya@wfp.org*

Sudan

O **Darfur:** Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) - (mid August - mid September): This yearly exercise has been conducted by WFP, UNICEF, FAO and the Sudanese government since 2004. *Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org.*

West Africa

O **Burkina Faso:** Baseline nutrition survey (April) conducted with UNICEF and the Government. The results of the survey and the update conducted in September will be presented to the Government and partners on 17 December. *Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org.*

O **Cameroon:** UNHCR / WFP Joint Assessment Mission (11 -20 November) with the participation of UNICEF, MSF and the Government of Cameroon to re-assess the situation of refugees from the Central African Republic. Analysis is ongoing. *Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org*

O **Central Africa Republic:** Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, including IDPs (20 September - 4 October). The report is being finalised. *Contact: mamadou.diouf@wfp.org*

O **Chad:** Self-sustenance capacity assessment of IDPs and refugees at the border with Sudan (20 October to 5 November) conducted in collaboration with OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, WHO. The report is being finalised. *Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org*

O **Côte d'Ivoire:** Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). The report and IPC map are now available. A lessons learned workshop is scheduled for January. An FAO / WFP mission to assess the 2007 crop season is also planned in January to update the IPC. *Contact: moustapha.toure@wfp.org*

O **Ghana:** Emergency Food Needs Assessment (November): This assessment is a follow up to the initial assessments conducted by WFP and partners after the floods in September. It identifies the districts in the northern part of the country where food assistance may be needed and appropriate, and will help refine the numbers of those in danger of acute food insecurity for the period October 2007-April 2008. *Contact: Sibi.Lawson-Marriott@wfp.org*

O **Guinea Bissau:** Ongoing assessment activities focus on food security monitoring. The data collected in the rural districts in November shows that household stocks are low. Food insecurity will hinge on the performance of the cashew marketing season in 2008. Cashew nuts are a lean-season crop that some 60 to 70 percent of rural Bissau-Guineans rely on to acquire rice. The CO will produce 'food security profiles' - using the four FSM surveys undertaken since 2006 - to illustrate the seasonal and geographical variations of rural food security with a view to improving program design and targeting. *Contact: jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org*

Asia

O Bangladesh:

- Rapid UN assessment following cyclone Sidr (18-20 November). It was estimated that 2.6 million people are in need of immediate relief assistance.
- Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (2-22 December): It will assess the impact of the cyclone on household food security, nutrition and livelihoods, and will include a survey of markets. It will complement other ongoing assessments, such as FAO's livelihoods assessment, and the nutrition and health survey being undertaken by Helen Keller International and UNICEF. Based on the results, WFP's emergency assistance will be refined, with a second phase of response directed at early recovery / livelihood support and disaster risk reduction. *Contact: simeon.hollema@wfp.org*

O Philippines: Food Security Assessment in Mindanao (22 October - 16 November). *Contact: yvonne.forsen@wfp.org*

Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia

O Iraq: National level food security and vulnerability survey (ongoing). The survey is a collaborative effort, including WFP, UNICEF and the Ministries of Planning and Health. *Contact: hazem.almahdy@wfp.org or asif.niazi@wfp.org*

O Syria UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF/Government Joint Assessment to review the overall food and non-food supply situation of the Iraqi and Palestinian refugees in Syria (20-29 October). The report is being finalised. *Contact: anne.callanan@wfp.org*

O Tajikistan: Pilot Integrated Phase Classification (ongoing): *Contact: asif.niazi@wfp.org or malohat.shabanova@wfp.org*

Latin America

O Dominican Republic: Initial EFSA further to the floods and Hurricane Noel (November). Report is being finalised. *Contact: margarita.lovon@wfp.org*

O Mexico: At the request of UNDP and authorities from the States of Tabasco and Chiapas, WFP presented its emergency food security assessment methodology at a workshop on 12-13 December, with a view to provide technical assistance to assess the impact of the intense floods and landslides that occurred in both states at the end of October and in early November. In both states, quite a lot of information on the impact of the disaster is already available, and WFP will work with UNDP, FAO, other agencies and local authorities to provide technical support on analysing this information in an integrated manner, and to identify gaps in information that would be filled by a tailored EFSA in January or February 2008. In Tabasco, WFP and UNDP will also assist with the preparation of reference documents to improve preparedness for EFSA's and contingency planning in the event of future disasters. *Contact: agnes.dhur@wfp.org or margarita.lovon@wfp.org*

Upcoming assessments:

O Central African Republic: UNHCR / WFP JAM for Sudanese refugees from Darfur (planned). *Contact: mamadou.diouf@wfp.org*

O Namibia: UNHCR / WFP Joint Assessment Mission (January 2008). *Contact: mutinta.hambayi@wfp.org*

O Nicaragua: Follow up EFSA (January). *Contact: marc.desantis@wfp.org*

O Peru: Follow up EFSA (January). *Contact: ramon.cisneros@wfp.org*

O Togo: WFP and FAO are planning a crop assessment in January in the areas affected by the floods last September. It will determine the implications of the floods for food security, estimate the food deficit and make recommendations for a crop production re-launch. *Contact: edouard.nizeyimana@wfp.org*

4. Pre-crisis Information

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) recently completed or ongoing:

- **Burkina Faso:** A technical committee consisting of Government, FEWSNET, UNICEF, WHO and WFP has been established to design and implement the survey planned for February and March 2008. The survey will be conducted with partners under the Government leadership. *Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org*
- **Cameroon** (May 2007): The report is being finalised. Key findings and preliminary recommendations have been discussed. The presentation of the results will take in January. *Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org*
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (June 2007): Data has been collected in 6 priority provinces (Equateur, northern Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Province Orientale). A draft report of preliminary findings is being prepared. WFP is preparing a second phase to cover the remaining provinces to start at the end of January. *Contact: mark.gordon@wfp.org*
- **Haiti:** Data analysis is ongoing. The survey is led by the Coordination Nationale pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA). *Contact: raphael.chuinard@wfp.org*.
- **Guatemala** (May 2007): The CFSVA was led by the Government with the support of WFP for the data analysis. A draft report is expected at the end of the month. *Contact: marcelo.ancarola@wfp.org*
- **Laos** (September 2006): See above section on Best Practices.
- **Sao Tome:** Data analysis is ongoing. The survey is led by the Government with the support of WFP. *Contact: wilfred.nkwambi@wfp.org*
- **Sudan** (June - July 2006): The draft report is being finalised. *Contact: daniel.molla@wfp.org*

Gates Foundation support to CFSVAs: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing a grant of USD7.79 million over a period of 6 years to support comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis (CFSVA) in 16 sub-Saharan African countries. The countries selected by the Gates Foundation include 7 in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal; and 9 in Southern, Central and East Africa: Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The CFSVAs will provide information for WFP programming and also for the broader humanitarian community. *Contact: joyce.luma@wfp.org, ODAV Chief*

Update on Food Security Monitoring Systems funded by SENAC:

- **Burkina Faso:** For the moment, field missions provide monitoring information. After the CFSVA is conducted in 2008, a more systematic FSMS will be set up. *Contact: paola.dossantos@wfp.org*
- **Chad:** The next round has been delayed due to security concerns. In the meantime, training on using Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) has been conducted. *Contact: ibrahima.diop@wfp.org*
- **Mali:** A second round of data collection is planned for January 2008. *Contact: moise.ballo@wfp.org*
- **Mauritania:** An analysis of the impact of prices on food security monitoring is ongoing. *Contact: papamoussa.ndoye@wfp.org*
- **Niger:** The third round of data collection is currently ongoing. *Contact: koffi.akakpo@wfp.org*
- **Rwanda:** Second round of data is ongoing in the six chronically affected districts with supervision from National Institute of Statistics. The first and second rounds of data will be combined into a single bulletin. The FSNMS technical committee members are preparing for a wider presentation of the pilot FSNMS methodology and analysis of these results early February 2008. *Contact: kiganzi.nyakato@wfp.org*
- **Uganda:** The first round of data collection and analysis has been completed. The data was used to provide initial information to estimate the impact of the floods on household food security. A workshop was held to review the first round and provide training on the newly developed web-based tool. The second round is scheduled for mid-January. *Contact: dipayan.bhattacharyya@wfp.org*

For information on pre-crisis studies contact jan.delbaere@wfp.org, Senior Food Security Specialist

5. Methods and Tools

Revision of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Handbook: The revised version, due to be issued in the first quarter of 2008, will bring together the methodological advances made over the past two years and assessor's experience from field work. The status is as follows:

- Part I "Objectives of an EFSA and analytical framework" and Part II "Overview of the analytical process and types of EFSA" have been finalized.
 - Part V "Situation Analysis" and Part VI "Analysing EFSA data and forecasting and response analysis" are being adjusted taking into account the information now included in Parts III and IV.
 - Part III "Data, Indicators and Sources of Information" and Part IV "Designing and Conducting an EFSA" are being finalized.
 - Part VII "Reporting EFSA Results" is being prepared.
- Contact agnes.dhur@wfp.org, Senior Methodology Specialist.

Initial Rapid Assessment tool / IASC Nutrition Cluster: The IASC Nutrition Cluster meeting took place in Geneva from 13 to 15 November. Among other issues, the Cluster discussed the development of a comprehensive capacity building package for agencies and staff, the field testing of the Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) data collection tool to be used in the first few days after a crisis to assess the nutritional and food security situation, and the preparation of a Comprehensive Assessment Tool for the subsequent phase. The IRA tool should be finalized by the end of the year, based on lessons learnt from a few field pilots. A first draft of the Comprehensive Assessment Tool should also be circulated to the Nutrition Cluster members in December. Contact: andrew.thornelyman@wfp.org or agnes.dhur@wfp.org

Assessing Government Response Capacities in Food Security Crises: With the support of the Danish Government, the Emergency Needs Assessment Service (ODAN) is developing practical guidance to assess government response capacities to respond to food security crisis. The following draft tools have so far been developed: i) an assessment matrix with a set of key indicators at different levels (macro economic, institutional & organizational and programming); ii) a guidance note and iii) an indicator catalogue. They are currently being field tested in Bolivia, Yemen and Tajikistan. ODAN is soliciting feedback from a wider pool of Country Offices regarding the application of the draft assessment matrix. A round-up consultation workshop will be held in February to discuss the tools and lessons learned from the field testing experience. Contact: angie.lee@wfp.org, Programme Officer.

Consultation with National Governments on Emergency Needs Assessments (19-21 November) Rome: Government representatives from 11 countries and two regional organisations participated in a consultation, with the objectives of: familiarizing partners with the technical progress made in emergency needs assessment methods and tools; and fostering collaboration to develop procedures and capacities to undertake emergency needs assessments. The report of the workshop will be available soon. Contact: getachew.diriba@wfp.org, Senior Programme Adviser

Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC): The IPC Steering Committee (FAO, WFP, FEW NET, Oxfam, CARE, SCF UK and US and the EC's Joint Research Center) will meet on 18-19 December in Washington to discuss the work programme for 2008, the status of the five-year multi-agency proposal submitted to the EC, and endorse a technical addendum to the IPC manual (to be finalised at a technical workshop on 10-11 December). In the meantime, the IPC is being piloted and implemented in the following way:

- **WFP-led pilots:** In addition to the pilots already completed in Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Indonesia, an IPC pilot will be finalized in Tajikistan in December. In Nepal, the standard classification is being integrated into the current food security monitoring system. In Côte d'Ivoire, FAO and WFP have completed a first cycle of IPC analysis (report and map available - see above in section 2); a second cycle and a lessons learned workshop will take place in January 2008.

➤ **FAO-led activities:** In Somalia, Kenya and Burundi, the IPC is an established instrument and used on a regular basis. In DRC, Sudan, Uganda and Niger, IPC consultations and awareness-raising sessions are taking place.

Contact: valerie.ceylon@wfp.org, ODAN Programme Adviser

Progress made on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into CFSVAs: The HIV/AIDS and ODAV units in HQ and in the Southern Africa Regional Bureau are working together to include an HIV and AIDS component in the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses to better understand the links between HIV, AIDS and household food security. Technical guidelines will be disseminated in early 2008. WFP presented the guidelines to the SADC VAC Annual Organizational Meeting in Johannesburg, (4th-5th December) with a strong emphasis on lessons learned on data collection and analyses, and how findings related to HIV/AIDS and food insecurity can inform the design and targeting of food assistance programmes. These lessons will inform the VAC activities in Angola, where a specific study on HIV/AIDS impact on crop production will be conducted in 2008. In Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees plan to further address HIV/AIDS issues in their activities in 2008. Contact: chiara.brunelli@wfp.org

6. Market Analysis

Market Analysis: Market analysis is now directly integrated into needs assessments, VAM baseline studies and FSMS. Other ongoing stand-alone market studies include:

○ **Syria:** A market assessment (5 to 13 October) looked at the feasibility of a cash/voucher programme for providing assistance to Iraqi refugees in Syria, and analysed the functioning of markets with regards to sufficient and affordable food supplies for the refugee population. Contact: thomas.beuter@wfp.org

○ **Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador:** The purpose is to obtain more systematized and better information on staple food prices in the region, on their seasonal variations and on the anomalies that are currently affecting markets, and the link to household food security. Initial findings will be available in December. Contact: andrew.stanhope@wfp.org or ludovic.subran@wfp.org

○ **Uganda:** A Country Situation Analysis is currently ongoing to provide information on food supply, demand, and trade, with an emphasis on small holders. This analysis will help the Country Office to develop a proposal for the WFP/Gates Foundation "Purchase for Progress Initiative" whose objective is to leverage WFP local procurement to promote smallholder farmers' market access and agriculture production. Contact: simon.dradri@wfp.org. Other Country situation analyses are scheduled for the same purpose in January and February in: **Mali** (contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org); **Burkina Faso** (contact: simon.renk@wfp.org); **Mozambique** (contact: andrea.alfieri@wfp.org); and **Zambia** (contact: arif.husain@wfp.org).

○ **Djibouti:** a basic market price monitoring and analysis system for Djibouti has been developed in collaboration with FEWSNET. Contact: Sharon.osterloh@wfp.org or scott.ronchini@wfp.org

Monitoring food prices in West Africa:

○ **Mauritania:** HQ's Economics Analysis Unit is developing a tool to estimate the number of households affected by the recent food price increase. Contact: issa.sanogo@wfp.org

○ **Guinea Bissau:** The weekly monitoring of markets shows a 40 percent increase in the price of rice since last October. Should the trend persist into 2008 it may affect rural food security. The CO has developed tools to adequately model household food availability. Contact: jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org

Workshop on partnerships in market analysis for food security (11-13 December), Johannesburg: This workshop organized jointly by ODAN (Needs Assessments) and PDPE (Economic Analysis Unit) brought together professionals from WFP and key partners (FAO, World Bank, FEWS NET, NGOs and academic institutions) to share best practices on market analysis in support of food security programming. Since 2006, WFP has made specific efforts to integrate market analysis into its needs assessments, food security baselines and monitoring systems, and has developed tools to better understand how markets influence food insecurity

(available at <http://home.wfp.org/organisation/divisions/pd/pdp/>). Participants discussed lessons learned on the use of the tools, how market analysis has influenced decisions on programs, and the capacity needed to conduct market analysis. They also discussed future plans for capacity building, potential partnerships and setting up a roster of practitioners. *Contact: henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org or simon.renk@wfp.org*

For more information contact henk-jan.brinkman@wfp.org, Chief, PDPE or getachew.diriba@wfp.org, ODAN Senior Programme Adviser.

7. Capacity Building

Capacity Building Strategy for the WFP East and Central Africa Region (ODK): The Regional Bureau is engaged in a long-term initiative to strengthen country and sub office capacity in assessment, analysis, and preparedness. After completing a series of field-based trainings for staff and partners in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, a second round of training is nearing completion in Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Djibouti. To culminate the 2007 process, a regional Training of Trainers was convened in early December for Country/Sub Office resource people to enhance facilitation skills and update country specific 2008 plans. By the end of 2007, ODK will have facilitated a total of 15 learning events on strengthened food security assessment for over 250 participants. In Uganda, Ethiopia and Djibouti, a market module was introduced in the training to provide an understanding of the link between markets and household food security, as well as the implications of market functioning for WFP response options. *Contact: patrick.foley@wfp.org, Capacity Building Coordinator or scott.ronchini@wfp.org, Regional VAM Adviser.*

Capacity Building Strategy for the WFP South African Region (ODJ): ODJ is defining its strategy for strengthening assessment and analysis capacity for 2008. Training in household survey methods (design and statistical analysis) and integrating market analysis are the priorities. The strategy will be embedded into the Regional / National Vulnerability Assessment Committee (R/NVAC) system and its recently established capacity building initiative - the Center(s) of Excellence (CofE). This will help to address immediate capacity building needs, and build sustainable capacity within and beyond WFP. It will also contribute to the institutional legitimacy of the CofE and RVAC system, while benefiting from the expertise of local academic institutions. *Contact: sylvie.montembault@wfp.org*

Upcoming Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) trainings:

Liberia: EFSA/JAM training in cooperation with UNHCR is scheduled in January 2008. The 8-day training includes a two-day rapid assessment of an Ivorian refugee camp in Nimba County (appr. 1,000 people are still living in the camp). *Contact: claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org*

8. Staff News

After three years as SENAC Senior Project Coordinator, **Darlene Tymo** will join the International Development Law Organization as of January 2008 to set up a monitoring and evaluation unit. Since SENAC was launched in January 2005, Darlene has been one of the driving forces behind the project by helping to establish the work plan and set priorities, managing the budget and personnel issues, supporting the team of regional assessment officers, liaising with donors and Advisory Group members, ensuring funding and developing a strategy for WFP's participation in the IPC. Good luck Darlene!

Barbara Conte, SENAC Programme Officer, is also leaving at the end of December to start a new career path in oPt. Barbara joined the SENAC team in 2005. She supported the management of the research activities and

contributed to the coordination of the project, in particular regarding relations with donors and Advisory Group members. Good luck Barbara!

9. More Information?

The e-letter provides links to online material. All the documents can also be found at www.wfp.org/odan

For a copy of the first fourteen Assessor e-letters, go to: www.wfp.org/odan

For more information about the Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan and SENAC, click on: [Overview of the Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan](#)

In addition to ECHO's support, WFP also currently receives funding for this project from the Danish and German governments, the Citigroup Foundation and CIDA.

List of acronyms

CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
CFSAM	Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission – conducted with FAO
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
EFSNA	Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
ENA	Emergency Needs Assessment
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring Systems
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
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
PDPE	WFP HQ Economic Analysis Unit
SADC	Southern African Development Community
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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For more information about 'The Assessor' contact: caroline.chaumont@wfp.org, *Food Security Communication Officer*.