



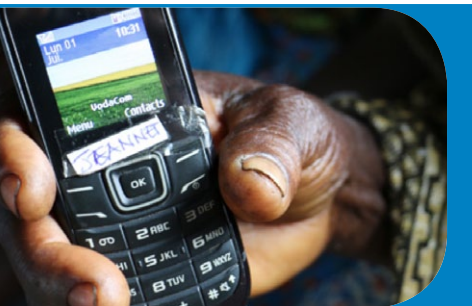
THE ASSESSOR



Welcome to Issue 43 of THE ASSESSOR, WFP's Food Security Analysis e-Newsletter!

- "VAM Talks" Podcast Goes Live
- mVAM in Malawi
- ALNAP Case Study on mVAM
- El Niño Implications and Scenarios for 2015/16
- Focus on the El Niño impact in the Southern African Region
- Market Analysis
- Food Security Information Network
- Emergency Food Security Assessments
- Baseline Studies
- Inter-Agency Work
- Capacity Development and Guidance
- Gender Analysis in VAM
- Focus on Latin America and the Caribbean

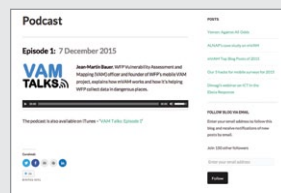




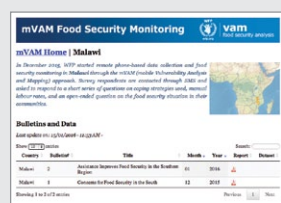
“VAM Talks” Podcast Goes Live

Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) was featured in the [first episode](#) of a series of podcasts called “VAM Talks”. In this episode *Jean-Martin Bauer*, founder of the mVAM project, explains how the initiative works and how it is helping WFP collect data in dangerous places. Topics will include innovations in VAM, which are explained through a series of talks by experts who lead the innovation processes. You can access all podcasts on [iTunes](#).

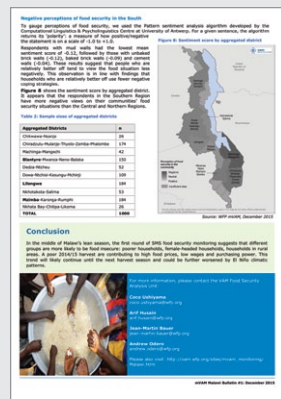
VAM Talks: Episode 1 December 2015



mVAM Malawi Food Security Monitoring



mVAM Malawi Bulletin



mVAM in Malawi

In the context of the ongoing El Niño phenomenon, [mVAM](#) rolled out to Malawi in December 2015. The first round of remote data collection was conducted using SMS on a sample of 1000 randomly selected households. Respondents were asked about their coping behavior, manual labor wages, and perceptions of the food security situation in their communities. Responses were captured in a word cloud illustrating the terms most commonly found. The size of the words represent their frequency:



The word cloud shows that people have to rely on buying food in the market due to poor harvests. Respondents explain that with low production and high market demand, food items such as maize are very expensive.

For details on the results of the survey, please see the [mVAM Malawi bulletin](#) published in December 2015.

mVAM is currently undertaking the second round of remote data collection through live calls and SMS. Calls were made to market traders in 15 hotspot districts and over 50 markets. Plans are also underway to call approximately 70 health facility workers in 28 districts. The SMS data for both rounds was collected in only 24 hours.

ALNAP Case Study on mVAM

The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) has published a [case study](#) which explores the innovation process undertaken by WFP to apply mobile voice technologies to food security data collection. The case study analyses the extent to which the mVAM project is a successful innovation process, the challenges it faces and the emerging lessons for best practice.

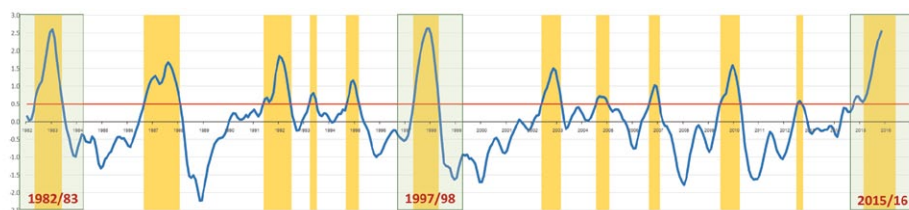
The **Global Food Security Update** provides a quarterly overview of key food security trends in vulnerable countries. [Issue 20](#) was released in December 2015 in its recently launched online format.

To find out more about mVAM, visit www.mvam.org, follow us on Twitter [@mobileVAM](https://twitter.com/mobileVAM) or contact mVAM at wfp.mvam@wfp.org.

El Niño Implications and Scenarios for 2015/16

The current El Niño event was officially declared in March 2015. It has now reached its peak intensity and will start returning to neutral conditions, probably by Q2 2016. This El Niño event has particular implications for global food security: 1) it was preceded by borderline conditions; 2) it is one of the strongest on record; and 3) it is likely to be relatively long lived.

El Niño Strength



Inter-tropical Pacific Sea Surface Temperature anomalies from 1982 to present. The current event and the two most intense events on record are highlighted. Red line is the El Niño threshold.

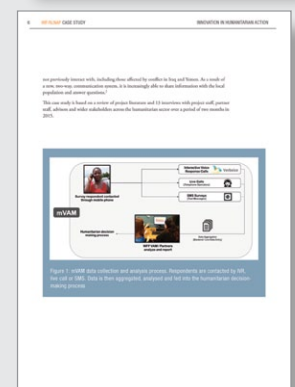
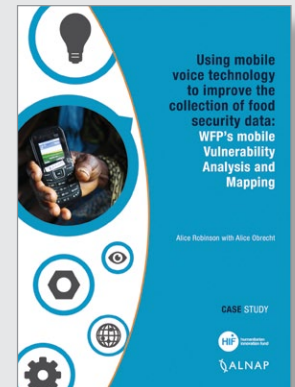
The table below summarises the El Niño implications for 2015-2016:

El Niño: Summary Highlights for 2015-2016

Region	Current Status	Outcomes / Outlook	Impacts
Central America	Postera season at an end	Widespread drought during Primera (first) season (provides >60% of regional maize production). Postera season (major bean production) should end with near average harvests	Most affected are Haiti, Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Affected countries maize production may drop 20% (FAO). Better Postera crop production will improve the situation
West Africa	Rainfall season ended in Sahel	Sahel: after a very poor start, wetter than average conditions and a later than usual end of season Drier than average conditions along Gulf of Guinea	No significant impacts expected in the Sahel, apart from localized worries in Chad Dryness in Ghana affecting second season crops
East Africa	Main rainfall season ended in Ethiopia (except SE), Eritrea, Sudan and most of South Sudan	Ethiopia's Belg and Meher growing seasons ended with both affected by drought. Overall may be worst drought in 50 years. Sudan also affected by poor growing season as well as Eritrea and Djibouti. Karamoja (NE Uganda) growing season also performed poorly.	Ethiopia now dealing with a major drought related emergency. Sudan facing rainfed production shortfall and very poor conditions for pastoralists in East and centre. Poor season in Karamoja and some localized impacts in South Sudan.
Indian subcontinent and South Asia	Main season in Indonesia and secondary season in the Philippines	Favourable season in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Unfavourable monsoon season in India and most of SE Asia countries. Indonesia, Philippines and Pacific islands endured drier than average conditions until now and are forecast to continue until January 2016.	Strong negative impacts already felt in PNG are likely to worsen. Indonesia expected to face impacts on national crop production, and on livelihoods of poorer communities in eastern province.
Horn of Africa	Final stages of the Short Rains (October - December)	Widespread wetter than average conditions; October flooding in Somalia, flash floods and landslides in Kenya. Good vegetation development, except NE Kenya	Flooding so far at manageable scales and no major catastrophic flooding is expected. Favourable pasture and marginal agricultural conditions in semi-arid areas due to enhanced rainfall. Worries remain in NE Kenya
Southern Africa	Early stages of the 2015/16 season (October to April)	Severe rainfall deficits in the early stages of the season, with delays in the start of the season and poor vegetation status. There is still time for recovery	Possible maize production drops in South Africa (main producer), Zimbabwe and Malawi; the resulting high prices and low availability will put additional stress on households.
South America	Early stages of the 2016 season	Drier than average in northern areas of continent, wetter than average in southern Brazil, Paraguay and along coasts of Peru and Ecuador.	Possible drought in NE Brazil and dryness in Bolivia. Enhanced risk of flooding and landslides in Paraguay, Peru and Ecuador.



ALNAP's Case Study on mVAM



Global Food Security Update Issue 20

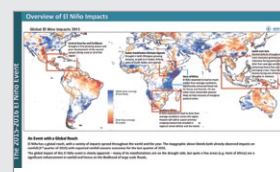
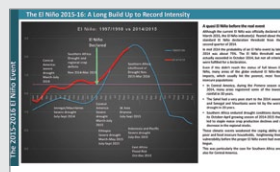
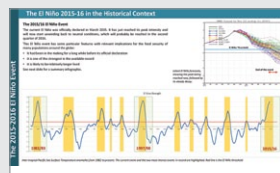


mVAM.org





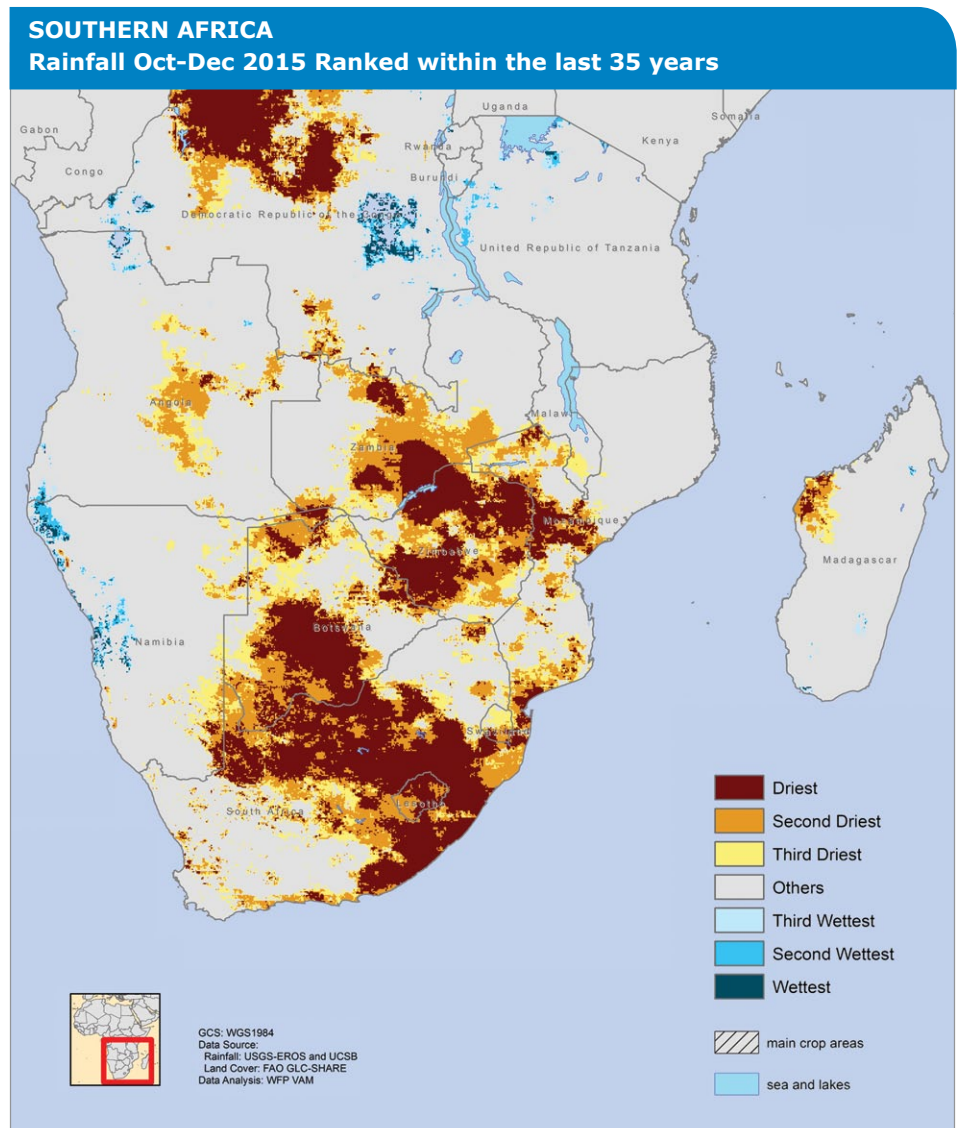
El Niño implications for 2015-2016



Focus on the El Niño Impact on the Southern African Region

The current growing season (October 2015 – April 2016) in Southern Africa is developing during the peak stage of one of the strongest El Niño events on record. Unusually, the preceding growing season of 2014-2015 was characterized by poor rainfall performance leading to deficits in crop production. These increased food insecurity levels across the region and the decrease in stocks left Southern Africa in a fragile position to endure the possible impacts of the current El Niño event.

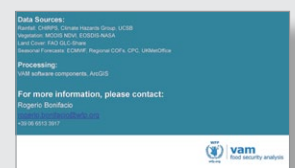
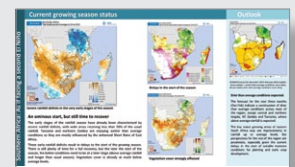
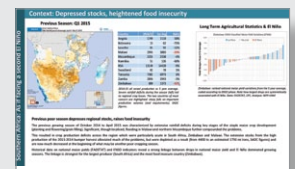
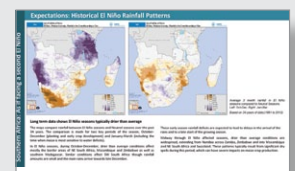
Severe rainfall deficits dominated the first stages of the current growing season. Across many areas of Zimbabwe and South Africa the October-December period has been the driest since 1981.



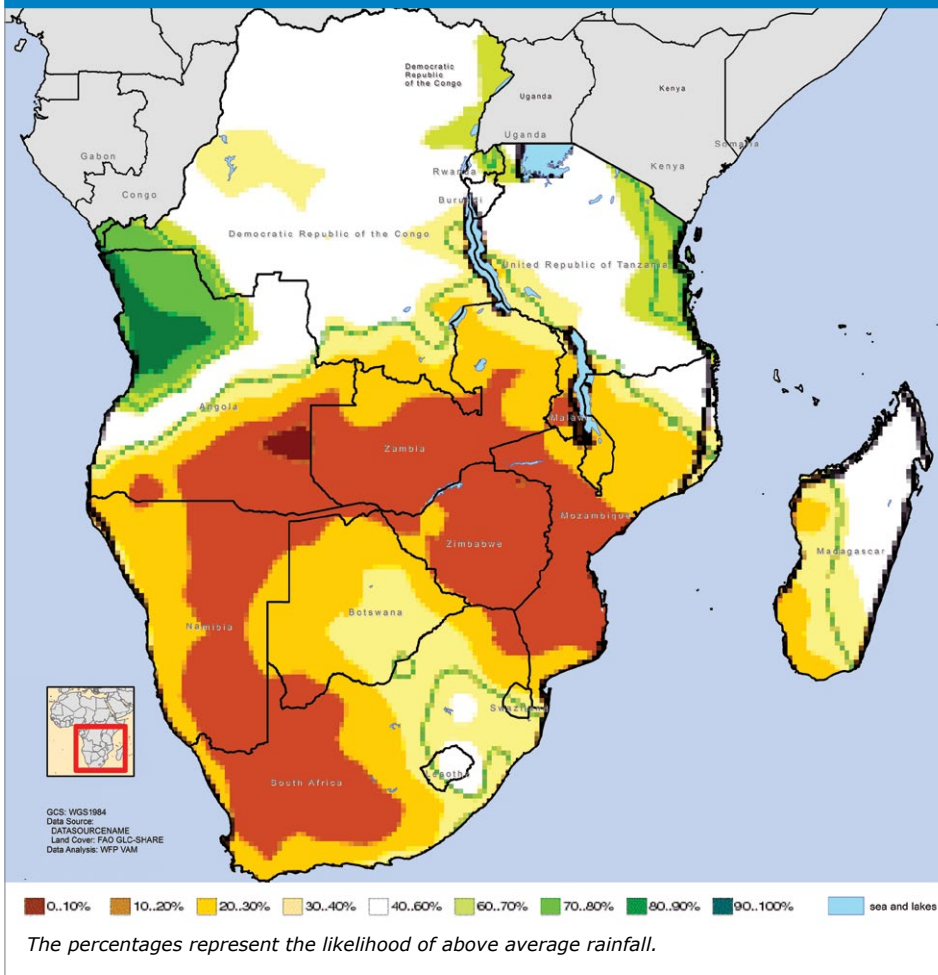
Rainfall forecasts for January to March point towards the continuation of drier than average conditions across most of the region. This general tendency should last until the end of the season. Overall, Southern Africa is increasingly likely to experience one of the driest seasons in the recent past. The impacts from poor crop production will increase the high levels of food insecurity across the region.



El Niño implications for 2015-2016



SOUTHERN AFRICA Seasonal Forecast Jan-Feb-Mar 2016



Market Analysis

Participation in Cash Based Transfer Simulation

In December, a Cash Based Transfer (CBT) response scheme was tested in Kenya in a simulation exercise. The activity aimed to test the feasibility of rapidly deploying a WFP team to implement CBT solutions (i.e. pre-paid VISA card, cash-over-the-counter, paper voucher, e-voucher, and mobile money) in the aftermath of a sudden onset crisis. The exercise was conducted by staff from WFP functional areas including Supply Chain, Finance, IT, Programme and VAM with support from the Kenya Country Office. The simulation exercise involved real beneficiaries and retailers and actual cash transfers. Overall, the results were positive, indicating that WFP is able to reach beneficiaries within 15 days if country-specific emergency preparedness is in place.

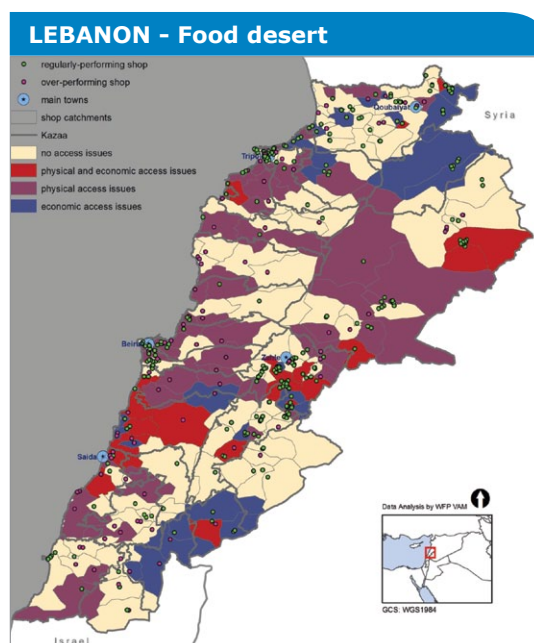
World Food Programme		Vaccination against measles	
Country		Year	
2014		2015	
2016		2017	
2018		2019	
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In November, VAM presented the [Alert for Price Spikes \(ALPS\)](#) indicator in the '[Expert Workshop on Market Indicators](#)' organised by IFPRI under the AMIS umbrella. Participants included WFP, IFPRI, FAO, USDA, FEWS NET and the World Bank. The purpose of the workshop was to derive a set of standard measures to monitor price volatility and inform policy makers. VAM's presentation on ALPS focused on its methodology, simplicity and application to information products such as [The Market Monitor](#) and [Country Office bulletins](#).

The report '[Exploring Food Assistance Programmes: Evidence for Lebanon](#)' was published in November. The market assessment examines the impact that three years of WFP market-based food assistance for Syrian refugees has had on traders, and explores different possible adjustments to improve the existing e-voucher programme in the country. Some of the key recommendations include the need to: a) explore cost-efficient opportunities to link contracted shops with local fruit, vegetable and dairy producers; b) fine-tune the shop selection strategy to address physical access constraints; and c) gradually introduce unrestricted cash-based transfers in specific areas identified by further analysis.

VAM market analyses increasingly use advanced remote sensing tools. The Lebanon market assessment introduces the 'Food Deserts' approach, which aims to detect areas where many Syrian refugee households have low physical and economic access to shops accepting WFP e-cards. These are areas where a high share of beneficiaries have poor or borderline food consumption, spend a high percentage of their expenditure on food, and live far from the closest contracted shop.



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The [Market Monitor Issue 29](#) was released in October. The bulletin examines trends in staple food and fuel prices, the cost of the basic food basket and consumer price indices for 70 countries in Q3 2015.

Workshop to Review Minimum Economic Recovery Standards

VAM will participate in a two-day workshop in Washington DC organized on January 27-28 by the [SEEP network](#) to review the [Minimum Economic Recovery Standards \(MERS\)](#). The handbook is designed to articulate the minimum level of technical assistance that needs to be provided to promote the recovery of economies and livelihoods affected by crisis. The revision will incorporate recent changes in digital payments, cash transfers, mobile money, new uses of ICT for market assessments, and new engagements with the private sector.

Food Security Information Network

The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) implemented the following activities in Q4 2015 to strengthen food and nutrition security (FNS) information systems:

FSIN-AUC Technical Consultation

In collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), FSIN organised a [technical consultation](#) in November entitled: *"Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience Analysis: Are we effectively using the right data?"* The consultation took place from 17-19 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants represented 28 African countries, regional institutions (AUC, IGAD and CILSS), development partners, academia, NGOs and the private sector. The consultation was structured around four thematic panels: 1) Food and nutrition security analysis: data availability, access and analysis; 2) Resilience analysis: data availability, access and analysis; 3) Data governance and institutional capacities; and 4) Filling the gaps by exploiting innovation around data production, data collection and data sharing.

The event confirmed FSIN's important role as a global advocate for developing sustainable, evidence-based information systems to support the FNS and resilience agendas and gave it a clear mandate to continue delivering on its three operational components:

- serving as a platform for sharing "good" practices amongst FSN practitioners;
- promoting harmonization of FNS information and analysis; and
- facilitating related capacity development.

Participants made a number of recommendations to the AUC and FSIN to ensure that the right data is available to promote evidence-based analysis and decision making. A validation workshop will be held with partners in early 2016 to update FSIN's objectives and activities based on these recommendations. For a panel-by-panel summary of the discussions, please see the [report](#).



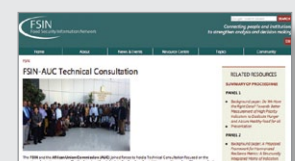
The Market Monitor Issue 29



Minimum Economic Recovery Standards Handbook



FSIN-AUC Technical Consultation Webpage



FSIN-AUC Technical Consultation: Summary of Proceedings

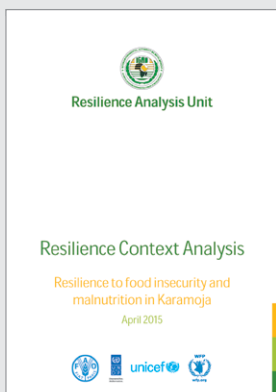




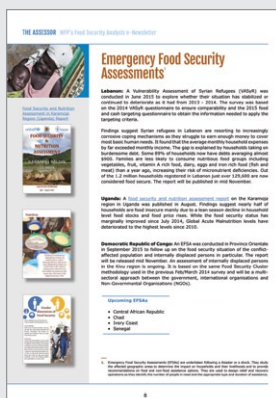
FSIN Factsheet



Karamoja Resilience Context Analysis Report



The Assessor Issue 42



Update on the Harmonization of Global Food Price Datasets Working Group

A draft proposal for a common commodity coding system was shared with the TWG members. The overall objective is to improve cost-efficiency and interoperability of the food price datasets held by FAO, FEWS NET and WFP. Once detailed feedback is received from the TWG, the draft coding system will be finalized and each institution will be responsible for ensuring implementation.

Update on the Measuring Food and Nutrition Security Technical Working Group

The Measuring Food and Nutrition Security Technical Working Group (MFNS-TWG) presented initial findings from its assessment of FNS indicators at the FSIN/AUC technical consultation. The MFNS-TWG reviewed 140 indicators and is developing a user's guide covering the 56 that were deemed most reliable, based on standard criteria. The objective is to provide guidance to decision-makers on which indicators are most useful for specific purposes. The MFNS-TWG's work was highly appreciated by participants, who noted that too many FNS indicators are currently being used and expressed the need to rationalize these. For further details on the TWG's recommendations and feedback on their work, please see the [technical consultation report](#).

Update on the IGAD Resilience Analysis Unit

The overall objective of the Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) is to strengthen the capacity of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its Member States and development partners (FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and OCHA) to measure and analyse resilience in support of policy development and programming.

FSIN partners in South Sudan, with support from the RAU, have been finalizing the South Sudan Resilience Context Analysis (RCA) report. This is the second field application after the [Karamoja RCA report](#) was published in April. The South Sudan RCA aims to provide a contextual analysis of resilience to food insecurity and malnutrition and identify data gaps. Conclusions are expected to be used in establishing a Resilience Results Framework for the country. The South Sudan RCA report will be published in January. Future plans include the launch of additional RCAs in Kenya and Ethiopia.

To find out more about FSIN, visit www.fsincop.net, see our recently published [factsheet](#), follow us on Twitter [@FSIN_News](#) or contact the FSIN secretariat at fsin-secretariat@wfp.org

Emergency Food Security Assessments¹

Lebanon: A Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) was conducted in June 2015 to explore whether their situation has stabilized or continues to deteriorate. For a summary on findings please see [The Assessor Issue 42](#). The [report](#) was published in December 2015. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Preliminary findings from the EFSA conducted in Province Orientale in September indicated that 1.1 million people (32% of the population) are food insecure while displacement remains the main driving force affecting food insecurity. Floods in some villages further reduced households' access to food. For further details, please see the [Executive Brief](#). The full report will be posted in Q1 2016.

Data collection for the EFSA in the Kivu region is complete. In parallel to the EFSA, a targeting exercise was conducted in 27 out of 57 Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) camps. Approximately 27,000 households were interviewed. Findings indicated that around 26,000 IDPs remain extremely vulnerable to food insecurity in North Kivu. Limited access to agricultural lands and long term displacement affect the IDPs' food security. For further details on the targeting exercise, please see the [report](#).

Central African Republic: The overall objective of the food security assessment was to collect data to evaluate new developments since September 2014 and assess the impact of the crisis on the food security situation. Findings suggest a deterioration in food security since September 2014 with 50% of households being food insecure against 29% in September 2015. Approximately 590,000 people are severely food insecure. Causes of food insecurity include: 1) increased use of coping strategies; 2) increased household displacement; 3) reduced agricultural activities due to displacement, lack of seeds and tools; and 4) poor availability and high prices of agricultural products. For further details, please see the [Executive Summary](#) or [Full Report](#).

Chad: An ENSA (Enquête Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire) was conducted in October to assess the food security situation of the country. Findings suggest that 6% of the population is severely food insecure, comprising of approximately 700,000 people. Food insecurity is extremely prevalent in rain stricken regions, leading to biomass deficits and lower agricultural production. About one third of households were affected by weather-related shocks in the past six months. The report will be published in Q2 2016.

Mali: An ENSAN (Enquête Nationale sur la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle) was conducted in September to assess the food and nutrition security situation of the country. Findings indicate that approximately 4% of households are severely food insecure. This shows a slight deterioration compared to February 2015. In most of the affected regions, food insecurity is primarily due to the poor agricultural season and population movements. The report will be published in Q2 2016.

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



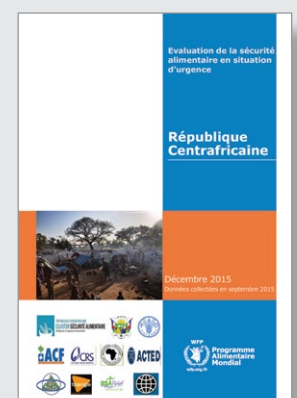
[Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon](#)

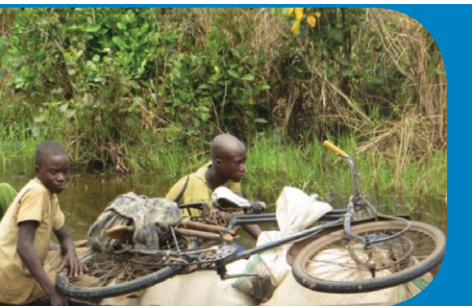


[EFSA Executive Brief for Province Orientale](#)



[EFSA in Central African Republic](#)





EFSA in Burundi



The Assessor Issue 42



Cameroon: An EFSA was conducted in September to track the situation in regions that neighbor conflict-prone northern Nigeria. Food insecurity affects 19% of households, out of which 2% are severely food insecure. The report is being produced.

Burundi: An EFSA was conducted in October 2015 to understand the impact of the social and political crisis affecting Burundi since April 2015. The instability displaced over 200,000 Burundians and restricted livelihoods, led to sale of assets, and limited food access and availability. The EFSA results show that around one in five households is food insecure. This is a 5% increase in food insecurity compared to February 2014. For further details, please see the [report](#).

For details on EFSAs conducted in **Haiti** and **El Salvador**, please see the [Focus on Latin America and the Caribbean](#) section.

Upcoming EFSAs

- Côte d'Ivoire
- Senegal
- Guatemala
- Honduras

Baseline Studies²

CFSVA activities are ongoing in **Armenia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Mozambique, Ethiopia** and **Syria**. For details on the activities please see [The Assessor Issue 42](#).

Armenia: The Country Office is preparing a Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability and Nutrition Analysis (CFSVNA) report. The CFSVNA is based on the Integrated Living Conditions Survey which was conducted by the National Statistics Services in 2014. Data analysis is ongoing and the final report is expected by Q2 2016.

Update on Rwanda: The CFSVA will track progress against reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. The report will be published in Q2 2016.

Update on Sierra Leone: The CFSVA will provide information on the agricultural context, food situation, markets, livelihoods, coping strategies, education, health and expenditure patterns of households. Data analysis took place in December 2015, and a validation workshop is planned for January 2016.

2. The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) is also referred to as pre-crisis baseline study. It gives an in-depth picture of the food security situation during a non-crisis period (normal times). It is used as a benchmark against which to measure change after crisis. It also informs contingency planning and preparedness.

Adapting Food Security Assessments for Urban Environments

Within the framework of the [Adapting to an Urban World](#) assessments are underway in **Somalia**, **Haiti** and **Madagascar** as reported in [The Assessor Issue 42](#).

Update on Somalia: The Somalia Food Security Cluster is leading the development of an urban assessment in Mogadishu. Data collection took place in early December and the report is expected in Q1 2016.

Inter-Agency Work

Joint Assessment Missions³

In October, WFP and UNHCR led a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in **Niger**. The aim was to assess the recommendations of the 2013 JAM, and understand the needs of refugees and host communities. A report and Joint Plan of Action are expected in Q2 2016.

Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions⁴

At the request of the **Central African Republic** government, a joint FAO and WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) visited the country in October 2015. The mission collected the most recent data on the macroeconomic situation, agriculture, trade, policies, prices and food assistance. A report is being drafted and will be published in Q2 2016.

Upcoming JAMs

- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Algeria

Upcoming CFSAMs

- Cameroon
- Senegal

International Conference on Refugee Statistics

In October, VAM participated in the first [International Conference on Refugee Statistics](#) hosted by the Government of the Republic of Turkey. The conference explored how best to incorporate statistics on refugees into national statistical systems.

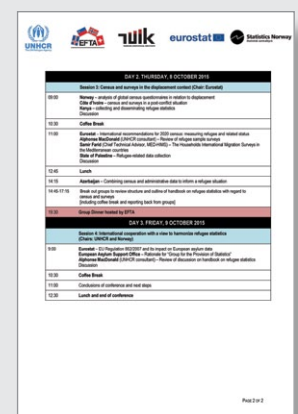
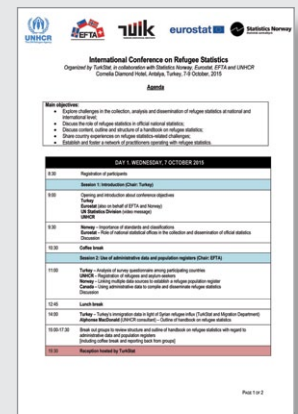
- JAMs are conducted in collaboration with UNHCR to understand the food and nutrition situation, needs, risks, capacities and vulnerabilities of refugees or internally displaced people.
- Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) are conducted with FAO in response to a government request. They are usually used for emergencies related to agricultural production or for overall food availability problems.



Adapting to an Urban World Project



International Conference on Refugee Statistics





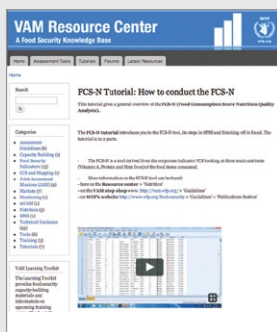
IPC Quality Review Webpage



Global Food Security Cluster Website



Food Consumption Score Nutritional Quality Analysis Tutorial



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

VAM continues to contribute to technical refinement of the [IPC](#) by participating in a series of meetings in December 2015. The newly-formed IPC Food Security Working Group (FSWG) met for four days to agree on key technical issues for IPC Chronic and IPC Acute analysis and to define the FSWG's work plan for the next 1-2 years. VAM presented the [Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security \(CARI\)](#). The Nutrition Working Group met for three days to review the feedback and lessons learned from the Niger, Somalia, DRC, and Sudan IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification pilot exercises and to revise the IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification scale. VAM gave a presentation on the Food Consumption Score Nutritional Quality Analysis which can help improve the analysis of contributing factors.

Workshop on 'Population in Need'

In November, VAM participated in a two-day OCHA meeting in Geneva on how to define a 'Population in Need'. The purpose of this workshop was to provide inputs to finalize the draft guidance and reach consensus on key terminology and methods around humanitarian population figures.

Capacity Development and Guidance

Finalization of Tutorial on Food Consumption Score Nutritional Quality Analysis

The Food Consumption Score Nutritional Quality Analysis (FCS-N) is an analytical tool developed by the VAM assessments team which uses data derived from the FCS module to provide information on three specific nutrients: hem iron⁵, vitamin A and protein. The FCS-N helps to understand household level nutrient adequacy and attempts to improve the link between household food access/consumption and nutritional outcomes. A tutorial was finalized on the use and analysis of FCS-N and is available on the [VAM Resource Center](#).

Workshop on Socio-Economic Surveys, Vulnerability and Targeting

In November, VAM participated in a workshop held by UNHCR Niger. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange experiences on how to use surveys in UNHCR operations, and explore methods of targeting vulnerable populations among refugees. The workshop also focused on how to identify opportunities that open the way towards socio-economic advancement and a livelihood perspective that replaces prolonged material assistance. VAM gave a presentation entitled 'The complexity of targeting: from analysis to assistance'. WFP Case studies from Chad and Niger supported the workshop discussions.

5. Hem (also spelled heme or haem) iron is only found in meat and fish, and is well absorbed by the organism.

Gender Analysis in VAM

In September, VAM launched an initiative to investigate the linkages between gender analysis and market assessments in West Africa to explore how WFP market-based food assistance can be improved. An introductory article was published in [The Assessor Issue 42](#).

In October, a presentation was made at the Regional Bureau, Dakar by a research partner on her findings on VAM market analysis in Senegal from a gender perspective. Her research explored how gender empowerment could be better integrated into the current VAM analytical framework. The initiative was highlighted as being essential in supporting the draft WFP Regional Gender Strategy and as good practice for the region.

In December, the Gender and Market Analysis team contributed to the [mVAM blog](#) with an article on challenges related to reaching female respondents using mobile data collection technologies in the region. The article explores how gender empowerment in food markets could be better integrated into mobile surveys.

Focus on Latin America and the Caribbean

VAM Launches an Initiative to Improve Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis

VAM, in collaboration with the Guatemala Country Office, launched an initiative to improve qualitative data collection, implementation and analysis.

The initiative involved designing a focus group and open interview manual, training a group of practitioners and a series of practical exercises with WFP beneficiaries. Guatemalan government agencies, UN agencies and NGOs were invited to participate in the workshop. This provided an opportunity to collectively identify the way forward for future joint assessments.



Female Focus Group - Zacapa, Guatemala



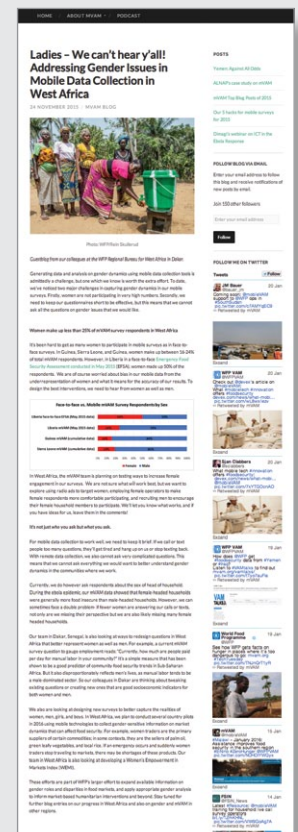
Male Focus Group - Zacapa, Guatemala



The Assessor Issue 42



Addressing Gender Issues in Mobile Data Collection in West Africa

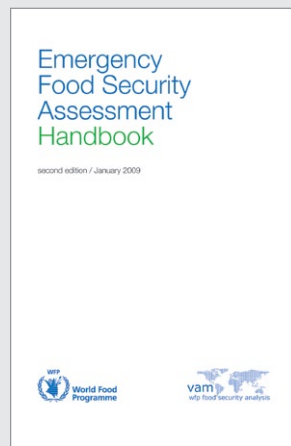




Joint gFSC and WFP Proposal: Adapting to an Urban World



EFSA Handbook



Food Security Update on Latin America and the Caribbean



Urban Food Security Studies in Haiti and Guatemala

VAM and the gFSC launched an [Urban Food Security Study](#) in Haiti and Guatemala.

In Haiti, within the framework of the [Adapting to an Urban World](#) project, VAM conducted 10 community focus group discussions and 17 interviews with street food vendors. The results were used to inform the design of a household survey. The report is expected in Q1 2016. The results of the report will contribute to the design of an urban food security monitoring system in Haiti, managed and led by the Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire.

In Guatemala, partnerships with key academic institutions, NGOs and government agencies were secured to initiate a socio-anthropological research project that aims to understand urban food insecurity and develop new indicators specifically tailored for urban settings.

EFSA 72 Hours Initiative for Post-Disaster Emergency Assessments

Since early 2015, the region has been working on an EFSA 72 Hours Initiative. VAM conducted an EFSA 72H Training of Trainers (ToT) for VAM staff in the region and four training workshops in partnership with the governments of Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador and Haiti. As a result, more than 50 WFP and cooperating partners' personnel were trained in the EFSA 72H methodology. Minimum information requirements for EFSA 72H assessments were identified to enable governments to tackle their information gaps and strengthen their current information systems.

To facilitate the learning process and continue strengthening capabilities, VAM designed an EFSA 72H online course which will be accessible on the Learning Management System (LMS) in early 2016. The online course was designed for individuals who have little to no experience in undertaking emergency food security assessments. The e-course will be mandatory for participants of EFSA 72H training workshops.



El Salvador Country Office - EFSA 72H Training

Emergency Food Security Assessments across Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti: For a second consecutive year, dry conditions have increased crop losses in Haiti, which has had a direct impact on the food security situation of vulnerable households. In September 2015, the Haitian National Coordination for Food Security Office (CNSA) issued an alert which identified 37 communes (districts) as high risk. About 435,000 people were estimated to be in food security crisis.

The areas most affected by the drought are found in this [report](#). Thus, VAM and CNSA are currently conducting an EFSA. Approximately, 2,600 households in five livelihood zones within seven departments were assessed. Preliminary results will be available by the end of January.

Central America: The intensity of the drought over the past two years produced by the [ongoing El Niño event](#) has generated heavy losses in crop production and reserves. In order to understand the impact of the drought on the food security situation of vulnerable households, WFP and the government of Guatemala and Honduras are coordinating the development of a *postrera* (closing harvest) EFSA. However, it must be noted that even with a successful *postrera*, the losses of the *primera* (main harvest) are too significant to expect a recovery in the near term.

WFP El Salvador in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture carried out an EFSA as part of the National Multi-Purpose Agricultural Survey (ENAPM), a major study conducted by the government of El Salvador. Around 1,000 agricultural producer householders were analyzed at national level. Preliminary results of the joint assessment will be available by the end of January.

Paraguay: In December, intense rains produced floods throughout Paraguay, affecting over 160,000 people. The government declared an emergency in 8 departments. Asuncion was the most affected, with approximately 60,000 people currently living in shelters. The national meteorological department indicated that river levels will continue to rise and the situation in Asuncion could get worse by March 2016.

The Paraguayan government, with support from VAM in the Bolivia Country Office, is conducting food security and market assessments to estimate the number of people that require food assistance, and identify suitable intervention modalities. Results of these analyses will be available in early February.

VAM food and commodity prices data store



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

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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