**Highlights of October 2007**

⇒ CHS sample for the October 2007 Round 9 includes two distinct zones with different target groups: zone of flood-affected areas of central provinces with relief/emergency flood response activity for displaced households in resettlement centers (76%) and the southern province of Gaza, with OVC and HBC activities, affected by drought (24%).

⇒ A household is considered ‘beneficiary’ if it received food ration at least in one month since April 2007.

⇒ Despite an increase in the frequency and severity of coping, as measured by the coping strategies index (CSI), including a reduction in the number of meals and food portion size, the diet adequacy improved. It indicates that, although food intake may have reduced, dietary diversity and food frequency has improved.

⇒ The food security situation has to be monitored considering the higher CSI, limited cereal stocks at household level and in markets, as food assistance is one of the main sources of cereal and also the preferred type of assistance for most programme beneficiaries.

⇒ See more Highlights on page 3.

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**Effects of Food Assistance**

Analysis of CHS data allows for comparison of WFP beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups on the basis of measures computed from the household data. The **Coping Strategies Index** (CSI) measures the **frequency and severity** of actions taken by households in response to the presence or threat of a food shortage. With the CSI, a lower score implies reduced stress on the household and thus, relatively better food security. A lower CSI score implies reduced stress on the household and thus relatively better food security.

- As indicated in the graph, the average CSI score increased for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries households as expected in the lean season with the mean CSI of beneficiaries being significantly ($p < 0.01$) higher than that of non-beneficiaries.
- Although the CSI was found to have increased in October 2007 compared to March 07 and October 06, it is still lower than in previous years, indicating that perhaps the food security situation is better than previous years.
- The CSI score of flood affected populations in resettlement centers (relief beneficiaries) is higher (43) than that of OVC and HBC beneficiaries in Gaza province (36);
- Guija district of Gaza province had the highest CSI score among beneficiaries (58) and Caia had the lowest CSI score (35). The highest CSI score among non-beneficiaries was in Mopeia - Zambezia (52) and the lowest was in Chicualacuala (29).
- The most common coping strategies used were reducing the number of meals (79%), limiting portion sizes (76%) and casual labor for food (72%).
- In the flood affected areas the survey found higher CSIs associated with high frequency and high number of strategies. This may reflect the relative unfamiliarity of flood affected populations with the extreme food insecurity situation and their application of a wide variety of short term coping strategies. This may explain why Mopeia has a higher CSI than Chicualacuala.

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**Methodology and Partners**

The 39 sites for data collection were randomly selected from two groups (see map on page 3)

1. communities (resettlement sites) accommodating households affected by the 2007 floods where relief food distribution was provided in August 2007 (Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambezia provinces);
2. communities in Gaza province included in Home Based Care (HBC) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programmes, who received food assistance in July 2007.

The process was coordinated by the WFP Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (AME). Cooperating partners were responsible for the training and the fieldwork, namely the National Association for Food Security and Nutrition (ANSA) in Gaza; Bureau Africano para o Desenvolvimento Socio-Economico (BADES) in Sofala and Manica; and World Vision (WVI Mozambique) in Tete and Zambezia. ANSA and the WFP Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (ODJ) were also involved in the data processing, analysis and reporting.
In order to better understand the relative importance of different livelihood sources the heads of households were asked to estimate the contribution of each source to the total household income. The graph on the right shows that the greatest contribution to total income for non-beneficiary households is from casual labour accounting for 28% of total income which is more intensive during this period of the year. Other sources include food crops (12%) and petty trade and cash crops activities (10%).

When compared to October 2006 and March 2007, the reliance on casual labour has doubled while reliance on food crops has decreased to half (from 27% and 24% to 12%). This is a reflection of the impact of the drought and flood situations on the agricultural production.

The graph below shows that for beneficiary households, the greatest contribution to total income is food assistance (34%), followed by casual labour (22%) and cash crops (12%). Reliance on food assistance is slightly higher than in October 2006 and March 2007. The high reliance on food assistance among beneficiaries in the central region is indicative of the lack of access of displaced and resettled flood affected population to alternative livelihood sources.

When comparing the two groups, there are significant differences in share from remittances, food crop sales, casual labour, small business, salary and, of course, food assistance.

### Contribution to Total Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main livelihood sources of households</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Non-beneficiaries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beneficiaries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non-beneficiaries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food assistance (37%)</td>
<td>Ganho ganho (28%)</td>
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<td>Ganho ganho (15%)</td>
<td>Food crop sales (15%)</td>
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<td>Cash crop sales (15%)</td>
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<td>Food crop sales (11%)</td>
<td>Petty Trade (10%)</td>
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Around 37% of beneficiary households mentioned food assistance as their first livelihood source followed by casual labour (15%) and cash crop sales (15%), food crop sales (11%) and others (22%). For non-beneficiary households, casual labour was the first livelihood source (28%) followed by food crop sales (15%), cash crop sales (13%), petty cash (10%) and others (34%).

As expected, food assistance was the most common source of livelihood for beneficiaries, higher than March 2007 (70%) and October 2006 (56%). Casual labour (ganho ganho) also increased for both groups compared to March 2007 and October 2006.

Remittances was not mentioned as a main source of livelihood compared to March 2007 when more than 35% of OVC and 24% of relief beneficiaries referred to reliance on remittances. OVC households were also more likely to rely on ganho ganho (25%) and food assistance (19%) than other beneficiaries.

Relief beneficiaries were the most likely to name food assistance as their first livelihood source (36%), followed by OVC (25%) and HBC (23%) households.
Other Highlights

⇒ Nearly 73% of the sample households indicated they had no cereal stocks whereas 22% had food up to one month at the time of the survey. This is the same as in March 2007 but much higher than the 33% in October 2006.
⇒ In all, 55% of beneficiary households indicated that food assistance was their most important source of cereals (March 07: 37%). There was an increase of households that rely on purchase of cereals (34% of beneficiary and 54% of non-beneficiary households) and a reduction of households that rely on own production for cereals (12% of beneficiary households and 21% of non-beneficiary households).
⇒ Nearly 33% of all households had received food remittances in the six months prior to the survey - the same as in March 2007. By programme type, 27% of OVC beneficiary households compared to only 8% each of HBC and 'relief' households.
⇒ Fewer beneficiary households (6% vs. 11% in March 07) had received a cash remittance and 2% of all had received an agricultural inputs remittance (10% in March 07). By programme type, 15% of the OVC beneficiary households received a cash remittance compared to 4% of 'relief' and 3% of HBC households.
⇒ In all, only 2% of the households had borrowed money in the 3 months prior to the survey compared to 15% in March 2007, mainly for food (15% compared to 44% in March 07).
⇒ 20% of households sold assets to pay for food compared to 8% in March 2007.
⇒ Around 7% of the households owned cattle with no difference by beneficiary status. However, 42% of the households in Chicalucuala and 27% in Guija owned cattle.
⇒ Pigs were owned by about 30% of the households and goats or sheep by only 10% with no difference by beneficiary status. Significantly more (p < 0.01) non-beneficiary households owned poultry (41%) compared to beneficiaries (32%).
⇒ In general, “relief” beneficiaries were much less likely to own livestock than HBC or OVC beneficiary households.
⇒ Around 44% of livestock owning households had sold goats or sheep in the 3 months prior to the survey, mostly to purchase food (79%) or to pay for other expenses (56%).

Housing, Water and Sanitation

⇒ In total, 22% of the sample live in houses with thatch roofs and dirt floors. All households in Tambara and more than 90% in Caia and Marrromeu were of this quality compared to only one-third of the sample in Guija and Xai-Xai.
⇒ By programme type, 89% of the ‘relief’ beneficiaries lived in houses with a thatched roof and dirt floor, compared to 55% of HBC and 45% of OVC beneficiary households.
⇒ Nearly all of the households had no latrine or used an open field for waste disposal. Of all districts, the Caia sample was the best with 9% of households using safe sanitation.
⇒ Use of drinking water from improved sources (UNICEF definition) was highest in Caia (100%), followed by Guija (94%) and Mopeia (93%). The worst access was found in Chicalucuala where only 24% were using drinking water from improved sources.
⇒ By programme type, there was no difference in use of safe sanitation (3% for ‘relief’ and none from others), but more ‘relief’ households were using drinking water from safe sources (76%) than the other beneficiary groups (67% of OVC and 62% HBC).
Targeting Efficiency

Although there are six basic targeting criteria recommended to select beneficiaries, not all of them are in used in all activities. Criteria vary according to the target group and purpose of the food assistance programme.

- For the OVC activity the criterion of at least one orphaned household member is considered to be key. Around 94% of OVC beneficiary households confirmed to have at least one orphan compared to 41% of HBC beneficiaries and 21% of non-beneficiaries. Exactly 80% the HBC beneficiaries had a chronically ill household member compared to 33% of OVC and 11% of non-beneficiary households.

- The “inclusion error” implied above may be associated with difficulties in monitoring the continued eligibility of beneficiaries while household environments and demographics are changing. In the case of chronic illness it has been observed that home based care providers may find it difficult to ‘discharge’ households from the programme after the death of the chronically ill person. In the case of OVC support programmes, vulnerable children who are not orphaned are also considered for food support eligibility, depend on their situation.

- In flood-affected areas the criteria applied for eligibility for food assistance included displacement due to the floods and resettlement in selected, government identified areas. These criteria are not included in the list of the basic six.

- In addition to the main qualifying criteria each of the three target groups (OVC, HBC and relief) also comply with other criteria such as female headed household or asset poverty. This helps to strengthen the beneficiary selection, thus minimizing the inclusion error.

- Both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households that were asset poor had higher proportion of poor food consumption.

- Asset poor households are more likely to have higher CSI scores. This is stronger in non-beneficiary households. This finding supports the importance of targeting asset poor households.

Types of assistance

In order to learn more about the needs of beneficiaries, the households were asked if they preferred food, cash or a combination of both food and cash. In addition, they were also asked to give up to three reasons for their preferences.

These new questions were added to inform the WFP regional Special Initiative on Cash and Vouchers Programme (SICVP) which began in late 2006.

They also provide empirical information on beneficiary needs and perceptions for planning and decision making in WFP operational areas.

Preferred Type of Assistance

Beneficiaries were asked about their preferred assistance for the second time in October 2007. In this round, 67% preferred food only compared to 84% in March 2007. An additional 7% preferred cash only, up slightly from 3% in March and 26% preferred a mixture of both cash and food assistance, an increase from 15% in March 2007.

Those who preferred food only gave the following reasons:

- Satisfies household food shortages (64%, compared to 95% in March 2007).
- Difficult to access the markets (61% - not a top reason in the previous round).
- Food prices are high (45% - not a top reason in March 2007).
- Better for children (35% - compared to 21% in the previous round).
- Food prices are unpredictable (23% compared to 17% in the previous round)

Of the 3% who prefer cash only, most said it was because it could be used for other expenses (79% vs. 69%), they could purchase food and other items (71% vs. 6%, or they could purchase a variety of foods. (61% vs. 69%). For those who preferred both cash and food (13%), it improves the households’ ability to cope (97% vs. 42%) and because the combination meets seasonal needs (70% vs. 97%).

By programme type, the OVC were most likely to prefer food only (87%) compared to 74% of HBC beneficiaries. HBC beneficiaries were more likely to prefer both food and cash (23%). Non-beneficiaries were likely to prefer cash only than the beneficiaries while none of the OVC beneficiary households preferred cash only.

The chart on the left compares March and October 2007 by vulnerability. The preference for food only increased for medium and high vulnerability households while the preference for cash only decreased. For the low vulnerability households, the desire for both cash and food increased over the two rounds.
Vulnerability

In this round, vulnerability was assessed by considering the number of vulnerable characteristics (out of 12) each household had. Asset poverty, female or elderly head, chronically ill member, hosting orphans, disabled member, recent death of a member, 80% or more effective dependents, poor housing, unsafe water or sanitation and having no livestock were used. Households were described as having either low (0-1 characteristics), medium (2-5) or high (6+) vulnerability.

- More beneficiary households had high vulnerability (23%) as compared to non-beneficiary households (18%).
- The chart below compares the mean coping strategies index (CSI) and food consumption score (FCS) by vulnerability level and beneficiary status. For beneficiaries the FCS for the highly vulnerable was lower than that for non-beneficiaries. The mean CSI was higher in highly vulnerable beneficiary households.
- By programme activity, more HBC beneficiary households (43%) had high vulnerability than OVC (36%) or relief (20%) beneficiaries.
- More beneficiaries in Gaza province were highly vulnerable (40%), followed by Tete (27%). For non-beneficiaries, 23% were highly vulnerable in Manica, followed by 22% in Tete.
- By district, beneficiary households in Chicualacuala had the highest percentage of households with high vulnerability (56%), followed by Guija (42%) and Mutarara (27%). For non-beneficiaries, the highest percentage of highly vulnerable households was also found in Chicualacuala (25%), followed by Tambara (23%), Mutarara (22%) and Xai-Xai (21%).
- The results may indicate that food assistance to affected population is only part of a package of requirements for improvement of food security situation and a better livelihood.
- In flood-affected areas the beneficiaries lost both their crops and their assets, while the non-beneficiaries had more alternatives to cope with food insecurity.

Household Expenditures

Expenditure information was collected for the third time in October 2007.

- Beneficiary households had 57% of monthly expenditure for food which was significantly (p < 0.001) lower than non-beneficiaries (64%), compared to 61% for beneficiaries and 64% for non-beneficiaries in March 2007 and 52% for both groups in October 2006.
- Beneficiary households had a lower per capita monthly expenditure (107 Meticais) when compared to non-beneficiaries (124 Meticais).
- There were no other differences in expenditure between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- Relief beneficiary households had a significantly (p < 0.01) lower share of monthly expenditure for food (54%) compared to 68% for OVC and 77% for HBC beneficiaries.
- OVC beneficiary households had the highest per capita expenditure at 138 Meticais, followed by HBC beneficiaries with 112 Meticais and only 104 Meticais for relief beneficiaries.
- For entire sample, by district, the highest share of expenditure for food was found amongst the sample in Guija (78%), followed by Chicualacuala (75%), Xai-Xai (63%) and Mutarara (61%) with the lowest in Caia (47%).
- Households in Chicualacuala had the highest share of expenditure for medical (4.0%), followed by those in Marromeu (3.6%). The Chicualacuala sample also had the highest share of expenditure for debt repayment and funerals than the other districts.
- Per capita monthly expenditure ranged from 208 Meticais in Guija to only 73 Meticais in Mopeia.
- There was no difference in share of expenditure for food by food consumption category. However, households with adequate consumption had a significantly higher monthly per capita expenditure (133 Meticais) than those with borderline (92 Meticais) or poor (67 Meticais) consumption.
The food consumption score not only allows comparisons of dietary quality and diversity between beneficiary and non-beneficiary populations but also is used to establish a threshold of dietary quality against which to compare these populations. Research has shown that dietary diversity and food frequency are good proxy measures of household food security.

In general the average FCS of October 2007 is higher than in previous rounds (43), indicating better diet diversity. As indicated in the chart below, the percentage of beneficiary and non-beneficiary households with poor consumption has decreased since October 2006, being the lowest ever. The highest percentage of beneficiary households with poor consumption was found in Chicualacuala (11%), followed by Mutarara (10%). For non-beneficiaries, the highest percentage was found also in Chicualacuala (27%) and also followed by Mutarara (14%). There were no households in Caia with poor consumption and only a few in Marromeu.

The results may indicate the positive impact of food aid and the alternative sources of food available to non-beneficiaries. Although the CSI implies reduced frequency and quantity of meals, the frequency and diversity of food items seems to have remained adequate.

Sources of Food Consumed by Households

Identifying the major sources of food and monitoring these over time is critical to understanding the principal factors affecting food security of households. As illustrated in the chart below:

- **Non-beneficiary** households accessed most of their food from purchase and those with borderline or adequate consumption relying significantly more \((p < 0.001)\) on production and less on gifts than those with poor consumption. Compared to October 2006, a greater share of consumption is coming from purchase and much less from production. The amount from gifts is also higher for those with poor consumption.

- **Beneficiary households** relied mostly on purchase and a combination of production and food assistance to access food. However those with poor consumption rely significantly more \((p < 0.05)\) on gifts. For all households, access from production is much less when compared to October 2006. Those with poor consumption appear also to rely more on gifts to access their food.