

Joint Approach in Nutrition and Food Security Assessment (TOF/JANFSA)

Regional Workshop

‘Integrating Nutrition and Food Security programming’

Athi River, 25 February 2014

Outline

- Rationale
- Technical aspects
- Key lessons from pilot
- Main areas of convergence for joint/separate surveys
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Recommendations

Rationale (1)

- Assessment of household Food Security and child nutritional status are essential in **emergency** prone/affected areas and populations.
- **Methodological requirements** differ from each type of assessment >> Risk of rejection of joint assessment findings and conclusions.
- **No standard approach** for joint nutrition and food security assessment.

Rationale (2)

- Need for a joint methodology that meets the information needs and **standards of nutrition and food security** sectors (set of minimum indicators).
- Need to increase **frequency of nutrition surveys** in connection with regular FS data collection.
- Need to increase **cost-effectiveness** of FS and nutrition surveys
- Need to enhance a participative and open approach to **mainstreaming nutrition into FS** assessment and programming



**Joint Approach in Nutrition and FS Assessment
(TOF/JANFSA – WFP/UNICEF) - 2010 to date**

Technical aspects - sampling

1. Inclusion criteria of Households:

- i) Geographical location;
- ii) Children 0-59 months;
- iii) Mothers/primary care-givers availability and consensus.

2. Definition of strata and clusters (Administrative boundaries, Livelihood zones, ...)

3. Sample size:

- Define key outcome indicator & assumption on prevalence (e.g. GAM, FCS, etc);
- Define width degree of precision, confidence interval, Design Effect
- Calculate sample size (SMART – ENA calculator, conversion Children-Household).

4. Sampling methodology:

- If necessary, 2ary stratification (e.g. sub-region/sub-livelihood zone)
 - Methodology to select children/HHs: *Simple/systematic random* or *Cluster*
 - Use of Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) in each stratum (cluster selection)
 - HHs selection within cluster: simple/systematic random, segmentation, transect line, etc
 - All CU5 within a selected HH are eligible for anthropometric measurement
- ✓ FS: Consistent with WFP sampling guidelines on vulnerability assessments
- ✓ Nutrition: Consistent with SMART

Technical aspects (2) – field operations

- **Number of teams:** # allowing completion of one cluster/day (minimum)
- **Team composition:** One *Survey manager* oversees all teams
 - 1 *Team leader*
 - 2 *Enumerators*
 - 2 *Anthropometrists*
- **Training**
 - 5 days of classroom instruction and practice
 - 1 day of pre-testing (mock-interviews and field test)
 - Standardization test (mandatory) for anthropometric measurements.
- **Data quality control**
 - Data collection check from *team leader & manager* after each cluster (daily)
 - Database with data entry masks/PDAs/Androids to minimize data entry errors.
 - Data entry and plausibility check (ENA) conducted on a daily basis.

Technical aspects (3) – field operations (cont.)

- **Data entry / Data cleaning**

- Nutrition: *Excel, Access, Acrobat Pro XI, CsPRO, ENA*
- FS: *Excel, Access, Acrobat Pro XI, CsPRO, SPSS, Stata,..*

- **Analysis**

- Analysis plan defined
- Creation of 2 different datasets (FS and Nutrition)
- Separate analysis (FS and Nutrition)
- ENA dataset merged into SPSS for joint analysis on relation between key determinants and prevalence of outcome indicators.

- **Report writing and dissemination of results**

- Definition of a communication plan
- Joint reporting: situation analysis + recommendations (risks of misinterpretation)
- Dissemination workshop

Key lessons from pilot (Karamoja)

Coordination, planning and sampling

1. Nutrition indicators: main driver of level of precision and sample size.
2. The right technical expertise need to be in place: Food Security **AND** Nutrition.
3. Supervisors/team leaders are nutrition or FS&N experts
4. Country level agreement (MOH, MOA, UN, IPs) is mandatory before survey's roll-out.

Key lessons (2)

Questionnaire development

1. Full agreement on the set of indicators - selection of key indicators from the two standard surveys (not a merge!)
2. Full agreement on sample size, methodology and budget implications (who pays what)
3. Ensure continuity between child and household questionnaire
4. Ensure that children questionnaires match their household (e.g. ref. number)

Key lessons (3)

Field procedures, training and team composition

1. Increased logistical needs and coordination with local authorities to finalize one cluster/day
2. More training days required

Analysis, reporting and data entry

1. Close collaboration between designer of questionnaire, data entry form and the data analysis team
2. Data analysis guidance/plan required

Main areas of convergence for joint and separate assessment

- Technical support needed and technical expertise of team leader
- Institutionalization of joint assessment (MOU) at country level (funding, timeline, data use, etc.)
- Trends in the seasonality of FSN assessments
- Questionnaire development
- Data collection & analysis tools

Advantages

Linkage of food security and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater understanding of the linkages (if any) between key determinants and outcome indicators of food security and nutrition.• Comprehensive collection and analysis of intra-households food distribution and utilization in relation to care and feeding practices.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Powerful advocacy tool towards local authorities and donors for joint response and programming.
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost saving from pooling resources.
Coordination and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combined food security and nutrition results allow more precise targeting, greater clarity in roles and responsibility.
Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical and planning discussions, as well as the assessment results themselves, can act as a means of broadening the capacity of practitioners who normally only work in one of the sectors.

Challenges

Sample size & Precision	Level of precision for nutrition indicators higher than what is needed for food security indicators > Increased sample size and resources.
Training	Longer training days for interviewers and anthropometrists.
Specialized expertise	Higher level of expertise required when compared to separate assessments.
Analysis	Analysis plan required at the planning stage (same team all along).
Interview length	Interview entails a separate child questionnaire and a household questionnaire. Administration time: 40-60 minutes. → increased complexity compromises the quality of the data.
Data management	The requirement to link household and child datasets before analysis may require higher levels of data management expertise than single surveys at household or child level.
Coordination	Planning for a joint assessment requires greater coordination which can be challenging.

Recommendations

General

- **MoU** to be signed by all actors involved before rolling out the survey
- Extra-attention to quality of **data collection**.
- New **pilots** to be conducted to consolidate findings/protocols.

Design survey

- **Indicators** selection based on specific context; minimum set defined (e.g. CARI).
- One **focal point** for each agency appointed (minimum 2 focal points available)
- Preliminary definition of key **outcome indicators**
- Verify the opportunity to **aggregate strata**
- Agreement on **precision degree** vs sample size

Field operations

- One **Survey manager** appointed
- One **team leader** for each team designated
- Data **quality check** and data **entry** conducted every day.

Analysis

- Supervisor and 2 Focal points responsible for the analysis & report writing

Way forward in East Africa

- UNICEF/WFP to conduct a second pilot exercise to another country (e.g. Burundi, ongoing).
- Finalize and disseminate joint protocol and official guidelines.
- If comparatively advantageous, advocate towards COs in the region for use of joint approach.

THANK YOU