



THE ASSESSOR



Welcome to Issue 39 of THE ASSESSOR, WFP's Food Security Analysis e-Newsletter!

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VAM's Involvement in the West Africa Ebola Crisis

As part of WFP's humanitarian response to Ebola in West Africa, WFP VAM is monitoring the food security situation in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Various assessments are underway to gauge the impact of the crisis on food markets and household food security. The data is vital for government policies and programmes and for the broader humanitarian response, helping define the best type and scale of intervention and the most efficient use of humanitarian resources.

Rapid emergency food security assessments are being conducted with partners in the three Ebola-affected countries: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The assessments will improve understanding of the effects of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on household food and nutrition security. The first-hand information will be crucial in tailoring WFP's response to the needs of the people affected by the crisis.

Regular market assessments summarize the latest market information for the affected countries. They focus on the current impact of the crisis on local and regional food markets, taking into account seasonal livelihood activities. The latest assessment shows that border closures and movement restrictions have reduced trade volumes in Ebola-affected sub regions. Monthly prices remained stable between August and September 2014 in Guinea except for the Labe market, where local rice prices fell by 21 percent. In Liberia, prices for imported rice have continued to increase beyond their seasonal pattern. The report is available [here](#).

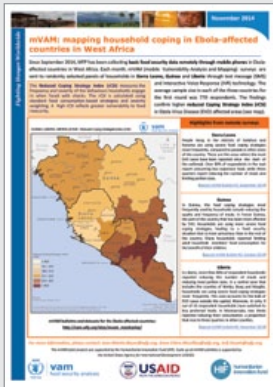
[West and Central Africa Ebola Outbreak](#)



[Special mVAM Bulletin: Sierra Leone](#)



[Special mVAM Bulletin: West Africa](#)



Special mVAM Bulletin Series Dedicated to the EVD Outbreak

This special series monitors the impact of EVD on household food security in the three affected countries. The first issue focuses on the levels of food-related coping strategies that are being used in the eastern districts of Kailahun and Kenema in Sierra Leone, where the highest number of EVD cases have been reported since the outbreak began. The data was collected remotely by SMS, an approach piloted through WFP's remote mobile data project, mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (mVAM). The bulletin is available [online](#).

[WFP's mVAM technology](#) is being used to track the impact of the crisis on food security through short surveys using mobile text messages and an Interactive Voice Response system. This gives WFP access to food security information from the EVD-affected zones, where standard face-to-face data collection is impractical due to this public health emergency.

See the latest Ebola-related reports:

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – [Special mVAM Regional Bulletin #2, December 2014;](#)

West Africa – [mVAM: Mapping Household Coping in Ebola-Affected Countries, November 2014;](#)

Special Focus – [How can we estimate the impact of Ebola on food security in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone? November 2014;](#)

West and Central Africa – [Markets Update: Special Issue on the Ebola Outbreak, September 2014;](#)

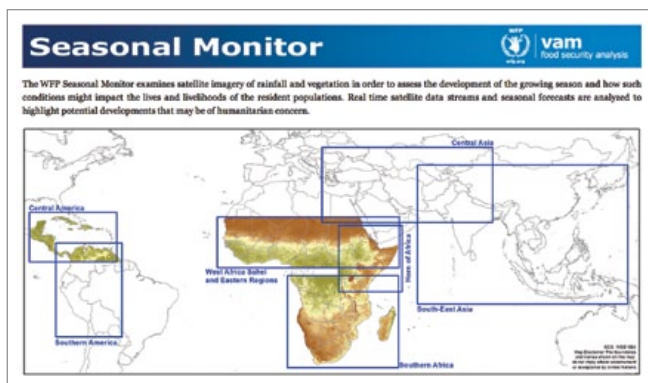
South Senegal – [Ebola Trade Impact: Rapid Assessment in Diaoube and Kedougou, September 2014.](#)

The Seasonal Monitor: a new monitoring product using satellite imagery

WFP VAM is constantly looking for innovative ways to monitor food security in developing countries. The Seasonal Monitor is a new product that examines satellite imagery of rainfall and vegetation to track the growing season and assess how conditions might impact the lives and livelihoods of resident populations. Real-time satellite data streams and seasonal forecasts are analysed to identify potential developments of humanitarian concern.

The Seasonal Monitor started by covering the West African growing season (May to November) as well as the Central America Primera Season, where it tracked and provided clear evidence of one of the most intense droughts in the past 20 years. This resulted in an early warning helping to describe and assess the seriousness of the issue. The results of the Seasonal Monitor were included in the initial assessment of the impact of the situation on food security, as well as rapid assessments carried out thereafter, to convey the issue to donors and national and regional stakeholders.

The Seasonal Monitor Bulletins are available [online](#).



Special Focus Ebola



Global Food Security Update n. 16



South Senegal: Ebola Trade Impact





[East Africa Seasonal Monitor Report](#)



[Southern Africa Seasonal Monitor Report](#)



[East Asia Seasonal Monitor Report](#)



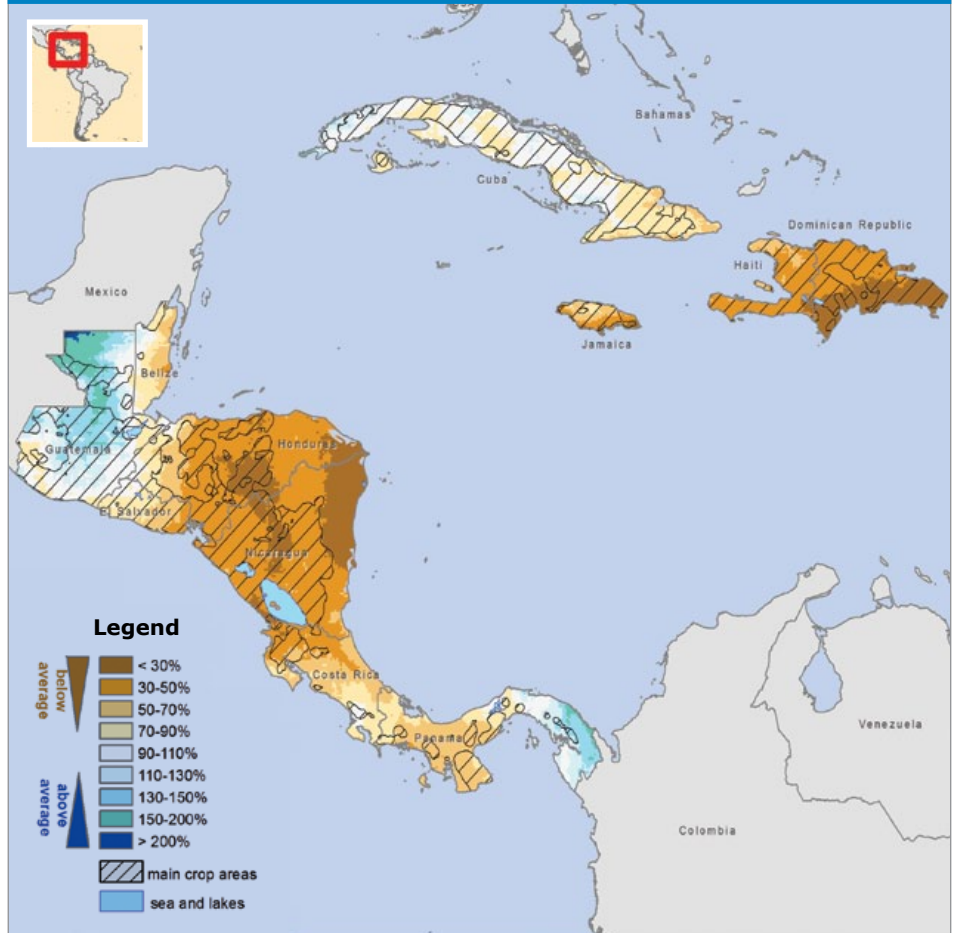
[Central and South America Seasonal Monitor Report](#)



[West and East Africa Seasonal Monitor Report](#)



CENTRAL AMERICA - Rainfall (percent of average) in the 30 days to 10 Jun 2014



Data Source: Rainfall: USGS-EROS and UCSB; Land Cover: FAO GLC-SHARE; Data Analysis: WFP VAM.

The map above shows 30 day rainfall compared to average rainfall (blue/green shades for above average rainfall, orange and browns for below average) in early June – marked rainfall deficits can be seen extending across most of Central America and Hispaniola. The Seasonal Monitor produces such imagery every 10 days with detailed reporting at key stages throughout the season.

See the latest Seasonal Monitor reports:

East Africa – [No.1, December 2014](#);

Southern Africa – [No.1, December 2014](#);

East Asia – [No.2, November 2014](#);

Central and South America: [No.2, October 2014](#);

West and East Africa: [No.2, October 2014](#).

Open Data: VAM leads contribution to OCHA's newly launched Humanitarian Data Exchange

OCHA launched the [Humanitarian Data Exchange \(HDX\)](#) initiative to develop an online platform for aggregating humanitarian data on a local and global scale. The goal of HDX is to make humanitarian data easy to find and use for analysis. The platform brings together data from over 40 trusted sources, covering 240 countries and territories. This initial release of the platform allows users to search for data by country, organization, topic and keyword.

WFP is sharing food security data such as Food Consumption Score, Coping Strategies Index (CSI) and Market Price to contribute to the HDX project. It is now a registered organization in HDX and is using the platform to share valuable food security data generated by VAM. You can find the data [here](#). The ultimate goal is for the VAM Reporting Tool to eventually feed directly into HDX.

Rome-Based Agencies (RBA) Collaboration and the Post-2015 Agenda

Together with other Rome-based agencies (RBA), WFP has helped developed the Post-2015 Agenda, providing inputs on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, along with related areas such as poverty, education, water and sanitation, risk reduction, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and food waste and losses. The RBA contributions have been inspired by the Zero Hunger Challenge, which aims to create a world in which no one suffers from chronic hunger and malnutrition – all within our lifetime.

Contribution to the State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) Report

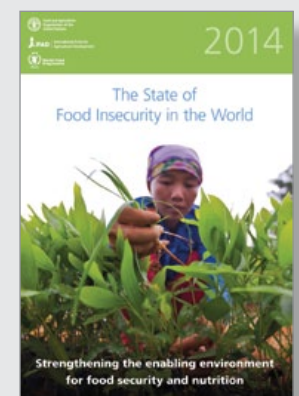
About 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, suffer from hunger, according to the 2014 State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI). However, the report confirms a positive trend that has seen the number of hungry people decline globally by more than 100 million over the last decade and by more than 200 million since 1990-92. The SOFI is published annually by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP. VAM collaborated by providing technical inputs and preparing country case studies. The report is available [here](#).



[Humanitarian Data Exchange](#)



[State of Food Insecurity in the World \(SOFI\) Report](#)





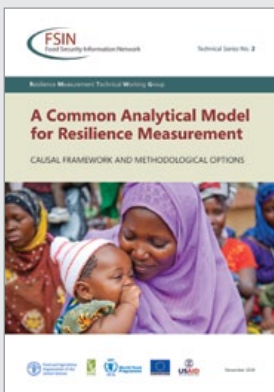
[Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#)



[Second International Conference on Nutrition \(ICN2\)](#)



[FSIN Technical Series No. 2](#)



The findings and recommendations of SOFI 2014 were discussed by governments, civil society, and private sector representatives at the 13-18 October meeting of the [Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#), at FAO headquarters in Rome. **Arif Husain**, *Chief Economist & Deputy Director PPI - Analysis and Trends Service*, presented the seven country case studies included in SOFI. He highlighted key findings of the case studies, including 1) that policies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and food availability can reduce hunger even when poverty is widespread, particularly when smallholders are targeted; 2) that under-nutrition, especially stunting, remains a persistent problem with large economic costs for countries; and 3) that access to food has improved quickly in countries showing rapid economic progress, but only when those countries have adequate safety nets in place and other forms of social protection. Finally, he stressed that food security governance requires that nations around the world have the capacity to monitor changes and trends in food security and nutrition.

The SOFI report was also the focus of the [Second International Conference on Nutrition \(ICN2\)](#) in Rome on 19-21 November, organized by FAO and the World Health Organization.

Food Security Information Network (FSIN) Update

To support FSIN's aim to help developing countries build sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) information systems, the following activities were undertaken in order to improve and harmonize FNS analysis methods and approaches:

- **Review of globally managed market price databases**

As part of a three-phased project, FSIN sponsored a comparative study of the prevailing globally managed price and market information systems to assess their complementarities and overlaps. The draft study – which focused mainly on databases managed by FAO, FEWS NET and WFP, was presented to key stakeholders in late September. The group discussed preliminary findings and recommendations to improve the integration and harmonization of these three market price databases, as well as to improve efficiency in global development efforts.

- **FSIN Resilience Measurement Technical Working Group (RM TWG) activities**

In May, members of the RM TWG, the FSIN Steering Committee and Secretariat met in Addis Ababa to discuss a draft Technical Paper on a common analytical framework for resilience measurement, and participate in the IFPRI 2020 Conference on Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security. The RM TWG's second paper, published in November, takes a step forward by proposing a common analytical model that comprises six components upon which resilience measurement may be based. The TWG chair, Mark Constatas presented the FSIN's work in a plenary session of the IFPRI conference on Measuring Resilience. Several TWG members were also featured in a side event to discuss specific RM challenges related to measuring shocks and stressors, the multi-level structure of resilience dynamics, opportunities with existing data sets, and analytical procedures and estimation models.

- **Arif Husain**, WFP's Chief Economist and member of the FSIN Steering Committee, presented an overview of FSIN's objectives to build a global community of practice to improve food and nutrition security information systems at the [Information for Meeting Africa's Agricultural Transformation and Food Security Goals](#) conference. He noted that FSIN's objectives were clearly aligned with the overall goal of the conference: to motivate continent-wide production, exchange and storage of available evidence to inform Africa's transformation towards improved food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. The conference is one of the events under the auspices of the African Union's declaration of '2014: Year of Agriculture and Food Security' and 'Marking the 10 Years of CAADP'. It was co-organised by JRC, AUC, NEPAD, UNECA, FAO, WFP, GEO and RCMRD.

To find out more about FSIN and to join the community of practice, visit www.fsincop.net or contact the FSIN secretariat at fsin-secretariat@wfp.org

Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA)¹

Bangladesh: In December 2014, the Food Security Cluster conducted a [Recovery Assessment](#) in the areas affected by the August 2014 floods in North Western Bangladesh. The assessment, led by the WFP VAM team, was done jointly with the Nutrition, Shelter and Early Recovery Clusters, and sought to determine the level of recovery and remaining needs of vulnerable households affected by the floods last summer.

Central African Republic: EFSA data collection has been completed by all partners. Almost 2,200 households, 144 communities and 21 markets will be analysed as part of the assessment. The CFSAM and EFSA data will be essential for OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview and Strategic Response Plan 2015.

South Sudan: A multi-agency food security monitoring initiative led by WFP was completed in August 2014. The results of the Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS) were used as a key input for the IPC analysis that was released by the government in September 2014.

Iraq - Armed Conflict Rapid Food Security Assessment: The recent crisis in Iraq has caused a sharp increase in food insecurity, leaving many in need of emergency food assistance. A WFP VAM assessment has concluded that the food security of 4.95 million Iraqis has been damaged by the ongoing conflict. Of this figure, an estimated 2.5 million people need immediate food assistance. These include IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), non-IDPs in host families, and the poorest Iraqis residing in areas that have fallen under the control of armed groups.

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.



[Information for Meeting Africa's Agricultural Transformation and Food Security Goals](#)



[Special Focus Democratic Republic of Congo](#)



[Special Focus Lebanon](#)





[Madagascar CFSVA Report](#)



[Burkina Faso CFSVA Report](#)



Bolivia: In the first quarter of 2014, floods caused extensive loss of staple crops in the departments of La Paz, Pando, Beni and Cochabamba. The floods damaged the income and food sources of the indigenous groups and small farmers who depend mainly on subsistence agriculture. WFP, in coordination with local governments and partners, implemented an EFSA to assess the situation and related needs.

Paraguay: In August 2014, in collaboration with government and civil society, WFP completed an EFSA to evaluate the food security and nutrition situation in departments affected by floods. The nutritional information was collected by INAN (the Food and Nutrition National Institute). The assessment findings helped to assess food assistance needs.

Guidance for EFSA-72 hours: In the context of the global initiative to improve emergency response capacity, WFP continues to invest in methods and tools for rapid assessments. The Latin American and Caribbean region has developed draft guidance materials to implement an initial EFSA during the first 72 hours after an event. This preliminary EFSA aims to provide a first estimate of the impact of the event on food security, as well as its magnitude and severity. The assessment is based on secondary data and interviews with key informants when the situation permits. The draft guidance is currently being finalized.

Nepal Flood Assessment: In September 2014, WFP, UNICEF, Oxfam and Save the Children conducted a joint rapid food security and nutrition assessment following large-scale floods and landslides, which caused widespread damage to houses, infrastructure and agriculture in mid-western Nepal. WFP used eWIN to collect and manage data using tablets. Preliminary findings indicate food security concerns related to displacement and damage to crop and food stocks. There has been a rise in levels of acute malnutrition in children under 5, probably because of a sudden deterioration in infant and young child feeding practices, poor access to adequate hygiene and sanitation, and the food security concerns mentioned above.

Baseline Studies ²

Madagascar: Data collection for the Madagascar CFSVA was led by the National Institute of Statistics and took place between December 2012 and January 2013. Nationally, 31 percent of households were found to be food insecure, with diets very poor in quantity and extremely poor in quality. The regions with very high prevalence of food insecurity were Atsimo Atsinanana (64 percent), Sava (44 percent), Sofia (42.7 percent) and Vatovavy Fitovinany (39.2 percent). Malnutrition affects a large proportion of children. Almost half (47.3 percent) of children under 5 suffer from stunting or chronic malnutrition, and 8.2 percent are acutely malnourished, which exceeds the World Health Organization (WHO) critical threshold. The report (in French) is available [online](#).

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 year (normal times). It is used as a benchmark against which to measure change after crisis. It also informs contingency planning and preparedness.

Burkina Faso: The Burkina Faso CFSVA is based on analysis of secondary data from multiple quantitative household surveys led by the government and humanitarian agencies between 2009 and 2013. The analysis uses the new Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Insecurity (CARI) approach, which combines proxy indicators of food security. The results indicate that in 2012, almost one in five households (18 percent) were moderately food insecure, with an additional 1 percent severely food insecure. The regions with the highest prevalence of food insecurity were the Plateau Central (43 percent of households), the Centre-South (36 percent) and the Centre-West (33 percent). The nutritional situation is worrying, with rates of malnutrition close to the WHO critical thresholds: in 2013, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition was 31.5 percent, acute malnutrition was 8.2 percent and underweight was 21 percent. The report (in French) is available [online](#).

Senegal: The Senegal study, the result of a collaboration with the Government of Senegal and other stakeholders, relies on two key surveys that took place in June and August 2013 (during the lean season). The results found that in 2013, 16 percent of the population was food insecure, while 42 percent had minimally adequate food consumption but limited ability to meet non-food needs. Food insecurity was much higher in the regions of Sédhiou (58 percent), Kolda (42 percent), Ziguinchor (39 percent), Matam (38 percent) and Kédougou (33 percent). Cereal prices, at the time of the analysis, were above the five-year average. These elevated prices have serious implications on food security, as markets are the principal source of food for 90 percent of households. The report (in French) is available [online](#).

Djibouti: The Djibouti CFSVA 2014 was conducted between May and September, and is the first comprehensive food security assessment conducted by WFP in Djibouti. The study covered the main towns of Djibouti and Balbala, regional urban centers, and the five regional rural areas. The CFSVA found that nationally, 14.5 percent of households are food insecure, including 2.8 severely food insecure (approximately 14,200 persons) and 11.7 percent moderately food insecure (approximately 56,000 persons). Almost 60 percent of food insecure households live in rural areas; however, between August 2013 and September 2014, the prevalence of food insecurity among rural households in Djibouti decreased from 67 percent to 46.6 percent. Acute and chronic malnutrition remain above the critical thresholds in almost all regions; according to the December 2013 UNICEF SMART survey, the national prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) was 17.8 percent and the prevalence of chronic malnutrition was 29.7 percent, showing no improvement since the previous SMART survey in 2010. The CFSVA found that poverty is one of the main drivers of food insecurity in Djibouti; 96 percent of the severely food insecure households are in the poorest (82.5 percent) and poor (13.5 percent) quintiles of the population. The report is available online ([Executive Summary in English](#) and [full report in French](#)).

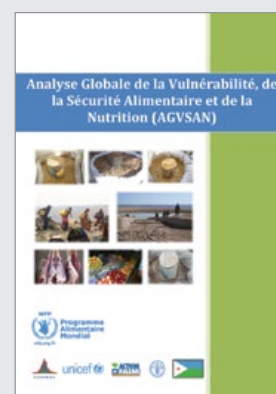
Yemen: The 2014 Comprehensive Food Security Survey (CFSS) was the result of a collaboration between WFP, UNICEF and the Yemeni Central Statistics Organization. The CFSS showed that 41 percent of the population in Yemen (10.6 million people) is food insecure. This includes 19 percent severely food insecure and 22 percent moderately food insecure. Around 48 percent of the total rural population were found to be food insecure, compared to 26 percent in urban areas. There are significant differences in food insecurity between governorates. Sa'ada governorate, which was surveyed for the first time, was found to have the country's most food insecure regions. Nearly 70 percent of the population is food insecure, of which more than 40 percent is severely food insecure. The prevalence of stunted children under 5 years old remains critical, with 41.3 percent of children stunted or chronically malnourished. The report is available [online](#) (English).



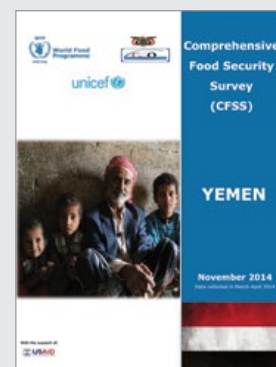
[Senegal CFSVA Report](#)



[Djibouti CFSVA Report](#)



[Yemen CFSVA Report](#)





Market Analysis

Field Market Assessments

Ebola: Regular market assessments give an overview of the latest market information on Ebola-affected countries. They examine the current impact of the crisis on local and regional food markets, taking into account seasonal livelihood activities. The September 2014 assessment shows that border closures and movement restrictions have reduced trade volumes in Ebola-affected sub regions. Monthly prices remained stable between August and September 2014 in Guinea except for the Labe market, where local rice prices fell by 21 percent. In Liberia, prices for imported rice have continued to rise beyond their seasonal pattern. The latest report is available [here](#).

Rwanda: A market assessment was conducted to determine the feasibility of market-based food assistance to refugees. It recommends the implementation of cash/voucher transfers in three of the five refugee camps assessed. The report is available [online](#).

Pakistan: Market appraisal in Banu following displacements from North Waziristan. After the launch of the Army's offensive in FATA's North Waziristan Agency in June, 900,000 people were reportedly displaced from their homes into neighbouring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Over 80 percent of the displaced population have sought refuge in Bannu and other neighbouring districts. Some families travelled further afield to Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan provinces to live with relatives or friends. In response to the massive displacement, the government announced cash assistance to support the shelter, food and health care needs of the IDPs.

To monitor the situation, a market assessment has been conducted by WFP, FAO, Oxfam and other members of the food security cluster. The study shows that the cash and food assistance has had no significant adverse impact on the prevailing market. Markets are functioning well with adequate availability of food items. Traders are able to meet additional demands and food price trends are in line with the national prices. The report is available [online](#).

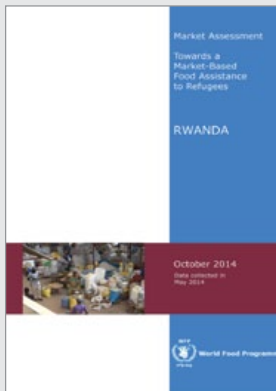
South Sudan: Rapid Market Assessment

A rapid market assessment was conducted in South Sudan (17 to 31 October 2014) to understand the impact of the conflict on food trade – internal markets and regional trade – and the scope for market-based food assistance in the country. One of the key findings stemming from the assessment was the mixed picture about the capacity of markets to secure food supply and a relatively stable market environment to support market-based interventions.

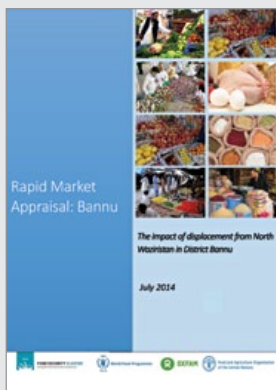
OMN Regional Market Analysis Training

OMN organized a five-day Market Analysis Training in Kampala, Uganda (17-21 November 2014), aimed at strengthening the capacity of all OMN Country Office staff in analyzing food prices and conducting trader surveys to guide programme decision, design and implementation. A total of 16 staff were trained (13 CO staff, 2 RB staff and 1 Malawi/OMJ).

Field Market Assessment Rwanda



Pakistan: Market appraisal in Banu following displacements from North Waziristan



Official Development Assistance (ODA) Statistics

In June VAM shared its synthesized ODA statistics accessible at the internal VAM [website](#). This exercise was undertaken upon the request of Country Directors to provide them with analysed aid statistics which could facilitate their discussions with in-country donors and line ministries – particularly the Ministry of Finance. Each country PDF file provides latest statistics on net ODA trends, major donors, ODA by sector and donor, breakdown of humanitarian aid by its components.

The **WFP Market Monitor issue no. 25** was released in October 2014 and is available [online](#). The bulletin examines trends and impacts of staple food prices in vulnerable countries for the period July 2014 to September 2014.

Inter-Agency Work

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Nutrition Working Group – WFP VAM is an active member of the IPC sub working-group on nutrition. The group focuses on nutrition dimensions within IPC food security analysis. Pilot activities are on-going in Kenya, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic and Pakistan.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) ad-hoc Needs Assessment Group – VAM has been working as part of this group, set up in July to finalise the revision of the Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) guidance. The guidance was endorsed by the group at end of January following inputs from all the clusters involved. The Needs Assessment group will be transformed into an IASC reference group to develop a complementary toolbox, to capture lessons learned and to support further technical development.

Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) – WFP is heading a group of gFSC partners on an urban project to improve the identification of needs and targeting of vulnerable groups in urban areas. This remains a challenge because traditionally, humanitarian organizations have mainly assisted people living in rural areas, and the tools and approaches used for assessing, targeting and delivering aid have been based within rural frameworks. A desk review has been completed and the first pilot assessment took place in Zimbabwe in October/November 2014, in collaboration with the government and partners.

IPC Chronic Analysis Training – WFP participated in the training held on 24-28 November in the Philippines. The training prepared the country’s IPC team for the actual analysis which will be carried out on 10-23 January 2015, in the conflict-affected Mindanao region. WFP also participated in the workshop held with the Government of Nepal, FAO and other stakeholders, in December 2014. The report is being reviewed and is planned to be released during the first half of 2015.

Joint Assessment Missions (JAM)³

Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) have taken place in Algeria, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi and Yemen.

3. JAM are conducted in collaboration with UNHCR to understand the food and nutrition situation, needs, risks, capacities and vulnerabilities of refugees or internally displaced people.



[Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) Statistics](#)



[The Market Monitor no. 25](#)

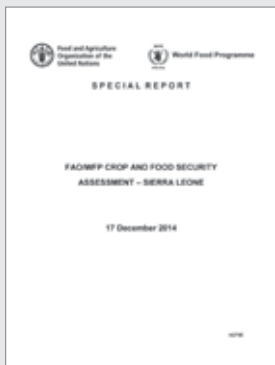




[Liberia](#)
[FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment](#)



[Sierra Leone](#)
[FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment](#)



[Central African Republic](#)
[FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment](#)



WFP VAM recently attended a UNHCR-hosted technical consultation on targeting methods and tools, held in Geneva. Furthermore, both WFP VAM and UNHCR met in Budapest on December 8-11 to develop JAM training materials.

Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM)⁴

Guinea: FAO, WFP and agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture (ANASA and BSD) implemented a rapid assessment from 14 October to 3 November. The objective of the assessment was to provide information on the impact of the EVD on agriculture, food security and household's livelihoods in the affected and unaffected areas. Specifically the study provided the Government of the Republic of Guinea and its partners with guidance in defining the support to be given to communities directly or indirectly affected by the epidemic. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

Liberia: FAO and WFP in collaboration with the Government and other partners carried out rapid assessments to assess the impact of the EVD crisis on food production, supply situation and overall food security. FAO/GIEWS has developed a Disease Impact on Agriculture – Simulation (DIAS) Model to provide estimates of the impact of EVD on crop production, while WFP has developed a framework to estimate the current and future number of food insecure people due to EVD and a light version of a shock impact simulation model (SISMod-Light). The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

See the latest CFSAM reports:

[Sierra Leone – FAO/WFP, December 2014](#)
[Central African Republic – FAO/PAM, October 2014](#)

Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA): Pakistan Floods

Pakistan: A late monsoon spell commencing on 4 September triggered flash flooding in Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, causing major damage through landslides and avalanches. In Punjab, 282 people died and 489 were injured. The National Disaster Management Authority reported that 1.8 million people were affected in Punjab, with over 42,000 houses partially damaged or completely destroyed.

A MIRA was conducted in mid-September, coordinated by OCHA and with different clusters. The assessment was held in the five most affected districts of Punjab and was mainly based on key informant interviews, direct observations and secondary data analysis. PDAs were used to speed up the collection, transmission and analysis of the data from the field survey. Punjab is considered the bread basket of the country and the assessment found that agriculture livelihood has been seriously affected by the floods. Most households have lost food stock, and the lack of income, particularly for the poor, has made food access through markets difficult, despite the ample food availability in the markets. The vulnerable households need health assistance, clean water, shelter, and cash and/or in-kind food.

MIRA assessment reports can be downloaded [here](#).

4. Crop and Food Security Missions (CFSAM) 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.

Capacity Development and Guidance

CARI – The Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) is a new WFP method used to analyse and report the household level of food insecurity within a population. It is the result of a two-year research project to develop a standardized approach for assessing and reporting household food insecurity in a systematic and transparent way. The technical guidance has been finalized and is available [here](#). Find out more about CARI [online](#).

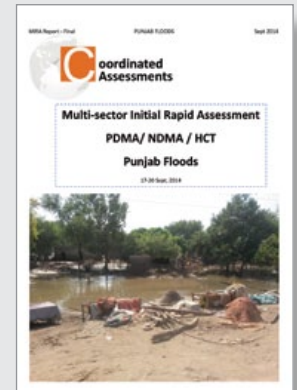
Food Consumption Score Nutritional Quality Analysis (FCS-N) - The assessment team has developed an innovative approach to support nutrition sensitive programming. The approach provides information on household consumption of nutrient-rich groups that are essential for nutritional health and well-being: carbohydrates, lipids, protein, iron and vitamin A. Outputs from the analysis can help select the best food transfer modalities (food, cash or vouchers). FCS-N methodology uses the same data collection tool as the Food Consumption Score, but it is adjusted to add value to the analysis of nutrient gaps. A validation study has been undertaken and is currently being revised. Guidance is in the process of being finalized.

Wealth Index – Income, expenditure and consumption are commonly used to measure wealth, household economic status and living standards. However, income and expenditure can be hard to measure accurately. Instead, data on asset ownership and housing characteristics can be combined into a proxy indicator, such as the Wealth Index (created using principal component analysis). Asset ownership gives an indication of the longer-term economic status of a household, and it is less dependent on short-term economic changes compared with other wealth or poverty measures. Guidance on calculating the Wealth Index has been finalised and will be circulated shortly.

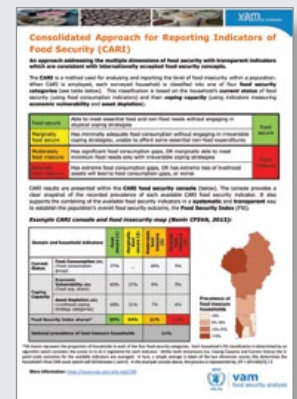
Household Expenditure Survey guidance – Because it is increasingly difficult to raise funds for the kind of large-scale primary data collection exercises that WFP carries out, existing data sources must be fully utilized. As part of VAM’s effort to maximize the utilization of already available secondary data sources, whenever appropriate, national surveys are routinely utilized. These surveys ask households how much they have consumed or spent on food in a given period, together with other kinds of expenditure. VAM has produced a detailed guide on how to use expenditure data to derive figures on household diet quantity, diet quality and economic vulnerability. A major advantage of such data is that it allows food security data analysis to be integrated with the wealth of other information (e.g. education, labour, housing) usually collected through these surveys. WFP’s food security analysis approach continues to emphasize the importance of National Statistics Offices, and data harmonization and utilization. This approach improves cost-efficiency, and often generates more credible and unified findings.



[Mira Report - Punjab Floods](#)



[The Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security \(CARI\) Factsheet](#)



[The Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security \(CARI\)](#)





Focus on Asia

GIS Strategy and Workshop Asia

In July 2014, WFP's regional bureau in Bangkok released a strategy paper on handling GIS operations in Asia. The paper outlines a five-year plan to promote standardization, innovation and communication with a baseline focus on data and emergency preparedness. Please contact the Regional GIS consultant in RBB at amy.chong@wfp.org for a copy of the paper.

[ESRI tools and technologies](#)



Early implementation activities focus on Spatial Data Infrastructure. This project promotes the consolidation and sharing of resources with a focus on data and emergency preparedness. With the recent new [ESRI](#) Enterprise-wide agreement, the full ESRI suite of tools and technologies has been unlocked, with great benefits to WFP GIS staff. Implementation has taken place in Myanmar with the server node now at the CO active and functioning. Other implementation missions are to follow in Country Offices in the region with GIS capacity.

[Maha Report - Sri Lanka](#)

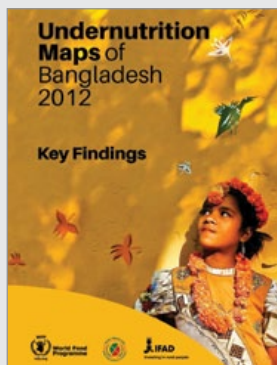


Cost of Diet in Sri Lanka and Training in Bangkok

WFP and partners have been actively collaborating on an analysis of the Cost of Diet (CoD) in Sri Lanka. Partners include: The Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute (HARTI), the apex research body of the Ministry of Agriculture in Sri Lanka, the Department of Census and Statistics, and the Ministry of Health on the Cost of Diet (CoD). HARTI collects retail and wholesale prices of over 110 food commodities every week as part of a food price monitoring system. This market data is used with the most recent findings of the Household Income & Expenditure Survey to calculate the CoD.

The CoD analysis shows the lack of economic access to a nutritious diet (the nutrient poverty line) across different areas of Sri Lanka taking seasonality into account. Taken together with the calorie poverty line (people who cannot afford the minimum cost of a calorie-only diet), three different household groups emerge: (a) people with insufficient financial access to nutrients or calories; (b) those with insufficient financial access to nutrients; and (c) those with sufficient financial access to calories and nutrients. Identifying these groups will help with decision-making for food and nutrition security interventions.

[Undernutrition Maps of Bangladesh](#)



A report on the Maha cultivation season has been published and is available [here](#). The report found that the cost of a nutritious diet for the model household varies from LKR 12,208 in the Northern Province to LKR 15,371 in the Western Province. That difference is much smaller for the energy-only diet, which costs between LKR 5,291 in Uva Province and LKR 5,882 in the Northern Province. The households with highest percentage of people who cannot afford the cost of a nutritious diet are living in the Eastern, Uva and Northern Provinces.

To monitor changes in financial access to nutritious food over time, CoD analysis will be conducted for four seasons. So far, two seasons have been analysed, and the remaining two will be finished by the end of the year. A CoD analysis workshop is planned for November and a final report covering seasonal changes will be published thereafter. HARTI will continue monitoring access to food through CoD, with the support of other government stakeholders.

During October 2014, Save the Children UK and WFP held a three-day regional training course on the CoD method and software in Bangkok. WFP participants and counterparts from eight countries in the region were equipped with the knowledge they need to be able to undertake a full COD assessment and to train other practitioners using the newly released COD software. The training and the improved software resulted in substantial interest in COD. Several Country Offices are currently planning to conduct COD studies or to use existing secondary food price and income data for COD analysis.

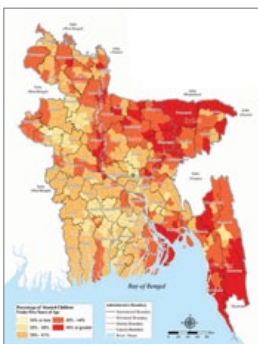
Mapping food security and nutrition at the sub-district level in Bangladesh and Nepal

- Bangladesh:** In December 2014, WFP, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), with technical support from Massey University in New Zealand, [released](#) the first ever *upazila* (sub-district) level [undernutrition maps of Bangladesh](#). The maps, which were created using the small area estimation technique with data from the 2011 Census and the 2012 Child and Mother Nutrition Survey, show the prevalence of underweight and stunting among children under five. Furthermore, they show that 300 out of Bangladesh's 544 *upazilas* have a stunting rate above 40 percent.

The maps were created in response to increasing demand from policy makers, researchers and development partners for under nutrition estimates at a more disaggregated level. They are also proving to be a highly valuable tool in helping to understand the drivers of under nutrition - and therefore to inform nutrition programming. Comparing the under nutrition maps with those of other indicators commonly identified as causes of under nutrition (such as poverty, female education and child care practices) it is possible to see that these factors and their geographic patterns, vary considerably within the country.

Please see below some examples of undernutrition maps of Bangladesh which can be found in the [report](#):

Stunting map



Density of Stunted Children



Quality of Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices



- Nepal:** In December 2014, WFP, the National Planning Commission and Central Bureau of Statistics of the Government of Nepal, UNICEF, the World Bank, and Massey University released the report on Small Area Estimation of Food Insecurity and Under Nutrition in Nepal. The report uses the latest household survey and population census data to estimate and map several human development indicators (including low kilocalorie intake, food poverty, stunting, underweight, wasting, and prevalence of diarrhea) at the district and sub-district level. The report will be available during the first half of 2015.

VAM food and commodity prices data store



Recently posted on wfp.org

[Nepal – Market Watch, December 2014](#)

[Ethiopia – Monthly Market Watch, December 2014](#)

[Food and Nutrition Security Working Group: Issue 9, December 2014](#)

[Libya – Interagency Rapid Assessment, December 2014](#)

[Pakistan – Food Security Bulletin, December 2014](#)

[Liberia – Special mVAM Bulletin #9: Negative coping continues in Lofa and West; situation improves in Central Zone, December 2014](#)

[Pakistan – Market Price Bulletin, December 2014](#)

[Special mVAM Regional Bulletin #2: In spite of seasonal declines, negative coping remains high in areas exposed to EVD, December 2014](#)

[Uganda – Monthly Market Monitor, November 2014](#)

[West Africa – mVAM: Mapping Household Coping in Ebola-Affected Countries, November 2014](#)

[Liberia – Special mVAM Bulletin #3: Households in the central zone are using severe coping strategies, November 2014](#)

[Afghanistan – Market Price Bulletin, November 2014](#)

[Kyrgyzstan – Monthly Price and Food Security Update, October 2014](#)

Link to VAM Food and Commodity Prices Data Store:

<http://foodprices.vam.wfp.org>

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