



# Information Bulletin

Quarterly update from the  
Analysis, Assessment and Preparedness service (ODA)  
of the World Food Programme



30 June 2005

## Latest WFP Training Handbook

WFP will launch its first-ever edition of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Handbook in July. This "state-of-the-art" handbook is the result of a comprehensive effort by WFP and will provide staff with the essential tools and tips needed to respond to emergency situations. Use of the Handbook will also ensure transparency of the methods used, leading to more effective partnerships. In the past, many assessments have focused primarily on estimating food aid needs. This Handbook provides guidance for a broader approach toward food security analysis, with a view to determining the most appropriate response (food and/or non-food). In particular, more emphasis is given to the analysis of links between food security, nutrition and market issues. While developing the Handbook, WFP consulted closely with other UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and donor representatives to obtain views on required improvements and suggested best practices. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development also provided generous support.

With a circulation of 1,500 copies to WFP staff, partners and donors, the EFSA Handbook will be available in hard copy and can be downloaded from WFP's intranet and global internet site - [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org). French and Spanish translations will be available in September.

## Recent Country Assessments and Analyses

### Horn of Africa

Food security situation in the Greater Horn of Africa region - Initial assessments indicate that there may be a generalised drought in the region this year, and potentially affected countries are carrying out national assessments in order to respond to their situational needs. A recent VAM mission to the region and the Country Offices (CO) will support a technical review of the data. The results will advise the regional bureau on appropriate responses and interventions.

### Southern Africa

Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) - Joint FAO/WFP CFSAMs were carried out in May 2005 in five Southern African countries - Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia. Meetings with government officials, local NGOs, national early warning units and other major stakeholders, combined with the findings from field visits in each of the countries, estimate that 6.8 million people are

in need of food assistance with a cereal requirement of about 480,000 MT. Priority will be given to multi-sectoral interventions to help the poor and most affected population groups to re-establish their livelihoods.

WFP has provided technical assistance to the current round of Vulnerability Assessment Committee assessments. The results will be presented to stakeholders in Johannesburg on 7-8 July to guide responses and interventions from donors and humanitarian agencies in the region.

### Afghanistan

National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment - Preparations for the 2005 national risk and vulnerability assessment are underway in Kabul. This assessment will build upon findings from 2003 and provide an updated scenario of food and livelihood security in Afghanistan.

### Azerbaijan

The final report of a Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey was issued in Baku on 11 March. Carried out by WFP Azerbaijan and VAM in collaboration with Relief International, the study analysed the socio-economic situation, food security levels and nutrition status of local resident and IDP populations in rural Azerbaijan to determine if there is a need for food assistance beyond 2005. The study is based on a household survey covering 3,441 households in 6 Economic Zones and 26 IDP camps. The findings and recommendations are currently being incorporated in WFP's new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) starting 2006.

### Ethiopia

Regional Assessment Officers (RAOs) support the harvest assessment in Ethiopia - The food security and market assessment specialists based in the Kampala Regional Bureau are currently participating in the ODAN pre-assessment mission for the *Belg/Gu* harvest assessment in Ethiopia. Though capacities exist within the Government of Ethiopia and WFP partners to undertake such assessments, the RAOs will contribute in reviewing and refining the assessment analytical framework and process. This should result in enhanced inter-agency approaches for developing more accurate, precise and

timely information on food aid requirements based on an improved joint methodology.

#### Nicaragua

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) was conducted in the two Autonomous Atlantic Regions of Nicaragua. Preliminary results were presented to Government officials and the international community in Managua on 31 May. ODA's Chief of VAM, Ms. Annalisa Conte represented WFP. The report provides key inputs for WFP to assess the need for and possible scope of aid after mid-2005. The final report will be available in July.

#### Sudan

Food security reference data and monitoring system in South Sudan - Following the comprehensive peace agreement, the new government for South Sudan will be established on 8 July 2005. Humanitarian community support to South Sudan is now shifting away from relief towards recovery and developmental interventions. An inter-agency meeting on Food Security Monitoring and Assessment in South Sudan in Nairobi, on 14-15 June, focused on principles of communication and collaboration, including an annual collaboration plan for the main institutions involved in food security and a capacity building strategy. A Steering Committee composed of Government staff, and representatives of WFP, FAO, FEWSNET and NGOs was established to follow-up on these initiatives.

#### Tajikistan

WFP Tajikistan, with support from VAM, completed a household food security and vulnerability survey in rural Tajikistan. The primary objective of the 5,150 household survey was to better understand food insecurity and vulnerability among rural households at sub-regional levels throughout the country in a non-emergency setting.

#### Independent Assessments

To ensure objectivity and impartiality in emergency needs assessments, independent assessments whose teams are composed of external experts/consultants are being currently undertaken. Five teams have completed their field activities in the DRC, Liberia, Ecuador, Madagascar, and Ethiopia.

Global Emergency food aid needs estimate - To answer the question "*How many people around the world need emergency food aid?*" global emergency food aid needs are being estimated through analysing the information and data available in WFP.

## Guidance and Training

Joint UNCHR/WFP Assessment Mission (JAM) Training - The first of three joint Regional Trainings was conducted in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from 18-21 April. The objective of these sessions is to enable participants to make effective use of the guidelines and provide them with the necessary skills to conduct joint assessments, thus enabling them to examine both food and non-food requirements relevant to the food security and self-reliance of refugees. The JAM Guidelines, a document prepared in collaboration with UNHCR is now available in English and French. Hard copies of the document in both languages have been distributed. Inter-active CD-ROMs will be produced for wider distribution. The next JAM training will be held in Dakar, Senegal, from 4-8 July.

EFSA Training - The EFSA Basic Skills Learning Programme was initiated with the first regional workshop in ODC, Egypt, in May 2005. Based on the EFSA Handbook, the programme addressed how to plan, design, implement and manage rapid emergency food security assessments. WFP and partner staff from eight countries, including the Regional Bureau, attended the workshop. A detailed action plan was developed to link the application of newly gained skills in assessment preparedness activities and undertaking assessments.

Advanced Assessors workshop - As part of WFP's initiative to strengthen EFSA capacities, ODA's Emergency Needs Assessment branch (ODAN) organised a workshop for Advanced Assessors and Regional Assessment Officers from 20-24 June in Rome. The goal is to enable participants to conduct quality assessments, to mentor less experienced needs assessors and to conduct training on request of Country Offices.

## Emergency Preparedness and Capacity Building

Kaduna, Nigeria - WFP collaborated with the Nigerian's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to hold an Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) workshop for all State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), key NEMA staff and partners such as the Red Cross. The workshop (16-20 May) addressed early warning, VAM, contingency planning and Emergency Needs Assessments (ENAs). WFP's Regional Office in Yaoundé spearheaded the initiative with the assistance of staff from ODA's Preparedness and Response Branch (ODAP) and ODAN.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Another EPR workshop was jointly organised by the African Union Commission (AUC) Rural Economy and Agriculture, WFP Liaison Office to the African Union and ODAP. WFP Ethiopia, ODAN and the Policy, Strategy and Programme Support (PDP) division supported this initiative. The workshop held in Addis Ababa for the Commission key staff and representatives from the Regional Economic Commissions from 6-

8 June highlighted the similarities in some of the processes WFP and AUC are implementing regarding early warning contingency planning.

Rome, Italy - A second Emergency Preparedness and Planning annual meeting was organised by ODAP from 23-27 May. Participants discussed new EPR tools and initiatives; corporate EPR services; standards and workplans; systems and best practices; and updates on countries and areas of concern. A consensus was reached that there is considerable progress in the area of EPR which is integrated into programme management and is applied widely across WFP. A final report will be ready in July.

Rome, Italy - In collaboration with ESRI Italia, Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists in the WFP Regional Bureaux and the Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Sudan COs attended a training session from 10-13 May, in ARCGIS 9.0 and Spatial Analysis.

### **Information Management**

EPWeb, the WFP corporate portal for Emergency, Preparedness and Response developed Regional Bureau and CO web pages to support tsunami response operations being implemented in Asia. National staff in the Bangkok, Jakarta and Colombo COs have been recruited and trained. A team from ODA's ODAP division has been travelling in the region to customise country web pages and to provide adequate information management support and decision-making tools.

[http://epweb.wfp.org/epweb/home\\_page/index.asp](http://epweb.wfp.org/epweb/home_page/index.asp)

UN Spatial Data Infrastructure workshop - Organised by FAO and WFP-VAM from 9-13 May, this workshop aimed to promote increased communication among key players involved in the FAO GeoNetwork-WFP Spatial Information Environment (SIE) project.

International Situation/Operation Centre seminar - UN DPKO hosted this seminar in early June, in New York, aiming to strengthen working relations among various Situation/Operation Centres and to exchange information on best practices for incident management and crisis communication. ODA contributed lessons on the use of information management in responding to emergencies and the need to facilitate information exchange and data storage before, during and after emergencies.

From 22-26 May, ODA represented WFP at a seminar in Algeria organised by the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs

(UNOOSA), European Space Agency and the Algerian Space Agency. The seminar brought together national and international agencies working on natural disaster management to discuss on the use of space technology for improved decision-making.

ODAP visited the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau to support contingency planning efforts in preparation for the hurricane season that could be potentially very severe. As a result, information management has been mainstreamed into the regional programme and a second technical mission is ongoing to provide the necessary support.

ODA's VAM and ODAN branches will support FAO's Global Information and Early Warning Service (GIEWS) with setting up GIEWS Workstation data sets in a format compatible with VAM SIE in 15 countries. This electronic tool will bring together satellite imagery, news items, crop calendars, maps and data.

### **Partnerships, Events and Missions**

The UN Geographical Information Working Group, co-chaired by WFP (ODA) and FAO, held a video-conference in May with all Task Group Leaders to strengthen the use and access of Spatial Geographic Information in the UN.

In May, ODA Chief David Kaatrud made a presentation on Needs Assessment to the World Trade Organisation. The presentation highlighted WFP's message, as was conveyed to an audience in Kansas, USA by ODAN Chief Wolfgang Herbinger which emphasises the fact that WFP food aid assistance is based on needs.

A request to WFP from the Kyrgyz government for food aid, citing an economic and food crisis in the country prompted an inter-agency assessment team visit from 9-20 May. The team found that there was no humanitarian crisis that justified an emergency intervention. However, the mission acknowledged that chronic poverty and food insecurity is probably worse than reflected in national statistics.

WFP participated in a UN Inter-Agency Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) planning simulation from 26 April to 6 May, in Brindisi. The exercise aimed to test the second draft of UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) and identify policy and operational gaps in the guidance documentation. WFP presented a module on Food Aid and Food Security.

The *Early Warning - Early Action* report has been circulated for comments among members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IACS) and the RR/RHC of the countries mentioned in the report. The report is a tool to foster enhanced inter-agency early warning and preparedness to meet the demands of new humanitarian crises or dramatic changes in existing ones.

ODJ VAM is continuing its close partnership with the Southern Africa Development Community's (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC), and has helped in developing a 5 year programme (2005-2009), that outlines the workplan at both regional and national levels. The programme aims to strengthen both regional and national institutions to develop accurate information on livelihoods and vulnerability. The programme was adopted by the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers in Maseru, Lesotho on 10 June.

### SENAC Update

SENAC held its fourth Steering Committee meeting in Rome from 13-14 June, the Chair of the Advisory Group of experts, James Darcy of ODI, was present. Detailed presentations and updates on the project's activities, outputs and future planning for the 30-month time-frame were made, resulting in fruitful discussions and recommendations. SENAC extends a warm welcome to new members Ms. Nanna Skau and Ms. Lauren Landis, representing ECHO and USAID respectively. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2005.

The SENAC Project Review commenced in June, the objective of which is to assess whether SENAC's activities to strengthen ENAs are appropriate for, and on track toward, meeting their objectives. The users of the findings will include ECHO management, WFP ODA, and the SENAC Advisory Group of experts, Steering Committee members and project team. The exercise will be completed in August and the recommendations will feed into the design of Phase II of the project.

RAOs met with SENAC project staff on 22 June in Rome to discuss field-based planning process for 2006, improved communications strategies for networking and information exchange, and CFSVA/FSMS.

### WFP Receives "Premio Mondo d'Oro" Award

On 20 April, WFP was awarded the "Premio Mondo d'Oro" at a ceremony in Rome hosted by the Italian Geoknowledge Foundation. The prize was awarded in recognition of the Agency's efforts in using GIS technology to produce maps for planning purposes to ensure effective and efficient response interventions to the recent tsunami tragedy. "These maps are continuously being updated, even now, almost six months after the devastating impact on the people of Indonesia and the surrounding areas," said Giorgio Sartori of ODAP, who received the Award on behalf of WFP.

### New Reports – April – June 2005

Timor-Leste: Food Insecurity & Vulnerability Analysis - April

Burundi: *Evaluation des Recoltes, des Approvisionnements Alimentaires et de la situation Nutritionnelle*, May

Haiti: Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis Report, May

Indonesia-Aceh Province and Nias Island: FAO/WFP CFSAM, May

Zambia: FAO/WFP CFSAM, May

Togo, Ghana & Benin: Joint Rapid Food Security Assessment, May

Lesotho: FAO/WFP CFSAM, June

Malawi: FAO/WFP CFSAM, June

Mozambique: FAO/WFP CFSAM, June

Swaziland: FAO/WFP CFSAM, June

Tajikistan: Household Food Security & Vulnerability Survey, June

Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis reports for Nicaragua, Niger and Sierra Leone are being drafted and are expected to be available in July - <http://epweb.wfp.org>, <http://vam.wfp.org>

#### CONTACT ODA - Analysis, Assessment and Preparedness:

**ODAN:** Needs Assessment Branch: Tel: +39 06 6513 2231  
[http://www.wfp.org/operations/emergency\\_needs/index.html](http://www.wfp.org/operations/emergency_needs/index.html)

**ODAP:** Preparedness and Response Branch:  
Tel: +39 06 6513 3110  
Humanitarian Early Warning Service:  
<http://www.hewsweb.org>

EPWeb:  
[http://epweb.wfp.org/epweb/home\\_page/index.asp](http://epweb.wfp.org/epweb/home_page/index.asp)

Situation Room: Fax: +39 06 6513 3110;

e-mail: [hq.situation.room@wfp.org](mailto:hq.situation.room@wfp.org)

**ODAV:** Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Branch:

Tel: +39 06 6513 2855

VAM-SIE network:

<http://vam.wfp.org/geonetwork/srv/en/vamsie.main>

