

# Food Security Rapid Assessment

## Tunisia



April 2011



# Food Security in Tunisia

## Rapid Assessment Report

### March-April 2011

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## Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

### Context

Since the recent political changes (following the fall of former regime on 14 January 2011) the country is facing socio-economic turbulence and related challenges. Key economic sectors have been affected. In the short run, tourism and manufacturing industry (in particular offshore companies) as well as foreign direct investment (FDI) are expected to decline and this will have negative spillovers on the rest of the economy, including on the financial sector. The economic slowdown is expected to have a negative impact over economic growth, government revenues and employment. In addition, and while facing budget pressure, the interim government is confronting growing social expectations, *such as youth employment and reduction of regional disparities (the 'revolution dividend')*.

The Libyan crisis constitutes an additional shock. Libya is an important trading partner and significant share of Tunisia industrial production is geared towards the Libyan market; this is particularly true for agro-processing industry (dairy products, pasta and tomatoes paste) and building materials companies (cement). A significant inflow of consumer goods imported from Libya through informal trade and sold in Tunisian markets at cheap price is also being affected.

In addition the return of more than 36,000 Tunisian migrant workers from Libya is adding pressure on the already strained economic situation. Remittances from Tunisian migrants in Libya are expected to be reduced. According to non official data, the impact of the Libya crisis on the Tunisian economy represents a net monthly loss of US\$ 300-350 million. According to the World Bank, despite these short-term challenges, Tunisia's economic outlook remains positive. The AfDB reports "Tunisia has gross foreign exchange reserves equal to five months of imports, moderate external debt representing 46 per cent of its GDP and the country enjoys the confidence of international markets and financial institutions".

### Assessment objective and methodology

The objective of the assessment was to determine the impact of recent events on: the prevalence of food insecurity, the risks to food insecurity; and capacities to ensure food security.

Specific objectives were to:

- Liaise with FAO experts working on macro/supply dimension of food security.
- Prepare ground work for a household food Security Survey to assess the prevalence of food insecurity in Tunisia (elaborate on geographic areas of study; identify local partners for the survey, etc.).
- Define appropriate interventions to address food insecurity in Rural Tunisia and make programmatic recommendations including targeting criteria and programming modalities.

This rapid assessment was carried out from 24 March to 7 April 2011, and involved the following:

- Literature review
- Discussions with government, UN and other stakeholder representatives, key informants
- Field visits

Major limitations to the rapid assessment identified by the WFP/FAO team include:

- Lack of relevant data including pre-crisis data, for instance:
  - Geographical pattern of poverty and child malnutrition do not coincide;
  - Income and expenditure survey (Enquete Budget Consommation run by the Institut National de Statistiques) data not available: 2005 datasets are not accessible; 2010 datasets possibly not complete as survey was disrupted by the revolution;
  - Existing poverty statistics are overly aggregated at macro-region level and poverty lines are unclearly defined, allegedly to minimize poverty prevalence figures.
- Challenges to collect data at household level due to the social mobilization and sensitivities related to the current political transition (distrust in government).
- Administrative set up is still disrupted at the lower levels (*delegations* and *imadas=deanships*) where local authorities face challenges in their interaction with the communities.
- Timing of the assessment: the fluid situation prevailing in the country is not conducive for a quantitative assessment, and creating now a baseline is inappropriate as the context is still evolving.
- Moreover, it's too early to measure impact of major recent shocks:
  - Revolution and ensuing economic crisis is still unfolding
  - Impact of the Libyan crisis is still in the making
- No definition of food insecurity in Tunisia exists, defining the difference between food insecurity and poverty, identifying vulnerabilities and issues.
- No expertise with food security analysis, no institutional setting exists.

Due to the above limitations, the present report provides the findings of the joint WFP/FAO mission related to a general description of current food insecurity in Tunisia. In addition, the team initiated a field based Food Security Assessment that is being commissioned to a local Bureau d'Etudes, under close FAO/WFP technical supervision.

## Chapter 2 FOOD AVAILABILITY

This section draws on the FAO mission fielded from 15 to 25 March 2011 to review the macro/supply/availability dimension. Key findings of that mission are as follows:

Tunisia's dependence on imports with respect to cereals is estimated at 74%.

With current budget pressure and high food prices on international food markets, food imports are expected to put a high burden on public finances and can therefore put severe constraints on local supply.

In the short run (year 2011), and despite the delicate context of current political transition and as announced by the Ministry of Trade and Tourism in its press release dated March 9, 2011, the procurement of basic food commodities on international markets is expected to proceed at normal and adequate levels.

With regard to wheat, the current available stocks and confirmed purchases are able to meet the demand (total food requirements) for respectively 120 days for durum wheat (until June 2011) and 150 days for soft wheat (until July 2011). By then, the local production whose harvest starts at the beginning of July will be available and will contribute to meet the country food requirements for four additional months (until November 2011), even in the event of an average harvest being estimated at around 685.000 tons, which is within the range of the average production for the period 2006-2010 (for both durum wheat and soft wheat). In the context of rising food prices that have almost doubled for wheat, the total bill of Tunisian imports in 2011 should increase in the same proportions without taking into account the incidence of foreign exchange rate in favor of the United States dollar.

In addition, and despite costs, the government has no option than to continue to provide the population with food subsidies, in the form of controlled prices for basic food commodities (soft wheat, sugar and vegetable oil) through the Caisse Générale de Compensation. The cost of such subsidies is expected to reach 1,250 million DT in 2011, a level that is almost the double of initial estimates and that can hardly be sustained in the medium/long run. However, the political environment and the upcoming elections make it impossible to abandon such expensive subsidies. In the medium and long run there will be a need to adopt a new policy of less expensive safety nets and social protection, not generalized to the whole population but targeting the most destitute households and those with low-incomes whose purchasing power must be reinforced to ensure a continuous access to adequate food consumption. In addition to those recommendations to support vulnerable population groups, the consultant made specific recommendations to increase the national cereal production, to diversify the diet and reduce the consumption of cereals and to mitigate the impact of soaring food prices on the international market.

## Chapter 3 FOOD ACCESS

This section intends to focus on the economic access to food as the greatest part of the population has no other option than to acquire food through market purchases. It is therefore possible to assume that households have sufficient *access* to food when they have “adequate incomes or other resources to purchase levels of appropriate foods needed to maintain consumption of an adequate diet/nutrition level”. Additional factors underlying food access are the markets for labor and credit. For that reason it is crucial to review and analyze information on income and employment.

### Poverty

According to the latest Income and Expenditure Survey carried out in 2005-2006 and released in January 2007, the population living below the national poverty line stands at 3.8 percent (400DT per person per year, roughly equivalent to US\$0.88 per person per day), which corresponds to approximately 59.000 poor households. However, there is a broad consensus that poverty rates have been underestimated following the former regime reluctance to acknowledge that poverty was still an issue in the country. It became apparent that the national poverty line was established at a level that keeps poverty rates extremely low. Indeed and by moving the poverty line to 585DT per person per year (roughly US\$1.3 per person per day), which seems to be a more appropriate benchmark, the poverty rate increases up to 11.5%, which indicates a high concentration of households around low income levels.

Poverty is widespread in most regions of the country, with a much higher prevalence in the Centre Western region (Centre Western economic development zone). However and due to the lack of disaggregated data, existing poverty figures might mask important disparities within a same region when considering lower administrative levels (including governorate level). In that regard and according to various sources the governorate of Kasserine may be of particular concern.

Poverty rates by regions (economic development zones):

- Grand Tunis (Ariana, Ben Arous, Manouba, Tunis): 1.4%
- - North-West (Beja, Jendouba, Le Kef): 3.1%
- - North-East (Bizerte, Nabeul, Zaghuan): 2.7%
- - Centre-West (Kairouan, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid, Siliana): 12.8%
- - Centre-East (Mahdia, Monastir, Sousse, Sfax): 1.2%
- - South-West (Gafsa, Kebili, Tozeur): 5.5%
- - South-East (Gabes, Medenine, Tataouine): 3.8%

**Table 1 Poverty rates by major occupational groups**

Occupational groups	Percentage	Number of hhs
Managers and agents	0.4	1321
Independent professionals	2.3	3657
Non-agricultural workers	5.4	24125

Farmers	5.5	8796
Agricultural workers	10.6	4315
Unemployed	17.4	5747
Non-working	2.5	11736
Total	3.8	59697

### Share of food expenditures

Overall, households devote 34.6% of their total expenditure to food. However, such ratio rises at 52.2% for the poorest segment of the population (income less than 400DT per person per year) and 50.4% for the following group (income more than 400DT per person per year and less than 585DT per person per year).

### Unemployment

The country's unemployment rate is officially 13% (2010 estimates)<sup>1</sup>. Unemployment is perceived to be the major problem that the country faces. The high rates of unemployment have mainly triggered the waves of protests that have overthrown the former regime. Unemployment rates are especially high for the youth (69.7% of unemployed have less than 30 years) at approximately 29.4% (20-24 years) and 26.7% (25-29 years), a high proportion of them being degree holders (23.3% hold a university degree). A continuous worsening of the employment situation, which seems inevitable in the short run, is the most crucial and urgent problem and constitutes a possible major threat to food access. As a consequence, the interim government is in urgent need of support to stabilize the situation, to enhance job creation and to preserve purchasing power of the rapidly growing low-income population.

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary results of Employment National Survey, 2010



## Chapter 4 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND UTILIZATION

Overall and despite the lack of data, there are indications that the poorest segments of the population are likely to have inadequate food consumption. Food diversity is likely to be an issue for the poorest segment of the population. It is largely admitted that food consumption patterns of a large part of the population are dominated by starches (cereals).

Discussions during field visits confirm that low income households rely mostly on cereal based foods (pasta and bread) and that they have inadequate food consumption when it comes to other food groups with higher nutrition value such as dairy products and meat.

### Nutrition

**Table 2 Nutrition**

	Global Acute Malnutrition	Severe Acute Malnutrition	Height/Age(chronic malnutrition)
Kasserine	6.2	0.6	13.6
Sidi Bouzid	2.4	0.3	5.4
Kairouan	4.0	0.3	6.4
Grand Tunis	2.7	0.0	3.7
North East	2.7	0.0	5.7
Centre East	1.3	0.0	4.6
South East	1.6	0.3	6.7
South West	7.0	0.9	10.6
North West	5.3	0.8	8.6

Source: MICS 3 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey), 2007

Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition indicates a poor nutritional situation in the South West, North West and Kasserine. Severe Acute Malnutrition and chronic malnutrition show a similar pattern. Again, and due to the lack of disaggregated data, the available figures might mask important disparities within a same region, meaning that the situation could be worse in parts of concerned regions. Chronic malnutrition is generally low and has improved compared to the 1990's (1996 data) except in the governorate of Kasserine. In addition and despite that the geographical patterns of poverty and child malnutrition do not coincide, the areas of concern are once again in the western part of the country.

## Chapter 5 SAFETY NETS

The country has a long standing well established social protection program, mainly resourced with government budgetary support. The current economic and fiscal crisis poses new challenges to maintaining the current social protection levels. Moreover, there are growing demands from families and job seekers, while the socio-economic equity of existing safety nets is questioned by the communities.

The program is implemented by the Social Affairs Ministry. It should also be noted that as a result of the post-revolution reforms, the Ministry of Regional Development is taking responsibility to manage programs that address existing geographical imbalances. However and at the time of the assessment, it was not possible to understand the exact role of the newly created Ministry of Regional Development in complementing and supporting ongoing social programs. In 2011 the Ministry of Social Affairs plans to assist some 185,000 households all over the country (quota system at governorate level) through monthly cash transfers. This represents an increase of 50,000 households compared to 2010. The value of the cash provided to needy families ranges from 70DT to 100DT per household and per month (approximately US\$ 50 to 100 per household and per month)<sup>2</sup>.

Given the budget pressure faced by the government, WFP has been requested to provide assistance to this additional caseload. WFP assistance would be provided through food vouchers.

### Targeting

There are relatively well defined (mostly) income-based targeting criteria.<sup>3</sup>

The Social Affairs local offices have a pool of social workers who are supposed to regularly monitor the situation of households benefiting from and seeking for assistance. Social workers are expected to administer a household level questionnaire whenever there is a request for assistance. Routine visits are subsequently organized to continue monitoring the situation of assisted households.

Following this initial assessment, there are two committees one at the ‘delegation’ and the second at the ‘governorate’ level, in which all individual cases are discussed. A final decision is made at the governorate level. As a result of this process, requests for assistance are either approved or rejected.

However, approved requests may be added to the waiting lists when the quota is reached in a given locality. Yet, in the past a lot of political interference was widely reported and the whole process was perceived to be driven by abuse of power and vote-catching practices. In addition, the necessary resources, time, and skilled personnel to collect and synthesize information seem largely inadequate. There is on average one social worker to 3,600 inhabitants. In addition, the same pool of social workers is involved in various other types of social surveys.

There are no clear exit criteria and beneficiary lists do not seem to be frequently updated

In addition to the above limitations in terms of targeting, there is a need to identify the food insecure households –who to some extent may differ from the economic poor- and assess the

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<sup>2</sup> 70DT for households with no school age children, 80DT for households with one school age child, 90DT for households with two school age children and 100DT for households with three school age children and above.

<sup>3</sup> These criteria are mainly: income level, housing conditions, disability and chronic illness.

severity and specific commodities of their food shortfalls, especially when considering a food voucher program.

The Social Affairs system is not designed to address food security problems and, as indicated earlier, there is no definition of food insecurity in the country. It should be noted however, that during most of the discussions with government officials, social workers, as well as with households (assumed to be low-income), in the couple of sites visited, food needs didn't come as a major issue.

Information on the extent of food insecurity due to lack of economic opportunity to obtain sufficient income to purchase adequate amounts of food is unavailable.

In the past the UTSS (Union Tunisienne de Solidarite Sociale) used to provide food assistance (food donations) on an ad-hoc basis to poor households unable to temporarily meet their food needs. The UTSS though is now being restructured and seems not to be functional anymore. Also, the Zakat system operated through mosques and social solidarity may complement the government scheme and be a source of assistance for the food insecure, but there is no information about their scale and capacity.

Hence, it is critical to improve and modernize the existing social protection system, breaking from past practices, to make it both well targeted and sustainable. In that respect, further consultations with World Bank and AfDB are recommended as both organizations intend to support the Tunisian government through budgetary support. Investments in social protection are part of the immediate challenges to address.

Recently, the Libyan crisis has brought into Tunisia new groups that may seek assistance:

- Tunisian migrant workers returning to their country, some with savings and some without;
- Libyan nationals who seek a safe heaven: most of them have money to rent flats and live on their own resources for some time, but many of them are already being supported by the hosting Tunisian communities. Of particular concern the recent massive influx of many thousand Libyans from the mountain areas.

There is no systematic tracking of Tunisian migrants returning from Libya. However, those who are seeking assistance have been requested to contact the Office des Tunisiens a l'Etranger (OTE). At the time of the assessment out of 32,000 returnees, 12,000 have contacted the OTE, with only one third of them requesting an immediate assistance, while the remaining are asking for financial support to restart their own business. These returns concern all governorates of the country and there are no indications of geographic concentration; however 6 governorates have registered more than 60% of those who are requesting some sort of assistance, these governorates are Kasserine, Mahdia, Gabes, Kairouan and Gafsa.

## Chapter 6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

The overall food security situation doesn't seem to be a major issue compared to other challenges that the country faces. However, several vulnerabilities exist that definitely require some monitoring as well as measures to protect the most vulnerable from the effects of the economy slowdown -especially that the impact of recent shocks is still in the making. The western part of the country (along the Algerian border in general and the governorate of Kasserine in particular) comprising acute poverty pockets, is the most vulnerable and deserves a particular attention when designing assistance program. Moreover, the south-eastern areas are directly impacted by the Libya crisis in terms of refugee influx and disruption of cross-border trade.

### Follow up on assessments and studies

Given the lack of reliable/detailed information on socio-economic poverty and food insecurity, the WFP/FAO team concluded that a field-based Food Security Assessment is a necessary step. Moreover, the WFP/FAO Team reviewed the feasibility of such Assessment against the backdrop of current socio-political sensitivities and excluded the possibility to conduct a large scale household survey on a statistically valid sample before the scheduled elections in June. Hence, the Team opted for a qualitative assessment in priority areas. WFP and FAO management concurred with that conclusion. ToRs for the Assessment have been prepared, contacts have been established with three consulting companies and a bid to select one of them was launched. TORs are attached in the Annex.

### Recommendations for programming

- Need for programs to enhance job-creation and increase income generation, and to ensure a well-targeted social safety net that would protect the neediest population, especially during the transition period.
- Employment schemes targeting the youth and income generation activities should be prioritized. Land and water conservation works could offer good opportunities, building on previous investments in natural resources protection.
- Support to agricultural production and food processing is also an important avenue to explore to contain the dependence on import, especially fresh and nutritious foods.
- Definition and promotion of a food security agenda should be prioritized in view of future reforms in the policy areas of agriculture, employment, regional development and social protection.

### Specific recommendation for the WFP Food Voucher scheme

Food assistance programs (based on food vouchers) should preferably be geographically targeted and implemented in most vulnerable areas of the West. Another aspect to consider is the value of the food vouchers. As the objective is different from the cash transfers provided by the

government, their values should not necessarily be the same. Another way to calculate the level of cash transfer is to consider the market prices for the considered food items. If necessary the food vouchers could complement the cash transfers provided by the government to defined food insecure households.

Prior to the implementation of the food voucher assistance program, it is recommended to carry out a household survey targeting the neediest families to help identify the food insecure and assess the severity and nature of their food shortfalls. For WFP, it is critical to ensure that the intended voucher program targets the most food insecure households (with confirmed food needs). It will also be important to ensure that exclusion errors are minimized. Ideally, food voucher schemes could be combined with other initiatives that seek to enhance job creation and promote microenterprise such as support to local crop and livestock producers and food processing. Ideally, the voucher system should be designed in a way that addresses the poor diversity of the diet of vulnerable groups, i.e. provide complementary foods with higher nutrition value to targeted households that would complement starches (bread and pasta) that are largely available and fairly accessible to the majority of the population. As child malnutrition may be of concern in some areas of the South West and Centre West (Kasserine), it might also be relevant to target households with children below the age of 5 (estimated at 25% of total households).

## Chapter 7 Annexes

### **People met**

Mohamed El Hedi Ben Abdallah, Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Chef de cabinet

Tarek Ben Youssef, Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Directeur National

Fredj Souissi, Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Office des Tunisiens à l'Étranger

Najet Dkhil, Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Sous-Direction de la Pauvreté

Amal Ghazouani, Direction des Affaires Sociales, Ariana

Hmed Ammar, Direction des Affaires Sociales, Tataouine

Gouverneur de Tataouine

Marouane El Abassi, World Bank

Justin Murara, African Development Bank, Principal Socioeconomist

Jens Hesemans, UNHCR

Daniel PUGH, OCHA

Raphy Favre, CICR

Thomas Vasseur, Consultant UNDP

Christophe Ribes, Consultant World Bank

## Social Protection

Governorate	Number of Families (2010)	Number of Free Health Cards	Percentage of Families with Free Health Cards	Ongoing Assistance to Needy Families	Percentage of Families Receiving Ongoing Assistance
Tunis	240,768	13274	5.51	12594	5.23
Ariana	119,866	3687	3.08	3683	3.07
Ben Arous	139,001	5137	3.70	5198	3.74
Manouba	88,744	3451	3.89	3118	3.51
Nabeul	181,195	6571	3.63	6433	3.55
Zaghouan	41,038	5024	12.24	4829	11.77
Bizerte	131,564	9866	7.50	9465	7.19
Beja	73,701	8165	11.08	7351	9.97
Jendouba	101,862	14292	14.03	13767	13.52
Le Kef	61,762	9843	15.94	9084	14.71
Siliana	56,322	10359	18.39	9829	17.45
Kairouan	134,717	10527	7.81	9831	7.30
Kasserine	104,052	17049	16.39	16216	15.58
Sidi Bouzid	99,287	12109	12.20	11137	11.22
Sousse	147,257	6001	4.08	5797	3.94
Monastir	121,599	5642	4.64	5093	4.19
Mahdia	95,387	6100	6.40	5591	5.86
Sfax	224,087	7669	3.42	7112	3.17
Gafsa	80,657	9356	11.60	9311	11.54
Tozeur	24,623	4604	18.70	4407	17.90
Kebili	36,272	5288	14.58	5023	13.85
Gabes	87,011	7040	8.09	7167	8.24
Medenine	109,733	6192	5.64	6380	5.81
Tataouine	35,189	4862	13.82	4584	13.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,535,694</b>	<b>192108</b>	<b>7.58</b>	<b>183000</b>	<b>7.22</b>

## **TERMES DE REFERENCE**

### **Evaluation conjointe PAM/FAO de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire**

#### **en Tunisie**

##### **1. Contexte et justification**

Suite aux changements majeurs politiques et sociaux survenant dans les pays du Moyen Orient et de l’Afrique du Nord, le PAM et la FAO ont convenu de réaliser une évaluation régionale conjointe de la sécurité alimentaire pour évaluer les impacts éventuels des événements récents qui continuent à secouer les pays de la région et principalement Egypte, Libye et Tunisie.

Les termes de référence suivants se focalisent sur l’évaluation spécifique de la situation en Tunisie (crise politique, économique et sociale que traverse le pays au lendemain de la chute de l’ancien régime et impact de la crise Libyenne).

Cette évaluation vise particulièrement à apporter des réponses pertinentes et objectives, aux interrogations suivantes aussi bien pour le milieu rural qu’urbain :

1. Quelles sont les personnes vulnérables vivant dans l’insécurité alimentaire ?
2. Quel est le profil de ces populations (moyen de subsistance et activités socio-économiques, habitat, etc.)?
3. Pourquoi sont-elles vulnérables et pourquoi vivent-elles en insécurité alimentaire?
4. Quelles sont les facteurs (actions, opportunités et risques potentiels) susceptibles d’influencer l’évolution de la situation de sécurité alimentaire ?
5. Comment pourrait-on améliorer leurs situations/conditions de vie ? Quelles implications pour les interventions de sécurité alimentaire ? (recommandations et options de réponses)

Les informations à produire permettront d’avoir une meilleure compréhension des problèmes de sécurité alimentaire dans le pays ; afin de guider l’élaboration des projets/programmes d’assistance aussi bien alimentaire que non alimentaire.

La réalisation de cette évaluation sera confiée à un bureau d’étude qui aura pour responsabilité la mobilisation des différentes personnes ressources (informateurs clés, commerçants et détaillants ainsi que population locale qui sera étudié a travers les groupes de discussion, la facilitation du travail de terrain, la collecte de données sur le terrain et la rédaction du rapport de l’étude.

##### **2. Etendue de l’étude**

3 régions : Nord-ouest, Centre-ouest and Sud-est

3 Gouvernorats représentatifs des régions considérées seront sélectionnés. Le choix définitif sera convenu d’un commun accord entre le PAM, la FAO et le bureau d’étude en charge de la réalisation de cette évaluation.



Pour chaque gouvernorat 3-4 localités seront visitées.

Ce choix privilégie les régions structurellement vulnérables qui risquent d'être durement affectées par la crise que traverse le pays ainsi que la région frontalière avec la Libye touchée par le ralentissement des échanges transfrontaliers et de l'ensemble des activités s'y rapportant.

### **3. Méthodologie**

L'approche proposée se basera principalement sur les méthodes de recherche qualitative et emploiera les outils détaillés dans les sections 4, 5 et 6.

Une alternative pourrait inclure en plus des méthodes proposées ci-après (sections 4,5 et 6) une enquête rapide auprès des ménages des zones considérées (de l'ordre de 100 à 150 ménages enquêtés pour chaque région). Si cette option est retenue, un questionnaire sera développé par le PAM et la FAO à cet effet.

### **4. Réunions avec les informateurs clés**

Des entretiens approfondis à conduire avec des informateurs clés opérant dans différents secteurs de la vie socio-économique locale, proposant différents services et ayant une bonne connaissance des réalités des populations locales par exemple les CRDAs (Commissariats Régionaux au Développement Agricole), GDAs (Groupes de Développement Agricole), les Jeunes Chambres Economiques, les Divisions Régionales des Affaires Sociales, principales associations et ONGs, les Comités de Protection de la Révolution, etc.

Ces entretiens ont pour objectif d'orienter le choix des informations à obtenir à travers les groupes de discussion (*focus groups*) particulièrement pour ce qui a trait aux profils des populations et caractéristiques socio-économiques de la zone concernée.

Il s'agira notamment de collecter les informations suivantes:

- Caractéristiques de l'économie locale et secteurs économiques clés (urbain/rural)
- Profil socio-économique des populations vulnérables de la zone (interrelation urbain/rural, emploi/activités économiques et revenu familial)
- Stratégies des populations pour accéder aux revenus et à l'alimentation
- Principales productions agricoles de la région et part dans la consommation locale (par ex. part des produits locaux dans les marchés de la zone).

### **5. Groupes de discussion :**

Ces groupes de discussion (*focus groups*) pourraient être conduits avec différents groupes de population avec un certain niveau d'homogénéité par rapport à leur statut socio-économique.

Ces groupes de discussions seront réalisés dans les différentes régions identifiées : en principe une localité rurale et une localité urbaine et/ou semi-urbaine au minimum devraient être visitées.

L'étude ciblera les groupes les plus vulnérables à l'insécurité alimentaire ainsi que ceux susceptibles d'être affectés par les événements récents qui secouent le pays depuis la fin 2010, à savoir des populations

vivant dans les zones structurellement vulnérables du pays, par des personnes dépendant des transferts des migrants en Libye, des personnes retournées de Libye...

Les groupes de discussion pourraient inclure 5 à 10 personnes issues de familles vulnérables aussi bien dans le milieu urbain et/ou semi-urbain que rural:

- Hommes chefs de ménages
- Femmes (mères de famille)
- Jeunes (jeunes gens/jeunes filles)
- Autres??

En principe, 2 à 4 groupes devront être organisés dans chaque localité.

Des thèmes pour la discussion sont listés ci-dessous:

1. Sources de revenus (avant/maintenant/prévu dans 6 mois)
2. Sources de la nourriture consommée (achats/habitudes alimentaires et de consommation) avec un focus sur les aliments frais et a haute valeur nutritive (tels que viandes, fruits et légumes) mais aussi céréales/légumineuses/pain (avant/maintenant/prévu dans 6 mois) /Evolution des prix de marché et revenus
3. Perception des groupes les plus vulnérables/à risque (principale source de revenus/moyens de subsistance, leur localisation géographique et dimension urbain/rurale...)
4. Stratégies de résilience (réduire les quantités de nourriture, et taille des repas, sauter des repas, consommer des aliments moins chers, consommer des aliments de qualité moindre d'un point de vue nutritionnel parce qu'ils sont moins chers, quelles sont les pistes importantes pour aider les populations à faire face a la situation ? [s'assurer de ne pas suggérer les réponses en posant ces questions])
5. Perception de savoir si l'appui informel ou la solidarité sociale entre ménages a augmenté, diminué au cours de la période ou est devenue difficile (connaissances qui peuvent vous prêter de l'argent, vous faire des dons alimentaires, ou vous laisser acheter a crédit), description de quelques uns de ces réseaux; (avant/maintenant/ce qu'on prévoit dans 6 mois)
6. Type d'assistance apportée par différents acteurs (mécanismes de transferts sociaux gérés par Etat/ONGs/organismes charitables/organisations religieuses et mosquées)
7. Perception du type et valeur de l'assistance / Type d'assistance préférée ?
8. Efficience du ciblage de l'assistance fournie /explication des éventuels erreurs en termes d'inclusion et d'exclusion.

## **6. Entretiens avec commerçants/détaillants**

Des entretiens individuels avec des commerçants/détaillants sont à conduire dans différents types de régions/localités et il est préférable de les mener dans les mêmes localités où des groupes de discussion avec la population sont organisés pour lier et trianguler l'information. Ces entretiens ont pour objectif de fournir de l'information sur les thèmes suivants :

1. Changements constatés en termes du pouvoir d'achat des consommateurs/ changements dans les stratégies de consommation/achat en général et dans les stratégies d'achats alimentaires des

ménages en particulier viandes, fruits et légumes) mais aussi céréales/légumineuses/pain (avant/maintenant/prévu dans 6 mois)

2. Changement des prix des produits de base/et variation régionale des prix en raison de différents facteurs tels que variation des couts du transport (qui supporte ces couts additionnels sont-ils partages ou intégralement transférés aux consommateurs ?).
3. Ventes à crédit/évolution du nombre de personnes achetant à crédit/défaut des paiements viandes, fruits et légumes) mais aussi céréales/légumineuses/pain (avant/maintenant/prévu dans 6 mois).
4. Absence de liquidités et impact sur les relations commerciales avec les fournisseurs/grossistes, différents arrangements/ stratégies de résilience et durabilité de ces arrangements

## **7. Calendrier**

La durée de l'étude ne devra pas dépasser 45 à 60 jours. Cette durée comprend le travail de préparation, de collecte d'information de terrain et la rédaction du rapport.



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