duplication; if good quality data have been collected recently by another organization, there is no need to collect the same data in the EFSA.

Examples of secondary data and sources are given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Secondary data sources	
Type of information	**Example of sources**
Information about the area and its population before the current crisis	
Nutrition and food security baseline surveys	- CFSVA: WFP - Food economy baseline: Save the Children - Nutrition survey: Ministry of Health, UNICEF - FEWS NET
Food production baseline surveys	- CFSAM: WFP/FAO - National government: e.g. Ministry of Agriculture
Market surveys	Government, universities, World Bank, United Nations, NGOs
Social, political, historical and anthropological reports	Universities, literature
Information about the current crisis collected by other organizations	
Recent assessments	Government, other organizations: United Nations, NGOs
Education baseline surveys	- Government statistics - United Nations, NGO reports - WFP baseline and follow-up surveys
Media reports	Local and international news agencies

If resources allow, one person or a small team should be assigned to go through secondary data and identify useful material. These individuals must be fully conversant with the assessment objectives and terms of reference.

The **reliability** of secondary sources must be carefully appraised in terms of the source, methodology used, potential bias, age of the information, relevance, and agreement with other sources. Once the secondary information has been reviewed, the remaining gaps constitute the information that will be collected directly as primary data during the EFSA.

A template for secondary information review and identification of gaps is shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Identification of information gaps, with examples

Question	Information requirements	Secondary source 1	Secondary source 2	Secondary source…	Ways to fill information gaps *(with primary information)*
Is there a food security or nutrition problem?	Is there evidence of excess mortality?	Survey data from 6 months ago show mortality rate of 1 death per 10 000 people per day	Doctor interviewed in local press says that mortality rate "seems to be declining"	Recent NGO rapid assessment indicates increased burial ceremonies in last 3 months	Collect data on number of deaths over last 6 months in sampled villages
	Is there evidence of acute malnutrition?	An NGO specialized in nutrition carried out an anthropometric survey in 3 of the 5 affected districts 3 weeks ago	Livelihoods and the emergency's impact in the other 2 districts seem to differ from those in the 3 surveyed districts		Undertake an anthropometric survey in the remaining 2 districts, using the same methodology as the NGO used
	Have people lost land or access to land?	Government economic data show increased land sales and decreased land prices in drought-affected areas	A market survey by the local university shows no increase in the number of people looking for casual labour opportunities	A report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicates no unusual migration within or out of the affected area	Identify the people selling land. Are these crisis sales? If so, how are people compensating for their lost land assets?
	How do people currently obtain food?	A market survey by a local NGO indicates that demand for expensive foods such as meat has declined	A WFP rapid EFSA undertaken 3 months ago shows most households' food consumption measured – through the FCS – was acceptable	The local clinic reports increased micronutrient deficiency among children under 5	Evidence suggests that food access has deteriorated over the last 3 months. The EFSA will check the current situation and look for the causes of this

As Example 3.1 illustrates, the availability of reliable secondary data helps determine the types of primary data that must be collected during the EFSA.

Example 3.1: Using secondary data to determine primary information needs

Drought is leading to widespread crop failure and deteriorating livestock health.

One of the objectives of the EFSA is to estimate the impact of crop failure on food access. The following information is available from secondary sources:
- Source 1: A reliable and recent market survey shows that prices of staple crops have doubled since the same season last year, and prices of livestock have declined by one-third.
- Source 2: A livelihoods assessment from five years ago indicates that 25 percent of the population buy staple food using the proceeds of livestock sales, and 50 percent combine consumption of own production with sales of cash crops.
- Source 3: Key informants say that the relative proportions of livestock owners and farmers have changed over the last five years, but percentages cannot be reliably estimated.

This information is summarized in a table, as follows.

Question	Information requirements	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3	Ways to fill information gaps
How has crop failure affected food access?	Price of crops now	2X	…	…	…
	Price of crops this time last year	X*	…	…	…
	Price of livestock now	0.67Y	…	…	…
	Price of livestock this time last year	Y**	…	…	…
	Proportion of households buying food through sale of livestock	…	25%	Changed	Find current proportion and number of households
	Proportion of households buying food through production and sale of crops	…	50%	Changed	Find current proportion and number of households

X* = price of crops this time last year.
Y** = price of livestock this time last year.

The table indicates the following:
- Accurate price data are available, because Source 1 is highly reliable, so it is not necessary to collect price data during the assessment.
- Data on the proportion and number of households utilizing each of the two livelihood strategies are out-of-date, so this information must be sought during the assessment.

Price information from secondary data is combined with information about livelihood strategies from primary *and* secondary data to estimate the impact of the crop failure on the two livelihood groups.

Secondary data also provide contextual information that is essential to the analytical process (see **Part IV**).

Reference material collected from secondary sources is also useful for planning an EFSA. Reference information includes the following:

- **Population data**: Accurate and up-to-date data on population numbers and locations are valuable when determining the approaches to information collection (see **Section 2.6**) and the sampling strategy (see **Section 2.7**). The sources and estimated accuracy of the information must be considered when planning fieldwork and reporting results.
- **Maps**: These are useful for designing the sampling approach, and planning and implementing the fieldwork. Any available information relevant to the emergency, such as population movements, damaged roads and airstrips, is plotted on the most up-to-date maps available of the affected area.
- **Crisis updates and bulletins**: In many emergencies, regular bulletins from the national government, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and others provide the latest news about population movements, humanitarian operations, security, logistics constraints, etc.

Primary data are collected for most EFSAs, but occasionally secondary data are sufficiently comprehensive, reliable and up-to-date to cover all the information requirements. *In such cases, primary data collection is unnecessary*.

2.6 Methodology for primary data collection

The data collection methodology determines the ways in which primary data are collected during the assessment. The following are some of the critical issues that must be considered:

- Is this an initial, rapid or in-depth assessment?
- Will the assessment be based on standard questionnaires, semi-structured interviews or a combination of both?
- What sort of interviews will be used: household interviews, community group discussions, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, etc.?
- Will sampling follow a random, purposive or other approach?

Details of primary data collection methods and techniques are given in **Chapter 4**.

Practical constraints always affect the sampling approach and methods of primary data collection. The following are some of the most common constraints.

Security environment
- If security in the survey area is poor, the number of people and the time spent in the field should be limited. The sampling approach and data collection will be affected, as fewer households and locations can be visited. Instead of household interviews, focus groups might be used to collect information more quickly.