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# WFP Eastern Africa

## Research, Assessment and Monitoring

Regional outlook and 2020  
Achievements



June 2021

# WFP Food security analysis informing programming and targeting in COVID-19 response

The year 2020 was an exceptional one following the outbreak of COVID-19 globally raising the need for information on emerging food security issues relating to COVID-19. WFP's expertise in food security analysis, wide and deep field presence, and extensive partnership with regional bodies, governments and communities enabled WFP to provide prompt and reliable food security information. The regional office released the first WFP report on the Economic and Food Security Implications in East Africa in the first quarter of 2020,<sup>1</sup> and further released topical issues on COVID-19 impacts on different areas: i) livelihoods, food security and nutrition; ii) supply chain, regional trade, markets, and food security; iv) livelihoods, food security and nutrition with a focus on urban areas in collaboration with UN Habitat<sup>2</sup>.

Given the constraints and challenging conditions brought about by travel restrictions imposed by governments across the region to curb the spread of the COVID-19, WFP strengthened and scaled up its remote monitoring approaches and analysis through the use of Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) in Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan.

Working in partnership with Geo poll, hunger monitoring surveys as well as other specific food security monitoring surveys using mVAM were conducted in these countries. The generated mVAM data further contributed IPC analysis thereby ensuring the continuity of food security information in the region. In Ethiopia, a large-scale phone based household survey was conducted by setting up an in-country call center, which formed the basis for the IPC analysis for the country. Because of the impacts of COVID-19 among urban populations, the IPC analysis was also extended to urban areas in Kenya, Uganda, and Djibouti. The rollout/strengthening of mVAM also allowed for programme monitoring with adjustment of the tools as considered appropriate.

WFP Research Assessment and Monitoring team in regional bureau also provided important guidance to the UNHCR-WFP joint targeting hub's technical guidance to prioritization of assistance to refugees in Rwanda, which has been later expanded to Uganda.

The dire need of evidence-based information led to strengthening of partnerships with other UN Agencies such as UN-Habitat leading to a publication on the Impacts of COVID-19 on urban livelihoods and food security<sup>3</sup> in East Africa and the work is underway for similar analysis covering the sub-Saharan Africa. An MoU between UNHabitat and WFP was signed in October 2020.

By the end of 2020, WFP Eastern Africa further forged a partnership with international Organization for Migration (IOM) to for a joint analysis on the implications of COVID-19 on hunger, migration and displacement that was completed and released in June 2021. In addition, WFP's collaboration with UNDRR and IGAD led to the Horn of Africa partnership announced at a high-level meeting in Stockholm in October 2020, under which work on developing regional flood risk profile is underway. Floods are a regular climate risk affecting parts of the region and contributing to food insecurity.

Working in collaboration with other stakeholders in the food security sector (FAO, Fews NET, UNHCR, UNICEF, IGAD, OCHA, EU, IFPRI, USAID and global Food Security and Nutrition clusters), WFP Eastern Africa contributed to the Global<sup>4</sup> and the Regional<sup>5</sup> food crisis reports released in June 2020. The regional food crisis report focused on Intergovernmental Authority on Development (*IGAD*) member countries of Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Eritrea and focused on analysing the food and nutrition security and driving factors.

WFP's Research Assessment and Monitoring and Supply Chain teams rolled out the market functionality index (MFI) in the region. The MFI is part of the new Business Process Model for cash-based transfers which supports the 'Market assessment and risk identification' and 'Market situation monitoring' processes of cash-based assistance operations. It is geared to help WFP make informed transfer modality decisions and detect changes in market functionality over time.

In addition, knowledge management was strengthened for effective management of information and knowledge within the region. Several information products were developed such as bi-monthly information products on markets and climate performance for early warning, knowledge sharing with other agencies and countries on emerging issues was enhanced through joint

Webinars and online trainings. WFP provided technical support to the monthly IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH) activities, and remote IPC food security analyses in the region. WFP also participated and contributed to early warning early action information generation through the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF).

## Monitoring of Country Strategic Plans

Monitoring of Country Strategic plans (CSP) implementation is a critical priority for WFP. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, WFP has maintained its agility, innovativeness, enhanced accountability, and transparency in tracking and reporting progress for various WFP activities across the region. This was made possible by remote monitoring arrangements, and adjustments of methodologies and guidance. WFP used and optimised existing monitoring processes, to ensure there was credible, relevant, and prompt information and evidence to support decision making as well as other operational adjustments.

The regional office of Eastern Africa, working in close collaboration with the country offices, established and scaled up of various remote monitoring approaches to facilitate process and outcome monitoring of the Country strategic Plans in the face of COVID 19. A joint review of indicators was carried out to identify any potential monitoring gaps expected due to COVID-19 limitations. This Review reduced the foreseen monitoring gap on measuring outcome and cross-cutting results from 23 to 14 percent. Country offices were also supported to ensure the overall quality of the Country strategic Plans results chain in line with the regional evidence building agenda.

In 2020, country offices were supported to apply the introduced guidance materials, tools and systems contributing to a strengthened monitoring system through application of preventive measures and detective controls. WFP's vulnerability assessment and mapping, monitoring, review, and evaluation plans continued to be standardized to capture the timing and costing of evidence-generation activities for better management and oversight of resources. WFP has also put a system in place to monitor implementation of mid-term and evaluation recommendations. Despite of challenging environment, the dedicated efforts on training and strengthening monitoring capacities were continued with focus on qualitative research skills, to contribute to improved ability to collect, analyze and report on qualitative data to support sound decisions on operation design and implementation.

WFP's Risk Based Monitoring Framework was applied to address the needs for systematic and consistent risk management processes, including prioritization of the allocation of resources for monitoring across CSP activities and risk-based site selection for field monitoring visits and tracking coverage of monitoring visits.

Country office M&E teams (Rwanda, South Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya) contributed to UN INFO by capturing the results chain from activities, outputs to outcomes and strategic priorities. The best practices and lessons are being studied to enhance contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and boost closer alignment of agencies for joint monitoring, review, and evaluation of the UN development system's impact in a country in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The evidence building agenda continued to be strengthened through a series of bilateral data review, analysis, and feedback sessions to ensure the generated data meets the minimum quality threshold for reporting and accountability. In collaboration with programme teams, the various evidence building initiatives were supported including the Djibouti food security outcome monitoring, Eritrea and Somalia post-harvest loss management surveys and Ethiopia R4 Baseline surveys.

WFP also established partnerships that enhanced monitoring processes. A partnership with the Overseas Development Institute and the World Bank was established in Kenya to initiate studies on youth, cash and gender programming and explore opportunities for strengthened engagement in Kenya.

WFP-Government partnerships and collaboration contributed to strengthened National and subnational M&E capacities. For instance, in Kenya, WFP supported the ministry of Labour and social protection to conduct post transfer monitoring of the Inua Jamii programme- a government cash transfer programmes. Additionally, support was also provided in the COVID-19 urban response targeting process in Mombasa.

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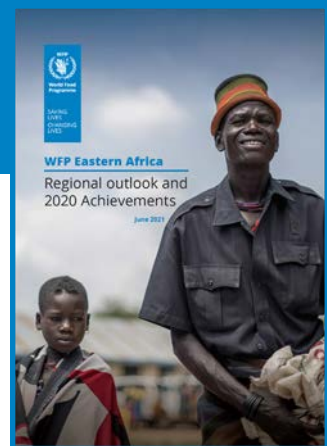
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## Endnotes

- 1 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000114016/download/>
- 2 The reports can be accessed at: [https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/reports\\_explorer](https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/reports_explorer)
- 3 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000118161/download/>
- 4 <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2020-global-report-food-crises>
- 5 <https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/regional-focus-igad-member-states-2020-global-report-food-crisis/>



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