

**"THERE'S ALWAYS
A BILL FOR
SOMETHING,
BUT NOW I CAN
PAY THEM."**

FADWA

SYRIAN MOTHER IN LEBANON



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

ESSENTIAL NEEDS ANALYSIS & PROGRAMMING

Driving programme excellence
for the people we serve

June 2021

WHAT ARE ESSENTIAL NEEDS AND WHY DO THEY MATTER TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION?

People don't live their lives in siloes or sectors. All people have different essential needs that relate to each other. Often, food is the need on which poor households spend the largest share of their resources.

But a household's ability to meet its food and nutrition needs also depends on its ability to meet other essential needs. Why? When households have limited resources, they must constantly prioritize between equally urgent needs. Households may have to decide between spending money on needed healthcare or school fees or on buying nutritious food. At the same time, being in poor health or having limited access to clean water also negatively impacts households' ability to be food and nutrition secure. Hence, the analysis of essential needs, how people meet them and where there are gaps or constraints to meeting them enriches insight into food insecurity, its drivers and how it is connected with meeting other needs. A thorough understanding of essential needs help us in designing effective food security responses.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS ARE BROADLY DEFINED AS THE GOODS AND SERVICES REQUIRED BY HOUSEHOLDS FOR ENSURING SURVIVAL AND MINIMUM LIVING STANDARDS, WITHOUT RESORTING TO NEGATIVE COPING MECHANISMS OR COMPROMISING HEALTH, DIGNITY, AND ESSENTIAL LIVELIHOODS ASSETS. WHAT COUNTS AS 'ESSENTIAL' OFTEN DEPENDS ON THE CONTEXT AND WHAT PEOPLE CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THEIR OVERALL WELLBEING.



"IF I HAD BEEN GIVEN FOOD, I WOULD HAVE PROBABLY SOLD A PORTION OF IT TO GET MONEY TO BUY OTHER THINGS I ALSO NEEDED"

KISIMBA
AND HER FAMILY

WHY IS ESSENTIAL NEEDS ANALYSIS IMPORTANT?

Undertaking an essential needs analysis will allow to:

UNDERSTAND a wide range of households' needs, how they affect one another, and where the gaps are in meeting them.

DESIGN human-centred programmes that are rooted in a holistic understanding of people's needs. This includes informing critical programme design parameters such as targeting, transfer modality selection, transfer value setting or complementary activities.

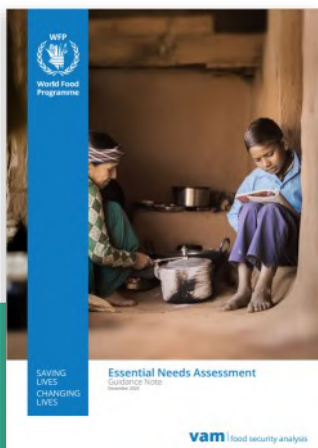
COORDINATE with partners to provide joint or harmonized responses that address multiple and interconnected needs, thereby bringing about meaningful change for beneficiaries.

ALIGN with governments, development partners, with the way they construct national poverty lines and with the demand and supply analysis needed to inform social protection action.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS ANALYSIS GUIDANCE PACKAGE

The Essential Needs Analysis and Programming workstream is a collaboration between WFP's Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) and Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) divisions. Based on best practices by WFP and partners, a comprehensive analytical package has been prepared to provide guidance on how to analyse essential needs. It offers a data-driven approach that can be tailored to the context and complemented with qualitative inquiry. This package is considered as state of the art for the cash community of practice, and is being used by partners to inform cash programming.

DEMAND



ESSENTIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

EXPENDITURE



MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET

SUPPLY



SUPPLY ANALYSIS

ESSENTIAL NEEDS ANALYSIS GUIDANCE PACKAGE

EXAMPLES



NORTHEAST NIGERIA

Begging, borrowing money and/or selling agricultural equipment. These were some of the coping strategies that households resorted to during the COVID-19 pandemic, as revealed by the [Essential Needs Assessment in Northeast Nigeria](#).

MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, WFP [supported the Government and Cash Working Group](#) in designing an integrated, shock-responsive cash-based programme which responded to the needs of drought-affected populations.



TURKEY

Essential Needs Analysis helped WFP and the Government to design the national [Emergency Social Safety Net Programme](#) which supported Syrian refugees to meet their essential needs in the market.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Essential Needs Analysis allowed WFP and partners to understand and cohesively address [people's interlinked needs: food, health and education, ultimately resulting in improved outcomes](#).



UGANDA

Essential Needs Analysis was conducted in close collaboration with multiple agencies to [inform needs-based targeting in the refugee response](#).

WHAT COMES NEXT?

- ▶ The Essential Needs approach embedded in corporate strategies and Country Strategic Plans
- ▶ External review of WFP's approach to Essential Needs Analysis & Programming with academic institution [UNU-MERIT](#), to inform future ENA vision.
- ▶ On-demand Essential Needs trainings tailored to needs
- ▶ Continued external engagement to socialize WFP's ENA approach and support its use by others
- ▶ Continued support to RBs and COs on the roll-out of the ENA approach in their contexts.

KISIMBA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO

