

Comprehensive Food Security Assessment Plan for Ethiopia

Background

This document outlines an updated plan and methodology for ensuring sufficient and credible evidence about the food security situation in Ethiopia to inform WFP programme planning and implementation. This includes a detailed assessment plan, incorporation new assessments, as well as inclusion of additional key indicators into current assessment tools. Due to the complex seasonal pattern and the requirement to reflect food insecurity trends across seasonality, data must be collected at different times during the year for each region or livelihood zone.

Objective

Following Country Office programmatic priorities, the 2024 assessment plan will focus on assessing the following in the four regions of Tigray, Somali, Amhara and Afar:

- Inform the level and trends of food insecurity at clustered zone level.
- Assess cash feasibility and market capacity to inform modality selection.
- Inform evidence-based transfer value based on different levels of vulnerability.
- Inform WFP evidence-based targeting at household level.

2024 assessment plan

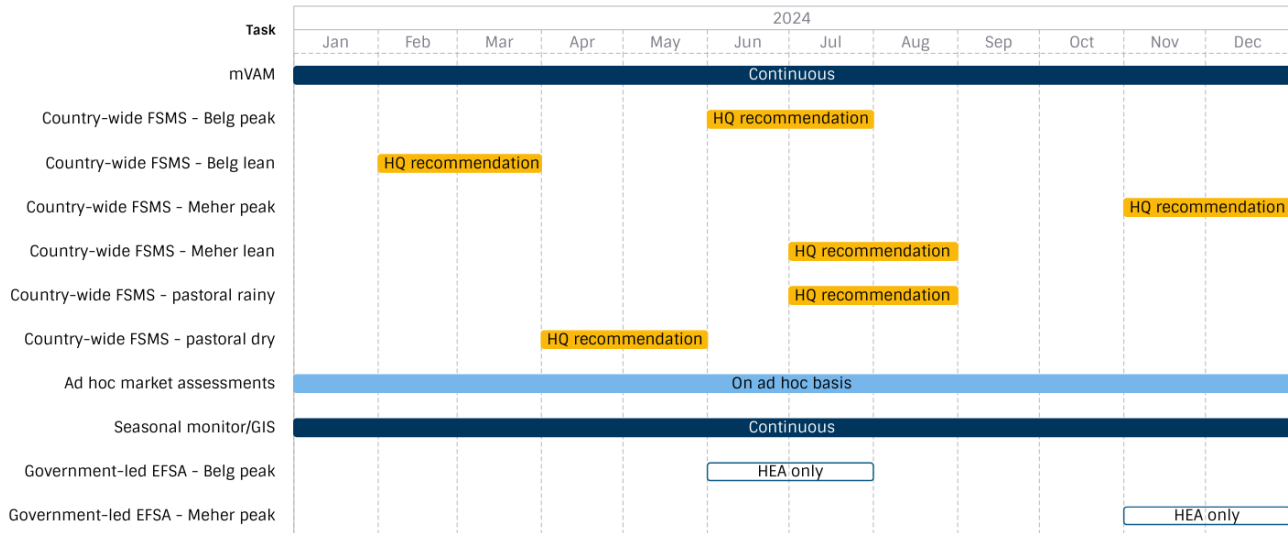
To ensure capturing the trends and changes in food security levels between peak and lean season and achieve the other objectives listed above, the assessment plan consists of various complementary surveys:

- **Food Security Monitoring Survey (FSMS):** WFP's comprehensive, face-to-face assessment to monitor the development in food security situation trends in each of the four priority regions over the year. The survey should use an essential needs perspective, to assess the household vulnerability in absence of assistance and the potential expansion of cash-based transfer programme. This FSMS will provide the key evidence for determining the caseload for all food security actors in the region. To fully understand the seasonality patterns, two FSMS must be conducted in each region; one in the lean season and one in the harvest season.
- **Market Assessments:** To be implemented as part of cash feasibility assessments where cash may be feasible to support final modality decision. The decision on modality should possibly be based also on information regarding households' essential needs and preferences regarding assistance. This information, in turn, can be gathered:
 - o Through qualitative data collection exercises to be conducted ad-hoc in parallel with market assessments and/or
 - o Within the FSMS, in both qualitative and quantitative form.
- **mVAM:** WFP's continuous remote food security monitoring to continue in the four priority regions as well as three additional regions where WFP has operations (SNNP, Oromia and Sidama).
- **Seasonal Emergency Food Security Assessment:** Government-led multiagency assessments using Household Economy Approach (HEA) which is complementary but not

replaceable with WFP methodology. HEA methodology has limited capacity to inform WFP programming and evidence-based household level targeting and verification.

Suggested 2024 assessment timeline

Being a large-scale WFP operation, it is recommended to conduct face-to-face FSMS country-wide starting 2024. The objective is to provide updated evidence to inform analytical, programmatic and strategic decisions of humanitarian agencies including WFP's Country Strategic Plan, the food security cluster People in Need (PiN) number, the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).



	mVAM	FSMS Food Security Assessments with ENA prespective	Seasonal Emergency Food Security Assessments (Belg and Meher)	WFP Market Assessments
Objective	Ensure the availability of real-time data for early warning and for continuous monitoring of trends at the population level	Provide a comprehensive understanding of the food security situation in each of the four regions. Provide evidence for modality selection and for programme design (transfer value setting if CBT are in place). Provide information to support establishment of an MEB for CBT operations (where not established yet)	Two government-led multiagency assessments to inform general needs	Complement ENA analysis to enable final modality recommendation
Coverage	Food insecure areas of 7 regions: Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali, Sidama	Four WFP priority regions: Tigray, Somali, Amhara and Afar.	Belg and Meher receiving areas including the four priority regions	<p>Selected zones in the four WFP priority regions: Tigray, Somali, Amhara and Afar.</p> <p>For timely information, it is recommended to roll out initial selection based on CO contextual recommendations and follow up with additional market assessments when considering cash expansion to other areas</p>
Key Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Consumption Score (FCS) • reduce Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Consumption Score (FCS) • reduce Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Economy Approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Functionality Index • Qualitative information on essential needs and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market Access• Income Source & Change• Enabling WFP rCARI (remote CARI) calculation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)• Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN)• Enabling WFP CARI calculation• Oher WFP essential needs analysis indicators for modality recommendation• Modality preferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not sufficient to inform WFP programming. Can be used to triangulate CARI results	modality preferences in areas where Market Assessment is done before FSMS
Level of representation & analysis	Representative at the clustered zone level and indicative at zone level	Representative at clustered zone level		To be guided by RAM-E
Frequency	Continuous data collection with daily quotas at zone level.	For each region 1-2 times during 2024 (peak and lean season) to capture seasonality trends.	One assessment for all Belg receiving areas, one assessment for all Meher receiving areas during 2024 (both lean season)	One off exercise per applicable region
Timeline	Starting June 2023 for 6 months Suggested to continue in 2024	Multiple surveys during 2024	Jun-Jul (Belg) Nov-Dec (Meher)	TBC
Sample Size	54 per month per zone Total: 2430 per month	Follow CO previous methodology (250 for each cluster of Woredas)	Follow previous methodology	
Sampling	Stratified sampling Analysis to be done at the clustered zone level using 30-days analysis window to provide representative results at the clustered zone level			

Sampling Universe	<p>All households from selected zones within WFP's database of phone numbers</p> <p>All households from selected zones (when Random Digit Dialing is used to supplement unmet quotas)</p>			
Inclusion Criteria	All respondents that are 18 and above from the selected zones and have provided consent for their participation.			
Methodology	Database of WFP phone numbers + Random Digit Dialing			
Weighting	Dynamic weights, based WFP standard approach to adjust for sampling bias in remote surveys is being used (combination of population and demographic weights)	A continuation of the current approach will be used (adjusting to % of actual population)	A continuation of the current approach will be used (adjusting to % of actual population)	No weighting needed

Quality Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-testing and rigorous operator qualification process • Intensive training and refresher training • Quality control integrated within the data collection tool (wrong data input, inconsistent data input etc) • On-site supervision at the call center • Dedicated supervisor at the call center • Call recordings for quality checks • Automated data quality dashboard with alerting to detect potential data quality issues • Triangulation with qualitative data collected face-to-face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent possible, use already experienced enumerators that have successfully been collecting food security data in similar exercises before • Extensive training/refresher training of the enumerators • Using tablets for collecting face-to-face interviews to allow for daily data uploads and early detection of potential quality issues • RAM focal point assigned to perform high-frequency data quality checks and revert to the field in case of quality issues • Triangulation with mVAM data collected at similar period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triangulation between assessment findings 	
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