

Overview of WFP's Major Food Security Analysis Training Courses

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As of February 2010, WFP has developed six core training courses focused on three main areas: Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs), price analysis, and Food Security Indicators or quantitative analysis, as well as three specialized trainings (covering nutrition data analysis, trader survey and Joint Assessment Mission). Some courses are offered at different levels, e.g. basic, intermediate and advanced. The following overview provides basic information on each of these course's entry criteria, target audience, objectives, duration and approach, to help potential trainees and/or their supervisors to select the most appropriate type of training course.

Basic EFSA

Objectives:

To enable staff to understand basic food security assessment concepts (the pillars and the main indicators of food security) and participate in and contribute to emergency food security assessments, including how to:

- Organize teams and logistics for an EFSA;
- Design and use simple primary data collection tools;
- Select the appropriate sampling approach;
- Interpret/understand the principles to analyze primary and secondary data;
- Contribute to qualitative data analysis;
- Draw conclusions and make initial recommendations; and
- Provide inputs for an assessment report.

Entry Criteria:

- No pre-requisites.
- Some experience with secondary data review and/or primary data collection and analysis is preferred.

Target Audience:

WFP and partner staff who have been, or are planning to be, involved in EFSAs. Also Programme staff who should be familiarised with the principles of food security assessments and analysis.

Duration and approach:

Basic EFSA skills are available either as five-ten day classroom course or an online training (coming in 2010). Once this course is available on-line, only a limited number of basic EFSA classroom-based courses are expected to be held.

Advanced EFSA

Objectives: To enhance capacity to develop and implement an EFSA and analyse food security data without outside technical support. Specifically, to: use the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework to develop the analysis plan and design data collection tools; select appropriate food access indicators; estimate food insecurity prevalence using quantitative or qualitative data; qualify the severity of the situation; undertake Forecast and Response Analysis; and communicate EFSA results and recommendations.

Entry Criteria:

- Completion of the Basic EFSA course (online or classroom training) and practical experience with EFSA (primary data collection and contribution to the analysis and report writing) are a pre-requisite.
- No strong quantitative or statistical analysis background is required, although it is an asset.
- Current or imminent involvement in assessments is expected.

Target Audience:

WFP VAM and partners' staff with some prior direct experience with EFSA (e.g. organization and some basic analysis), and preferably those expected to lead an EFSA from beginning to end.

Duration and approach:

The course is a five-day classroom training with plenary presentations, practical exercises, and small group work focused on analysis of tools and techniques applied in actual WFP EFSA (existing EFSA reports are used as resource material). It is held mostly at sub-regional or regional level in order to maximise the participation of a large number of staff.

Initial EFSA

Objectives: To develop a specific set of skills related to reviewing/analyzing secondary data and conducting key informant interviews in a context of limited time and physical access that occurs after a sudden-onset event. These include:

- Estimating the risks to people's lives and livelihoods that warrant an intervention immediately or over the next 1-3 months;
- Selecting and analyzing essential (mainly qualitative) information to determine severity; and
- Choosing where to go and which persons to interview, when there is very limited time and/or access to collect data.
- NB: this course does *not* explain basic food security concepts, sampling methods, or how to calculate the proportion of food insecure households.

Entry criteria:

No prior assessment experience or strong quantitative analysis background is required. The current or expected future job profile of the trainees should

include responsibility for initial assessment of sudden-onset food security needs.

Target Audience:

This course is aimed at WFP sub-office/country office, NGO and partners staff likely to be deployed immediately for an Initial EFSA, i.e. to rapidly assess the effects of a sudden onset shock. It is usually focused on staff in a single country, but could include staff from neighbouring countries that face similar threats.

Duration and approach:

The course covers five days: ideally, two days in the classroom, two half-days in the field as a simulation, followed by one more classroom day. The number of participants is limited to 12-15 persons because close individual follow-up is indispensable to make sure that participants receive appropriate feedback, especially during the field exercises.

Basic Price Analysis Training

Objectives:

The course is intended to enhance capacity of WFP Country Office and partner staff to conduct price analysis and apply various market analysis tools and techniques - without outside technical support - to support food security and other types of assessment.

Entry Criteria:

- Basic knowledge of EXCEL spreadsheets is required.
- Some experience with secondary data review and analysis is preferred.
- Knowledge of basic economic concepts is helpful although not required.

Target Audience:

WFP VAM officers, programme officers, and partner staff responsible for collecting and making use of market and other price data to support and inform food security analysis (EFSA, CFSVA and FSMS) conclusions and response recommendations.

Duration and approach:

This five-day course uses a participatory approach, plenary presentations and small group work to analyze market case studies and data. It explains the following key concepts and their relationship to macro- (national) and micro-level (household) food security:

- Terms of trade;
- Nominal, real prices and consumer price index;
- Import parity price;
- Market integration; and
- Seasonality and volatility of markets.

Trader Survey Training

Objectives:

The course is intended to enhance capacity of WFP Country Office and partner staff to conduct trader surveys - without outside technical support - to support food security and other types of assessment.

Entry Criteria:

- Some understanding of food security concepts (e.g. basic EFSA training – online or classroom) is preferred.
- Knowledge of basic economic concepts is also preferred.
- Some experience with primary data collection, entry and analysis tools is an advantage.

Target Audience:

WFP VAM officers, programme officers, and partner staff responsible for collecting and making use of market data to support and inform food security analysis conclusions and response recommendations.

Duration and approach:

This five-day participatory course is based on plenary presentations, and team (small group) work focused on preparing and carrying out trader surveys. It includes preparation of a trader survey and an on-site market visit to administer the trader survey and test understanding of interview and data collection/compilation techniques.

Basic Quantitative Data Analysis

Objectives:

Participants will be trained in the basics of database management, cleaning and manipulation of quantitative data to support food security analysis. This will enable them to:

- Import and label data;
- Conduct basic cleaning;
- Conduct simple data transformation (compute/recode);
- Conduct basic descriptive analysis (frequencies, means, cross tabs, creation of output tables); and
- Understand basic output tables.

Entry Criteria:

- Basic knowledge of EXCEL and/or other spreadsheets is required.
- Some experience with quantitative data collection tools is recommended.
- Basic knowledge on food security concepts (e.g. basic EFSA training – online or classroom) is preferred.
- Some background in basic statistics concepts/theory is preferred.
- Opportunity to apply newly acquired skills during work assignments (e.g. M&E activities, participation in data analysis/reporting of rapid or comprehensive HH surveys).

Target Audience:

Technical Programme Officers/Focal Points involved in VAM, M&E, P4P, etc. (level: P1-3, NOA/NOB, G4-7) – both WFP and partners staff

Duration and approach:

A five-day classroom training using recent food security datasets (CFSVA/EFSA) to practice basic analysis steps using SPSS (maximum 12-15 participants). Computer access for all participants needs to be arranged.

Intermediate Quantitative Data Analysis

Objectives:

This course will train participants in household questionnaire design, sampling strategies, weighing of datasets, and advanced quantitative data analysis steps to support food security analysis. The content includes:

- Household level questionnaire design;
- Sampling strategies: random sample, cluster sample, calculation of sample sizes, sampling considerations during analysis including confidence intervals and weighing;
- Data analysis: merge files, use custom tables, conduct multiple response analysis, create and run syntax, use independent sample t-test, chi-square test, one-way ANOVA and post-hoc tests, correlations; and
- Understanding how to read and interpret output tables.

Entry Criteria:

- Basic knowledge of SPSS (either through basic quantitative data analysis training or similar training/on-the-job experience) is required.
- Some background in basic statistics concepts/theory is required.
- Knowledge of food security concepts (FS and Nutrition conceptual framework) is preferred.
- Prior participation in data collection activities (e.g. EFSA, household surveys, monitoring activities) is strongly recommended.
- Opportunity to apply newly acquired skills during work assignments (e.g. secondary data analysis or comprehensive HH surveys, M&E baselines and follow-up studies).

Target Audience:

Technical Programme Officers/Focal Points involved in VAM, M&E, P4P, etc. (level: P2/3, NOA/NOB, G6/7) both WFP and partners staff.

Duration and approach:

This involves a five-day classroom training using recent household level food security questionnaires/datasets (CFSVA/EFSA) to learn and practice questionnaire design, sampling strategies and advanced analysis steps using SPSS (maximum 12-15 participants).

Quantitative Data Analysis for advanced food security analysts

Objectives:

This course trains participants in the computation and validation of key food security indicators using SPSS and enables them to interpret and report results with minimum guidance or support. The content includes:

- Food consumption score and food sources;
- Coping strategy index;
- Wealth index;
- Livelihood profiles;
- Expenditure;
- Nutrition indicators (optional); and
- Interpretation, presentation and reporting of findings.

Entry Criteria:

- Intermediate knowledge of SPSS (either through basic and intermediate quantitative data analysis training or similar training/on-the-job experience) is required.
- Understand the basics of sampling and weighing.
- Background in basic statistics concepts/theory.
- Knowledge of food security concepts (FS and Nutrition conceptual framework).
- Prior participation in survey design and implementation (e.g. EFSA, household surveys, monitoring activities) is strongly recommended.
- Opportunity to apply newly acquired skills during work assignments (e.g. secondary data analysis or comprehensive HH surveys, M&E baselines and follow-up studies).

Target Audience:

VAM Officers and specialized Programme staff involved in M&E, P4P, etc. (level: P2-4, NOA/NOB/NOC), partners staff from specialized agencies, e.g. Central Statistics Offices.

Duration and approach:

A five-day classroom training using a recent comprehensive food security dataset (e.g. CFSVA) to learn and practice how to compute and validate key food security indicators using SPSS, interpret and report on findings (maximum 12-15 participants).

Nutrition data analysis

Objectives:

This course aims to train or update staff who already have nutrition assessment experience in the area of quantitative nutrition data management and statistical analysis. It focuses on standard nutritional data management, particularly in the contexts of CFSVAs and EFSA, including generation of z-scores, data cleaning, data quality evaluation, and production of standard output tables. The various software used are:

- Epi-info, including the latest ENA/SMART modules in Epi-info;
- Nutrisurvey ENA (as used for SMART surveys); and
- WHO Anthro.

During the workshop, participants will learn:

- how to take raw anthropometric data (age, weight, height, etc.) and import it into the three key software packages;
- data management and basic analysis in each of these three software packages;
- data export from each of the three software packages back into SPSS or other statistical package;
- using SPSS and other software to produce basic output; and
- basic reporting modalities for nutritional data.

Entry criteria:

- Participants should have **intermediate/advanced skills** in quantitative data analysis (this requirement may be waived for certain cases).
- Participants should have **previous experience** with nutrition assessments, as well as advanced knowledge of the use and interpretation of key nutrition indicators (wasting, stunting, underweight, BMI of women).

Target Audience:

VAM officers and programme staff based in Regional Bureaus and Country Offices who deal with nutrition components of CFSVAs and EFSAAs. These staff will benefit by building on their existing expertise and complementing their data management and analysis skills with methodological issues.

Duration and approach:

The training lasts for 5 days and has theoretical sessions as well as a large component of practical exercises using existing databases.

Joint Assessment Mission (JAM)

Objectives:

The purpose of this training is to introduce the assessment/VAM officer and programme officer responsible for JAMs to the revised Joint Assessment Mission Guidelines (JAG - 2008). This training aims to increase the capacity of the COs to independently undertake JAMs with UNHCR and for RB personnel to support the in-country JAMs by:

- understanding the key elements of JAM missions;
- gaining awareness of the new JAG and understand procedures for JAMs;
- understanding the Memorandum of Understanding between UNCHR and WFP which guides the JAM process;
- understanding the data collection needs for a JAM; and
- being able to develop appropriate response options and Joint Plan of Action based on data collected during the JAM.

Entry criteria:

Participants preferably should have been, , involved in the preparation, collection, analysis and reporting of a recent or shortly will be involved in an upcoming JAM soon after the training. They should be familiar with the updated version of the JAG 2008 version as preparation for the training.

Target audience:

WFP, UNHCR and partner staff who have been, or are planning to be, involved in JAMs. VAM and Programme staff who should be familiarised with the JAM process.

Duration and approach:

The training is 4 days although 5 days may be more appropriate and is divided into theoretical sessions with group exercises. The revised JAM Guidelines (2008) – which explain the JAM process from understanding the MoU, through the assessment, to developing the Joint Plan of Action – constitutes the core material for this training workshop. The training is jointly organized by UNHCR and WFP.