World Food Programme - Food Security Analysis

mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM): Training for Household Live Call Survey Operators
Training Summary

Part 1: Theory

• Introduction: World Food Programme, VAM and mVAM
• Survey overview: purpose, scope and structure
• FCS and rCSI: food security indicators in the survey
• Practical tips for operators

Part 2: Practice session
The World Food Programme (WFP)

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world’s largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger and promoting food security.

- WFP works to provide food to people who are unable to produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.

- Established in 1961, WFP is part of the United Nations system. As an international organization, WFP is not governed by the government of one specific country – it is made up of 193 member states.
WFP’s Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM)

Food security analysis is fundamental for the design of WFP interventions and country programmes – emergency, protracted relief and recovery – as it provides key information to:

- identify the **most food-insecure people** to ensure the most effective targeting;
- identify the **most appropriate type and scale of intervention**;
- ensure the **most efficient use of resources** by allocating funding according to needs.

Through household surveys, VAM works to understand the food security of people in vulnerable situations and answer 5 key questions...

- **who** is food insecure or vulnerable?
- **how many** are there?
- **where** do they live?
- **why** are they food insecure or vulnerable?
- **how** is the situation likely to evolve and what are the risks threatening them?
- **what** should be done to save their lives and livelihoods?
mVAM: WFP’s mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping approach

- Monitoring:
  - household food security (FCS and rCSI)
  - markets (food availability and prices, labour wage rates, terms of trade)

- Data collected through:
  - SMS (text messages)
  - IVR (interactive voice response)
  - live phone calls
  - other mobile applications being explored (e.g. Twitter, Telegram)
mVAM: WFP’s mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping approach

- Monthly mobile surveys currently operational in **15 countries**
- Data is analyzed, reported on in “bulletin” reports, and made publically available through the mVAM website [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)
The survey: purpose

• The main purpose of the call is to obtain a complete survey from the respondent about their household’s food security situation

• After the respondent has consented to the participation the mobile operator will try to reach the same respondent as much as possible in the following months

• All the information we get from the survey is only used for WFP purposes and remains confidential

• Practical tips:
  ✓ Practice the questionnaire
  ✓ Never assume that you know the respondents answers and answer for them
  ✓ Ask the questions exactly as worded, do not paraphrase or only when needed
  ✓ Inform the team leader about any questions that give you trouble
The survey: scope

- **Live calls** will take place every month (from 1st week to 3rd week)
- **Volume**: (insert #) to randomly selected respondents
- **Sampling/respondent selection**: all respondents are randomly selected from the operators own proprietary cell phone subscriber database.
- **Geographic Scope**: (insert # of governorates, districts, etc. to be covered)
- **Duration**: the average phone call will last around **10 minutes**
The survey: how is the questionnaire structured?

The questionnaire consists of 3 main sections:

Section 1: Introduction
- Operator introduces themselves, WFP, the survey (purpose, scope, duration) and the conditions (consent, confidentiality, incentive)

Section 2: Demographic information
- Basic information about the respondent’s household:
  - Date of birth / age of respondent
  - Location (e.g. governorate, district)
  - Gender of the head of household

Section 2: Food security indicators
- Food Consumption Score (FCS)
- reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)
Food security indicators: Food Consumption Score (FCS)

- The Food Consumption Score (FCS) tells WFP about which type and how much food the respondent’s household has eaten during the **7 days before the survey**.

- During the call, you will ask the respondent how many days in the past week (7 days) the respondent’s household has eaten foods from the following **7 food groups**: starches, pulses, vegetables, fruits, proteins, fats, sugars, condiments (next slide).

- The **answer** (number of days each type of food group was consumed) should be a **number between 0 and 7**.
## Food Consumption Score, cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food group</th>
<th>Items (examples – should be adapted to reflect local preferences)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Starches**                | - Cereals/grains (rice, pasta, bread, wheat flour, bulgur wheat)  
- Tubers/roots (potatoes, sweet potatoes)                                                                                                  |
| **Vegetables and leaves**   | - Tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, broccoli, onions, dark green leaves (spinach, kale)                                                                                                                 |
| **Fruits**                  | - Citrus fruits (oranges and limes, apricots, apples, dates (no juices))                                                                                                                           |
| **Proteins**                | - Meat as a main dish (organ and flesh - including goat, beef, chicken, etc.)  
- Fish and seafood as main dish (including fresh, canned, dried fish and seafood)  
- Eggs                                                                                                                                     |
| **Pulses, nuts and seeds**  | - Beans, fava bean, chickpeas, peanuts, lentils, etc.                                                                                                                                               |
| **Dairy products**          | - Fresh or powered milk, yogurt, cheese, NO butter                                                                                                                                                 |
| **Fats**                    | - Butter, oils (olive, vegetable, palm), margarine, etc.                                                                                                                                              |
| **Sugar and sweets**        | - Sugar, honey, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, sugary drinks (juices), etc.                                                                                                                           |
| **Condiments**              | - Spices, tea and coffee, garlic, salt, meat/fish/milk in small quantities                                                                                                                                 |
Food security indicators: Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

- This index tells WFP about the **actions** the respondents have undertaken in order to **cope** with a situation in which there is **insufficient food or money to buy food**
- There are 5 standard questions on **5 types of coping strategies** possibly used by households
- In the call, you will ask the respondent how many **days** in the past 7 days the respondent household has used a certain coping strategy
- The answer, number of days, should be a number **between 0 and 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>“In the past 7 days, how many days did your household…”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>…rely on less preferred or less expensive food due to lack of food or money to buy food?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>… borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative due to lack of food or money to buy food?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>….reduce the number of meals eaten in a day due to lack of food or money to buy food?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>…limit portion sizes at mealtime due to lack of food or money to buy food?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>…restrict consumption by adults so children could eat, due to lack of food or money to buy food?”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI), cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coping strategy</th>
<th>Category description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods</td>
<td>Household makes changes to types of foods consumed in order to manage the shortfall of food. This question is concerned with the types of foods consumed rather than the quantities consumed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Borrow food from a friend or relative</td>
<td>Household increases the short-term food availability by relying on help from friends or relatives in the form of food or money to buy food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Reduce number of meals eaten in a day</td>
<td>A rationing strategy in which most household members consume fewer meals in the day to manage the shortfall of food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Reduce portion size of meals</td>
<td>A rationing strategy in which the amount of food eaten at meals is reduced in order to manage the shortfall of food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Reduce the quantities eaten by adults/mothers of young children</td>
<td>A rationing strategy in which the food consumption of adults is restricted so that small children will have enough to eat. In households without children, the answer should be zero.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The call: important things to keep in mind

- **Household**: A household refers to people who live and eat together from one pot for not less than 6 months. A household can consist of ONE or MORE people.

- **Don’t** make any promise of WFP assistance to the respondent as a result of responding to the questionnaire. They only receive the airtime credit after they have completed a survey.

- Always report to the team leader any mistake or problem of difficulty that occurred during your call.

- **No phone numbers are to be shared with WFP of its staff**. The company will transform phone numbers into an anonymous respondent identification number.

- **Be courteous**: Introduce yourself and the survey and make sure that everything is understood. Assure the respondent that replies to the survey remain confidential and that they will receive an airtime credit incentive after completing the call.

- **Be respectful**: Be respectful of the person you are speaking to, regardless of their age or gender.

- **Be patient**: You are familiar with the questionnaire but respondent is not. Expect that the respondent may have a few questions. DO read questions slowly and allow the respondent enough time to answer.
Now let’s practice...