

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)

A Summary

The Gambia

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- **The 2011 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) was based on a nationally representative sample survey to update the knowledge base on food security and vulnerability at the household level in The Gambia.**
- **It covered both urban and rural areas and took into account the recent natural and economic shocks experienced by the population.**
- **It was noted that rising food prices and natural disasters are the most prominent factors that have negatively impacted on Gambian households.**
- **The CFSVA was conducted during the period of the year when food is generally more available and there are less access constraints at household level and thus the number of food insecure households will increase as the lean season approaches.**

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The majority of Gambian households do not earn more than 40,000 Dalasi annually and monthly household expenditure is approximately 7,860. Average household expenditure on food accounts for approximately 58 percent of the total expenditure.

They largely rely on purchase of food for consumption, have family members who work away from home for more than six months during the year who contribute to household income by sending remittances, depend on informal credit sources (e.g. neighbors, relatives, traders) when borrowing money

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- **A total of 2,592 households were interviewed in 336 communities. Households were asked questions regarding food consumption (food frequency and dietary diversity); income and expenditure; coping strategies; assets and livelihoods; seasonality of food in security and employment including migration patterns. In addition, community interviews were carried out in eight randomly selected communities to obtain contextual information about access to health and sanitation services, infrastructure, shelter, roads, markets and recent shocks and coping mechanisms**

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- The 2011 CFSVA found that at the national level, about 145,119 persons (based on 2003 population estimates) are food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity representing approximately 11% of the total population.
- There is a notable variation within the country where:
 1. a significantly higher proportion of food insecure or vulnerable population well above the national average level was found in areas that are predominantly urban;
 2. areas with high poverty levels were more likely to have a higher proportion of food insecure and/or vulnerable households; and
 3. the highest incidence of food insecurity and vulnerability was found among whose primary livelihood sources are non agricultural wages, production and sale of cash crop and self employment.

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- According to the 2011 CFSVA, at the time when the survey was conducted, approximately 27% of Gambian households were engaged in a coping strategy by limiting portion size at meal times and more than 50% by relying on less preferred and less expensive food .

conclusion

- Given the current rainfall and price trends, the impact on household food security is expected to be negative for the period to come.
- Most likely to be affected are groundnut farmers whose terms of trade have already deteriorated in 2011, particularly those living in areas which experienced low rainfall in the period under review (i.e. WCR, NBR and LRR).
- Most at risk are also the poorest households in urban areas, in particular non- agricultural wage laborers and self-employed who have the highest and above average proportion of food insecure and vulnerable people as compared to other livelihood groups.
- The vulnerability situation of the poor in general might be further aggravated by another looming global financial crisis.

Recommendations

- •Price levels for cereals and fuel as well as rainfall patterns should be monitored closely.
- •Early warning predictions on potential agricultural output for 2011 should be readily available.
- •Early warning information on rainfalls should be transmitted to farmers for timely planting and risk management..
- •Monitor Terms of Trade (ToT) for urban livelihoods (e.g. waged labour) and remittance levels to capture the food security outlook in urban and peri-urban areas.
- •Conduct additional market assessments on cross-border trade flows and transaction costs.
- **The 2011 CFSVA recommends some broad strategic interventions by WFP and partners in the area of food security monitoring, poverty and chronic malnutrition, disaster preparedness and response and social safety net.**
- **Medium to long-term interventions are required to protect and strengthen livelihoods of the food insecure and vulnerable and increase their resilience to future shocks.**

Recommendations contd.

- **Set up a food security monitoring system (FSMS) .**
- **Focus on household income and livelihoods in food security policies and interventions**
- **Invest in addressing chronic malnutrition and improving nutrition and care practices**
- **Reinforce disaster preparedness and response measures with focus on household coping and resilience**
- **Develop social safety net schemes as part of the national food security strategy**
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- I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION