



AFRICARE FOOD SECURITY REVIEW



AFSR 2008 Paper Summaries (as of October 2008)

AFSR No. 9: The Link between Health/Nutrition and Household Vulnerability for Phase II of the Zondoma Food Security Initiative in Burkina Faso: MAHFP as a Tool for Targeting Project Interventions (12 pp., 105 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper9>) Ambroise Nanéma, Jean Parfait Wenceslas Douamba, Koudougou Achile Segda, and Rosine Cissé, 2008.

This paper demonstrates the utility and identifies the challenges of using the Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) as a tool for linking vulnerability and health/nutrition practices, based on the findings of the baseline study of the Zondoma Food Security Initiative, Phase II (ZFSI Phase II) in Burkina Faso. This paper specifically explores feeding practices and nutrition of pregnant or lactating woman and young children, child and mother health and treatment practices, and household access to water to see if they vary by household food security level. This data is intended to be used to inform ongoing intervention strategies with specific goals of improving mother and child health.

AFSR No. 10: Comparative Research/Analysis--Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning in Africare's Title II Food Security Programs (34 pp., 232 KB PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper10>) Judy C. Bryson and Leah A.J. Cohen, 2008.

Africare identified the need to review the relationship of one of its key measurements of food security, the Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP), across different country programs, both in absolute terms and as compared to other impact indicators. The ICB's focus on comparing MAHFP with other indicators and measures of food insecurity has led to the analysis presented in this paper, which compares the trends detected by the Africare MAHFP measure with those detected by Africare's Food Security Community Capacity Index (FSCCI) and standard anthropometric measurements, such as stunting and feeding practices of children.

AFSR No. 11: Direct Distribution of Commodities for People Living with HIV/AIDS: Lessons Learned from Rwanda and Burkina Faso (12 pp., 118 KB PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper11>) Stacey Maslowsky, Sidikiba Sidibé, and Leah A.J. Cohen, 2008.

This paper presents some of the initial experiences and preliminary observations from Burkina Faso and Rwanda where two Title II pilot projects (FY05-FY09) were executed in which food aid was used to improve the living standards and nutritional status of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The review of the pilot activities produced three main recommendations for the continued period of the pilot projects and future initiatives that focus on improving nutrition and food security of people living with HIV. These included the need for effective indicators to track progress, the need for sharing information on these new activities between country programs, and the need tailoring nutrition education to the specific needs of people living with HIV.

AFSR No. 12: The Success of the Hearth Model in Guinea (17 pp., 202 KB PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper12>) Stacey Maslowsky, Sidikiba Sidibé, and Bonaventure B. Traoré, 2008.

This paper contributes to USAID's ability to document field-level impacts of Title II activities through success stories by describing an early impact of one of Africare's Title II success stories: the Hearth Model program in Guinea. The Hearth Model provides care and support to these children through promotion of locally available, culturally appropriate, and affordable food products while simultaneously promoting behavior changes of their primary guardians related to caring practices, including hygiene, dietary practices, and health care. Its success in substantially lower severe and moderate malnutrition in children is attributed (in part) to the low cost, strong buy-in by communities, participation and endorsement by the government, a participatory approach, and use of local foods.

AFSR No. 17: Guidance: How to Measure the Number of Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) Based on Quantitative Methods and Isolating Food Aid Provisions (16pp., 183 KB PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper17>) Issa Konda, Ronaldo Sigauque, and Pascal Payet with Annex A by Simeon Nanama, 2008.

Africare designed the indicator Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) to assess the extent of food insecurity in project areas, to develop and initiate intervention strategies, to target vulnerable households, and to assess and track progress made in improving food security throughout the life spans of food security interventions (FSIs). As part of its Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) grant (FY04-FY08) from USAID/DCHA/FFP, Africare identified the need to analyze the questionnaires used by field teams in food security projects to ultimately develop a sound, standardized quantitative measurement of MAHFP. This assessment resulted in distinguishing between two different methods for measuring the MAHFP indicator that have been used by

Africare programs that are useful in different ways: MAHFP-PRA (Africare's guidance on this is AFSR No. 1) and MAHFP-average. This guidance supplements the FANTA guidelines on MAHFP-average (Bilinsky and Swindale 2007) by taking into consideration the type and source of food provisioning (mainly distinguishing food aid from other household food provisions). It offers a revised questionnaire format for considering food aid that uses five main questions and provides an Excel tool (Annex C, Part 2: Africare MAHFP-average Excel Tool, Household Response Record Sheet and Data Calculation Sheet) for data entry and calculation through embedded formulas.

AFSR # 24: Use of MAHFP to Track Vulnerability in Households of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Food Security Programs in Burkina Faso: A Focus on Food Security Status, Household Risk Factors, and Selected Nutritional Concerns Specific to PLHIV (31pp., 284 KB PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper24>) BADIÉL, Baya Valentin; Jean Wenceslas Parfait DOUAMBA; Leah A.J. COHEN; and Manuel TAHYO, 2008.

This paper describes the results of a pilot study on how the level of household food security (based on the Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning [MAHFP] indicator) relates to a number of socio-economic household characteristics and selected nutritional concerns specific to people living with the human immunodeficiency virus (PLHIV) in Africare/Burkina's Zondoma Food Security Initiative, Phase II (ZFSI II) intervention area. The paper makes recommendations on the types of data that should be collected through routine and specialized questionnaires and interventions that aim to reduce vulnerability of households with PLHIV. It provides the original questionnaire used to gather data for this study, as well as a revised questionnaire to be field tested that takes into consideration the recommendations and lessons learned from this study.

Africare Food Security Review
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