



AFRICARE FOOD SECURITY REVIEW



Complete List and Summaries of AFSR Papers (updated October 2008)

AFSR No. 1: Guidance: How to Measure the Number of Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) Based on Participatory Rural Appraisals in Food Security Interventions (13 pp., 210 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper1>) Africare, 2007.

Africare uses its measure 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. This guidance has been developed as a practical tool for field agents of Africare and other Cooperating Sponsors (CS) for measuring and using MAHFP based on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques (hereafter referred to as MAHFP-PRA). In the MAHFP-PRA method food security committees qualitatively come to an agreement about the percentages of households in different categories of food security based on the group's perception of MAHFP.

AFSR No. 2: Guidance: How to Measure the Food Security Community Capacity Index (FSCCI) (13 pp., 210 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper2>) Africare, 2007.

Over twelve years ago Africare developed the Food Security Community Capacity Index (FSCCI) to measure beneficiary communities' technical ability and knowledge (capacity) needed to deal successfully with issues related to food security in their communities. In the most recent update of the tool in 2004, the FSCCI was revised to better take into account the special capacities needed to cope with cyclical risks and shocks, specifically HIV/AIDS. This guidance has been prepared to provide staff of Africare and other Cooperating Sponsors (and the communities they serve) with a brief background on the evolution of this tool, a clear set of steps to use in measuring the FSCCI within beneficiary communities, and the different ways this tool can be used. Annex C., Part 2: "Tool for Entering Rankings and Calculating Scores for the FSCCI" is the MS Excel spreadsheet with the necessary mathematical formulas embedded that will automatically update the score as data are entered.

AFSR No. 3: Draft Guidance: How to Measure the Food Security Program Capacity Index (28 pp., 208 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper3>) Africare, 2007.

The Food Security Program Capacity Index (FSPCI) is a self-assessment tool that food security programs can use to measure their knowledge of important guidance and staff capacity in key programming areas. It currently consists of 10 elements, each of which measures one of the core capacities needed to design and execute a food security program. Aside from its use in measuring program capacity, the consensus-based method used to calculate the FSPCI is an important and effective tool for orienting new staff and refreshing existing staff on the key concepts that Africare uses in its Title II programs. This document is intended to be a draft guide for food security staff within Africare and other Cooperating Sponsors (CS) on how the tool is being revised and how it should be calculated. Although the index provided here focuses on the basic skills and guidance needed for food security programming, the template could be adapted to other types of programming. Annex A., Part 2: "Africare Food Security Program Capacity Index Review Form" is the MS Excel spreadsheet with the necessary mathematical formulas embedded that will automatically update the score as data are entered.

AFSR No. 4: Guidance: How to Compile a Success Story (13 pp., 632 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper4>) Judy C. Bryson and Nicole Eley, 2007.

In developing this guidance, Africare aimed to produce a simple and concise guidance for writing "success stories" to be used by Africare field staff and report writers, as well as relevant staff of other Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) and Cooperating Sponsors (CS). A success story illustrates a positive change in a Title II program by telling the "who, what, where, why, when, and how" of an individual, household, or community in an anecdotal story that represents the case of many. This guidance describes the six-step process for identifying a success story during routine project discussion groups, presents a suggested template for writing the success story, and makes suggestions for using photographs to enhance the success story's impact.

AFSR No. 5: Brief: Two Methods for Measuring Household Food Security and Vulnerability—Evidence from the Zondoma Food Security Initiative, Burkina Faso (5 pp., 84 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper5>) Simeon Nanama and Karim Souli, 2007.

Monitoring project impact on the most vulnerable portion of the population has been a central objective of Phase II of Africare's Zondoma Food Security Initiative in Burkina Faso. Given this focus, this paper provides the results of an analysis (conducted in 2005) of two methods of classifying vulnerable households: the Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) and a questionnaire-based method for assessing food security and vulnerability developed by Cornell University and the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) project.

AFSR No. 6: Brief: Community Based Use of the FSCCI to Identify and Manage Risk in Uganda (11 pp., 114 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper6>) Florence Tushemerirwe and Della E. McMillan, 2007.

This paper presents the results of the research on the use of the Food Security Community Capacity Index (FSCCI) in Africare's Uganda Food Security Initiative (UFSI) and summarizes the lessons learned; including recommendations for how the FSCCI can be used to increase the capacity of communities to manage risk. These lessons have fed into the revision of the FSCCI guidance (see above) that was completed at the Institutional Capacity Building (ICB)-supported workshop in September 2007.

AFSR No. 7: Use of a Revised Version of the FSCCI to Identify and Manage Health and Nutrition Risks and Vulnerability in Guinea (12 pp., 131 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper7>) Prosper Pogba, Sékou II Condé, Della E. McMillan, and Bonaventure Traoré, 2007.

Africare's Food Security Community Capacity Index (FSCCI) is normally used to summarize different aspects of community capacity by converting rankings on variables and indicators into one total score that serves as a standardized measure of community capacity. As important as general community capacity is to sustained food security initiatives, there are situations in which specialized capacities are also critical. This paper describes a new index (the FSCCI-SIAC or *Food Security Community Capacity Index – Systeme d'information a asise communautaire*). This index was developed by the Guinea Food Security Initiative (GnFSI) and uses some of the basic principals of the FSCCI to target the more specialized capacities that Title II programs need to implement effective growth monitoring promotion and nutritional rehabilitation programs. This paper shows ways that the FSCCI-SIAC can be used to identify districts that are vulnerable in terms of weak capacity to design and manage village-based growth monitoring and rehabilitation programs.

AFSR No. 8: Identifying and Managing a Major Shock: Case Study of the Title II Funded Guinea Food Security Initiative (9 pp., 110 KB, PDF at <http://www.africare.org/news/tech/ASFR-intro.php#paper8>) Sidikiba Sidibé, Della E. McMillan, and Bonaventure B. Traoré, 2007.

Africare has used its experience in the Title II funded Guinea Food Security Initiative (GnFSI) to examine how investments in organizational capacity of village and district community groups have facilitated the early detection of a major shock, monitoring of famine conditions during the food crisis, and emergency food aid distribution, as well as assistance in managing the response to the shock with project and non-project resources. This paper provides:

- A brief background review of USAID's emerging concern with better understanding the role of shocks and risk in food security planning;
- An analysis of the role played by the GnFSI growth monitoring promotion system in the early identification of a major shock that occurred during the life time of the project;
- An analysis of the role of the project in managing the crisis; and

- An assessment of the extent to which the impact of GnFSI's crisis management can be detected through the project's existing monitoring and evaluation indicators, in particular the MAHFP (Month of Adequate Household Food Provisioning) and the FSCCI (Food Security Community Capacity Index).

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>) BADIEL, 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.

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