

# ROSA Watch

**Rosa Watch** is a monthly bulletin that aims to bring you up-to-date useful information about food security, and do so rapidly and directly.

Each issue has:

- 1) a main subject with a common database of reference documents available from the **ROSA online library**
- 2) a selection of new documents put online and regularly updated by a watch on subjects dealt with by the network.

**In this issue:**

→ **ROSA Document Database:**

On the subject of **analysis tools and information systems**

→ **ROSA News** - November 2009

Would you like to tell us about some news or a recently published article, or just make a comment? Contact the team of moderators ([animation@reseau-rosa.eu](mailto:animation@reseau-rosa.eu)). All contributions are welcome!

## THIS MONTH'S EDITORIAL

**This month's bulletin provides additional information to ROSA Focus N° 18 (October 2009)**

The theme of the Month's Highlight for October the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a food security analysis tool. ROSA Watch brings you a selection of articles focusing on food security analysis tools and information systems.

Early warning systems (EWS) are food security information systems aiming at predicting food availability for a country or a region. FEWS NET and GIEWS are the two main global EWS, you will find links to their portals and short descriptions. An assessment of regional EWS in sub-Saharan Africa brings relevant information on how they work.

The Household Economy Approach (HEA) provides information population's access to food, one of the dimensions of food security. HEA was developed by Save the Children and the FAO to study how households would face food hazard.

Analysis and decision helping tools use EWS and other sources of information as HEA. IPC combines many different indicators and provides a classification of the severity, scale and causes of food insecurity to improve decisions and response strategies. Nepal and West African cases are detailed, the latter being a tool derived from the IPC; the Harmonised Framework on vulnerability (CHB in French). Two reviews of the IPC deal with the strengths and weaknesses of this tool and how to improve it.

On ROSA's website, you will find material from information and training session in relation with the IPC.

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## ONLINE LIBRARY

### Information systems and Analysis tools

#### ***ROSA Focus – This month's highlight N°18 – IPC: using information to fight food insecurity (October 2009)***

Among the information systems and analysis tools on food insecurity, the IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) is particularly innovative. It uses many different indicators and provides a classification of the severity, scale and causes of food insecurity to improve decisions and response strategies. This Month's highlight draws a picture of the use of IPC focusing on its analysis and dialog functions. The use of the IPC tool in many countries and regions of the world questions its adaptability to various contexts. However, it is only right to ask a certain number of questions about the development of the IPC, how it can be applied and used, governed and institutionalized.

In English: [IPC, using information to fight food insecurity](#)

In French: [L'IPC, mettre l'information au service de la lutte contre la malnutrition](#)

#### ***Planning for the future. Assessment of food security early warning systems in sub-Saharan Africa - FAO (2006)***

The crippling famines of the 1970s and 1980s in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) prompted the development of national and regional early warning systems (EWS) across the continent. Several key emerging issues pose increasing challenges to EWS in the region. Strengthening EWS was identified in the Cairo Plan of Action as a priority area for cooperation between the African Union and European Union to improve food security in Africa. In this context has conducted an assessment of EWS in sub-Saharan Africa in order review strengths and weaknesses and provide technical and institutional recommendations on actions to be taken.

The assessment was undertaken in three case study countries in each of three regions of SSA – West, Southern and Greater Horn. In each region the early warning activities of the main regional organization responsible for early warning on food security – CILSS, SADC and IGAD, respectively – were also analysed. The report discusses organization, methods, skills and

capacity of EWS in each case. From this review, it gives recommendation to improve decision making. These recommendations tackle institutional issues as well as more structural aspects (e.g. role of foreign funders).

The full report is available in English and synthesis of key findings and recommendation in English and French.

In English: [Assessment of food security early warning systems in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

In French: [Evaluation des systèmes d'alerte précoce en Afrique subsaharienne](#)

#### ***Strengthening the Food Security Phase Classification Approach in Nepal - SENAC project (December 2008)***

The report studies the application of the IPC programme in Nepal via the SENAC project (Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity), which used the approach for greater rigour and transparency. Based on this case study, recommendations are made to improve the IPC in general (particularly stakeholder participation and the operating methods of the team heading the IPC). The report goes on to specify the problems of differences in classification of stages of food security used in the project and those used by IPC, and the reference indicators that decide when insecurity is changing to a different stage. The report also suggests strengthening the decision support process at a regional level, and increasing discussion to reach consensus throughout the IPC process. It also makes recommendations on deciding which groups have a high risk of food insecurity. The report requests that IPC maps should be posted on the IPC website so that users can align their mapping protocols.

In English: [Strengthening the food security phase classification approach in Nepal](#)

#### ***Cadre Harmonisé Bonifié d'analyse permanente de la vulnérabilité courante (CHB), I. Dieng et al., CILSS-FAO-WFP (August 2009)***

This document presents current experiments in the Sahel using a new tool: the "Harmonised Framework for continuous analysis of current vulnerability" (CHB), which incorporates the previous Harmonised Framework (CH) for analysing and identifying vulnerable populations and the IPC. This new tool was created to provide an information system on vulnerability on which all the food security entities working in the region could agree. It also provides multi-sector analysis of food security during the hunger gap in 2009.

The CHB was tested in five countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad). The document presents the results of the test analysis for three of them (Mauritania, Niger, Senegal), since there was not enough time to process the information from the other countries. The administrative regions in each country were classified in phase 1 (Generally Food Secure), phase 2 (Moderate Food Insecurity) or phase 3 (Acute Food Insecurity). The report emphasises that the phases could not be determined in certain areas, in cities for example. The document then makes country-specific and general recommendations. The general recommendations highlight, for example, the importance of collecting data on adaptation mechanisms of households (insurance, crisis, distress mechanisms), health data and if possible data on transfers, particularly international transfers.

In French: [Cadre harmonisé bonifié d'analyse permanente de la vulnérabilité courante](#)

#### ***The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), A Review - RHVP (April 2007)***

This document begins by reviewing the various components of the IPC programme (reference table, mapping ...). Then it presents its strengths (one of IPC's advantages is to be a "common currency" for reporting used by all countries and donors). The study also reviews some ten drawbacks of the IPC, including the confusion that exists in stages 1 and 2 on the notions of length and severity of food insecurity, the question of availability of data and the lack of advice on how to carry out an analysis. For each of these weak points, the study suggests possible improvements. The document ends by producing a list of the advantages of using IPC in Sub-Saharan Africa, and a list of the resources and capacities needed for implementing the programme.

In English: [The IPC, a review](#)

#### ***Global IPC Partnership, Final Evaluation (draft version) - FAO (August 2009)***

This report presents the results of a final evaluation of the IPC programme run throughout the summer of 2009, and based on the mid-term evaluation carried out in 2008. It aims to give a progress report of the programme and propose strategic actions to be implemented in the short and medium term. The evaluation focused particularly on the timeliness of the activities implemented, the appropriateness of the technical and institu-

tional support and how the lessons learned from experience were incorporated to adjust the IPC approach. The conclusions and recommendations come under six main headings: 1) consistency and relevance of the programme; 2) effectiveness and efficiency of programme management (with recommendations particularly on governance structure, coordination and communication strategy); 3) capacity building (training, documentation, capitalisation); 4) technical issues and quality assurance; 5) institutionalisation of the programme (still very limited); 6) deployment of IPC in countries and regions.

In English: [Global IPC partnership. Final evaluation](#)

#### ***The practitioners' guide to household economy approach - Save the Children (2008)***

The Household Economy Approach (HEA) was developed in the early 1990s by Save the Children and the FAO. Its initial aim was to improve FAO's ability to predict short-term changes in a population's access to food in case of famine. The HEA describes the way in which typical households, with defined asset/wealth group characteristics, live in 'normal' times, and then tries to predict the effects of changes in the external environment. It is based on a wide range of sources (interviews, statistics, market prices).

A set of 3 guides has been issued in 2008, designed for practitioners, policy-makers and trainers. The practitioners' guide is aimed at those carrying out HEA assessments on the field. Each chapter, used as a 'module', contains material on a particular aspect of HEA, including how to lead a HEA assessment or how to analyse the results and which measures should be taken considering these results.

All the chapters, as well as examples, are available on the [page](#) dedicated to this guide.

In English: [The practitioners' guide to household economy approach](#)

#### ***On ROSA's Website Documents on the IPC***

The section « looking back on past events » compiles material from training and seminars on the IPC.

- [Donors meeting and European Commission information session, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009, Brussels](#)

On May 12th, representatives from the EC, CIDA, DFID, SIDA and USAID met in Brussels

with a representation of the IPC partnership. They were briefed about the initiative and its current state of development. It was also an opportunity to gather feedback from donors about the IPC and to discuss about future strategic orientations and funding perspectives.

On the following day, ECHO and the JRC invited colleagues from DG DEV, RELEX and AIDCO to meet with representatives from the IPC partnership. The purpose of the meeting was to explain in detail the IPC tool and its implementation process.

- [Review and consultation workshop on the IPC, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Johannesburg](#)

The purpose of the workshop was to engage with and consult IPC practitioners, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, and review IPC implementation to date in the regions, and particularly on past experience, progress and lessons learnt. The expected outcome was to reach agreement on a framework for the future development of IPC in the sub-regions (East and Central Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa).

### Early warning systems websites

- [\*Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEWS NET\)\*](#)

FEWS NET is a **USAID**-funded activity that collaborates with international, regional and national partners to provide early warning and vulnerability information on food security issues. FEWS NET professionals in the Africa, Central America, Haiti, Afghanistan and the United States monitor and analyze data and information in terms of its impacts on livelihoods and markets to identify potential threats to food security.

The website is available in English and French.

- [\*Global Early Warning System\*](#)

The System aims to provide policy-makers and policy-analysts with the most up-to-date information available on all aspects of food supply and demand, warning of imminent food crises, so that timely interventions can be planned. The website, coordinated by the **FAO**, publishes regular reports on food production and markets prospects, as well as occasional regional or country reports in regard with food security situation.

[GIEWS Workstation](#) consists of customized tools that include country cereal balance sheets, software for the display and analysis of maps and satellite images, and an electronic news service.

This [page](#) provides useful information to use the workstation.

The website is available in English and French.

## ROSA NEWS

### New documents online

*Scaling up nutrition: What will it cost? - Horton et al., World Bank (2009)*

This report deals with the resources needed to eradicate malnutrition. More specifically, it evaluates the cost of taking a package of 13 interventions that are recognised as effective for nutrition and scaling it up to all target groups in the 36 countries most affected by malnutrition. The actions cover a part of the interventions listed in *The Lancet* series in 2008 (see [ROSA Watch N°2](#)), and fall into three groups: 1) actions aiming at changing behaviour; 2) actions using micronutrients and anthelmintic drugs (for children under five, pregnant women and the whole population); and 3) actions providing food supplements and therapeutic additives (children aged 6 to 23 months with moderate malnutrition and children under 5 with severe malnutrition). The report evaluates the cost of the first two types of interventions, to which would be added the cost of reinforcing capacities, monitoring and evaluation, research and technical assistance for implementing the programme. The total cost would be US \$5.5 billion per year. For the second stage, implementing the third type of interventions, including monitoring and evaluation, research and technical assistance, the total cost would be US \$6.3 billion per year. So the total annual investment needed is US \$11.8 billions. These estimates include not only the cost of the action, but also *how* it should be done. The interventions could be carried out mainly through the local health system, but new sources of funding must be found. However, the positive impact would be very high.

In English: [Scaling up nutrition. What will it cost?](#)

*Accelerating progress toward reducing child malnutrition in India - von Braun et al., IFPRI (January 2008)*

40 % children in situations of malnutrition in the world live in India. Existing Social Safety Net programmes and Nutritional Improvement programmes have not made an effective impact on the problem, despite positive results in some



States. This is because they are not part of a genuine global nutrition strategy. This Note reviews a certain number of experiences in Thailand, China, Vietnam and Brazil that provide keys to what a global strategy could look like. Certain common points that are essential for a food strategy emerge from these case studies, such as service-centred nutritional policy, incentive policies based in the local community and households, and policies supported by social mobility and community-based primary health systems. These measures can be implemented concurrently.

The Note proposes that India should concentrate its efforts to eradicate malnutrition on four strategic approaches: 1) ensuring that policies for economic growth or poverty reduction really benefit the poor; 2) revising health policies ensuring that they improve nutrition, and improving the implementation and scope of health policies; 3) increasing investments and actions in communities where the greatest numbers of poor people live; 4) targeting improved health and nutrition of women and young girls.

In English: [Accelerating progress toward reducing child malnutrition in India](#)

***Nutrition in early life: a global priority -The Lancet vol. 374 (October 2009)***

Good nutrition during early years is essential for good health as an adult. The question is all the more important at this time when the global economic crisis is having a great effect on the most vulnerable families in developing countries. For example, a restriction of food supply to the foetus is associated with cardiovascular adult diseases.

In the light of the World Health Summit that took place in Berlin in October, this article highlights the importance of acting on the malnutrition of children under 3, illustrated by a study in Brazil. This observation questions the relevance of nutrition programmes targeting school children, i.e. children aged 5 and over, who receive a lot of support in health policies.

In English: [Nutrition in early life: a global priority](#)

***Fertiliser subsidies and social cash transfers - Franck Ellis, RHVP (October 2009)***

As mentioned in [this month's highlight](#) last July, fertiliser subsidies have received a lot of attention, and praise for success in combating food insecurity and poverty.

This article reviews the debates on fertilizer subsidies, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. While they have been successful in boosting production overall, they have number of limits: they can take a heavy toll on national budget, poorer farmers cannot afford the subsidized price. Nevertheless fertilizer subsidies can be part of a broad portfolio of social transfers instruments.

The author, Franck Ellis, starts with the background of this tool and gives a comparison with social cash transfers. Then Malawi case is studied. This country has had a well-known fertilizer subsidy policy for the past four years, but its cost has doubled between 2008 and 2009 for many reasons. The author explores alternatives for the government to implement other social transfers. Finally Malawi experience is compared to Zambia, neighbouring country that has implemented a fertilizer subsidy policy.

In English: [Fertiliser subsidies and social cash transfers](#)

*This bulletin was written by the GRET team in charge of animating ROSA (Operational Food Security Network). It is an initiative of AIDCO E6 (thematic support for food security, rural development and environment) in collaboration with AIDCO G4 (Training and Knowledge Management). The viewpoints expressed do not in any case represent the official European Commission viewpoint.*