



FEWS NET South Sudan Food Security Specialist: Scope of Work

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is a leading global provider of objective, evidence-based food security information and analysis. Created in 1985 in response to famines in East and West Africa, the project provides global coverage with a mix of presence and remote monitoring countries. The FEWS NET implementing team includes NASA, NOAA, USGS, USDA, Kimetrica, and Chemonics International, the last of which manages the Washington-based technical office and more than 20 field offices.

Based on an in-depth understanding of local livelihoods, FEWS NET analysts monitor information and data on factors that affect food security, such as weather conditions and climate, crops, pasture, markets and trade, and nutrition. FEWS NET produces regular reports including Food Security Outlooks (FSOs) and FSO Updates, emergency alerts, market and price updates, and global weather hazards. The project also produces specialized research products on food security drivers and crosscutting issues, such as climate change and resilience. FEWS NET makes reports available at www.fews.net and distributes them globally to governments, relief agencies, and other organizations engaged in humanitarian response and development programs.

The ongoing third phase of FEWS NET (2012-2018) relies on close collaboration with international, regional, and national partners on food security analysis and reinforcement of food security networks. Major activities include joint monitoring and assessments, data exchanges, collaborative analysis and report writing, and training. FEWS NET supports local and regional food security networks to contribute to achieving the global objective of food security for all.

Position Description

FEWS NET maintains offices in a number of countries in Africa, Central America, Central Asia, and the Caribbean. As needed, Food Security Specialists (FSSs) provide technical and administrative leadership in country offices, including supporting the collection of, directly collecting, and analyzing collected food security and nutrition information. Where necessary, FSSs may also support remote monitoring in selected countries. FSSs are a member of the national technical team in FEWS NET field offices. They work under the supervision of the National Technical Manager (NTM) for the country or his/her designate to support tasks in the following areas:

- Efficient, focused food security and nutrition monitoring, data collection, assessment, and early warning analysis
- Effective communication of early warning analysis to partners and decision-makers through contributions to high quality reports and, when appropriate, participation in formal and informal meetings
- Close collaboration with key network partners, including host-government ministries, United Nations (UN) agencies (e.g., WFP, FAO, and UNICEF), and international, regional, and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), among others

The FSS will assist the NTM to provide quality control for the deliverables of the project and will help ensure that activities and products are delivered in a timely manner.

Activities

The main activities of the FSS include, but are not limited to:

- Developing and updating seasonal food security and nutrition monitoring plans and conducting rapid assessments based on these plans

- Reporting on assessment findings related to the food security, nutrition, and livelihoods situations and preparing associated technical trip reports and technical written and oral briefing information
- Monitoring changes in the income, expenditure, and consumption patterns of specified populations and the associated impacts of these changes on their livelihoods
- Participating in multi-agency humanitarian needs assessments as necessary, and providing verbal and written briefings during the field trip and/or upon returning from the field on the food security and nutrition situation of the area assessed
- Participating in and contributing to FEWS NET's regular FSO and scenario development processes, contingency planning, and other similar activities
- Contributing to maintenance and updating of the FEWS NET's knowledge base in the country where they work. This knowledge base is composed of, at a minimum, livelihood zone profiles, commodity trade flow maps, sub-national seasonal monitoring calendars, a commodity price database, a nutrition database, and other technical databases covering rainfall, agricultural production, population, historical assistance flows, etc.
- Providing high quality and effective early warning of threats to food security and supporting efforts to mitigate food insecurity and prevent food crises through the effective communication of actionable food security and nutrition analysis
- Implementing, in collaboration with the FEWS NET NTM, aspects of the country's network development plan within the context of the project's network development strategy
- Collaborating with national, regional, and international partners in food security and nutrition monitoring and analysis through the implementation of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) protocols
- Contributing to efforts to collect, archive, analyze, and share food security and nutrition data and information
- Organizing the documentation and files of the project and updating all essential data used in early warning and food security and nutrition monitoring and assessment
- Contribute to the fulfillment of monthly reporting requirements, including FSOs, FSO Updates, and key messages, and providing up-to-date data and information for regular briefings to the US Government and other partners
- Contributing to other FEWS NET information products as required locally and at all other levels
- Contributing to FEWS NET's overall methods development and testing
- Other related tasks as assigned

The FSS will work in collaboration and coordination with other FEWS NET colleagues based in Juba and elsewhere in East Africa, as well as with the Washington DC-based Decision Support Group and technical advisors, and any other technical staff, as appropriate, to ensure high technical standards and timeliness of the FEWS NET products and activities to which they contribute. The FSS will be required to travel regularly within South Sudan, and some international may also be required.