



REMOTE MONITORING

Expanding the reach of food security analysis

NEW CHALLENGES, MORE COVERAGE Since the 2008 global food price crisis, the risk of food insecurity has continued to rise in unexpected places. In 2010, FEWS NET responded to the need for information on these new areas of concern by developing a lighter, scalable version of its traditional methodology. This approach, known as remote monitoring, emphasizes identification and monitoring of anomalies that might lead to food insecurity.

REMOTE MONITORING IN PRACTICE A FEWS NET coordinator covers a portfolio of countries, typically from a nearby regional office. Relying on a network of partners to collect and share data, the coordinator analyzes available information and produces monthly, two-page reports describing the current and projected food security situation. The reports are distributed electronically and published on FEWS NET's website, www.fews.net. Remote monitoring begins with a four-to-six month startup phase:

- FEWS NET coordinator conducts in-country consultations to build relationships with key stakeholders
- A food security expert undertakes a research process comprising a desk review, livelihood mapping exercise, and market context statement or flow map
- Partners collaborate on a framework for analysis with a monitoring plan

With the start-up work complete, monitoring begins. From there, the FEWS NET coordinator will visit a country once or twice each year. Other times, email and other communications facilitate regular dialogue and the exchange of information.

EARLY WARNING ON ANOMALIES While offering less detail and depth than reports from FEWS NET presence countries—where at least one full-time analyst is devoted to data collection and analysis—remote monitoring reports are useful for monitoring trends and identifying deteriorating conditions. Should a situation in a given country worsen or otherwise require deeper analysis, FEWS NET has the ability to expand data collection and reporting.

FEWS NET IN BRIEF

Created by USAID in response to the 1984 famines in East and West Africa, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) provides early warning and integrated, forward-looking analysis of the many factors that contribute to food insecurity. FEWS NET aims to:

- Inform decision-makers and contribute to their emergency response planning
- Support partners in conducting early warning analysis and forecasting
- Provide technical assistance to partner-led initiatives

FEWS NET RM COUNTRIES

As of January 2015

Angola	Liberia
Burundi	Madagascar
Central African Republic	Nicaragua
El Salvador	Rwanda
Guinea	Senegal
Honduras	Sierra Leone
Lesotho	Tajikistan
	Tanzania

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Through remote monitoring, FEWS NET seeks to support existing food security monitoring systems, rather than replace or duplicate them. Collaboration works because the result—evidence-based analysis—enhances the efforts of all partners. Other benefits include:

- Increased access to regional, cross-border, and remote-sensing data and analysis
- Exchange of technical expertise and training on topics such as: the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC 2.0), livelihood research, and scenario development
- New channels of communication with decision-makers around the world.

HOW PARTNERS WORK TOGETHER

National partners: Government agencies for agriculture, statistics, and food security; UN agencies; regional groups; and international and local NGOs provide data on local markets, trade, seasonal progress, livelihoods, etc.

US science partners: The US Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and US Department of Agriculture provide rainfall, vegetation, and other agro-climatology information.

FEWS NET: A remote monitoring coordinator, with technical support from the Washington D.C. home office, manages the analysis and report-writing.

FEWS NET reports are available at www.fews.net, by email subscription, and via Facebook and Twitter @FEWSNET.

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