

Sunflower Seed oil, (crude), bulk
Vegetable oil, (CDSO) bulk
Vegetable oil, refined bulk
Wheat, Hard, Red, Spring, bulk
Wheat, Hard, Red, Spring, bulk, w/bags
Wheat, Hard, Red, Winter, bulk
Wheat, Hard, Red, Winter, bulk, w/bags*
Wheat, Hard, White, bulk, w/bags
Wheat, Northern, Spring, bulk
Wheat, Northern, Spring, bulk, w/bags
Wheat, Northern, Spring, Dark, bulk
Wheat, Northern, Spring, Dark, bulk, w/bags*
Wheat, Soft, Red, Winter, bulk
Wheat, Soft, Red, Winter, bulk, w/bags
Wheat, Soft, White, Winter bulk
Wheat, Soft, White, Winter, bulk, w/bags

which clears the market by equating quantity supplied and quantity demanded. This definition of market performance is insufficient from a food security perspective because a price increase which substantially diminishes the purchasing power of households, though an equilibrium, has undesirable social outcomes which threaten food security. For this reason, we turn to the S-C-P concept of market performance.

Within the S-C-P framework, markets are said to perform well if they achieve socially-desirable goals such as availability of a sufficient quantity, diversity, and quality of goods to satisfy demand at prices which are “fair” to traders, producers, and consumers. Fair prices ensure reasonable margins to traders, enabling them to continue engagement in that market. Fair prices to consumers assure that a cross-section of the population is able to access goods via the market. Short and long-term price stability, as well as market efficiency, are indicators of market performance. **Market performance is derived from basic conditions, market structure, and market conduct.**

Basic conditions broadly describe basic traits of the country and economy, including seasons and seasonality, infrastructure, consumption characteristics such as elasticities⁷³ and income distribution, stability, government policies, and incentives for producers and traders.

Basic conditions set the parameters for **market structure**, which comprises the relatively stable features that influence the behavior of market participants. Features of market structure include the number and concentration of buyers and sellers, barriers to entry and exit, vertical and horizontal coordination, and licensing requirements.

In conjunction, basic conditions and market structure influence **market conduct**, or the behavior of market actors. Price setting behavior, buying and selling practices, informal norms of trade, and information use are all aspects of market conduct.

As part of the market analysis, BEST will perform an assessment of the level of market integration. Where markets are well-integrated, price changes due to supply and demand shocks in one market are more easily transmitted to other markets. By dissipating the price effects, such shocks will have less of an impact on any one local market. Any effect of temporarily increasing the local food supply through localized food aid distribution will therefore be dampened wherever markets are well-integrated. Conversely, where markets are poorly integrated, prices are likely to decrease more significantly when food supply is increased with the addition of distributed food aid. Where time-series of market prices for key commodities relevant for food security are available or obtainable, BEST will assess the level of market integration through analysis of covariance of prices over time and across markets. These data

⁷³ Elasticities are a common way to describe the responsiveness of demand or supply to changes in prices or income. For example, the price elasticity of demand describes the percentage change in quantity demanded resulting from a percentage change in the price of a good, while the price elasticity of supply describes the percentage change in quantity supplied resulting from a percentage change in the price of a good. The income elasticity of demand describes the percentage change in quantity demanded in response to a percentage change in income. Importantly, price and income elasticities are very rarely available, and extremely difficult to collect. Elasticities are mentioned here solely for the purpose of tying these important concepts of supply and demand price responsiveness from economic theory to the qualitative indicators often relied upon in practice. For more details, please see Annex I and FEWS NET (2008b).

are generally, though not always, available by request to WFP and/or FEWS NET within the study country.

Step 10: Field Visit

The BEST field visit will involve filling in data gaps, triangulation of secondary data, and discussions with all key stakeholders to ensure an accurate and thorough analysis. Upon arrival, the BEST team shall first meet with USAID/FFP Mission personnel to come to a common understanding of the purpose of the assignment and outline the activity timetable.

Following the meeting with the mission, the BEST team will seek insights, data, studies, and reports through meetings with key government ministries, aid and development project offices, assessment committees and networks such as FEWS NET, United Nations offices (WFP/VAM and FAO), universities, and others. Insights into future initiatives that may impact food security in potential Title II intervention areas (e.g., a World Bank, Millennium Challenge Corporation, or other donor's planned program affecting agriculture) are more likely to be gained through these meetings than through desk review prior to the field visit.

In-depth meetings with the private sector—producer/farmer groups and associations, traders and other middlemen, processors, importers and exporters, and shippers—will be critical. Formal and informal intelligence gathered through these meetings will be key to understanding the latest market dynamics and future trends. Discussion with producers, processors, and traders⁷⁴ will provide an understanding of the factors affecting demand and supply of commodities with which a distributed commodity would likely compete. The overarching goal of such meetings in regards to the BEST analysis is to gain an understanding of the price responsiveness of supply and demand of select commodities, constraints to expansion, and inter-temporal arbitrage practices of traders that may be impacted by a supply increase via distributed food aid.

Travel to current and/or potential sites for Title II program implementation is an integral part of assessing potential impact of distributed food aid. Assessing conditions 'on the ground' allows a detailed contextual knowledge of demand and supply dynamics affecting local markets. It is generally not possible to gain such knowledge through desk review and, therefore, travel to the specific sites in the study country will be an essential component of every BEST study. In addition to meeting with current and potential Title II Awardees, informal discussions with current or potential beneficiaries can offer insights into the appropriateness of specific Title II commodities for distribution, including palatability, ease of preparation, and price and quality factors relevant to demand responsiveness.

The BEST study is not intended to evaluate current food aid programming, but may nonetheless make observations during field visits which can be instructive for future food aid programming. BEST will report general observations about current food aid distributions and any challenges to improving targeting effectiveness reported by current Awardees.

⁷⁴When combined with a monetization analysis, discussions with traders and potential buyers will also involve assessing their interest and ability to purchase commodities in various quantities.

Inspection of a sample of storage facilities in current use is required to assess the adequacy and cleanliness of storage facilities for distributed food aid. During inspections, the average storage time and frequency of fumigation will be noted.

In all cases, the visit should be completed with a private and candid briefing to relevant Mission personnel.

Step 11: Report Production

BEST will report results according to the agreed-upon report outline as detailed in the country study SOW. BEST team members should anticipate submission of an initial draft within approximately four to six weeks after conclusion of the field visit. FFP/W and the Mission will generally reply with comments, questions, and requests for clarification within two to three weeks of receipt of the initial draft. A final 508-compliant report must be submitted to FFP/W generally within two to three weeks of receipt of all FFP/W and Mission comments.

Annex VII.I BEST Rapid Assessment Tool

Producers

(If possible, speak with both small-scale and larger-scale producers.)

Agricultural

When did you settle?

How many acres (ha) do you have access to?

How many acres (ha) do you cultivate?

How many acres of maize? Wheat? Other grains (if appropriate)?

What other crops do you grow?

Which crops are you increasing? Which are you decreasing? Why?

How do you decide how many acres (ha) to devote to maize/wheat/small grains?

Are seeds and fertilizers available? Are they accessible? How much did you use/plan to use this year and how much did/will it cost?

What does your household need cash for?

How do you raise this cash?

How much maize/wheat/other grains did you produce for selling from the last harvest? How this did compare to other years?

How many months of household stocks do you currently have?

Who do you sell your maize/wheat/other grains/other crops to? Where do you go to sell? How do you get there, and how much does it cost?

What price do you receive when a trader comes to your farm to buy? When you travel to the market?

Are prices based on grades and standards? What are the prices for different grades?

Do you contract with any companies? If YES:

What company and for what commodity?

What do you receive and what do you give?

Are there problems with contract enforcement?

Are you a member of a farmer's cooperative? If so, what are the terms of membership and benefits?

Do you ever sell on credit? If yes, to whom do you provide credit and on what terms?

Do you ever buy inputs on credit? If yes, where do you receive this credit from?

Livestock

What is the size of your herd?

Have you utilized dipping services this year?

What are the current range conditions? Water conditions?

How many heads (large/small) did you sell last year? This year?

Food aid

Do you receive food aid? If so, how much? Do you know why you were chosen?

What is your household eating? How many meals a day are you taking?

If you don't have maize/wheat/other grains, what do you eat? How do you obtain this substitute food?

Does the community believe that the distribution reaches the people who need it most? Do you?

Do you ever sell/exchange food aid on the market for something you need more than food aid?

If there was no food aid, how would your farm change? More land cultivated? More staple crops?

Traders

(If possible, speak with small, medium, and large-scale traders.)

Background

What are the main agricultural commodities traded on this market?

What are the main cereals traded in this market?

When are grains/pulses plenty? What are the [standard unit, e.g., 1kg or 20kg] prices after harvest?

When are grains/pulses in short supply? What are the [standard unit] prices in the lean season?

What commodity do you trade, and how long have you been trading?

Structure

How many other traders are selling similar goods in this location?

Who are the big traders in grains/pulses/oils/livestock, and how what volumes do they transact?

Who are the market authorities, and what role do they play in the market?

Where do you get your grains/pulses/oils/livestock from? How far away is the source?

How many bags/liters/heads do you buy at a time? How often do you buy? Who do you buy from? How much does it cost to transport?

What is the condition of the roads between your source and destination markets? What are your transportation options?

Where do you store your goods? Where do big traders store their goods? What are the costs of storage?

Conduct

How do you know where to go to get low cost stock?

If the cost in your source market increases, what do you do?

What prevents more traders from entering into this market?

Does anything prevent traders from dropping out of this market?

How do you determine the price?

Do you ever buy on credit? If yes, from whom and on what terms?

Do you ever extend credit to buyers? If yes, to whom and on what terms?

Do your buyers want high quality or low prices? Why?

Performance

Costs: transport, loading/offloading, market fees, license fees, taxes, electricity, rent,...

How much profit can you find in [standard unit]?

What risks do traders have in grain/pulse/oil/livestock trade?

What prevents you from doubling the volume of your business?

Food Aid

If households had more purchasing power, could you increase your stocks? How long would it take to organize?

Do households ever sell or trade food aid? If so, which commodities do they sell/trade and for how much?

How does food aid affect your business?

Wholesalers/Retailers

If possible, speak with several wholesalers and retailers in each urban area.

What percentage of this market (local or regional) does your company supply?

How many other wholesalers / retailers of are there in this market? (if known, name them)

Where is the major source of commodity X (local, regional, import)?

Do you prefer to stock local or imported product? Why? Higher marketing margins? Less competition? Niche market?

What are current barriers to expansion of business? Access to credit? Lack of effective demand? Transportation costs that restrict possible geographic coverage?

In your opinion, has your business been affected by the food aid distribution program conducted in this area? If so, has it increased or decreased?

Local market spot checks

Observe whether there are any food aid commodities for sale. Title II? WFP?

If you suspect the food aid is Title II, copy down lot number from the back of can, or bottom of milled bag between the bottom seam and USAID label.⁷⁵

Ask for basic information from traders and wholesales in the local markets, including:

Normal prices

Consumers' preferences for different commodities, and grades of commodities

Do they notice any impact on their business from food aid distributions?

NGOs distributing food aid

What is targeting criteria (geographic targeting, household targeting, food delivery mechanisms)?

Do you have the capacity to implement and enforce the selection criteria?

Do you think households understand the targeting criteria?

⁷⁵ The lot number will tell you (1) something about market integration because you can trace back to origin and; (2) something about modality (if came from a MCJH, VGF, FFW etc) beneficiary, which can signal that you should investigate possible causes of inclusion errors associated with that specific intervention to see if it sheds light on necessary adjustments in targeting.

Do you have any 'lessons learned' from your own past programs or other NGOs' programs?

What are the greatest constraints to improving targeting?

If there is one thing you could change about the targeting process, what would it be?

How appropriate is the food aid program in terms of commodity type, ration size, delivery schedule, and venue?

Is the distributed food likely to be an "inferior good," one consumed in disproportionately greater quantities by the poor?

Annex VII. II Description of Proxy Indicators of Additionality

Among the possible proxy indicators of additionality are food consumption scores (or some other measure of actual consumption), a composite indicator of food security (such as through food security and vulnerability assessments), sources and levels of income (particularly extreme poverty), malnutrition rates, an estimated nutrition gap, or some combination of these indicators. Proxy indicators are typically available at the first administrative unit (e.g., province or district) and provide a gross measure of the relative additionality across sub-national administrative units. Thus, the proxy indicators can provide guidance on initial geographic targeting and volume of commodities that might be appropriate for distribution.

Nutrition or food gap

A nutrition or food gap estimate provides a measure of the difference between available food (proxied by domestic food production) and the amount of food needed to support a specific per capita daily nutritional standard (generally 2100 kcal per person per day, although FAO estimates have been revised and are now country-specific). If estimated on a more localized level (i.e., at the level closer to the communities in which a cooperating sponsor would implement a distributed food aid program), a nutrition or food gap can provide a very useful measure of that volume of food which is not currently supplied by local production and/or markets, and which would represent an appropriate volume under a proposed Title II non-emergency food aid distribution program to assure minimal to no disincentive effect. In order to estimate a sub-national food or nutrition gap, it is necessary to collect data on population, production and trade flows within relevant catchment areas. Collection of trade flow data at a sub-national level is an extremely time-consuming and expensive undertaking and outside the present BEST scope of work. For the purposes of the distribution analysis, one or more proxy indicators of 'additionality' are used to characterize the relative food or nutrition gap at the sub-national level.

One source of estimated food deficits is FAO's new "depth of hunger" estimates, which provide national averages for the estimated food deficit of undernourished populations in countries across the globe. These figures provide a useful national benchmark which can be used prior to conducting formative research in proposed target communities to determine in more precise detail the average household deficits of beneficiary households. While the BEST report may make use of these figures to develop an illustrative household ration under PM2A, for example, the analysis will nevertheless maintain the use of proxy indicators of 'additionality' to characterize the relative food or nutrition gap at the sub-national level in order to provide initial geographic targeting guidance.

Food Consumption Scores/Composite indicators of food security

A Food Consumption Score⁷⁶ (FCS) is collected via household surveys, and is generally based on a 7-day recall of food consumption. The weighted score reflects both dietary diversity and

⁷⁶ For details on the calculation, use and validity of food consumption scores and other measures of dietary diversity in food security analysis, please see (1) WFP's "Technical Guidance Sheet - Food Consumption Analysis: Calculation and Use of the Food

frequency of consumption of food items. Depending on whether the survey is implemented during a typical harvest or typical lean season will affect the validity of the FCS as a measure of average household food consumption. If, for example, the survey which derives the FCS is conducted during a favorable harvest period, households identified as food insecure using “poor FCS” as an indicator may reasonably be considered as chronically food insecure, since these households consumed very poor diets in favorable harvest periods.”

FCS is not a quantitative measure of a nutrition gap, and cannot be compared with the ration under the proposed food aid program to determine the extent to which the program fills (or potentially overfills) the ‘nutrition gap.’ However, a FCS does provide a snapshot of both the frequency and diversity of household staple consumption and is therefore a reasonable proxy indicator of the availability and access dimensions of food security and, to a lesser extent, the utilization dimension.⁷⁷

Composite indicators of food security, which encompass measures of both food consumption and food access, may be available instead of or in addition to a food consumption score. The food access measure provides an indicator of a household’s ability to produce or purchase food.⁷⁸

Extreme poverty

Extreme poverty is an indicator of a household’s inability to meet its basic nutritional requirements. Households living under conditions of “food poverty” lack enough income to purchase foods necessary to meet the energy and nutrient needs of all of their members, which is an indicator of poor access to food. Depending on intra-household distribution of food, it is typically assumed that at least one member of a food-poor household is always hungry, and potentially all members are hungry.⁷⁹

Extreme poverty is not a quantitative measure of a nutrition gap, and cannot be compared with the ration under the proposed food aid program to determine the extent to which the program fills (or potentially overfills) the ‘nutrition gap.’ is not a quantitative measure of any nutrition gap, which could then be compared with the ration under the proposed food aid program to determine by how much the ‘nutrition gap’ might be filled (or potentially overfilled) under the program. However, poverty is the best indicator of the access dimension of food security.

Consumption Score in Food Security Analysis”, accessible via http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp197216.pdf; (2) Wiesmann, Doris. June 2009. “Validation of the World Food Programme’s Food Consumption Score and Alternative Indicators of Household Food Security,” IFPRI Discussion Paper 870, Washington DC; and (3) Hoddinott, John and Yisehac Yohannes. 2002. “Dietary Diversity as a Food Security Indicator,” IFPRI Discussion Paper 136, Washington DC: IFPRI.

⁷⁷ The recent BEST analysis for Burundi’s FY2009-2014 PM2A initiative relied on Food Consumption scores as reported in the 2008 CFSVA. As reported in Wiesmann (2009) (see footnote 2 above), the FCS in Burundi was found to be well correlated with food security status.

⁷⁸ The recent BEST analysis for Liberia relied upon the “food insecure” and “highly vulnerable” categories of food insecurity as defined in Liberia’s 2006 Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey. This composite indicator of food consumption and food access was the best available indicator of the relative absorptive capacity of food aid on a county-level basis for Liberia.

⁷⁹ DeRose, Laurie, Ellen Messer and Sara Millman. 1998. Who’s hungry? And how do we know? Food shortage, poverty, and deprivation. United Nations University Press.

Though extreme poverty is not a quantitative measure of any nutrition gap, which could then be compared with the ration under the proposed food aid program to determine by how much the 'nutrition gap' might be filled (or potentially overfilled) under the program, extreme poverty is an indicator of a household's inability to meet its basic nutritional requirements; therefore, households living in extreme poverty can reasonably be considered households for whom food aid would likely represent additional consumption.

Prevalence of malnutrition in children

Chronic malnutrition (stunting, or low height-for-age) in children under five is an additional potential indicator of chronic food deficits. Malnutrition rates may reflect either inadequate intake, malabsorption due to infectious disease, or some combination of both. To the extent malnutrition rates reflect disease prevalence more than inadequate intake; any conclusions about food deficits drawn from malnutrition rates will be an inaccurate reflection of household food deficits. To the extent the prevalence of stunting reflects poor availability and/or poor access, such prevalence rates can appropriately inform geographic targeting from a Bellmon perspective.

Where a high percentage of households report both poor food consumption and poor food access, and surveys show high rates of chronic malnutrition in children under five, poor nutritional outcomes will likely be more responsive to food aid intended as supplemental nutrition. By geographically targeting areas where these indicators coincide, a PM2A program will help ensure that any given PM2A beneficiary household will more than likely increase overall household food consumption, and therefore represent additional consumption, relative to households in other geographic areas with lower rates of poverty and chronic malnutrition.

The most recent and reliable source of reliable district-level malnutrition rates is often available from Demographic and Health Surveys.

Recommended reading

Barrett, Christopher. 2002. "Food Aid Effectiveness: It's the Targeting, Stupid!" Cornell University Working Paper No. 2002-43.

FEWS NET. May 2008. "Structure-Conduct-Performance and Food Security." FEWS NET Market Guidance No. 2.

Hoddinott, John. 1999. "Targeting: Principles and Practice," IFPRI Technical Guidance No. 9.

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