



Republic of Mozambique

Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition

**Food Security and Nutrition Information
User Needs Assessment
FINAL DRAFT 15May06**

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SETSAN

Maputo, March 2006

www.setsan.org.mz



***“ Information for Action
- The Right Information at the Right Time”***

Title: Food Security and Nutrition Information User Needs Assessment
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Printing: SETSAN
Date: April, 2006

Produced with Technical and Financial Assistance of



UTF/Moz/071/ Moz



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ACRONYMS

CFSAM	FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission
CNCS	National Council Combating HIV/AIDS
CTGC	Disaster Management Technical Committee
DDA	District Directorate of Agriculture
DHAA	Right to (Adequate) Food
DINA	National Directorate of Agriculture
DPA	Provincial Directorate of Agriculture
ESAN	Food Security and Nutrition Strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWS-NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping Systems
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
GAPSAN	SETSAN - Food Security and Nutrition Early-Warning Group
INGC	National Institute for Disaster Management
INIA	National Institute for Agricultural Investigation
MIC	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MINAG	Agriculture Ministry
NGO's	Non Governmental Organizations
PARPA	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for Mozambique
PASAN	Action Plan for Food Security and Nutrition
PDD's	District Development Plan
PES	Economic and Social Plan
PMA	World Food Program
RVAC	SADC Regional Vulnerability Analysis Committee
SETSAN – C	Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition Central
SETSAN – P	Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition Provincial
UCEA	SETSAN - Agricultural Emergency Group
VAC/GAV	SETSAN - Vulnerability Assessment Committee
WFS	World Food Summit (Rome, 1996)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) is the national body responsible for the promotion of a holistic diagnosis of food security and nutrition (FSN) in Mozambique to facilitate appropriate and timely decision-making that diminishes the risks to and impacts of malnutrition and food insecurity. SETSAN is primarily a coordinating body, rather than an implementing body. Its activities fall mainly in the realm of diagnosis, monitoring, training and advocacy. With great success in the past five years, it has achieved technical viability and public visibility, conducted FSN training at national and provincial levels, and produced dozens of documents aimed to inform decision-makers in diverse emergency-mitigation, development-programming and policy-making roles.

SETSAN's information products and services have proven central to its mandate to coordinate appropriate, timely responses to situations of malnutrition and food insecurity by multi-sectoral FSN stakeholders. These stakeholders, including the Government of Mozambique at National, Provincial, and District levels, International Donors, UN Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations, are the principle consumers of FSN information. SETSAN's long-term usefulness and sustainability will be based on its capacity to fulfill the needs articulated by them. In this context, SETSAN and the FAO project to support SETSAN (financed by the EC) undertook a FSN User Needs Assessment to determine the specific needs of existing and potential key user groups, evaluate their current levels of satisfaction, and, based on this information, make recommendations to improve SETSAN information outputs at all levels providing orientation for the future work of the SETSAN Permanent Information and Policy Units.

A semi-independent study was carried out during the first ninety days of 2006 and relied mainly on qualitative methods- 80 guided interviews with sectoral representatives at National, Provincial and District levels- to collect data. Some quantitative data was used in the study based on the results of a brief questionnaire. The main themes explored were horizontal and vertical information flows, level-based needs vs. sector-based needs, and emergency-oriented needs vs. development-related needs. A significant trend emerged in interview results showing the need to further qualify SETSAN outputs as either information *products* or information *services*.

The report begins with a brief discussion devoted to relevancy, accuracy, and timeliness, of existing SETSAN products from which it is concluded that most existing users of SETSAN information find current products to be highly relevant and accurate, to the extent that they do not directly conflict with independent INGC assessments, but would prefer SETSAN to consider time windows for effective decision-making and tighten their timeframe for report dissemination. Study results indicate strong trends in FSN information usage patterns, for both SETSAN and non-SETSAN products. Specifically, it is shown that the most frequent source of FSN information for government institutions at all levels remains sector-specific publications and that a number of sectors (Health, Social Service and, to a lesser degree, Agriculture) would prefer collaboration with SETSAN on the production of information that can feed more directly into Ministerial directives and existing sectoral initiatives.

In terms of services, which include dissemination, training, media work, targeted presentations, and other intangibles that allow FSN information, SETSAN or

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otherwise, to positively impact decision-making, it is shown that within the government sector there are still some large hurdles to overcome. Specifically, there is still limited understanding of the multi-sectoral vision of FSN as articulated in the ESAN and as promoted by the SETSAN - making it hard for some sectors understand what their role is and how they could benefit from SETSAN FSN products. Thus targeted training in FSN and high-level lobbying are important first steps. Within the Government, technological constraints make email-based dissemination strategies, rapid and effective in Maputo, very difficult even at the Provincial level. Vertically-oriented information transfers make cross-sectoral information-sharing hard at intermediate levels. These observations lend strength to the conclusion that SETSAN's FSN information, while multi-sectoral in nature, will still require a sectoral strategy for effective dissemination.

Significant attention was given to District level decision-makers, as a yet-unexplored but potentially significant group of FSN information consumers. Study results show that they currently have high interest in, but extremely low levels of familiarity with SETSAN and its products. Specifically, District Administrators criticized the "extraction" of information which was never returned to them. Another notable information gap was identified in meteorological and market analysis. Districts require multiple paper copies of important reports, local case studies in which SETSAN has collaborated, and centrally-analyzed FSN information. They would also benefit from strategic FSN training. Based on the observed facility of horizontal information flow between different sectors at the district level, it is recommended that SETSAN capitalize on its newly decentralized structure, helping SETSAN-P develop reliable dissemination plans that facilitate District access to FSN documents in a timely manner and strengthen the relationship between SETSAN-P and District Administration.

Research within the NGO sector at National and Provincial levels shows a very different set of expectations, product needs, and information flow capacities. NGO's demonstrate high levels of familiarity with SETSAN products, specifically recognizing the value of Vulnerability Assessment reports. They are most critical of the lack of detail offered by SETSAN on a theme they consider critical for programming purposes, and offer a series of suggestions about how to achieve this detail by incorporating existing data-sets available in Government and NGO domains. At provincial levels, NGO's want to see greater SETSAN-P initiative and better coordination. In exchange, they have much to offer SETSAN-P in terms of mobility for site visits, baselines and case studies, and channels for information dissemination to the Districts in which they work.

International Donors and UN Agencies generally show the highest levels of familiarity with SETSAN information products and services, perhaps because of their historical partnerships with SETSAN. In terms of products, they need high quality and regular outputs, such as Vulnerability Assessment Reports, available in long and short versions and would prefer to see an extensive electronic library attached to SETSAN's website, with links to other major FSN information-producers. While they consider SETSAN's information accurate and well-presented, they also ask for more disaggregated data about chronically vulnerable groups. Also, they show a notable level of concern about institutional sustainability, seeking a clearer vision of SETSAN's long-term strategy and a more active role in advocacy, as well as and the resolution of certain ambiguities which currently exist between INGC and SETSAN. The study recommends that this user group be consulted more exhaustively for suggestions about appropriate insertion of SETSAN lobbies in the National arena and support in the facilitation of dialogue with INGC.

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In summary, some of the main conclusions and recommendations from this study (in no order) include:

1. There was consensus across all groups interviewed that SETSAN information is not only credible and relevant but critical to good decision-making at all levels.
2. The Government of Mozambique should be considered the most important consumer of SETSAN information products.
3. There is still significant awareness raising to do on the multisectoral dimensions of food security and the magnitude of the problem in Mozambique.
4. SETSAN at all levels can play a catalytic role bringing sectors together for the holistic analysis of FSN information and joint planning and priority setting.
5. Systematize and increase the distribution lists for all SETSAN products, particularly those targeted for provincial and district level users. Products must reach provincial and district levels in hard copy.
6. Keep the SETSAN website updated and expand.
7. Redefine terms of reference of SETSAN working groups and their outputs.
8. Harmonize with other existing information sources, particularly INGC
9. Make use of publications of other sectors and agencies for the dissemination of SETSAN information and analysis.
10. Standardize the presentation and content of SETSAN products (logos, names, design, types of information, etc.).
11. Information provided should be more detailed, specific, disaggregated and timely.
12. Improve the use and archival of secondary data and studies (electronic and physical archives/library).
13. Training on FSN information collection, analysis and dissemination urgently needed at provincial and district levels.
14. NGOs can be important players in the FSN information system – as producers, users, and conduits of information.
15. Non written forms of dissemination should be used more consistently.
16. There is an urgent need for a communication strategy
17. Continually monitor how SETSAN FSN information is being used and user satisfaction. Undertake a formal assessment once every three years.

INTRODUCTION

Principal Terms

In recent years there has been significant work done to clarify food security and vulnerability terminology. Not only has this facilitated communication between diverse actors and agencies working in related areas; it has also encouraged a conceptual revision of the characteristics of different kinds of food insecurity, taking into account increasingly complex causes and leading to more holistic mitigation approaches. For the purpose of clarity and, more importantly, consistency with the integrated vision forwarded by the Mozambican Government, this report has adopted the definitions used in the 1998 national Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ESAN), in which:

“The Government’s overall objective with regard to food and nutrition security is to *guarantee for all citizens, at all times, physical and economic access to the foodstuffs required to lead an active and healthy life.* In order to achieve this objective it is necessary to ensure: (i) sufficient **availability** of foodstuffs in adequate quality and variety; (ii) **access** to foodstuffs through individual production, purchase, trade, donations etc.; and (iii) the ability of the people to **use** the foodstuffs in a such way to guarantee that each household member receives and absorbs the adequate nutrients according to his/her requirements.”¹ Additionally, the term *acute* is used to describe immediate, short-term situations of food and nutritional insecurity, while *chronic* is used to indicate more persistent, long-term conditions resulting from underdevelopment and poverty.

Evolution of FSN Information Systems in Mozambique

In 1996 at the World Food Summit (Rome), Mozambique became a signatory to the global commitment to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity by 50% by the year 2015. While unable to calculate the exact magnitude of this commitment, it was recognized that it would be an immense challenge.

At the time of the commitment, with only four years of post-war stability in which to begin rebuilding infrastructure, social services and safety nets and effective governance, Mozambique had also suffered a series of devastating droughts. Its economic reforms, begun in 1990 and designed to stimulate market-growth and increase the export of agricultural products, had not yet been felt by subsistence farmers in non-urban areas, who also comprised the most vulnerable segment of the population in terms of food security and nutrition.

Table 2: Some additional FSN Indicators between 1997 and 2003

Indicators (source IAF and DHS)	1997*	2001	2003
People living in Absolute Poverty	69.4%		54.1%
Low Weight for Age (MDG#1 hunger indicator)	26.1%	26.0%	24.7%
Low height for Age (stunting)	35.9%	43.8%	41.0**
Malnutrition of Mother		10.9 %	8.6 %

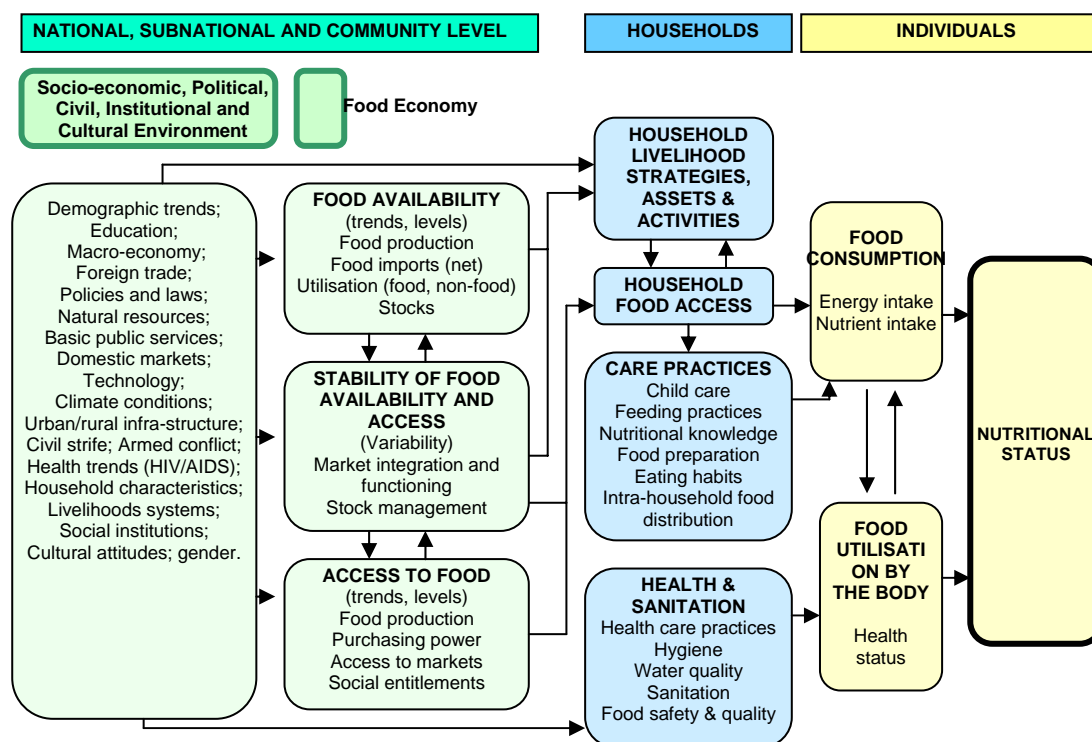
* children under 3 years of age

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Acute Malnutrition (U5 weight for height)	7.9 %	5.5 %	4 %
Infant Mortality in children under 5 years of age	219/1000		178/1000

In 1998, two years after the Summit, the Council of Ministers of Mozambique formally approved the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition² (ESAN) from which the aforementioned definitions of food security derive. The ESAN provided a comprehensive and multi-sectoral strategy to weave food security and nutrition (FSN) considerations into Ministerial planning, establishing goals for the reduction food insecurity and malnutrition and laying out the operational mechanisms necessary to advance the ESAN strategy.

One key institution arose out of the 1998 Resolution, the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN). The SETSAN would operate as a multi-sectoral coordinating body based on a locally-adapted version of the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping Systems, or FIVIMS,³ model. The effectiveness of the FIVIMS model lies in its ability to identify the causal links connecting political, social and economic factors to local, national and regional FSN, thus facilitating the exchange of critical information between key decision-makers, to protect and benefit the most vulnerable elements of the population.



Role of SETSAN

² The ESAN was formally adopted in Resolution 16/98 on November 23, 1998.

³ "FIVIMS is any system or network of systems that assembles analyses and disseminates information about people who are food insecure or at risk: who they are, where they are located, and why they are food insecure or vulnerable. The system has a flexible structure that makes use of existing information systems, can be used in many different national situations, and is responsive to the expressed needs of national user groups.". FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY: A Review of the UN System Common Country Assessments and World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategies, FAO 2003.

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The structure of SETSAN includes a President, an Executive Secretary and a Coordinator, all of whom are supported by a Technical Committee and Consultative Committee. This structure also includes two permanent units:

- i) Unit for Coordination of Information Systems
- ii) Unit for Analysis, Policy, Planning and Monitoring

Within each of these permanent units, a number of specialized working groups enjoying multi-sectoral membership and develop plans and products in accordance with their individual mandates.⁴

The principal objective of the institution, as mandated by the 1998 ESAN, is the promotion of holistic diagnosis of FSN in Mozambique to facilitate appropriate and timely decision-making that diminishes the risks to and impacts of malnutrition and food insecurity. SETSAN is primarily a coordinating body, rather than an implementing body. Its activities fall mainly in the realm of diagnosis, monitoring, training and advocacy.

At a Provincial level, SETSAN-P has a similar structure to that of Central SETSAN, acting as a focal point for the multi-sectoral coordination and implementation of provincial FSN Strategies. Another important activity of SETSAN-P is the development of provincial action plans, in which priority FSN activities are harmonized with and directly incorporated into the budget and implementation plans of multi-sectoral Provincial Directorates, District Administrations, NGO's and the Private Sector.

Thus, at both National and Provincial levels, SETSAN must continuously reconcile its own double mandate. On the one hand, it must provide information for emergency prevention and mitigation and, on the other, for medium- and long-term development planning. The appropriate balance between these two areas of work is still an unresolved question and merits further discussion later on in the report.

Strengths of SETSAN

In the years since its original creation, SETSAN has achieved high levels of technical competency and credibility, in terms of monitoring Mozambique's ever-changing FSN situation. The information published in its bi-annual Vulnerability Assessments forms the basis of many different types of interventions, ranging from disaster-mitigation to economic and social development. Specifically, these assessments are utilized by the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC), UN Agencies, and other large food and relief-distribution implementing partners.

Specialized investigations and regional case studies produced by technicians, SETSAN working groups and institutional partners have addressed these such as dietary habits, human-animal conflict, the relationship between HIV/AIDS and FSN and these have resulted in sectoral policy recommendations for effective incorporation of FSN considerations.

Throughout 2005, SETSAN developed and launched a successful decentralization plan, in accordance with the Government of Mozambique's decentralization policy, attempting to transfer technical and decision-making capacity to SETSAN-P in each of the country's ten provinces. In each province SETSAN Focal Points were selected and, in total, over 200 representatives were trained on the integrated FSN approach,

⁴ See **Annex I** for a more complete structure of SETSAN

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to ensure that, in the process of decentralization, the multi-sectoral and holistic vision of SETSAN would be retained and applied at a Provincial level.

As a result of the aforementioned processes, SETSAN has achieved a much higher degree of public and political visibility. It is regularly cited in major newspaper articles and, based on its technical credibility, has begun to effect important FSN-related policies at the highest levels of government. In 2005, for example, a successful lobbying attempt by SETSAN, FAO and GTZ resulted in the inclusion of FSN as a cross-cutting theme in the PARPA and its matrix utilized by Donors, UN Agencies and the Government of Mozambique to evaluate the progress of the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PARPA). Specifically, low weight-for-age of children under 5 years (MDG#1) has now been adopted as one of two key indicators, to be monitored under the PARPA framework during bi-annual reviews.

There exists a general consensus that, in comparison to ten years ago, Mozambique is now far better prepared for the various natural disasters, such as floods, droughts and cyclones, to which the country is prone. As a direct result of this, acute malnutrition in children under the age of 5 has dropped from 7% in 1997 to 4% in 2003 (IDS). Compared to the chaotic post-war and flood years, Mozambique has made a notable transition from disaster-mitigation towards more long-term social and economic development planning. Certainly, SETSAN must share part of the credit for these achievements.

Challenges of SETSAN

National advances in emergency-response capacity and increased visibility of SETSAN in the public and political realm are certainly important. However, these are only partial indicators. In the end, quality information is not in its own end if it cannot or is not- utilized to inform decision-making and improve multi-sectoral coordination for FSN activities. The final measure of SETSAN's effectiveness will be positive changes in the current levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in Mozambique.

In a country where many family farming units are still unable to fulfill their minimum caloric needs, despite being full-time producers and utilizing diverse purchase and trade strategies, chronic vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition still require sustained attention. Malnutrition, as measured by low weight for age of children ≤ 5 years, still afflicts 24% of Mozambique's children (IDS). Thus, SETSAN still has great challenges ahead.

Given that SETSAN's function is not one of intervention, its most important contributions include providing timely and relevant information to key stakeholders/users. These include all the institutions working directly or indirectly in the area of FSN, including: diverse sectors of the Government of Mozambique, International and bilateral donors, agencies of the United Nations, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGO's), provincial governments, district administration, and implementing technicians at all levels of intervention.

If FSN information users have begun to shift from emergency-mitigation to development-planning, SETSAN needs to accompany this process, responding in-kind with products and services that respond to these changing needs. The only guarantee of SETSAN's sustainability- taking into account aspects such as technical and financial support and political legitimacy- will be its capacity to satisfy the needs of its information-users. Ultimately, the Government of Mozambique must recognize

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the value of SETSAN and commit to its long-term maintenance. Otherwise, the eventual withdrawal of supporting institutions such as GTZ, FAO and others may result in a crippling of SETSAN's current and potential capacities.

In light of these reflections SETSAN is planning to invest more time and effort, during the 2006 working year, into developing a strategic communications plan which will include modifications of existent information products and services, targeted training courses, and lobbying. These efforts will be jointly developed and overseen by the Permanent Unit for Analysis, Policy, Planning and Monitoring and the Permanent Unit for Coordination of Information Systems. The Terms of Reference for the Information Unit have not yet been established and specific recommendations for this task will be discussed in the final section of this report.

Objectives of User-Needs Assessment

Based on the fact that current users of SETSAN information products and services are the best-equipped to evaluate their quality, SETSAN must commit to periodic consultations with them. Two such consultations have been carried out previously, both of which provided the foundation and starting point for SETSAN's most recent consultation.

The current evaluation, undertaken by 2 consultants and technically and financially support by FAO and SETSAN, has the following objectives:

- 1) The identification key FSN stakeholders' information needs
- 2) The evaluation of stakeholders' levels of satisfaction with current SETSAN information products and services
- 3) Based on the aforementioned points, the recommendation of specific actions to improve SETSAN's information products and services, for contribution to the SETSAN Permanent Information Unit communication strategy

The study was financed supported by the FAO-SETSAN Project (FAO/071), in turn funded by the European Commission, and the study was jointly supervised by the head of SETSAN's Permanent Information Unit and the Chief Technical Advisor of the FAO-SETSAN Project.

The time allotted for the study was 90 days, beginning Jan 1 of 2006 and would only be considered concluded after circulation, consultation and approval of this report. The study team was composed of two people: one Mozambican, a long-term technician (communication specialist) of the SETSAN, and one American a graduate student with significant experience in undertaking research studies but no previous experience in Mozambique. It was expected that such a composition would create a good balance between insider knowledge and outsider objectivity.

Methodology

The methods chosen for data collection were primarily qualitative, relying on guided interviews (80) with key representatives from diverse sectors.⁵ Interviews were conducted with representatives of the Government of Mozambique, International and National NGO's, Bilateral Donors, and Agencies of the United Nations. The

⁵ See **Annex II** for the basic interview guide used

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institutions were chosen based on their level of involvement and the impact of their decisions on food security and nutrition, as well as for diversity *inter alia*. Equal attention was given to National, Provincial and District-level actors.

Special care was taken to include institutions with indirect links to FSN and *potential* users of SETSAN information. The private sector was originally included in the study plans, but difficulty finding informed representatives made a more complete exploration of the role of FSN information in this sector quite difficult. From a total of only three interviews with private sector representatives, the study team tentatively ascertained that FSN information use is minimal and, in response to time constraints, chose to discontinue this line of investigation. Similarly, supra-national FSN information users such as the Southern African Development Community and other regional bodies were excluded because of time limitations, despite being important FSN information users.

The guided interviews normally lasted from 30- 60 minutes. Their results were logged and information was organized in matrices around key characteristics such as institution-type, level of operations (National, Provincial or District) and area of primary focus (Development, Emergency-mitigation, Agriculture, Health, etc.) to establish usage patterns and common criticisms. Data was also collected through use of a brief questionnaire filled out by interviewees and other persons of interest, and this quantitative data was used as a supplement to interview results.⁶

Research for the study was divided into three phases: 1) Literature Review⁷, 2) National User-group Survey, and 3) Provincial and District User-group Survey. At the National level, the focus was on Central Government Institutions and international actors, such as International NGO's, Donors and UN Agencies. Interviews focused on national planning strategies and policy issues.

At Provincial and District levels questions focused more on technical and methodological critiques of SETSAN products based on implementation experience and site-specific details. The field sites used to collect data for the study included the Provinces of Inhambane, Manica, Nampula and Cabo Delgado, as well as the districts of **Maríngué (Sofala)** and the district of **Magude (Maputo)**. While it was recognized that knowledge of SETSAN information would be limited at the District level, it was considered important to consult this potentially significant user group.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INFORMATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

Existing SAN Information Systems in Mozambique

It is impossible to call the circulation of FSN Information in Mozambique a consolidated information system. It is, in fact, a series of layered, in a few cases, overlapping subsystems.⁸ The main information systems identified by previous

⁶ Questionnaire from which quantitative results were derived has been included as **Annex III**

⁷ See **Annex IV** for a list of documents reviewed for the 2006 User Needs Assessment

⁸ This section of the report (as well as the original study design) drew heavily from the analysis provided by three previous assessments: National Consultation on Vulnerability Analysis (Leonor Domingos, 2004), Report on the Results of the Vulnerability Assessment Retreat, Inhaca (Lourdes Fidalgo, 2003) and the Case Study on the Development of Food Security Information Systems (FAO/ EC-FSAU, 1999).

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studies have remained fairly consistent and, for the purposes of this report, have been categorized into the following groupings:

- 1) Agricultural Early Warning;
- 2) Trade and Market Prices;
- 3) Meteorological Early Warning;
- 4) Nutrition Surveillance;
- 5) Health Surveillance;
- 6) Census and National Surveys.

Each of these FSN Information Systems is composed of distinct and complimentary monitoring mechanisms and publications and is coordinated within the Mozambican Government, though still relying on significant inputs from other international actors.⁹

The multiple institutions that comprise Mozambique's FSN information network often fulfill the double function of *producers* and *users*. Such institutions collect primary data for analysis and publication; their results are later reincorporated into complimentary information systems. SETSAN falls into this user-producer category, as an institution which gathers primary data through periodic field missions, but whose reports and analyses often include data provided by sectoral information systems such as crop surveillance, nutrition-monitoring and annual meteorological statistics. Members of SETSAN are then users of this information and analysis within their own sectors and agencies.

Taking into account this characteristic of FSN information systems in Mozambique, it is important to note that SETSAN's role as the nation's FSN coordinating body makes knowledge and dissemination of non-SETSAN publications of key importance. While the focus of this study was on SETSAN information products and services, unfulfilled user-needs that might be addressed by improved dissemination of FSN information from other institutions was also noted and included in the recommendations section.

SETSAN Information Products

Within SETSAN's mandate to create, coordinate and consolidate national FSN information systems, SETSAN has become a major producer of publications relating to food security and nutrition¹⁰. The goal of these publications is to synthesize existing data and, through specialized analysis, provide a basis for discussion and policy-formulation about evolving food security, nutrition and vulnerability situations nationwide. SETSAN also carries out independent field research on various aspects of FSN Vulnerability and publishes results based on its findings.

Each of SETSAN's working groups produces information products tailored to meet the needs of different decision-makers. Nevertheless, some products have achieved much wider circulation than others. A few examples of important documents produced by SETSAN in the past 3 years are:

- *"Action Plan for the Mitigation of the Effects of Drought,"* recommendations for action for drought mitigation in the provinces of Maputo, Inhambane and Gaza; DINA/SETSAN/FAO July 2005.

⁹ For a more detailed listing of the specific producers and informational content of non-SETSAN FSN and Vulnerability Information Systems, review the National Consultation on Vulnerability Analysis (Leonor Domingos, 2004).

¹⁰ See SETSAN complete bibliography. Annex X.

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- “*Food Security and Nutrition in Mozambique - Progress and Challenges,*” overview of FSN in Mozambique, links between FSN and PARPA, Five-Year Government Plan, HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, and Gender and a discussion of future challenges to Mozambique’s Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (2005);
- Bulletin for “*Diagnosis and Perspectives on the Food Situation in Mozambique,*” national precipitation rates, vegetative cover, weather forecasts and food security analysis, produced 3-5 times annually by the GAPSAN working group (2003-2005);
- Case Study on “*Multi-Sectoral Assessment of the Impact of the Humanitarian Crisis on Women and Children in Mozambique*”. SETSAN/UNICEF 2003;
- “*Report on the Current Situation of Vulnerability in Mozambique,*” analysis by province on vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition, and recommended mitigation actions, produced biannually by the GAV working group (2002-2006);
- ESAN Evaluation. Review of the implementation of the 1998 Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. September 2005.
- Targeting Manual for “*People Vulnerable to Food Insecurity due to the Impact of HIV/AIDS,*” created as a tool for interventions by INAS, MMAS, and CNCS, produced by the SANHA working group (2005).

Generalized User Preferences

While the aim of this study was to understand the needs of FSN information users’ perceptions of SETSAN products, there was also an interest in gauging the relative importance of SETSAN alongside the other information providers and products mentioned previously. Thus, the questionnaire asked informants to identify their normal sources of FSN information from a list of pre-established options, including Internet and Email bulletins, Sectoral Publications, Reports and Case Studies, Television and Radio, and Personal contacts.

Not surprisingly, 90% of the total study sample identified Sectoral Publications as one of their principal FSN information sources. Other frequently-cited sources included Reports and Case Studies (67%), also presumably linked to diverse line ministries, and personal contacts (50%). Internet, email, and diverse media sources ranked significantly lower, with internet and e-mail use highly concentrated at the national level, and media gaining relative importance in the districts.¹¹

Representative of all levels and sectors, the pool of informants who identified Sectoral Publications as their preferred FSN information sources were then asked to indicate their specific usage patterns. Options were limited to Government publications, NGO publications, UN reports, and the widely-recognized FEWSNET bulletins. Again, user preferences were dominated by government-led information services (MINAG, MIC, and MISAU). Thus, the study’s first conclusion must be that

¹¹ For breakdown of specific user preferences in FSN information see **Annex V**

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government sources are almost universally considered the most legitimate source for accurate FSN information.

While the sample size is certainly too small to draw significant conclusions about cross-sectoral information-sharing patterns, the survey numbers do indicate patterns which were corroborated by interview data- namely that there is great variability in the extent of cross-sectoral FSN information-sharing. Representatives of DPA, and DDA, as well as Agriculture-aligned NGO's often cited **MIC** as an important information source. Likewise, many informants aligned with MIC or diverse economic development projects indicated the importance of Agriculture information for decision-making.

Most striking is the *lack* of information-sharing between Agriculture-aligned and Health-aligned institutions. Many agriculture representatives, despite recognizing the link between agricultural production and nutrition status, systematically failed to cite MISAU as an important FSN information provider. Similarly, Health representatives often spoke of the importance of diet-quality and production-related issues, yet failed to identify MINAG as an information provider.

USER PREFERENCES AND SETSAN INFORMATION PRODUCTS

Familiarity with SETSAN Products

Among user-groups familiarity with SETSAN information products is widely variable. SETSAN's mobility and dissemination of information products is obviously much greater at a national level, where high-level FSN decision-makers' demonstrated universal recognition of the institution's name. Such was not the case at provincial and district levels. Annex VI shows the results of questionnaire data regarding general FSN information usage patterns. While the small sample size makes it impossible to draw firm conclusions based on numbers alone, the results permit some important inferences about user habits and effective communication channels.

National User-groups

Among national user-groups, UN Agencies, Bilateral Donors and NGO's were generally more familiar with the SETSAN products included in the survey (64%, 63%, and 50%, respectively) than were government officials (32%). This is partially because of better internet and email access but may also stem from SETSAN's close history of collaboration with these groups and their initial focus on lobbying for support from external actors, rather than already-overburdened Government institutions.

The website was universally recognized by international actors, while representatives of the Government of Mozambique showed significantly less familiarity. Apparently, knowledge of SETSAN products is not weighted in favor of any particular working group, but effectively spread across its different areas of focus. The GAV working group's biannual Vulnerability Analysis Report was the best known SETSAN product among all user-groups and, worth mentioning, is the fact that the SETSAN/ GAV Infoflash, designed for wider circulation and a more general audience, seemed to be less known than its longer and more technical counterpart, especially among

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Government representatives. Statistical vagaries aside, the Infolash should have higher recognition than the GAV Report, and the study has noted that circulation of this document is insufficient.

Also, it has come to light that numbers indicating familiarity with Early Warning Reports may be artificially elevated, since there may have been significant confusion between SETSAN's Early Warning reports and those produced by DINA.

Provincial User Groups

At the Provincial level, SETSAN products are significantly less well-known. There is also a marked difference between the levels of familiarity demonstrated by NGO's and the Government sector. NGO's were generally quite conversant about diverse SETSAN products, showing twice to three times the level of familiarity as their government counterparts. Too often, SETSAN-P was considered a subset of the Provincial Agriculture Department (DPA), and knowledge of its purpose and products were contingent on the particular representatives' relationship with the same.

Deserving of special attention here are a few key trends demonstrated at the Provincial level. First, it must be noted that Internet and Email bulletins are not an effective means for disseminating information in the Provinces, except perhaps among large International NGO's. Low levels of familiarity and usage of electronic information indicate that if SETSAN's products are to make an impact, they will have to do so in hard copy. While Vulnerability Assessment Reports seem to be circulating in the provinces, they are not yet widely recognized. Based on the relatively high levels of familiarity with Provincial Reports in the four provinces which were visited, due credit must be given to SETSAN-P for successfully getting the word out about their work.

The study considers it alarming that all user-groups surveyed showed such low levels of familiarity with the diverse products referred to as Case Studies. While these products span a wide range of content and applicability, they share the characteristics of being geographically limited, case-focused, and non-periodic, all of which should facilitate targeted dissemination.

Studies of this type have been carried out in all of the provinces visited (Drought-Mitigation in Inhambane, cassava Consumption Patterns in Nampula, and Evaluations of Provincial ESAN implementation in all three) yet these studies were scarcely known by Provincial user-groups. Lack of familiarity with SETSAN (and SETSAN-partner) Case Studies may be attributed to two causes: i) lack of dissemination of the products, or ii) lack of linkage between the products and the role of SETSAN-C/ SETSAN-P in their production. Government representatives may be feeling the impact of SETSAN's drought-mitigation plans and evaluations, or other work, without directly crediting SETSAN. Whenever this occurs, the institution loses an important opportunity to win increased legitimacy and promote commitment from its diverse Provincial stake-holders. Furthermore, SETSAN stands to discourage participation in its studies by not effectively disseminating the results to which stakeholder efforts contributed.

District User Groups

At the District level, there were very low levels of familiarity with either SETSAN or its products, a fact which came as no surprise since the SETSAN decentralization process began in earnest only one year before the study was done. Until now, the

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focus has been on strengthening SETSAN-P and relatively little has been done to cultivate regular communication flows with the Districts.

Nevertheless, when the study was conceived, it was expected that the importance of administrators and district directors in decision making would grow and as such represented an important future target user group for FSN information products and services. At this point familiarity levels showed a low of 0%, for the Infolash, and a high of 35%, for SETSAN Provincial Reports. It must be noted, however, that since SETSAN-P did not indicate that any special effort had been made to disseminate its periodic reports to the Districts, representatives may have mistakenly identified SETSAN-C Vulnerability Assessment documents.

It was observed that DDA's were the most familiar with SETSAN information products. As such, their main complaint was lack of access to these products because of lack of feedback from SETSAN-P and SETSAN-C. District Administrators rarely recognized either the institution or any of its publications. Among those who did, there was a frequent association of SETSAN with "emergency" hunger situations, rather than chronic vulnerability, malnutrition and food insecurity monitoring.

It is certainly not an easy task to distribute anything to 128 Districts across the country, due to difficulties in coordination, transportation, access and cost. District Administration may be unable, or unwilling, to reproduce *en masse* multiple copies of long reports for distribution to district Directors. Also, District Administration units may not always have the human resources necessary to implement all the recommendations made by SETSAN reports.

Regardless, the study team has ascertained that it is critical that FSN information reach the district level. As a minimum, SETSAN must be held accountable in terms of feedback for information extracted from technicians and decision-makers. Ideally, SETSAN-P would work closely with District Administrators and department heads to prioritize information products and develop feasible- if limited- dissemination strategies. What became clear from District level surveys and interviews was that any SETSAN information made available would be an improvement on the existing FSN information vacuum.

Relevancy, Accuracy and Timeliness of SETSAN Products

For the purpose of this discussion, there is little need to distinguish between different user-groups, due to the strong convergence of opinion. Almost without exception, every person interviewed manifested genuine interest in SETSAN products. Consensus held that SETSAN information was not only relevant, but critical to good decision-making at all levels.

"If I've got 6 people that died from eating poisonous mushrooms because they didn't have anything else to eat, I'd say that has to do with food security."
- District Agriculture Director

Relevancy of SETSAN Products

National policy planning bodies need vulnerability assessment information in order to geographically prioritize interventions and define target beneficiaries. Early-warning

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information alerts them to high-risk situations and improves reaction time. SETSAN policy lobbies are considered a positive contribution to the national development agenda and the establishment of baselines and monitoring devices. Provincial leaders within Government and NGO sectors draw from SETSAN information to help align their actions with established (central) strategies, identify best-practices, and monitor the situation of their province in relation to others.

At a district level, where plans are translated into concrete actions, FSN is arguably the area of highest priority. Here actors require information compiled and analyzed at higher levels (changing market-prices, weather forecasts, regional crop conditions, etc.) and for both political and technical reasons, they often rely heavily on advice from institutions like SETSAN. Thus, the demand for SETSAN information at all levels is a positive indication that the institution's work is highly relevant.

Accuracy of SETSAN Information

At a national level, NGO's, Bilateral Donors, UN Agencies and Government Institutions all considered SETSAN's information-products to be accurate sources of FSN information, indicating that they were frequently utilized to inform baseline studies, funding requests, and specific intervention strategies. The reasons often given for this opinion was the transparency and rigor of SETSAN's data-collection methods and the multi-sectoral nature of their analyses. Also, users placed high value on the SETSAN's mandate as a *technical* institution, noting that it was not- and hopefully would not become- "polluted" by political interests. Thus, the technical viability of SETSAN information-products should be considered a great success.

"When I hear SETSAN say 650,000 families, and two weeks later INGC says 800,000 families, that's what sticks in my head."
-UN Agency

Nevertheless, the accuracy of SETSAN's information products was indirectly called into question by a few key representatives whose doubts merit discussion here. The first condition cited for questioning of SETSAN data was the perception that it conflicted with INGC vulnerability analyses. This occurred more at a national and provincial level where decision-makers sensitive to current indicators recognized significant variability between the two sources. It was noted that when SETSAN and INGC failed to collaborate in the establishment of appropriate assessment tools, the resulting numbers conflict creating a volatile setting for justifying large decisions of National and International actors.

The accuracy of SETSAN information was also called into question by District Administrators who have been insufficiently included in local data-collection and analysis. Their separation from SETSAN methodologies and indicators, coupled with the difficulty of gauging threat-levels from explosive reports coming in from technicians about "hunger deaths" and "drastic changes in subsistence patterns," puts administrators in a difficult situation.

They are asked to trust "expert data" from a SETSAN mission that spent 5 hours on the ground, or perhaps didn't even visit the district, over first-hand reports from extension agents or health-post technicians, who- even lacking training in technical FSN terminology/diagnosis- speak of a very different on-the-ground reality.

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Consequently, they question the accuracy of SETSAN's diagnoses, upon which food-aid packages are based.

Timeliness of SETSAN Information

All actors agreed that there is a critical time-window for each type of FSN information. Analysis of nutrition trends, case studies, and analyses of chronic vulnerability designed to inform medium-term planning have relevancy over a longer time-period, whereas products such as GAV reports, early-warning and others associated with acute conditions must be delivered more quickly if they are to be effective.

*"The sooner we get the information, the more valuable it is."
-Provincial INGC Representative*

Issues of timeliness for FSN information were noted repeatedly at the District-level, where decision-makers who formulate and coordinate interventions, such as food shipments, school-feeding programs, medical treatment, seed fairs and agricultural extension plans, must often react with incomplete information. In situations of alarm for acute malnutrition or food insecurity, when SETSAN information is absent- as is frequently the case- institutions turn to INGC, the historical heavyweight in emergency-mitigation, or rely solely on sectoral information, to the detriment of a more holistic FSN definition.

In terms of both acute and chronic situations of food insecurity and malnutrition, there are serious time delays in Government information channels that prevent FSN information, whether agricultural, meteorological, commercial, or nutritional, from reaching local actors in time to impact their decisions. One notable exception to this trend is SIMA's weekly bulletin, "Quente-Quente", which provides up-to-date market prices for staple products from sites nationwide, and MIC's weekly newspaper inserts. This information, while not yet detailed enough to be valuable in remote districts, was valued by users for its regularity and frequency.

Many subordinates, especially in the Districts, are either unwilling or unable to contact divisions at higher levels, so these higher levels are exempt from pressure from below which might otherwise induce them to transfer information more rapidly. Consequently, information gets caught up in bureaucratic channels and fails to reach lower level decision-makers. In order to reverse this negative trend, SETSAN must: 1) commit to dissemination of its own products, 2) encourage Health, Agriculture, and Commerce authorities to eliminate barriers for timely information-transfer, 3) make listings of SETSAN and non-SETSAN FSN information sources widely available to different sectoral authorities, and 4) empower Provincial and District authorities to seek out relevant FSN information, using SETSAN-P as their primary contact point.

Information Product Preferences: Government Sectors

The government of Mozambique should be considered the most important consumer of SETSAN information products. As interviews made clear, Ministerial directives are at the heart of FSN-related programming at all levels of government. They also have a strong influence on NGO's, who must develop programs that complement over-arching plans such as PARPA, PROAGRI-2, PEN II, PES, and the National Nutrition Agenda, and at lower levels, on the priorities of local governments. SETSAN must

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pay close attention to the information needs of the Government of Mozambique to ensure that FSN is prioritized by decision-makers and given the multi-sectoral attention it merits.

“Unfortunately, within quite a few sectors, the understanding of food security is still limited, conditional and quite weak.”
– Ministry of Industry and Commerce

National Government

Interviews were carried out with national-level government officials from MIC, MISAU, MINAG, MOPH, MINEC, MPD, and MMAS and data from these interviews showed significant variability in terms of levels of satisfaction with SETSAN products. Agriculture and Health tended to value SETSAN information products, since much of SETSAN’s analysis is based on their own data and a close working relationship has facilitated incorporation of their past criticisms.

Valuing SETSAN’s technical capacities, they want to see the institution operational, in all senses, with the capacity to publish and distribute the results of its analysis more frequently and to a wider audience. Yet, one criticism was that relatively high sectoral inputs into SETSAN-led projects often gave too little payback. Sectors criticized SETSAN for demanding the time of their technicians for GAV missions without giving sufficient advance notice.

It seems that various sectors would like SETSAN to occasionally produce documents designed specifically for them, or to collaborate more on the design of training manuals, lesson plans, extension projects, and other Ministry-led activities. They would like to collaborate on projects that incorporate SETSAN’s technical expertise on integrated FSN analysis while creating useful products that fulfill current sectoral needs. Another suggestion was to create a document of regular periodicity to discuss the links between FSN and each ministry’s current plans.

Whether or not these recommendations are ultimately judged feasible, will depend on time, priorities, resources, and political will of SETSAN and its stakeholders, yet what is clear is that SETSAN has a gap yet to bridge. Individual government representatives with previous FSN training may be highly informed, even involved in SETSAN activities, but in order bring this to bear on their respective ministries they need continued support from SETSAN in the form of focused FSN trainings, specialized information products, input and collaboration for sector-aligned projects, last but not least, consistent recognition for their sector’s contributions to improved FSN in Mozambique.

Provincial Government

Provincial government representatives’ perceptions of SETSAN products were somewhat less favorable than at the national level, but in many cases this stemmed from lack of familiarity. While SETSAN data and analysis was still seen as valuable and accurate, provincial representatives across a diverse spectrum indicated the need for more detailed information.

Provincial decision-makers emphasized the importance of knowing how characteristics such as food security, extreme poverty and chronic malnutrition were

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distributed *within* districts. They want maps. As they explained the role of provincial governments as mediators between national and district planning activities, they stressed their need for inputs from both realms.

Concrete suggestions made by the provincial government sector include SETSAN-P's utilization of existing Agricultural and Rural Development bulletins to disseminate FSN information. Regularization of both SETSAN-P meetings and SETSAN information publications, made known to all its stake-holders, were also recommended as ways to boost product visibility.

Provincial Governments representatives interface directly with District Administrators, who often turn to them for political and financial support. In disaster-prone provinces such as Inhambane, Decision-makers must choose how and where to allocate scarce resources and for this they need timely information about FSN and vulnerability; preferably, these products would be accessible through an operational SETSAN-P, with capacity to channel information from the SETSAN-C and undertake FSN analysis independently.

In all the Provinces, decision-makers are directly accountable to their ministerial superiors, to ensure that their activities are closely aligned with national policies. They show high levels of interest in FSN information products, but given the vertical dominance of sectoral agendas, SETSAN products are likely to have little impact without being integrated at a national level.

District Government

District Administrators are at the center of every district's information flow. Because District Administrators are frequently rotated, they may not know their districts with the same level of detail as long-time functionaries, but they are the decision-making nucleus of their domain. District Administrators make decisions every day about where to allocate resources and how to confront the specific problems their populations face.

*"Our work is not data-collection or analysis.
We take what we can get and turn it into concrete actions to help our residents."
- District Administrator*

District Administrators often have overwhelming amounts of locally-available data and limited capacity to analyze it; they also lack access to successful approaches utilized elsewhere before similar problems. Most alarmingly, information that exists at a central level about potential threats to the district, climatic conditions, plant and animal diseases, market fluctuations or others, do not reach District Administrators.

Under the new budget mechanisms adopted by the Government of Mozambique, district governments benefit from a direct annual infusion of \$300,000 for use in priority areas identified by them. As already stated, District Administrators often consider FSN among their top priorities, yet their potential to develop an integrated FSN strategy is constrained by the fact that FSN information inputs are close to zero.

DDA's in Northern provinces, where unpredictable rain patterns can make planting too early or too late disastrous in terms of food security, spoke at length of the problems they face when advising extensionists. They must make decisions based

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on yearly meteorological forecasts because they are isolated from the satellite imagery that is produced regularly in Maputo. In Southern provinces, DDA's lamented not having information on drought-resistant crop strains.

With the increasing importance of agricultural commercialization and the reemergence of cashew and other cash crops, information about changes in market prices and surpluses/shortages of staple items, is greatly desired by Administrators, DDA's and others. District economies cannot grow without stimulation, and one of the key factors in stimulating growth is providing information about market opportunities, so that cooperatives and associations can pool cash for transportation or post-harvest storage. Again, this information exists and is not reaching the districts.

It was suggested that SETSAN consider more the importance of fisheries in heavily populated coastal areas when analyzing food security in these areas.

Time and time again it was repeated by District Administrators, Directors of Health, Education, Agriculture, and Social Services that they face practical problems and need practical solutions. They are highly interested in SETSAN information as it now exists, but are most apt to use information with specific sectoral recommendations about how to confront food insecurity and malnutrition. Education wants curriculum content that they can adapt to local conditions. Health wants community training modules that can be translated into local languages. Agriculture wants recommendations on how to integrate basic nutrition information into its extension services. District Administrators want better tools to tackle situations of chronic malnutrition and food insecurity in their districts.

Information Product Preferences: NGO's

This study showed that despite the close collaboration between NGO's and National, Provincial, and District governments, the information needs and specific product preferences of these two sectors were often divergent, an observation that must be taken into account in SETSAN product development.

NGO's at National Level

NGO's at a national level displayed a tempered enthusiasm about SETSAN information products. As rapacious information consumers, they generally, they supported more SETSAN outputs focused on development and products designed to orient policies and medium-term interventions, rather than what some perceived as an overly emergency-focused information orientation.

NGO Representatives generally considered SETSAN's numbers accurate. Holding consistent with other user groups, Vulnerability Assessment Reports were the most commonly cited among users familiar with SETSAN products. Nevertheless, there was a common complaint that SETSAN's information is too general. NGO's said that they had a need for very detailed information, disaggregated beyond districts to a village or even a household level. Some also asked for information on urban and peri-urban areas, instead of SETSAN's traditionally rural focus. In many cases, they pointed out, the data already exists in an informal way, but in order to be useful it must be systematized, updated and have certain spaces filled in.

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*“Somehow, SETSAN will need to get down to the level of the districts if it is ever to fulfill its mandate.”
- International NGO Director*

The following are some examples of information that already exists or could be gathered: extreme malnutrition cases are tracked at local *health postes*; elementary school teachers know when their students drop-out due to FSN issues, like migrations; community leaders are a wealth of knowledge about local food taboos; simple anthropometric measurements could be taken at primary schools in vulnerable districts to give a richer picture of malnutrition from the ages of 7-12; individual household economies could be measured by local government representatives if given the right technical and financial support.

The main reason cited by NGO's for requiring detailed FSN data, aside from their value in contributing to baseline studies, was in order to do a better job of monitoring and evaluation in their program areas. NGO's, unlike government institutions, were unlikely to seek specific recommendations by SETSAN or similar institutions, preferring to develop projects based on ministerial directives combined with locally perceived needs and capacities. However, for monitoring purposes, they were eager to utilize “independent” numbers to track progress and identify problems.

It was generally agreed by NGO's that SETSAN was the correct institution to spearhead any efforts to collect and systematize information to achieve an unbiased and more richly-detailed picture of FSN in Mozambique. NGO's expressed willingness and capacity to collaborate with both SETSAN-C and SETSAN-P's to harmonize data-collection techniques, contribute staff when needed, and promote wide dissemination of SETSAN results for any such undertaking.

NGO's at Provincial Level

NGO's for the most part seem to do a much better job of channeling relevant FSN information, in this case, SETSAN products, to successive levels of operation in a timely fashion. NGO representatives from Provincial and District levels said that they often received the Infolash and other SETSAN products by email or print-out within days of their release. Also, many NGO's working at a provincial level had participated in SETSAN trainings or SETSAN-P meetings. Therefore, the representatives were able to make solid suggestions on how to improve SETSAN information products.

*“SETSAN has a very strong mandate.... I just think we'd like to see more evidence of it out here in the province.”
-Provincial NGO Director*

For the most part, Provincial NGO's demanded the same thing as their national counterparts- more detailed information. Specifically, they outlined the need to establish mutually agreed-upon methodologies for data-collection which would allow for greater participation and collaboration with SETSAN missions by NGO's operating in the region.

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They also showed particular interest in qualitative and social-data, occasionally criticizing SETSAN for what they perceived as an exaggeratedly agricultural focus. NGO's were interested in seeing cultural habits, informal economic indicators and community network aspects woven more tightly into FSN analyses produced by SETSAN. One suggestion to increase SETSAN-P information output was to seek research partnerships with local branches of the UEM.

United Nations and International Bilateral Donors

These two user-groups had the most detailed knowledge of SETSAN information products. Indeed, SETSAN's original structure was created under significant guidance from them and, over the years, their financial and technical support to the institution have been a factor in assuring that their needs and opinions are known and are taken into consideration. However, as SETSAN grows increasingly autonomous, it will be important to revisit International Donors and UN Agencies to ensure that current products continue to meet their needs.

"A while back, we were the only ones who had even heard of the SETSAN"
- International Bilateral Donor

Specifically, International Donors and UN Agencies require accurate, timely and well-synthesized FSN analysis which is electronically accessible. Characteristically, key decision-makers are extremely busy and unable to read lengthy publication, relying instead on briefings by technical specialists and short, punchy email bulletins. Understandably, they advocated for better maintenance and more frequent updates of the SETSAN website. They cited the importance of FEWS NET's bulletins, commenting positively on their predictable periodicity, easily understandable color-coded alerts and emphasis on graphics.

Within both Bilateral Donor Agencies and Organisms of the United Nations, FSN specialists were generally very well-informed about SETSAN products and information-gathering techniques. Because their representatives often had a long history with SETSAN, they were able to comment on some very fundamental aspects of the institution, with respect to technical focus, advocacy and legal structure.

Specifically, it was noted that SETSAN and INGC must continue to negotiate the dividing line between their separate mandates in order to maximize resources, avoid creating parallel and conflicting information systems and facilitate collaboration with Donors and UN Agencies. There was concern that SETSAN's political leverage and public image has been too concentrated in the area of emergency-mitigation, to the detriment of much-needed focus on chronic food insecurity and malnutrition and related policy.

UN Agencies and International Bilateral Donors alike perceived SETSAN as technically competent but needing to assert itself more forcefully through use of the media, wider dissemination of information-products and more FSN-related public events. One donor perceived SETSAN's ambiguous legal structure as a potential danger for the institution.

Also, given the growing emphasis on targeted intervention for chronically vulnerable groups such as Orphans, HIV/AIDS victims and Female-headed households, by agencies such as UNICEF and WHO, it was noted that these agencies would benefit

greatly from target-group vulnerability analysis if SETSAN were able to make this information available.

USER PREFERENCES AND SETSAN INFORMATION SERVICES

Description of SETSAN Services

For the purpose of this study, information services have been defined as anything that does not form part of SETSAN's written repertoire. Information services include the dissemination of information products, FSN and other trainings, coordination and planning meetings, follow-up on previous recommendations, and personal links between SETSAN members and actual or potential FSN information-users. Many of these aspects would normally be governed by institutional communications strategy, but unfortunately this does not yet exist- a point which will be discussed in the recommendations section.

While certainly SETSAN's information products and services are very closely linked, many interviewees made a strong distinction between *what* they received (information products) and *how* received it (information services), so this distinction has been maintained. In this analysis, interview data has been combined with survey results about reception of SETSAN products to get a clearer picture of user satisfaction levels with SETSAN's current information services.

Information Service Preferences: Government Sectors

National Government

Interviews from the national government sector indicated that the greatest gap in SETSAN information services was in the area of FSN training. Government officials were quick to point out that while they may have sensitivity to the importance of FSN in their respective ministries, others often did not. On various occasions, it was mentioned that SETSAN and FSN in general was not a priority. Long-term, this becomes a great disincentive to SETSAN's ministerial Focal Points who attend SETSAN meetings and coordinate information flows, yet see few concrete results for all their work.

“SETSAN can't just publish the [FSN] information- they need to make sure that Ministries know how to use it and that they pressure us to do so.”
–National Ministry of Health

Focal points and other government officials universally recognized the need for FSN trainings and other interactive forums to discuss FSN linkages, reinforce multi-sectoral collaboration mechanisms and promote greater overall sensitivity to FSN

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within their respective sectors. In the case of technicians, these trainings could happen on almost any calendar, from a single, 3-day training to a low-intensity, 6-week course, or otherwise.

What is important is that SETSAN provide employees “on loan” from their regular ministries with some skill that will enrich their day-to-day performance. To encourage better FSN knowledge and decision-making among high-level government officials, interviews suggested that staging short, high profile, public events, such as the September 2005 symposium, and other one-time events, is a successful strategy.

Provincial Government

Representatives of provincial governments have the same training concerns as their national counterparts, as well as many more. Data from four different provinces was very consistent in one key aspect- everyone who works with SETSAN-P is very concerned about coordination issues. The institution is viewed as a valuable player in Provincial FSN activities which has yet to achieve the impact it should.

Different explanations were given for SETSAN-P’s failure to meet provincial coordination needs, among them: SETSAN-P taking a back seat to INGC and the Provincial Emergency Planning Committee, SETSAN-P being viewed as an arm of DPA and potential contributors avoiding them because of this, lack of political commitment by Agriculture or other institutions, lack of continuity and turnover of appointed representatives within SETSAN-P member institutions (and corresponding institutional memory loss), failure of SETSAN-P to give sufficient advance notice of meetings, lack of political legitimacy, and lack of operational capacity.

Government representatives working at provincial levels recognized the value of FSN information managed by SETSAN and SETSAN-P but were resentful that this information had systematically failed to reach them. Whichever and to what extent these many criticisms are “valid” or correct was not ascertained. What is important to note, is the high frequency with which coordination and dissemination issues came up in provincial interviews.

“We’re always invited to the SETSAN-P meetings but we don’t usually go because, frankly, we don’t have time to go to five meetings that are all about the same thing.”
– Provincial Agriculture Representative

Provincial government representative want not only SETSAN products, but personal contact with SETSAN-P representatives, reliable human channels through which they can send and receive FSN information. As previously mentioned, provincial coordinators often have the uncomfortable task of shuttling information and mediating politics between national and district levels, thus they are very attentive to vertical information flows, and were concerned about SETSAN’s relationship with the districts. They mentioned the dire need for training at the District level.

Provincial government representatives who had been involved in SETSAN-led FSN trainings spoke very highly of the utility of such trainings and encouraged SETSAN/ SETSAN-P to organize more to confront specific food security and nutrition issues or bring together regional stakeholders for idea-sharing.

District Government

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SETSAN and SETSAN-P have not yet prioritized Districts or developed a coherent strategy for coordinating with District Administration, a need which will be addressed in 2006. In order for SETSAN information to form part of any district's agenda there are two necessary preconditions. First, the information must arrive, which it is not yet doing. Of over 15 districts visited, only one person surveyed knew of the district receiving a national SETSAN report, despite many having been visited by a Vulnerability Assessment Team at some time in the past few years. The only product which had been received sporadically in a number of districts was a provincial SETSAN report. In most cases this report arrived through informal channels based on personal relationships within Agriculture.

Thus, it must be concluded that feedback and materials dissemination is the first issue which must be addressed at a district level. District Administrators and other representatives suggested that SETSAN/ SETSAN-P must send multiple hard copies to be delivered by hand to administration and other relevant decision-makers. To overcome existing limitations they should consider relying on the technological, logistical and financial capacities of NGO's involved in local planning.

The second precondition for integration of FSN information at a district-level is that SETSAN information products must not fall on deaf ears. That is, the recipients of FSN reports and recommendations must be sufficiently trained in FSN to make use of information available. Administrators need to understand how the numbers that districts provide are analyzed and interpreted to come up with the results presented in provincial and national reports.

By creating effective communication channels with District Administration, SETSAN will enjoy increased cooperation, efficiency and accuracy by the Districts in the area of data-collection. Developing local FSN-monitoring capacities will be a long process, but one that will eventually free up SETSAN-P to assume its full mandate in terms of coordination and analysis. Finally, it must be recognized that- communication, transportation, and budget limitations aside- the natural advantages offered by District level coordination are not being sufficiently exploited. Advantages include knowledge of site-specific details, cultural context, personal relationships, ease of round-table discussions, and ability to make and implement feasible and specific recommendations.

Information Service Preferences: NGO's

Study results showed NGO's to be massive information consumers and significant data producers. They are doing an immense amount of work in rural development, food security and nutrition. With great electronic capacity and a commitment to compiling FSN information from multiple sources, NGO's indicated the relative ease with which they access SETSAN information at a national level. Indeed, of all the user groups surveyed, NGO representatives were the most likely to receive regular FSN information from SETSAN, in part because they seem unafraid to ask for it but also because they seem to circulate more information internally.

NGO's at National Level

“SETSAN needs to work on increasing the circulation of FSN information and improving the capacities of Provincial partners.”
– National NGO Director

Comments made by national representatives of NGO's were more focused on products than services. There was, however, frequent concern expressed that SETSAN information was not being adequately disseminated to NGO's provincial partners. Again, the suggestion was to utilize the strong vertical communication channels that link National NGO offices to their Provincial representations to facilitate the dissemination of FSN information.

NGO's at Provincial Level

Provincial representatives mirrored the concerns of their government counterparts when addressing SETSAN-P coordination capacities. They were frustrated with what they perceived as overlapping and repetitive planning meetings, where it was difficult to advance in substantive matters due to lack of agenda-setting and lack of continuity in personnel. They demanded an *operational* and *proactive* SETSAN-P. NGO's want to hear what SETSAN-P is doing and develop personal relationships with SETSAN-P representatives, but in order for this to happen, they said, SETSAN-P must gain the political legitimacy to undertake true multi-sectoral coordination and DPA's must give more autonomy to SETSAN-P.

“SETSAN-P needs to form personal relationships to accompany its technical reports if it is ever to achieve provincial coordination.”
– Provincial NGO Representative

Provincial NGO's were interested in collaboration with provincial government partners but emphasized their focus on District Administration, saying that despite the lack of material resources there, personal networks were stronger and multi-sectoral coordination and integrated FSN planning occurred more naturally in Districts than at the Provincial level. Their technical specialists, who often work in 3-5 districts, share a great deal of information with district-level government offices. More than one organization recommended the use of NGOs for communications between Provincial and District levels to effectively channel relevant FSN information.

Provincial NGO's also spoke positively about SETSAN-led trainings. They mentioned how well-planned group activities such as training, retreats and round-table discussions often serve a double function. On one hand, the adoption of a common analytical framework improves FSN activities. But, additionally, the formation of personal relationships helps build commitment among multi-sectoral SETSAN-P partners to one another and to SETSAN.

United Nations and International Bilateral Donors

Representatives of UN Agencies and of Bilateral Donors, as previously mentioned, have established channels of communication with SETSAN. Their central preoccupation was not their relationship to SETSAN but rather SETSAN's role as a coordinating and lobbying body. Concern was manifested that the institution's technical information focus may be obscuring the need for continued lobbying work to integrate FSN knowledge into national and ministerial strategies. UN and Bilateral

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Donors want assurance that SETSAN has sufficient political commitment from National, Provincial and District government partners.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF SETSAN INFORMATION USERS

SETSAN's activities in the area of information management must be focused and deliberate. In terms of FSN data-collection, it should seek to harmonize with concurrent information-systems. For appropriate dissemination, it should take advantage of existing communication channels, and in order to assure the relevance of its information products and services, SETSAN must take account the impacts of direct and indirect FSN interventions, the needs of diverse of stakeholders, across sectors and at different administrative levels, as well as the changing panorama of FSN in Mozambique.

SETSAN must recognize that although decision-makers may draw from the same data sets, such as vulnerability indicators, livelihood mapping, seasonal weather and agricultural forecasts, information about previous interventions, etc., institutions responsible for emergency responses may utilize the same information in a very different manner than development-planning institutions who respond to long-term and structural issues, including poverty and chronic food insecurity. It must be sensitive to these diverse information needs and, whenever significant user-groups fail to incorporate FSN information into their decision-making, SETSAN should seek to understand how its products and services might be modified to change this trend. In short, SETSAN's activities must demand-driven.

Each of SETSAN's working groups shares responsibility with the executive coordinating body to ensure that its information products are accurate, timely and useful to target audiences. Within SETSAN, however, the Permanent Information Unit is uniquely responsible for the overall coordination of SETSAN communication flows and the harmonization of different FSN information systems at a national level.

Recommendations: SETSAN Permanent Information Unit

Description - The Permanent Unit for Coordination of Information Systems (IU) is an entity with the responsibility to lead and coordinate the circulation of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Information, both within and without the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security (SETSAN). In accordance with the mandate of SETSAN, the Information Unit must: 1) encourage holistic FSN diagnosis through the coordination of relevant information, and 2) facilitate timely decision-making by politicians and other leaders to eliminate, minimize, or mitigate conditions of food insecurity and malnutrition. The Information Unit is composed of the following working groups:

- GAV- Vulnerability Analysis Committee
- GAPSAN- Food Security and Nutrition Early-Warning Group
- FBA- Food Balance Monitoring Group
- SANHA- Food Security and Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Working Group
- UCEA- Agricultural Campaign and Emergency Evaluation Group
- GMAS – Environmental Health and Hygiene Monitoring Group

Goal - The common goal of the SETSAN and its units and working groups is to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. The Information Units specific mandate in this context is in the coordination of diverse Food Security and Nutrition Information

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Systems, facilitating the targeted and timely circulation of relevant and timely FSN information produced by SETSAN and other institutions to influence decision-makers at National, Provincial and District levels.

Core Activities of the SETSAN Permanent Information Unit:

- a) Collection of baseline information and diagnosis of critical food security and nutrition issues and priorities in the country.
- b) Coordinate the activities and review the studies and publications of distinct working groups which focus on these priority issues to ensure adequate coverage of FSN information needs and appropriate dissemination strategies;
- c) Monitoring of acute and longer term trends in vulnerability to food insecurity and production of regular information products and services.
- d) Lead and coordinate the overall SETSAN communications strategy, including media relations, official statements, and training efforts, as well as data banks and circulation of technical and policy documents;
- e) Establish regular communication with the SETSAN's multi-sectoral partners, including Government Sectors, UN Agencies, International Bilateral Donors and NGO's, to ensure that SETSAN is responding to key decision maker needs and to avoid the creation of parallel FSN information systems;
- f) Support the operational planning and review processes of Government sectors engaged in FSN information-gathering;
- g) Together with the Policy and Planning Unit, advocate for specific FSN related policies and actions to be prioritized by decision makers across sectors and agencies.
- h) Liaison with the Disaster Management Technical Committee (CTCG) regarding FSN information systems;
- i) Stimulate communicational links and information-exchange between Provincial SETSAN's and SETSAN-C working groups, working to increase capacity at all levels in information collection, analysis and dissemination;
- j) Seek out opportunities to expand circulation and influence of FSN information among potential user-groups such as the private sector.

Recommended Priorities of SETSAN Permanent Information Unit

- o Based on the need for further decentralization of data-collection, data analysis, and information management- it is recommended that the Information Unit prepare a training plan for Provincial partners with components addressing identification, collection, analysis, interpretation and validation of primary results, and emphasizing transference of these capacities to District partners whenever feasible;
- o Based on the need provide focused FSN information for target user-groups- it is recommended that the Information Unit reactivate the various SETSAN working groups which, for diverse reasons, have

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discontinued the production of FSN documents in the past 6 months-year, and commit to activation of those which are not yet operational;

- Based on the need for clear definition of tasks, information domains, and production expectations within SETSAN- it is recommended that the Information Unit lead a multi-party dialogue to develop consensus on the respective agendas of its different working groups and SETSAN-P;
- Based on the need to coordinate with INGC through representation at the Technical Committee for Disaster Management- it is recommended that the Information Unit work closely with SETSAN directorship to define and prioritize and the institution's objectives in this forum;
- Based on the need to improve dissemination of information products and coordination services at various levels- it is recommended that the Information Unit take the lead in developing a detailed communications strategy, containing provisions for information flow with District level government.

Recommendations: SETSAN Communication Strategy

Based on the need to formally articulate the Permanent Information Unit's role in FSN Information Systems, it is recommended that a detailed communications strategy be outlined within two months following finalization of this study.

The communications strategy must take into account:

- Appropriate presentation of SETSAN information;
- Appropriate distribution lists for individual SETSAN products;
- Appropriate timeframes for distribution of products;
- Appropriate dissemination strategies (ensure that products reach their target groups at Provincial and District levels);
- Appropriate follow-up communications with product recipients to ensure the utility of SETSAN products;
- Appropriate advocacy and lobbying campaign to accompany SETSAN information products;

- Constraints which have prevented SETSAN from adhering to prior suggestions for appropriate distribution, timeframes, dissemination channels, follow-ups, and advocacy in the past.

Communication strategy, specific recommendations:

- Eliminate SETSAN working group logos and use one standard logo on ***all*** SETSAN products;
- Establish standardized formats for all periodic SETSAN products;

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- Explicitly recognize institutional contributors to SETSAN products;
- Explore possibilities for “piggybacking” to include SETSAN reports/ editorials in existing publications such as the Friday “*Noticias newspaper*” Supplement and regular bulletins put out by NGO’s, UN Agencies, and Provincial sectors;
- Update, categorize and systematize current distribution lists of SETSAN products, seeking to expand circulation;
- Increase the production in “hard-copy” of reports and case studies for wider dissemination in Government sectors and at Provincial and District levels;
- Update website regularly and expand SETSAN’s online electronic library;
- Improve organization and size of SETSAN’s physical library and on-site databases, taking special care to acquire important references such as the Population Census, the QUIBB, and to balance “emergency-“ with “development-focused” information, etc.;
- Utilize “rapid-distribution-channels” such as Permanent Secretaries to ensure the distribution of time-sensitive products such as meteorological forecasts, market information, and prices at Provincial and District levels;
- Utilize non-written means to communicate FSN information to (symposiums, formal social events, national and community radio and television programs);
- SETSAN-C should consider the production of a synthetic, monthly email bulletin (2 pages) which outlines the changing FSN situation and informs about upcoming SETSAN publications, increasing SETSAN’s visibility among national stake-holders and regularizing SETSAN’s participation in national information systems;
- Give special attention to areas such as Nutrition Education, HIV/AIDS, Environment, and dissemination of “good-practices”;
- SETSAN-P should make regular (monthly) presentations in the sessions of the Provincial Government;
- SETSAN-P should focus on using their specialized knowledge to adapt SETSAN-C information to the needs of District Representatives, by providing further detail to general SETSAN recommendations and giving examples of practical and locally-appropriate application strategies.

Recommendations: SETSAN Capacity Building Strategy

Based on the need to strengthen the abilities of SETSAN in terms of decentralized information production, coordination and dissemination, it is recommended that the capacitation strategy outlined in the SETSAN 2006 Work Plan be embraced and advanced as quickly as possible (6 months).

Priorities for capacity-building must include:

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- The need to provide value-added FSN training to multi-sectoral technicians, at National and Provincial levels, giving special attention to sectors whose relationships with FSN is indirect, and too often neglected;
- The need for more independent FSN diagnosis at the Provincial level, to facilitate more timely, accurate, and detailed analyses of chronic and acute FSN, and freeing SETSAN-C to focus on monitoring activities, policy-advising and advocacy;
- The need for close and continuous accompaniment of SETSAN-P focal points by experienced national personnel for technical, institutional, and legitimacy-building activities;
- The need to provide a context for holistic FSN diagnosis and planning to decision-makers at the District level, possibly through distribution of “FSN Toolkits,” mini reference guides containing information on SETSAN, its activities, FSN data-collection methodology, analysis, and public education tools;
- The goal of accompanying information-flows (to Districts) with some level of FSN training, led by SETSAN-P and focusing first on District Government officials.

Recommendations: SETSAN Coordination Strategy

Based on the need to strengthen multi-sectoral communication flows and improve the satisfaction of stake-holders at all levels with SETSAN-C and SETSAN-P information products and services, it is recommended that the following aspects be given priority in terms of coordination:

- The need for high-level dialogue between SETSAN and INGC in order to avoid duplication of efforts or data conflicts;
- The need for further collaboration between GAPSAN, MINAG/DINA Early-Warning and FEWS NET, to avoid duplicate efforts and facilitate the fulfillment of individual mandates;
- The exploration of mutually-rewarding collaboration between SETSAN and University partners;
- The need to avoid the perception that “SETSAN takes more than it gives” through closer sectoral collaboration, mainly at a National level, facilitating dissemination of the holistic vision of FSN while providing valuable services to sectoral partners and assisting them to fulfill their specific mandates;
- The reactivation of the SETSAN NGO-Coordination Working Group, to work towards harmonization of data-collection methods and monitoring tools in National and Local contexts, for the mutual benefit of the aforementioned actors;

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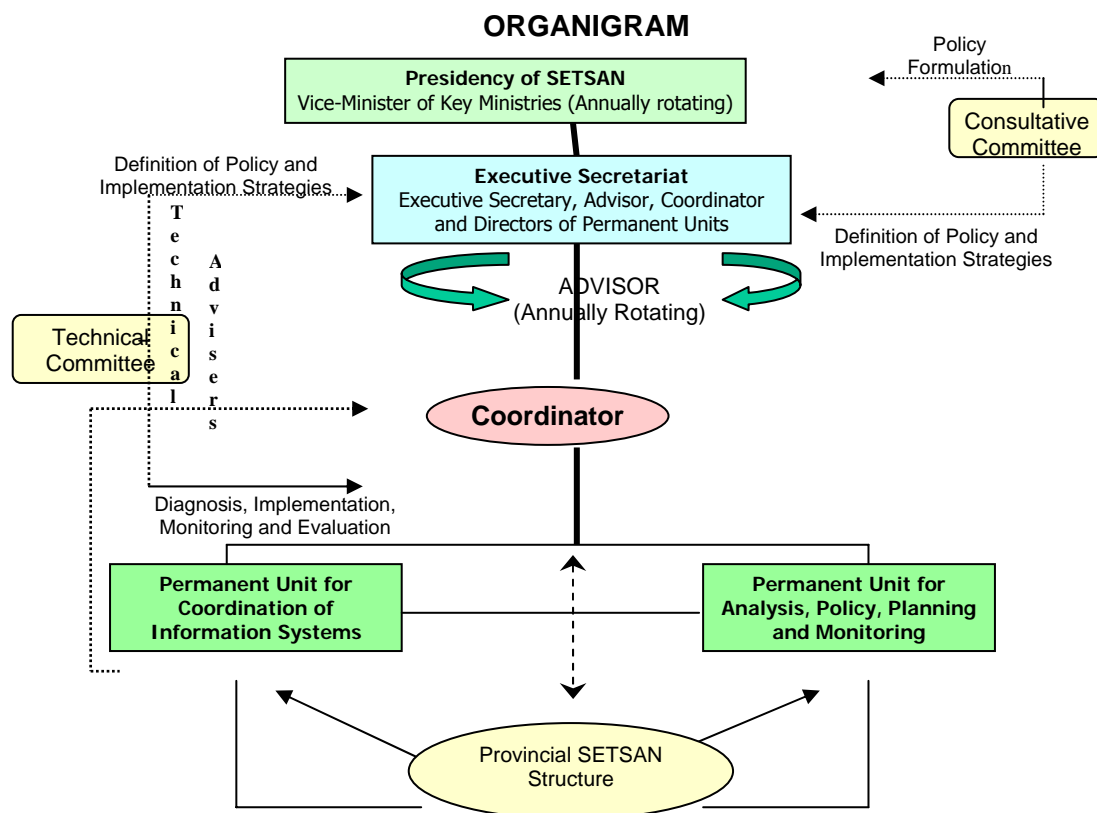
- The need for much closer collaboration between SETSAN-P and locally-operating NGO's, allowing SETSAN-P to strengthen their own data-collection and monitoring capacities, while simultaneously providing the NGO's with independent and credible FSN information;
- The responsibility of SETSAN-P to calendarize meetings and provide notice with adequate anticipation, in exchange for institutional commitment to SETSAN-P initiatives and continuity of sectoral focal-points for an agreed-upon minimum term (1 year);
- The need for better coordination between National and Provincial SETSAN's with District Administration before, during, and after SETSAN missions, to improve the accuracy of data and avoid the perception of SETSAN as an "extractive" institution

Recommendations: Monitoring User Satisfaction Levels

If SETSAN is to improve its status as the premier national body for leadership and coordination of FSN information and interventions it will need to engage in continuous consultation with its principal user groups to assure that their needs are being met. Two complimentary mechanisms for achieving this goal are: 1) Periodic User Needs Assessments, and 2) Regular, informal dialogue regarding the satisfaction of SETSAN's "customers."

The study recommends that future User Needs Assessments be carried out with the periodicity ascertained by SETSAN leadership, but with a minimum 3 year frequency, and designed to account for changes in SETSAN's activities and areas of focus. Based on the positive yield provided by the qualitative methodology, it is recommended that future studies continue to favor qualitative over quantitative inputs. However, based on time considerations, it is suggested that user groups be treated as separate components and addressed in separate phases, potentially spaced out over various months or years.

ANNEX I: Structure of the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN)



Working Groups of SETSAN

Unit for Coordination of Information Systems

- GAV- Vulnerability Analysis Committee
- GAPSAN- Food Security and Nutrition Early-Warning Group
- FBA- Food Balance Monitoring Group
- SANHA- Food Security and Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Working Group
- UCEA- Agricultural Campaign and Emergency Evaluation Group
- GMAS – Environmental Health and Hygiene Monitoring Group

Unit for Analysis, Policy, Planning and Monitoring

- Information Analysis and Policy Formulation Group
- PARPA and PASAN Monitoring Group
- GAN- Gender, Agriculture and Nutrition Group
- Budget and Planning Group
- Government, NGO, and International Agency Coordination Group

ANNEX II: Interview Guide

(Name, Institution, Position and Contact Information)

- 1) Could you please explain briefly the role of your institution in Food Security and Nutrition?
- 2) What is your knowledge of SETSAN? Does your institution have a relationship with SETSAN? If so, how would you describe that relationship?
- 3) How does FSN information enter into your decision-making process? Could you provide some examples?
- 4) What are some of the key decisions made by your institution and when do they occur? What FSN information do you need to make these decisions? What is your preferred format?
- 5) Where do you usually get FSN information? Are these institutionalized channels or personal contacts?
- 6) When you have doubts about aspects of FSN or need FSN information to which you do not have access, where do you look for that information?
- 7) Do you ever sense critical information gaps in terms of FSN? If so, what are they?
- 8) What are some of the strengths of your institution in terms of information flow? How do you use these strengths to achieve your objectives?
- 9) What are some of the principal weaknesses of communication flows within your institution? Can you identify any communication difficulties between your institution and other key players?
- 10) How might some of these pitfalls be avoided?
- 11) What is your level of satisfaction with SETSAN currently? Why?
- 12) What should be improved in order for SETSAN to better fulfill the needs of your institution? Do you have recommendations on how this might happen?

ANNEX III: User Needs Assessment Questionnaire

(Name, Institution, Position and Contact Information)

1. Please indicate the areas of activity for which your unit is responsible

- Policy Formulation
- Programming
- Planning and implementation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Collection of Primary Data
- Emergency Interventions
- Development Interventions
- Other (please specify)

2. In which of the following areas is your institution more active?

- Emergency
- Development
- Neither (please specify)

3. When you require information about Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), what are your principal sources?

- Web / Internet
- E-mail Bulletins
- Sectoral Publications (specify)
 - MISAU
 - MIC
 - MINAG
 - UN Agency Reports on Mozambique
 - NGO Reports on Mozambique
 - FEWS NET
- Radio and Television
- Newspaper and Magazines
- Studies and Reports
- Personal contacts

4. How do you utilize SETSAN products?

	Familiar with	Currently Receive	Would like to Receive
SETSAN Webpage (www.setsan.org.mz)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infoflash (SETSAN Bulletin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular Reports of SETSAN's GAV Working Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular Reports of SETSAN's GAPSAN Working Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSN Case Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reports from Provincial Government Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNEX IV: Literature Reviewed for 2006 User Needs Assessment

- **“Declaração de Roma Sobre Segurança Alimentar e Plano de Acção da Cimeira Mundial da Alimentação,”** World Food Summit, November 13-17, 1996. Printed in Portuguese with the assistance of FAO, Maputo, Mozambique, 1998;
- **“Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty: 2001-2005”** (PARPA), Final Version approved by the [Mozambican] Council of Ministers, April 2001. Translation from original Portuguese text.;
- **“Report of the National Consultation on Vulnerability Analysis for Mozambique”** (Draft), Principal author: Leonor Domingos, 2004;
- **“Report on the Results of the Vulnerability Assessment Retreat”** (Inhaca, 2003). Principal author: Lourdes Fidalgo;
- Case Study on the **“Development of Food Security Information Systems in Mozambique,”** (Draft), Government of Mozambique/FAO/EC-Food Security Assistance Unit, 1999;
- **“Food and Nutrition Security Strategy”** of Mozambique, 2002. Taken from the Draft Translation of the “Estratégia de Segurança Alimentar e Nutrição”, 1998;
- **“Report of the External Assessment and Strategic Planning Exercise (EASP) For the Interagency Working Group, Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems,”** by Dr. Alex McCalla (UC Davis) and Dr. Nancy Mock (Tulane University), April 2004;
- **“Final Report from the Vulnerability Analysis Working Group Retreat,”** September 2003;
- **Mandates and Terms of Reference for diverse SETSAN Working Groups;**
- **Information Products such as reports, bulletins, brochures and PowerPoint presentations prepared by diverse SETSAN working groups;**
- **District Development Plans (PDD’s) for Nampula districts;**
- **Food Security and Nutrition Strategy Papers for the Provinces of Maputo, Nampula, Sofala, Manica and Cabo Delgado;**
- **Website information for all NGO’s, UN Agencies, and International Bilateral Donors interviewed.**

ANNEX V: User Preferences for Sources of FSN Information

FSN Information User Preferences*

Preferred Information Source	Percentage	Notes
Sectoral Publications (including UN and NGO Publications)	91%	<i>By far the preferred information source by all groups</i>
Reports and Studies	63%	<i>none</i>
Personal Contacts	50%	<i>Preferred at National level</i>
Television and Radio	48%	<i>Preferred at the Provincial level</i>
Newspaper and Magazines	37%	<i>Preferred at the District level</i>
Internet	30%	<i>Strongly dominated by National and non-Government user groups</i>
Email Bulletins	30%	<i>Strongly dominated by National and non-Government user groups</i>

* N= 67

Sectoral Publication Usage Patterns**

Preferred Publications	Percentage	Notes
MINAG	50%	<i>Not once cited by Health sector or Health-aligned NGO's</i>
MIC	48%	<i>Cited by all sectors, especially Agriculture and Agriculture-aligned NGO's</i>
MISAU	45%	<i>Strongly dominated by Health Sector and Health-aligned NGO's</i>
NGO Reports	35%	<i>Rarely cited by Government sectors</i>
UN Reports	30%	<i>none</i>
FEWSNET	20%	<i>none</i>

** N= 40

ANNEX VI: Familiarity with SETSAN Products by Level and User Group

1. Familiarity among National User Groups

	SETSAN Website	SETSAN Infolash	Vulnerability Analysis Reports	Early-Warning Reports	SETSAN Case Studies	Provincial Reports
Government (N= 10)	40%	20%	40%	20%	60%	10%
NGO's (N= 8)	63%	63%	63%	63%	25%	25%
Bilateral Donors (N= 4)	100%	100%	50%	50%	50%	25%
UN Agencies (N= 6)	100%	100%	83%	50%	33%	17%
Total (N= 28)	69%	54%	57%	43%	46%	18%

2. Familiarity among Provincial User Groups

	SETSAN Website	SETSAN Infolash	Vulnerability Analysis Reports	Early-Warning Reports	SETSAN Case Studies	Provincial Reports
Government (N= 10)	0%	10%	30%	20%	20%	40%
NGO's (N=12)	33%	33%	66%	50%	17%	42%
Total (N= 22)	18%	23%	50%	36%	18%	41%

3. Familiarity among District User Groups

	SETSAN Website	SETSAN Infolash	Vulnerability Analysis Reports	Early-Warning Reports	SETSAN Case Studies	Provincial Reports
Government (N= 17)	6%	0%	6%	18%	18%	35%
NGO's (N= 3)	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total (N= 20)	10%	0%	5%	15%	15%	30%

ANNEX VII: Bibliography – SETSAN Publications