

Assessment of the Evaluation Workshop:



**“Georgia Food Security Situation – Trends in Figures”¹
Published by the Department of Statistics**

30 August – 1 September 2006

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel
Tbilisi, Georgia

This workshop took place in the framework of the EC-financed “Food Security - Information for Action” Programme” implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. It was a participative event with much dedication from participants, the moderator, trainers, interpreters and the organisers. Photo-documentation of the proceedings of the workshop is available on CD-Rom. It includes the list of participants, the proceedings, the presentations, the major findings and the participants’ evaluation of the workshop as well as a copy of the bulletin evaluation questionnaire which was circulated prior to the workshop. This report is a condensed summary of the proceedings and an evaluation of the workshop and a summary of the trainers’ findings.

The bulletin can be accessed in English and in Georgian at <http://www.statistics.ge>

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Executive summary

Rationale for the evaluation - The quarterly bulletin “Georgia Food Security Situation – Trends in Figures” is the main vehicle of communication of the Food Security Observatory in the Department of Statistics in Georgia. The bulletin’s purpose is to provide information necessary to assess and monitor developments in food and nutrition security in Georgia to national decision makers and development partners. The information should be the basis for targeted remedial actions.

After five years of publishing the bulletin, both the EC-FSP and the Department of Statistics requested an evaluation to assess its usefulness, the timeliness of the information/data and analysis provided and their relevance to the current food and nutrition security situation, poverty alleviation concerns and government development goals and strategies.

Objectives - The objectives of the evaluation workshop were threefold: (1) to bring together (potential) users and producers of the bulletin, (2) to evaluate the usefulness of this publication to their work, and (3) to discuss if and how the bulletin should be changed to better meet the needs of users and decision makers.

Methods - The bulletin evaluation was carried out in two ways: (1) a questionnaire-based reader survey among the 144 recipients of the bulletin and (2) a participatory workshop bringing key users and producers of the bulletin to discuss what is necessary and feasible. Two main focus group discussions were held to identify first the key priorities in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in Georgia and then to propose changes in the information content and format of the bulletin.

Main results of the evaluation – The bulletin is a relevant information product and a unique vehicle for communicating results of the Household Budget Survey (HBS) analysis. However, the distribution list should be severely trimmed. The findings of the workshop were in line with those of the readership survey. The three top FNS priorities in Georgia considered important to monitor and report on were: inadequate diet, food safety and poor access to food. The two most requested information topics were: dietary information and price/cost data. This information demand supports the kind of FNS priorities that were revealed in the situation analysis.

About two-thirds of the suggestions made by the users will be taken on board gradually, but requests for regional and district data, and more analysis, are not possible to meet. The sample for the HBS is small and was structured to obtain representative national and rural/urban data. The mandate of the Department of Statistics is to collect data and make it available for analysis by others. Moreover, some of the analysis being requested is clearly the mandate of other ministries. It has not proved possible to achieve a genuine inter-sectoral/ministerial analysis in the bulletin.

Background and introduction

The first bulletin “**Georgia Food Security Situation – Trends in Figures**” was published in December 2000 by the Food Security Observatory in the Department of Statistics (DoS). The Observatory was created with EC assistance to provide, on a regular basis, information necessary for assessing and monitoring developments in food and nutrition security in Georgia to national decision makers and development partners. The Observatory (and the bulletin) is supported financially by the EC Food Security Programme (EC-FSP). It is one element of its integrated programme to improve the design, management, delivery and effectiveness of state programmes in agriculture, social protection and statistics aimed at reducing poverty and food insecurity in Georgia.

The **quarterly bulletin** is the main vehicle of communication of the Observatory. Some 144 copies have been distributed to members of the government, regional government representatives, parliamentary committees, the donor community and embassies in Georgia. As it is produced by the DoS, the bulletin provides mainly statistical information on the national economy, agriculture, food prices, trade in basic foods and the findings of the Household Budget Survey, as well as some analysis. The FAO has provided technical assistance in its production.

After more than 5 years of publication, with little feedback to the producers, both the EC-FSP and the DoS requested that an evaluation of the bulletin be carried out in the framework of the EC/FAO Programme “Food Security: Information for Action”.

The evaluation had two stages: A user/reader survey took place in the months preceding the workshop. Some 144 questionnaires, in Georgian and English, were sent out in May/June 2006 to seek feedback on: (i) the usefulness and timeliness of the data and analysis provided in the bulletin, (ii) the use made of the information in the bulletin, and (iii) suggestions for improvements. This was followed by an interactive participative workshop from 30 August to 1 September 2006 that brought users and producers together for further discussion. The results of the survey questionnaire were discussed towards the end of the workshop, so that questionnaire findings did not *a priori* influence the discussions (even if some participants had filled out the questionnaire).

Workshop objectives and expected outcomes

The overall objective of this workshop was to evaluate the impact of the food security bulletin to make it more relevant to user needs and current government priorities. Workshop aims were as follows:

- to bring together (potential) users and producers of the quarterly bulletin “Georgia Food Security Situation - Trends in Figures”
- to evaluate the usefulness of this publication to their work,
- to discuss if and how the bulletin should be changed to better meet the needs of users and decision makers.

The workshop was designed to facilitate:

- a discussion on the bulletin's purpose in relation to the current socio-economic situation and the strategic priorities of the Government, and
- the identification and selection of feasible recommendations for improving the quality of the bulletin and increasing its usefulness for users.

The evaluation's objectives were to raise awareness of the bulletin, to provide feedback to motivate the producers and to strike a balance between user requests for data and analysis with producer capacities. The workshop also aimed to raise awareness of the cross-sectoral nature of food and nutrition security issues and hence the need for technical inputs from other ministries/institutions with a part to play in improving food security and nutrition. In addition, the decision-makers or funding agency can use the evaluation to judge the usefulness of this information activity and make decisions accordingly. This is important as the funding for the bulletin beyond 2007 is not guaranteed.

Workshop Organisation and Participants

The bulletin evaluation and workshop was organized by FAO in close cooperation with the Department of Statistics in Georgia². It was an inter-active workshop which relied on the active participation of all the participants. A professional facilitator, Mr. Georg Bokeloh, encouraged the interaction between all members by addressing them all equally and by building on the principle that everybody knows something but nobody knows everything. Group work, partly based on the participants' own working situations and intensive plenary discussions, were core elements of the workshop. A team of interpreters and translators ensured simultaneous and sequential translation, so that each plenary session proceeded in English and Georgian. Group work was done in homogenous language groups to facilitate communication.

The 29 participants included 9 "producers" from the DoS and 20 "users". The producers of the bulletin were essentially statisticians and analysts from the DoS working on food security related areas. The users were representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (3), Economic Development (1), Education (1), Environment and Natural Resources (1) Finance (1), Institute of Hygiene and Sanitation (1), Academy of Science (2) a Parliamentary committee(1), the regional governments (3), UNDP, WFP, EC Delegation, EC-FSP, and NGO's. The participant list is attached as annex 1 and the agenda as annex 2.

Workshop Proceedings and Findings

The first day began with a presentation on the key elements of food and nutrition security (FNS) - the levels of analysis (*macro*, *meso* and *micro*), the 3+1 dimensions of food security (food availability, access to food, food utilization/use and stability), framework conditions, the UNICEF conceptual model of the causes of malnutrition, and the manifestations of

² The workshop was organized by Ms Marijke Drysdale from FAO headquarters in close cooperation with Mr George Kvinikadze from the Department of Statistics. Mr Georg Bokeloh facilitated the event. The training officer, Ms Cristina Lopriore from FAO headquarters, summarized all individual inputs and prepared overviews for focused plenary discussions.

malnutrition of relevance to Georgia. For more information see Annex 3. This and later presentations aimed at reaching a common understanding among all participants of key food security concepts and issues and helped the participants situate the bulletin in a wider context.

Participants broke up into 5 working groups to consider the question:

Group work 1 – Which FNS aspects or problems do you consider key to Georgian situation? (to be monitored/reported on for more effective strategies and/or development programmes)

The five groups identified the following priority issues and problems to address in the Georgian context :

Table 1: Key Food and Nutrition Security Problems in Georgia

Issue/Problem	Times
unbalanced diet, eating patterns/habits, feeding practices	4
food quality/food safety	4
economic access to food (low household purchasing power)	3
education/awareness on good/healthy diet/eating practices	2
diseases caused by unsafe food and by malnutrition	2
dietary intake data, nutrient composition and quality of foods	2
disaggregation of data at subnational levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>sakrebulo</i> (district) -level information for monitoring & targeting purposes (average income) • maps for visualising info/ statistical data, disaggregated by groups (age, sex, etc.) 	2
insufficient support/promotion to local food production	1
insufficient use/exploitation of uncultivated land	1
emergency preparedness to man-made disasters e.g. stabilize food prices	1
total:	22

Strategic priorities of the government as formulated in the following documents were presented: the Basic Data and Directions 2007-2010, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Progress Report 2005 and the Millennium Development Goals goals (as adapted by the Government of Georgia). The presentations (Annexes 4 and 5) focused on national strategies for the alleviation of poverty and food insecurity, and aimed at identifying a viable link between the bulletin and the Government's priority concerns.

The second day began with a presentation by the DoS of new information related to food and nutrition security likely to become available in 2007-08 (Annex 6). The rest of the day was largely occupied by group work, presentation and plenary discussion of the following group task.

Group work 2 – Based on the first day’s common understanding of (a) the FNS situation in Georgia – key issues and problems and (b) key policies/programmes in the country, how can the following aspects of the bulletin be improved in order to better meet the needs of users?

1) information provided: - content, indicators, subjects (data versus analysis)
 - readability/ comprehensiveness of the information
 - periodicity

2) lay-out, appearance: - design i.e. balance of text, table, graphs, etc.
 - language
 - dissemination/distribution

The recommendations/suggestions of the three groups are summarized below:

Table 2: Information needs and proposals for future bulletin features

Information provided	# of times cited
dietary information (derived from household expenditure on food): include more foods (fish, fruits and vegetables) + compare with recommended norms of energy/nutrient intake + show absolute quantities + define a cut-off level for mean energy intake to derive figures on undernourishment + disaggregated by age groups	8
prices & costs of domestically produced and imported food items + disaggregated at rural/regional level + on individual items <i>vs.</i> grouped indices	7
median & averages of data (consumption, prices, expenditure)	2
comparison with other countries (poverty, diet composition & adequacy, etc.)	2
more analysis in the bulletin	1
occurrence of basic events affecting FS (e.g. flood) to interpret observed trends	1
share of GDP disaggregated by: agriculture, forestry, fisheries	1
should not consider extreme poverty line (since the official line is quite low)	1
produce forecasts of food balance sheets (to inform of uncovered deficits, for planning of food imports and emergency food aid)	1
expand national coverage of food “consumption” data (training more “interviewer”)	1
socio-economic indicators at meso-level	
data on food quality/safety (currently not available)	1
data on food-borne diseases (e.g. get from health care system and relate to FS sit.)	1
data on drinking water	1
threshold of revised poverty line is questioned (artificial, not reflecting reality)	1
Layout	
format: satisfactory design & lay out (more graphs if possible)	3
delivery: satisfied with both e-copy + printed copy, distributed within 1 month	2
language: both English + Georgian (to avoid misinterpretation of key terms)	1
prices + exchange rates on monthly basis for early warning?	1
periodicity: quarterly issue (for sensitive indicators) + annual issue with household survey results (monthly publication would be nice but maybe too ambitious?)	1

Only at this stage were the results of the user/reader survey presented. The questionnaire sent to 144 recipients of the bulletin is attached at Annex 7. Despite the low response rate (only 32 questionnaires were completed), the survey findings (Annex 8) largely reiterated the findings of the workshop and will not be repeated here.

The morning of day 3 was devoted to reviewing and summarizing the group work findings, clarifying (i) which users' suggestions can be met, (ii) the reasons why some requests cannot be met under the present budget and capacity limitations and in (iii) building consensus regarding the coverage, layout and periodicity of the revised bulletin. Participants were then asked to carry out an anonymous evaluation of the workshop (Annex 9). Closing comments and acknowledgements followed.

Follow-up to the workshop

The findings of the workshop were discussed with the DoS, in particular, the Deputy Chairman and the Head of the Agricultural and Ecology Statistics division. Table 3 (below) shows suggestions which could be followed up. From 2006 onwards, a smaller quarterly bulletin will focus on FNS issues that change (cropping, prices, trade and gradually forecast supply/utilization balances for the staple food crops only). In 2007, the first revised annual issue will be produced.

Table 3. Schedule of Requested Improvements/Changes to the Bulletin “Georgia Food Security Situation – Trends in Figures”

Annex I - Schedule of requested improvements/changes to the Bulletin Georgia: Food Security Situation - Trends Figures		
I	Suggestions that can be met: <i>energy consumption should be expressed</i>	STATUS
1	- In absolute quantities in addition to kilocalories	Can be done 1 x year
2	- Compared with recommended daily consumption norms	Can be done 1 x year
3	- Include consumption of fish, fruit and vegetable consumption	Can be done 1 x year
4	- Determine the realistic energy intake benchmark below which adults are undernourished	To be discussed with FAO
5	- Report average as well as median values	Will be done in future in annual bulletin
<i>Commodity supply/utilization accounts</i>		
6	- Increase their number by including eg fish, fruit and tea	To be considered with exception of tea whose kcal addition to DES is minimal
7	- Publish actual and forecast supply/utilization accounts	Will be done gradually as of late 2006
<i>Prices</i>		
8	- More information on cost of production and producer prices	Data will be available only as of 2007, if funds are available for a price survey. If not, can obtain some derived data from the agricultural sample survey

9	- Include import prices	Average value of imports of basic foodstuffs will be published at intervals
10	- Include basic food price data from Zugdidi	Will be done
	Poverty lines	
11	- Use the official poverty line	Bulletin has reported on the revised official poverty line in No 22 and will continue to do so
	Other Socio-ecomomic data	
12	- Report on drinking water	Will do so in annual bulletin but very little info available
13	- Include more socio-economic indicators	Will do so in annual bulletin but very little info available
14	- Report separately on share of domestic GDP from agriculture, fisheries and forestry	Will be done
	Suggestions that cannot be met or need collaboration from line ministries or specialized institutes	
15	- Information broken down by regions and districts	Not possible given current HBS
16	- Do not use the food poverty line as it is too low	Will report on the lower line as essential to target the very poor.
17	- Extend the analytical part of the bulletin	Not mandate of DoS. Will need assistance from line ministries responsible
18	- Provide information on basic events of importance to food security	Not considered mandate of DoS; cannot do by themselves
19	- Publish indicators on food safety	Need technical assistance from Ministry responsible. Little or no information is currently available
20	- Report on diseases related to malnutrition	Need technical assistance from Ministry responsible. Little or no information is currently available
21	- Report on energy consumption and diseases by age group	Not possible
22	- Provide comparisons with neighbouring countries	Can only be done using internationally accepted benchmarks

Issues Arising from the Workshop

Both the users and producers of the bulletin benefited from the workshop. Producers received feedback and for many users this was the first face to face meeting with staff of the DoS and other ministries, resulting in interesting exchanges for the benefit of all participants, including the organisers. It is recommended that such a meeting be organised informally by the DoS (perhaps at the WFP office) at least once per year, perhaps after the annual bulletin is issued to discuss the progress of the bulletin.

The low number of completed questionnaires (32/144) indicates that the impact of the bulletin is not wide. Moreover, several governmental participants whose offices have received the bulletin, have never read it. It is recommended that the distribution list be thoroughly reviewed and reduced. Many recipients did not react even after the second invitation to complete the questionnaire.

However, those who did fill in the questionnaire, found the bulletin quite good overall. However, they requested faster distribution. It is now envisaged to prepare shorter quarterly bulletins within one month of the availability of data on cropping situation, prices, trade and forecast supply/utilization accounts, i.e. Jan-Mar issue in April. An annual bulletin, with more analysis of HBS and annual data will be issued around April or May.

Reviewing the uses made of the bulletin and the recommended improvements, it became clear that the bulletin is often used to substitute for other important, but unavailable, information. For example, a nutritionist uses the monthly average price data of basic foods to help draw up

a balanced diet for institutionalized persons, given the institution's budget. More price information was the second most often requested item for improving the coverage of the bulletin and for making it more relevant to analysis. The bulletin is also used for drawing up regional development plans, irrespective of whether the statistics are reliable at this level. The main request from users is to have more disaggregated data, i.e. a restructured HBS sample.

The Ministry of Agriculture collaborates with the DoS to produce the evaluation of the cropping season. However, further collaboration between other ministries to produce an inter-sectoral analysis has not eventuated. The Ministry of Health did not send a representative to the workshop and Social Services and Education were also poorly represented. The likelihood of accomplishing genuine cross-sectoral analysis is slim, unless a high-level inter-ministerial food security committee is created and has the support of the Government.

The impact and utility of the bulletin for monitoring and targeting purposes will likely become less, as regional indicators are not considered representative and will no longer be included.

The bulletin is the only publication that regularly publishes information and some analysis of data collected in the HBS. In addition, some of the information which will become available to the DoS in 2007-08, and includes the results of the food security questionnaire and information on prices, give the DoS an edge in access to food and nutrition security data. Moreover, the DoS is the only institution in Georgia at present capable of converting HBS food 'consumption' data into kilocalories and macro-nutrients for purposes of food intake analysis. This capacity has been further strengthened under the EC/FAO Programme "Food Security Information for Action" and should be nurtured.

HBS analysis is carried out independently by 2-3 organisations: the DoS is producing the bulletin, the Ministry of Economic Development is monitoring poverty indicators for the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Programme and the UNDP is monitoring progress in meeting the MDG goals. The workshop highlighted the links between these reports, particularly the MDG progress report, but it was not a suitable forum for discussing closer integration/harmonization of the work among the three entities.

For the bulletin to become really relevant to decision makers, the HBS sample survey should be enlarged and strengthened so that the sample is representative at the regional level. However, in addition to surmountable technical issues, there are also (currently insurmountable) budget considerations. The World Bank is currently investing money in (interalia) Tajikistan to upgrade the national HBS to become relevant at the regional level. This could entail redrawing the sample, but not necessarily increasing the number of households surveyed.

The future of the bulletin, beyond 2007 is uncertain. Food insecurity is a localized problem, but the HBS sample is too small to throw light on it. National indicators (in 1999: stunting 12%, wasting 2% and underweight 3% are within international norms- and the 2005 MICS indicates some improvement at the national level). The major food security concerns, - increasing agricultural productivity, access to food and use and utilization of food – have to be dealt with in the framework of the national strategy documents and sector analysis.

It could be worth exploring three options;-

- a) continuing with the 4 quarterly short bulletin and one annual analysis of the FNS situation, using the additional information that will become available to the DoS
- b) merging the annual FNS analysis with that of the MDG progress report analysis. In this way, the bulletin would certainly respond to strategic needs. However, the MDG's, as they stand, are at the national level. The Bulletin is able to provide worthwhile information at the level of rural/urban level and vulnerable groups. This information is valuable and should not be ignored.
- c) Rather than producing a separate food security bulletin, it may be preferable to agree on and produce jointly with the MoED and other users, an annual analysis of all the trends in the HBS, similar to that which is produced in Armenia. This analysis would include all the FNS and related indicators and could be supplemented by the information coming from the agricultural sample survey and the food security questionnaire.

Overall, the workshop was successful. The workshop achieved its objectives and received a good evaluation by all the participants. All participants participated actively in group work, delivered good presentations on group work findings and joined the discussions enthusiastically. The general activities were very rewarding and stimulated the exchange of knowledge and experiences among the different institutions represented at the workshop. Furthermore, the workshop provided a useful forum for discussing FNS priorities in Georgia and the problems and information needs that the users of the bulletin face. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved by the workshop.

Moreover, the EC/FAO programme was specifically asked to carry out an evaluation of the bulletin. There are however, two shortcomings of workshops:- i) the real decision makers generally do not or cannot attend, and ii) it is difficult to secure the continuous presence of key users. The first shortcoming was alleviated by doing a separate debriefing after the workshop, but the lack of participation by higher level persons, in the discussions and findings, also undermines any efforts at trying to achieve inter-ministerial collaboration. Nevertheless the workshop proved to be a practical way to achieve a multi-sectoral discussion of the current FNS problems in Georgia and of the information needs of users.

Annex 1

List of Participants	
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ANNEX 2:
DETAILED WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

DAY 1

Morning session

Opening speeches by: Department of Statistics, EC Delegation and FAO

Introduction of participants

Objectives of the workshops & Programme of the workshop

Coffee break

Overview of key concepts of Food & Nutrition Security (FNS)

Discussion

Lunch break – Afternoon session

Group work: “Key FNS issues in Georgia”

Presentation of group work findings

Discussion

Coffee break

Presentation: Basic Policy Documents

Discussion

Overview of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

DAY 2

Morning session

Programme of the day

Presentation: New FS information to become available

Discussion

Group work: “Information needs and future bulletin characteristics”

Coffee break

Group work (continued)

Lunch break – Afternoon session

Presentation of group work findings & Discussion

Presentation of Questionnaire results & Discussion

DAY 3

Morning session

Programme of the day

Summary of Group work findings & Issues remaining needing clarification

Coffee break

Workshop evaluation: Introduction, writing and reading cards by participants

Closing statements and acknowledgements

Annex 3

OVERVIEW OF KEY CONCEPTS OF FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

1) The levels of social and administrative organization

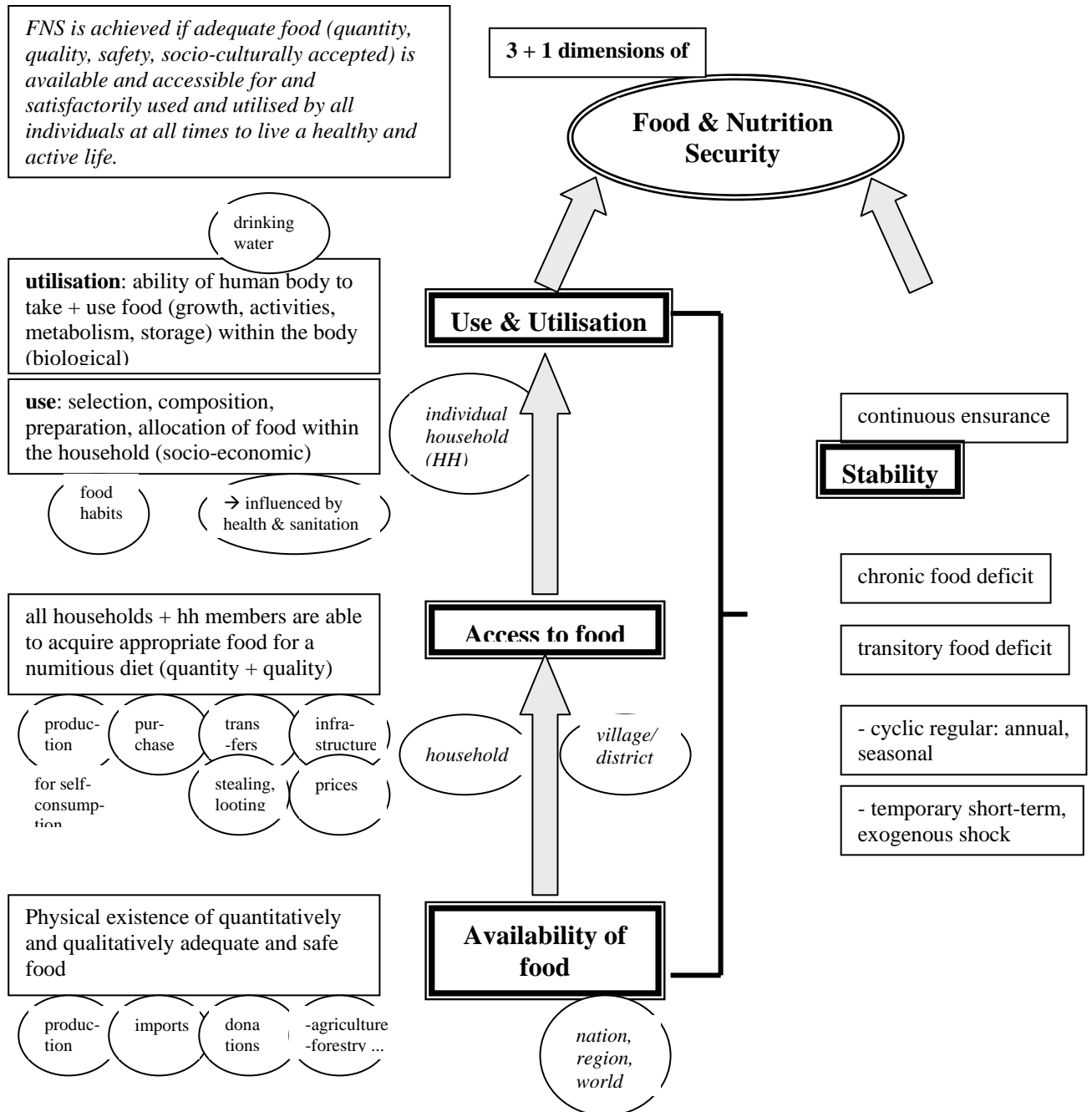
The FNS dimensions (availability, access, use/utilization and stability) are relevant to all levels of social and administrative organizations (table): from the individual or household level (**micro**), to the community (sub-district, district and province) or **meso** level, and the nation and global level (**macro** level).

The relative importance of each determinant of malnutrition (see diagram below) changes with the level of organization. As a result, the relevance of FNS at all socio/organizational levels and the interaction between these levels stresses the importance of an interdisciplinary approach of FNS.

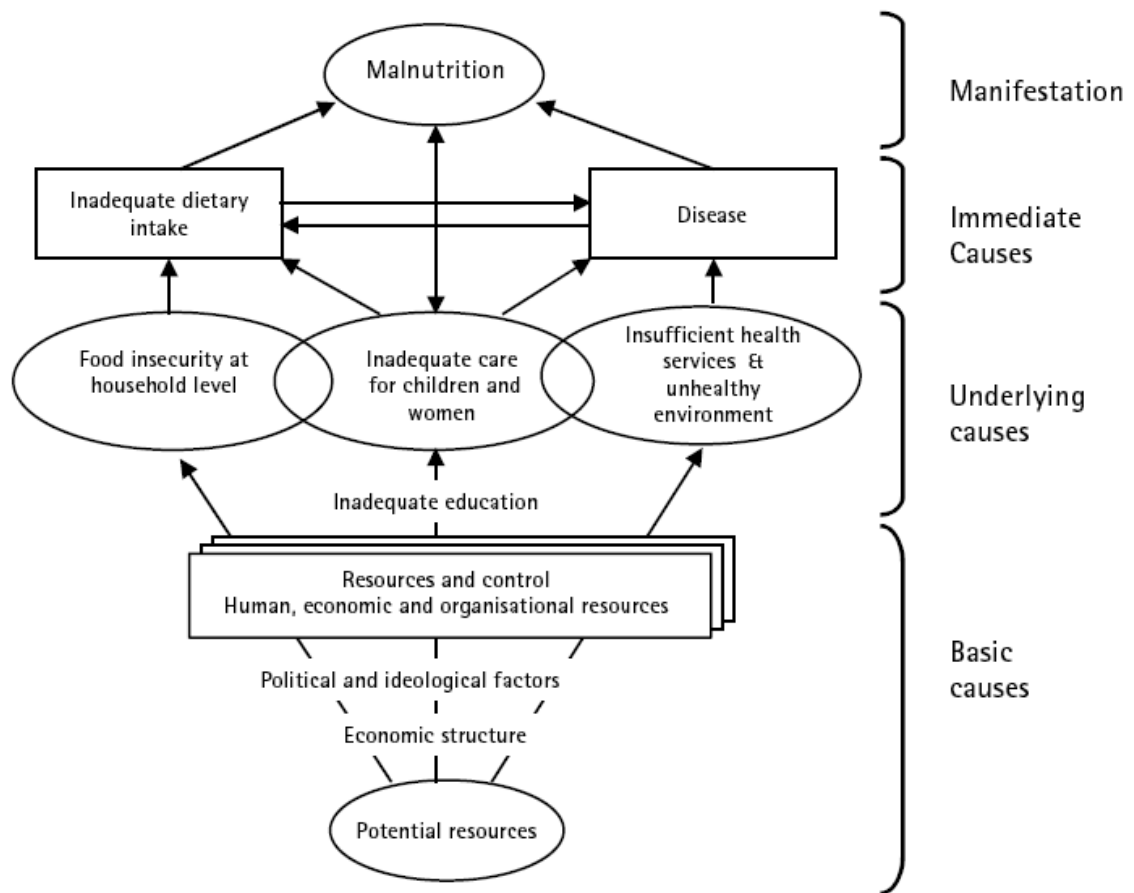
macro	world	
	region	
	nation	
meso	community	province/city
		district/town
		village
micro	household/family	
	individual	

2) The 3 + 1 dimensions in FNS

The following chart served as a reminder and point of departure for several discussions.



3) The conceptual causal model of malnutrition



Source: UNICEF 1991

4) Key malnutrition manifestations of special public health significance in Georgia

Manifestations of Food and Nutrition Insecurity

Groups	Malnutrition Problem	Brief Explanation	Indicator
<i>Children</i>	Stunting	Growth retardation, „chronic malnutrition“ (poverty)	Low height/age
	Wasting	„Acute malnutrition“, hunger	Low weight/height
	Underweight	Malnutrition	Low weight/age
	Low birth weight (LBW)	Intrauterine growth retardation	Birth weight < 2500 g
	Vitamin A deficiency	Xerophthalmia	E.g. night blindness
	Iodine deficiency disorders (IDD)	Physical and mental retardation due to iodine deficiency (cretinism in severe cases)	Total goitre rate (TGR) among school children, low urine iodine excretion
	(Nutritional) Anemia	In most cases iron deficiency (but also other micronutrients and other causes involved)	E.g. low hemoglobine levels
<i>Adults</i>	Chronical energy deficit	Hunger	BMI (body mass index) < 18.5
	Overnutrition	High energy intake	BMI between 25 and 30
	Obesity	Very high energy intake	BMI > 30
	Vitamin A deficiency	Xerophthalmia	e.g. night blindness and other
	Iodine deficiency disorders (IDD)	Goitre (enlargement of the thyroid size)	E.g. Low urine iodine excretion
	<i>Esp. women</i> (Nutritional) Anemia	In most cases iron deficiency (but also other micronutrients involved)	Low hemoglobine level

L. Weingaertner, 2003

Annex 4

ANNEX 4: BASIC POLICY DOCUMENTS IN GEORGIA

Presentations on the main policy documents/strategies in Georgia and their role in addressing FNS issues: Basic Data and Directions (BDD), the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program (EDPRP) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Slide 1

Evaluation Workshop: "Georgia, Food Security Situation - Trends in Figures"

Summary of Basic Policy Documents of Georgia

by Marijke Drysdale
FAO

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel
Tbilisi, Georgia
30 August - 1 September, 2006

Slide 5

Sector Priorities (continued)

- Deregulate the economy, including:
 - reducing govt. interference in agriculture, and creating conditions to increase productivity
 - privatizing land and state property in a transparent way
 - minimizing state regulation of entrepreneurship
 - developing ways to promote the sustainable use of natural resources

Slide 2

Basic Data and Directions for 2007-2010

Medium-Term Priorities:

- restore territorial integrity
- sustainable economic growth
- good governance
- improve infrastructure
- fulfill NATO membership needs

Slide 6

Sector Priorities (continued)

- Improve infrastructure, including the rehabilitation and restructuring of:
 - the energy sector
 - regional and inter-district roads
 - the water supply system
 - agricultural infrastructure, by increasing the role of the private sector

Slide 3

BDD priorities to be achieved by:

1. maintaining macro-economic stability to ensure rapid economic growth, low inflation, a good investment climate and increase job opportunities
2. Increasing budget revenues and targeting expenditure to priority areas
3. Reducing budget deficits and public debt
4. Achieving Sector Priorities

Slide 7

Sector Priorities (continued)

- Improve social protection by
 - providing targeted benefits to needy beneficiaries, incl. IDP's and those affected by natural disasters
 - introducing a pension system
 - introducing a system for targeting beneficiaries
 - making emergency health care affordable
 - improving basic healthcare
- Improve the education system

Slide 4

Sector Priorities Include:

- Improving essential state institutions, e.g. judiciary and police force to maintain law and order
- Legal reform to ensure impartial and timely justice
- Improving the effectiveness of government activities, at national and regional levels, including the management of finances and ensuring food safety.

Slide 8

Sector Priorities (continued)


- One priority mentions food security - in the sense of food safety : "Creation and stage-by-stage implementation of a uniform system of food security; increase the country's epizootic reliability. "
- This priority is based on an MoA priority: " Provision of food security and safety of food quality. "
- For which there are 2 indicators
 - Number of cases of diseases caused by foodstuffs
 - prevention of epizootic diseases and identification of existing hearths

Slide 9

Conclusions

Food Security Information for Action Programme

1. Even if food security is not an explicit goal, most strategies in the BDD aim at improving framework conditions
2. Many sector priorities will inherently benefit poverty reduction and food security.

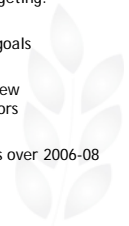


Slide 13

EDPRP Progress Report 2005

Food Security Information for Action Programme

- Report based on BDD document and budgeting.
- Describes progress in achieving EDPRPS goals
- Explains new official poverty line, and new methodology of deriving poverty indicators
- Provides matrix of reforms and activities over 2006-08 but no indicators



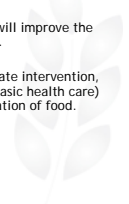
Slide 10

Conclusions

Food Security Information for Action Programme

For example,

- maintaining rapid economic growth: will increase employment and income, i.e. access to food.
- better targeting of social security payments will improve the access to food of vulnerable groups/the poor.
- most of the sector priority goals (e.g. less state intervention, improving infrastructure, the water supply, basic health care) will affect the availability, access and utilization of food.

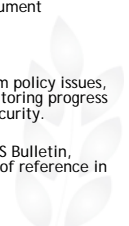


Slide 14

Overall Conclusions

Food Security Information for Action Programme

- BDD is the most important strategy document
- MDG also a government priority
- For bulletin to be relevant to mainstream policy issues, its annual analysis could cover also monitoring progress in MDG and BDD goals related to food security.
- List of FNS indicators used in Georgian FS Bulletin, MDG, BDD and EDPRP prepared for ease of reference in Group Work

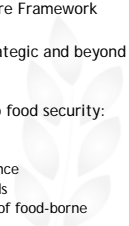


Slide 11

Conclusions

Food Security Information for Action Programme

3. The BDD is a strategic document. Its priorities are budgeted in a Medium Term Expenditure Framework
4. Most evaluation indicators are also strategic and beyond the scope of food security analysis.
5. However, the following are relevant to food security:
 - Macro-economic indicators
 - Indicators of employment
 - Levels of funding of education and science
 - Total area of irrigated and drained lands
 - Food safety indicators, e.g. incidence of food-borne disease (e.g. salmonella, brucellosis)

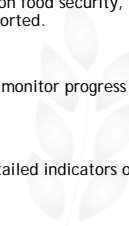


Slide 12

Conclusions

Food Security Information for Action Programme

6. The effects of the implementation of the BDD strategies, wherever they impinge on food security, could be analyzed and progress reported.
7. Indicators could be included which monitor progress in BDD implementation.
8. The BDD itself does not provide detailed indicators on food security, but the MDGs do.



Annex 5

Millennium Development Goals

Presentation by G. Bokeloh on the relevance of MDGs to FNS issues in Georgia

All Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have a link to Food & Nutrition Security (FNS):

MDG1	The first and most relevant goal to FNS is MDG1 (to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) as it involves all key dimensions of food security (availability, access, use/utilization). Target and indicators have been selected to reach this goal.
MDG2	is closely linked too because a poor food and nutrition security affect school performance of children
MDG3	(gender equality and empowerment of women) has proven to be better nourished women play a role in selection and prep of food
MDG4	(child mortality) directly linked to FNS; diseases related to food insecurity, unsafe foods; care-taking/feeding practices
MDG5	(maternal health) pregnant/lactating women have specific food/nutrient needs, especially micronutrients
MDG6	(diseases) tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS ... inadequate food/nutrient intake reduce the body capacity to resist/combat these diseases, weakening of body immune defense mechanisms
MDG7	(environmental sustainability) affects the availability, local production of food for self-consumption
MDG8	(global partnership for development) is indirectly linked to FNS

MDGs can be used in discussing food and nutrition security issues. A link can be drawn between the MDGs indicators and those indicators that are relevant to food and nutrition security in Georgia.

ANNEX 6: NEW FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION TO BECOME AVAILABLE

Presentation by G. Kvinikadze (Head of Agricultural and Ecology Statistics Division) on the planned FS information that will become available in the near future in Georgia

Slide 1

Evaluation Workshop: "Georgia. Food Security Situation - Trends in Figures"

New Food Security Information to Become Available

George Kvinikadze
Head of Agricultural and Ecology Statistics Division
Department of Statistics
Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel
Tbilisi, Georgia
30 August - 1 September, 2006

Slide 2

New System of Agricultural Statistics

- Network of interviewers
 - one interviewer per 2-3 sakrebulo
 - on the payroll of Department of Statistics
- Maintaining rural household registers
 - Keeping the frame of agricultural holdings up-to-date
 - Monthly reports on sowing and harvesting progress
 - Annual enumeration of livestock
- Reports on crop progress and cropping situation
 - More skills than statistical ones are needed
 - Done by the interviewers with close cooperation with the local staff of Ministry of Agriculture

Slide 3

New System of Agricultural Statistics (cont.)

- Quarterly-annual sampling survey of agricultural holdings
 - 50% rotating annual panel of holdings
 - Quarterly inquiries of the same holdings during one year
 - Stratification by region, holding type and size
 - Information collected on
 - sown areas and crop production
 - livestock numbers and animal production
 - use of fertilizers and pesticides
 - agricultural machinery and structures
 - farm expenditure and income
 - use of agricultural production
 - farm labor force

Slide 4

New System of Agricultural Statistics (cont.)

- The sampling survey will provide reliable annual data at national and (for most items) regional level
- District level data will be obtained by combining the results of the sample survey and monthly reports
- The system is scheduled to start functioning in 2007
- A separate survey of producer prices in agriculture is also planned to start in 2007

Slide 5

New System of Agricultural Statistics (cont.)

- Community Survey:
 - All villages will be covered by the questionnaire
 - The questionnaire to be completed by the most informed person of the village
 - Information collected on:
 - ✓ land use of the village
 - ✓ availability of infrastructure, including roads and market and processing points
 - ✓ outbreaks of natural disasters and diseases
 - ✓ availability of agricultural inputs at the peak of agricultural activity
 - ✓ traditional non-agricultural activities of the village
 - ✓ three most important development priorities

Slide 6

Food Security Questionnaire

- The questionnaire is subjective and contains self-assessments by households of their food security
- Its aim is not to calculate percentages of the food insecure but to deal with the following issues:
 - Who are the food insecure people, as characterized by their household composition, occupations and sources of income?
 - The food habits of the population in different regions, and their dietary profile.
 - What are the common types of coping strategies adopted, when faced with the food insecurity situation?
 - Which are the months in which the problem is more acute?
 - What are the main causes of food insecurity? Are they temporary or structural?

Slide 7

Food Security Questionnaire (cont.)

- The questionnaire is more rural oriented but can be used in urban areas as well (maybe after some minor modification)
- It will be tested during the pilot survey of agricultural holdings in October
- It is planned to be used once a year together with the annual cycle of the agricultural holdings survey
- Sampling issues, however, will have to be considered

Slide 8

Benefits for Food Security Information System

- From the sample survey of agricultural holdings:
 - More detailed and reliable data on food availability due to domestic production
 - More reliable information for compiling food balance sheets
 - Information on farm income and economic access to food of the agricultural population
 - Information on agricultural employment
- Information on producer prices in agriculture (from the producer price survey)

Slide 9

Benefits for Food Security Information System

- Information for Early Warning System (from reports on crop progress and cropping situation)
- Information on stability of food supplies and physical access to food (from Community Survey)
- Dietary diversity of agricultural population (from Food Security Questionnaire)
- Causes of food insecurity of agricultural population (from Food Security Questionnaire)

Slide 10

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ATTENTION!



**SURVEY OF THE QUALITY AND USEFULNESS
of the Quarterly Bulletin “GEORGIA. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION. Trends in Figures”
of the Department of Statistics under the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia.**

The Department of Statistics, with the support of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, is seeking the opinion of the users of this publication as a basis for assessing its quality, usefulness and effectiveness. The success of this exercise is crucially dependent on a satisfactory response of as wide a spectrum of readership as possible. Your responses will also assist us in updating the mailing list for this quarterly report. It would be greatly appreciated if you would take time to answer the questions below and submit any other comments that you may have concerning the bulletin “**GEORGIA. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION. Trends in Figures**”

1. Do you receive the bulletin in Georgian English
2. Do you want to continue receiving bulletin? YES NO
3. What is your opinion about bilingual character of the present issue of the bulletin? Positive Neutral Negative
4. If the answer to No.3 is “Negative”, in which language would you like to receive the bulletin? Georgian English
5. How regularly do you receive the bulletin?
Regularly (4 times a year)
Other (specify):
6. When do you usually receive the bulletin?
Within the month of publication
One month later
Over one month later
7. When did you receive this copy? (please specify date):
8. Do you have access to the Internet (www)? YES NO
9. If the answer to #8 is “YES”, do you currently access the bulletin from the internet webpage of the Department of Statistics: <http://www.statistics.ge/> ? YES
 NO
10. What do you mainly use the bulletin for?
 Policy formulation
 Early warning and emergency planning
 Analysis and research
 Monitoring and evaluation

Other (specify)

11. Which three decisions did you take recently based on information contained in the bulletin?

- a)
- b)
- c)

12. How do you rate the bulletin concerning: (tick one box in each line)

		Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Its usefulness to your work	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timeliness of information		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Overall structure	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quality of judgement	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quality of analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accuracy of data	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensiveness of coverage		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation and readability	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

13. Do you have any specific suggestions for improvement in bulletin's

Timeliness:

Coverage:

Presentation:

14. Does your institution collect information which might be of relevance to the bulletin?

YES NO

If Yes, please specify:

Who is the contact person?

15. The bulletin is issued 4 times a year. Would you like the bulletin to be issued:

- Less frequently (please specify number of issues/year).....
- More frequently (please specify number of issues/year)
- Less frequently with wider coverage of subjects
- More frequently with more limited coverage of subjects
- No change
- Other (please specify)

16. Would you like to see other topics covered in the bulletin? YES NO

4

If "YES", which topics would you like added:

17. If you know a person or people who do not receive but would like to receive the bulletin regularly,

please provide the contact information.

18. Other observations (if any)

a)

b)

c)

It would be appreciated if you could provide the following information about yourself:

Name:

Address:

Occupation/Functional Title/Institution:

E-mail address:

Your answers are for internal use and will be kept confidential. **Many thanks for your cooperation.**

Please forward the questionnaire as soon as possible (not later than 1 June, 2006) by mail or email to:

Mr George Kvinikadze,

and/or

Ms. Marijke Drysdale

Room 621,
Department of Statistics
4 Gamsakhurdia Avenue,
Tbilisi, Georgia

E-mail: tata@statistics.gov.ge

Marijke.Drysdale@fao.org

Room C 337, ESAF
FAO of the UN.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy

Email:

Annex 8

Results of the Bulletin Evaluation Questionnaire

Presentation by G. Kvinikadze (Head of Agricultural and Ecology Statistics Division) on the responses and feedback from users/recipients to the evaluation questionnaire.

Slide 1

Evaluation Workshop: "Georgia. Food Security Situation - Trends in Figures"

Results of the Bulletin Evaluation Questionnaire

George Kvinikadze and Marijke Drysdale
Department of Statistics, and FAO

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel
Tbilisi, Georgia
30 August - 1 September, 2006

Slide 5

Examples of How the Bulletin Was Used:

- Analysis and research
 - Analysis of situation in agriculture
 - Analysis of food availability
- To obtain information:
 - on humanitarian programmes, cereal consumption
 - on GDP and general economic information
 - on growth of average wage
 - for preparing presentations
 - for preparing reports (MDG, EDPRP)

Slide 2

Bulletin Evaluation Results:

- Questionnaire sent to 144 users; 32 completed it
- Only one user did not want to continue receiving the bulletin
- Two thirds received bulletin regularly
- Timeliness of dispatch has to be improved
- 30 users have access to Internet but only 19 access bulletin electronically

Slide 6

Rating of the Bulletin:

- Four ratings: excellent, good, satisfactory, poor
- Overall rating - good
 - Usefulness.....good
 - Timeliness..... between good and satisfactory
 - Structure.....good
 - Judgment.....more good than satisfactory
 - Analysis.....between good and satisfactory
 - Accuracy of data ...between good and satisfactory
 - Coverage.....between good and satisfactory
 - Presentation.....between good and satisfactory

Slide 3

Bulletin Evaluation Results (cont.):

- Bulletin is mainly used for:
 - ✓ Policy formulation.....17 responses
 - ✓ Early warning and emergency planning.....6 "--"
 - ✓ Analysis and research.....22 "--"
 - ✓ Monitoring and evaluation...11 "--"

Slide 7

Suggestions for Improving the Bulletin:

- Timeliness
 - Better to receive within 1-1.5 months
- Coverage
 - More coverage of regions
 - Improve breakdown of data and analyses
 - More detailed data
 - Give both median and average calorie intake
 - Focus on MDG indicators related to food security
 - Indicate recommended norms for kcals and macro-nutrients

Slide 4

Examples of How the Bulletin Was Used:

- Policy formulation
 - Defining nutrition policy and norms
 - Elaboration of strategic documents and draft laws
 - Elaboration of socio-economic plan of regions
- Early warning and emergency planning
 - Cooperation with WFP
 - Targeting regions for food for work
 - Increasing food aid to vulnerable people

Slide 8

Suggestions for Improving the Bulletin (cont.):

- Presentation
 - No suggestions
- Periodicity
 - Over half of respondents (18) request no change
 - 3 - monthly
 - 2 - bimonthly
 - 4 - semi-annually
 - 1 - frequency to vary from item to item

Slide 9

Suggestions for Improving the Bulletin (cont.):

- Additional items requested to be included:
 - More emphasis on extreme poverty
 - More emphasis on social information (health, education)
 - More concrete data on the regions
 - More information on dietary diversity of households
 - Diet composition of IDP's
 - Education indicators
 - Monitoring of factors helping and impeding agricultural development
 - Ecological information
 - Age, sex and variety of livestock, annually
 - Data and analyses related to MDG food security indicators
 - Separate supply-utilization balance for sunflower oil and staple vegetables

Slide 10

Suggestions for Improving the Bulletin (cont.):

- Other observations:
 - Improve the quality of regional data by enlarging the Household Survey sample
 - Make the food security database available online

Slide 11

Conclusions

- The bulletin is relevant and is used
- Overall rating of the bulletin is good
- Improve timeliness of the bulletin
- Improve the management of the distribution list

Slide 12

Conclusions (cont.)

- Suggestions that could be met:
 - Timeliness could be improved
 - Publish both average and median indicators once per year
 - Include the MDG indicators related to food security
 - Indicate recommended daily norms for kilocalories and macronutrients
 - More emphasis on extreme poverty
 - Some more emphasis on social information (health and education)
 - Age and sex composition of livestock

Slide 13

Conclusions (cont.)

- Suggestions that cannot be met:
 - Enlarge the Household Survey (HS) sample within the existing budget
 - HS Coverage of the regions
 - More breakdown of existing HS data
 - More detailed information on Tbilisi
 - Monitoring of diet composition of IDP-s
 - Data on the varieties of the livestock

Slide 14

Conclusions (cont.)

- Suggestions that require clarification and/or collaboration with other institutions:
 - Improve analysis
 - Ecological indicators/information
 - Up-to-date indicators on education and health
 - More information on dietary diversity of households
 - Online food security database

Slide 15

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ATTENTION!

Plenary discussion:

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Annex 9

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

The workshop evaluation on Day 3 allowed participants to assess the overall workshop procedures and outcomes. They were asked to judge the following three questions: (a) what they liked about the workshop; what they disliked; what can be done differently next time (proposals for the organizers).

Responses are listed below:

LIKED	DISLIKED	PROPOSALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • method/style of work (8x) – well guided discussion, structure, facilitation, participative style • well organized (6x) • very informative about FS issues (5x) – content useful for my/our work • excellent facilitator (5x) • User-Producer interaction (4x) – good opportunity to exchange info, learn from others, useful to know users’ opinion/perceptions so as to help improve future bulletin • very productive workshop, energetic, deserves high appreciation (2x) • new info in FS bulletin, poverty line history • concrete objectives and good participation of audience in achieving these objectives • highly qualified translation • foreign guests were open, pleasant and professional • positive atmosphere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I liked everything! (2 times) • some participants left before the end • not dissatisfied • insufficient air conditioning (4x) • not enough people • sometimes agenda/day schedule not closely followed • too short • too few users and not all read the bulletin at all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend duration of workshop (3x) • more participation of senior experts (3x) • more of these meetings (7x, of which 1 saying “to improve info provision in bulletin”) • keep the same way (3x) • wider representation from other Governmental bodies (e.g. Min. of Education) and key experts for more cooperation (3x) • invite more people interested in the bulletin • select location out of town (especially in summer) (2x) • more time for discussing implementation plan of Bulletin improvement • more group work to analyse policies/strategies/programmes to understand where and how information reporting is needed • more users at these seminars • to assess implementation of recommendations, repeat seminar in one region of Georgia