Project-Level Early Warning Interest Group
Meeting Agenda: 2 June 2016

Welcome and introductions (~ 5 mins)

Presentation: Early Warning in Ebola Contexts: Approaches, Lessons, and Next Steps in West Africa (and Beyond) – Brenda Lazarus, FEWS NET (~ 35 mins)

Q&A (~ 20 minutes)
Early Warning in Ebola Contexts: Approaches, Lessons, and Next Steps in West Africa and Beyond

Washington DC
June 2, 2016
Outline

- Background on FEWS NET
- Timeline of food security monitoring during the Ebola crisis
- Challenges/Lessons Learned
- Next steps

Source: FEWS NET
Background on FEWS NET
The FEWS NET world

The Purpose of FEWS NET

• To prevent famine and mitigate food insecurity by providing decision makers with information that is accurate, credible, timely, and actionable.

• To strengthen the ability of FEWS NET countries and regional organizations to provide timely early warning and vulnerability analysis.
Our network

- USGS, NOAA, USDA, NASA
- National governments
- Regional technical organizations (CILSS, SADC, COMESA, IGAD)
- WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, other international agencies
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Price/Market Information Systems
- Meteorological centers
- IPC working groups
The scenario development approach

**STEP 1:** Set scenario parameters

**STEP 2:** Describe and classify current food security

**STEP 3:** Develop key assumptions

**STEP 4:** Describe impacts on HH income sources

**STEP 5:** Describe impacts on HH food sources

**STEP 6:** Describe and classify projected HH food security

**STEP 7:** Describe and classify projected area food security

**STEP 8:** Identify events which could change the scenario

Source: FEWS NET
# IPC 2.0 area phase classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>Minimal</th>
<th>Households are meeting their basic food and nonfood needs without unsustainable coping strategies.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHASE 2</td>
<td>Stressed</td>
<td>Household food consumption is minimally adequate. Households are unable to afford some essential nonfood expenditures without unsustainable coping strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHASE 3</td>
<td>Crisis</td>
<td>Households face food consumption gaps or are only meeting minimal food needs through unsustainable coping strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHASE 4</td>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>Households face extreme food consumption gaps or are experiencing extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHASE 5</td>
<td>Famine</td>
<td>Households have a near complete lack of food and/or other basic needs. Starvation, death, and destitution are evident.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phase classification would likely be worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance.
FEWS NET in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone
Before Ebola

- Remote monitoring countries
- Participated in occasional in-country, partner-led assessments
- Relied heavily on partner information
- Food security analyses focused on anomalies
- No subnational mapping
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

March 2014:
- WHO reports first cases of Ebola in West Africa

23 MARCH 2014 - The Ministry of Health (MoH) of Guinea has notified WHO of a rapidly evolving outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in forested areas of south-eastern Guinea. As of 22 March 2014, a total of 49 cases including 29 deaths (case fatality ratio: 59%) had been reported.

World Health Organization
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

July 2014:
• FEWS NET reports first discuss food security implications

“Households who have lost a productive family member as a result of illness or death will face the most acute food security impacts, due to reduced income and productive activity.”

“Some households may see reductions in income as a result of reduced trade of bush meat and fewer opportunities to seek work transporting people to and from the outbreak areas.”

“Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity is expected from July through December 2014.”

(Sierra Leone RM Report, July 2014)
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

September 2014:

- Ebola caseload in three countries increase sharply
- First FEWS NET special report on Ebola, based on WHO estimates of 20,000 Ebola cases over next 6 months
- Informal Ebola working group started including FEWS NET, WFP, IPA, NGOs, and USAID-funded projects
- WFP begins mVAM monitoring
- CDC publishes Ebola projections indicating exponential growth in Ebola caseload

“Ebola-related fears disrupt markets and livelihoods; elevated levels of food insecurity expected”

(Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea Special Report, September 8, 2014)
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

October 2014:
• FEWS NET warns that Emergency (IPC Phase 4) may be possible if current Ebola caseload projections actually occur
• FEWS NET increases tech. staff presence in Dakar to coordinate with regional partners (UN and NGOs)
• FEWS NET hires food security monitors in all three countries

“FEWS NET has constructed a scenario using a planning figure of 200,000-250,000 cumulative Ebola cases by mid-January 2015. Based on this assumption…
• The availability of food on local markets will be severely disrupted
• Reduced incomes
• Average to below-average harvests
• Increased cassava consumption
• IPC Phase 3 and 4 amongst HHs directly impacted by Ebola”

(West Africa Alert, October 10, 2014)

Jan 2014
2015
October 2015
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

November 2014:
• FEWS NET begins SMS-based trader surveys
• FEWS NET updates food security projections based on lower caseload estimates

“FEWS NET has updated its analyses using a scenario of a lower, but still substantial, increase in the number of Ebola cases by late January 2015.”

“Directly-impacted households not receiving humanitarian assistance will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity.”

(Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea Special Report, November 27, 2014)
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

December 2014:
- WFP/FAO publish estimates of the impacts of EVD on crop production
- FEWS NET publishes first subnational maps

“According to recently published estimates by WFP and FAO, 2014/15 agricultural production in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone will be slightly below-average, with the greatest production declines in areas that were early epicenters in the Ebola outbreak.”

(Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea Special Report, December 31, 2014)
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

February 2015:

- FAO/WFP/FEWS NET/Govt market assessments
- First CILSS-led Cadre Harmonise workshop for the three countries is held in Dakar and included UN agencies, government officials, FEWS NET, and NGO partners

Abandoned bush meat stands in Ganta, Liberia

Source: FEWS NET
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

April - June 2015:

- WFP conducts Emergency Food Security Assessments in all three countries
Timeline of Food Security Monitoring

Late-2015:

- FEWS NET opens offices in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone
## Monitoring During the Outbreak

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information gaps</th>
<th>Monitoring plan</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Location of official and self-imposed restrictions on population movements and related impacts on markets and livelihoods</td>
<td>• Ebola working group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Changes in port functioning, food availability, international and domestic trade and rural markets</td>
<td>• Short-term food security monitors in country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Crop production levels/labor availability</td>
<td>• Rapid assessments led by UN agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mobile data collection (FEWS NET, Building Markets, IGC/IPA, WFP, World Bank/Gallup, USAID/Africa)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Extended TDY for food security analyst to Dakar</td>
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</table>
### SMS-Based Trader Surveys

#### Percentage of traders reporting lower than usual commodity stocks

**Liberia**

- **Source:** FEWS NET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of weekly markets</th>
<th>LIBERIA (% of respondents)</th>
<th>SIERRA LEONE (% of respondents)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open and functioning normally</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open but operating at reduced levels</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** FEWS NET
Challenges/Lessons Learned
Communication between public health and food security communities

“FEWS NET has constructed a scenario using a planning figure of 200,000-250,000 cumulative Ebola cases by mid-January 2015. Based on this assumption, FEWS NET would anticipate…

• The availability of food on local markets will be severely disrupted
• Reduced incomes
• Average to below-average harvests
• Increased cassava consumption
• IPC Phase 3 and 4 amongst HHs directly impacted by Ebola”
Food security coordination/data sharing

- Limited in-country food security networks and early warning capacities
- Lack of coordination
- Limited sharing of data and information between organizations
- Ebola-related fears delayed food security data collection efforts
- Data and logistical challenges during Cadre Harmonise workshop in Feb. 2014

Source: FEWS NET
Methodological challenges with SMS-based food security data collection

Percentage of traders reporting lower than usual commodity stocks

Source: FEWS NET
Next steps for FEWS NET
New offices with technical staff since late 2015

- Routine monitoring and information activities
- Network development
- Special activities/knowledge base activities

2015 Harmonized Framework (Cadre Harmonise) Workshop in Liberia

Source: FEWS NET
Routine monitoring & information activities

- Collect key parameters and perform scenario development analysis jointly with host government and regional partners

- Carry out rapid food security assessments

- Regular food security reporting:
  - Food Security Outlook (FSO)
  - Food Security Outlook Updates (FSOU)
  - Food Assistance and Outlook Brief (FAOB)
  - Price Watch
  - Weekly Weather Hazards
  - Briefings to USAID and partners

- Archive historical agricultural production data
Network development activities

- Conduct rapid "state of network" assessment
- Participate in various network/stakeholder/cluster meetings
- Collaborate with the national CH Unit to co-lead national CH analysis
- Collaborate with national early warning services to identify, adopt, and improve EW tools and methods
- Collaborate with national early warning services and key partners to provide joint quarterly public food security briefing to the national food security community
- Train keys partners on scenario development
- Provide market and price projections training to key partners
Special activities

- Update livelihood zoning descriptions and seasonal calendars
- Conduct a study on chronic food insecurity in Liberia
- Conduct special study on the impact of Ebola on food security and livelihoods

Source: FEWS NET
For more information

Brenda Lazarus
Deputy Decision Support Advisor
blazarus@fews.net
202-696-1352

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