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# FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT CONTRACT (FEWS NET TSC)

FISCAL YEAR 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

November 2012

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## **DISCLAIMER**

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government

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## I. OVERVIEW

Traditionally, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) activity has relied on its own personnel and in-country partners to collect and assess the information and data needed to monitor food security in 20 plus developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. However, in recent years the incidence, geographic spread, and severity of food security issues has expanded, necessitating increased monitoring in more locations. The expansion in monitoring challenges the ability of FEWS NET and its partners to efficiently collect and analyze information with the appropriate level of breadth, depth, and frequency needed to continuously monitor global food security.

The role of the FEWS NET Technology Support Contract (TSC) is to identify, investigate, and pilot innovative ideas and technologies which can help the FEWS NET team more effectively process and analyze the data needed to produce informed reporting on food security issues. The penetration of technologies related to mobile devices, the internet, and social networking into developing countries offers the potential of new methods of cost-effective data collection, analysis and dissemination as well as planning and coordination that could be of great value to FEWS NET and its partners. As such, the goal of the TSC is to help the FEWS NET activity identify and implement new technologies that enhance team collaboration and broaden data collection, analysis and dissemination. The TSC is designed to be fluid in its scope and deliverables so as to allow the management team to quickly explore different ideas, projects, and research related to technology.

Over the course of the year, Kimetrica has been working on several different technology-driven methodologies. To date, the TSC has discussed 35 project opportunities, written seven white papers/project tool development implementation deliverables, submitted seven remote monitoring reports, initiated or actively investigated 10 projects, put four project ideas on hold, and has fully executed two projects.

Key achievements to date include:

- Substantial upgrade to the Population Explorer application
- Significant inroads into partnerships with other organizations such as the Grameen Foundation, Esoko, and Farm Radio, which have set the seeds for future collaborative work
- White papers on numerous technologies such as online collaboration tools, conference polling, and price data collection
- Development of a project plan for the first phase implementation of the FEWS NET Data Warehouse, which involves the centralization of price data, data entry tools, and data extraction and visualization tools

## 2. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

### 2.1. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN AND PERFORMANCE

The TSC is designed to be fluid in its scope and deliverables so as to allow the management team to quickly explore different ideas, projects, and research related to technology. Given the flexibility, the

deliverable list will expand and contract based upon initial findings and decisions regarding FEWS NET time and budget priorities. Thus, to manage the contract, the FEWS NET team initially decided on the following process:

- Develop a living TSC task list to which FEWS NET team members can add ideas or projects of potential interest
- Have the TSC staff conduct preliminary research into each idea, reporting back to the FEWS NET management team in the form a report or short white paper
- Have the FEWS NET team decide which ideas should move forward and which ideas should be shelved
- Develop a full budget, deliverable schedule, etc. for the projects that receive a green light to move forward

At the onset of the TSC project, Kimetrica created a work plan based on initial feedback by the FEWS NET project manager and others who attended the global meeting. In this work plan Kimetrica identified several projects, technologies, and methodologies that deserved further investigation and a second set of project ideas that would be kept on a list for possible future investigation. In addition, over the course of the year, additional project ideas were added to the list. These projects and project ideas are detailed in Table 1.

To date, the TSC has discussed 35 projects, written seven white papers/project tool development implementation deliverables, submitted seven remote monitoring reports, has ten projects operating or being actively investigated, put four project ideas on hold, and has fully executed two projects. For a detailed explanation of what happened with each project, see the detailed work plan in Annex 1 and the TSC quarterly reports in Annex 2.

Table 1 demonstrates the fluidity of the task list. Some projects have moved from a white paper or tool development implementation deliverable to an actual project, while others never made it past the idea stage. Additional projects were added over the course of the year. At the onset, Kimetrica envisioned the TSC task list to be fed and guided by the FEWS NET Implementing Team (FIT) comprised of members of USAID, NOAA, NASA, USGS and Chemonics. However, to date, most of the work has been driven by the FEWS NET project manager. This relationship has been fruitful in providing the project manager with a resource to investigate new ideas and to follow up on conversations and collaborative efforts he is unable to research due to time constraints. In this capacity, Kimetrica and the TSC have explored collaborative efforts with organizations as diverse as Orange, CRS, Farm Radio, Esoko, and Western Union.

In the coming year the TSC anticipates more interaction with the other FIT partners as the projects begin to overlap with their subject areas. For instance, the data warehouse initiative and the Population Explorer application both need to knit seamlessly into the new FEWS NET website. This effort will take coordination with Chemonics. In addition, USGS is working to create a database on drought. The design and scope of this project could very well intersect with the TSC's data initiatives. Finally, as the Project potentially pilots new methods in rapid data collection, there will be a need for greater cooperation between the TSC and the regional offices.

Table I: 2012 Project List

Ideas, Projects, White Papers	Never Actioned	On Hold	Ongoing	Completed
<b>On Original Work Plan</b>				
WP: Collaboration Tools				
WP: Mobile Data Collection				
WP: Webinar/Training Tools				
WP: Email Marketing Tools				
WP: FEWS NET longer-term data strategy				
PRJ: Remittance Data Analysis				
PRJ: Population Explorer Enhancements				
PRJ: Ki-Projects for TSC M&E				
<b>Added in 2012</b>				
WP: Conference Polling				
WP: Remote Monitoring				
PRJ: Basecamp For Contract Administration				
PRJ: Conference Polling				
PRJ: Open Data Initiative				
PRJ: SERVIR/Farm Radio				
PRJ: Data Warehouse				
<b>On the Original Idea List</b>				
WP: Internet perception monitoring				
WP: FactChecker				
WP: VolunteerAnalysts				
WP: Rapid Survey Assessment				
WP: Big Data				
WP: Internet Bandwidth				
Mini-Apps: Converters				
Mini-Apps: Assessment aids				
Mini-Apps: IPC tools				
Mini-Apps: Price X-change tool				
PRJ: Drought database				
PRJ: Nutrition database				
PRJ: Price data management				
PRJ: File Sharing Standards				
PRJ: Regional Trade				
PRJ: Email management				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

## 2.2. SELECTED REVIEW OF ONGOING PROJECTS

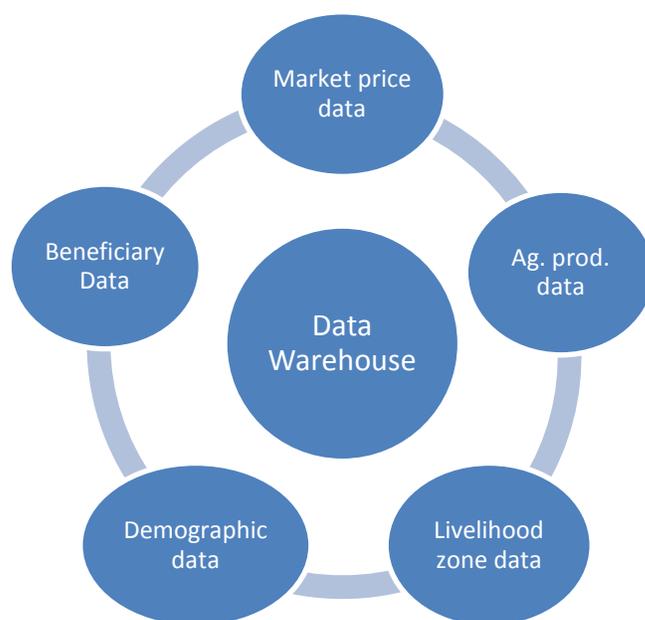
In this section, the TSC Project will review several of the projects that are ongoing, either in a development stage or in an implementation stage. The TSC does not review completed projects, as they have been detailed in the quarterly reports (See Annex 2).

### 2.2.1. FEWS NET DATA WAREHOUSE

Like remote monitoring, the FEWS NET Data Warehouse project was added to the TSC work plan in 2012, although it incorporates and addresses some of the ideas from the original idea list (Mini-Apps: Converters, Mini-Apps: Price X-change tool and Price Data Management).

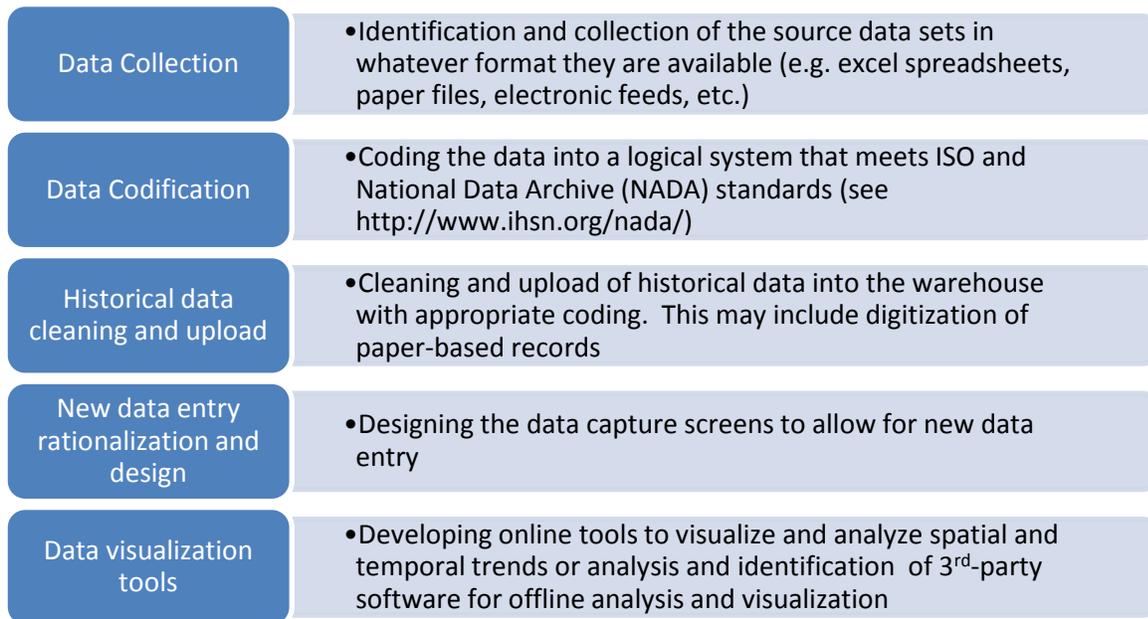
This project emerged to address a lack of access to historical FEWS NET data. While a large, multi-year project, the Data Warehouse will ultimately result in a structure that will clearly organize FEWS NET datasets so that they can be easily queried, analyzed, and shared with others. To date, the TSC has identified the potential data sets displayed in Figure 2. Other data that could potentially be added include nutrition data and food security composite scores (e.g. household hunger scale).

Figure 1: Data Warehouse Data Types



The incorporation of each data type into the warehouse will come with its own challenges. For instance, any universal price database must accommodate currency changes, currency devaluations, variations by country and market of units of measure, to name a few. As such, each data set will be seen as a separate sub-project with its own deliverable timeline.

The workflow for the incorporation into the warehouse for each data source will include the following steps:



## NEXT STEPS

For several reasons including prioritization by the FEWS NET team and ease of access to the historical data sets, the first data stream to be warehoused will be the price data. In addition, the TSC will begin the data collection and posting to an internal library (steps one and two in the above diagram) with several other data streams.

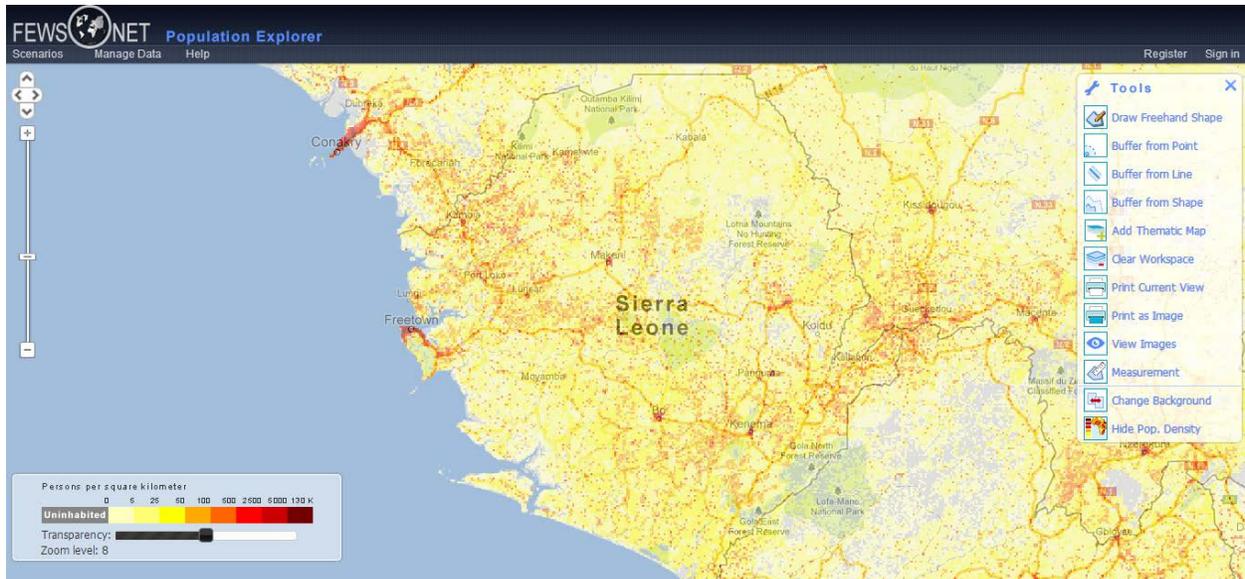
### 2.2.2. POPULATION EXPLORER UPGRADE

Population Explorer is an online software tool that can estimate human population down the 1km<sup>2</sup>. The primary data source for the tool is Landscan, a high-resolution population dataset produced by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, under a US Department of Defense contract. Population Explorer is the first application of its kind to provide very rapid population estimations for analysts working in early warning; emergency response; relief and transition; and economic development programs.

In the 2012 fiscal year, Kimetrica made a major upgrade to the system, providing several key improvements to the functionality and usability of the system. Kimetrica upgraded the database and methods to leverage new geo server features and improved the user interface and user logic. These updates have made the system easier to use and more flexible in the data it can provide to FEWS NET analysts. The primary improvements visible to the user include density mapping on a continuous smooth surface, the ability to extract population data by polygon to excel, improvements to the manage data features, and the upload of new population data (e.g. Landscan, administrative unit shape files, age/sex data, and average household size).

The addition of population density mapping renders smooth, continuous maps at different scales. Previously, the density map feature simply rendered colored points pinned to the grid's midpoints. As such, when the user selected different scales, the map became more or less pixelated and less visually useful. Now the system provides the option for displaying continuous surface maps.

Figure 2: Population Density Mapping



The TSC has improved the functionality and usability of the manage data section of the website that allows permissioned users to load shape files, edit grid data, and extract population data by shape to excel. The Project anticipates that the improvements will make Population Explorer much more useful to FEWS NET analysts in need of quick population assessments.

Kimetrica developers and GIS experts have spent a great deal of time updating all the population data within the system. This includes updated Landscan figures, updated administrative shape files, and updated age/sex and household size breakouts, based on the most recent country census data.

## NEXT STEPS

Scheduled improvements to continue on into 2013 include:

- Update on the usability of the administrative function of the site (e.g. giving permission to users, managing file organization, etc.)
- Update on the functionality of scenario-building
- Updated help text and features
- Transfer of the system management to Chemonics

### 2.2.3. SERVIR/FARM RADIO PILOT

Recently, Farm Radio International was awarded a grant from SERVIR to conduct a pilot project in Uganda that integrates Farm Radio information into Early Warning Systems. The objectives of the pilot are to monitor food security parameters via radio outreach to farmers in the study area, locate these farmers geographically and build a geo-referenced database of food security-related information. Food security-related information will be obtained from farmers via call in and call out methods facilitated by a Farm Radio Station by incorporation into existing Farm Radio programming. Of interest will be weather conditions, food prices, coping strategies, crop varieties, yields and market access among others. A geodatabase of this information will be built and made accessible to other organizations. At the conclusion of the pilot, it is expected that the Integration of Early Warning Systems with Farm Radio Information will provide a platform for interactive exchange of localized food security-related information. This will in turn produce much more rigorous predictions regarding food security, and this model can eventually be adopted in other regions. An operational and accessible geodatabase will be the product of the study as well as a detailed report including maps.

Kimetrica is still working on the details regarding the role that FEWS NET TSC will play in the unfolding of this project, but it is of particular interest because it represents an innovative way to collect and disseminate early warning related information.

### 2.2.4. OPEN DATA INITIATIVE

The U.S. Government's Open Data Initiative (ODI) was established to help increase the availability and usability of USG data by organizations, researchers, and individuals to achieve innovation, entrepreneurship, and impact. The goal of the ODI is to disseminate data in machine-readable data formats, making them available to data scientists who might generate alternative ways of analyzing the data, creating additional value.

The Food Security Open Data Challenge (the Challenge) is a U.S. Agency for International Development-led effort to assemble food security experts, data scientists, technologists, and other development professionals to use public data sets to build innovative, scalable solutions in the field of food security and agriculture. FEWS NET, as a long-time collector of food security data, is well-positioned to work with the ODI on these opportunities. The current work plan involves FEWS NET providing the ODI with a set of time series market price data from a group of countries in a given region of the world. The ODI then plans to host a Data Scientist Competition, crafting a problem statement, providing the data and asking a community of data scientists interested in the issue to work on the problem. The resulting solutions would be given to FEWS NET to review and determine a cash prize 'winner'. The funding for this effort would come from the Open Data Initiative. The Open Data Initiative uses a variety of companies to organize these competitions (e.g. TopCoder, Innocentive, and Kaggle.com). Right now the platform for hosting these data is on Data.gov via a Socrata-hosted site. The ultimate vision is to create an ODI site specifically geared towards development (development.data.gov).

Kimetrica's role in the ODI is twofold. First, the TSC will help coordinate these activities so as to build a strong relationship between FEWS NET and ODI. In addition, the TSC will design the web services that enable FEWS NET data to be accessed through the ODI platform.

## 2.3. SELECTED REVIEW OF PROJECTS ON HOLD

### 2.3.1. REMITTANCE DATA ANALYSIS

The FEWS NET program managers asked the TSC to investigate the feasibility of collecting regular remittance data from large company sources (e.g. Western Union) to potentially be included in the suite of early warning indicators. The goal was to conduct a case study to retrospectively look at the behavior of remittance data around several known past food security ‘events’ to determine significant data patterns. If a pattern was detected, the next step proposed the development of a pilot project focused on the collection of regular remittance data from a company that specializes in money transfers. After an initial series of fruitful conversations with Western Union, the TSC was not able to move forward with this plan. The delay is likely related to broader Western Union strategic thinking about how they might share their data with different groups. Kimetrica’s conversations with the company are part of this larger initiative.

Given the development of other project ideas, the TSC has tabled this project right now. In 2013 the TSC plans to resume its efforts to re-establish contacts at Western Union and other money transfer services such as MPESA.

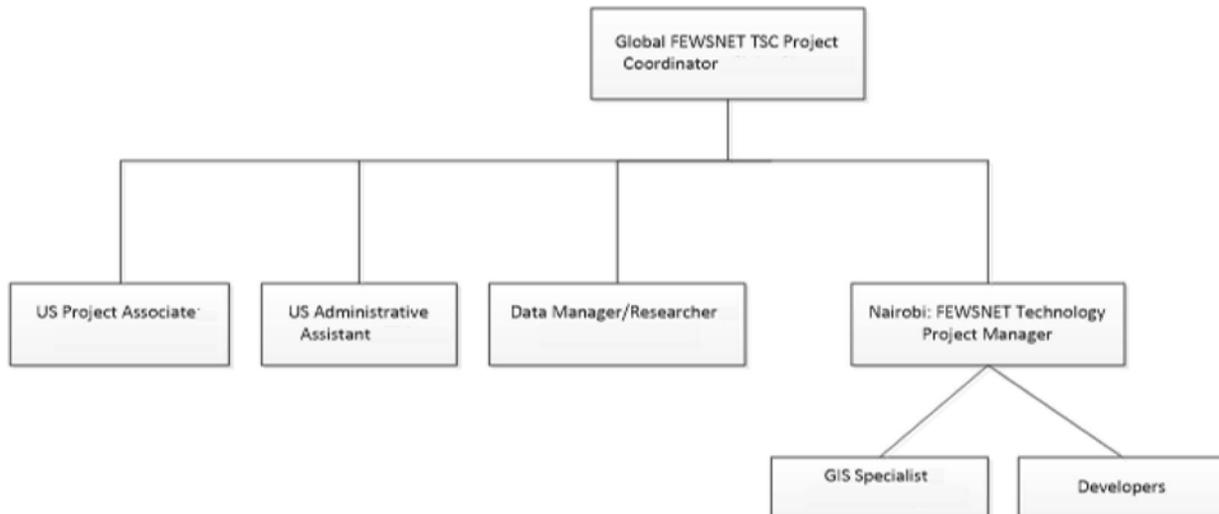
### 2.3.2. BASECAMP FOR CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

After review of Kimetrica’s white paper and the internal review of the system, the FEWS NET USAID contracts team decided to use Basecamp to help manage contract approvals such as salary approvals and travel requests. Kimetrica helped design the initial set-up of the system and provided a draft user guide. It is not clear whether or not this new system is currently being used. As with all new technology, additional effort is needed to encourage adoption. The USAID FEWS NET contracts team is currently overburdened with work. As such, adopting new technology is low on the list, despite the fact that ultimately the technology will serve to reduce the work load. The TSC still hopes to encourage adoption and schedule training to get the team using the system.

## 3. STAFFING/ PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Kimetrica has restructured the TSC organizational chart based on how the work plan evolved in 2012 and on the proposed projects for 2013. The new organizational chart is designed in a flexible way so that as new tasks emerge, the TSC will have the appropriate staff positioned to cover initial research and implementation and, if necessary, transition those tasks to others for ongoing management. The design focuses on keeping a few staff permanently engaged with FEWS NET, so that they become a direct resource to FEWS NET on any number of issues. As projects develop, the overall project coordinator will need a few key people to turn to in order to keep projects running smoothly. This new design should help facilitate this process.

Figure 3: TSC Organizational Chart



### 3.1. PROJECT COORDINATOR

In 2013, the Project Coordinator will continue to manage the oversight of all FEWS NET TSC activities. She will remain the primary point of contact for the FEWS NET TSC and will continue to reach out to other organizations, facilitating the exchange of ideas and technology opportunities. Since there are some planned larger projects for 2013, the Project Coordinator will hand over the day-to-day management of these established projects to others, namely the Project Associate, Data Manager, and the Technology Manager (Nairobi).

### 3.2. PROJECT ASSOCIATE

Under the new organizational chart, the Project has added a Project Associate who is familiar with the FEWS NET TSC operations and can quickly take on new assignments as projects unfold. As new initiatives are identified and explored, Kimetrica sees a need to hand these tasks off to other people to manage and implement. In some cases, the Project Associate will take over the day-to-day management of the activity. In other cases, the Project Associate will manage the transition to other specialist staff or STTA consultants. Her main role at the outset of 2013 will be to work with the FEWS NET team to define visibility rules for the data warehouse and to help develop the data entry screens to be used by FEWS NET analysts.

### 3.3. DATA MANAGER/ RESEARCHER

Given the growing demand for remote monitoring activities, Kimetrica has also included a Data Manger/Researcher position. This person will continue to manage the remote monitoring assignments that are currently active and will play a role in any new assignments that come on board. In this capacity, this person will provide training on data collection, data entry, and project quality control.

The Data Manager/Researcher will also be responsible for the research and design of a tool development implementation deliverable on the structure of the warehouse data, starting with price data. Work includes developing a standard codification system for commodity codes, commodity units and conversion factors, currencies, and market types. She will research best practices for the design of such a coding system and coordinate with Kimetrica's technical experts during a review process. The goal is to keep the Data Manager/Researcher involved and familiar with the FEWS NET activity so that she can quickly jump in and cover new projects as they emerge.

### 3.4. NAIROBI: FEWS NET TECHNOLOGY PROJECT MANAGER

The TSC is currently moving forward with the identification and implementation of several pilot projects that involve technology and will be implemented in Africa (e.g., Grameen Foundation, ESOKO, etc.). The TSC is also continuing to ramp up remote monitoring efforts with FFP. Finally, the project is moving forward with building tools that require GIS integration. To this effect, the project will have a dedicated person in the Nairobi office that can coordinate the management of these initiatives. This person would also be tasked with overseeing the management of all FEWS NET internal development, including Population Explorer, price data management tools, and the design and development of a centralized database for FEWS NET data.

### 3.5. GIS SPECIALIST

With the design of the data warehouse, the TSC sees a growing need to maintain a GIS expert help us address how best to accommodate spatial data. This person will work with developers and analysts to refactor data such as crop production figures based on changing administrative units. He will help design the methodologies for cleaning and validating coordinate data, and ensure best practices are being followed in the design and storage of spatial data.

### 3.6. DEVELOPERS

As the project continues to design and implement software solutions such as Population Explorer, remote offline data capture, and a centralized FEWS NET database, there is a need to bring in several additional development staff to focus on different development tasks related to user interface design and database rationalization. While these developers will be full time Kimetrica staff, they will work part-time on FEWS NET work.

### 3.7. SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS (STTA)

As the TSC moves forward in the data restructuring and cleaning process, it envisions the need to involve several technical experts to review the proposed architecture and to help us design the data management protocols for passing data from one system to another. These will be short-term review assignments which may include input into the data structures, metadata standards and archiving techniques and ensuring that all codification recommendations meet ISO and NADA standards.

## 4. COLLABORATORS AND BENEFICIARIES

The fluid nature of the TSC contract encourages reaching out to many types of organizations to investigate technology practices and solutions which might be attractive to the greater FEWS NET activity. In 2012 Kimetrica interacted with multiple organizations to promote the FEWS NET brand, encourage cooperation and reciprocity, and to investigate possible avenues for collaboration. The list here includes organizations which the TSC has had initial exploratory discussions and those with whom interaction and prospective collaboration is anticipated in the future.

**Table 2: Potential Partners**

Organization	Related Project	Status
Grameen Foundation	Mobile Data Collection	Possible pilot on data collection methodologies
Esoko	Mobile Data Collection	Possible pilot on data collection methodologies
Catholic Relief Services	Mobile Data Collection	Possible pilot on data collection methodologies
Farm Radio	SERVIR Pilot Project	Ongoing
SERVIR	SERVIR Pilot Project	Ongoing
USAID – FFP	Remote Monitoring	Ongoing
USAID – ODI	Open Data Initiative	Ongoing
Western Union	Remittances	On Hold – no movement
L'Orange	Investigatory – collaboration opportunities	On Hold – no initial synergies
McKinsey	Investigatory – Big data	On Hold – no initial synergies
Webfirst	Investigatory – data collection tools	On Hold – no initial synergies
Datadyn	Investigatory – data collection tools	On Hold – no initial synergies
Socrata	Investigatory – data visualization	On Hold – data visualization
IICD	Investigatory – agriculture dashboard	Open

## 5. TSC REFLECTIONS ON 2012

As the 2012 fiscal year comes to a close, Kimetrica has reflected on what has been learned as the FEWS NET TSC. Overall, it was a successful first year as a new contract for FEWS NET. Entering in under a well-established program did come with a set of challenges. The TSC needed to resolve how to interact with other members of the network and how to distinguish the TSC's tasks from the ongoing activities of FEWS NET. Much of the success in 2012 was related to building collaborative partnerships with individuals and

organizations within the network. In 2013, Kimetrica intends to build on these relationships, particularly those with the other FEWS NET implementing partners such as USGS, NASA, and NOAA. In the case of the latter, the TSC sees an opportunity to learn from their efforts at managing ‘big data,’ developing data standards, and sitting at the cutting edge of remote sensing technologies and methods.

The fluid nature of this type of contract can be challenging as certain paths are taken and others discarded. However, the TSC sees this variability as an opportunity rather than a hindrance. For example, in 2012, the open nature of the contract allowed the TSC to explore methodologies in remote monitoring and rapid data collection. Unknown at the outset, Kimetrica believes the development of these tools and methods will greatly enhance the ability of FEWS NET to quickly provide informed reporting in crisis areas. Now that there are some established project paths, the TSC looks forward to grounding ourselves in these foundation projects while maintaining the flexibility to explore new opportunities. Some potential future pathways involve revisiting the ideas that were put on hold during the first year such as:

- Mini-aps and converters – a market commodity unit converter should emerge from the price data warehouse project. From there the project can look at other mini converters that can be useful to FEWS NET representatives in the field
- Regional trade analysis and visualization tools – there is a growing interest by regional representatives in regional trade flows. Kimetrica can help lead the way in identifying the analytics, data, and visualization tools necessary to use trade flows in early warning reporting
- Remittances – the TSC believes strongly that remittance flows can be a valuable tool in the triangulation of early warning data. The data exists, as does the technology to analyze it; the primary challenge is in accessing the data. Therefore, Kimetrica will continue to explore relationships with the people and organizations that hold these data. Ideally, the TSC would like to see FEWS NET become a clearinghouse of remittance information, providing the data in a format that is useful to food security analysts and researchers but that does not threaten the business models of the organizations who own the data

Kimetrica also sees opportunity in increasing interaction with the regional FEWS NET offices. This can perhaps be done by conducting a needs assessment to identify technology gaps so as to determine what types of new technologies might be appropriate for the field.

Overall, Kimetrica and the TSC can report a successful first year of operation.

## 6. ANNEXES

### 6.1. ANNEX I: DETAILED WORK PLAN

Short Name	Description	Never Actioned	On Hold	On-going	Complete	Comments
<b>On Original Work Plan</b>						
WP: Collaboration Tools	White paper on developing a FEWS Team workspace/collaboration tools. An on-line team meeting place, using BaseCamp or better				X	
WP: SMS Mobile data collection	White paper on existing SMS data collection/distribution efforts, and discussion of implementation issues. Initial focus will be on price data				X	
WP: Webinar/Training Tools	White Paper on possible technologies that allows conferencing events to be shared with remote locations				X	
WP: Email Marketing Tools	White paper on more efficient ways to maintaining email distribution lists. Investigate options for personalizing these email lists to expand uptake				X	
WP: FEWS NET longer-term data strategy	Tool Development Implementation Deliverable on how to manage FEWS NET data in the medium to long-term				X	
PRJ: Remittance Data Analysis	Lead effort to get access to remittance data from Western Union, or others, for use as an early warning tool		X			Initial fruitful conversations with Western Union ended as other projects took priority. TSC plans to revisit this project in 2013
PRJ: PopExplorer Enhancements	Implementation of Population Explorer Enhancements			X		
PRJ: Ki-Projects for TSC M&E	Setup a FEWS NET TSC ki-projects instance to demonstrate how Ki-projects can be used as a collaborative tool for tracking project goals	X				This project was deprioritized as other projects rose to the forefront

Added in 2012						
WP: Conference Polling	White paper on 3rd-party technologies for conference polling				X	
WP: Remote Monitoring	Wrote a Tool Development Implementation Deliverable to establish a remote monitoring data collection effort			X		The TSC is working on the budget for this activity and will submit in the next few weeks
PRJ: Basecamp For Contract Administration	Implemented the 3rd-party software Basecamp to be used by FEWS NET Contract Administration team		X			While the Project implemented the software and provided training to the contracting officers, the uptake has been slow
PRJ: Conference Polling	Used Poll every software at the FEWS NET global meeting in Cape Town and at the FEWS NET Science meeting in Santa Barbara				X	
PRJ: Open Data Initiative	Working with USAID Open Data Initiative to identify FEWS NET data sets to be used in a 'crowd-sourcing' competition			X		Plan to develop the APIs needed to share FEWS NET data with the ODI
PRJ: SERVIR/Farm Radio	Collaborating with SERVIR and Farm Radio on a pilot project in Uganda that will integrate Farm Radio data into an Early Warning system			X		
PRJ: Data Warehouse	Merged price data management project into a larger project looking at the consolidation and codification of multiple streams of FEWS NET data into a centralized location			X		
On Original Idea List						
WP: Internet perception monitoring	White paper on monitoring Internet content to harvest changing public perceptions/awareness of food security issues, especially about markets and crises	X				More under the purview of Chemonics/OSC as part of new website

WP: FactChecker	White paper defining how to harvest all public/Internet statements/predictions about specific food security outcomes. Becomes the basis for a new (internal) FEWS NET product called "Food Fact Checker" where the Project analyzes statement or prediction made by NGO, IRIN, WFP, somebody else for accuracy	X				More under the purview of Chemonics/OSC as part of new website
WP: Volunteer Analysts	White paper on how to solicit FS data, opinions, analyses from volunteer analysts and data contributors through a web-site. Potential benefits? What security issues? How do others do this? How to implement?	X				More under the purview of Chemonics/OSC as part of new website -- overlap with Open Data initiative
WP: Rapid Survey Assessment:	White paper to define a FEWS capability for Survey Assessment Services. How to organize and manage a pool of local survey capabilities to ask and answer specific food security issues in selected hi-priority cases. How to organize and manage a pool of local survey capabilities to ask and answer specific food security issues in selected hi-priority cases			X		While the TSC didn't complete the white paper, it had implemented this type of analysis in its Remote Monitoring projects
WP: Big data	White paper on "Big data" What exists that the Project might learn how to use for FS monitoring/assessment/early warning uses?		X			Engaged in several brainstorming sessions with McKinsey but this effort was tabled due to other priorities
WP: Internet Bandwidth	Conduct a survey of field office internet bandwidth and operability. So as to help proscribe future technology solutions	X				Lost sense of priority given other tasks. Could potentially revisit in 2013 as part of an effort to engage FEWS NET regional offices
Mini-App: Converters	Min-App: Converters. On-line converters: 1) to define equivalence of idiosyncratic food quantity ("tins", "coke bottle", "pan", etc.) weights and measures, for most FEWS NET countries.; 2) exchange rates, converter			X		Merged into the FEWS NET Data Warehouse project

Mini-App: Assessment aids	Mini-App: Field assessment guidance. Mini-references for visual assessment of crop condition and yield (this is what a 2 MT/ha crop looks like); for Livestock diseases, symptoms, etc.	X				These ideas were tabled due to other priorities, but are emerging again under the data warehouse umbrella and will be revisited in 2013
Mini-App: IPC tools	IPC Assessment and Classification Toolkit. Standardized tools for IPC data collection, analysis and documentation – including online and offline versions	X				These ideas were tabled due to other priorities, but are emerging again under the data warehouse umbrella and will be revisited in 2013
Mini-App: Price X-change tool	Price Data Exchange Mini-App. Capture and sharing of price data in a common format with standardized c-codes and m-codes with online, SMS and off/on data capture – online price data series			X		Merged into the FEWS NET Data Warehouse project
PRJ: Drought database	Work with Chemonics to investigate the collection, storage, dissemination of spatial and temporal data on drought	X				This project is now under purview of USGS but will likely intersect with the Data Warehouse project at some stage
PRJ: Nutrition database	Work with Chemonics to investigate the collection, storage, dissemination of spatial and temporal data on nutrition as an EW process indicator rather than outcome indicator	X				This will likely fall into the data warehouse project as a second or third data stream. Need to work with their EW tools
PRJ: Price data management	Market Price Data Management Solution			X		Merged into the FEWS NET Data Warehouse project
PRJ: File Sharing Standards	Standardize way files are labeled	X				Could be folded into the data warehouse project
PRJ: Regional Trade	Database for regional trade data	X				Lost sense of priority given other tasks. However, the Project would like to revisit in 2013 as it begins to rationalize and organize data flows
PRJ: email management	Email management system	X				More under the purview of Chemonics/OSC as part of new website -- overlap with Open Data initiative