



FEWS Working Paper

A.I.D. Famine Early Warning System

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Report on the
FEWS READERSHIP SURVEY
of the
A.I.D. WASHINGTON STAFF

FEWS Working Paper 2.5

by
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1. Summary

The FEWS readership survey was conducted to assess the usefulness of the three main FEWS reporting products (Food Security Operations Cables, bulletins and trimestral reports), as well as acquire constructive feedback from our principal client, the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.). Qualitative impressions following completion of the interviews are presented along three main user levels: senior executives and branch chiefs, desk officers and project officers, and analysts and economists.

The overall result was favorable towards FEWS. The FEWS bulletins appear to be used by all groups. The Food Security Operation Cables (FSOCs) are most useful to desk and project officers, but are only selectively used by analysts and of minimal use to the senior executive group. Trimestral reports are used most often by analysts and economists, but in general these reports are utilized for quick reference or as an office resource among all users.

Responses to the multiple choice questions are presented stratified along office lines -- the Technical Resources Office of A.I.D.'s Africa Bureau (AFR/TR) versus other Africa Bureau offices (Other-AFR) versus all other A.I.D. and State Department offices covered (Non-AFR). The Other-AFR staff were the most likely to use FEWS information in decision making and resource allocation. The format they found most useful in decision making was the FSOC. The bulletins were the next most useful information format. Non-AFR staff found bulletins to be more useful than the FSOCs, while AFR/TR staff found the two formats of about equal utility. Although fewer than half of the respondents used the trimestral reports in decision making, Other-AFR staff did find them valuable to their work.

Non-AFR respondents would like FEWS to provide more types of information to improve FEWS' overall information system, AFR/TR was interested in "Special Products" (especially for use in briefings), and Other-AFR staff were somewhat interested in both. Finally, recommendations and currently unmet needs expressed by the respondents are presented. A list of the people interviewed, a sample questionnaire, and a statistical summary of responses to the multiple choice questions are attached as appendices to this report.

2. Methodology

FEWS II is just completing its second year and is entering its third season of charting problems and progress of agricultural production in Africa. Before starting the third year of Food Security Operation Cables (FSOCs), 10-day bulletins, and trimestral reports, the project staff wished to obtain feedback from the A.I.D. readership, the primary client and user of its products. It was with this goal in mind that a short but detailed questionnaire was circulated and individual interviews were held. While the survey sample was not randomly chosen, the FEWS Washington staff felt that the list represented a diversified cross section of the FEWS A.I.D./Washington audience. Of the original list of 44 possible respondents, 36 interviews actually took place (some individuals either self-deselected or were out of town). Two questionnaires were completed by a pair of respondents, leaving 34 completed questionnaires.

The sample covered all the different "types" of users, including senior executives, division chiefs, branch chiefs, project officers, desk officers, analysts, economists, and A.I.D.'s public relations

staff. It also covered several divisions concerned with food security in Africa, including: the Technical Resources Office of the Africa Bureau (AFR/TR -- FEWS' home within A.I.D., 13 respondents); regional offices, the Development Planning Office of the Africa Bureau, and the Project Development Office of the Africa Bureau (Other-AFR -- 11 respondents); A.I.D.'s legislative, policy and planning, external affairs, disaster assistance and food aid offices, and the Africa and Refugee Program offices of the State Department (Non-AFR -- 10 respondents). Denise Daly, the FEWS Field Representative for Mauritania (on evacuation status at the time) conducted these interviews over a month-long period in March/April 1990.

The questionnaire was divided into sections covering the project's three principal products: Food Security Operation cables from the field, 10-day bulletins, and trimestral reports. Each section of the questionnaire inquired about details on the usefulness, format, and presentation of the current product and further suggestions for improvement.

While much valuable information results from this type of analysis, simple statistics do not capture much of the subjective information which comes out during the interviewing process, including comments, suggestions, attitudes and underlying themes. Therefore, some of the qualitative impressions are summarized here.

3. Qualitative Impressions: User-Level Context

The FEWS staff has been aware since the start up of the second phase of the project that our "clientele," or readership, is extremely diversified both in job scope and focus and therefore requires different "types" of products. This fact is perhaps even more noticeable within the A.I.D./Washington framework. The needs of our principal client range from the need for extreme detail, to quick, concise, and up-to-date synopses of important events.

While the following distinctions may seem inherently obvious when written down, the survey highlighted and verified many of our previous assumptions. FEWS staff assumed that each individual user has varied needs that depend on his or her job focus and that the varying job scopes place restrictions on the amount of time available to invest in "absorbing" FEWS information. Therefore, the three different products that FEWS II is currently producing are essential in order to reach the diverse spectrum of our audience and convey important information. With that theme prevailing during the interviews, it made sense to break down this report into the different levels of users and to report their responses as follows:

Division Chiefs and Branch Chiefs

Almost a third of the interviews were conducted with senior-level administrative executives. The overwhelming majority of this group emphasized the fact that time constraints severely limited their ability to regularly read the FSOCs. In fact, unless there was something that needed to be brought to their attention, those cables were used much more often by other members of their staff.

Again, because of time constraints and the nature of the job focus, the majority of this group only skimmed or occasionally "glanced at" the trimestral reports, and then, mostly for reference purposes. The value of this report was medium to low for most of the respondents at this level.

On the other hand, the FEWS bulletins were read "always" and without exception.¹ The feedback was very positive from this group of users, which values the bulletins for their brevity and conciseness. Our impression is that the FEWS bulletins have a high profile and usage rate within A.I.D.

Comments on the fact that the bulletins were a quick and "easily conceptualized" information source were stated frequently. Both the format and presentation of the bulletin had overwhelming appeal, which "helps us to create a quick and colorful mental picture of the important issues that we need to focus on." The majority of respondents conveyed the feeling that the bulletin was "extremely well done."

Desk Officers and Project Officers

Another third of the interviews were held with desk officers and project officers. The majority of this group tended to read, or at least review, all of the FEWS products. Bulletins were "always" read and, as mentioned by the majority of those responding in the group above, maps and graphs were by far the most useful presentation format in this product. Some of the more frequent comments about the usefulness of the bulletins throughout the interviews were that they were a "very good, quick way to get a handle on the overall situation" or a "great synoptic snapshot of the region." However, one major difference between the groups was the way in which they used the bulletin. Desk and project officers tended to use the bulletins to "supplement and update reports." The bulletins were an "excellent way to visualize alarm signals and then look for more detail." "They direct me to the cable for more information."

It was clear for the majority of the respondents in this group that while the bulletins were interesting and valuable for a good "mental picture" of a regional situation, the FSOCs were utilized much more often for the detailed information base needed for decisions and eventual resource allocations. Every one of those who were interviewed in this group said that the cables had entered into their decision making process at one time or another. More than ninety percent of those interviewed said that the cables had been used as information to justify resource allocations.

The value of trimestral reports was less uniform to this group of users. Their overall usefulness was almost equally split between high and medium. The most common response concerning their use was as a resource document that was kept for handouts, review, or as a general reference.

Analysts and Economists

This group of users completed the final third of our survey sample. Less than a third of this group actually saw the FSOCs on a regular basis, but even those that did admitted that the cables were seldom used for decision making and had not been instrumental in resource allocations. The most common response relating to the use of these cables in their work was "They are just good information." Several of the respondents felt that the cables could cover other topics and even attempt to cover in more detail the sections already included in the cable.

All text in quotes are taken directly from the questionnaires.

The bulletins, on the other hand, were received regularly by all those interviewed in this group. They were not uniformly read, but the overwhelming majority read them "frequently." Again, the bulletins seemed to be used for "general information" and "good refreshers and follow-up." None of those responding in this group had ever used the bulletin for resource allocations, but it is interesting to note that everyone felt that both the format and presentation of the bulletin was "good." Unlike the users in the other groups, the majority of this group included "Tables" among their choices when asked about the most useful presentation format in the bulletins. This was in addition to the overwhelming popularity across all groups of the "Maps" and "Graphics."

Another interesting difference between this group of users and other groups was their comments about the trimestral reports. The majority felt that the overall value of this report to their work was "high," and "good for ground level, detailed information." This group, perhaps because they tended to utilize these reports in much more depth than the other groups, suggested several additional topics that would be useful if included in future reports. These will be discussed in the section on general recommendations.

4. Responses to the Multiple Choice Questions: Bureau/Office Context

This section is organized according to the survey instrument. The first questions related to FEWS in general, and asked if there were further information needs FEWS might meet and whether the respondent would want "Special Products." Overall, about half the respondents felt FEWS could fulfill further information needs, while two-fifths were interested in "Special Products." In the bureau/office context, while Other-AFR's wishes followed the overall pattern, Non-AFR was far more interested in other information (e.g., more details on food aid/food needs/refugees, more ground truthing in areas that AID cannot reach/Tigray -- 70%) than in special products (10%). AFR/TR's interests were the reverse; more interest was shown in such special products as briefing papers, wall maps for briefings, and digital maps of FEWS information (69%) than in other information (38%).

Food Security Operations Cables

Most respondents were happy with, or at least indifferent to, the Food Security Operations Cable (FSOC) format. Overall, about three-fifths of respondents saw the FSOCs regularly. The same ratio was true for AFR/TR. In contrast, 90% of Other-AFR staff received the FSOCs, and only 30% of Non-AFR staff received them regularly. Only a third of respondents in all categories felt the FSOCs should contain additional information. Few respondents felt the monthly timing of FSOCs should be changed.

Other-AFR staff were most likely to use FSOC information in decision making (82% vs 54% of AFR/TR staff and 50% of Non-AFR staff). The pattern of FSOC information found useful was similar among the bureaus and offices. There was no pattern in the information found least useful. AFR/TR staff found the cable summary, crop forecasts and food deficit estimates most useful; Other-AFR staff found the summary and at-risk population statistics most useful; and Non-AFR staff found the summary, displaced populations, at-risk populations, and food deficit estimates most useful. AFR/TR staff were less interested in information on civil strife (23%), Other-AFR staff were less interested in non-food aid needs (36%), and Non-AFR staff did not respond to the

question (70%). (Of the three Non-AFR staff who did respond, two had little use for pest, crop forecast, and cereal prices and one had no use for food stock information.)

10-Day (Dekadal) Bulletins

All of the respondents received the FEWS 10-day bulletins on a regular basis, and most read each bulletin received. About three-fifths of Other-AFR and Non-AFR respondents used the bulletins in decision making, while less than half of the AFR/TR staff used the bulletins in this way.

Most readers were happy with bulletin substance and frequency – fewer than half of respondents in any bureaus/offices felt that other information should be included in the bulletins; only one of the 34 respondents thought the bulletin frequency should change (every 10 days). AFR/TR and Non-AFR respondents felt strongly that bulletins should be published in the winter and spring (in addition to the summer growing season), while fewer than a third of the Other-AFR staff were interested in receiving bulletins during the agriculturally off season.

Readers were satisfied with the bulletins' format and presentation. No one said these needed to be changed, four of the 34 respondents said the format and presentation was satisfactory, and the other 30 said these were good (the highest grade available). Of the means of presentation, maps were found most useful across the board. AFR/TR staff felt most strongly about this (92% of respondents, as opposed to 60% of Non-AFR staff and 55% of Other-AFR staff). The next most frequent answer by Other-AFR and Non-AFR staff was that all of the options were most useful (about one-third of respondents in each of the two categories). Following that, Other-AFR staff like graphics over text and tables, while Non-AFR staff preferred textual presentations. AFR/TR staff were more discriminating -- none felt that all presentation options were useful. Of the remaining options, graphics were preferred by AFR/TR staff far above text and tables.

Trimestral Reports¹

Of FEWS' reporting formats, trimestral reports were least used in decision making, although a strong majority of Other-AFR respondents felt the reports were valuable to their work. In spite of these facts, only six of the respondents felt that there should be any changes to them (one person from Non-AFR, one person from Other-AFR, and four people from AFR/TR/PRO). The suggestions for change were:

- use more color maps and graphics and less text, work toward a USA-Today look,
- include a one-page, color, pull-out matrix analog to the executive summary,
- make the analysis deeper and include more detailed information on each country, and
- make the reports shorter.

¹ The trimestral reports are the consolidated, FEWS region-wide reports put out by FEWS/Washington three times a year. These are the qualitative Pre-Harvest Assessment of Cereal Production (published in October), the more quantitative Harvest Assessment of Cereal Production (published in January, the pre-growing season Vulnerability Assessment (published in June).

The report summaries were the most useful sections to all readers. Following that, AFR/TR readers found the country chapters the next most useful part of the reports, and then, in equal weight, the regional summary map, tables, chapter maps and graphs. Other-AFR readers found chapter maps as useful as the overall report summary, and found regional maps and country chapters the next most useful sections (in that order). The five Non-AFR readers who responded to the question expressed similar opinions to those of the Other-AFR readers. Few of the A.I.D./Washington readers found appendices useful.

5. Common Recommendations for Improvement of FEWS Products

Across all the levels of users and bureau/office divisions, there were unique recommendations for improving the individual FEWS products. However, some of the most frequently cited recommendations were:

- the need for more detail and clarity on the maps, in bulletins and trimestral reports,
- to include a regular matrix in bulletins by country and famine indicators, using color schemes "even for text" to flag problem areas,
- to publish "special bulletins" on trends/patterns that serve as guides for the users, for the upcoming season (simple "VA type" bulletins for those that are too pressed for time to read the trimestral report), and
- that the cables should include more information on livestock prices and market trends.

6. Currently "Unmet Needs" of our Users

Once again, there were many different "needs" of individual users that were expressed throughout the interviews, but what became clear as the interview process went on was that there were several common suggestions that were brought up repeatedly. After reviewing all of the questionnaires concerning "information needs" that FEWS II could meet but were not currently fulfilling, two main themes were brought up on a regular basis by users across all groups:

- there is a need for more time series/trend analyses, and
- there is a need for more information on the coping strategies of those populations that are chronically food-deficit.

The majority of feedback resulting from this survey was favorable. Although there were varied suggestions and recommendations for future improvements, the general comments about current FEWS reporting and product output were positive. Since it is impractical to list all the individual comments made, selected quotes have been chosen that seem to represent common themes or responses. Suggestions for the future or some constructive advice included these comments:

- "Some of the style in earlier reports could be improved. Bulletins should not be too technical."

- "FEWS hasn't done enough on institutionalized development. You should focus more on this so that your information base can be more desegregated and sustainable over time."
- "Reporting is quite good, considering the vast audience that you serve and try to accommodate. Hopefully what you are doing in the field is being institutionalized."
- "FEWS products are very good, but A.I.D./W needs to learn to use them better. We waste a lot of it's capabilities."
- "Very good product output, but I'd like to see an assessment done on past predictions that you made. Were your identified needs correct? To what degree?"
- "Every map in the bulletins and trimestral reports should have a key involved. Don't forget it. Maps could be much better used."
- "FEWS does well, but it should expand into other countries soon."

There were users of all levels who have followed the project over the past five years, through Phase I and into Phase II. For those that have been acquainted with the project in both phases, there was nothing but positive feedback.

- "Reporting has gotten a lot better since FEWS I, it's much more helpful."
- "FEWS reporting is very well received now. People trust the information, which is positive."
- "FEWS reporting has gotten better over time. It has really helped A.I.D. in making decisions."
- "FEWS has become an integral part of A.I.D.'s decision making. FEWS has really integrated well and is a highly valued mechanism for knowing what's going on."
- "FEWS reporting, especially the cables, is very, very important. The consistency and uniformity is essential to programs like ours (Food for Peace).
- "FEWS has become much more sophisticated over time. I've become a true convert, especially since I was originally very critical of the project"

In conclusion, the original although undocumented assumptions by FEWS staff seem to hold true. The audience that FEWS tries to reach is extremely diversified in job focus and scope. As a result, there is a need for the various reporting formats used by FEWS. The formats appear to be complimentary and responsive to the needs of this diverse client group. The project should continue to accommodate all the various needs of it's clients, as well as pushing further down the road towards improvement and fine tuning.

APPENDIX I: List of Survey Participants

<i>NAME</i>	<i>OFFICE</i>
Richard Cobb	AID/AFR/TR
Judy Gilmore	AID/AFR/TR
Donald Mackenzie	AID/AFR/TR/PRO
Dagnija Kreslins	AID/AFR/TR/PRO
John Wiles	AID/AFR/TR/PRO
Jonathan Olsson	AID/AFR/TR/PRO
Tom Hobgood	AID/AFR/TR/ANR
Patricia O'Brien Place	AID/AFR/TR/ANR
Melanee Lowdermilk	AID/AFR/TR/ANR
Walter Knausenberger	AID/AFR/TR/ANR/NR
Al Smith	AID/AFR/TR/ANR/PA
Gary Merritt	AID/AFR/TR/HPN
Anita Mackie	AID/AFR/TR/HPN
Patricia Rader	AID/PPC/MFI
John Metelsky	AID/XA/PR
Renee Bafalis	AID/XA/PR
Bette Cook	AID/LEG
Jeanne Markunas/James O'Meara	AID/FVA/FFP/POD
Michael Harvey/William Garvelink	AID/OFDA
Franca Brilliant	AID/OFDA
Jerome Wolgin	AID/AFR/DP/PAR
Emmy Simmons	AID/AFR/DP/PPE
Constance Collins	AID/AFR/PD/SWA
David Lundberg	AID/AFR/EA
Mary Rita Zeleke	AID/AFR/EA
Richard Eney	AID/AFR/EA
John Hicks	AID/AFR/SWA
Roger Simmons	AID/AFR/SWA
Nancy McKay	AID/AFR/SWA
Yvonne John	AID/AFR/SWA
Ron Daniel	AID/AFR/SWA
Louise Werlin	AID/AFR/SWA
John Hall	STATE/AF/E
Frederick Ehrenreich	STATE/AF/E
Amy Nelson	STATE/RP/AF

APPENDIX II: Statistics Summary for All Respondents, AFR/TR, Other-AFR and Non-AFR Staff

All Respondents:

AFR/TR	3	AFR/DP	2	AID/LEG	1	STATE/AF/EA	2
AFR/TR/ANR	5	AFR/EA	2	AID/PPC	1	STATE/RP/AF	1
AFR/TR/HPN	2	AFR/SWA	6	AID/XA	2		
AFR/TR/PRO	3	AFR/PD/SWA	1	OFDA	2		
				AID/FVA	1		

GENERAL

Countries followed:

Mauritania	15%	Chad	21%	1 only	29%
Mali	21%	Sudan	15%	> 1, < all	21%
Burkina	18%	Ethiopia	12%	Sahel only	29%
Niger	18%	All	47%	East Afr only	18%

No Answer 3%

2. Do you have other information needs that FEWS could meet?

Yes 53% No 35% No answer 12%

3. Would you like "Special FEWS Products"?

Yes 41% No 38% No answer 21%

FSOCs

1. Cables followed most closely:

Mauritania	12%	Chad	21%	1 only	21%
Mali	15%	Sudan	12%	> 1, < all	17%
Burkina	15%	Ethiopia	3%	Sahel only	26%
Niger	18%	All	47%	East Afr only	9%

No Answer 15%

Is this because of job focus?

Yes 73% No 6% No answer 21%

For some other reason?

Past affiliation with country	9%
Personal interest	21%
Future impact on job	9%
Other	12%
No Answer	73%

2. Do you see the FSO cable regularly?

Yes 62% No 32% No answer 6%

3. FSOC sections that are more useful to readers

Summary	41%	Displaced Populations	18%	At-Risk Populations	26%
Pests	12%	Crop Forecasts	18%	Civil Strife	12%
Food Stress	15%	Cereal Prices	12%	Food Stocks	12%
Non-Food Needs	3%	USG Food Aid Requests	9%	Food Deficit Estimates	29%
All	9%	None/No Answer	29%		

4. FSOC sections that are least useful to readers					
Summary	0%	Displaced Populations	0%	At-Risk Populations	6%
Pests	15%	Crop Forecasts	6%	Civil Strife	9%
Food Stress	0%	Cereal Prices	15%	Food Stocks	6%
Non-Food Needs	12%	USG Food Aid Requests	6%	Food Deficit Estimates	3%
All	0%	None/No Answer	59%		

5. Should FSOCs contain additional information?
 Yes 29% No 47% No answer 24%

6. Should FSOC frequency be changed (from monthly)?
 Yes 15% No 62% No answer 24%

7. Has information in FSOCs entered into readers' decision making?
 Yes 62% No 18% No answer 21%

8. Does cable format hinder or help its usefulness to you?
 Hinder 18% Help 15% Neither 24% No Answer 44%

BULLETINS

1. Do you receive the dekadal bulletins on a regular basis?
 Yes 100%

2. How often do you read them?
 Always 76% Frequently 15% Sometimes 9% Never 0%

3b. Have they ever had an impact on resource allocation?
 Yes 56% No 44% No answer 0%

4. What is the most useful presentation format in the bulletins?
 All 21% Maps 71% Text 18% Tables 15% Graphics 41% No Answer 3%

5a. Would you like other information included in the bulletins?
 Yes 32% No 50% No answer 18%

6a. How do you find the format and presentation of the bulletins?
 Format Good 88% Satisfactory 12% Needs Change 0% No Answer 0%
 Presentation Good 88% Satisfactory 12% Needs Change 0% No Answer 0%

7a. Should the frequency of bulletin publication be changed (10-day)?
 Yes 3% No 85% No answer 12%

8a. Should bulletins be published during the Winter/Spring?
 Yes 62% No 26% No answer 12%

TRIMESTRAL REPORTS

1. Do you receive FEWS Trimestral Reports?
 Yes 82% No 15% No answer 3%

2. What chapters of the report do you read?

Mauritania	12%	Chad	15%	1 only	32%
Mali	18%	Sudan	15%	> 1, < all	15%
Burkina	15%	Ethiopia	12%	Sahel only	26%
Niger	18%	All	32%	East Afr only	21%
No Answer	21%				

3. How useful do you find the following portions of the reports?

	Exec Sum	Chapters	Reg Maps	Tables	Chap Maps	Graphs	Appendices
V Useful	35.3%	11.8%	2.9%	2.9%	20.6%	5.9%	0.0%
Useful	26.5%	26.5%	35.3%	14.7%	23.5%	17.6%	2.9%
Avg	5.9%	26.5%	23.5%	29.4%	20.6%	38.2%	14.7%
Not so useful	5.9%	11.8%	14.7%	29.4%	5.9%	11.8%	17.6%
Not at all useful	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	41.2%
No answer	20.6%	23.5%	23.5%	23.5%	29.4%	23.5%	23.5%

4. How do you judge the length of detail in the report?

Too Long	9%	Just Right	62%	Not Enough Detail	3%	No Answer	26%
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5. How do you judge the length in pages of the report?

Too Long	12%	Just Right	59%	Not Enough Detail	0%	No Answer	26%
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6a. Have you ever used the reports in decision-making process?

Yes	35%	No	44%	No answer	21%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	-----

7a. Would you like to see anything changed about the reports?

Yes	18%	No	53%	No answer	29%
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8a. What is the overall value of this report to your work?

High	26%	Medium	50%	Low	6%	None	3%	No answer	15%
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AFR/TR Respondents:

AFR/TR	3
AFR/TR/ANR	5
AFR/TR/HPN	2
AFR/TR/PRO	3

GENERAL

Countries followed:

Mauritania	8%	Chad	15%	1 only	23%
Mali	23%	Sudan	8%	> 1, < all	15%
Burkina	15%	Ethiopia	0%	Sahel only	31%
Niger	15%	All	54%	East Afr only	8%

No Answer 8%

2. Do you have other information needs that FEWS could meet?

Yes 38% No 31% No answer 31%

3. Would you like "Special FEWS Products"?

Yes 69% No 23% No answer 8%

FSOCs

1. Cables followed most closely:

Mauritania	8%	Chad	15%	1 only	15%
Mali	15%	Sudan	0%	> 1, < all	15%
Burkina	15%	Ethiopia	0%	Sahel only	31%
Niger	15%	All	62%	East Afr only	0%

No Answer 8%

Is this because of job focus?

Yes 69% No 15% No answer 15%

For some other reason?

Past affiliation with country	8%
Personal interest	31%
Future impact on job	15%
Other	8%
No Answer	62%

2. Do you see the FSO cable regularly?

Yes 62% No 23% No answer 15%

3. FSOC sections that are more useful to readers

Summary	54%	Displaced Populations	8%	At-Risk Populations	23%
Pests	15%	Crop Forecasts	38%	Civil Strife	8%
Food Stress	23%	Cereal Prices	15%	Food Stocks	31%
Non-Food Needs	8%	USG Food Aid Requests	15%	Food Deficit Estimates	38%
All	8%	None/No Answer	15%		

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4. FSOC sections that are least useful to readers
- | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Summary | 0% | Displaced Populations | 0% | At-Risk Populations | 8% |
| Pests | 15% | Crop Forecasts | 0% | Civil Strife | 23% |
| Food Stress | 0% | Cereal Prices | 8% | Food Stocks | 0% |
| Non-Food Needs | 0% | USG Food Aid Requests | 15% | Food Deficit Estimates | 0% |
| All | 0% | None/No Answer | 54% | | |
5. Should FSOCs contain additional information?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 31% | No | 46% | No answer | 23% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
6. Should FSOC frequency be changed (from monthly)?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 15% | No | 69% | No answer | 15% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
7. Has information in FSOCs entered into readers' decision making?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 54% | No | 31% | No answer | 15% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
8. Does cable format hinder or help its usefulness to you?
- | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|------|-----|---------|----|-----------|-----|
| Hinder | 23% | Help | 15% | Neither | 8% | No Answer | 54% |
|--------|-----|------|-----|---------|----|-----------|-----|

BULLETINS

1. Do you receive the dekadal bulletins on a regular basis?
- | | |
|-----|------|
| Yes | 100% |
|-----|------|
2. How often do you read them?
- | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|------------|-----|-----------|----|-------|----|
| Always | 77% | Frequently | 23% | Sometimes | 0% | Never | 0% |
|--------|-----|------------|-----|-----------|----|-------|----|
- 3b. Have they ever had an impact on resource allocation?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|
| Yes | 46% | No | 54% | No answer | 0% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|
4. What is the most useful presentation format in the bulletins?
- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|----|
| All | 0% | Maps | 92% | Text | 15% | Tables | 15% | Graphics | 77% | No Answer | 0% |
|-----|----|------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|----|
- 5a. Would you like other information included in the bulletins?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|
| Yes | 46% | No | 46% | No answer | 8% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|
- 6a. How do you find the format and presentation of the bulletins?
- | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|--------------|----|--------------|----|-----------|----|
| Format | Good | 92% | Satisfactory | 8% | Needs Change | 0% | No Answer | 0% |
| Presentation | Good | 92% | Satisfactory | 8% | Needs Change | 0% | No Answer | 0% |
- 7a. Should the frequency of bulletin publication be changed (10-day)?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 8% | No | 77% | No answer | 15% |
|-----|----|----|-----|-----------|-----|
- 8a. Should bulletins be published during the Winter/Spring?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|
| Yes | 77% | No | 15% | No answer | 8% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|

TRIMESTRAL REPORTS

1. Do you receive FEWS Trimestral Reports?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|
| Yes | 85% | No | 15% | No answer | 0% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----------|----|

2. What chapters of the report do you read?

Mauritania	8%	Chad	15%	1 only	15%
Mali	15%	Sudan	8%	> 1, < all	15%
Burkina	15%	Ethiopia	0%	Sahel only	23%
Niger	15%	All	69%	East Afr only	8%
No Answer	0%				

3. How useful do you find the following portions of the reports?

	Exec Sum	Chapters	Reg Maps	Tables	Chap Maps	Graphs	Appendices
V Useful	61.5%	15.4%	7.7%	0.0%	23.1%	7.7%	0.0%
Useful	15.4%	23.1%	23.1%	30.8%	7.7%	23.1%	0.0%
Avg	0.0%	30.8%	38.5%	23.1%	30.8%	30.8%	15.4%
Not so useful	7.7%	15.4%	15.4%	30.8%	7.7%	23.1%	23.1%
Not at all useful	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	46.2%
No answer	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	30.8%	15.4%	15.4%

4. How do you judge the length of detail in the report?

Too Long	0%	Just Right	62%	Not Enough Detail	8%	No Answer	31%
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5. How do you judge the length in pages of the report?

Too Long	15%	Just Right	46%	Not Enough Detail	0%	No Answer	38%
----------	-----	------------	-----	-------------------	----	-----------	-----

6a. Have you ever used the reports in decision-making process?

Yes	38%	No	54%	No answer	8%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	----

7a. Would you like to see anything changed about the reports?

Yes	31%	No	54%	No answer	15%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	-----

8a. What is the overall value of this report to your work?

High	46%	Medium	38%	Low	0%	None	8%	No answer	8%
------	-----	--------	-----	-----	----	------	----	-----------	----

Other AFR Respondents:

AFR/DP	2
AFR/EA	2
AFR/SWA	6
AFR/PD/SWA	1

GENERAL

Countries followed:

Mauritania	36%	Chad	36%	1 only	27%
Mali	36%	Sudan	18%	>1, < all	45%
Burkina	36%	Ethiopia	0%	Sahel only	55%
Niger	36%	All	27%	East Afr only	18%

No Answer 0%

2. Do you have other information needs that FEWS could meet?

Yes	55%	No	45%	No answer	0%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	----

3. Would you like "Special FEWS Products"?

Yes	36%	No	45%	No answer	18%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	-----

FSOCs

1. Cables followed most closely:

Mauritania	27%	Chad	36%	1 only	18%
Mali	27%	Sudan	18%	>1, < all	45%
Burkina	27%	Ethiopia	0%	Sahel only	45%
Niger	36%	All	36%	East Afr only	0%

No Answer 0%

Is this because of job focus?

Yes	100%	No	0%	No answer	0%
-----	------	----	----	-----------	----

For some other reason?

Past affiliation with country	18%
Personal interest	27%
Future impact on job	9%
Other	18%
No Answer	73%

2. Do you see the FSO cable regularly?

Yes	91%	No	9%	No answer	0%
-----	-----	----	----	-----------	----

3. FSOC sections that are more useful to readers

Summary	27%	Displaced Populations	18%	At-Risk Populations	27%
Pests	9%	Crop Forecasts	9%	Civil Strife	9%
Food Stress	0%	Cereal Prices	18%	Food Stocks	0%
Non-Food Needs	0%	USG Food Aid Requests	%	Food Deficit Estimates	18%
All	18%	None/No Answer	27%		

4. FSOC sections that are least useful to readers					
Summary	0%	Displaced Populations	0%	At-Risk Populations	9%
Pests	9%	Crop Forecasts	0%	Civil Strife	0%
Food Stress	0%	Cereal Prices	18%	Food Stocks	9%
Non-Food Needs	36%	USG Food Aid Requests	0%	Food Deficit Estimates	9%
All	0%	None/No Answer	55%		

5. Should FSOCs contain additional information?
 Yes 27% No 73% No answer 0%

6. Should FSOC frequency be changed (from monthly)?
 Yes 18% No 73% No answer 9%

7. Has information in FSOCs entered into readers' decision making?
 Yes 82% No 18% No answer 0%

8. Does cable format hinder or help its usefulness to you?
 Hinder 9% Help 9% Neither 64% No Answer 18%

BULLETINS

1. Do you receive the dekadal bulletins on a regular basis?
 Yes 100%

2. How often do you read them?
 Always 82% Frequently 9% Sometimes 9% Never 0%

3b. Have they ever had an impact on resource allocation?
 Yes 64% No 36% No answer 0%

4. What is the most useful presentation format in the bulletins?
 All 36% Maps 55% Text 9% Tables 9% Graphics 27% No Answer 0%

5a. Would you like other information included in the bulletins?
 Yes 18% No 64% No answer 18%

6a. How do you find the format and presentation of the bulletins?
 Format Good 82% Satisfactory 18% Needs Change 0% No Answer 0%
 Presentation Good 82% Satisfactory 18% Needs Change 0% No Answer 0%

7a. Should the frequency of bulletin publication be changed (10-day)?
 Yes 0% No 82% No answer 18%

8a. Should bulletins be published during the Winter/Spring?
 Yes 27% No 55% No answer 18%

TRIMESTRAL REPORTS

1. Do you receive FEWS Trimestral Reports?
 Yes 91% No 9% No answer 0%

2. What chapters of the report do you read?

Mauritania	27%	Chad	27%	1 only	27%
Mali	36%	Sudan	18%	> 1, < all	45%
Burkina	27%	Ethiopia	0%	Sahel only	55%
Niger	36%	All	0%	East Afr only	18%
No Answer	27%				

3. How useful do you find the following portions of the reports?

	Exec Sum	Chapters	Reg Maps	Tables	Chap Maps	Graphs	Appendices
V Useful	18.2%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	9.1%	0.0%
Useful	45.5%	36.4%	54.5%	9.1%	45.5%	18.2%	9.1%
Avg	18.2%	27.3%	18.2%	45.5%	18.2%	45.5%	27.3%
Not so useful	9.1%	18.2%	18.2%	36.4%	9.1%	9.1%	27.3%
Not at all useful	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	27.3%
No answer	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%

4. How do you judge the length of detail in the report?

Too Long 18% Just Right 64% Not Enough Detail 0% No Answer 18%

5. How do you judge the length in pages of the report?

Too Long 9% Just Right 73% Not Enough Detail 0% No Answer 18%

6a. Have you ever used the reports in decision-making process?

Yes 36% No 45% No answer 18%

7a. Would you like to see anything changed about the reports?

Yes 9% No 55% No answer 36%

8a. What is the overall value of this report to your work?

High 9% Medium 73% Low 0% None 0% No answer 9%

Non-AFR Respondents:

AID/LEG	1	STATE/AF/EA	2
AID/PPC	1	STATE/RP/AF	1
AID/XA	2		
OFDA	2		
AID/FVA	1		

GENERAL

Countries followed:

Mauritania	0%	Chad	10%	1 only	20%
Mali	0%	Sudan	20%	> 1, < all	20%
Burkina	0%	Ethiopia	40%	Sahel only	0%
Niger	0%	All	60%	East Afr only	30%

No Answer 0%

2. Do you have other information needs that FEWS could meet?

Yes 70% No 30% No answer 0%

3. Would you like "Special FEWS Products"?

Yes 10% No 50% No answer 40%

FSOCs

1. Cables followed most closely:

Mauritania	0%	Chad	10%	1 only	10%
Mali	0%	Sudan	20%	> 1, < all	10%
Burkina	0%	Ethiopia	10%	Sahel only	0%
Niger	0%	All	40%	East Afr only	10%

No Answer 40%

Is this because of job focus?

Yes 50% No 0% No answer 50%

For some other reason?

Past affiliation with country	0%
Personal interest	0%
Future impact on job	0%
Other	10%
No Answer	90%

2. Do you see the FSO cable regularly?

Yes 30% No 70% No answer 0%

3. FSOC sections that are more useful to readers

Summary	40%	Displaced Populations	30%	At-Risk Populations	30%
Pests	10%	Crop Forecasts	0%	Civil Strife	20%
Food Stress	20%	Cereal Prices	0%	Food Stocks	0%
Non-Food Needs	0%	USG Food Aid Requests	10%	Food Deficit Estimates	30%
All	0%	None/No Answer	50%		

18

4. FSOC sections that are least useful to readers					
Summary	0%	Displaced Populations	0%	At-Risk Populations	0%
Pests	20%	Crop Forecasts	20%	Civil Strife	0%
Food Stress	0%	Cereal Prices	20%	Food Stocks	10%
Non-Food Needs	0%	USG Food Aid Requests	0%	Food Deficit Estimates	0%
All	0%	None/No Answer	70%		

5. Should FSOCs contain additional information?
 Yes 30% No 20% No answer 50%

6. Should FSOC frequency be changed (from monthly)?
 Yes 10% No 40% No answer 50%

7. Has information in FSOCs entered into readers' decision making?
 Yes 50% No 0% No answer 50%

8. Does cable format hinder or help its usefulness to you?
 Hinder 20% Help 20% Neither 0% No Answer 60%

BULLETINS

1. Do you receive the dekadal bulletins on a regular basis?
 Yes 100%

2. How often do you read them?
 Always 70% Frequently 10% Sometimes 20% Never 0%

3b. Have they ever had an impact on resource allocation?
 Yes 60% No 40% No answer 0%

4. What is the most useful presentation format in the bulletins?
 All 30% Maps 60% Text 30% Tables 20% Graphics 10% No Answer 0%

5a. Would you like other information included in the bulletins?
 Yes 30% No 40% No answer 30%

6a. How do you find the format and presentation of the bulletins?
 Format Good 90% Satisfactory 10% Needs Change 0% No Answer 0%
 Presentation Good 90% Satisfactory 10% Needs Change 0% No Answer 0%

7a. Should the frequency of bulletin publication be changed (10-day)?
 Yes 0% No 100% No answer 0%

8a. Should bulletins be published during the Winter/Spring?
 Yes 80% No 10% No answer 10%

TRIMESTRAL REPORTS

1. Do you receive FEWS Trimestral Reports?
 Yes 70% No 20% No answer 10%

2. What chapters of the report do you read?

Mauritania	0%	Chad	0%	1 only	20%
Mali	0%	Sudan	20%	> 1, < all	20%
Burkina	0%	Ethiopia	40%	Sahel only	0%
Niger	0%	All	20%	East Afr only	40%
No Answer	40%				

3. How useful do you find the following portions of the reports?

	Exec Sum	Chapters	Reg Maps	Tables	Chap Maps	Graphs	Appendices
V Useful	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%	10.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Useful	20.0%	20.0%	30.0%	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%
Avg	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%	20.0%	10.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Not so useful	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not at all useful	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%
No answer	40.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%

4. How do you judge the length of detail in the report?

Too Long	10%	Just Right	60%	Not Enough Detail	0%	No Answer	30%
----------	-----	------------	-----	-------------------	----	-----------	-----

5. How do you judge the length in pages of the report?

Too Long	10%	Just Right	60%	Not Enough Detail	0%	No Answer	30%
----------	-----	------------	-----	-------------------	----	-----------	-----

6a. Have you ever used the reports in decision-making process?

Yes	30%	No	30%	No answer	40%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	-----

7a. Would you like to see anything changed about the reports?

Yes	10%	No	50%	No answer	40%
-----	-----	----	-----	-----------	-----

8a. What is the overall value of this report to your work?

High	20%	Medium	40%	Low	10%	None	0%	No answer	30%
------	-----	--------	-----	-----	-----	------	----	-----------	-----

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FSOC'S

1. a) Which cables from FEWS-monitored countries do you follow most often?

Sudan	Chad	Niger	Burkina	Mali	Mauritania	Ethiopia	All
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

b) Is this because of your job focus?

Yes (1) No (2)

c) for some other reason? (Circle)

- 1 Past affiliation with country
- 2 Personal Interest
- 3 Future impact on job related decisions
- 4 Other _____

2. Do you see the FSOC cable regularly?

Yes (1) No (2)

3. Are certain sections of the FSOC cable more useful to you?

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Summary | (e) Displaced Populations | (i) At-Risk Populations |
| (b) Pests | (f) Crop Forecasts | (j) Civil Strife |
| (c) Food Stress | (g) Cereal Prices | (k) Food Stocks |
| (d) Non-Food needs | (h) USG Food Aid requests | (l) Food Deficit estimates |
| | | (m) ALL |

4. What information in the FSOC cable has been least useful?

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Summary | (e) Displaced Populations | (i) At-Risk Populations |
| (b) Pests | (f) Crop Forecasts | (j) Civil Strife |
| (c) Food Stress | (g) Cereal Prices | (k) Food Stocks |
| (d) Non-Food needs | (h) USG Food Aid requests | (l) Food Deficit estimates |
| | | (m) ALL |

5. a) Do the cables need to include additional information?

Yes (1) No (2)

b) If Yes, what information should be included?

6. a) Should the frequency of cables (monthly) be changed?

Yes (1) No (2)

b) If yes, how should it be changed?

7. a) Has information in these cables entered into your decision making?

Yes (1) No (2)

b) If Yes, how? (Have the cables ever been instrumental in resource allocation?)

8. a) Does the cable format hinder or help its usefulness to you?

Hinder (1) Help (2) Neither (3)

b) If Hinder, how could the format be changed?

9. Any further comments? Questions?

BULLETINS

1. Do you receive the decadal bulletins on a regular basis?
Yes (1) No (2)
2. How often do you read them?
Always (1) Frequently (2) Sometimes (3) Never (4)
3. a) What is their use to you? _____

b) Ever impacted on resource allocation?
Yes (1) No (2)
c) What kind?

4. What is the most useful presentation format in the bulletin?
Maps (1) Text (2) Tables (3) Graphics (4)
5. a) Would like other information included in the bulletins?
Yes (1) No (2)
b) What information? _____

6. a) How do you find the format and presentation of the bulletins?
FORMAT : Good (1) Satisfactory (2) Needs change (3)
PRESENT. : Good (1) Satisfactory (2) Needs change (3)
b) If changed how? _____

7. a) Should the frequency of bulletin publication (ten-day) be changed?
b) If yes, how should it be changed?

8. a) Should bulletins be published during the Winter/Spring?
Yes (1) No (2)
b) If yes, on what sort of schedule? _____
9. Do you have any other suggestions for improvement?

TRIMESTRAL REPORTS

VULNERABILITY

PRE-HARVEST

POST-HARVEST

1. Do you receive the FEWS Trimestral reports?
Yes (1) No (2)

2. What chapters of the report do you read?

Sudan	Chad	Niger	Burkina	Mali	Mauritania	Ethiopia	All
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

3. How useful do you find the following portions of the reports?
(rate 1 to 5 with 1....) (Not at all...Avg...Very)

Executive Summary	1	2	3	4	5
Country Chapters	1	2	3	4	5
Regional Maps	1	2	3	4	5
Tables	1	2	3	4	5
Country Maps	1	2	3	4	5
Graphs	1	2	3	4	5
Appendices	1	2	3	4	5

4. How do you judge the length of detail in the report?
Too much (1) Just Right (2) Not enough detail (3)

5. How do you judge the length in pages of the report?
Too long (1) Just Right (2) Too Short (3)

6. a) Have you ever used the reports in a decision making process?
Yes (1) No (2)

b) If Yes, how? (Have the reports ever been instrumental in resource allocation?)

7. a) Would you like to see anything changed about the reports?
Yes (1) No (2)

b) If Yes, how?

8. a) What is the overall value of this report to your work?
High (1) Medium (2) Low (3) None (4)

b) Please describe,

9. Besides the three reports that are already being written, are there any major topics or issues that you feel would be important to address on a regular basis, which pertain to the Famine Early Warning objectives?

list the objectives
