FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK (FEWS NET)
QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORT
JANUARY 2007 – MARCH 2007

Contract No. AFP-I-00-05-00027-00

The author’s 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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The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) IQC is a five-year USAID-financed activity awarded to the Chemonics International Consortium, consisting of The Food Economy Group (FEG), Intana International, Michigan State University (MSU), and WebFirst Inc., on September 29, 2005. The FEWS NET activity is a set of integrated activities intended to: 1) deliver early warnings of hazards, food insecurity, vulnerability to food insecurity, and famine; 2) increase the quantity and improve the quality of information used to make comparable food security and vulnerability monitoring, needs assessments, preparedness, and contingency and response planning; and 3) develop national and regional emergency early warning and food security monitoring and assessment capabilities. The overall goal of the activity is to help prevent food insecurity and famine through early identification and warning to decision-makers.

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Early warnings of hazards, food insecurity, vulnerability to food insecurity, and famine delivered through routine reporting, special reporting, and briefings. Monthly food security updates were developed for all countries and regions with a FEWS NET presence. These reports serve as the primary routine information products that provide early warnings of hazards that affect food security. Also during this quarter, more focused information products were prepared such as alert statements for countries experiencing significant levels of food insecurity, Food Security Implications Briefings (FSIBs) which provide in-depth information on all countries on alert status, Executive Overview Briefs (EOBs) which provide targeted information to senior decision-makers in USAID, and the new Food Security and Assistance Forecast product designed to assist the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) with programming and planning. A six-month, forward-looking global food security outlook was also delivered during this period.

Quantity and quality of information used to make comparable food security and vulnerability monitoring, needs assessments, preparedness, and contingency and response planning increased and improved. As mentioned above, a six-month global food security outlook was delivered to USAID and other partners in February 2007. The analysis allows for focused, cross-country comparison of early warning information using a consistent scale. This outlook presented the current food security situation and forward-looking scenarios, including most likely and worst case scenarios, for all FEWS NET countries of coverage. In addition, a series of milestones related to implementation of the integrated systems initiative were achieved, further solidifying the infrastructure needed to strengthen the quality and quantity of information used for decision making.

National and regional early warning and food security monitoring and assessment capabilities developed. FEWS NET’s greatest asset is its dedicated and hard-working staff. A significant amount of partner capacity building was done informally in the course of FEWS NET’s day-to-day work, through joint field trips, assessments, and reporting. Numerous examples of FEWS NET’s support to international and local network partners are included in this report.
REVIEW OF THE QUARTER’S ACTIVITIES—FIELD

The following is a summary of the quarter’s activities by task order. During the reporting period, a series of activities related to personnel were undertaken, including

**Task Order 1—Africa**

*Malawi.* In addition to normal joint agricultural season and markets monitoring and supervision of agricultural production estimates, FEWS NET Malawi staff, in conjunction with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters, conducted a targeted training for Ministry of Agriculture field staff on the conduct of green maize consumption surveys. Building on the training, a green maize consumption survey was conducted from mid-March to the end of April 2007. Completed survey forms are currently being sent to Ministry of Agriculture headquarters for data entry and analysis. Results of the study will enable food security stakeholders to have a thorough understanding of the proportion of maize crop that is consumed while the crop is still in the field. This has a bearing on the actual final harvest. This information will also be useful in conducting food balance sheet analysis.

One of the major policy goals for the current Malawian government is to turn the country from a net importer of food into a net food exporter through various policy and regulatory framework changes. To this end, a joint food and nutrition security task force was created and a series of indicators established to measure success towards achievement of this goal. In March 2007, FNR Chimwaza and DFNR Chapasuka attended a food and nutrition security review workshop, as part of their role in the joint food and nutrition security task force. FEWS NET delivered a presentation on agricultural commodity import and export trends. Collectively, participating partners completed a detailed evaluation of the progress of various macro-economic, agricultural, food security, education, health, and nutrition indicators. As a result of the meeting, the status of established food security indicators was clarified, allowing partners to assess the status of achievement of overarching macro-level policy goals. The information provided by FEWS NET is key for monitoring progress in this area in addition to monitoring the overall food security situation in the country. The consensus among participants was that there is more work to be done before this can be achieved.

*Nigeria.* The reporting period was a busy one for the FEWS NET Nigeria office. In January 2007, FNR Tahirou Yahaye and DFNR Victor Ajieroh, in collaboration with Chad FNR Yacoub Abdelwahid, Niger FNR Ibrahim Laouali, and Consultant Jenny Aker, planned a study of ten nationally and regionally important markets in northern Nigeria as part of a regional post harvest market survey. Collaborative partners included the University of California- Berkley, World Vision, Catholic Relief Services- Niger, and the Nigerian Dawanau Market Development Associate based in Kano. DFNR Ajieroh joined the study team in administering approximately 170 questionnaires on market performance, trader and transporter behaviors, and the business environment for millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea, and livestock. The study will increase the quantity and quality of food security information in Nigeria and the region. It will also lead to improved capacity of local network partners in market assessment and monitoring.
FEWS NET Nigeria also completed the livelihoods zoning and profiling of 15 states in northern Nigeria during the reporting period, another major deliverable. The activity was kicked off with a stakeholders form in Abuja and capacity building workshop in Kano. Subcontractor The Food Economy Group provided leadership for this activity. Forum and workshop participants included network partners such as Save the Children-Nigeria, UNDP, DfID, the National Bureau of Statistics, the National Population Commission, the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, the Central Bank of Nigeria, the government Project Coordinating Unit, the Kano state Chamber of Commerce, and various grain and livestock traders from Dawanau market. Through these fora, participants have developed a common understanding of key issues for developing livelihoods zones and profiles, as well as improved capacity in food security assessment and monitoring. The actual zoning and profiling was completed in February 2007. The assessment team identified 45 livelihoods zones, for which preliminary livelihoods profiles are being developed. The FNR and Food Economy Group consultant conducted a briefing on activity methodology, preliminary findings, and recommended next steps for USAID/Nigeria staff in March 2007. Once the profiles are completed and information disseminated, FEWS NET anticipates that there will be an overall improvement in the level of understanding of food security and vulnerability situations in northern Nigeria; FEWS NET’s ability to meet the information needs of partners, including improved contingency response planning and decision making needs, will be increased; and FEWS NET’s food security early warning analysis will be deepened.

One challenge identified by the FNR as a result of the activity, is the weak management and planning capabilities of Nigerian governmental institutions, specifically in the areas of markets, seasonal monitoring, and agricultural policies.

**Somalia.** In addition to normal joint monthly reporting and alert updates, attendance at monthly Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordination meetings, and monthly oral briefings to USAID/East Africa, FEWS NET Somalia contributed to a series of discrete activities which led to strengthened food security early warning for the country. This included support to an Agro Sphere and FAO special study of the impact of markets on casual agricultural labor in targeted livelihoods zones in the Lower Shabelle. FEWS NET/Somalia also conducted a high-level briefing for visiting USAID/Washington senior officials in January 2007, provided input into an Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) training delivered to members of the food security and nutrition technical working group in February 2007, and provided on-going support to FSAU and UN flood contingency and response planning activities beginning in March.

**Task Order 2—Afghanistan**

From January to April 2007, an outside consultant conducted a wheat market study in Pakistan and produced a draft report that analyzed the implications of that market on Afghan food security. The output of this study will feed information into to the Afghan Food Security Network, which includes the Afghan government, UN agencies, and NGOs, for better planning. The information obtained from this study, compiled in the
report, will lead to a greater understanding of the impact of Pakistan’s wheat market policy on Afghan wheat producers and consumers.

Following the study, the consultant and FEWS NET Afghanistan conducted a workshop in February to share the findings of the Pakistan wheat market study and its effect on the Afghan wheat industry with food security stakeholders. Participants provided their own comments and suggestions, learning yet also sharing knowledge that will lead to improved food security analysis, planning and reporting. The study and workshop were both funded under surge.

In April, FEWS NET staff traveled to Badakhshan province in northeastern Afghanistan to assess the food security situation and analyze the relevance of food aid for local needs. The assessment has led to a better understanding of the degree and effect of shocks on vulnerable populations in the areas around Badakhshan as well as describing community responses. FEWS NET, WFP and their partners now also have a greater ability to target food aid and allocate resources to vulnerable areas more effectively.

Task Order 3—Haiti

During the period, FEWS NET Haiti and network partners have developed a food security outlook that analyzes food security conditions for the first half of the year, January – June 2007. The outlook was disseminated to decision-makers through the monthly food security update, the Coordination Nationale de la Securité Alimentaire’s (CNSA) quarterly outlook, and presentations. Partners recognized the importance of such an outlook, and the necessity of using it as a precursor to regular contingency planning.

In March, FEWS NET provided its partners, cooperating sponsors (CSs), USAID, and WFP, with technical support on vulnerability analysis, including advice on designing interventions and geographical targeting. This support provides partners with a better understanding of the root causes of vulnerability to food insecurity and will improve future interventions.

Last quarter, the FNR identified key food security monitoring indicators and alert thresholds, and FEWS NET and its major network partners are close to reaching a consensus. Once finalized, the standardization of food security monitoring indicators will improve the quality, accuracy, and comparability of analyses and alerts between network partners in the country.

Task Order 4—MFEWS/Central America

Regional. From January 29 to February 2, 2007, all MFEWS professional staff traveled to Washington for a technical orientation meeting. Proposed as part of FEWS NET’s regional reorganization strategy, the orientation provided professional staff with targeted technical support on core reporting products and processes, an introduction to the integrated systems initiative, and a forum for discussion about markets and trade-related issues, including planning for food market and labor market special studies to be carried
out using surge funding. Of primary importance was the opportunity to further clarify roles and responsibilities

Guatemala. In February and March 2007, the MNR, along with FAO and the food security secretariat (SESAN), completed the secondary data review and updated livelihood profiles with an FAO study on vulnerable groups. This update will improve the quantity and quality of information used to make comparable food security and vulnerability monitoring, needs assessments, preparedness, and contingency and response planning.

From January to March 2007, the MNR provided the Ministry of Agriculture, MAGA, with training and technical assistance to develop and implement a web-based information system linked to the national crop monitoring system. This system is being developed by MAGA, the Meteorological Services, and SESAN with MF EWS and FAO support, and will lead to improved food security monitoring and early warning and response planning in the country.

Given the upcoming elections in September, the MNR, FAO, USAID, and WFP have been coordinating a sensitization campaign of political parties in February and March, which will be carried out through June. Network partners have met and will continue meeting with the parties to analyze and comment on their programs. They anticipate that this sensitization campaign will increase political party awareness of the food security situation in Guatemala, enhance their knowledge of ongoing initiatives in this field, and subsequently ensure continuity of these food security initiatives.

Also during this period, the MNR worked with USAID, FANTA and PVOs to help PVOs include food security early warning indicators into their monitoring plans.

Honduras. During the reporting period, the Food and Nutritional Security Coalition including WFP, WVI, Save the Children, CARE, Christian Children Fund, Ayuda en Accion, and OXFAM UK, designed and validated a tool to geo-reference government and NGO food security and nutritional interventions in Honduras. This tool is expected to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of NGO, government, and donor food security interventions by focusing on the most vulnerable populations and better utilize human, technical, financial, and logistical resources.

The MNR also worked with the Food and Nutritional Security Coalition to design a conceptual framework, indicators, and information-collecting tools that will result in a participatory monitoring, evaluation, and information system on food and nutritional security. The system is expected to facilitate the production of high quality community-based information on food and nutritional security for decision-makers.

The Food and Nutritional Security Coalition’s Southern Honduras Group also conducted monitoring and evaluations of the food and nutritional security conditions of the southern Honduran communities. By identifying the most vulnerable families, by providing accurate early warning information, and through implementation of a regional and
participatory sustainable development strategy, the Coalition anticipates a greater awareness of food insecurity in the south.

Nicaragua. During the period, the MNR continued to serve as a technical advisor for the standardization of national- and regional-level nutrition indicators. The MNR met with partners at a recent regional meeting to elaborate on the preliminary report and, in cooperation with the Nicasalud Project funded by the Gates Foundation, continues to work on standardizing the methodology for nutrition monitoring in Central America. The implementation of the new monitoring framework will deepen the level and quality of food security early warning in the region, improve the processes of surveillance for infant growth based on standard programs of promotion and surveillance of growth at a community level in Central America, and strengthen channels of cooperation between national and regional institutions.

Task Order 5—Mozambique

From October – December 2006, a food security and nutrition baseline study was completed with FEWS NET technical leadership. A comprehensive national report highlighting root causes of food insecurity and relationships, livelihood groups and vulnerability profiles, including recommendations for programming was completed. Improved understanding of the underlying causes of food insecurity will improve food security and nutrition early warning to establish a baseline against which indicators can be monitored. The livelihoods study also led to improved capacity of FEWS NET staff and network partners to conduct food security and nutrition assessments and monitoring. Looking ahead, the network plans to carry out further analysis in priority areas identified by the study.

REVIEW OF THE QUARTER’S ACTIVITIES—WASHINGTON

Management

A further restructuring of the Washington office took place during the reporting period. The IQC project management unit (PMU) was placed under the authority of the chief of party. A revised home office organizational chart is available in annex B. The benefit of this further refinement in the structure of the home office will be to further integrate all project management aspects of FEWS NET into a single team, thereby improving coordination among Washington technical and management staff, and between Washington and the field.

Monthly regional coordination meetings were instituted at the end of the previous reporting period and were held each month for each of the six FEWS NET geographic areas of coverage including Afghanistan, east, west, and southern Africa, Central America, and Haiti. These meetings have fostered improved planning, coordination, and tracking for all completed, on-going, and new activities among implementation team members.

The chief of party made a supervisory trip to east Africa to visit all Nairobi-based staff, including staff in the regional office and the country offices for Kenya, Somalia, and
south Sudan. This was a useful opportunity to exchange information about field and home office operational issues and constraints. During this trip meetings were held with USAID and key partners to discuss progress made by the FEWS NET activity and identify ways to improve coordination and collaboration.

During the reporting period considerable effort has been spent on closely managing the budget and field requests for travel. While this is a necessary aspect of management, given the budget constraints intensive effort has been needed to make difficult decisions and trade-offs. A meeting was held with the CTO to discuss these issues, and a follow-up meeting is planned with both the CTO and CO early in the next quarter.

**Decision Support**

*Global food security outlook delivered.* A global food security outlook for all regions and countries of coverage was delivered to USAID in February 2007. The outlook provided focused six-month early warning information, including a snapshot of the current food security situation and forward-looking scenarios including most likely and worst case scenarios, which allowed for cross-country comparison. In addition to the oral briefing, the country and regional reports were developed and posted on the project website. The outlook led to improved early warning and directly affected resource allocations within FFP.

*New food security information product developed.* At the request of the CTO, FEWS NET developed the food security and assistance forecast briefing document. This new deliverable will serve as a focused internal briefing for the Office of Food for Peace, designed to inform programming and planning. The product consists of a one-page written brief and an oral briefing which will be delivered monthly to FFP senior staff. This new product will replace one executive overview briefing each month.

*Targeted food security analysis.* In March 2007, at the request of the CTO, FEWS NET conducted special analysis of the chronic and acute food security situation in Mauritania and Niger. Building on information presented during the global food security outlook, this analysis helped FFP determine appropriate response options to diplomatic cables characterizing the food security situation in West Africa as approaching catastrophic and appealing for USG action.

**IPC Meeting, March 21 – 22, 2007.** Chief of Party Chopak and Contingency Planning and Decision Support Advisor Choularton attended a meeting on the IPC in Rome, Italy with the CTO from March 21 – 22, 2007. The purpose of the two day workshop was to discuss future development of the IPC and to identify how it contributes toward a common approach for food security analysis and response. Specific workshop objectives included:

- Identifying technical priorities and follow up steps for refining the IPC methodological approach.
- Identifying strategic next steps in the global development of the IPC approach, including required elements for a global consortium related to food security analysis and response.
By the end of the second day, there was consensus around the need to conduct further evaluation of the system before rolling it out to countries or regions outside of Somalia and the GHA. Next steps for FEWS NET and the IPC include working FAO and others on completing the objectives laid out for the Rome meeting. There is also a need to determine the use of EU funding for the technical development and roll out of the tool.

**Information Technology**

*Preparing for the website upgrade.* Significant progress was made on the integrated systems initiative, an important first step in preparing for the website upgrade to version 4.0. Specific milestones achieved during this reporting period include:

- GIS and data information management software procured and shipped to relevant project offices;
- GIS global layer evaluated;
- Data inventory designed; and
- Website version 4.0 designed and developed, including enterprise GIS and data information management platforms.

These improvements will lead to significant improvements in the quality and increase the quantity of information used in the conduct of comparable food security and vulnerability monitoring. The website upgrade is still envisioned for July 2007.

**Livelihoods**

Recruiting for a replacement livelihoods advisor remained a priority during the reporting period. A second candidate was recruited, but had to withdraw their candidacy for personal reasons. An interim coverage plan, which provided for long distance support on specific tasks, was submitted to the CTO, and approved. This is a key position in the FEWS NET activity and given the unique technical skills and experience required makes this a difficult position for which to recruit. During the upcoming reporting period, identification of a suitable candidate will continue to be a high priority, as will efforts to further elaborate an interim coverage plan for consideration by the CTO.

Despite the absence of a long-term advisor, FEWS NET was able to successfully implement the Nigeria livelihoods zoning and profiling exercise described above.

**Markets and Trade**

*Enhancing food security analysis in Afghanistan.* In February and March 2007, FEWS NET conducted a review of Pakistan wheat markets as they relate to Afghan food security. As part of the review, a workshop was conducted with local network partners in Kabul. To date, the consultant has generated a draft report, which is currently under review by the senior markets and trade advisor. As a result of this study, there is general agreement among partners about the relationship between Pakistan wheat markets and Afghan food security. This targeted study will deepen the food security framework and orient both analysis and monitoring of wheat markets for food security analysis and early warning.
Markets orientation in east Africa delivered. From March 11-16, 2007, the senior markets and trade advisor led a markets orientation workshop in Arusha, Tanzania. Building on learning from the southern Africa workshop held during the previous reporting period, the workshop provided an orientation on why and how to integrate markets into regular FEWS NET activities, including regular reporting. More specifically, it fostered a deepened food security framework and greater understanding of the role of food and livestock markets, policy, and cross-border linkages in food security analysis and early warning. Participants included FEWS NET regional and country representatives, and representatives from USAID, WFP, local government ministries, LINKS, ILRI, and RATIN.

Strategic Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Maintaining timely production and publication of monthly reports, translations, and alerts continues to be a challenge for FEWS NET. Throughout 2006, staff levels in the Washington office in contrast to the volume of reports and information requests from USAID made it difficult to complete a timely review and publication of monthly reports, translations, and alerts. The average age of website content during this period was 45 days. In February 2007, FEWS NET implemented a monthly status report on website content publication. The report is intended to keep the CTO informed about the status of content and any challenges encountered. During the reporting period, the average age of website content has improved significantly. The average age is currently 30 to 35 days. FEWS NET has also cleared a substantial translation backlog. All report translations are now up to date. The focus for the next quarter will be on improving the timeliness of report translations further, in turn, improving the average age of website content.

The budget issues that are currently under discussion with USAID are concerning, and have taken a significant amount of management time. The Chemonics consortium is committed to identifying a mutually agreeable way forward to ensure that the scope of work for the FEWS NET activity as envisioned by USAID can be carried out in a timely and quality manner.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE UPCOMING QUARTER

Looking ahead to the upcoming quarter, FEWS NET anticipates achievement of the following milestones:

- Markets and trade: Sahel markets orientation workshop planned and select markets and trade guidance materials developed;
- Livelihoods: long-term livelihoods advisor identified;
- Reporting: full suite of information products including country and regional monthly food security updates, alerts, executive overview briefs, and food security and assistance forecast briefing document, and food security information and other special briefings delivered in a timely manner;
- Management: annual work planning process begun and budget issues resolved; and
- Information technology: progress towards completion of the integrated systems initiative and website design achieved.
## ANNEX A. TABLE OF APPROVED SURGE ACTIVITIES

The following surge activities have been approved by the FEWS NET CTO as of April 30, 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surge Activity No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Approved</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Cumulative Approved Surge</th>
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<td><strong>TO-1</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chad Refugee Monitoring (Extended)</td>
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<td>Somalia Enumerator Funding</td>
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<td>Niger</td>
<td>10-Apr-06</td>
<td>$130,094</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>GHA Field Monitoring, Reporting (Amended)</td>
<td>22-Nov-06</td>
<td>$111,481</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Somalia Post Destitution Study--CANCELLED</td>
<td>29-May-06</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$365,838</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Kenya Nutritional Monitoring Overview and Framework Design</td>
<td>29-May-06</td>
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<td>GHA Regional Food Security Analysis Workshop-MERGED WITH ACTIVITY #4</td>
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<td>Kenya Long Rains Assessment</td>
<td>27-Jun-06</td>
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<td>Market Analysis/Reporting - W. Africa</td>
<td>6-Sep-06</td>
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<td>GHA Regional Markets Review</td>
<td>20-Oct-06</td>
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<td>Southern Africa Regional Markets Orientation Workshop</td>
<td>2-Nov-06</td>
<td>$42,936</td>
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<td>Funding Diversification Study</td>
<td>7-Nov-06</td>
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<td>Bolivian Support for Food Security Early Warning</td>
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<td>Integrated Systems Support</td>
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<td>Evaluation of Djibouti Nutrition Survey</td>
<td>30-Jan-07</td>
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<td>East Africa Markets Orientation Workshop</td>
<td>21-Feb-07</td>
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<td>Mozambique Flood Support</td>
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<td>Support to Livelihoods Profiling of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal</td>
<td>15-Mar-07</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>MFEWS Labor Markets Study</td>
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<td>Somalia Rapid Urban Vulnerability Assessment</td>
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<td>Southern Africa Cross-Border Food Trade Monitoring Activities</td>
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<td>Afghanistan NRVA</td>
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<td>Afghanistan Wheat Market</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Market Potential for the &quot;Bases&quot; of Livelihoods in Haiti (Amended)</td>
<td>22-Mar-07</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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ANNEX B. REVISED FEWS NET WASHINGTON OFFICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Chief of Party (C. Chopak)

Senior Adviser (R. Stacy)

Technical and Administrative Assistant (T. Schaeffer)

Operations Team

Manager, Global Field Operations (M. Thayer)

- Southern Africa, Regional Field Operations Team
- Afghanistan, Regional Field Operations Team
- West Africa, Regional Field Operations Team
- MFEWS, Regional Field Operations Team
- East Africa, Regional Field Operations Team
- Haiti, Regional Field Operations Team

Field Coordination

- Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti, and MFEWS Field Coordinator (G. Zimmerman)

Technical Team

- Livelihoods Adviser (TBD)
- Market and Trade Advisor (P. Bonnard)
- Internet Technology Advisor (G. Levine)

Decision and Planning Support

- Decision and Planning Support Adviser (R. Choularton)
- Food Security Information Advisor (L. Glaser)
- Early Warning Information Officer (B. Rinshart)
- Associate Decision Support Officer (J. Anderson)

Global IQC PMU

Global IQC Manager (D. Sandstrom)

- Associate, IQC (Heather)