

## GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PREPARING A LIVELIHOOD PROFILE

**Title of Zone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAPS:** Map showing general location of zone within the country, plus an enlarged map of the zone itself with an overlay of district boundaries

**TABLE:** FEZ population broken down between the 5-6 main admin units within the zone.

### Main Conclusions and Implications

**Length:** One Third Page

Sections Contents:

**TEXT:** A bullet-point summary (within the summary) of the main conclusions and implications for decision-makers.

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What are the constraints to accessing food and income in this zone (disaggregated by wealth group if necessary)?
- 2) And what are the implications for programming?

e.g...

- Poor households in this zone are highly vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of staple foods, due to very low cash incomes and a heavy dependence on market purchases in most years. Possible interventions in 'bad' years include price subsidisation and/or food aid distribution.
- This zone has good productive potential, but market access is severely limited by an inadequate and poorly maintained road system. Road construction and rehabilitation could help promote local food crop production, increasing food availability locally and in neighbouring deficit zones.

### Zone Description

**Length:** One Third Page

Sections Contents:

**TEXT:** A basic introduction to the LZ, including

- Basic LZ geography: physical features (rivers, relief, etc.), climate (rainfall and temperature by season, etc.), vegetation, natural resources, population density etc.
- Basic characterisation of each LZ, i.e. livelihood pattern (agricultural, pastoral, etc.), main food and cash crops, main livestock (listed or ranked where possible), other characteristics including overall poverty level.
- Brief description of local crop production methods, livestock rearing practices, livestock migration patterns.
- Brief description of market access

- Brief description of types of employment available locally and any labour migration to other areas.
- General description of other food and income options( e.g. wild foods, natural resources, hunting, fishing).

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) How does the geography and agro-ecology of the zone influence local production and livelihood options? Is this a productive zone? Or an unproductive zone from which people must migrate seasonally? Is market access good or bad?

## Markets

**Length: One Third Page**

Sections Contents:

**MAPS:** Map showing the main markets for the LZ (both inside and outside the LZ boundaries). These should include the main indicator markets for market price monitoring.

If the information is available, market maps for crops, livestock, labour and staple food, indicating source, final destination (i.e. where consumed) and market routes. It may make sense to have separate maps for good and bad years.

**TEXT:**

- Brief description of patterns of food crop, cash crop, livestock and labour sale within and outside the food economy. Information on any importation of staple food into the food economy.
- Description of any factors affecting marketing for the LZ (e.g. road conditions and transport costs, middle men buying cheaply, farmers paying off credit at disadvantageous prices, etc.).

Questions that should be answered in this section of the format:

- 1) What are the main commodities sold out of the LZ? And what are the main markets and market routes for these?
- 2) Is staple food imported into this LZ? If so, what are the markets and market routes for this?
- 3) Is market access good or bad in this zone? What are the constraints to marketing in the LZ, and how might marketing be improved?
- 4) Underlying questions are: how are changes in supply and demand (within or outside the LZ) likely to affect prices in this LZ? How might a change in access to markets (e.g. as a result of insecurity) affect this LZ?

## Seasonal Calendar

**Length: Half Page**

Sections Contents:

**GRAPHIC:** Calendar illustrating seasonal patterns to food and income acquisition strategies:

- rainfall by month
- main cropping activities (for each season, e.g. main and winter crops): land preparation, planting, weeding
- harvest months: main food and cash crops individually
- labour
- fishing
- firewood/charcoal
- hunger season
- market prices

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What is the timing of the main agricultural and other seasonal activities during the year?
- 2) At which times of year do households have access to different sources of food and income?
- 3) How does the market price of staple food vary seasonally?
- 4) At which time(s) of year is access to food and income relatively low (hungry season)?
- 5) How will the timing of a hazard (e.g. flooding, insecurity) affect seasonal food access?

## Wealth Breakdown

**Length: Half Page**

Sections Contents:

**GRAPHIC:** Bar chart showing percentage of community households in each wealth group.

**TABLE:** 3 column table, giving household size and composition, area planted and type of cultivation, livestock holdings/other assets (ploughs, fishing boats, etc.).

**TEXT:**

- Brief description of the main differences between wealth groups (e.g. land ownership, crops grown, methods of crop production, livestock holding, capital and savings, education, skills, labour, etc.), with some explanation of the constraints faced by the poorer groups (i.e. why they remain poor).
- Anything else noteworthy about the breakdown, e.g. 'In this zone an unusually large number of households fall into the poor category. This is because...'

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What are the main differences between different wealth groups and how does this affect potential access to food and income?
- 2) Why are the poor poor? E.g. Because they do not have access to land? Because they do not have enough labour to cultivate their land? Because they lack capital to invest in production?
- 3) What percentage of community households fall into each of the wealth groups?

## Sources of Food

**Length: Quarter Page**

Sections Contents:

**GRAPHIC:** Bar chart analysis of reference year food access for main wealth groups. Should include quantitative estimates of access to food from crops, livestock and other key food sources (e.g. purchase, wild foods, etc.).

**Where quantitative data are available** (rather than just a proportional breakdown), results should be expressed as a percentage of minimum requirements (2,100 kcals per person per day). Total access may be above 100% where estimated food access exceeds 2,100 kcals per person per day, e.g. for the middle and the rich.

**TEXT:**

Brief description of what the bar chart shows, with reasons for differences between wealth groups.

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) How does the pattern of food access vary between groups?
- 2) How do differences between the wealth groups (described in the wealth breakdown) affect access to food (e.g. low levels of crop production -> low access to food crops and high dependence on the market, etc.)?
- 3) How does total food access vary between different wealth groups (e.g. total access for poor = 100% of minimum requirements, middle = 110%, rich = 120%)? Note: This is only possible if total food access is being calculated.

## Sources of Cash

**Length: Quarter Page**Sections Contents:

**GRAPHIC:** Bar chart analysis of reference year cash income for main wealth groups. Should include quantitative estimates of access to income from crops, livestock and other key income sources (e.g. remittances, etc.).

Where quantitative data are available (rather than just a proportional breakdown), results should be expressed in cash terms, illustrating the difference between wealth groups in absolute terms.

**TEXT:**

Brief description of what the bar chart shows, with reasons for differences between wealth groups.

Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) How does the pattern of cash income vary between groups?
- 2) How do differences between the wealth groups (described in the wealth breakdown) affect cash income (e.g. low levels of crop production -> low levels of crops sales)?
- 3) How does total cash income vary between different wealth groups. Note: This is only possible if total cash income is being calculated.

## Hazards

### Length: Quarter Page

#### Sections Contents:

#### **TEXT:**

A brief description of a maximum of three main hazards, e.g. the main chronic hazard, the main periodic hazard, and one potential hazard that would have very serious consequences.

- Description of main *chronic* hazard (e.g. frost, crop pests) and its effects on production and exchange (e.g. reduced production of specified crops).
- Description of main *periodic* hazard (e.g. drought, epidemic livestock disease), its frequency and its effects on production and exchange (e.g. reduced milk production, reduced livestock sales).

#### Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) What are the main *chronic* and *periodic* hazards affecting this LZ, and how do these hazards affect access to food and income for different wealth groups?
- 2) Are there any potential or new hazards that threaten this LZ, and that could have serious consequences for food security in the LZ? How?

## Response Strategies

### Length: Quarter Page

#### Sections Contents:

#### **TEXT:**

This section should focus on responses to the main periodic hazard, separated by wealth group.

- Descriptive analysis of which sources of food and income can be expanded in a crisis, with a judgement of the likely effectiveness of these strategies.
- Further information on key response strategies, e.g. systems of remittance, systems of credit.
- Assessment of capacity of households to respond to possible crisis in the future. Assessment of continued viability of strategies employed in the past.
- Analysis of potential negative effects of strategies likely to be adopted.

Note: The term response strategies is preferred to the term coping strategy for two reasons. People often use coping strategies to refer to regular components of everyday livelihoods (e.g. firewood sale), which strictly speaking are only a coping strategies when intensified in response to a hazard. Also, coping can imply that the strategy in question is cost-free, which is not always the case.

#### Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) For the main *periodic* hazard, what are the main response strategies for the different wealth groups?
- 2) How viable are strategies that have been employed in the past?

- 3) Do any of the strategies have potential negative effects (e.g. threaten future livelihoods, have negative environmental effects, could increase the likelihood of transmission of HIV/AIDS?)

## Crisis Warning Indicators

### Length: Half Page

### Sections Contents:

The indicators should relate to the main periodic hazard and be ordered from early to late. (The corresponding graphic should cover a two year timeframe. Early indicators of crop failure can then be covered in the pre-harvest section of the graphic and response indicators in the post-harvest section. )

Note: The term 'crisis warning indicators' is preferred to 'early warning indicators', since many important indicators are likely to be quite late (such as movement of whole households out of villages).

### Questions that should be answered in the this section of the format:

- 1) For the main *periodic* hazard, what are the main indicators of a developing crisis? And in what order would these be observed?