

An Evaluation and Analysis of the United Nations World Food Program's Food Security Monitoring System in Nepal

Section I: Abstract

Nepal has high malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency rates across the country, mainly affecting pregnant women and children under five years of age. In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Development, the United Nations World Food Program in Nepal has created a nationwide, district-level food security monitoring system. This program has been in existence since 2002 and has provided key food security recommendations to relevant stakeholders, decision makers, and the Government of Nepal. Primary objectives for this practicum are to 1) conduct a comprehensive review of all key documents associated with the nationwide food security monitoring system, 2) train district-level World Food Program staff on data entry, cleaning, and analysis of district-level food security data, and, 3) use descriptive statistics, with guidance from the World Food Program's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit, to analyze a key dataset containing nationwide district-level food security data from 2008-2015. Findings will be reported through tables, graphs, maps, and other multi-media outputs, and the final report will be presented to the World Food Program's Nepal country office. This report will help determine food security trends at the district and national level, over a seven-year period, to help guide and inform future programming in Nepal to help reduce malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

Section II: Proposal Narrative

A. Background

In some remote regions of Nepal, over 60 percent of children under five years of age suffer from stunting, and almost 30 percent are underweight [1]. The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has associated stunting with long-term health consequences such as diminished mental capabilities and chronic diseases, including diabetes and hypertension [2]. In Nepal, high rates

(A) 2 of malnutrition and food shortages have been exacerbated by the continuing political instability and loss of infrastructure and livelihoods as a result of the April-May 2015 earthquakes [3]. Research has shown that children in food-secure households – those households that do not experience frequent limitations accessing food – have significantly lower stunting rates compared to those in food-insecure households [4]. Stunting and wasting are not the only nutritional deficiencies experienced, micronutrient deficits are also rampant across Nepal, with nearly half of all pregnant women and children under five suffering from anemia [1].

Government and international donors have been combating nutritional problems in Nepal for over three decades [3]. Results have indicated that progress is being made, with some regions experiencing 8 – 10 percent less stunting and wasting rates over a six-year period; however, continued support is needed to ensure food security trends continue to improve [1] [3]. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is currently implementing a number of programs to improve the nutritional outcomes for Nepalese, one of which is the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP). NeKSAP is currently in its fourteenth year of implementation and the project's primary objective is to collect food security information, at the district-level across Nepal, and communicate the results to decision makers at the national and sub-national level [1]. These data help to achieve coordinated, appropriate, and timely action to prevent human suffering due to food insecurity [1]. WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit is currently providing technical assistance to NeKSAP to help analyze and synthesize the food security data being collected at the district level. VAM's support is integral for NeKSAP, and WFP, to help communicate progress and gaps to stakeholders and policy makers, enabling better program decisions to be made.

B. Project Objectives

The purpose of this practicum will be to support WFP's VAM Unit by completing analysis on NeKSAP's integrated food security phase data collected from 2008-2015, as well as, to train district-

(A) 3 level staff on data entry and analysis in order to ensure that food security data is being analyzed at the district-level, before being sent to the WFP country office. During the practicum I will achieve the following objectives, as set forth by WFP Nepal:

- 1) Complete a comprehensive review of NeKSAP's key project documents to gain in-depth knowledge of the progression of the project over the past seven years.
- 2) Train district-level WFP Nepal staff on data entry, cleaning, and analysis of NeKSAP's district-level food security data.
- 3) Analyze food security trends across 74 districts of Nepal from NeKSAP's 2008-2015 dataset.

C. Methods and Deliverables

Comprehensive review of program materials:

In order to gain a better understanding of the NeKSAP project, I will first conduct a comprehensive desk review of the program materials, including the following items: the original NeKSAP project document and logical framework, NeKSAP framework document (2010 and 2015), NeKSAP annual progress reports (2012-2015), and district capacity assessments (2014-2016). These key documents will enable me to gain concrete knowledge on the project's progression and transformation over the past years. During this comprehensive review I will utilize skills developed from my survey methods, monitoring and evaluation, and qualitative methods courses to assess program documents and outcomes, ultimately providing recommendations to enhance the project's goals and objectives. The comprehensive review will be conducted prior to arriving in Nepal.

District-level Staff Training:

The WFP Nepal country office has identified five districts in the mid-Western region of the country to train on data entry, cleaning, and analysis of district-level food security data. This data is collected on an ongoing basis, thus there is a major need to train district staff in order to have a robust

monitoring and evaluation process. I will conduct the training after a thorough training plan has been created and approved by the WFP Nepal country office. The training will be implemented with the assistance of a WFP Nepal country office staff member. This crucial training will enable district-level staff to input their own data, in real-time, which in turn will create a stronger surveillance system for the WFP Nepal country office. Two members from each of the five field offices will be trained on how to enter data into Excel, clean the data in preparation for analysis, and conduct basic statistical functions to determine food security trends at the district-level. WFP Nepal aims to expedite the surveillance process and have people in each district office who will be able to train any new incoming staff using the training guide I will create during the course of this practicum.

Data Analysis:

After training district-level staff, I will return to Kathmandu to analyze NeKSAP's time series dataset from 2008-2015. This dataset contains key district level food security data from 74 of the 75 districts in Nepal. Data will be analyzed in Excel using descriptive statistics, in support with WFP's VAM Unit's guidance and recommendations. The VAM Unit will provide input on data stratification and aggregation in order to compile key results. Significant findings will be presented to WFP staff through charts, tables, maps and other multi-media outputs in addition to a final report I will submit to WFP at the end of the practicum. Although we anticipate the project will be exempt from IRB approval, as there will be no involvement with human subjects, a research protocol will be submitted to the Emory IRB by March 25, 2016 to ensure exemption criteria are met.

D. Learning Objectives and Career Goals Statement

My ultimate career goal is to manage large-scale international development programs to improve health outcomes for citizens in low-resource settings. This practicum will allow me to learn skills in data analysis and reporting of an ongoing, large-scale project. I will apply the skills I learned at Rollins in quantitative data analysis to aid WFP in evaluating data from the NeKSAP project to find

trends in food security rates across Nepal, over a seven-year period. My previous experience in Nepal with the Peace Corps will enable me to utilize my cultural and language knowledge to effectively engage with relevant staff and community members to successfully complete the objectives and tasks outlined. Overall, this 11-week practicum will benefit my public health career and also provide necessary technical assistance to WFP’s NeKSAP program.

E. Timeline

Week	Pre-departure								In-Country												
	March				April				May				June				July				
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Pre-departure																					
• Complete all remaining necessary WFP paperwork	X	X																			
• Submit protocol to Emory IRB			X																		
• Submit final research proposal to WFP Nepal Country Office				X	X																
• Request all key documents from WFP Nepal Country Office						X	X														
• Start reviewing key documents and create training plan, in consultation with WFP country office								X	X	X											
Training, data analysis, and final report																					
• Meet with WFP Nepal staff to familiarize myself with the project and provide weekly updates										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
• Meet with VAM Unit to finalize training plan and discuss descriptive statistics and stratification methods										X											
• Travel to five district offices and train WFP staff on data entry, cleaning and analysis											X	X	X	X	X						
• Return to Kathmandu for data cleaning and preparation for national NeKSAP 2008 – 2015 dataset analysis in Excel																	X				
• Check-in with trained field office staff on progress of their data entry and analysis																	X	X	X	X	
• Conduct appropriate data analysis of national NeKSAP 2008-2015 data in Excel																	X	X			
• Discuss findings and analysis with VAM Unit																		X			
• Compile findings and start visual reports																		X			
• Draft final report																				X	
• Deliver final report to WFP Nepal Country Office																					X

F. Budget**GFE Practicum Budget
May 16 – July 31, 2016**

Item (frequency)	Price	Units	Total	Source
Flight	\$ 1,300	1.0	\$ 1,300	GFE
Rent (per month)	\$ 250	2.5	\$ 625	GFE
Total requested from GFE			\$ 1,925	

Additional Budget Items

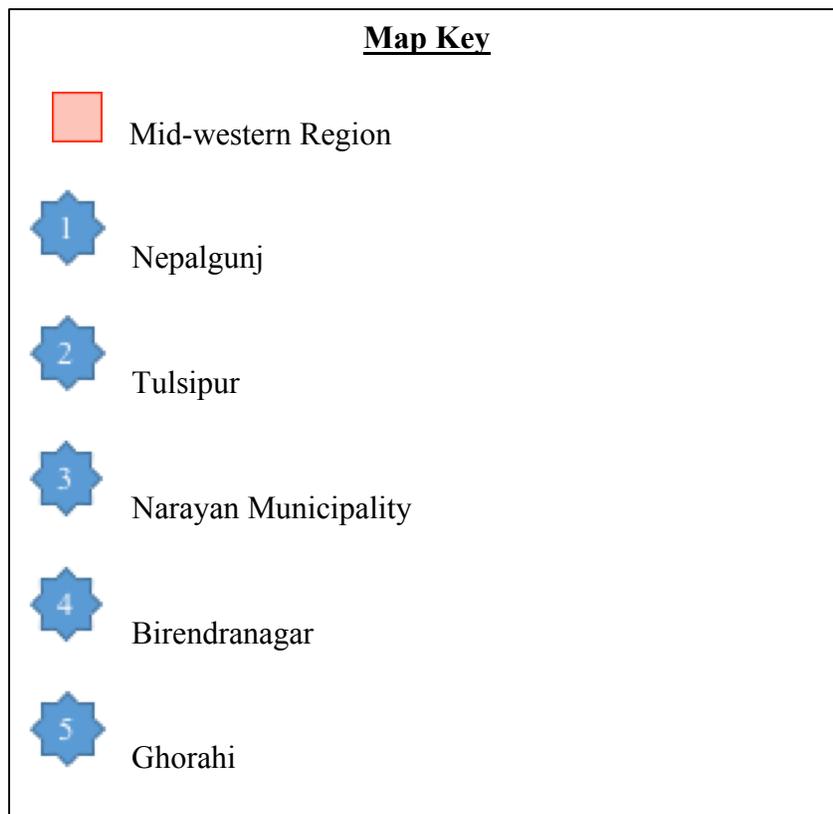
Item (frequency)	Price	Units	Total	Source
Utilities/Internet (per month)	\$ 80	2.5	\$ 200	Self
Transportation (per month)	\$ 50	2.5	\$ 125	Self
Entertainment (per month)	\$ 50	2.5	\$ 125	Self
Incidentals (per month)	\$ 100	2.5	\$ 250	Self
Groceries/Dining (per month)	\$ 300	2.5	\$ 750	WFP
Visa	\$ 100	1.0	\$ 100	WFP
Immunizations	X	X	X	Self
Office supplies	X	X	X	WFP
Practicum related transportation	X	X	X	WFP
Total			\$ 1,550	

WFP will cover the cost of the visa and will be providing a \$300 USD stipend per month. This stipend will be utilized to fund groceries and dining while I am in Nepal. During my Peace Corps service, I received the necessary immunizations for Nepal and therefore do not need to obtain any immunizations for my practicum.

APPENDIX A: References

- [1] United Nations World Food Programme - Fighting Hunger Worldwide. Retrieved February 20, 2016, from <https://www.wfp.org/countries/nepal>
- [2] United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. Stunting in Children. Retrieved February 24, 2016, from <http://unicef.in/Whatwedo/10/Stunting>
- [3] USAID (2014, July). *Nepal: Nutrition Profile* (Rep.). Retrieved February 20, 2016, from https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/USAID-Nepal_NCP.pdf
- [4] Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011. Population Division, MoHP and New ERS, Nepal & ICF International, Calverton, MD, USA

APPENDIX B: Map of Proposed WFP District Offices to Train on Data Entry, Cleaning, and Analysis



Section III: Letter of Support



विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम

18 February 2016

Chad Chalker
1659 Briarcliff Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30306, USA

Subject: Letter of support for 2016 summer internship with WFP Nepal

Dear Mr. Chalker,

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Nepal invites you to undertake a summer internship from 16 May 2016 to 29 July 2016 in the WFP Country Office in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The purpose of the summer internship is to support WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit, which is currently providing technical assistance to the Government of Nepal's national food security monitoring system (known as NeKSAP). Initiated by WFP in 2002, NeKSAP is currently jointly operated by WFP, the Ministry of Agricultural Development, and the National Planning Commission. The main objectives of NeKSAP are to collect and analyze food security information and effectively communicate the results to decision makers at the national and sub-national level to achieve coordinated, appropriate and timely action to prevent human suffering due to acute food insecurity.

While in Nepal, your supervisor will be Kurt Burja, Head of the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (email: kurt.burja@wfp.org; mobile: 977 98510 86373). The summer internship will be for a 11-week period to undertake the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Terms of Reference (TOR) attached. While in Nepal, WFP will provide the following: a security briefing, a monthly stipend (see WFP internship contract), transportation for official work-related tasks, and office space and necessary materials to complete the tasks specified in the TOR. WFP will not be responsible for housing, transportation to/from Nepal, daily transportation to/from the WFP Nepal Country Office, or any expenses incurred while in Nepal.

As discussed during your interview, WFP anticipates that you will complete several tasks while in Nepal, including a comprehensive review of the monitoring tools and evaluative framework for NeKSAP and quantitative analysis and visualization of time series data from the NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification. The responsibilities required to complete the summer internship will not require IRB approval, as the work you will complete does not involve any human subjects.

If you have any further questions or need clarification, please contact the WFP Nepal Country Office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pippa Bradford".

Pippa Bradford
Representative and Country Director



UN World Food Programme, Chakupat, Patan Dhoka Road
P.O. Box 107, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 5260607, Fax: 977-1-5260201
Email: name.surname@wfp.org

Section IV: Current Curriculum Vitae

Student 1 (A)

1 ♦ Student 1 (A) emory.edu

QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Over three-years of international experience, primarily in Asia and Africa. Successful in coordinating and managing diverse teams composed of various ethnic and linguistic backgrounds to achieve project goals and indicators on time. Experience in emergency and conflict settings working alongside refugee and IDP populations. Knowledge and experience in program management with reporting to ECHO, UNHCR, WFP and USAID/OFDA. Proficient in Nepali language.

EDUCATION

Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University , Atlanta, Georgia	Expected May 2017
Master of Public Health, Global Health	
Certificate, Complex Humanitarian Emergencies	
Texas A&M University , College Station, Texas	May 2012
Bachelor of Science, Nutritional Sciences	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) , Atlanta, Georgia, USA	October 2015 – Present
<i>Emergency Response and Recovery WASH Intern</i>	

- Analyze and evaluate current and past emergency WASH survey designs and methodologies to recommended enhanced and evidence based approaches to increase the accuracy of emergency surveys, enabling relevant programs to be implemented
- Conduct literature reviews on relevant WASH topics in emergency and post-emergency contexts to enhance evidence based practices to successfully respond to critical needs in disaster settings

ACTED , Dhading Besi, NEPAL & Maban County, Upper Nile State, SOUTH SUDAN	January 2015 – July 2015
<i>Emergency Response Program Manager</i>	

- Designed and managed program strategies for wide-scale emergency shelter, food and WASH interventions to priority districts affected by the April 25 and May 12 earthquakes, providing assistance to over 65,000 individuals
- Served as the focal point for the shelter and CCCM clusters in a highly affected district; coordinated all shelter and CCCM activities with implementing partners and monitored all activities and reported gaps and progress to the national cluster
- Established ACTED's first field office; managed and coordinated a team of two expats and 17 national staff; supervised all emergency and early recovery shelter and WASH programs, logistics, finance and HR related matters with limited supervision
- Monitored and evaluated all field based rapid need assessments and detailed WASH and shelter assessments in highly affected and remote regions; compiled all information and reported to national clusters and partner agencies

Distribution Program Manager

- Designed and managed the distribution process of food, non-food items, and cash/voucher transfers for two refugee camps totaling over 40,000 beneficiaries in a conflict zone
- Managed the distribution department budget of 500,000 USD and delegated and supervised tasks to over 30 national staff
- Directly coordinated and reported to WFP and UNHCR on distribution methods and outcomes to ensure financial, programming and reporting requirements were met and in compliance with contracts and protocols

United States Peace Corps, Syangja District, NEPAL

September 2012 – November 2014

Food Security Specialist

- Conducted a three-month needs assessment that determined economic, education, environment, and primary health needs of 6,000 Nepalese in a rural village; resulted in baseline data and identified needs and resources within the community
- Implemented a village wide improved cook stove campaign; resulted in improved ventilation and health standards in over 200 families where improved cook stoves were built in a 12-month period
- Directed a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) education program to over 200 primary school students; resulted in improved drinking water treatment methods and hand washing behavioral changes

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Humanitarian Emergencies Research Team, Emory University

October 2015 – Present

Treasurer and Graduate Research Assistant

- Effectively manage and organize a \$1,000 budget, ensuring proper protocols and procedures are followed and in compliance
- Collaborate with CDC staff to compile important humanitarian statistics and information to produce a fact sheet for CDC staff to utilize once deployed on overseas missions in disaster settings

Ethics and Leadership Forum, Emory University

October 2015 – Present

Member

- Engage and participate in discussion on current issues that impact decision making and discuss ethical dilemmas in society

Project Advisory Committee, Peace Corps Nepal

March 2013 – November 2014

Grants and Training Chairman

- Developed and facilitated a four-day bilingual project design and management workshop, training 42 Peace Corps Volunteers and their Nepalese counterparts in participatory community appraisal techniques and project implementation and reporting
- Collaborated with USAID, the Government of Nepal and third party stakeholders to analyze monitoring and evaluation results to measure the progress and success of Peace Corps Nepal's first year Food Security program

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Big Brothers, Big Sisters, College Station, Texas

November 2009 – May 2012

Big Brother Mentor

- Mentored a young child monthly for four to six hours
- Provided guidance and taught life skills, gave personal advice and provided a safe outlet for conversation

Operation Crossroads Africa, Brikama, THE GAMBIA

June 2011 – August 2011

Public Health Volunteer

- Conducted outreach clinics focusing on HIV/AIDs and health education in rural villages throughout The Gambia; benefited the wellbeing and livelihood of over 350 families
- Observed medical procedures and helped with the distribution of medication for over 5,000 people at a public hospital

Foundation of International Medical Relief for Children, Alajuelita, COSTA RICA

May 2009

Community Development Volunteer

- Created and facilitated activities and skits to over 100 primary school students discussing the importance of good hygiene, sanitation and nutrition practices; resulted in increase behavior change practices

SKILLS

Course work in: EpiInfo, survey design, field epidemiology, data analysis and cleaning, and quantitative and qualitative methods

Computer: Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and multiple blogging platforms; SAS statistical software

Languages: Proficient in Nepali