

needed for children with HIV/AIDS. HEPS appears to be an excellent food and the Lusaka University Teaching Hospital has an ongoing program that shows the recuperable results of HEPS and good nutrition. This program should be expanded out of the hospital and into the community.

**Recommendation: Food for Orphans and Vulnerable Children:** Many orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) are living in households that have few livelihood options. Because of this problem, some orphans and vulnerable children go out on the streets to fend for themselves. Food aid can be used to meet several important objectives including: 1) Keeping orphans and vulnerable children at home by providing vulnerable households with additional food so that children do not have to go out on the streets; 2) Improve the nutritional status of OVC; 3) Use food aid for food for work activities aimed at older OVC and heads of vulnerable households—activities can include livelihood training, developing assets for the community, better roads, or support volunteer work for caring for PLWHA etc; 4) support feeding at recreation centers, training centers aimed at OVC.

**Recommendations:**

- 1) USAID should learn lessons from ongoing OVC programs that include a food ration;
- 2) Based on lessons learned USAID with NGOs should develop this component of the C-Safe development assistance program. The needs are great; however USAID should assess the management capacity of its implementing partners to determine the size of the program and geographic scope of the project.
- 3) Targeting Strategies: USAID should host a forum for those partners providing support to OVC to discuss targeting strategies and mechanisms for implementation. Targeting strategies should first 1) identify food insecure and poor areas, e.g. peri-urban, and 2) identify households that are most vulnerable using criteria such as child-headed, grand-mother caring for many children, grand-father caring for many children, widow with children with no livelihood activities.
- 4) Household food rations should be combined with livelihood, training and educational opportunities. Household heads and OVC should be supported to take advantage of these activities. Monetized PL 480 resources can support this component.

## **SECTION 6. OTHER IMPORTANT NUTRITION TOPICS**

### **6.1 Nutrition Surveillance**

Nutrition Surveillance should be part of an overall food security surveillance system—where changes in nutritional status can be linked with other data on coping mechanisms, crop production, food prices, etc. Typically nutrition is considered a lagging indicator for early warning systems; however, nutrition status data is critical for programming decisions, targeting communities and deciding on the need for supplementary feeding as part of an emergency response. The Central Statistics Office has recently developed a proposal to revive the Food, Health and Nutrition Monitoring System (FHANIS) which began in 1993 and was discontinued in 1998 because of lack of funds. UNICEF, some NGOs and donors also have a proposal for a nutrition surveillance system to be housed in the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). It is critical that these groups work together and identify a system and institutional home that they all can support.

The objectives of the FHANIS proposal are: “1) to monitor food security objectives; 2) to monitor levels of malnutrition; 3) to monitor morbidity and mortality levels; 4) to monitor the impact of policies on food security, health and nutrition conditions of the population; 5) to

improve the links between changes in indicators of the welfare of the population and policies, and 6) to enhance links between agencies concerned with collection, analysis and use of food security, health and nutrition statistics.” Given the issues with the Vulnerability Assessment (VAC) sampling methodology, the review of the FHANIS proposal should be a good opportunity to bring the key organizations together working on nutrition and food security surveillance.

**Recommendation:**

- 1) USAID should play an active role in ensuring that all interested parties come together and review current proposals. The VAC methodology should also be assessed. FEWSNET should join the meeting. The meeting should clarify:
  - Objectives of the surveillance system;
  - Who will use the information and for what purposes;
  - Information needed by purpose;
  - Sampling design, data collection, analysis and dissemination strategies;
  - Management needs and capacity of proposed organizations for carrying out the work;
  - Costs of the system—both capital and recurrent and sources of funding;
  - Technical assistance needs
- 2) USAID should play a facilitating role to develop a system(s) to address current needs.
- 3) SO 7 should ensure that one person is monitoring the nutritional situation in the country.

## **6.2 National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC)**

The NFNC is a statutory body established by the Government in 1967 under the Ministry of Health. “It is a promotional and advisory organ to the government on matters concerning food and nutrition.” Its aims and objectives include creation of community interest in better nutrition; collection of national food consumption and nutrition status data; incorporation of nutrition improvement programs in sector planning; proposing and implementing food and nutrition policies. The NFNC has been instrumental in carrying out important nutritional studies including the National 1993 Baseline Study in Iodine Deficiency and the 1998 National Survey of Vitamin A Deficiency in Zambia. It has taken the lead in developing legislation barring importation of uniodated salt and began local salt iodization programs. The NFNC is working with the ZIPH on Community based Growth Promotion.

Its expected outcomes in 2003 include the finalization of a new National Nutrition Policy; expansion of community growth promotion programs; increased coverage of Vitamin A capsules; maize meal fortification in 25 hammer mills; initiation of iron deficiency control activities in 10 districts in Luapula and Eastern province; infant and young child feeding activities revitalized in 47 health facilities; publication of IEC materials to support nutrition programs; and the drafting of guidelines on nutrition for PLWHA. The NFNC would like to expand its technical assistance to grassroots organizations, communities and districts. It would also move forward with PROFILES, an important advocacy tool to sensitize policy makers to Zambia’s nutrition problems, development implications and potential solutions.

**Recommendation:**

- 1) USAID should invite NFNC to participate in meetings on nutrition;

- 2) USAID/Zambia with USAID/Washington should support technical assistance for PROFILES;
- 3) NFNC should be involved in planning for the Vitamin A survey.
- 4) USAID should support capacity building of the NFNC.

## **SECTION 7. OPPORTUNITIES AND ON-GOING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MISSION STRATEGIC PLAN**

While various Mission staff are aware of the following activities, we thought it would be helpful to summarize these for general Mission review and follow up. We think these activities are relevant to the discussion of food security and will be important to the on-going development of the Mission's country strategy.

- 7.1 GRZ Agricultural Policy:** A new policy on development of the agricultural sector is presently before the parliament for review and adoption. If approved, this will provide the long-term roadmap of GRZ priorities around which donors can coordinate their future development programs. While GRZ plans and priorities have been discussed in the press and among donors, an approved long-term agricultural development policy for a sector that is now being touted as the future engine of economic growth, is an important first step in the agricultural planning and budgetary process of the new government.
- 7.2 Study on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Productivity:** This research, being conducted by the Agricultural Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture with FAO funding, will be completed in March 2003. This should provide a first look at some of the documented impacts of HIV/AIDS on food production, agricultural labor productivity and household incomes in the rural sector. Charlotte Harland, USAID/Z consultant, would be the contact for further information on this research.
- 7.3 FAO/DFID Monthly Crop Assessments:** This series of monthly data (March-June) should provide a more precise picture of what the food situation is likely to be in 2003/04 and will be used by donors and the WFP to make some decisions on any future food aid.
- 7.4 2002/03 Crop Assessment:** Plans are for the Ministry of Agriculture with World Bank funding to conduct this assessment by June 2003. The resulting data should track with the FAO/DFID assessments and will provide the official GRZ figures on the level of this year's grain harvest. This will also provide an additional statistical basis for any future food aid programs.
- 7.5 VAC Assessment:** The January assessment was questioned for its statistical validity, given the limited number of households in the statistical sample and questions about the randomness of the sampling. FEWSNET has been informed of these questions and now has a chance to refine its sampling procedures this next go round. With the new harvest, the national food supply will be sufficient for several months and the number of at-risk populations should be significantly reduced to only a few areas of the country which experienced a poor harvest this year.
- 7.6 WFP Exit Strategy:** Since much of the country did receive good rainfall, there are expectations that food production will be substantially improved from last year. As food comes on to the market after the harvest in April, May and June, it will be very important for the GRZ and donors not to distribute any substantial food aid as this would undoubtedly depress producer prices and distort the market system. WFP should present donors with an exit strategy that fully reflects the