

Monitoring Food Security in South Africa: The FIVIMS-ZA Experience



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the National Department of Agriculture

Objectives:

- Reflections from piloting FIVIMS-ZA (TOR set by Dept. of Agric, **not** community monitoring).
- Overview of developmental origins of pilot;
- Analysis of methodology;
- Presentation of mock “system”;
- Challenges / lessons learned from pilot process – **future engagement with civil society.**

Food Security in South Africa

- Increasing recognition of importance of food insecurity & vulnerability in South Africa:
 - food price increases,
 - regional humanitarian / livelihood crisis,
 - evaluation of macro-economy, social safety nets, BIG.

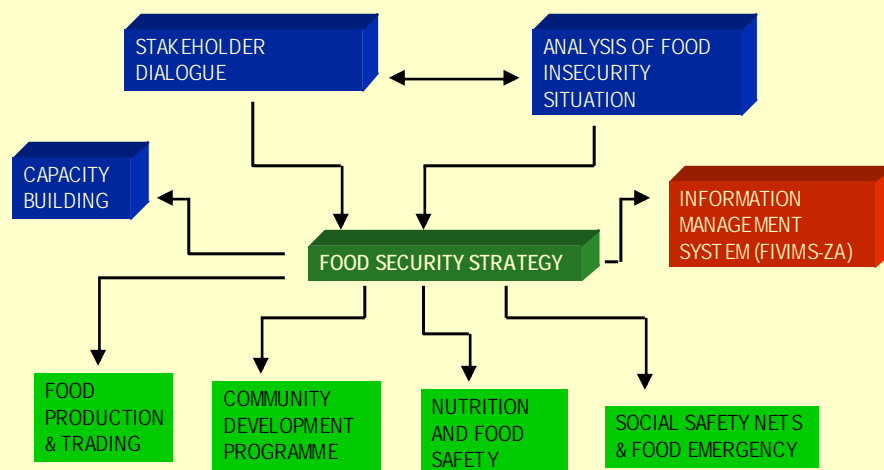
The Extent of Food Insecurity:

- 1.5 million children experience under-nutrition.
- 14 million suffer from food insecurity.
- Malnutrition over time is worsening.
- At national level between a quarter and a third of households are unable to purchase food for dietary requirements of children.
- Greater percent of households in rural areas experiencing hunger relative to urban areas.

Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme:

- Dept of Agriculture & Cabinet Social Cluster mandated to focus on food insecurity (**part of a multi-sectoral approach**).
- Agriculture the lead department in Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP).

Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme:



Led to a demand for a FIVIMS:

- No effective means to target interventions on specific areas & vulnerable groups (criticism around food parcel / agric starter packs delivery).
- Thus limit in developing better interventions focused on underlying causes of food insecurity.

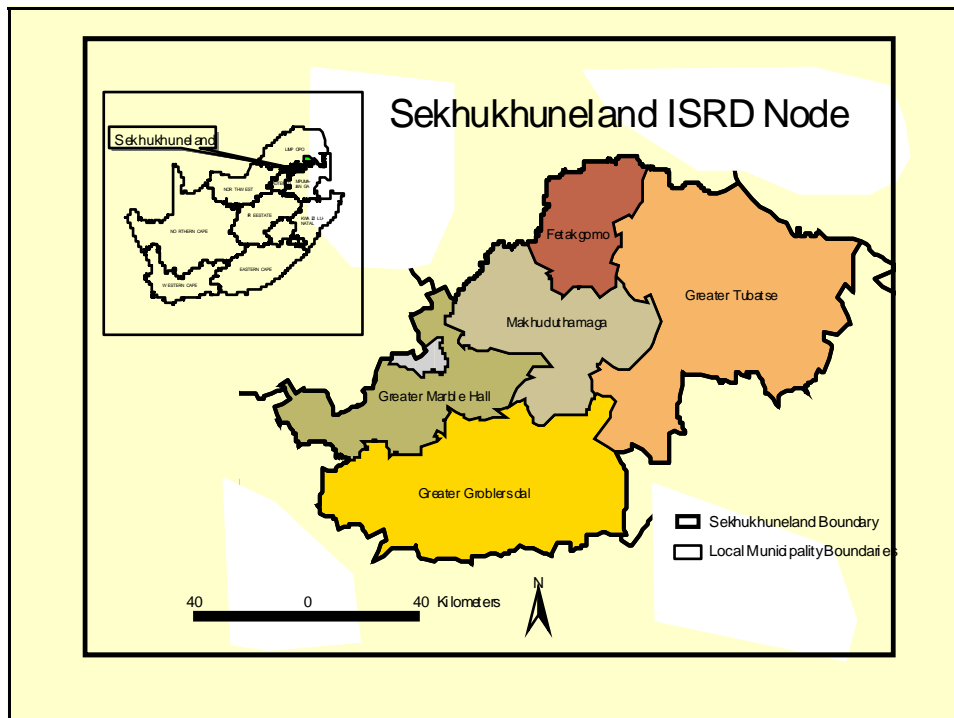
What is FIVIMS-ZA?

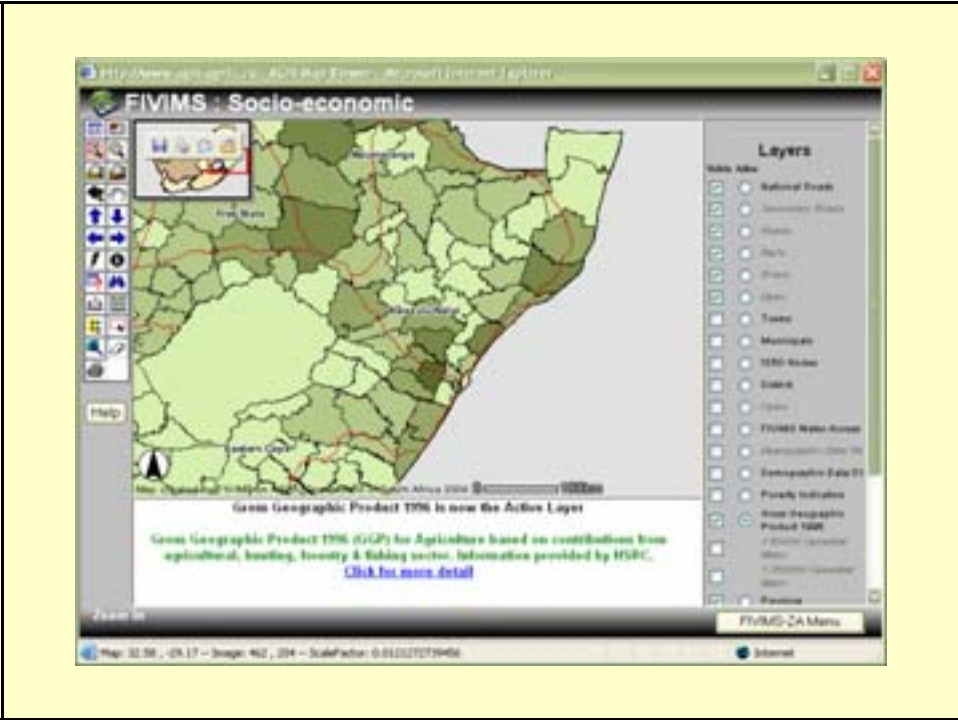
FIVIMS-ZA is a **tool and information source** that assists with national and sub-national food security interventions through the provision of:

- a structural food insecurity and vulnerability baseline, model and reporting capability,
- enables a inter-departmental approach to food insecurity that reflects South African situation (beyond agriculture alone), and
- a “light” monitoring system that complements existing early warning systems.

Piloting FIVIMS:

- Led to a decision to pilot a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system in Sekhukhune.
- Advise government on viability of system.
- Advise government on possible roll-out across the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Nodes - and ultimately the entire country.
- Documented research and development process.





EDUCATION

No. Schooling	Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
422	0	24	27	17	24	12	14	24	27	0	22	0

Less than Matric	Matric only	Matric & certificate	Matric & diploma	Matric & bachelor's	Matric & bachelor's & diploma
0	0	0	1	0	0

Matric & bachelor's & tertiary	Matric & master's	Matric & doctor's	Matric & other qualifications	Unspecified	Not aged + 5	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	10	27	470

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LIFESTYLE SEGMENTATION 1996

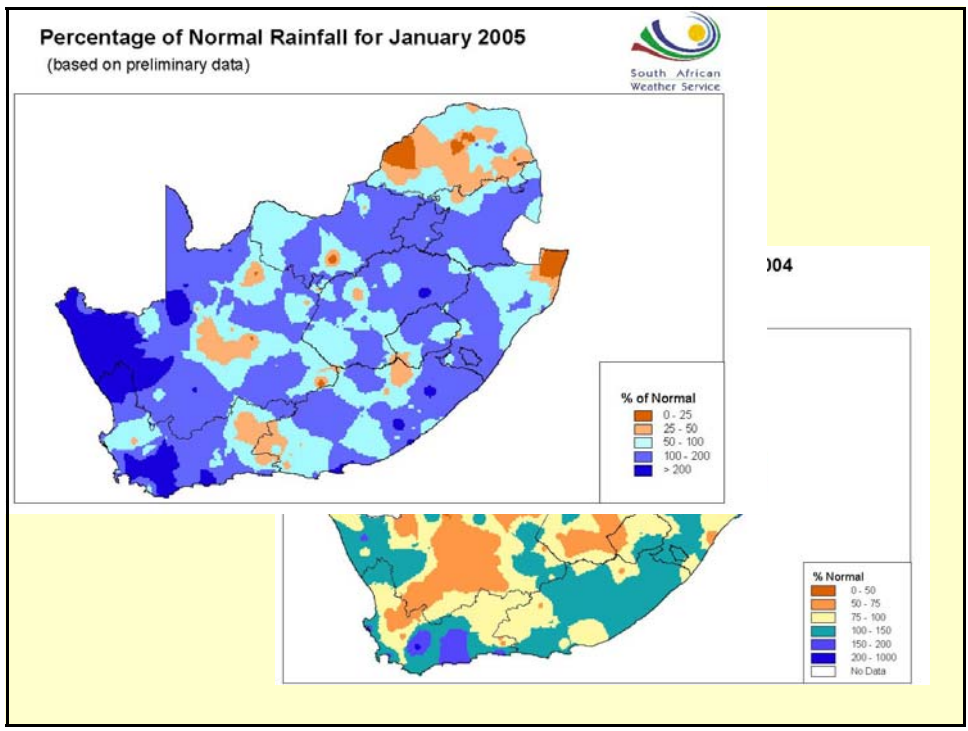
CATEGORY INFORMATION

Category Number	Category Name	Sample Name
21	SHR20	SHR20s

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

Lifestyle Segmentation Description

Many people in the 0-19 and 75-79 year age groups had very few people in the 30-34 year age group, number of people employed (41 %) is far below the national average, more females than males, most people working for income but those with an income in 50-59900, performance of African people with very few whites, total population is 48 the national average, population density of 207 people/km², very high number of people have no education, dwellings are mostly wooden state houses with many traditional dwellings, rural tribal area, predominance of female head of households, many households earn no income and those with an income in 50 to 59 000s, 34 % of people own their houses, most dwellings have an average of 3 rooms, predominantly depend spending people, slightly more people not studying than those studying full time students (ratio 1:0.9), low number of houses with a declared income.



Complemented by a FIVIMS Survey:

- Essentially to establish livelihood baseline (as opposed to the national baseline, which is compiled from various relevant data sets).
- Provide quantitative information to enhance the understanding of vulnerability and food insecurity in Sekhukhune.
- Help identify key variables for the livelihoods / food security models.
- Presented in various forms such as the survey report, maps, tables, graphs, and short descriptive pieces.
- Questionnaire drew on VAC, SC and C-SAFE experiences – but essentially to understand SA experience.
- Drew survey team from Sekhukhune.

Household Income:

“it is clear that the cause of hunger and malnutrition in South Africa is not overall shortage of food but access to food by certain parts of the population...access to food is largely dependent on (direct or indirect) access to cash.”

There are four common sources of household income in Sekhukhune:

- government provided old age pensions (received by 33% of households).
- child support grants (33%).
- remitted income from migrant labourers (31%).
- income from regular wage employment (27%).
- *remaining social assistance and other income sources – limited coverage*

Problems & Shocks Affecting Households Over Past Year:

Almost one-quarter (23%) of households had suffered the death of an adult member and one-seventh (15%), the death of a child in the household.

Additionally, almost one-fifth (19%) had been victims of drought, or general joblessness (17%).

Food price increases had impacted on 14% of households, and lack of access to clean water on one in nine (11%).

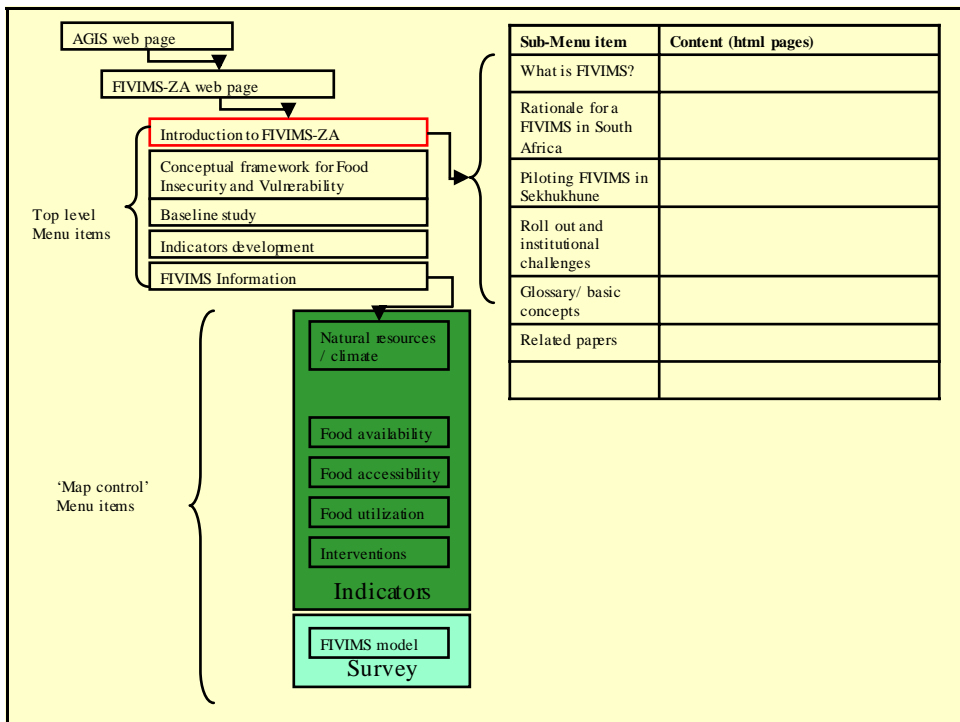
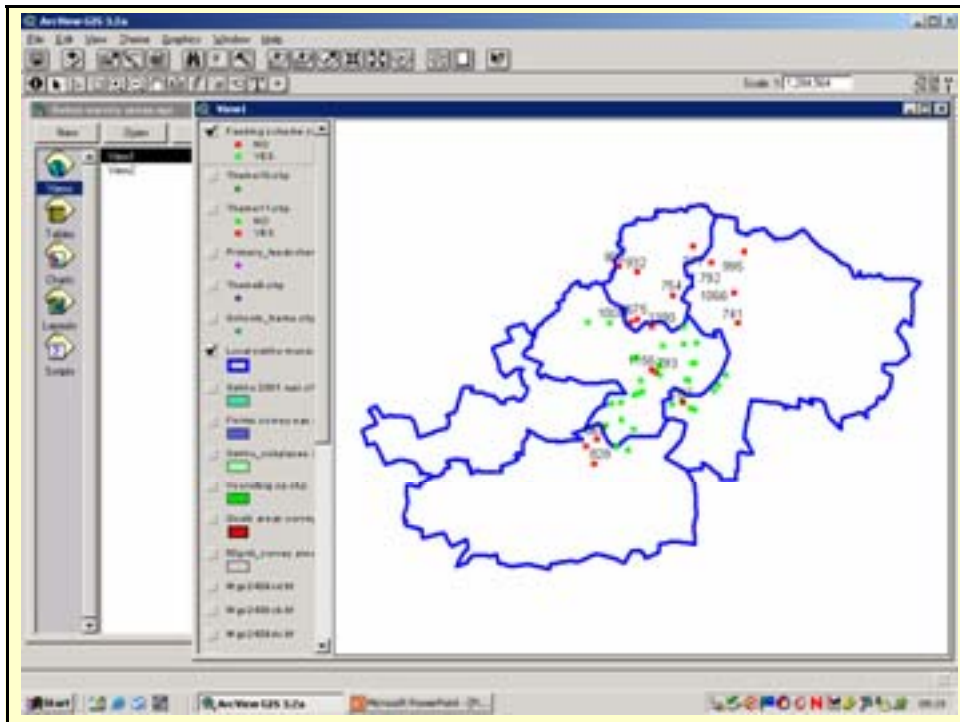
Slightly less common were increases in household size (9%), serious injury or chronic illness preventing normal activities (7%) and loss of remittances (4%).

Anthropometric Measurements:

For children two years and older, the severity of the prevalence of stunting was high (30-39.9%) in all three age categories, according to WHO classification.

		Age group				Total
		13 – 23 months	24 – 71 months	72 – 119 months	120 – 215 months	
Stunted	Count	17	70	79	200	366
	% within age group	43.6	36.6	33.5	35.8	35.7
Normal	Count	22	121	157	359	659
	% within age group	56.4	63.4	66.5	64.2	64.3
Total	Count	39*	191	236	559	1025
	% within age group	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Sample size (n = 39) in the 12-23 months age-group was too small



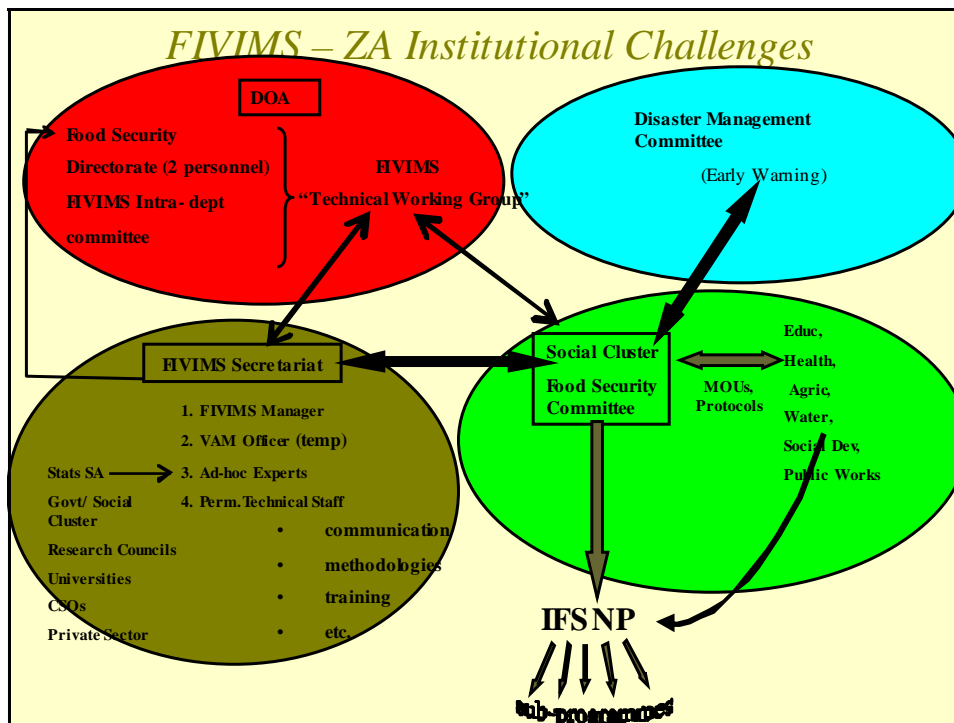
A plan to ensure FIVIMS is used by policy/decision makers on a national, provincial and local level:

- It is not yet possible to specify detailed institutional arrangements, because these depend on detailed forms of stakeholder consultation and user involvement between the Department of Agriculture and possible other end users of FIVIMS.

FAO Report on IFSNP:

- This report defines a major impediment to the effective co-ordination of the IFSNP as an “**absence of legislation that clearly defines its authority and responsibility, organizational structure and working procedures**” of the inter-ministerial committee (Social Cluster) responsible for the programme.





Raises significant institutional challenges:

- Inter (and intra) departmental relations
- Effective co-ordination – at various levels, for different needs (anecdotal reflections)
- Critical M&E (best use of resources)
- Relations with CSOs, private sector, academia, etc
- Building capacity
- Technical support
- **Political will**

Needs, hopes and expectations:

- Official after official interviewed about their expectations regarding FIVIMS highlighted the stress and uncertainty arising out of 'planning and acting in the dark', either too late in case of a crisis or in-appropriately for one does not know what is driving chronic, daily vulnerabilities.

Realities:

Underlying this is a crucial issue. *What government officials seem to need is not simply information...*

... *but an analysis* - a *narrative account* of what is working and what is not working in a particular district.

Realities:

- What is required is the ability to synthesise information from a wide variety of sources and to put it together in a way that is accessible to enable action in a particular context

(“V” in FIVIMS = Triangulation).

- This need cannot be met by an information management system.
- It can be met by developing the capacity for understanding, synthesising and working with information at local, provincial and national level – including capacity to use a system like FIVIMS...
- ...and partnerships especially with CSOs

A Way Forward:

- *A focussed FIVIMS:*

The most feasible option is to roll-out a smaller, more focussed FIVIMS that is seen as just **one component of a smart information management and shared system**, that is linked to possible existing systems (e.g. Disaster Management, DWAF, SAWS etc)...that is discussed in collaboration with other users.

A Way Forward:

- A smartly used FIVIMS is one that makes information available for interpretation and integration by users, rather than one that tries to develop an expert system that interprets and integrates the data for users.

