FAO's Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security Information User Survey Report

April 2020

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Executive Summary

Background

FAO South Sudan in collaboration with partners monitors indicators that feed into food security analysis on a regular basis. It then produces different kinds of food security information products including but not limited to technical presentations, field assessment reports, special reports, researches, key messages, alerts, and agro-climatology updates. Information is also uploaded onto the CLIMIS portal for storage and public dissemination.

One of the key food security analysis outputs is the IPC whose products comprise acute food insecurity maps and population numbers which are used by various stakeholders in South Sudan i.e. government, humanitarian actors, development partners, etc. The CLIMIS portal is also visited by users who download the information and use it for purposes such as analysis, response programming and academic research among others.

From 01 – 15 November 2019, FAO South Sudan ran an online survey to get views from users of its information products. Annex 1 provides the questionnaire that was administered to the respondents and then utilized during the analysis.

Key Findings

- The most accessed and used products are the IPC and FSNMS reports.

- 97% of respondents find the IPC reports at least useful, with 34% of respondents finding them extremely useful.

- Of those respondents using the IPC reports, 91% use them for background information, 75% for fund raising and 74% for programming their field activities.

- Of those respondents using the IPC reports, 60% of them access them from the ReliefWeb website, with 38% accessing them from the FAO website.

- 81% of the respondents who use IPC reports find their release timely.

- 49% of respondents reported accessing the FAO operational update, and all of them found it at least useful, with 21% saying it was extremely useful.

- The most accessed information in the CLIMIS portal is market data, rainfall data, FSNMS indicators data and crop production data.
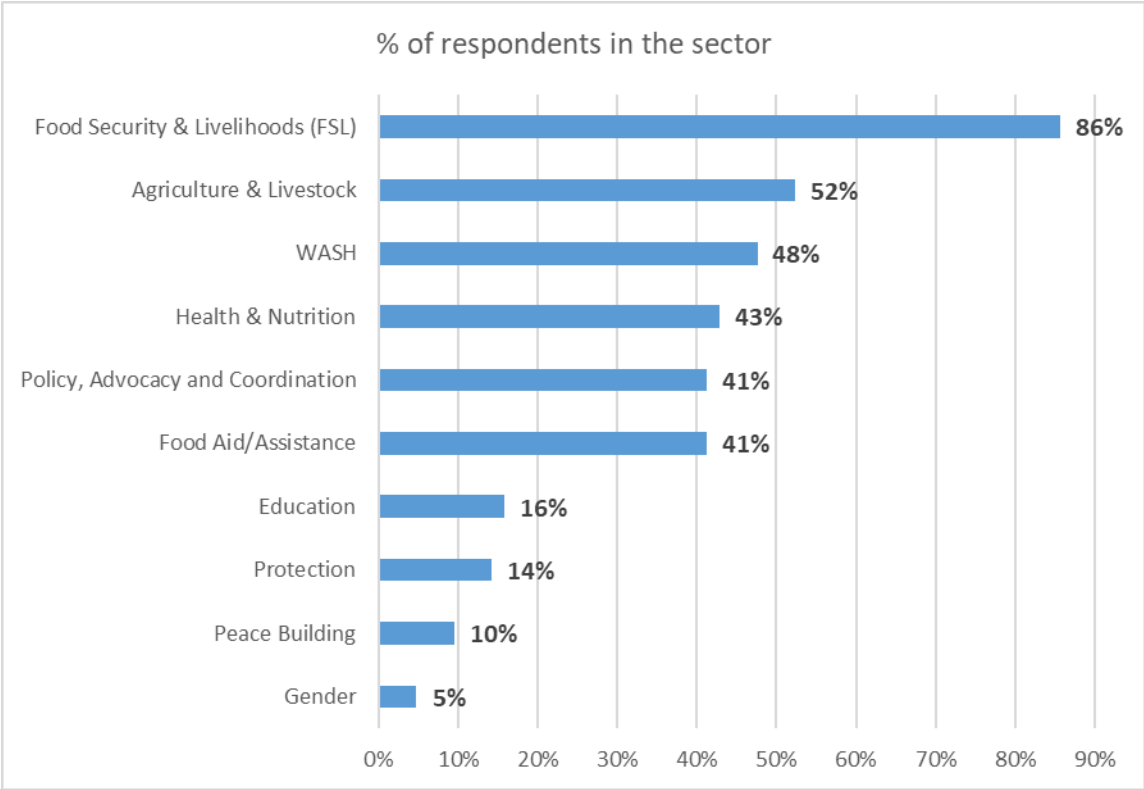
Survey Participants

Of the 63 respondents, majority of them were from Local/National NGOs (38 percent) followed by UN agencies (25 percent) and then International NGOs (24 percent).

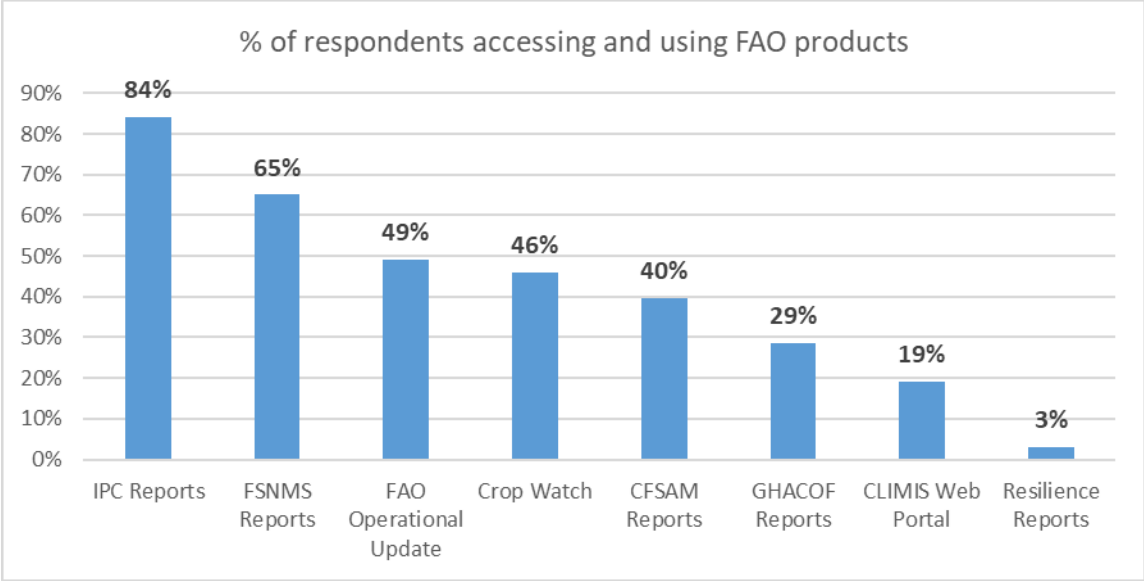Below is a summary of the respondents:
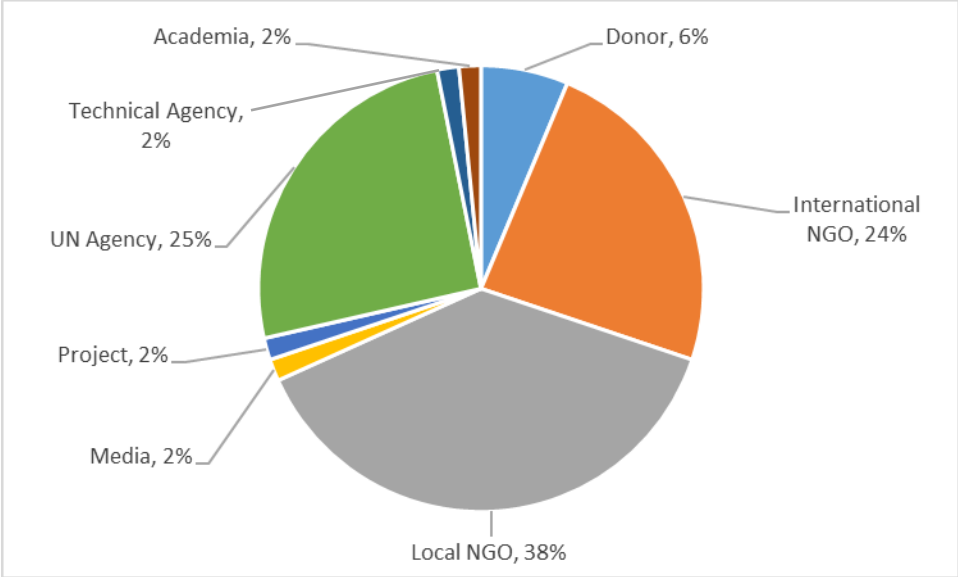
The chart below gives a summary of the sectors where majority of the respondents work.
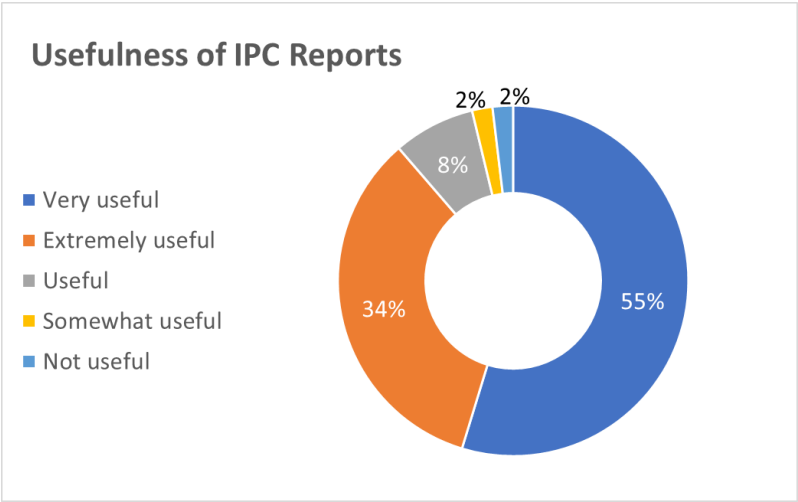

Access and Usage of FAO Products

The graph below shows the proportion of respondents accessing and using FAO products:

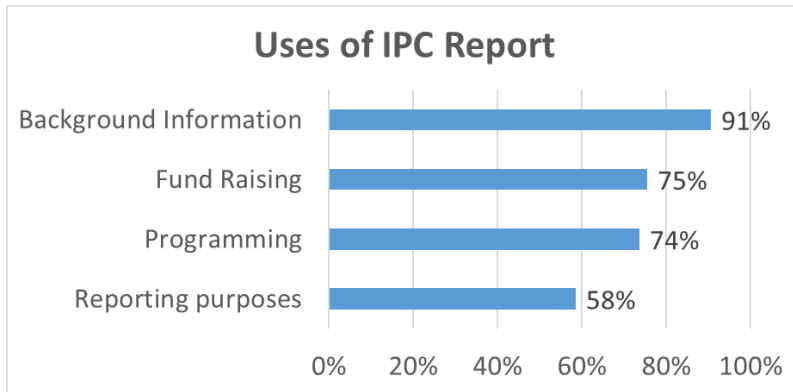% of respondents accessing and using FAO products

The most popular are the IPC and FSNMS reports, followed by the FAO Operational Update, the Crop Watch and the CFSAM reports.

IPC Reports

Below is how useful the respondents find the **IPC reports**:
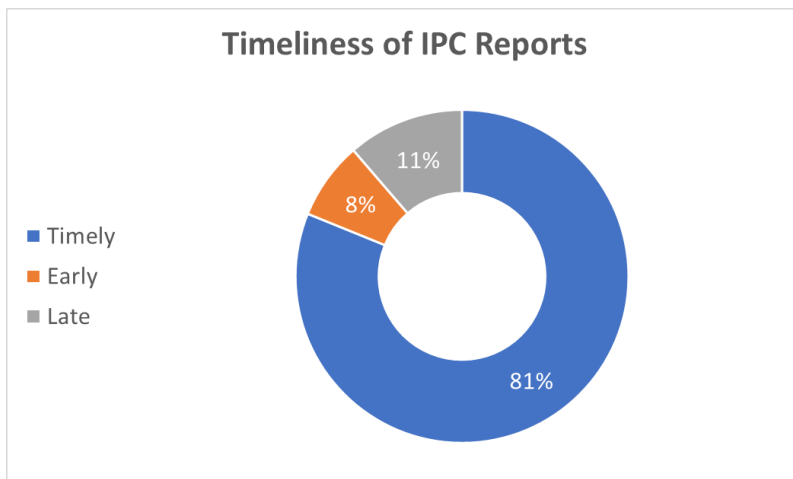

Usefulness of IPC Reports

- Very useful
- Extremely useful
- Useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not useful

Among those who reported using IPC reports, they were asked what they use those reports for and below are their responses:

Uses of IPC Report

- Background Information: 91%
- Fund Raising: 75%
- Programming: 74%
- Reporting purposes: 58%

Below is how various respondents **access the IPC reports**:

How respondents access IPC reports

- ReliefWeb: 60%
- FAO Mailing List: 45%
- FAO Website: 38%
- FSL Cluster Mailing List: 32%
- Twitter: 19%
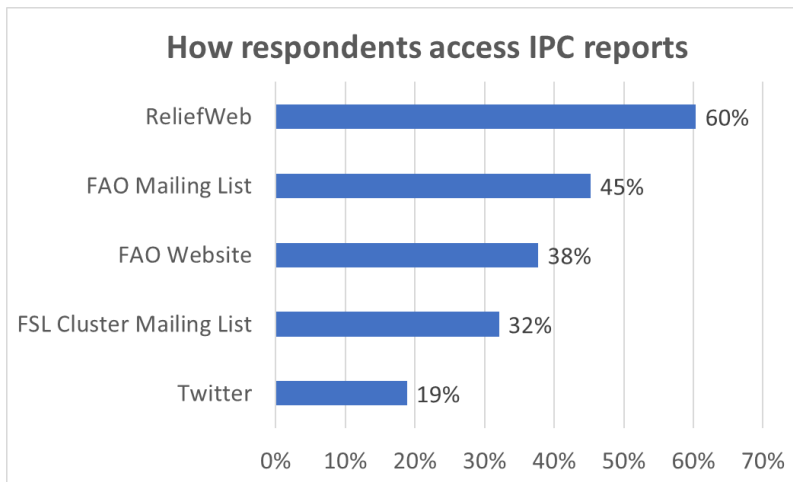
Below is how the various respondents find the timeliness of the IPC reports:

Timeliness of IPC Reports

- Timely: 81%
- Early: 8%
- Late: 11%

FSNMS Reports

The Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) is a bi-annual nationwide survey that collects information on food security, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, WASH, resilience, food assistance etc. and also serves as the main source of information for the IPC.

Following the conclusion of the IPC analysis, a detailed report based on the FSNMS data is written and shared with all stakeholders. Below is how useful the respondents find the **FSNMS reports[1]**:

Usefulness of FSNMS Reports

- Extremely useful
- Useful
- Very useful

25%
25%
50%
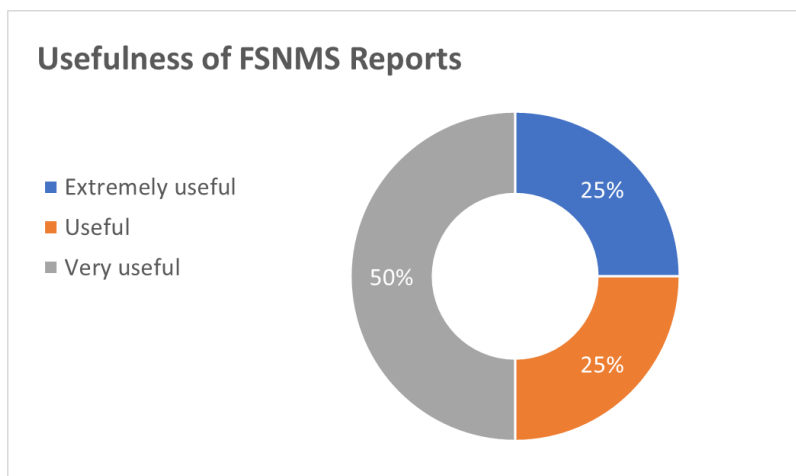
FAO Operational Update

FAO's Operational Update was a monthly bulletin that featured key activities and outputs of FAO's work in South Sudan. It would feature completed activities and achievements, planned activities, and sometimes even forward looking early warning information. Below is how useful the respondents find the **FAO Operational Update**:

Usefulness of FAO's Operational Updates

- Very useful
- Extremely useful
- Useful

31%
48%
21%
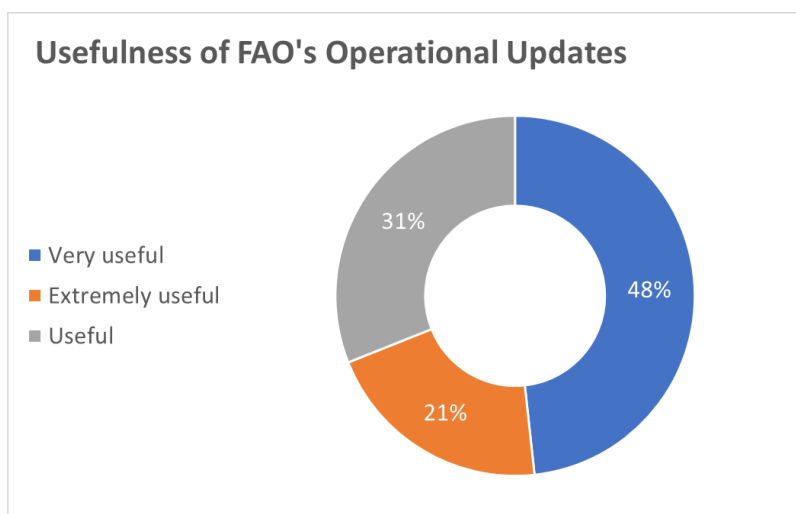
Crop Production Reports (Crop Watch Bulletins & CFSAM Reports)

FAO has a network of County Crop Monitoring Committees (CCMCs) spread about 65 counties, with the mandate to monitor the cropping season so as to be able to make production estimates as accurately as possible. The information collected by these CCMCs contributes to the drafting of the Crop Watch Bulletins and the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report. Below is how useful the respondents find the joint FAO/WFP **CFSAM reports**:
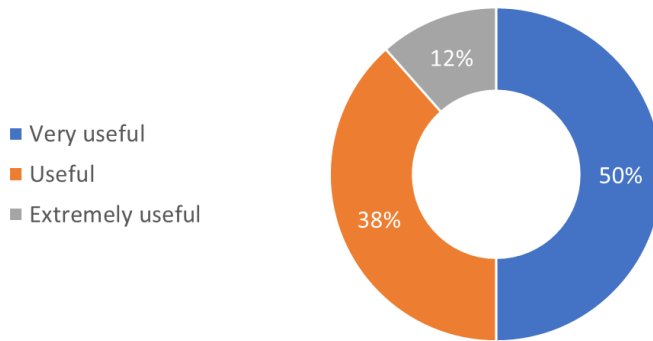
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[1] The FSNMS reports are jointly produced with WFP and UNICEF

Usefulness of CFSAM Reports

Very useful
Useful
Extremely useful
Not useful

4%
21%
46%
29%
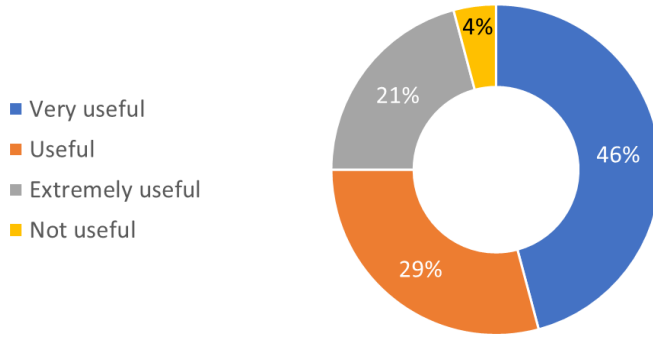
Below is how useful the respondents find the **Crop Watch bulletins**:

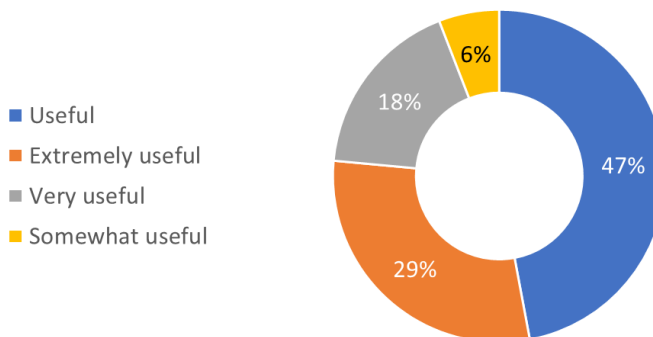**Usefulness of the Crop Watch bulletin**

Very useful
Useful
Extremely useful

12%
50%
38%

Climate and Weather Updates

Below is how useful the respondents find the **GHACOF key messages** report:

Usefulness of GHACOF Reports

Useful
Extremely useful
Very useful
Somewhat useful
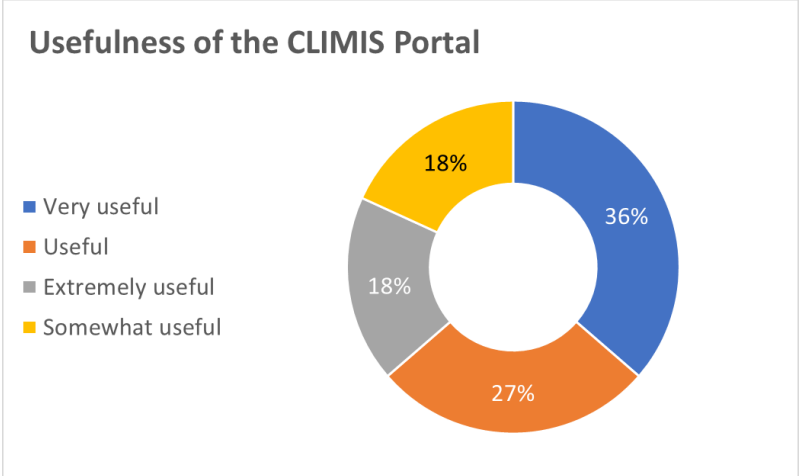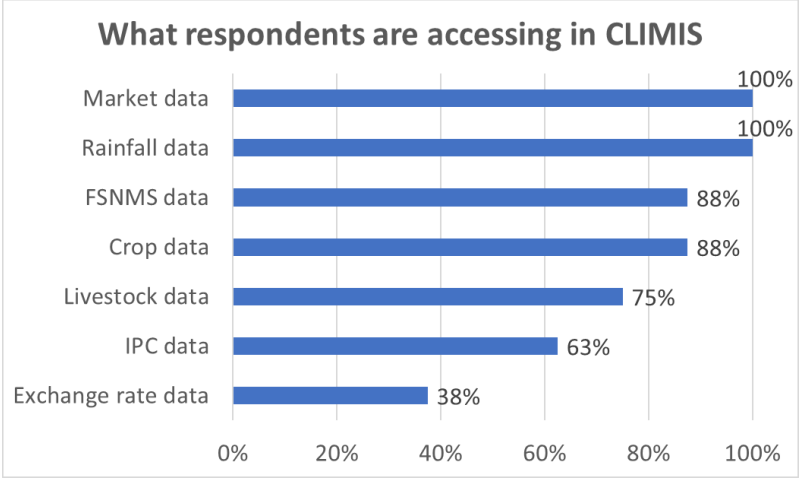
6%
18%
47%
29%

The FAO GHACOF key messages are produced every time the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) convenes and produces forward looking weather and climate information. FAO then takes this information and contextualizes it to South Sudan, highlighting the likely impact on sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, health etc.

CLIMIS Portal

The CLIMIS portal is a web-based information sharing platform that has been developed by FAO, as support to the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, to help with archiving various datasets related to South Sudan. The portal is updated regularly to ensure that the information is beneficial to the users and can be used to inform programming, early warning etc. Below is how useful the respondents find the **CLIMIS portal**:

Usefulness of the CLIMIS Portal

- Very useful
- Useful
- Extremely useful
- Somewhat useful

18%
36%
18%
27%

Among those using the CLIMIS portal, below is the proportion of respondents accessing each type of information, with market and rainfall data being the most accessed datasets.

What respondents are accessing in CLIMIS

Market data	100%
Rainfall data	100%
FSNMS data	88%
Crop data	88%
Livestock data	75%
IPC data	63%
Exchange rate data	38%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Resilience Reports

FAO in South Sudan has a resilience strategy and uses its RIMA (Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis) methodology to track progress against set objectives. To ensure a nationwide monitoring of progress, FAO has included in the FSNMS the indicators required to feed into the

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RIMA model and produce Resilience Capacity Indices (RCI) at county level. Below is how useful the respondents find **FAO resilience reports**:

Usefulness of FAO Resilience Reports

- Very useful
- Useful
- Extremely useful

18%

59%

24%
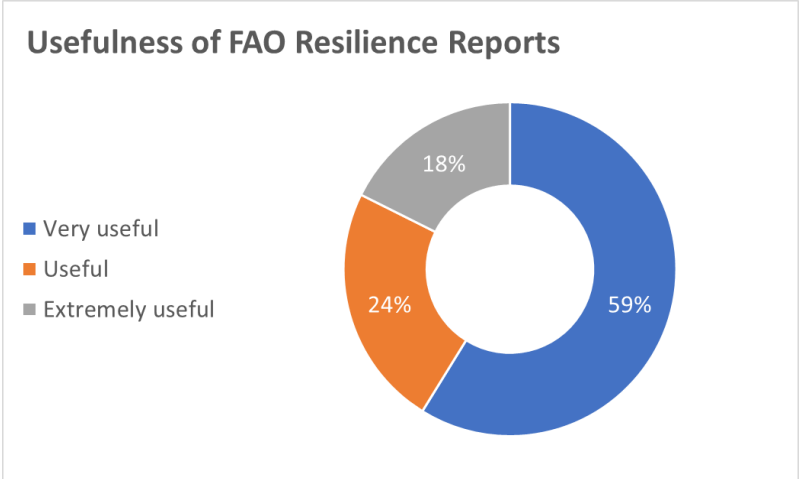
Annex 1 – Survey Questionnaire

O – Single Select
[ ] – Multiple Select

Please note that all questions are optional

No.	Question	Responses
1.	Your name:	
2.	What is the name of the organization you work for OR are affiliated to?	
3.	How would you categorize the organization you work for OR are affiliated to?	O Government O Donor O UN Agency O Local NGO O International NGO O Project O Media O Other (please specify)
4.	Which sectors does your organization work in or fund?	[ ] Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL) [ ] Food Aid/Assistance [ ] Health / Nutrition [ ] Agriculture / Livestock [ ] Water & Sanitation (WASH) [ ] Policy / Advocacy / Coordindation [ ] Other (please specify)

5.	Which of the following products (*either solely produced by FAO or in collaboration with other partners*) have you ever used/read? For any selected product, immediately ask "How useful do you find the XXX"? Options (in a dropdown list) should be the below: O Not useful O Somewhat useful O Useful O Very useful O Extremely useful	[ ] IPC Report [ ] FSNMS Report [ ] CFSAM Report [ ] Crop Watch [ ] FAO's key messages based on the GHACOF Report [ ] CLIMIS portal that is available at www.climis-southsudan.org [ ] FAO's Operational Update
**If the respondent has used/read the "IPC Report", present him/her with the following questions (i.e. Questions 6-10):**
6.	How do you access the IPC report?	[ ] At the IPC Report release conference [ ] FAO Website [ ] Email from FAO [ ] Email from FSL Cluster [ ] ReliefWeb Website [ ] Social Media Site(s) e.g. Twitter [ ] Other (please specify)
7.	How would you generally describe the contents of the IPC report?	
8.	How do you or your organization make use of the information contained in the IPC report? *Allow multiple select*	[ ] General background information to understand the food security situation in South Sudan [ ] Reporting [ ] Programming field activities [ ] Fund raising [ ] I don't use it for anything – I just read it out of interest [ ] Other (please specify)

9.	Is the release of the IPC report timely for purposes of meeting your needs?	[ ] Yes, its release is just about right [ ] It is released too early for my needs [ ] It is released too late for my needs [ ] Other (please specify)
10.	What suggestions do you have (if any) on how the IPC report can be improved:	
If the respondent has accessed the CLIMIS Portal, present him/her with the following questions (i.e. Questions 11-XX):		
11.	What information do you access on the CLIMIS portal? (www.climis-southsudan.org)	[ ] Market Data [ ] Rainfall Data [ ] Crop Data [ ] Livestock Data [ ] FSNMS Data [ ] IPC Data [ ] Exchange Rate Data
12.	Is there additional information you would like to see posted on CLIMIS?	
13.	Do you have any other comment / feedback regarding FAO's products?	