



The Wahenga Prospectus

*Practical and Applicable Vulnerability Assessment
Practitioner Courses*

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Drafted by: C. Rethman

Contact: (address) PO Box 23507, Claremont, 7735, Cape Town

(telephone) +27 21 6861510

(mobile) +27 71 6735502

(email) charles@wahenga.co.za

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The courses in this prospectus are designed to equip practitioners with the necessary hands-on skills to undertake detailed assessments on vulnerability to livelihoods and food insecurity. The modules initially pay attention to field enquiry and to field data analysis, with follow on modules that help users do sophisticated mapping, data mining and further analysis. These courses are not generic food security or livelihoods courses that focus on concepts; rather, they are specific to techniques that answer a particular set of questions. As such, they fit well into an existing framework of more general and conceptual material on food security, disaster risk management and livelihoods studies. They do recap a few basic principles, so that participants are at a common understanding, but this is kept to a minimum.

Courses 1 and 2 are designed to flow from one to another, so that users steadily build upon their previous learning. The modules in Course 3 are standalones for a broader understanding of HEA.

Course 1 Baselines Assessment

Module 1.1 Baseline Assessment for Field Team Practitioners

Prerequisites: none

Course length: two weeks

- Vulnerability and food security concepts
- Livelihoods and measuring food security and vulnerability to various hazards: the Household Economy Approach
- Introduction to the field Process
- Ensuring high quality information
- Livelihood zoning
- Market assessment
- Reference year
- Seasonal Calendars
- Wealth breakdowns
- Baseline livelihood strategies
- Introduction to energy calculations
- Coping strategies
- Household representative interviews and field forms
- Field testing interviews
- Storing baseline information

- Analysing Baseline information
 - Understanding agricultural economies
 - Non-food needs: survival, livelihoods and resilience
 - Incorporating secondary sources
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Module 1.2 Baseline Assessment Leadership & the BSS

Prerequisites: 1.1

Course length: One week

- Planning an assessment: authorisations and clearance, budgeting, human capacity, time to complete the tasks, trade-offs
 - Negotiating access: protocols, behaviour, project purpose
 - Managing teams: time, fatigue, motivation, paperwork, logistics
 - How the BSS is put together: beginning to end—entering data and how it propagates to the outcomes
 - Creating a BSS for a new zone: additional food and income sources, additional interviews, expenditure breakdowns
 - Key features and caveats: summarising tools, cross-checks, expandability
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Course 2 Outcome And Forecast Assessments

Module 2.1 Assessment Preparation And Planning

Prerequisites: None

Course length: One week

- Introduction to food security, vulnerability assessment, livelihoods and the household economy approach
 - The household economy; how we can understand it, stages in assessment, scenarios, outcomes and how the outcomes can be used for planning and response
 - Secondary data sources: different sources and preparing them for use
 - Identifying hazards and geographical hazard areas, using remote sensing data, weather data and linking these to livelihoods; populations and linking census data to livelihoods
 - Economic data: production (e.g. crops, livestock and fisheries), unemployment, prices, trade volumes, inflation; Policy data: social protection and welfare data
 - Drafting assessment schedules: geographic sampling, staff, budgeting
 - Analysis I: Seasonal calendars, separating what has happened from what can happen
 - Analysis II: Compiling problem specifications, merging and summarising from field and secondary data
 - Analysis III: drafting scenarios on unknown quantities, price scenarios
 - The single-zone analysis spreadsheet
 - Combining outcomes into maps and data presentation for decision makers
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Module 2.2 Introductory Mapping For VA Practitioners

Prerequisites: 2.3

Course length: One week

- GIS and GISc, what it means: GIS software, data formats
- QGIS: installation on Windows, Mac and Linux, getting help

- Your first map: the QGIS interface, your project, adding layers: vector and raster
- Using the interface: zooming, panning, identifying and selecting features
- Managing projects and map data
- Vector layer properties: general, style, labels
- Raster layer properties: general, style
- The CRS: practitioners' low-down on projections
- Georeferencing raster layers
- Attribute tables, more complex selecting, capturing attributes to Excel for analysis
- The print composer: preparing your map for distribution, exporting as picture formats for placing in documents
- Project settings: defining your own CRS, other useful customisations

Course 3 Training the Leaders and Training the Trainers

Module 3.1 HEA 101 – Vulnerability, Food Security, Livelihoods and the Household Economy Approach

Prerequisites: None

Course length: 3 days

- Vulnerability concepts
- Food security concepts
- Livelihoods as an approach for measuring food security and vulnerability to various hazards
- The household economy approach
- Livelihoods and HEA for poverty analysis
- Linking HEA and livelihoods information to action

Module 3.2 How To Explain What You Are Doing to Someone Who Isn't Technical

Prerequisites: None

Course length: 2 days

- Determine your audience—what are the questions?—answer them and don't explain too much
- Get the language right—KISS, avoid jargon, avoid terminology
- Speaking well, hitting the nail on the head
- A simple explanation of HEA for non-technical people