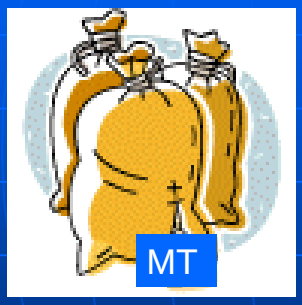
- Why here today?
- Wanted to share with you an exciting new tool, FAIS, which allows for online queries and reporting on food aid flows, not just in terms of tonnage value, but also its nutritional value.

Evolution in Measurement of Food Aid Flows



Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 1 potato (148g/5.3oz)

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 100	Calories from Fat 0
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 0g	**0%**
Saturated Fat 0g	**0%**
Cholesterol 0mg	**0%**
Sodium 0mg	**0%**
Potassium 720mg	**21%**
Total Carbohydrate 26g	**9%**
Dietary Fiber 3g	**12%**
Sugars 3g	
Protein 4g	

Vitamin A 0%	• Vitamin C 45%
Calcium 2%	• Iron 6%
Thiamin 8%	• Riboflavin 2%
Niacin 8%	• Vitamin B_6 10%
Folate 6%	• Phosphorous 6%
Zinc 2%	• Magnesium 6%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

• Evolution in how food aid flows are measured

• Traditionally food aid flows measured in metric tons

• During the late 1970s and 1980s, donors started to identify specific budgets in value terms to provide food aid and purchase food aid commodities on international markets

•The Food Aid Convention of 1999 allowed for the first time to express commitment in tonnage or value

•Recent years growing interest in measuring the nutritional value of food aid

• Why?

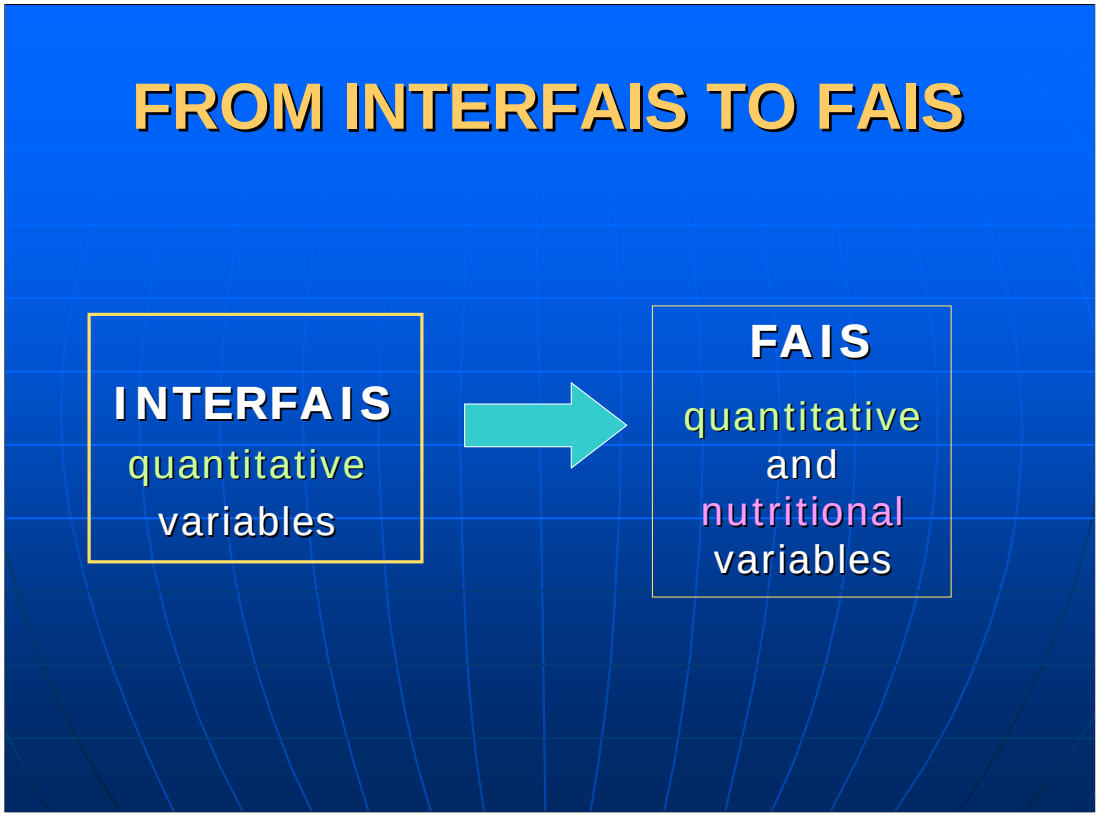
• growing recognition of the importance of nutrition (esp young children)

• concerns raised about the supply driven approach to food aid and the need for a demand driven approach that meets the requirements of recipients

• need to improve commitments and reporting under various international agreements

• A proposal to develop a nutritional value of food aid flows circulated to selected donors in Nov 2006

• Project generously supported by the European Commission and the Government of Canada



What is INTERFAIS?

• Acronym for International Food Aid Information System which is a tool for tracking global food aid flows

• Purpose is to improve food aid management, coordination and statistical analysis.

• Developed by WFP in 1988 as a contribution to a co-ordinated international response to food aid shortages in Africa.

• Involves the interaction of all users: donor governments, international organizations, NGOs, recipient countries, and WFP field offices.

• The main variables which INTERFAIS tracks are: donor, recipient country, year, commodity, food aid type (emergency, project, programming), and delivery mode (direct transfers, local purchases, triangular purchases).

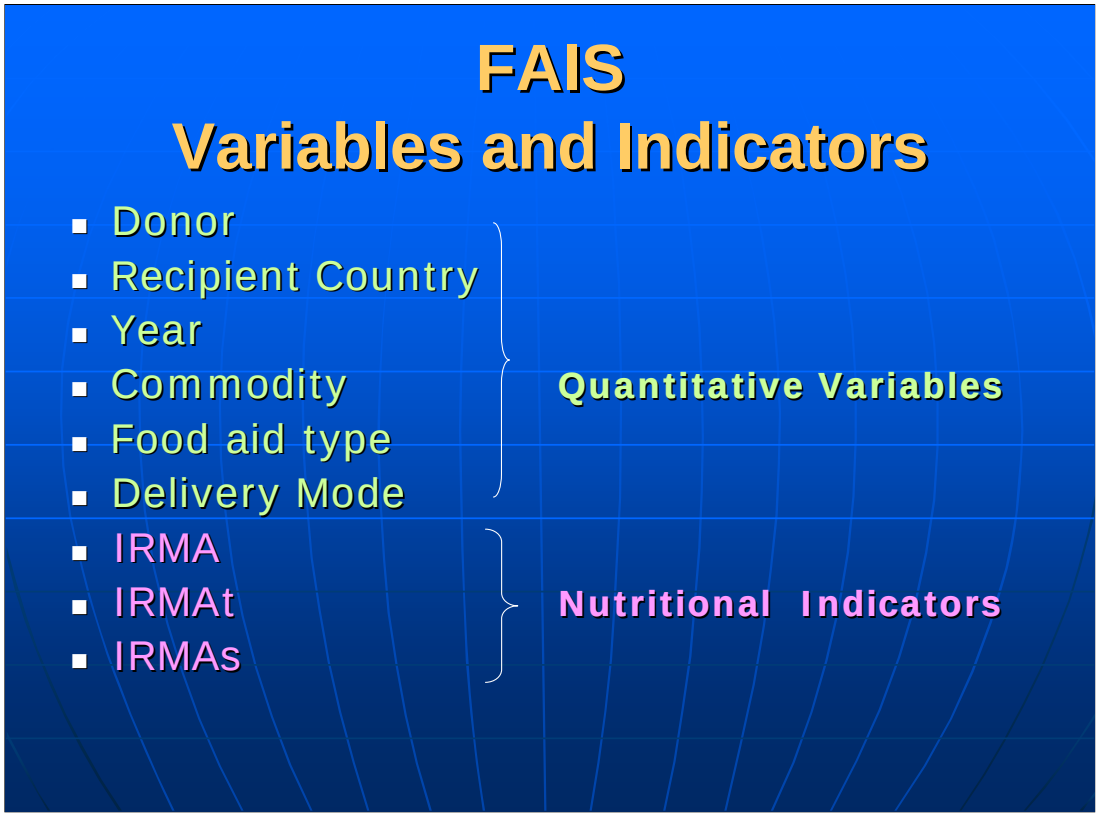
• Also collects information according to channel (NGO, multilateral, bilateral), terms of delivery (grant or loan) and market sales (food aid sold on local markets or distributed directly to beneficiaries (these last 3 not available in FAIS).

What is FAIS?

• An online system which allows users to make their own queries concerning quantitative data as well as nutritional data, by introducing Food Composition tables to the INTERFAIS database.

• The composition table for each commodity indicates the content of 14 selected nutrients: Energy, (macro-nutrients) Protein, Fat, and micronutrients: Iron, Iodine, Vitamin A, Thiamine, Riboflavine, Niacin, Vitamin C, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9 (Folic Acid), Vitamin B12 and Zinc.

Sources of Food Composition Tables are: NUTVAL (WFP database), INRAN



The proposed measures focus only on one aspect of food aid, the nutritional content of the delivered food aid in comparison to average nutritional requirements. They don't provide information on whether the nutritional needs of actual beneficiaries are met, and they don't infer judgement on the quality of the food aid provided.

The nutritional indicators selected are:

IRMA: (Acronym for Individual requirements met on average) represents the **number of people** for whom the requirements for each nutrient could potentially be satisfied with **1 representative ton of the selected food basket.**

• IRMA scales IRMAt down to 1 ton by dividing IRMAt by the total tons selected for the country.

•This allows comparison across different food aid deliveries by eliminating the quantity component of IRMAt.

IRMAt (individual requirements met on average total) represents the **number of people** who could have been potentially **fed for one year** with the nutritious content of the food aid selected.

• Considered as a conversion factor from tonnage to nutrients.

• Calculated for energy (kcals) and 13 macro and micro-nutrients.

• Computed by considering the commodity composition of food aid deliveries.

• Actual tonnage of each delivery is multiplied by the nutritious content of each commodity. The amount of nutrients is then divided by the yearly requirement of a hypothetical individual in developing countries which consumes 2100 kcal per day.

IRMAs: (Individual requirements met on average score) for the selected deliveries, the average of the 13 IRMA values (one for each nutrient) as a percentage of IRMA value for energy. Maximum values (100%) are imposed so that outliers do not influence the average. Expressed as a value between an interval of 0 to 100.

• For this year we are still producing the standard Food Aid Flows Report, but with an additional chapter which includes information on the nutritional value of the food. This new addition has slightly delayed production of the report, but we hope to have it ready by the end of June.

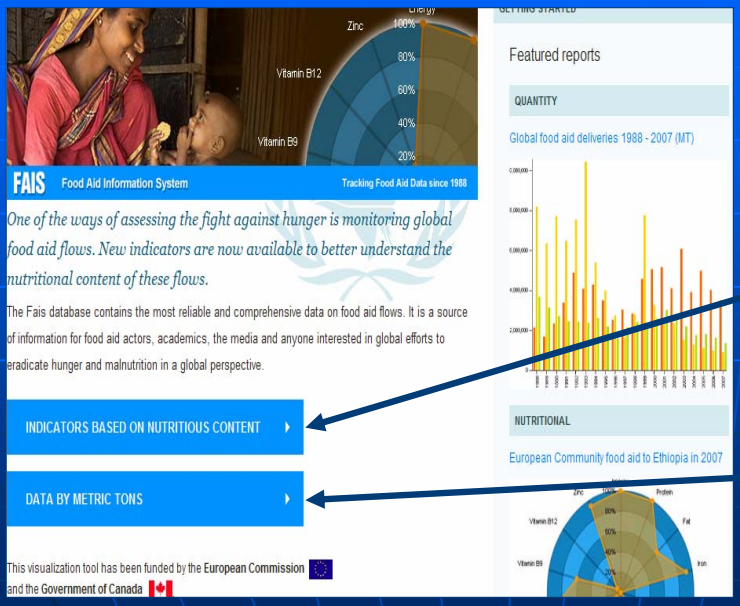
• The good news is that you will now be able to access and filter information online to perform ad hoc queries according to your specific needs and interests.

• WFP still maintains its INTERFAIS unit and they will be happy to respond to specific requests, for example those concerning variables which are not captured in FAIS (channel, terms of delivery, and market sales). But having the FAIS system online allows for self-service and greater flexibility.

• Guidance material is being produced and later in June we will be providing hands on demonstrations to interested individuals in specifically how to use the new system.

• Now like to share with you examples of some of the queries you can make with the new system.

Selecting the Report Type



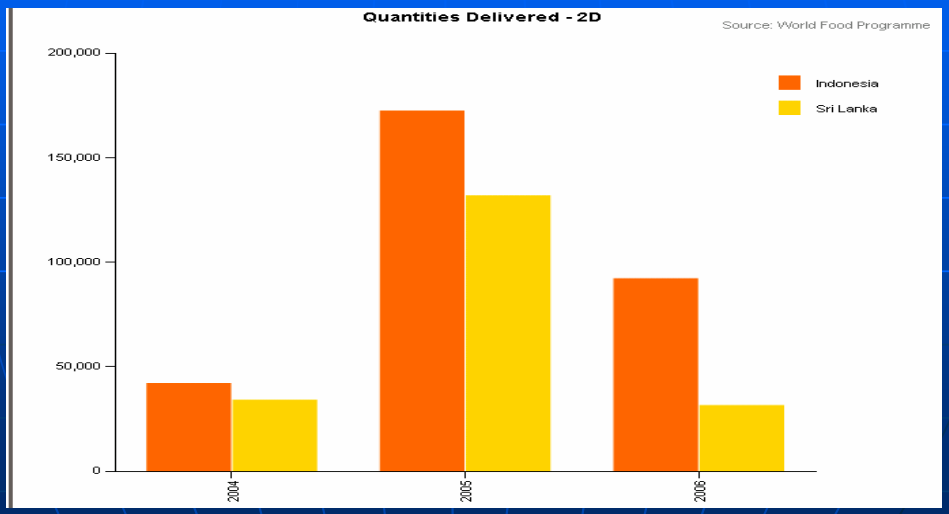
Two types of reports are available:

- Nutritional Value of Food Aid
- Food Aid in Tonnage

• For the tonnage based report you have the possibility of creating either a 2 or 3 dimensional report based on the 6 variables mentioned (donor, recipient, year, commodity, food aid type and delivery mode).

Quantity Report: Query 1

International community emergency response to the tsunami in Indonesia and Sri Lanka



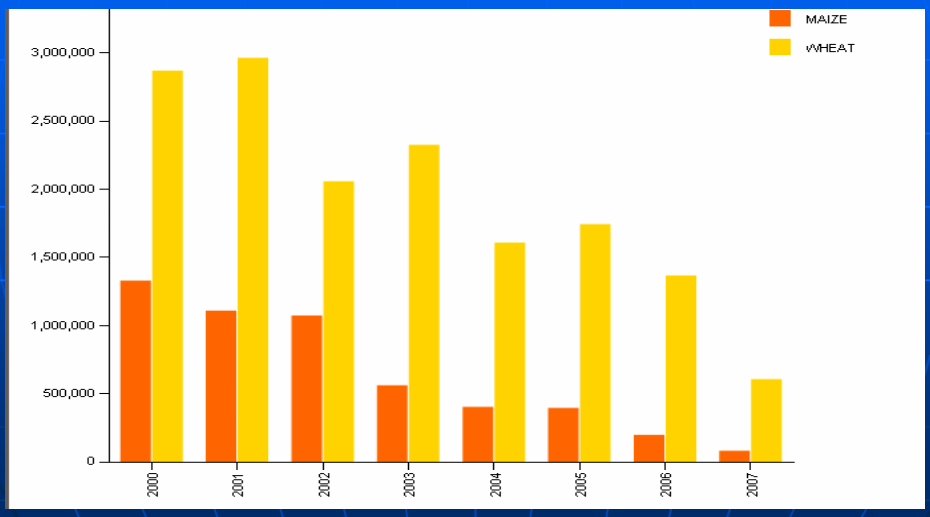
• In this example the selection of recipients (Indonesia and Sri Lanka) and years (2004 – 2006) allowed to filter on food aid type (emergency), donor (all), commodity (all) and delivery mode (all).

• Filters are used to better define the query. Instead of all commodities could specify a particular one (eg. rice or oil), a specific donor, or a specific delivery mode (eg. direct transfers).

• User can choose whether to measure food aid in actual tons or in grain equivalent.

Quantity Report: Query 2

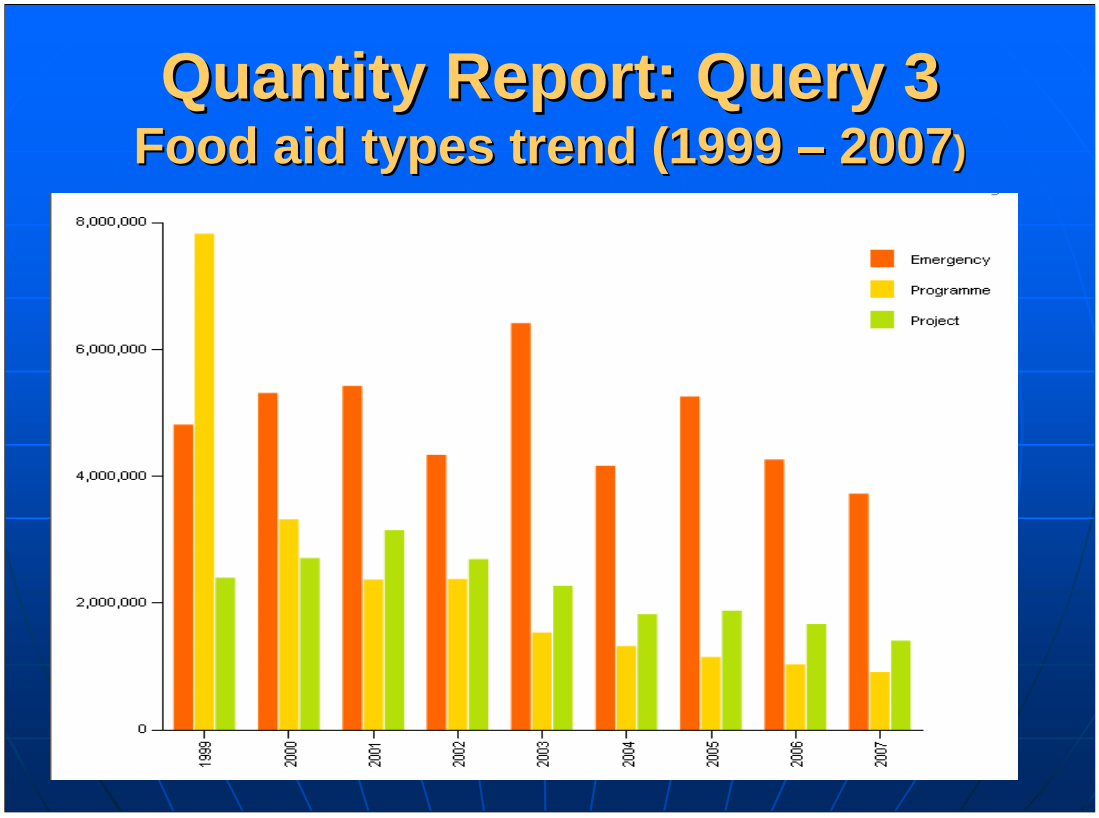
Impact of high prices on wheat and maize deliveries (direct transfers)



This graphs refers to direct transfers. Prices started increasing in 2000. Among the two commodities maize was more affected by the price increase.

Next slide shows prices trend

Maize and Wheat Prices Trend

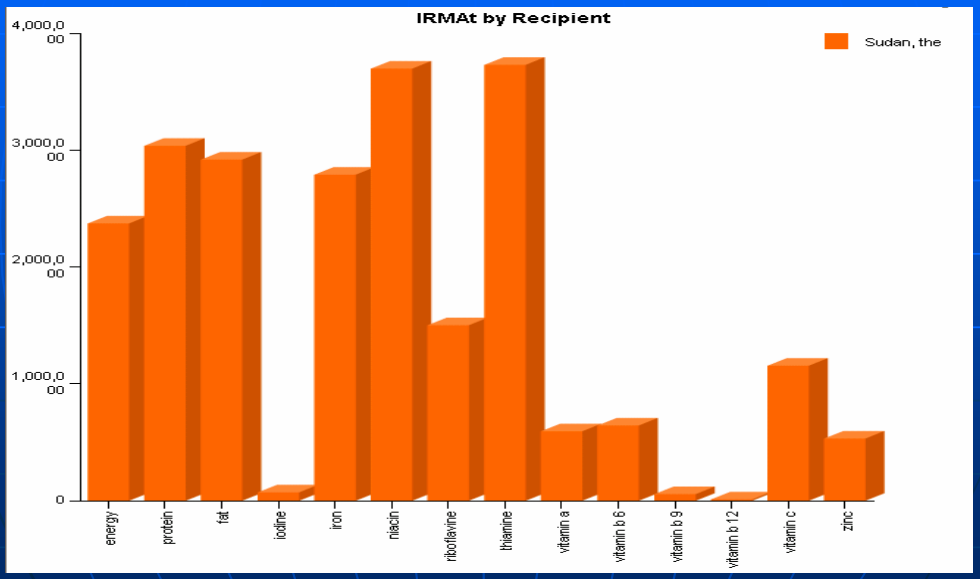


If you were interested in seeing the shift over time in the types of interventions for which food aid has been provided you could stipulate the time period, all donors, and filter by food aid type as shown in the graph. Over the years emergency food aid became the predominant food aid category while programme food aid reduced significantly (in 2007 almost 1/8 of 1999 quantity).

While INTERFAIS itself has always reported on this type of quantitative information what is really exciting about this project is its ability to convert tons into nutritional equivalents and to present this information visually.

Nutritional Report: Query 1

Number of people potentially fed with the nutrients contained in food aid delivered to Sudan in 2007



• Indicator selected is IRMAt. IRMAt stands for “Individual Requirements Met on Average” over a year, which assesses the number of individuals that could have been potentially fed for one year with the nutritious content of the food aid selected.

• Vertical axis is an indication of the number of people

• Horizontal access is a listing of each of the 14 nutrition variables (energy plus various macro and micro nutrients.

• Graph show 485,000 mt of food aid was provided to Sudan in 2007.

• Comparison across different nutrients shows that this amount was adequate to potentially meet the annual energy/calorie requirement of 2.3 million people

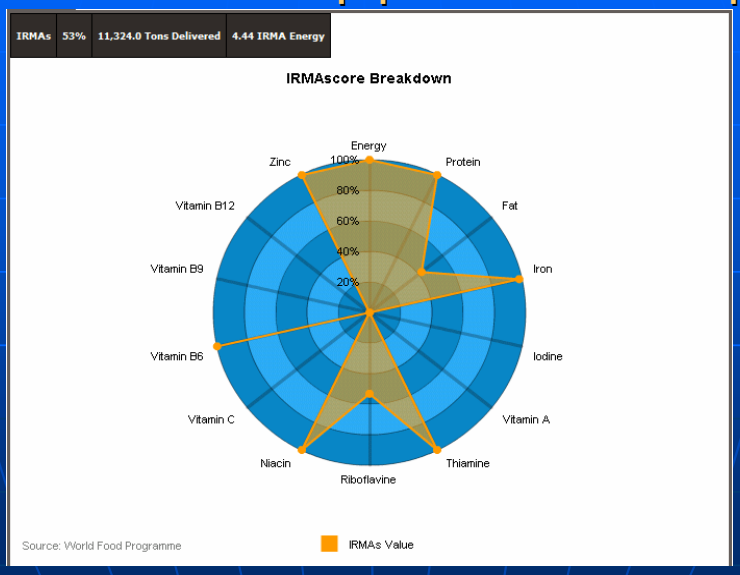
• These same food aid deliveries were able to meet the niacine and thiamine requirements of almost 4mn people

• but the iodine requirements of only 72,000 people.

• Iodine is essential to prevent mental impairments especially during the first months of life.

Nutritional Report: Query 2

Extent to which the emergency food aid of a selected donor to Ethiopia in 2007 satisfied the population's nutrient requirements



- Indicator selected is IRMAs (Individual Requirements met on average score)
- The selected donor delivered to Ethiopia 11,324 tons of emergency food aid in 2007.
- This amount could potentially feed the energy requirement of about 50,278 individuals (11,324*4.44).
- These food aid deliveries could satisfy on average 53 percent of the other 13 nutrients requirements.
- Had the diet of these individuals relied entirely on this emergency food aid it would have been lacking in vitamin A, iodine, vitamin C (to mention some of them).

We talk about the importance of nutrition. Now with this tool we are able to get a graphic representation of how we are doing in people's nutritional needs with the food provided.

THANK YOU