

From Data to Information

Preliminary attempts to create replicable knowledge products from RHOMIS data

Todd Rosenstock, Christine Lamanna and Andreea Nowak

How can RHOMIS deliver information to decision makers?

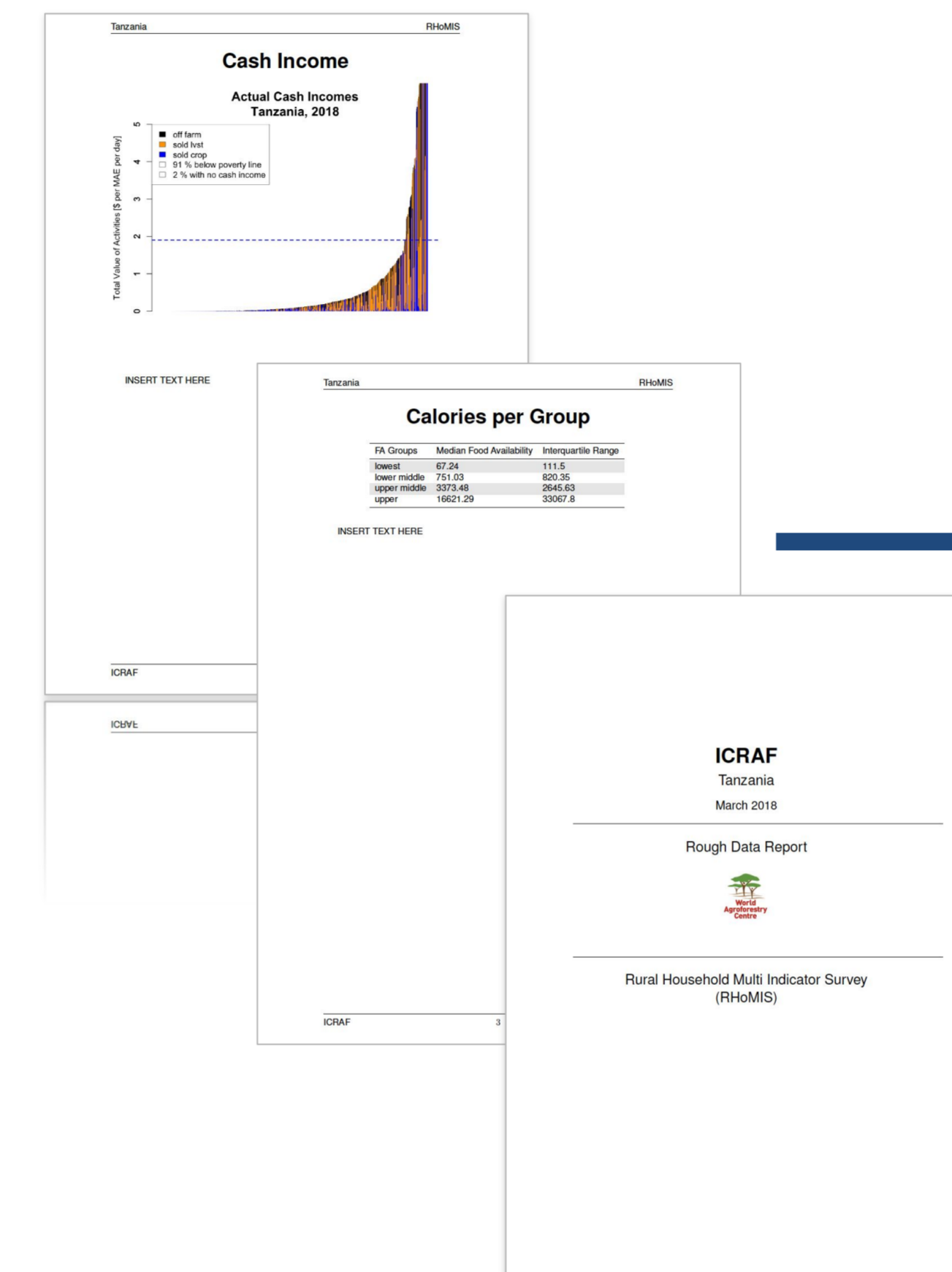
Development practitioners, policy makers and the private sector need information on populations and farming systems when designing and implementing programs and policies. Users of RHOMIS collect data that is fit for such purpose. The increasing (i) diversity of topics covered in the survey's modules, (ii) availability of household data ($N > 20,000$), and (iii) sophistication and robustness of analyses suggests RHOMIS should be in a clear position to inform development conversations with data. Can RHOMIS supply the demand? How can the wealth of data and analyses be turned into the knowledge products characterizing both specific sites but also the group as a whole? Here we illustrate two attempts to create data-rich but accessible information for development audiences.



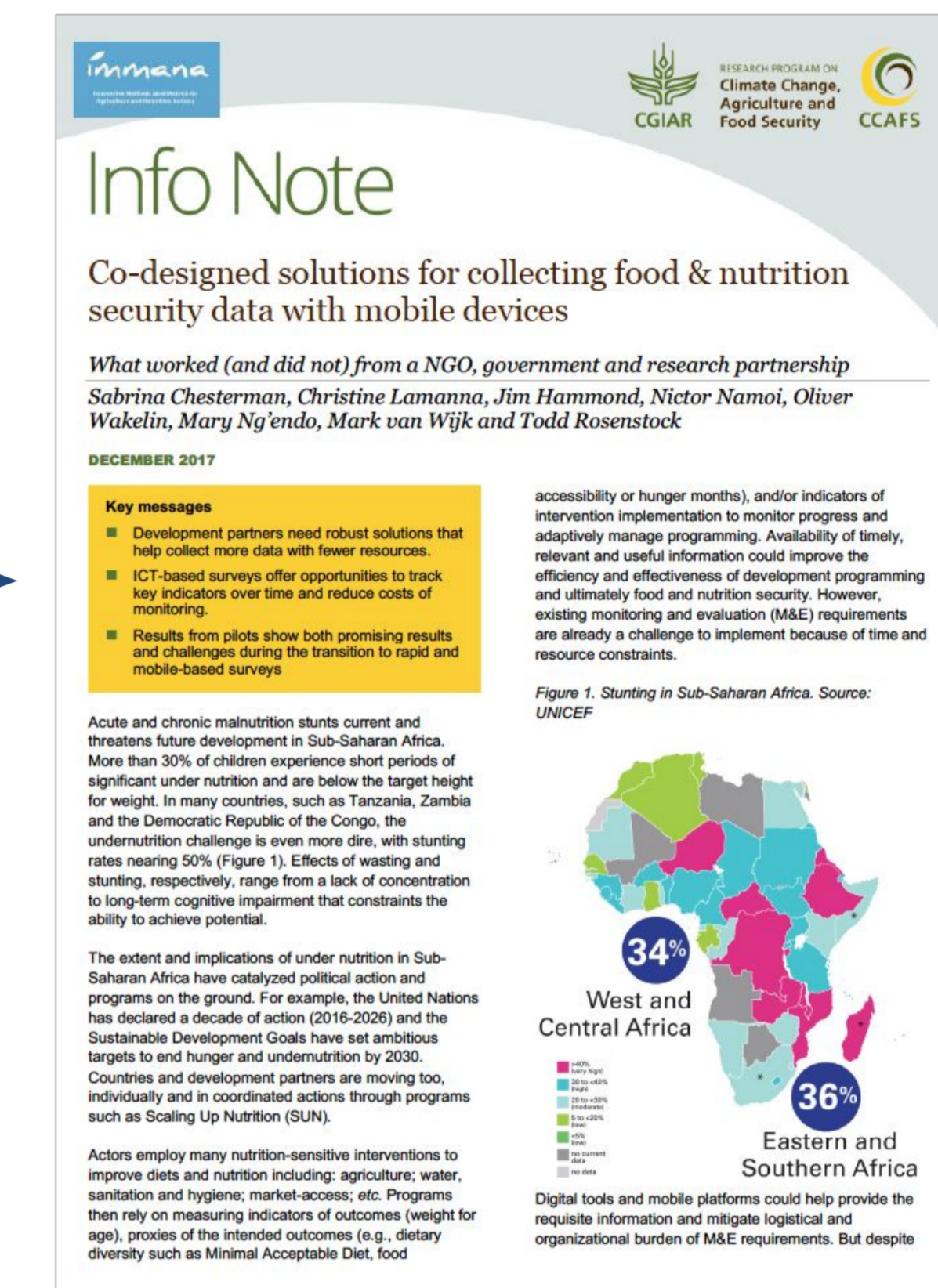
Photo: N. Palmer

Data need to be transformed into accessible and flexible formats to inform programming.

Site reports to provide actionable information



Automated and (relatively) raw output



Concise and 'glossy' reports explaining results found for next users

CCAFS Info Notes provide an example of well branded results brochures that are

1. informative,
2. accessible,
3. contextual and
4. relatively standard

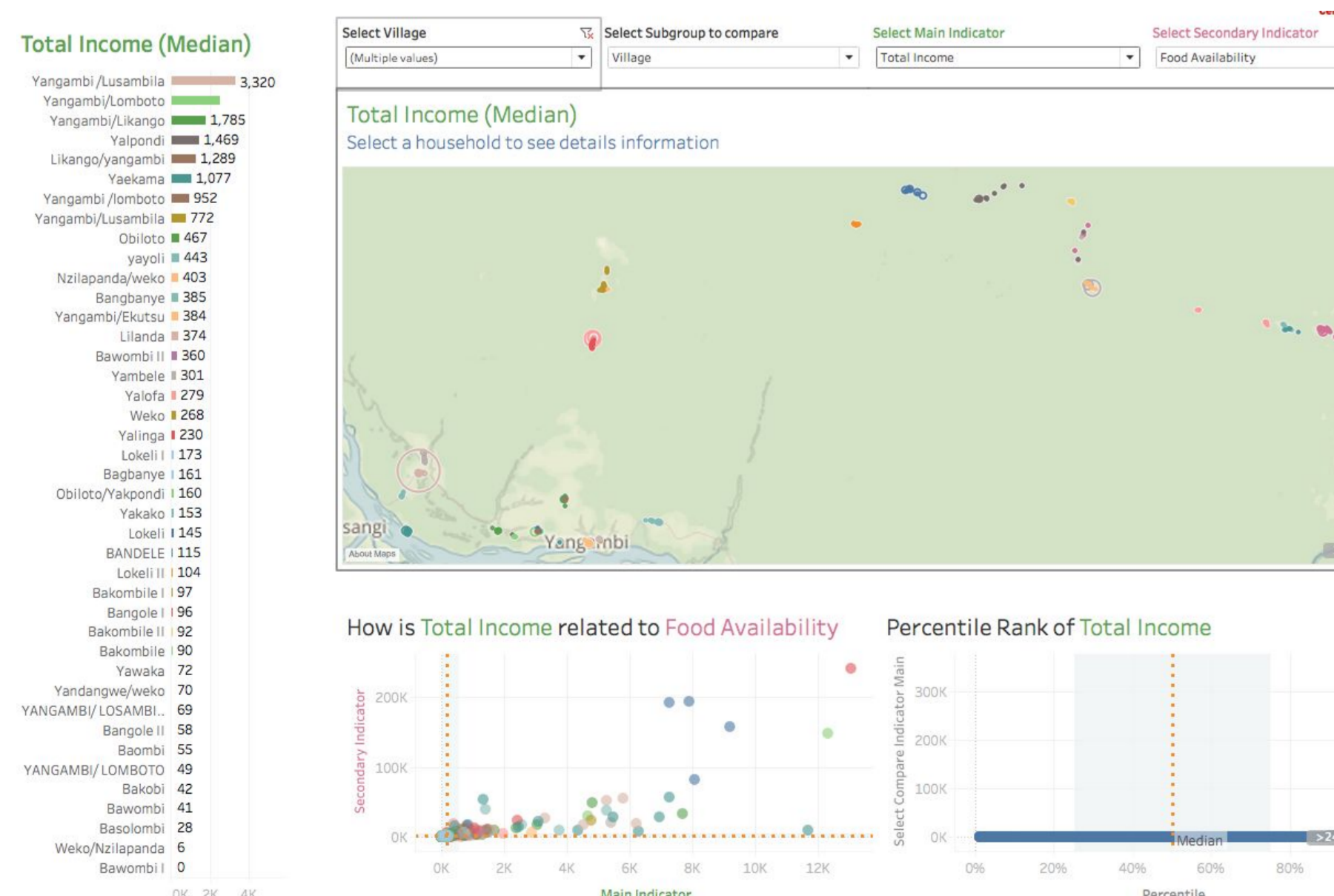
Coming soon: A site report on livelihood systems around **DRC's Yangambi Biosphere Reserve**.

Data visualizations

Beta versions of interactive platforms designed to describe and explore livelihood and farming systems characterised by RHOMIS. These examples were created in Tableau but many other options are

Dashboard

Interactive graphics that modify graphs in unison based on data filter



vs.

Storyboard

Directed individual analyses that answer key questions compiled in a single workbook



Opportunities

- Easily embed interactive graphics in Web sites
- Flexible and can be tailored to specific audience needs
- Audience selects topics of interest

Challenges

- Too many indicators and raw data slow program processing speeds
- Too much data can be overwhelming to users
- Outliers skew graphics

Conclusions

RHOMIS presents a significant opportunity to provide both site- and topic-specific information to decision makers. However, the amount and diversity of data collected makes it challenging to create relevant and targeted, yet generalizable, knowledge products.

Next steps

1. Finalize the mock-up of the site report;
2. Create standardized template for site reports with collaborators and next user if sufficient interest;
3. Participate in/develop team to further develop the dashboards or other standardized and cross-site knowledge products for a range of specific audiences.