

### **Factors Affecting Food Security Status Among a Refugee Population**

Many refugees in America experience food insecurity related to a myriad of issues such as low acculturation rate, language barrier, and lack of resources. Food insecurity is also associated with numerous health conditions including, but not limited to, diabetes mellitus, heart disease, and obesity. Little is known about the prevalence of food security status among newly resettled refugees in Chittenden County Vermont participating in the New Farms for New Americans program (NFNA), a program developed by the Association for Africans Living in Vermont (AALV). NFNA provides the tools and resources necessary to produce food for personal consumption and sell at the market. Using a translated survey, the objectives of this pilot study were to (1) report on the findings of food security status among newly resettled refugees who are participating in NFNA, (2) to investigate possible correlations between country of origin and reason for NFNA participation, and (3) explore barriers to meeting food goals. Final results are pending. This findings will aid future efforts to better meet the food and nutrition needs of the refugees.

**Key words:** food security, food insecurity, refugees, new Americans, farming