



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Call for Proposals

FAO's *Voices of the Hungry* project promotes innovative research on food insecurity through access to data from the Gallup® World Poll

For the third time, FAO is offering the opportunity to **study food insecurity at a global level** by granting licenses through a competitive process to qualified researchers interested in working with the Gallup World Poll (GWP) dataset. Since 2014, the **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)** survey module has been included in the GWP questionnaire, providing an unprecedented chance to investigate the determinants and consequences of food insecurity across geographic and cultural contexts.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale

The FIES was developed by FAO to be a **new global standard for measuring food insecurity**, based on people's self-reported experiences facing constraints in accessing food. It can be used to produce food insecurity prevalence estimates whose validity and reliability can be formally assessed and that can be **compared across countries**. Application of the FIES through the GWP has made it possible to provide annual information on rates of food insecurity at different levels of severity worldwide, used for **global monitoring** of the development agenda objectives, but also with great potential to **inform international and national policy making**.

The Gallup World Poll data license

The GWP is a survey of adult individuals, conducted every year and designed to be nationally representative in over 150 countries, that asks about their opinions, experiences, habits, and living conditions. Information is collected via either face-to-face or telephone interviews on a wide variety of topics, including business and economics, citizen engagement, communication and technology, environment and energy, food and shelter, government and politics, health, law and order, religion and ethics, social issues, well-being, and work. Licenses allow for access to the full set of GWP data going back to 2005, including six years of FIES data, for a period of one year. More information on what is covered in the survey can be found [here](#).

Value to researchers

FAO's data are public goods, and the organization follows a policy of open data. For this reason, FIES data collected in the GWP and six demographic variables is publicly available for a large number of countries¹ through a new [microdata dissemination portal](#). However, GWP data license holders will have access for a period of **one year** to the **complete dataset**, including **all years, countries, and variables** ever included in the survey, allowing for more in-depth analysis of determinants and consequences of food insecurity, as well as trends over time.² Additional variables computed by FAO to provide individual-level measures of food insecurity at two levels of severity will also be made available to researchers to use in their analyses.

It should be noted that no financial support will be provided to applicants awarded a license.

Existing research

A [list of studies](#) using the GWP / FIES has been compiled to illustrate the diversity of existing research and to aid applicants in developing novel approaches to address new research questions.

Application process

As in previous years, licenses will be granted through a two-step application process:

Step 1: Applicants are invited to submit their **Curriculum Vitae**, along with a **one-page Letter of Interest** to call-proposal-voh@fao.org by September 15, 2019. Letters of interest should include:

- Name and address of researcher
- Institutional affiliation and address
- Summary of food or nutrition security research to date
- Brief description of proposed research using GWP data (general theme of study)

Selection criteria for Step 1:

1. Master's degree or equivalent (or currently enrolled in a Master's level program of study)
2. Research experience in food security or related field
3. Relevance and importance of proposed research topic.

Step 2:

Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals detailing their research plan. Additional information on Gallup's sampling and survey methods, a copy of the core questionnaire, and tools for identifying variables of interest will be provided, as well as background materials on the FIES to

¹ Public dissemination of country level data by FAO is conditional on FAO receiving written consent by national institutions that are responsible for SDG monitoring.

² License holders cannot re-disseminate microdata, and FAO will need to be consulted on the publication of results of the analysis that refer to specific countries.

help researchers construct their proposals. Requirements and guidelines for proposals, evaluation criteria, and information on rules and responsibilities for license holders will also be included.

Timeline

