

VOICES — of the — HUNGRY

Measuring people's food insecurity through their experiences

A new, globally valid standard allows comparisons of food security measures across countries and social groups



The Voices of the Hungry Project

- Uses the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), a new metric for measuring the severity of the food insecurity condition of households and individuals
- Provides a direct assessment of the adequacy of food access, a key dimension of food security for which proper indicators are missing
- A questionnaire of 8 simple yes/no questions, asked directly to adults to reveal food-related behaviors and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food

The concept behind the FIES

- Experiences can be ranked in terms of severity from the least severe to the most severe, for example:



- The more food insecure a person is, the more likely he or she will report having suffered from the worst experience
- It uses a long established psychometric model (Rasch measurement model) to estimate the severity of each respondent's experience
 - The individual measure of severity depends on the entire pattern of responses. The answers to all questions are used to increase the precision of the measure.

Objectives

- To establish a globally valid standard for measuring the severity of food insecurity that allows comparisons over time, across countries and across social groups
- To estimate the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity in 150+ countries in 2014 and 2015, and to set a benchmark against which to monitor progress at national level.
- To make the linguistically and culturally adapted questionnaire available to any interested user in more than 200 languages.
- To promote adoption of the FIES in national food security monitoring systems, by including the module in national household surveys

Main benefits

- People's access to adequate food is measured directly
- Rapid and low cost – enables timely monitoring
- Complements other existing measures of food security
- Enables assessment of the depth of food insecurity (mild, moderate, or severe)
- Allows assessment of food insecurity experiences at the individual level, thus permitting proper analysis of gender related food insecurity disparities
- A sound methodology (Item-Response Theory) allows assessment of reliability and precision of the measures

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