

Voices of the Hungry

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE Survey Modules

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale Survey Module (FIES-SM) is composed of **eight core questions**¹ with dichotomous yes/no responses. The FIES-SM generates data that can be used to produce measures defined on a scale covering a range of severity of food insecurity. The FIES items **should always be analyzed together, never as separate items,** when producing and reporting food insecurity estimates.

The FIES-SM is a flexible tool. Individual-referenced and household-referenced versions are provided below. Choice of the module depends on whether the objective is to assess:

- food insecurity in the population based on **individual** or **household-level** data;
- food insecurity experienced during the past year, the past 30 days, or both.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale Survey Module (FIES-SM)

Which FIES-SM is right for your objectives?



Before applying the FIES-SM in a new setting, it is essential to carefully prepare a linguistically and culturally adapted translation of the FIES into all the languages in which it will be administered.²

¹ Follow-up questions about reference period or frequency of occurrence can be added as indicated in some of the modules.

² For guidance on adaptation and translation, including translations of the "FIES-SM Individual 12 months" into more than 100 languages and dialects, see the supporting materials available at "How to use the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)" [https://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/using-fies/en/]

12-month referenced modules for SDG 2 monitoring of annual food insecurity

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM)						
FIES-SM Individual – 12 months						
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.						
Q1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you were worried you would not	0	No	98	Don't Know		
have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you were unable to	0	No	98	Don't Know		
eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods	0	No	98	Don't Know		
because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you had to skip a meal because	0	No	98	Don't Know		
there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate less than you	0	No	98	Don't Know		
thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there a time when your household ran out of food	0	No	98	Don't Know		
because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q7. In the past 12 months, was there a time when you were hungry but did not eat	0	No	98	Don't Know		
because of a lack of money or other resources for food?	1	Yes	99	Refused		
Q8. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you went without eating for a	0	No	98	Don't Know		
whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused		

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM) FIES-SM Household – 12 months					
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.					
Q1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household	0	No	98	Don't Know	
were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or	1	Yes	99	Refused	
other resources?					
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your	0	No	98	Don't Know	
household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money	1	Yes	99	Refused	
or other resources?					
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household	0	No	98	Don't Know	
ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household	0	No	98	Don't Know	
had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get	1	Yes	99	Refused	
food?					
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your	0	No	98	Don't Know	
household ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other	1	Yes	99	Refused	
resources?					
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there a time when your household ran out of food	0	No	98	Don't Know	
because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q7. In the past 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household	0	No	98	Don't Know	
were hungry but did not eat because of a lack of money or other resources for food?	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q8. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household	0	No	98	Don't Know	
went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	Yes	99	Refused	

30-day reference period modules for assessing recent food insecurity

For all of the FIES-SMs that include a 30-day reference period, the last three questions, which refer to the most severe food insecurity situations, follow the wording of the Household Hunger Scale (HHS). This makes it possible to compute the HHS indicator and to inform Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessments.

The follow-up **frequency questions** in the **orange cells** can be used if the prevalence of severe food insecurity during the past 4 weeks is expected to be high, and there is a need to **discriminate better among the severely food insecure**. They are **optional**.

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SC	ALE SURVEY MODULE (A	FIES-SM)		
FIES-SM Individ	dual – 30 day			
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.	0 1 00 D 14			
Q1. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you were	0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused			
worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a	1 Yes 99 Refused			
lack of money or other resources?				
Q2. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when	0 No 98 Don't Know			
you were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of	1 Yes 99 Refused			
a lack of money or other resources?				
Q3. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you ate	0 No 98 Don't Know			
only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other	1 Yes 99 Refused			
resources?				
Q4. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you had to	0 No 98 Don't Know			
skip a meal because there was not enough money or other	1 Yes 99 Refused			
resources to get food?				
Q5. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when	0 No 98 Don't Know			
you ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of	1 Yes 99 Refused			
money or other resources?				
Q6. In the past 4 weeks, was there ever no food to eat of any	0 No 98 Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q6a		
kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?	d in your house because of lack of resources to get food? 1 Yes 99 Refused			
Q6a. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times)			
(30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times)			
	3 Often (more than 10 times)			
	98 Don't Know			
Q7. In the past 4 weeks, did you ever go to sleep at night	99 Refused 0 No 98 Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q7a		
	1 Yes 99 Refused	(otherwise go to Q8)		
hungry because there was not enough food?	//	(otherwise go to Qo)		
Q7a. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times) 2 Sometimes (3-10 times)			
(30 days)?	3 Often (more than 10 times)			
	98 Don't Know			
	99 Refused			
Q8. During the last 4 weeks, did you ever go a whole day and	0 No 98 Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q8a		
night without eating anything at all because there was not	1 Yes 99 Refused	(otherwise END)		
enough food?				
Q8a. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times)			
(30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times)			
	3 Often (more than 10 times)			
	98 Don't Know			
	99 Refused			

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM)					
FIES-SM House	ehold – 30 day				
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.	0 N 00 D NV				
Q1. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or	0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused				
others in your household were worried you would not have	1 1es 99 Ketused				
enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other					
resources?					
Q2. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when	0 No 98 Don't Know				
you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy	1 Yes 99 Refused				
and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other					
resources?					
Q3. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or	0 No 98 Don't Know				
others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods	1 Yes 99 Refused				
because of a lack of money or other resources?					
Q4. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or	0 No 98 Don't Know				
others in your household had to skip a meal because there	1 Yes 99 Refused				
was not enough money or other resources to get food?					
Q5. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when	0 No 98 Don't Know				
you ate or others in your household less than you thought you	1 Yes 99 Refused				
should because of a lack of money or other resources?	1 100 // 11014500				
-	0 No 98 Don't Know If "Yes", ask Q6a				
Q6. In the past 4 weeks, was there ever no food to eat of any					
kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?	(other wise go to Q1)				
Q6a. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times)				
(30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times) 3 Often (more than 10 times)				
	98 Don't Know				
	99 Refused				
Q7. In the past 4 weeks, did you or others in your household	0 No 98 Don't Know If "Yes", ask Q7a				
ever go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough	1 Yes 99 Refused (otherwise go to Q8)				
food?	(3 2)				
Q7a. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times)				
(30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times)				
(50 days).	3 Often (more than 10 times)				
	98 Don't Know				
	99 Refused				
Q8. During the last 4 weeks, did you or others in your	0 No 98 Don't Know If "Yes", ask Q8a				
household ever go a whole day and night without eating	1 Yes 99 Refused (otherwise END)				
anything at all because there was not enough food?					
Q8a. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times)				
(30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times)				
	3 Often (more than 10 times)				
	98 Don't Know				
	99 Refused				

12-month + 30-day reference period modules for assessment of both annual and recent food insecurity

NOTE: If the prevalence of severe food insecurity during the past 4 weeks is expected to be high, and there is a need to **discriminate better among the severely food insecure**, follow-up **frequency questions** can be added to the last three questions (**orange cells**). They are **optional**.

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM) FIES-SM Individual – 12 month + 30 day					
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.	12	moni	n +	sv aay	
Q1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you were	0	No	98	Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q1a
worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q2)
lack of money or other resources?					
Q1a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes		Refused	
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time	0	No	98	Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q2a
when you were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q3)
because of a lack of money or other resources?					
Q2a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
, , , ,	1	Yes		Refused	
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q3a
only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q4)
resources?					
Q3a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes		Refused	
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you had	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q4a
to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q5)
resources to get food?					
Q4a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No		Don't Know	
	1	Yes		Refused	
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q5a
when you ate less than you thought you should because of a	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q6)
lack of money or other resources?					
Q5a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98		
	1	Yes		Refused	
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there ever no food to eat of any	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q6a
kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?	1	Yes		Refused	(otherwise go to Q7)
Q6a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q6b
	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q7)
Q6b. How often did this happen in the past 4				2 times)	
weeks (30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times)				
	3 Often (more than 10 times)				
	98 Don't Know 99 Refused				
Q7. In the past 12 months, did you ever go to sleep at night	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q7a
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1	Yes		Refused	
hungry because there was not enough food?					(otherwise go to Q8)
Q7a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	$\begin{vmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$	No Yes		Don't Know Refused	If "Yes", ask Q7b
	1	168	77	Ketuseu	(otherwise go to Q8)

	Q7b. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times) 2 Sometimes (3-10 times) 3 Often (more than 10 times) 98 Don't Know 99 Refused	
Q8. During the last 12 months, did you ever go a whole day and night without eating anything at all because there was not enough food?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	If "Yes", ask Q8a (otherwise END)
	Q8a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	If "Yes", ask Q8b (otherwise END)
	Q8b. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times) 2 Sometimes (3-10 times) 3 Often (more than 10 times) 98 Don't Know 99 Refused	

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM)							
	FIES-SM Household – 12 month + 30 day						
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food. Q1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or	0	No	08	Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q1a		
	1	Yes		Refused	_ ·		
others in your household were worried you would not have	1	103		Refused	(otherwise go to Q2)		
enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other							
resources?		N T	00	D VIV			
Q1a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98 99	Don't Know Refused			
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time	0	Yes No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q2a		
when you or others in your household were unable to eat	1	Yes		Refused	(otherwise go to Q3)		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		105	,,	11010500	(other wise go to 93)		
healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or							
other resources?		N T	00	D 1/ IZ			
Q2a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No Voc		Don't Know			
O2 Device the left 12 m of the section of	1	Yes	99	Refused	If "V" 1 02		
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or	0	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused	If "Yes", ask Q3a		
others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods because	1	ies	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q4)		
of a lack of money or other resources?							
Q3a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No		Don't Know			
04 Dei al 1 412 al montho di montho di mantho d	1	Yes		Refused Don't Know	IC "V " 1 O 4		
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or	0	No Yes		Refused	If "Yes", ask Q4a		
others in your household had to skip a meal because there was	1	res	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q5)		
not enough money or other resources to get food?							
Q4a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No		Don't Know			
	1	Yes		Refused			
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q5a		
when you or others in your household ate less than you	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q6)		
thought you should because of a lack of money or other							
resources?							
Q5a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No		Don't Know			
	1	Yes	99	Refused			
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there ever no food to eat of any	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q6a		
kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q7)		
Q6a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q6b		
	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q7)		
Q6b. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks	1 Rarely (1 or 2 times)						
(30 days)?	2 Sometimes (3-10 times)						
	3 Often (more than 10 times)						
	98 Don't Know			7			
		Refuse					
Q7. In the past 12 months, did you or others in your household	0	No		Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q7a		
ever go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q8)		
food?							
Q7a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q7b		
	1	Yes	99	Refused	(otherwise go to Q8)		

	Q7b. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	2 Sometim		
Q8. Duri	ng the last 12 months, did you or others in your	0 No	98 Don't Know	If "Yes", ask Q8a
househo	d ever go a whole day and night without eating	1 Yes	99 Refused	(otherwise END)
anything	anything at all because there was not enough food?			
	28a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No 1 Yes	98 Don't Know 99 Refused	If "Yes", ask Q8b (otherwise END)
	Q8b. How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	2 Sometim		