



Food security and nutrition statistics

The food security and nutrition statistics team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) produces key indicators for tracking progress on FAO's first strategic objective to eliminate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

The methods and tools developed by the team are used by FAO, its global partners, regional organizations and national governments alike to gather valuable evidence on global, regional, and country food security and nutrition trends. To fulfil one of FAO's core functions, the food security indicators are compiled and publicly disseminated through such digital platforms as FAOSTAT and the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) database.

Area of work

> The food security and nutrition statistics team develops and promotes the adoption of standards, methodologies and tools for generating theoretically grounded and statistically sound food security and nutrition indicators that are comparable across countries. The team is responsible for producing regular estimates of the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU), which is FAO's traditional indicator of chronic hunger, and of the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which reflects FAO's new approach to measuring food insecurity. These two FAO indicators are included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring framework as indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

The team, moreover, manages the Voices of the Hungry Project that, building on more than 20 years of international research and practice with experience-based food security measurement, developed the FIES methodology, which is the set of statistical methods needed to produce estimates of the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity that are comparable across countries.

> The team also co-leads the preparation of one of FAO's annual flagship publications, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI). Every year, SOFI provides the most up-to-date food security and nutrition indicators, particularly those that relate to SDG 2, "End hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition."

- > In addition to the methodological development and the generation and dissemination of statistics, an essential component of the team's work is building the capacity of national institutions in food security and nutrition measurement, promoting country ownership of FAO methodologies and standards.

Core objectives

- > Produce food security and nutrition indicators.
- > Develop methodologies and statistical and analytical tools to monitor food security at the global, regional, and country levels.
- > Empower countries to adopt these methodologies and use appropriate tools to inform their policies on food security and nutrition.
- > Build the statistical capacity of countries to monitor SDG indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 according to international standards, as well as support FAO in its role as a custodian for SDG Indicators.

Key products by statistical function

Data collection and dissemination

- > Provide data to update FAOSTAT domains relating to food security, including the series of SDG indicators 2.1.1 (prevalence of undernourishment) and 2.1.2 (prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity) and the suite of Food Security Indicators.
- > Provide data to update FAOSTAT domains relating to nutrition, including relevant indicators derived from the analysis of national household survey data.
- > Co-lead the publication of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).

Methodological work

- > Development and constant update of methodologies and analytical tools to calculate food security and nutrition indicators at national and subnational levels, including the prevalence of undernourishment (SDG Indicator 2.1.1) and the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity based on the FIES (SDG indicator 2.1.2);

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FURTHER INFORMATION

- > **Food security statistics:**

www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-fs/en

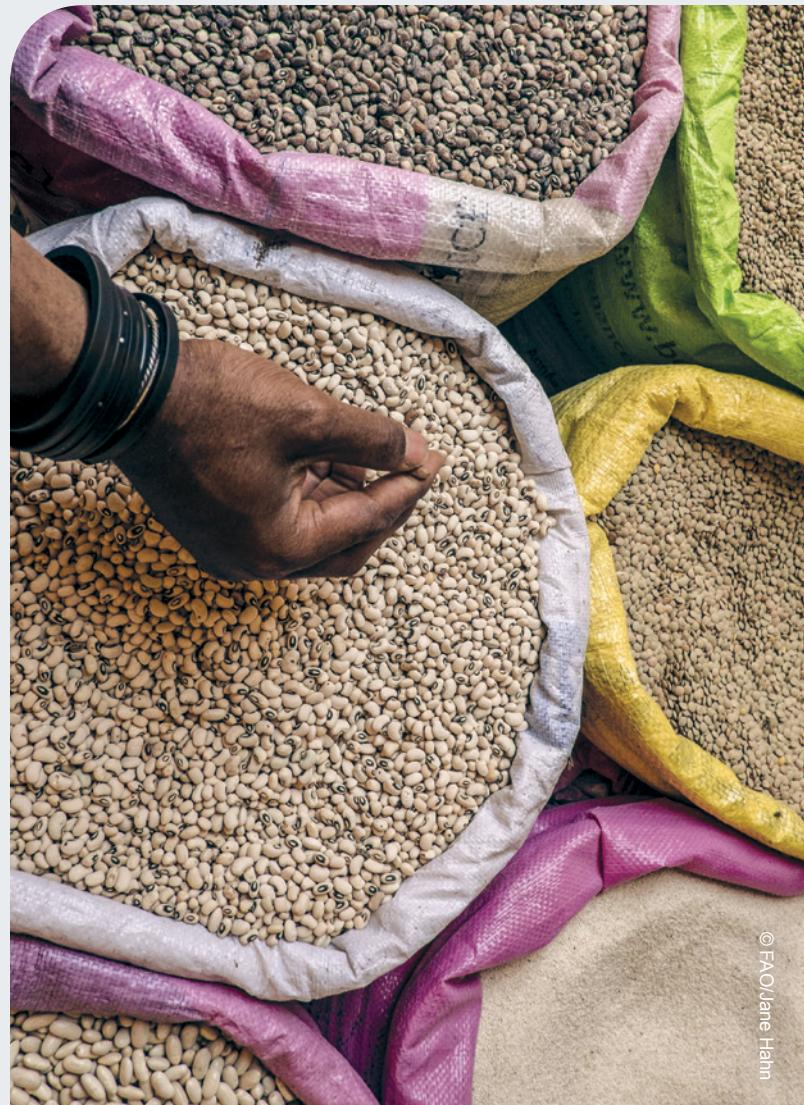
- > **Voices of the Hungry (VoH) project:**

www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/en

- > Development and improvement of analytical methods for food consumption data collected in population surveys (household and individual) to compute nutrition-relevant indicators.

Capacity development

- > Providing training and technical assistance to member countries to:
 1. Collect and analyze data on food consumption and produce food security and nutrition indicators; and
 2. Adapt and include the FIES survey module in national surveys, analyze the data, and produce estimates of the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity.
- > Promote self-study via self-paced or tutored e learning, or through multimedia and printed manuals.



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