Indicators of Food Security

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Considerations

• Socioeconomic, Governance and Agro-Ecological Context – Regional / National / Local / Site Specificity
• Causation (as opposed to association); Identification of Drivers
• Practicality and Ease of Measurement (realistic and non-‘Cumbersome’)
• Non-Intrusive (respect for human dignity of respondents) – relief context may not be helpful
• Disaggregation of Sample (Gender and related socio-political and cultural dynamics)
• Mitigation as a Consideration (‘Reversibility’, ‘Directionality’ toward desired outcomes)
FAO Parameters of Food Security

- **Availability**: Household food production and crop diversity
- **Access**: Percentage food expenditure to total household expenditures
- **Utilisation**: Degree of access to services (water, health and sanitation)
- **Stability**: Stability of food prices and supply
Food Stability and Availability

• **Indicator 1:** Stability of food price and supply—beware assumptions of causality; disaggregation of (and inter-relationships between) drivers (Food Stability)

• **Indicator 2:** Household food production (total, and gendered) (Food Availability)

• **Indicator 2b:** Food crop diversity (Food Availability)
Food Access

• **Indicator 3a**: Sufficiency of household food consumption (Food Access)

• **Proxy 1**: Percentage household expenditure on food

• **Proxy 2**: Number of meals taken in a day
  (important to determine whether/how these change over time or throughout a given year/agricultural cycle)

• **Indicator 3b**: Household dietary diversity (Food Access)
Food Utilisation

• **Indicator 4**: Degree of access to utilities and services, *e.g.* water, energy, health and sanitation (Food Utilisation)

• **N.B.**: Access may be gendered
Assessment Tools and Levels of Inquiry
Availability

- **Tool**: Crop production survey (area and yield by crop type), seasonality

- **Indicator**: household food production and crop diversity

- **Scale**: Household and community levels
Access

• **Tool**: Household consumption survey

• **Indicator**: percentage food expenditure to total household expenditures

• **Scale**: Household and community levels
Utilisation

- **Tool**: Water, health and sanitation survey on access to services, including female education and infrastructure, access to energy

- **Indicator**: Degree of access to utilities, services

- **Scale**: Household and community levels
Stability

• **Tool**: Market monitoring - trade patterns and infrastructure, price and supply of key commodities

• **Indicator**: Stability of food prices and supply

• **Scale**: Community and key informant levels