



## Data for decision-making Rapid, repeated assessments to monitor food insecurity

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### The issue

The COVID-19 outbreak demands new and rapid data and a shift in priorities. Real-time information helps to evaluate the impact of the outbreak on food security as it evolves. Food-security analysis requires the measurement of changes in people's access to food and examines the underlying causes.

Specifically, we need to be able to measure and monitor moderate and severe food insecurity and assess the evolution of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic at country, regional and global level. Countries and the international food and nutrition community need access to sound and reliable data to assess the status of food insecurity in populations and, thus, the impact of COVID-19 on food security, so they can implement effective and targeted policies and programmes to combat food shortages.

### The action

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) measures the severity of food insecurity at the household or individual level. It produces estimates of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 2.1.2 on the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population. The FIES Survey Module used for SDG monitoring, can be adapted to respond to the urgent challenge of measuring and monitoring food insecurity in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, while preserving measurement rigour and reliability. By adapting the module, questions can capture the extent to which food insecurity experiences are linked to the COVID-19 crisis.

The programme will also transfer technical capacity to key stakeholders, such as national statistical offices and line ministries. The FIES Survey Module will be conducted together with other sociodemographic data-collection in three rounds of surveys that are representative of the national population in at least 100 countries globally. The data will be collected by a contracted service provider and shared with national statistical agencies.

Decision makers will benefit not only from higher-quality data, but also from better analytical progress reports, which will help to identify the key determinants of food insecurity in the context of the pandemic. Thus, by addressing all steps of the data cycle and establishing a strong link to the policy work of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the programme will ultimately help countries achieve food security.

### Budget

USD 2 million

### Timeframe

2021–2023

### SDGs



### Related FAO COVID-19 Policy notes

- ▶ [Anticipating the impacts of COVID-19 in humanitarian and food crisis contexts](#)



## Expected results

- 1 Data will be collected and analysed to measure and monitor food insecurity based on FAO's FIES Scale module, at moderate and severe level, and to provide information on the evolution of COVID-19 effects at country, regional and global level.
- 2 Microdata collected will be disseminated through FAO's Microdata Catalogue to allow data users to undertake their own analyses, maximizing the value of the data collected.
- 3 National food-security analysts will develop their capacity to collect and analyse data on food insecurity through remote technical assistance and training.
- 4 Analytical methods and software tools will be developed to analyse the adapted FIES Module and analytical reports will be produced on the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on food insecurity.

## Partnerships

European Union

## Programme links

The programme will tie in with FAO Voices of the Hungry initiative, spanning more than 140 countries, with funding from the Department for International Development, the government of Belgium and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It will support data-collection to inform FAO's COVID-19 Response programmes, including Collective action for sustainable food systems and Zero Hunger. Its results will also ultimately feed into the analytics foreseen for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, Measuring the Sustainable Development Goals and the Common country analyses performed by United Nations Country Teams.

## Regional and country focus

Data will be collected and analysed for a minimum of 100 countries around the world

## Contact

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