



Voices of the Hungry

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE Survey Modules

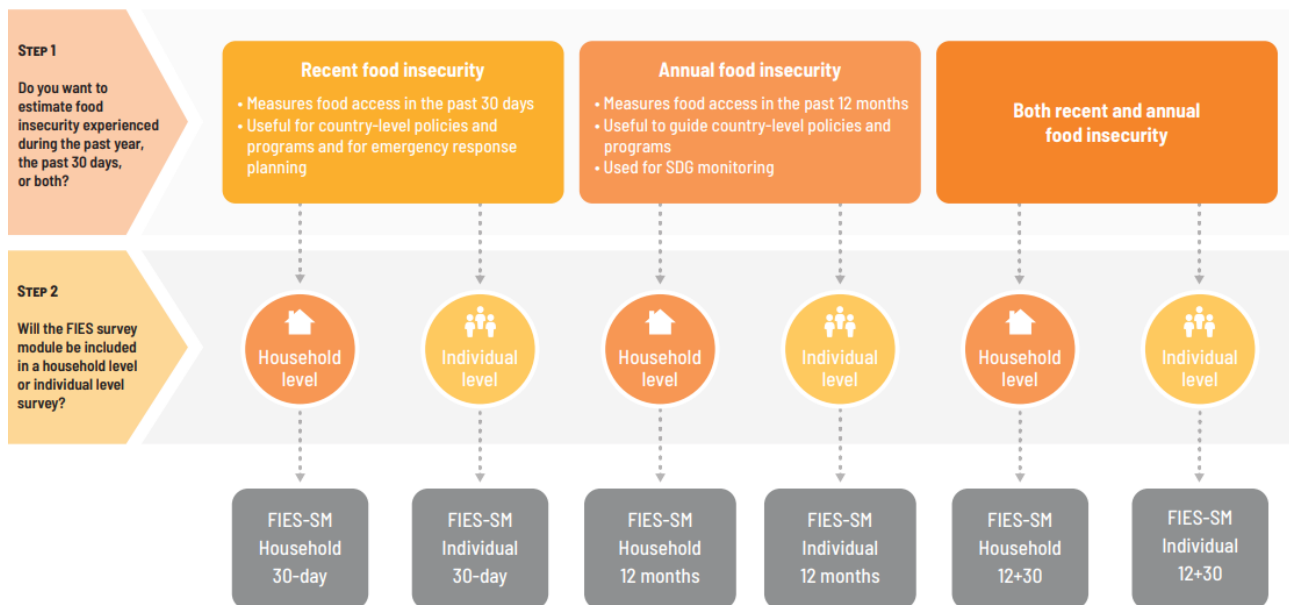
The Food Insecurity Experience Scale Survey Module (FIES-SM) is composed of **eight core questions**¹ with dichotomous yes/no responses. The FIES-SM generates data that can be used to produce measures defined on a scale covering a range of severity of food insecurity. The FIES items **should always be 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)				
<i>FIES-SM Individual – 12 months</i>				
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 have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q7. In the past 12 months, was there a time when you were hungry but did not eat because of a lack of money or other resources for food?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q8. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused

FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM)				
<i>FIES-SM Household – 12 months</i>				
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 were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q7. In the past 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household were hungry but did not eat because of a lack of money or other resources for food?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know Refused
Q8. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	0 1	No Yes	98 99	Don't Know 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 SCALE SURVEY MODULE (FIES-SM)				
FIES-SM Individual – 30 day				
Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.				
Q1. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98 Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99 Refused	
Q2. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98 Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99 Refused	
Q3. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98 Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99 Refused	
Q4. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	0	No	98 Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99 Refused	
Q5. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98 Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99 Refused	
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?	0	No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q6a</i>
	1	Yes	99 Refused	<i>(otherwise go to Q7)</i>
	Q6a. 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			
Q7. In the past 4 weeks, did you ever go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food?	0	No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q7a</i>
	1	Yes	99 Refused	<i>(otherwise go to Q8)</i>
	Q7a. 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 4 weeks, 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	<i>If "Yes", ask Q8a</i>
	1	Yes	99 Refused	<i>(otherwise END)</i>
	Q8a. 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 – 30 day

Now I would like to ask you some questions about food.

Q1. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or others in your household were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	
Q2. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	
Q3. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	
Q4. During the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you or others in your household had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	
Q5. Still thinking about the last 4 weeks, was there a time when you ate or others in your household less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	
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?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	<i>If "Yes", ask Q6a (otherwise go to Q7)</i>
	Q6a. 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	
Q7. In the past 4 weeks, did you or others in your household ever go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food?		0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	<i>If "Yes", ask Q7a (otherwise go to Q8)</i>
	Q7a. 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 4 weeks, did you or others in your household 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	<i>If "Yes", ask Q8a (otherwise END)</i>
	Q8a. 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	

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.					
Q1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q1a (otherwise go to Q2)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q1a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q2a (otherwise go to Q3)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q2a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q3a (otherwise go to Q4)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q3a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q4a (otherwise go to Q5)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q4a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q5a (otherwise go to Q6)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q5a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there ever no food to eat of any kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q6a (otherwise go to Q7)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q6a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q6b (otherwise go to Q7)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q6b. 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			
Q7. In the past 12 months, did you ever go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q7a (otherwise go to Q8)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	
Q7a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0	No	98	Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q7b (otherwise go to Q8)</i>
	1	Yes	99	Refused	

	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	<i>If "Yes", ask Q8a (otherwise END)</i>
	Q8a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No 98 Don't Know 1 Yes 99 Refused	<i>If "Yes", ask Q8b (otherwise END)</i>
	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 others in your household were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q1a (otherwise go to Q2)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q1a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
Q2. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q2a (otherwise go to Q3)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q2a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
Q3. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q3a (otherwise go to Q4)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q3a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
Q4. During the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q4a (otherwise go to Q5)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q4a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
Q5. Still thinking about the last 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q5a (otherwise go to Q6)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q5a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
Q6. In the past 12 months, was there ever no food to eat of any kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q6a (otherwise go to Q7)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q6a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q6b (otherwise go to Q7)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q6b. 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		
Q7. In the past 12 months, did you or others in your household ever go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food?		0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q7a (otherwise go to Q8)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	
	Q7a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No	98 Don't Know	<i>If "Yes", ask Q7b (otherwise go to Q8)</i>
		1 Yes	99 Refused	

	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 or others in your household ever go a whole day and night without eating anything at all because there was not enough food?		0 No 1 Yes	98 Don't Know 99 Refused <i>If "Yes", ask Q8a (otherwise END)</i>
	Q8a. Did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	0 No 1 Yes	98 Don't Know 99 Refused <i>If "Yes", ask Q8b (otherwise END)</i>
	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	