

How to measure child experiences of food insecurity?



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for every child

Nutrition – global food security

PROBLEM

The implementation of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (SDG 2.1.2) annually in the Gallup World Poll has provided data on experiences of food insecurity for people aged 15 years and older in about three-quarters of the world's countries. **No comparable data exist for children younger than 15 years old.** Research over the past decade has established the importance of assessing children's experiences of food insecurity directly from them rather than from parental reports because children have difference experiences of food insecurity than adults and adults often do not know about child experiences of food insecurity and consequently under-report these experiences.



SOLUTION

With the emergence of new systems for data collection for school-aged children in surveys, a globally applicable questionnaire to assess child experiences of food insecurity is needed. The objective of this project is to build on the questionnaires that have been developed and tested in the U.S. (Fram et al., 2013, 2015b), Venezuela (Bernal et al., 2014), and Lebanon (Jamaluddine et al., submitted) to, working with multiple partners:

1. Develop a potentially globally applicable questionnaire
2. Conduct cognitive interviews in multiple countries to confirm that the questionnaire items ask meaningful questions, the meaning is what was intended, and the responses are meaningful
3. Conduct quantitative field tests as opportunities to do so are available



Monitor food insecurity in children globally

DRAFT ten items to ask children:

In the last 12 months.....

1. Did you worry that food at home would run out before your family was able to get more?
2. Did you worry about how hard it is for your parents/guardians to get enough food for your family?
3. Were you not able to get the food you wanted because there wasn't enough money?
4. Has the size of your meal been cut because your family didn't have enough food?
5. Were you hungry but didn't eat because your family didn't have enough food?
6. Did you skip a meal because your family didn't have enough food?
7. Did you feel tired or weak because your family didn't have enough food to eat?
8. Did you feel embarrassed or ashamed because your family didn't have enough food?
9. Did you feel sad or mad because your family didn't have enough food?
10. Did you feel embarrassed or ashamed about any of the things you or your family had to do to get enough food?

Response Options:

Many times / 1 or 2 times / Never / Don't know / Refuse to answer