



**Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security
in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
14-15 November 2017
Ankara, Turkey**



CONCEPT NOTE

On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that will guide the actions of governments, international agencies, civil society and other institutions over the next 15 years. The SDGs aim to end poverty and hunger while restoring and sustainably managing natural resources. They integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and they are universal. The 2030 Agenda is as relevant to developed countries as it is to developing nations.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 is “**End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**”. It has five targets spanning many dimensions of food security. The first target focuses specifically on **access to food**: “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food **all year round**.” Two FAO indicators have been included in the SDG global indicator framework being developed by the UN Statistical Commission: the **Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU)** and the **Prevalence of Food Insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)**.

The PoU is an estimate of the proportion of the population facing serious food deprivation. It is derived from **national-level information** on:

- food supply;
- distribution of food consumption; and
- population characteristics such as the age/ sex structure and levels of physical activity.

The indicator has been used by FAO since 1996 to monitor the World Food Summit Target and, later, the MDG Target 1.C at national, regional and global levels.

The FIES provides estimates of the proportion of the population facing difficulties in obtaining enough food, based on direct interviews with adults. Building on two decades of experience with use of similar tools in various countries, FAO’s Voices of the Hungry (VoH) Project developed the analytical methodology for computing indicators of the prevalence of food insecurity at moderate and severe levels that are comparable across countries and cultures.

The PoU and the FIES reflect different concepts and provide complementary information. While they would be expected to show similar trends, they measure different things. People may be in a situation of moderate food insecurity yet still meet their dietary energy needs by consuming less expensive, energy dense foods, for example, or cutting back on other basic needs, with potentially negative consequences for their health and well-being. The PoU is based on national level data available for most countries, but does not provide the detailed information the FIES can provide, such as which population groups are most affected food insecurity.

An important goal of the VoH project is to promote the adoption of the FIES methodology by national governmental institutions. The full potential of the FIES to generate statistics that can inform policy is realized when the tool is applied in national population surveys that enable detailed analyses of the food insecurity situation according to income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, or other policy-relevant characteristics, as is already the case for a number of countries.

Monitoring progress requires a **joint effort** between countries and FAO. National data collected by governments should form the **foundation for monitoring** SDG 2. The goal is to provide information for action leading to policies that reach the most vulnerable groups in all countries.

The **objective of the workshop** is to develop capacities of National Statistics Office officials to advocate with national government leaders for the inclusion of the FIES and food consumption modules in national surveys for monitoring SDG target 2.1. Both the PoU and the FIES methodologies will be presented, as well as the steps to implement them and the relevance of the information they provide for food security policy.