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Subject: Re: Measuring Household Food Insecurity  
Posted by [ers\\_usda](#) on Wed, 13 Mar 2019 14:27:36 GMT

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This is a comment on the proposed inclusion of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) in the DHS. The FIES provides a validated common measure of food insecurity that can be used to track and study food insecurity around the world. This experiential food insecurity measure offers insight into the determinants of food insecurity at the individual level, making it possible to show the characteristics and geographic concentration of the food insecure. It provides the crucial ability to monitor progress towards the second United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG2), which calls for ending hunger and achieving food security for all people by 2030. The FIES was initially fielded in the Gallup World Poll in 2014, but as of 2017 has stopped being funded. Research from this initial implementation has already garnered increased understanding of those experiencing food insecurity around the world (see e.g., Frongillo et al. (2017), Frongillo et al. (2019), Jones (2017), Smith, Kassa, and Winters (2017), and Smith, Rabbitt, and Coleman-Jensen (2017)). Implementing the FIES into the DHS would allow researchers and government officials further insight about the prevalence, severity, and determinants of food insecurity and enable monitoring of the food security goals laid out in SDG2. The DHS is an appropriate survey vehicle for the FIES module and is similar in concept and some topical content to U.S. national surveys that have proven effective for food security monitoring and research.

References:

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