**Classifying Food Consumption Score (FCS) Categories in Stata**

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite score developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) that reflects dietary diversity, food frequency, and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups. It is calculated based on the number of days specific food groups were consumed by a household over a 7-day recall period. Each food group is assigned a weight based on its nutritional value, and the weighted frequencies are summed to generate the total FCS.

According to the WFP’s 'Indicators and Food Security and Nutrition Integration Guide' (Page 17), available at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/dopgy5moow6kf64/5.WFP_IndicatorsFSandNutIntegration.pdf?dl=0>, the FCS is categorized into three food consumption groups. These categories are used to classify households' food security status and inform programmatic decisions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FCS Range | Category |
| FCS ≤ 21 | Poor |
| 21 < FCS ≤ 35 | Borderline |
| FCS > 35 | Acceptable |

These thresholds assume occasional or irregular consumption of oil and sugar.

**Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) Categorization**

The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the frequency and severity of five common food-related coping strategies over the past 7 days. Each strategy is assigned a severity weight based on guidance from the WFP Coping Strategies Index Manual (Second Edition, page 17).

Standard Strategies and Severity Weights

\* Ref1.: [https://www.ennonline.net/attachments/906/coping-strategies-index-manual-second-edition-(final)[1].pdf](https://www.ennonline.net/attachments/906/coping-strategies-index-manual-second-edition-(final)%5b1%5d.pdf)

\*Ref2.:<http://www.securenutrition.org/sites/default/files/resources/attachment/english/maxwell-d_2013_how-do-different-indicators-of-hfs-compare.pdf>

\*Ref3 http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\_upload/food-security-capacity-building/docs/Nutrition/NairobiWorkshop/5.WFP\_IndicatorsFSandNutIntegration.pdf

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Strategy | Severity Weight |
| 1. Rely on less-preferred, less-expensive foods | 1 |
| 2. Borrow food or help from friends/relatives | 2 |
| 3. Limit portion size at mealtimes | 1 |
| 4. Restrict adult consumption so children can eat | 3 |
| 5. Reduce number of meals | 1 |

After summing the weighted frequencies, the total rCSI score were categorized as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| rCSI Score | Category |
| 0–3 | Low coping |
| 4–18 | Medium coping |
| >18 | High coping |

**Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) Categorization**

The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is a measure of the number of different food groups consumed by a household over the past 24 hours. It is used as a proxy indicator for the economic ability of a household to access a variety of foods. The HDDS is calculated by summing the number of distinct food groups consumed from a predefined list (typically 12 groups). Each food group consumed receives a score of 1, regardless of quantity or frequency, and the total score ranges from 0 to 12.

Based on thresholds suggested by Vaitla et al. (2015) in “Comparing Household Food Consumption Indicators to Inform Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification” (page 25), HDDS scores are grouped into three categories to classify the food security status of a household:

**HDDS Score Categorization**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HDDS Score | Category |
| 0–3 | Severely food insecure |
| 4–5 | Moderately food insecure |
| 6–12 | Food secure / Mildly food insecure |

Source: https://www.dropbox.com/s/dopgy5moow6kf64/5.WFP\_IndicatorsFSandNutIntegration.pdf?dl=0