

# A Minimal Book Example

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# Preface

The measurement of food consumption and expenditure is a fundamental component of any analysis of poverty and food security, and hence the importance and timeliness of devoting attention to the topic cannot be overemphasized as the international development community confronts the challenges of monitoring progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2014, the International Household Survey Network published a desk review of the reliability and relevance of survey questions as included in 100 household surveys from low- and middle-income countries. The report was presented in March 2014 at the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), in a seminar organized by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG-AG).

The assessment painted a bleak picture in terms of heterogeneity in survey design and overall relevance and reliability of the data being collected. On the positive side, it pointed to many areas in which even marginal changes to survey and questionnaire design could lead to a significant increase in reliability and consequently, great improvements in measurement accuracy. The report, which sparked a lot of interest from development partners and UNSC member countries, prompted IAEG-AG to pursue this area of work with the ultimate objective of developing, validating, and promoting scalable standards for the measurement of food consumption in household surveys.

The work started with an expert workshop that took place in Rome in November 2014. Successive versions of the guidelines were drafted and discussed at various IAEG-AG meetings, and in another expert workshop organized in November 2016 in Rome. The guidelines were put together by a joint FAO-World Bank team, with inputs and comments received from representatives of national statistical offices, international organizations, survey practitioners, academics, and experts in different disciplines (statistics, economics, nutrition, food security, and analysis). A list of the main contributors is included in the acknowledgment section. In December 2017 a draft of the guidelines was circulated to 148 National Statistical Offices from low- to high-income countries for comments. The document was revised following that consultation and submitted to UNSC which endorsed it at its forty-ninth session in March 2018 under item 3(j) of

the agenda, agricultural and rural statistics. The version presented here reflects what was endorsed by the Commission, edited for language. The process received support from the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The document is intended to be a reference document for National Statistical Offices, survey practitioners, and national and international agencies designing household surveys that involve the collection of food consumption and expenditure data.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Motivation

Food is an important component of many fundamental dimensions of welfare, such as food security, nutrition, and health. It comprises the largest share of total household expenditure in low-income countries, accounting for about 50 percent of the average household budget (USDA, 2011) and accordingly it is key for consumption and poverty analysis. Low levels of food access play a role in explaining why around 815 million individuals were estimated to be chronically undernourished in 2016 (FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNICEF, and WHO, 2017). Data on food consumption and expenditure underpin the most widely used measures of poverty and of food security. The collection of high-quality food consumption data is, therefore, central to the assessment and monitoring of the well-being of any human population, and is of interest to governments, international agencies, and anyone concerned with monitoring and understanding trends in social, economic, and human development.

**BOX 1 — THE CONCEPTS OF FOOD CONSUMPTION** Food data collected in HCES can be diverse, and often refer to diverse concepts. Even the term “food consumption” lends itself to multiple meanings. When the focus of the analysis is expenditure, the term “consumption” can designate the purchase of foods, disregarding the end-use of what was purchased. At the opposite end, analyses and surveys that focus on nutrition use the term “food consumption” to designate the intake of a food, possibly net of unusable parts. Throughout this document the term “food consumption” is used in a general sense and encompasses concepts or data that include food consumption, acquisition, expenditure, and intake. Additional descriptive are specifically used in places where their specific meanings are addressed or contrasted, or for details that relate to that precise terminology

Data on food consumption are needed, for example, to build the indicators and

monitor some of the targets set for Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 (ending poverty and hunger). Similarly, data on food consumption are needed to assess and guide the mandate of FAO to help eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition and the twin goals of the World Bank to eliminate extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.<sup>1</sup> Even more importantly, national and local governments and non-governmental organizations need high-quality food consumption data to guide local and regional analysis and policy, as the mis-measurement of food consumption can lead to the misallocation of funds and may compromise the design, monitoring, and evaluation of relevant policies and programs.

...and so on...

## 1.2 Objectives and audience

A product of a consultation process within the international statistical community, which culminated in the endorsement by UNSC member countries at its 49th Session, these guidelines are intended to be a reference document for national statistical offices and survey practitioners designing household consumption and expenditure surveys. In putting forward these scalable standards the IAEG-AG also seeks to promote an increase in the harmonization of survey instruments and the comparability of the resulting data. Against the backdrop of this institutional context, the guidelines have multiple aims:

First, they will provide survey practitioners tasked with designing and implementing HCES in low-income settings with a harmonized set of guiding principles. The aim is to inform the main decisions that need to be taken when designing HCES, factoring in the objective of serving a wide range of users, without compromising data quality.

Second, by putting forward a vision for some of these principles, the guidelines can serve as the basis for an international dialogue between practitioners and data users coming from different disciplines and looking for different features in the data.

Third, a set of guidelines that can be widely shared and agreed upon will increase the harmonization of the surveys that are implemented (and the resulting data) and give greater coherence to the advice that national statistical offices receive from the international statistical community. Often, different users and institutions head in different directions, resulting in countries adopting very different approaches. Resulting survey design can end up reflecting priorities of donors rather than those of countries and detract from the comparability of data across countries and with other surveys within the same country.

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<sup>1</sup>For a list of indicators that can be derived from food data collected in HCES, see Moltedo et al. (2014); Foster et al. (2013).



Fourth, by identifying areas in which the consensus is based on a limited evidence-base, the guidelines can be used to chart the way for an internationally agreed survey methodology research agenda. Importantly, the guidelines can be an entry point for sustaining an interdisciplinary dialogue for the advancement of this agenda, which can bring together statisticians, economists, food security analysts, and nutritionists to contribute to an effective repurposing of HCES that can increase the surveys' "value for money."

...and so forth...



## Chapter 2

# Literature

Here is a review of existing methods.



## Chapter 3

# Methods

We describe our methods in this chapter.



## Chapter 4

# Applications

Some *significant* applications are demonstrated in this chapter.

### 4.1 Example one

### 4.2 Example two





## Chapter 5

# Final Words

We have finished a nice book.