

Statistics for the SDGs - global indicators



Name of the indicator	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
Sustainable Development Goal	Goal 2. Zero hunger
Target	2.1 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
Definition	The indicator measures the percentage of individuals in the population who have experienced food insecurity at moderate or severe levels during the reference period. The severity of food insecurity, defined as a latent trait, is measured on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, a measurement standard established by FAO through the application of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale in more than 140 countries worldwide, starting in 2014.
Unit	percent [%]
Available dimensions	moderate or severe food insecurity by sex, severe food insecurity by sex
Methodological explanations	<p>Food insecurity as measured by this indicator refers to limited access to food, at the level of individuals or households, due to lack of money or other resources.</p> <p>The severity of food insecurity is measured through the application of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale survey module (FIES-SM), a set of eight questions to the population aged 15 or more about experiences related to lack of access to food. The FIES methodology established by FAO provides a global measurement standard of food insecurity and permits the production of internationally comparable measures of food insecurity severity for individual respondents, as well as comparable national prevalence rates.</p>
Data source	FAO
Data availability	Four year averages: 2014-2016, 2015-2017, 2016-2018, 2017-2019.
Notes	Data for severe food insecurity in 2018 should be interpreted as less than 0.5 (<0.5).
Data updated on	26-08-2025
Metadata updated on	26-08-2025