Food Security in the Global Context

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What is food security?

The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing:

“when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”.

http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/

5 methods of measurement:

- FAO “undernourishment”:
  - Dietary energy supply ÷ energy requirement
  - At national level
  - Based on food balance sheets and demographic structure of population


- Household income and expenditure surveys
  - At national level
  - Food accessed by household
  - Makes assumptions about intrahousehold distribution


- Dietary intake surveys
  - Very useful but rarely available

5 methods of measurement:

- Anthropometry surveys
  - Measures more than food security


5 methods of measurement:

- Qualitative measures of food insecurity
  - Well-developed methods for US (begun at Cornell), require local adaptation
  - Measures eating behaviors and perceptions of hunger


5 methods of measurement:

- According to this FAO map, which region has the most severe food insecurity?
- Does this concur with the assigned reading (DFID 2002)?


5 methods of measurement:

- Sub-Saharan Africa is the “hot-spot,” but South Asia has the biggest numbers
- Diversity within regions:
  - India, China, Indonesia vs. Nepal, Bangladesh
  - Ghana vs. Democratic Republic of Congo
- FAO claims number of undernourished now exceeds 1 billion (controversial number)

Global Hunger Index recently developed by IFPRI (Int’l Food Policy Res Institute)

The Global Hunger Index is calculated as follows:

\[ GHI = \frac{PHI + PMI + CMI}{3} \]

with

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GHI:</th>
<th>Undernourished index</th>
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<tr>
<td>PHI:</td>
<td>proportion of the population that is undernourished (as %)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMI:</td>
<td>prevalence of underweight, in children under five (as %)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMI:</td>
<td>proportion of children dying before the age of two (as %)</td>
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Suggested interpretation of the index:

- `<5`: Low
- `5-9.9`: Moderate
- `10-19.9`: Serious
- `≥20`: Alarming

Fragile states: government can not or will not deliver basic services to the majority of its people, including the poor. (DFID 2005)

Strong link between female education and hunger

Types of food insecurity and shocks

- Chronic food insecurity —90%
- Transient food insecurity —10%
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- Broader societal shocks
  - environment, society
- Household level shocks
  - health events most common form

What are the structural issues underlying food insecurity?

One way to organize our thinking:

**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FRAMEWORK**

Slides adapted from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**“Vulnerability” Context**

- **Shocks**
  - Floods, droughts, cyclones
  - Deaths in the family
  - Violence or civil unrest

- **Seasonality**
- **Trends and changes**
  - Population
  - Environmental change
  - Technology
  - Markets and trade
  - Globalisation

**Policies, Institutions & Processes**

- **Policies**
  - of government
  - of different LEVELS of government
  - of NGOs
  - of interational bodies

- **Institutions**
  - political, legislative & representative bodies
  - executive agencies
  - judicial bodies
  - civil society & membership organisations
  - NGOs
  - law, money
  - political parties
  - commercial enterprises & corporations

- **Processes**
  - the “rules of the game”
  - decision-making processes
  - social norms & customs
  - gender, caste, class
  - language
Livelihood Strategies: 
*how do people live?*

They combine:
- the assets they can access

Taking account of:
- the vulnerability context

Supported or obstructed by:
- policies, institutions and processes.

* .......... and this leads to 

Livelihood Outcomes

Poverty - a “poor” livelihood outcome:
- based on a fragile or unbalanced set of livelihood assets
- unable to sustain to shocks, changes or trends
- not supported, or actively obstructed by policies, institutions and processes that do not allow assets to be used as they might
- livehood options combined in a “bad” or unsustainable strategy

The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

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Interventions to Improve Food Security & Nutrition
- Improve food production
  - Invest in agriculture to increase productivity and reduce risks
  - Trade policies that are favorable to poor countries
- Improve food distribution
  - Transport
  - Markets
- Increase purchasing power, reduce poverty
  - Earnings, job creation
  - Credit
  - Conditional or non-conditional transfers

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  - Targeted education around infant and young child feeding

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How does all this relate to malnutrition?
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Both the UK and the US are making food security a development priority—especially for Africa

What are the key messages from these short videos?

Eliminating Hunger: ensuring food security (DFID)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2sji2ZxOw

Global Food Security: US Commitment to Action
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTsRH9kE46s

FAO. The State of Food and Agriculture 2006.