




## Indicator Tip Sheet

### WPHF Impact Area 3: Humanitarian Response

### Food Security in Conflict and Crisis Settings

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The following tip sheet provides guidance to WPHF partners on the required indicators to be used for WPHF Impact Area 3: Humanitarian Response (Food Security in Conflict and Crisis Settings). It also provides other suggested food security related indicators and gives some general guidelines around the use of indicators, baselines, and targets<sup>1</sup>.

	
<p><b>Food Insecurity:</b> the absence of food, limited amounts of food, limited amounts of quality food, or uncertainty about when people can access adequate food (<i>USDA, 2022</i>)</p>	<p><b>Food Security:</b> food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (<i>World Food Summit, 2006</i>)</p>

### Results Framework

The impact statement is: ***Enhanced participation and leadership of women in planning and response to the food security crisis***

You must use this statement at the impact level and select from the list of required indicators (see definitions in next section). You must also develop your own outcome statement(s), output statement(s) and indicators as relevant to your projects.

#### Annex A: Results Framework in Proposal Template

Expected Results	Indicators	Activities	Budget
<p><b>Impact</b> Enhanced Participation and Leadership of Women in Planning and Response to the food security crisis<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Use must use the following two indicators:</p> <p>3.1. Number of women participating in humanitarian planning and response for improved food security in crisis/conflict settings (disaggregated by age group<sup>3</sup>)</p> <p>3.2 Total number of direct beneficiaries receiving support to improve their household food security (disaggregated by sex, age group)</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>3.3. Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive food security response, planning, frameworks and programming</p>		

<sup>1</sup> Please see WPHF's Guide on M&E for additional guidance on M&E: [https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ME-Manual-for-WPHF-Grantees\\_ENG\\_16082021.pdf](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ME-Manual-for-WPHF-Grantees_ENG_16082021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The **impact** is the longer-term change of the project that is expected to occur as a result of the outcome(s) being achieved. It does not mean the change has to occur at the national level. The extent of the impact is up to you.

<sup>3</sup> Age groups are 0-17; 18-29 years; and 30 years and above

Expected Results	Indicators	Activities	Budget
<b>Outcome(s)<sup>4</sup></b> Develop outcome statement(s) based on your project.	You must have the following indicator at the Outcome level: 1. Number of people indirectly benefiting from the response  2. <b>AND develop an additional indicator</b> for each outcome that captures the change of your project, and which is focused on changes in food security. We recommend only ONE outcome statement in your results framework.  See Table 2 for suggestions		
<b>Output (s)<sup>5</sup></b> Develop a set of outputs for <u>each</u> outcome.	Develop 1-2 indicators for each output (See proposal template)	For each output, list your activities	For each output, enter the budget amount

## Required Indicators

As WPHF partners, you are required to use a set of standard indicators, as noted above, in order to facilitate global reporting and articulation of the impact and reach of your projects (See Table 1).

You can add additional indicators, as relevant to your project at the Outcome level (See Table 2). A good rule is to have no more than three (3) indicators per outcome and output statement.

**Table 1: Indicator Definitions (Required Indicators)**

Required Indicators	Definitions
<b>Impact Indicator 3.1</b> Number of women participating in humanitarian planning and response for improved food security in crisis/conflict settings	<p>This is a quantitative indicator which counts the total number of women who are actively participating in decision-making bodies, community committees or mechanisms or other spaces specifically targeting the improvement of food security, and where women can voice opinions and influence decisions in how food insecurity can be mitigated in their communities, districts, region, or country.</p> <p>Participation in decision making is not limited to the physical presence of a woman in a decision-making body or committee, but rather that women have been able to voice their concerns, influence a decision or process, or vote in a decision.</p> <p>You must report the total 'number' of women and are not required to use the unit of 'percentage'. If you wish to provide a percentage, in addition to the number, this is calculated by dividing the total number of women that are actively participating in decision-making, by the total number of women surveyed. For example, 50% (50 out of 100 women).</p> <p>This indicator should be disaggregated by sex and age group (0-17 years; 18-29 years; or 30 years and above), whenever possible.</p>
<b>Impact Indicator 3.2</b> Total number of direct beneficiaries receiving support to improve their household food security (disaggregated by sex, age group)	<p>Direct beneficiaries refer to the individuals or households which benefit directly from your intervention on food security, or who are the direct recipients of your activities and are explicitly stated in the output and outcome statements of the results framework. Direct beneficiaries and the target groups are the same.</p> <p>This support can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cash transfers for the purchase of food</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> **Outcomes** are the medium-term changes that are expected to occur because of completed outputs. You can have one outcome or multiple. A maximum of 2 outcomes is a good rule. An example of an outcome statement is *"Increased coordination of local stakeholders in implementing conflict prevention mechanisms"*.

<sup>5</sup> An **output** is concrete deliverable, product or service provided as a result of activities implemented. An example of an output statement is: *"Access to information on the availability of services for women and girls during humanitarian crisis is provided"*.

Required Indicators	Definitions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• food for work programmes</li> <li>• emergency food aid</li> <li>• provision of food baskets</li> <li>• meals in schools</li> <li>• items to support home or community gardens</li> <li>• implements to support increased agricultural production for consumption</li> <li>• Vitamin A supplements or other vitamins</li> </ul> <p>Direct beneficiaries must be disaggregated by sex and age group (0-17 years; 18-29 years; or 30 years and above). Other disaggregation can be included depending on context (e.g. disability, IDPs, refugees or host community members, women-headed household, LGBTQI+, stakeholder, etc.), if needed.</p>
<p><b>Optional Impact Indicator 3.3</b> Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive food security response, planning, frameworks and programming</p>	<p>This is a qualitative indicator and describes the different types of mechanisms or processes that have been established by your organization or others to improve food security planning and response, and which are responsive to the needs and priorities of women and girls.</p> <p>Some examples of mechanisms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community structures involved in food security response</li> <li>• Emergency fund processes for households</li> <li>• Joint task forces</li> <li>• Monitoring or feedback systems</li> <li>• Planning documents or strategies that outline rapid response to food security crisis</li> <li>• Frameworks which respond to the specific needs of women and girls during food security crisis</li> <li>• Systematic gender-sensitive food assessment processes/mechanisms</li> <li>• Gender-based analysis</li> </ul> <p>Mechanisms vary and are based on context and crisis.</p>
<b>Use the following indicator at the Outcome level</b>	
<p><b>Reach Indicator 1:</b> Number of people indirectly benefiting from the response</p>	<p>Indirect beneficiaries refer to individuals, groups or organizations who are not the direct target of your interventions as outlined in the results framework but are indirectly affected by your activities focused on food security. They could be other members of the community, or family members who benefit positively from interventions of direct beneficiary participation.</p> <p>The calculation of indirect beneficiaries is usually done by taking an average family size and multiplying by your direct beneficiaries. While this may create double counting, using a smaller average size will help. For example, if the average family size is 5 and the direct beneficiaries is 100, you would multiply 5 x 100 = 500.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries do not need to be disaggregated.</p>

**Table 2: Other Suggested Outcome Indicators**<sup>6</sup>

The following outcome indicators are only suggestions to help guide you when defining your indicators for the outcome level. They are not mandatory.

Suggested Outcome Indicators	Definitions
Number of women's networks or associations	This is a quantitative indicator which counts the total number of networks or associations that come together to meet and/or coordinate food security planning, response, recovery, or the impacts of food insecurity, including the

<sup>6</sup> There should be a balance between quantitative and **qualitative** indicators in your results framework. Qualitative indicators allow you to explore in-depth the experiences, opinions and perceptions of individuals and groups and help to explain 'how' and 'why' changes have occurred.

Suggested Outcome Indicators	Definitions
collaborating in food security planning and response	negative impacts that food insecurity can have (e.g. increase of family violence) Networks and associations are a group of organizations. Your own organization may be a member of this network or association.
Number of CSOs that apply new skills in conducting gender-responsive food security assessments	This is a quantitative indicator that counts the number of CSOs that have acquired new skills in conducting gender-responsive food security assessments as a result of participating in capacity strengthening activities.  These skills would include the ability to identify different vulnerabilities or risks in the community, collecting sex-disaggregated data on food access and availability, advocate based on findings, etc.
Number/Type of women-led advocacy campaigns, community dialogues, or awareness campaigns organized to raise awareness on food security	This is both a quantitative and qualitative indicator and counts the number and describes the type of advocacy campaigns, community dialogues, awareness or information campaigns or other events that have been organized by your organization to raise awareness with beneficiaries and/or communities and other stakeholders on the current humanitarian crisis/food security crisis.
Types of changes that have occurred as a result of access and availability of food	This is a qualitative indicator and helps to understand the positive/negative changes that may have occurred as a result of increased access and availability of food. This indicator can be collected through the use of Focus Group Discussions (sex disaggregated) and can explore topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incidences of gender based violence (e.g. within the household, in accessing food resources)</li> <li>• Distribution of food in the household (e.g. who eats first, amount for male and female members)</li> <li>• Improved diets and dietary diversity</li> <li>• Conflicts in the community over land for food production, etc.</li> </ul>
Average production (kg) of food by household	This is a quantitative indicator and counts the total kilograms of produce harvested. If working on agriculture/food production systems, this indicator can be a simple way to demonstrate the increased production (in kilograms) of new crops, including climate resilient crops, which support household consumption.  To report on this indicator you should also include the number of households this amount of food can feed. For example: If 100 kg of rice was produce for 5 household members, this means 20kg/per household member.
Number/Percentage of women who report their household went without food in the last 24 hours	The is a quantitative indicator and can be used if your organization is collecting both baseline and endline data to show a change over two points of time through a small survey. It refers to the number of women who reported that in the last 24 hours their household has 'enough' food to eat, and each member of the household had food.  To calculate: Number of women who reported their household went without food (or at least one meal) in the last 24 hours, divided by, the number of women who participated in the survey = % of women who reported their household went without food in the last 24 hours. Repeat this at the end of your project. Ideally, you want to see a reduction in this number from the baseline.
(Advanced Indicator) Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	This is a quantitative indicator and is useful if you are conducting a household survey as you must determine the change over two points of time. It looks at a household's access to adequate food and is based on eight questions that is asked of the women of the household as they are primarily responsible for food preparation/distribution. The questions ask:  During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?</li> <li>• You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?</li> </ul>

Suggested Outcome Indicators	Definitions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You ate only a few kinds of foods?</li> <li>• You had to skip a meal?</li> <li>• You ate less than you thought you should?</li> <li>• Your household ran out of food?</li> <li>• You were hungry but did not eat?</li> <li>• You went without eating for a whole day?</li> </ul> <p>For simplicity, you can use the following scale:</p> <p>6-8 Yes = high level of insecurity  4-5 Yes = moderate level of food insecurity  1-3 Yes that if a household answer= low level of food insecurity</p> <p>See more at: <a href="https://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/">https://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/</a></p>

## What are Indicators?

Indicators are defined as ‘*quantitative or qualitative factors or variables that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor*’<sup>7</sup>.

Simply stated, indicators are ‘**signals**’ to demonstrate that progress has been made on outputs, and to demonstrate that changes have occurred through expected outcomes.

There are three types of indicators:

- **Output indicator:** These are indicators that are used to track the completion of an output (a product or a service provided)
- **Outcome or Performance Indicator:** These are indicators which measure shorter term changes, as a result of the completion of the outputs.
- **Impact indicator:** These are indicators which measure the long-term change of an intervention, as a result of outcomes occurring.

An indicator is developed in the following way:

**Unit of Measurement + what is being measured/tracked (unit of analysis) +  
(Relevant Disaggregation)**

### Examples:

- Number (or percentage) of + women participating in decision-making in food security planning and response + (disaggregated by age group)
- Number of + women-led advocacy campaigns organized on food security response + (disaggregated by region)

## Baseline

A **baseline** value is information gathered at the beginning of a project to indicate the starting point of the indicator. Baseline values **are only required if** your organization is using a sample survey for one of the suggested indicators in Table 2.

If this is the case, during the proposal stage, the baseline value would be ‘to be confirmed (TBC)’ as a survey would only be conducted at the beginning of your project. Later on, you will update your results framework with the baseline value.

<sup>7</sup> OECD Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and RBM (2002) <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/2754804.pdf>

*For example, for the indicator, “Percentage of women who report their household went without food in the last 24 hours”, if your survey showed that 10 women (out of 50) report their household went without food in the time period, 10 (or 20%) would be your baseline.*

For output indicators, the baseline value is always zero (0) as the intervention did not exist before.

## Targets

For each **output** indicator, a target are required. **Targets** are where you want to be by the end of the project. Targets need to be realistic and aligned with the intervention. All output indicators should have a target. Here is an example:

*For the indicator, “Number of women participating in decision-making in food security planning and response”, maybe you have budgeted that 40 women who will receive training will actively engage in an advocacy campaign. This means 40 would be your target.*

## Additional Resources:

WPHF M&E Guide for Grantees (2021)

[https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ME-Manual-for-WPHF-Grantees\\_ENG\\_16082021.pdf](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ME-Manual-for-WPHF-Grantees_ENG_16082021.pdf)

CARE (2022). Gender Based Violence and Food Insecurity: What We Know and Why Gender Equality is the Answer.

[https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GBV-food-security-brief\\_EN.pdf](https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GBV-food-security-brief_EN.pdf)

FAO. An introduction to basic concepts of Food Security.

<https://www.fao.org/3/al936e/al936e00.pdf>

Global Food Security Cluster (2017). Food Security Cluster Core Indicator Handbook.

[https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/handbook\\_2017.pdf](https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/handbook_2017.pdf)

USDA (2022). Measuring Food Security and Insecurity (Advanced)

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/measurement/#measurement>

World Food Programme (2012), Monitoring Food Security: Technical Guidance (Advanced)

[https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual\\_guide\\_proced/wfp243771.pdf](https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp243771.pdf)

Fox, K., Cook, H., & Peek, N. (2023). Qualitative Toolkit: Qualitative Methods for Monitoring Food Security Activities Funded by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

[https://www.fsnnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/IDEAL\\_Qualitative\\_Toolkit\\_1.pdf](https://www.fsnnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/IDEAL_Qualitative_Toolkit_1.pdf)