



# UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

### *Task Force on Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation*

#### *Fact sheets on Nutrition and Food Security Indicators/Measures:*

##### *A template*

In its last meeting held in January 2008, the Task Force on Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation (TF-AME), decided to develop a tool that would allow TF members to provide technical guidance on a suite of food security and nutrition indicators. The decision was reached after having received a number of requests from country level for clear and simple tools that could help in the selection and use of key indicators in carrying out field work, particularly at national and sub-national levels.

The following template on Nutrition and Food Security Indicators was thus designed with an aim to provide a standard framework for compiling key information on nutrition and food security indicators or measures. The first 6 rows contain information that would be particularly useful for decision and policy makers while technical/programme staff would find the whole table relevant for their field work.

So far the TF has produced Fact Sheets for 3 indicators: Dietary Diversity, Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), and Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS). Should you have any comments to make on them, or should you wish to propose fact sheets for any other indicator you may be interested in, please send your comments to the TF co-chairs:

- Mark Smulders (FAO)- [mark.smulders@fao.org](mailto:mark.smulders@fao.org)
- Agnès Dhur (WFP)- [agnes.dhur@wfp.org](mailto:agnes.dhur@wfp.org)

In addition, a link should be available soon on the SCN website that will allow you to download this template and the above mentioned fact sheets.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to your inputs/comments!

Characteristics	
<b>1. What does the indicator evaluate?</b>	<i>What is the meaning of the indicator?</i>
<b>2. Which are the target population groups for the indicator?</b>	<i>For which population group(s) is the indicator relevant?</i>
<b>3. For which purpose is the indicator collected?</b>	<i>What use is made of the indicator at different levels (individual, household, community, district, national, regional, global)?</i>
<b>4. What is the relevance of the</b>	<i>To what extent does the indicator reflect nutritional status, food</i>

<b>Characteristics</b>	
<b>indicator for nutrition and food security AME?</b>	<i>security, the health and care situation and their evolution?</i>
<b>5. What is the relevance of the indicator for poverty AME?</b>	<i>To what extent does the indicator reflect the socio-economic situation and its evolution?</i>
<b>6. What is the relevance of the indicator for MDGs AME?</b>	<i>To what extent does the indicator reflect progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs?</i>
<b>7. How is the indicator constructed?</b>	<i>Which data are required for the indicator?</i>
<b>8. Which reference(s) is(are) used to interpret the indicator?</b>	<i>Against which reference, standard or threshold is the indicator compared in order to interpret it at individual and at population levels?</i>
<b>9. Which type of analysis should be conducted with the indicator?</b>	<i>Which cross-tabulations and other causal analyses are appropriate in conjunction with the indicator to assist with its interpretation and use?</i>
<b>10. What are the practical requirements to use the indicator?</b>	<i>Which equipment, staff, skills and other resources are required to collect the data and interpret the indicator?</i>
<b>11. What are the main limitations of the indicator?</b>	<i>What are the main weaknesses in and constraints to using the indicator?</i>
<b>12. What are the main strengths of the indicator?</b>	<i>What are the main positive qualities of the indicator?</i>
<b>13. In which context is the indicator most appropriate?</b>	<i>In which type of situation (sudden onset crisis, slow onset crisis, post-crisis, 'stable' situation) is the indicator most suitable?</i>
<b>14. Where can data and results on this indicator be found?</b>	<i>From which sources, websites, reports etc. can data and results on the indicator be found?</i>
<b>15. Which guidance can be consulted on the indicator?</b>	<i>Which reference documents exist on the collection, interpretation and use of the indicator?</i>