



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**



Access to food in 2021: filling data gaps

Results of twenty national surveys using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)



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Access to food in 2021: filling data gaps Results of twenty national surveys using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

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Key messages

- Among the 20 countries surveyed, countries surveyed in Africa present the highest prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity - ranging from 49 percent in Djibouti to almost 80 percent in the Comoros. With the exception of Haiti (82 percent), the Caribbean Island states present lower prevalence, ranging from 17 percent in the Bahamas to 55 percent in Sao Tome and Principe.
- For about half the countries surveyed, the prevalence of recent food insecurity (experienced during the 30 days preceding the survey) was approximately half compared to the annual prevalence (experienced during the 12-month period preceding the survey), or somewhere between 40 and 60 percent. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti, however, about 80 percent the people who were moderately or severely food insecure at some point during the year were food insecure during the month preceding the survey. The percentages were also high for Guinea-Bissau, the Niger and Sao Tome and Principe (71 percent, 74 percent and 70 percent, respectively).
- Results at the subnational level reveal marked inequalities within countries. In many cases, the country-level estimates of food insecurity provide a distorted view because they mask large differences among provinces or regions - more than a 20 percentage point difference for more than half the countries surveyed, and as much as a 67 point difference. Large ranges are also observed in the prevalence of severe food insecurity at the subnational level for the same countries. Such detailed information is essential to guide policies and actions at the country level.



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