



Measuring Success – Handbook

Part I: Quantitative Indicators - #ms01 MAHFP

#ms01: Food Access – Number of Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP)

Indicator Statements		
Indicator (in short)	Indicator	Average months of food sufficiency of targeted households in the previous twelve months
	Unit of indicator	Average number of months
Project-level indicator statements	Baseline statement	<i>Result:</i> The average number of months of food sufficiency for N targeted households in the previous twelve months was x months (average baseline value). (Sample size = n households)
	Endline statement	<i>Result:</i> The average number of months of food sufficiency for N targeted households in the previous twelve months changed from x months (average baseline value) to y months (average endline value). (Sampling size = n households)

Background

Why do we use this indicator? A key objective of WHH’s strategy for #OnePlanetZeroHunger is **sustainable food and nutrition security** (SFNS). Food access is one of the core dimensions of WHH’s SFNS approach.

Food access depends on the ability of households to obtain food either independently (from their own production, stocks, purchases, or gathering efforts) or through food transfers (from relatives, members of the community, the government, or donors). A household’s access to food is also affected by the resources available to household members and the steps they must take to obtain those resources, particularly the exchange of other goods and services (see [FANTA Guide for MAHFP](#)).



The **MAHFP indicator** represents the ability to acquire a **sufficient quantity** of food to meet all household members’ needs.

Please note that this indicator does not reveal anything about the *quality* of the food (i.e., the MAHFP cannot measure whether also the nutrient requirements of all household members are met).

What does this indicator assess? The **MAHFP** assesses the **number of months in which households reported having access to sufficient food**. WHH has consciously chosen not to prescribe criteria for the definition of food sufficiency. Whether or not a month is considered as food sufficient is decided by the respondents themselves.

For which projects should this indicator be used? This indicator is applicable for **projects that aim to increase households’ access to food**. This includes projects working to enhance community resilience and livelihood capacities.

Typical intervention types for which this indicator is suitable are:

- **Agricultural interventions** directed at the increase of agricultural production, the diversification of food crops, improved storage capacities, post-harvest management, food processing, conservation packaging, marketing, and food commercialization
- **Food or cash distributions** or food- or cash-for-work interventions
- **Income-generating** activities
- **Social safety nets**

Data Collection #ms01: MAHFP

Who should be interviewed? The **research unit** of the population (N) and the sample (n) for this indicator is **household**. The population size is composed of the number of households that are supposed to benefit directly from project intervention.



Questions should be addressed to **one member of each sampled household**, namely the person (adult) who is responsible for food preparation in the household. If the food is prepared by a child or young person, the questions should be addressed to the adult who makes the daily decisions about what will be prepared and eaten.

When should the data be collected? This indicator requires a baseline and comparison value(s) to yield meaningful information on project outcomes. **At minimum**, it should therefore be collected as part of both a **baseline and an endline** survey.

Data for the #ms MAHFP indicator can be collected at **any time of the year**. Results may vary according to the seasons; if these data are collected during the period of the greatest food shortage, or immediately prior to the harvest, the reported number of months in which the household did not have enough food may be greater than if collected at a different time of the year.



Please note: Baseline and endline data collection should always be undertaken **at the same time of the year**. This is something to consider very well when planning the timing of the baseline survey, so it will coincide with the likely and feasible timing of the endline survey. It may require fast-tracking the recruitment of the MEAL team at the start of a project, especially in projects with about full-years long duration (12, 24, 36, etc., months).

Preparing data collection

Enumerators should attend a **practical training session** of sufficient duration before collecting data. Points to emphasize:

- Before starting data collection, **provide a guideline** by explaining what it typically means in your particular context to not have enough food.
- It is crucial to ask **probing questions** and to help people think back twelve months. The local population might not be used to calendars. In this case, train enumerators to use a seasonal calendar to help respondents remember the different months.
- The list of months should not be read out aloud; instead, the box should be ticked if the respondent identifies that month as one in which the household did not have enough food to meet their needs as she or he speaks.
- Enumerators should **probe for precise answers**. If a respondent says that she or he did not have enough food from June to September, they need to ask when exactly this period began (for example: was it before or after a certain public holiday?).

- Partial months should be rounded up to the nearest whole number if totaling more than 14 days and down if totaling 14 days or fewer.

Indicator calculation

The #ms MAHFP indicator assesses the **average number of months in which households reported having access to sufficient food**. To calculate the indicator, you need to count the number of months in which each household had enough food to eat and then calculate the average for all households in the sample.

Recommended calculation:

1.

In the first row: Enter a “1” for each month in which the household reported to **NOT have** sufficient access to food. Enter “0” for each month in which the household reported to **HAVE** sufficient access to food.

2.

In the second row: Add up all instances in which the household reported to have sufficient access to food “0”. The number of summed “0”s shows you how many months the household **DID have** enough food.



12 months: Jan-Feb-Mar-Apr-May-Jun-Jul-Aug-Sep-Oct-Nov-Dec
 Months **WITHOUT** sufficient access to food count are represented as “1”
 Months **WITH** sufficient access to food are represented as “0”
 The **total number of “0”s** represents the MAHFP of the household

3.

An **average** for all the households in the sample is calculated. The denominator should include all households interviewed, even those who did not experience any months of inadequate household food provisioning.



Sum of the MAHFPs for all households in the sample

Total Number of Households

(see also [FANTA Guide for MAHFP](#))

Below is a calculation-matrix template for the MAHFP calculation, where each row has been filled in for one respondent ([Link to the corresponding Excel matrix on WHH Intranet](#)).

Calculation matrix template (Link to the corresponding Excel matrix on WHH Intranet).

Step 1: Enter a "1" for each month in which the household reports to **not** have sufficient access to food and a "0" for each month in which the household reports to have sufficient access to food.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Step 2: Add up all instances in which the household reports to have sufficient access to food, i.e., **add up "0"s** (light grey cells).

Remark: The number of summed "0"s shows how many months the household did have enough food.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	SUM
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	8
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10

Step 3: Calculate the **average MAHFP** for all households in the sample.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	SUM
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	8
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10

MAHFP	8,33
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3. Questionnaire for #ms Indicators

This section contains the #ms questionnaire for all eleven indicators and is consistent with the Akvo Flow #ms template.

This section includes not only the questions and answers but also comments for enumerators (which can be used in training) and specifications for the person designing/adapting the project-level template.

Question ID	Question and Answer		Remarks for Different Users of #Measuring Success	
	Questions	Answers	Enumerators	Designer of Project-Specific Questionnaires
0.1	Before starting the interview			
0.1.1	WHH project ID	Project ID		This question is currently formatted as free text. You may change it to a multiple-choice format if necessary (e.g., when one survey covers two or more project IDs).
0.1.2	Date of interview	Date		

0.1.3	Consent to interview: I would like to ask you to provide your objective responses regarding your situation. Your participation is voluntary, and your information will be kept confidential. I have informed you about what type of data will be collected, for which purposes it will be used, with whom the data may be shared, and that you have the right to access your data and to ask for correction or deletion. Do you agree to the collection and processing of your data?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If "yes", proceed with questions - If "no", do not proceed with any further questions 		
0.2	Interviewee information			
0.2.1	Household location	Remark: Answer categories must be project-specific:		Free text question can be replaced by a cascading question if you wish
0.2.2	Geographical coordinates	Geo-coordinates		
0.2.3	Who is head of the household?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Father - Mother - Grandmother - Grandfather - Child/Youth - Other 		

0.2.4	Name & surname of interviewee	<p>Name / surname</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Interviewee is Head of Household</p>	<p>Before starting the interview, make sure that relevant persons are present, mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For #ms01 MAHFP and #ms02 FCS: the person (adult) who is responsible for food preparation in the household. - For #ms03 MDD-W: a woman aged 15-49 - For #ms04 Drinking water: the person (adult) who is responsible for handling the household's drinking water - For #ms05 Sanitation: the person (adult) who is responsible for maintaining the sanitation facility used by household members - For #ms06 Income: the head of the household or a person responsible for or aware of the care and organization of the household - For #ms07 Skills: a training graduate - For #ms08 Agriculture and #ms09 Climate Resilience: the person (adult) who is responsible for the usage of the promoted measure and who received input and/or trainings from WHH/partners/the project. - For #ms10 Women in decision-making: an adult woman - For #ms11 Participants' satisfaction: a project participant 	
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0.2.5	What is the sex of the interviewee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Male - Other - Don't know / No answer 		
0.2.6	Age of the interviewee?	Numeric value		Allow only numeric values up to 99
	Choice of Indicators			
0.3.1	On which indicators will you collect data in this household?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #ms01: Food Access (MAHFP) - #ms02: Food Consumption Score - #ms03: Nutrition Diversity (MDD-W) - #m04: Drinking Water - #ms05: Sanitation - #ms06: Income - #ms07: Employment - #ms08: Agriculture - #ms09: Climate Resilience - #ms10: Women in Decision-making - #ms11: Participants' Satisfaction 		
01	MAHFP			
01.1	In the past 12 months (exactly one year ago) until now, were there months in which you did NOT HAVE enough food to meet your households' needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	.	This includes any kind of food from any source, including own production, purchase or exchange, borrowing, donations, food aid, etc

01.2	<p>Which were the months in the past 12 months during which you did NOT have enough food to meet your household's needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January - February - March - April - May - June - July - August - September - October - November - December 	<p>Do not read the list of months aloud. Start by asking about the last month and proceed in reverse chronological order. Use a seasonal calendar if needed to help the respondent remember the different months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
01.3	<p>Please name the most important reason for food insufficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough money - Prolonged dry season - Flooding destroying produce - Pests destroying produce - Migration - Limited or no land for production/cultivation - Limited working assets/tools or seeds - No access to markets - Other: <i>specify</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an optional question for baseline surveys: You should take it out if this survey is not a baseline survey - This question is supposed to support you for your project planning: You may take it out if the question is found not to be useful for planning purposes
01.4	<p>What do you do when your household does not have adequate food, and does not have the money to buy food? (multiple answers possible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rely on less expensive foods - Borrow food from a friend or relative - Purchase food on credit - Gather wild food, hunt, or harvest immature crops - Send children to eat with neighbors - Limit portion size at mealtimes - Reduce number of meals eaten in a day - Skip entire days without eating - Other: <i>specify</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an optional question for baseline surveys: You should take it out if this survey is not a baseline survey - This question is supposed to support you for your project planning: You may take it out if the question is found not to be useful for planning purposes

01.5	Type of Survey (MAHFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline survey - Endline survey - Midterm or other survey 		
01.6	Is your household's access to food better, the same or worse than in the year 2xxx [year of Baseline survey of project or start of project]?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Much better - A bit better - Same - A bit worse - Much worse - Cannot say 	<p>Enumerators need to be aware in which year the baseline survey of the project was carried out</p> <p>Only answer if you responded Endline Survey/ Midterm or Other Survey to Q1.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an optional question for endline surveys: You should take it out if this survey is not an endline survey - This question is supposed to support you for your project planning: You may take it out if the question is found not to be useful for planning purposes
01.7	What are the 1-3 key reasons for changes in food insufficiency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to three key reasons for changes in food insufficiency 	<p>Note each point clearly, describing it in a full sentence.</p> <p>Only answer if you responded much better a bit better a bit worse much worse to Q16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an optional question for endline surveys: You should take it out if this survey is not an endline survey - This question is supposed to support you for your project planning: You may take it out if the question is found not to be useful for planning purposes