

Public Brief

Food insecurity experienced by people, 2023-2025

Version 1.1 | Public release

What this series asks

How large would the annual burden of experienced food insecurity look if FAO FIES prevalence data were combined with transparent WSI assumptions about intensity and days at severity? This is an experimental scenario model, not a measured annual suffering total.

1. Source evidence

FAO FIES uses direct questions about food-access experiences: worry, reduced food quality, reduced quantity, hunger, and going a whole day without eating. The 2023-2025 FAOSTAT source gate supports 125 country or territory prevalence records. Exact total scenario results are limited to 99 records with exact source population values; 26 censored population records remain per-100,000 only.

2. Model label and maturity

Element	Value	Maturity	Public rule
Model	Experimental Retrospective Annualized USU Scenario	A1 amendment	Representative average year
Intensity	Moderate-only 2/3/4; severe 4/5/6	P2	Evidence-informed WSI mapping
Duration	10/70/115 and 7/50/85 days	D1	Illustrative WSI assumptions
Uncertainty	Deterministic scenario range	Not CI	No derived moderate-only interval

3. Primary annualized scenario results

Scenario	Median USU/100k	Mean USU/100k	99-record subset USU	Severe share
Low	263,721	340,012	13.8 billion	38.2%
Central	2,659,556	3,359,309	136.7 billion	34.5%
High	5,732,063	7,178,244	292.3 billion	32.9%

The 99-record subset values are not global totals. They exclude censored and unavailable source records. No country ranking is published.

4. What the stress test shows

A wider duration stress grid, holding intensity at central values, moves the median result from 41,549 to 9,225,143 USU per 100,000. This is not a second estimate. It shows that unobserved duration is the main driver of scale.

5. Interpretation safeguards

- The low-high model range is deterministic, not a confidence interval.
- The source period is an average-year 2023-2025 estimate, not a three-year cumulative burden.

- Mortality, malnutrition, medical complications, and long-term consequences are excluded or reported separately.
- The first release is non-ranked and should not be directly compared with USU/day or episode-total series.