

4 Dimensions of Food Security

Supply of food – this is determined by the production, stock, and trade of food.

Sources of supply:

- Production
- Imports
- Food aid (donations)

What influences supply?

- Public expenditure on agricultural R&D
- Agricultural infrastructure
- Agricultural production volatility
- Political stability

Availability

Just because food is available does not mean that the food insecure can access it. The poor often lack financial means to purchase food in addition to what has been grown.

- Market development and market access for producers and consumers.
- Presence of social safety nets in transitory insecurity.
 - Access to farmer financing
 - Government commitment to market-based farming.
 - Income generation/employment availability

Affordability and financial
Access

Food Security

Having “food” is not enough to create food security. Preparing, cooking, storing, and choosing a diversity of staple and complementary foods completes the security.

- Diet diversification
- Using available foods properly (basic food group).
- Understanding needs vary across families according to age and sex.
- Micronutrient availability

Utilization

Nutritional Quality and Family use of Food

In order to maintain food security household must be able to reduce risk and anticipating ups and downs in supply through planning and saving. Bad weather conditions, political instability, loss of employment, increased or increasing food prices can all increase vulnerability.

- Government level stock management.
- Targeting programming to the most vulnerable groups.
- Developing resilience
- Community Planning

Resilience and
Stability