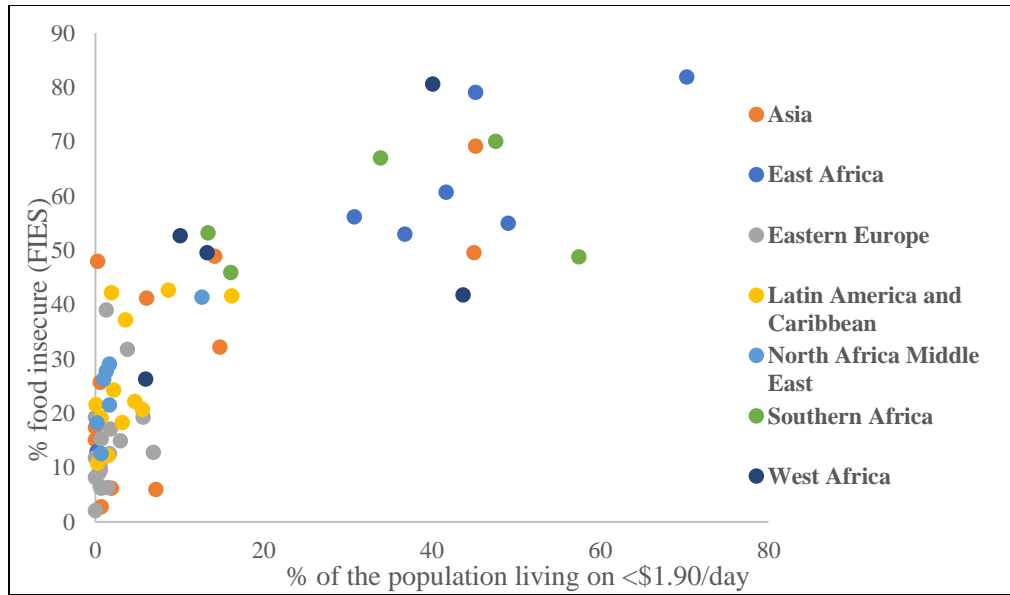


Identifying Food Security Status

LiST uses the poverty head-count ratio at \$1.90/day as a proxy for food security to identify the percentage of the population with the potential to benefit from balanced energy protein supplementation and complementary feeding interventions. The head-count ratio at \$1.90/d is defined as percentage of the population living on less than \$1.90 per day at 2011 international prices.¹ The data were retrieved from the World Bank database. However, food security status measurements have advanced to include individual respondent experience surveys.

Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) data were available for 77 countries from 2014-2018, reported in three-year averages.² FEIS comprises eight questions that reflect self-reported behaviors and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints³. FEIS has three levels 1) food secure or mild food insecurity; 2) moderate food insecurity; 3) severe food insecurity. In LiST, we will consider the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity as the prevalence of food insecurity.

However, FIES data were missing for several countries, including India and Pakistan which account for roughly 20% of the total LMICs population. To assess whether the percentage of the population living on <\$1.90/day could be used for countries where FIES data were unavailable, we performed a correlation analysis in countries where both data were available. We found strong correlation between FIES and percentage of the population living on <\$1.90/day (Pearson's correlation coefficient: 0.82), and therefore, use the percentage of the population living on <\$1.90/day when FIES data are unavailable.



References

¹ World Bank, Development Research Group

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>

² Suite of Food Security Indicators Available from: <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FS>.

³ Ballard TJ, Kepple AW, Cafiero C. The food insecurity experience scale: developing a global standard for monitoring hunger worldwide. Technical Paper. Rome: FAO; 2013.