

REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX

Indicator Phrasing

English: average value of the Reduced Coping Strategies Index

French: valeur moyenne de l'Indice de Stratégie de Survie

Spanish: valor medio del Índice Reducido de Estrategias de Afrontamiento

Portuguese: valor médio do Índice de Estratégia de Sobrevivência Reduzido

Czech: průměrná hodnota redukováného Coping Strategy Indexu

What is its purpose?

The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (RCSI) is a proxy indicator of household food insecurity. It considers both the frequency and severity of five pre-selected coping strategies that the household used in the seven days prior to the survey. It is a simplified version of the full Coping Strategies Index indicator.

How to Collect and Analyse the Required Data

Determine the indicator's value by using the following methodology:

1) **Conduct individual interviews** with a [representative sample](#) of the target group members, asking them how many times (in the previous 7 days) they had to use the coping strategies listed below. Use the questions provided in the left column below. Record the frequency by entering the relevant number (e.g. 0 – did not have to use the coping strategy; 2 – had to use it twice; 7 – had to use it every day in the past 7 days).

(Repeat the introductory phrase for each of the coping strategies below) <i>"In the previous 7 days, if there have been times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food, how often has your household had to"</i>	Frequency (0-7 - number of days per week)	Severity Weight	Weighted Score (Frequency x Weight)
Q1: <i>rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?"</i>		1	
Q2: <i>borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives?"</i>		2	
Q3: <i>limit portion size at mealtime?"</i>		1	
Q4: <i>restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat?"</i>		3	
Q5: <i>reduce the number of meals eaten in a day?"</i>		1	
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD SCORE			

2) During the data analysis, for each coping strategy, **multiply the 'frequency' by the assigned 'severity weight'**, thereby getting a 'weighted score' per each strategy.

3) **Add up the scores of all assessed strategies** to receive the household's RCSI score. A high score means an extensive use of negative coping strategies and hence increased food insecurity (the maximum score for the RCSI is 56; this would happen if a household used all five strategies every day for the last 7 days).

4) To **calculate the indicator's value**, add the RCSI scores of all the surveyed households and divide this by the total number of surveyed households.

Disaggregate by

[Disaggregate](#) the data by wealth, location and other vulnerability criteria.

Important Comments

1) RCSI is prone to significant seasonal differences. Do your best to **collect baseline and endline data at the same time of a year**; otherwise, it is very likely that they will not be comparable.

2) BHA phrases the indicator slightly differently, as "*Mean and median Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)*".

E-Questionnaire

- [XLS form for electronic data collection - indicator Reduced Coping Strategy Index](#)

Access Additional Guidance

- WFP (2008) [The Coping Strategies Index - Field Methods Manual](#)
- USAID (2020) [FFP Indicators Handbook](#)