



# Consumption expenditure module

Needs Assessments & Targeting Unit

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World Food  
Programme

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# Overview

**Rationale, structure and initial clarifications**

# Why do we collect an expenditure module?

- Needed to define very important indicators related to the ability of households to satisfy their essential needs, including food and non-food
- We need to quantify the value of what household consume to understand their vulnerability
- Consumption is more than what households spend in cash on the market – it includes also assistance and own production.
- It is of paramount importance to collect expenditure data with maximum accuracy

# Overview of the expenditure module

Group	Recall period	Sources of consumption	Preferred respondent/informant
Food	Previous 7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purchases (cash &amp; credit)</li><li>• In-kind assistance and gifts</li><li>• Own-production</li></ul>	HH member normally in charge of preparing and purchasing food
Non-Food	Previous 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purchases (cash &amp; credit)</li><li>• In-kind assistance and gifts</li></ul>	HH head, or HH member more familiar with non-food expenditures
Non-food	Previous 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purchases (cash &amp; credit)</li><li>• In-kind assistance and gifts</li></ul>	HH head, or HH member more familiar with non-food expenditures

# An important clarification

- Even though, for simplicity, we call it “expenditure module”, actually we ask about two things:
  - For purchased items, we ask what the HH **purchased** and how much it **spent** on these purchases
  - For non-purchased items, we ask what the HH **consumed** and how much its value would be
- This is because our objective **is quantifying the value of what households consume**
- What would happen if we only asked about purchases?

# Submodules

**Food, Non-food (30 days), Non-food (6 months)**

# Food submodule: overview

	Item name	Example <sup>1</sup>	Variable Name	Did your household <u>purchase</u> any [item] <u>for household consumption</u> in the <b>last 7 days</b> , using cash <sup>2</sup> or on credit?	Considering both purchases made <u>in cash and on credit</u> , how much did your household spent on [item] in the <b>last 7 days</b> ?	In the <b>last 7 days</b> , did your household <u>consume</u> any [item] that came <u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u> <sup>3</sup> ?	What would be <u>the value</u> of the consumed [item] that came <u>from in-kind gifts or assistance</u> if you were to buy that at the market?	In the <b>last 7 days</b> , did your household <u>consume</u> any [item] that <u>you produced, gathered/hunted/fished<sup>4</sup>, or received in exchange of labor</u> ?	What would be <u>the value</u> of the consumed [item] that you <u>produced, gathered/hunted/fished, or received in exchange of labor</u> if you were to buy that at the market?
		Note: Before asking yes/no questions related to a certain item name, the enumerator should read: <i>now I will ask you about your consumption and expenditures of [item name]. This includes items such as...[Example]</i>		1=Yes -> 0=No -> next question ( <u>_GiftAidYN</u> )	(curr.)	1=Yes -> 0=No -> next question ( <u>_OwnYN</u> )	(curr.)	1=Yes -> 0=No -> next item	(curr.)
	Food groups (7 days <sup>5</sup> )		<u>_7D</u>	<u>_CashCredYN</u>	<u>_CashCred</u>	<u>_GiftAidYN</u>	<u>_GiftAid</u>	<u>_OwnYN</u>	<u>_Own</u>
1	Cereals	maize, rice, sorghum, wheat, etc. in the form of raw cereals,	<u>HHExpFCer</u>	__	__	__	__	__	__



# Food submodule: flow

1. Before starting: ensure that the sub-module is being administered to (or at least it is informed by) the hh member who is most knowledgeable about food consumption in the household
2. Before asking questions about a food group: read a script with a list of examples of food items that belong to that group (e.g. clarify that “cereals” include maize, rice, pasta...) □ important to refresh the memory of respondent!
3. For each food group, you ask three yes/no questions. Yes answers lead to follow-up questions



# Food submodule: cash and credit

Question	Clarifications
Did your household <u>purchase</u> any [...] <u>for household consumption</u> in the <b>last 7 days</b> , using cash or on credit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here we want to know if something is purchased, <b>independently from whether it is actually consumed</b></li><li>• For household consumption: means that we do not consider purchases made for making gifts or for feeding animals</li><li>• Cash: includes also value vouchers; the source of cash does not matter (e.g. no different treatment of purchases made with cash assistance)</li><li>• Credit: when the household purchases something now but repays it later</li></ul>
Considering both purchases made <u>in cash and on credit</u> , how much did your household spend on [item] in the <b>last 7 days</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here we want to know what was actually spent for the purchase, independently from the quantity consumed</li><li>• For purchases made on credit, report the money that the household will need to pay back in the future ☐ do not report zero!</li></ul>

# Food submodule: in-kind assistance and gifts

Question	Clarifications
In the <b>last 7 days</b> , did your household <u>consume</u> any [...] that came <u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here we want to know if household <u>consumed</u> something from in-kind assistance of in-kind gifts, <b>not if the household received it!</b></li><li>• In-kind assistance and gifts include: NGOs, UN agencies, government; religious authorities; gifts from family and friends; borrowing from family and friends; begging</li><li>• Remember that we only care about <u>in-kind assistance and in-kind gifts</u>, not if the hh consumed something thanks to cash received as assistance/gifts</li></ul>
What would be <u>the value</u> of the consumed [...] that came <u>from in-kind gifts or assistance</u> if you were to buy that at the market?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here respondent needs to provide an estimate of what it would cost to purchase what they consumed if they needed to buy it</li><li>• If a specific item does not exist in the local market, estimate based on value of comparable items</li></ul>

# Food submodule: own production

Question	Clarifications
In the last 7 days, did your household <u>consume</u> any [...] that <u>you produced, gathered/hunted/fished, or received in exchange of labor</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Here we want to know if household <u>consumed</u> something from own-production, <b>not if the household produced it or obtained it!</b></li> <li>Own production: includes food produced in household farm or garden, gathered and hunted from open fields, forests, rivers, lake, sea etc; but also food received in exchange of labor (e.g. as part of remuneration from agricultural wage work)</li> <li>The use of the words “gathered, hunted, or fished” depends on each specific food group</li> <li>It does not matter <u>when</u> the food was produced, it only matters when it was consumed. For example, if in the last 7 days household consumed some food out of stocks from previous production, that needs to be counted.</li> </ul>
What would be <u>the value</u> of the consumed_[item] that you <u>produced, gathered/hunted/fished, or received in exchange of labor</u> if you were to buy that at the market?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Here respondent needs to provide an estimate of what it would cost to purchase what they consumed <u>if they needed to buy it</u> <input type="checkbox"/> do not report the value they would get if they needed to sell!</li> </ul>

# Food submodule: consumption groups

Food group	Examples of items
Cereals	Maize, rice, sorghum, wheat, etc. in the form of raw cereals, flour, bread, pasta and similar products
Tubers	Potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassava, plantains, yams
Pulses and nuts	Beans, peas, lentils, nuts in shell or shelled
Vegetables	Dark green leafy vegetables, orange vegetable, other vegetables
Fruits	Fresh, frozen, dry fruit
Meat	Fresh, chilled, frozen meat and poultry; dry and salted meat
Fish	Fresh and frozen fish and other seafood

Food group	Examples of items
Oil/Fat/Butter	Vegetal oil, butter, margarin
Milk/Dairy products	Milk, cheese, yogurt, powered milk
Eggs	Eggs
Sugar, confectionery and desserts	Raw sugar, honey, jams, chocolate, ice cream and similar products
Condiment	Salt, spices, cubes, fish powder
Non-alcoholic beverages (including bottled water)	Coffee, tea, herbal infusion; bottled water; soft-drinks; juices
Snacks and meals prepared outside the home	Ready-made meals and snacks prepared outside the home, no matter if consumed inside or outside the home

# Non-food submodule (30 days): overview

	Item name	Example <sup>7</sup>  Note: Before asking yes/no questions related to a certain item name, the enumerator should read: <i>now I will ask you about your consumption and expenditures of [item name]. This includes items such as...[Example]</i>	Variable Name	In the <b>last 30 days</b> , did your household <b><u>purchase</u></b> any [item], using <b><u>cash or credit</u></b> ?  1=Yes -> 0=No -> next question (Assistance)	Considering both purchases made <b><u>in cash and on credit</u></b> , how much did your household spend on [item] in the <b>last 30 days</b> ?  (curr.)	In the <b>last 30 days</b> , did your household <b><u>use</u></b> any [item] that came <b><u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u></b> ?  1=Yes -> 0=No -> next question (Own)	What would be <b><u>the value</u></b> of [item] that came <b><u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u></b> if you were to pay for it?  (curr.)
	Non-food items (30 days)		<u>_1M</u>	<u>_CashCredYN</u>	<u>_CashCred</u>	<u>_GiftAidYN</u>	<u>_GiftAid</u>
	Personal care						
1	Hygiene items and services	Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, razors, detergents, insecticides, cosmetics; hairdressers/barber, beauty salon	<u>HHExpNFHyg</u>	_	_	_	_
	Transport						
2	Transport-related goods and services	Public transportation (bus, rail, boat etc.), taxi, rental of vehicles, maintenance of vehicles used for transportation (including lubricant, tyres, spare parts, repairs fees etc.)  DO NOT INCLUDE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES; EXCLUDE FUEL	<u>HHExpNFTransp</u>	_	_	_	_

# Non-food submodule (6 months): overview

	Item name	Example <sup>8</sup>  Note: Before asking yes/no questions related to a certain item name, the enumerator should read: <i>now I will ask you about your consumption and expenditures of [item name]. This includes items such as...[Example]</i>	Variable name	In the <b>last 6 months</b> , did your household <b><u>purchase</u></b> any or pay for [item], using <b><u>cash or credit</u></b> ?  1=Yes -> 0=No -> next question (Assistance)	Considering both purchases made <b><u>in cash and on credit</u></b> , how much did your household spend on [item] in the <b>last 6 months</b> ?  (curr.)	In the <b>last 6 months</b> , did your household <b><u>use or benefit from</u></b> any [item] that came <b><u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u></b> ?  1=Yes -> 0=No -> next item	What would be <b><u>the value</u></b> of [item] that came <b><u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u></b> if you were to pay for it?  (curr.)
	Non- food items (6 months) <sup>9</sup>		_6M	<u>_CashCredYN</u>	<u>_CashCred</u>	<u>_GiftAidYN</u>	<u>_GiftAid</u>
	Health						
1	Health services	Outpatient and hospital services, doctor fees, traditional healing	<u>HHExpNFMedServ</u>				
2	Medicines & Health products	Medicines, other medical products and equipment like glasses, syringes, crutches etc.	<u>HHExpNFMedGood</u>				

# Non-food submodules: flow

1. Before starting: ensure that the sub-module is being administered to the member most knowledgeable about non-food expenditures (default assumption is that this member is the head)
2. Before asking questions about a non-food group: read a script with a list of examples of items that belong to that group (e.g. “hygiene products” includes soap, toothpaste, toilet paper etc); also tell the respondent what they should exclude □ important to refresh the memory of respondent!
3. For each food group, you will ask two yes/no questions. Yes answers lead to follow-up questions



# Non-food: cash and credit

Question	Clarifications
In the <b>last 30 days/6 months</b> , did your household <u>purchase any/pay for</u> [...], using <u>cash or credit</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here we want to know if something is purchased, <b>independently from whether it is actually consumed</b></li><li>• Cash: includes also value vouchers; the source of cash does not matter (e.g. no different treatment of purchases made with cash assistance)</li><li>• Credit: when the household purchases something now but repays later</li></ul>
Considering both purchases made <u>in cash and on credit</u> , how much did your household spent on [...] in the <b>last 30 days/6 months</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here we want to know what was actually spent for the purchase, independently from the quantity consumed</li><li>• For purchases made in credit, report the money that the household will need to pay back in the future ☐ do not report zero!</li></ul>

# Non-food: in-kind assistance and gifts

Question	Clarifications
In the last 30 days/6 months, did your household use any/benefit from [...] that came <u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here we want to know if household <u>consumed</u> something from in-kind assistance of in-kind gifts, <b>not if the household received it!</b></li><li>• In-kind assistance and gifts include: NGOs, UN agencies, government; religious authorities; gifts from family and friends; borrowing from family and friends; begging</li><li>• Remember that we only care about <u>in-kind assistance and gifts</u>, not if the hh consumed something thanks to cash received as assistance/gifts</li></ul>
What would be <u>the value</u> of [...] that came <u>from in-kind gifts or in-kind assistance</u> if you were to pay for it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Here respondent needs to provide an estimate of what it would cost to purchase what they consumed if they needed to buy it</li><li>• If a specific item does not exist in the local market, estimate based on value of comparable items</li></ul>

# Non-Food submodule (30 days): groups

Group	Examples of items
Hygiene items and services	Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, razors, detergents, insecticides, cosmetics; hairdressers/barber, beauty salon
Transport-related goods and services	Public transportation (bus, rail, boat etc.), taxi, rental of vehicles, maintenance of vehicles used for transportation (including lubricant, tyres, spare parts, repairs fees etc.) DO NOT INCLUDE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES; EXCLUDE FUEL
Fuel	Gasoline, diesel and any other fuel used for vehicles DO NOT REPORT ON FUEL USED FOR VEHICLES USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PRODUCTIVE/BUSINESS PURPOSES; DO NOT REPORT ON FUEL USED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TRANSPORTATION
Water supply for domestic use	Water for domestic supply EXCLUDE BOTTLED DRINKING WATER
Electricity	Electricity DO NOT REPORT ELECTRICITY USED FOR BUSINESS/PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES ONLY

# Non-Food submodule (30 days): groups

Food group	Examples of items
Other sources of energy for cooking, heating, lighting etc.	Gas, kerosene, other liquid fuels; wood, charcoal, candles, other solid fuels DO NOT INCLUDE ELECTRICITY; DO NOT INCLUDE FUEL FOR TRANSPORTATION
Services related to dwelling	Waste collection, sewage collection, maintenance charge in collective buildings, security services, wages paid to helpers like maids and lawnsboys
Communication-related goods and services	Mobile top-up, internet, landline charges, postal services. DO NOT INCLUDE PURCHASE OF DEVICES LIKE PHONES, RADIOS, COMPUTERS, TVs...
Goods and services related recreation, sport and culture	Entertainment, sports, lottery, gambling, newspapers, magazines, books, toys, hobbies, hotels DO NOT INCLUDE EXPENDITURES FOR LARGE/SPECIAL CEREMONIES LIKE WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS
Alcohol, Tobacco	

# Non-Food submodule (6 months): groups

Group	Examples of items
Health services	Outpatient and hospital services, doctor fees, traditional healing
Medicines & Health products	Medicines, other medical products and equipment like glasses, syringes, crutches etc.
Clothing and footwear	Clothing and shoes, including purchase, repair, tailor and laundry services  DO NOT INCLUDE SCHOOL UNIFORMS
Education services	Tuitions fees, Exam fees, Other fees

Food group	Examples of items
Education goods	Other education costs including uniforms, books, canteen, transport and other education material
Rent	Rent paid for housing
Household non-durable furniture and utensils	Textiles (like bed sheets, blankets, pillows, curtains, carpets) and utensils (like bowls, plates, silverware, cookpots, brooms, brushes, umbrellas, torches, lamps etc.)  DO NOT INCLUDE DURABLE FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES LIKE BEDS, TABLES, CHAIRS, FRIDGE, TV, PHONES, FANS, STOVES, GAS COOKER...
Household routine maintenance	Goods and services for household routine maintenance (like repairs to dwelling, repairs to appliances and furniture etc.).

# Non-Food groups: general considerations

- Do not forget that we are not asking only about goods, but also services; if respondents seem to be reporting only goods, probe regarding services
- For non-food groups, it is important to make sure that respondents do not report twice the same expenditure under different groups (e.g. “fuel” under “transport-related goods and services” or under “other sources of energy for cooking, heating, lighting etc.”)
- As indicated in the questionnaire, it is very important that large expenditures are not included (e.g. purchase of vehicles, phones, large furniture, appliances...)
- Make sure respondents are not reporting on expenditures made for businesses inputs and investments

# Considerations for administering the module

**Tips for successful implementation**



# General considerations

- Pay special attention to the different recall periods of sub-modules (7 days, 30 days, 6 months)
- Always make sure that respondents understand that they are supposed to report on behalf of the whole household
- Pay extra attention to zeros when entering values (e.g. careful of not writing 1,000 instead of 10,000!)
- Make sure values are reported in required currency
- Probe!

# Probing: when to probe?

- Household declares that does not spend/consume anything on very common consumption categories (e.g. cereals, tubers, hygiene items, clothing...)
- Expenditures/Consumption that look excessively low or high, especially in comparison to...
  - Household size
  - Reported income (when collected)
  - Type of livelihood
  - Food consumption (e.g. households do not report consuming meat in the FCS module but report expenditures on meat)
  - Status of the dwelling
  - Coping strategies

# Probing: how to probe?

- If reported expenditures/values of consumption is too high or low:
  - Make sure the respondent understood the reference period (e.g. switching between submodules with different recall periods)
  - Make sure the respondent understood what it is included in the food group
    - Read again the examples in each group if necessary
  - Make sure the respondent is reporting using the required currency – if cannot report in the requested currency, help make conversions
  - Ask the respondent about the exact items purchased/consumed: then ask about quantities and prices to understand if the estimate made by the respondent is realistic

# Difficulties in recalling

- Respondents might struggle to recall what they spent/consumed because:
  - They can't remember which items they consumed among those that are part of a certain group (e.g. cannot remember about all the products that are part of “cereals” or “hygiene items”)
  - They can't remember how much they spent or how much they consumed of these products
- Strategies to help respondents:
  - Break down the task for the most important items that form part of a group (e.g. ask about their purchases of rice, maize, pasta, bread, flour within the group “cereals”)
  - Break down the recall period: e.g. for the 30 days recall, ask about last 7 days only – then ask about 2 weeks ago and so on
  - If the two strategies above do not work, try to get an estimate of what they would “typically” consume/spend in a certain period – then figure out if the last 7 days/30 days are somehow different than the usual situation and adjust accordingly