



Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)

An approach addressing the multiple dimensions of food security with transparent indicators which are consistent with internationally accepted food security concepts.

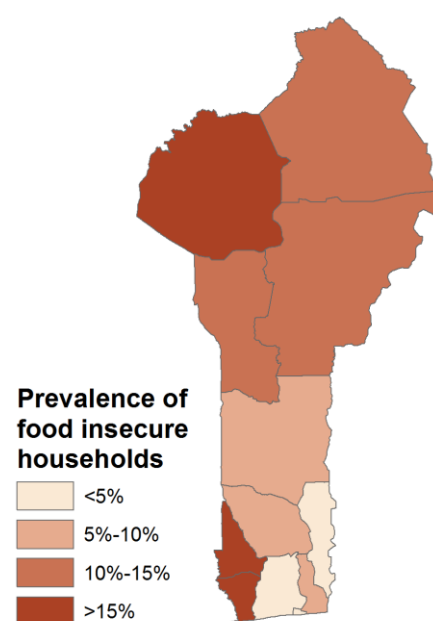
The **CARI** is a method used for analysing and reporting the level of food insecurity within a population. When CARI is employed, each surveyed household is classified into one of four **food security categories** (see table below). This classification is based on the household's **current status** of food security (using food consumption indicators) and their **coping capacity** (using indicators measuring **economic vulnerability** and **asset depletion**).

Food secure	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies	Food secure
Marginally food secure	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures	
Moderately food insecure	Has significant food consumption gaps, OR marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies	Food insecure
Severely food insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps, OR has extreme loss of livelihood assets will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse	

CARI results are presented within the **CARI food security console** (below). The console provides a clear snapshot of the recorded prevalence of each *available* CARI food security indicator. It also supports the combining of the available food security indicators in a **systematic** and **transparent** way to establish the population's overall food security outcome, the **Food Security Index (FSI)**.

Example CARI console and food insecurity map (Benin CFSVA, 2013):

Domain and household indicators		Food secure (1)	Marginally food secure (2)	Moderately food insecure (3)	Severely food insecure (4)
Current Status	Food Consumption (FC) (Food consumption group)	77%	—	18%	5%
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability (EV) (Food exp. share)	60%	27%	8%	5%
	Asset Depletion (AD) (Livelihood coping strategy categories)	68%	21%	7%	4%
Food Security Index shares*		55%	34%	11%	<1%
National prevalence of food insecure households				11%	



*FSI shares represent the proportion of households in each of the four food security categories. Each household's FSI classification is determined by an algorithm which considers the scores (1 to 4) it registered for each indicator. Within both dimensions (i.e. Coping Capacity and Current Status) the 4-point scale outcomes for the available indicators are averaged. In turn, a simple average is taken of the two dimension scores; this determines the household's final CARI score (which will fall between 1 and 4). In the example console above, this process is represented by: $(FC + (EV+AD))/2 / 2$.

More information: <https://resources.vam.wfp.org/CARI>