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### Examining the Existing Direct Measures of Hunger in the Philippines

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#### Abstract

The measures of hunger from household surveys conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and Social Weather Stations (SWS) were examined to determine which of these can be effectively used in deriving the prevalence of hunger; in identifying at-risk areas and population groups and in monitoring the success of project interventions. On the basis of these measures, there is evidence that the incidence of hunger has increased in the last two years; that hunger has various components and within the households, varying levels of severity. Mothers are more at risk compared to children. Those households with heads who are either unemployed or unskilled workers; whose mothers' highest educational attainment is elementary school are more likely to be hungry. Geographically, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), has the highest incidence of hunger. The Radimer/Cornell instrument that FNRI used or a good adaptation of it can render consistent and valid direct measures of hunger and food insecurity. However, more research is needed to adapt the instrument so that it can be applied to all types of households.

**Keywords:** *Direct measures of hunger, Radimer/Cornell instrument, household surveys.*