

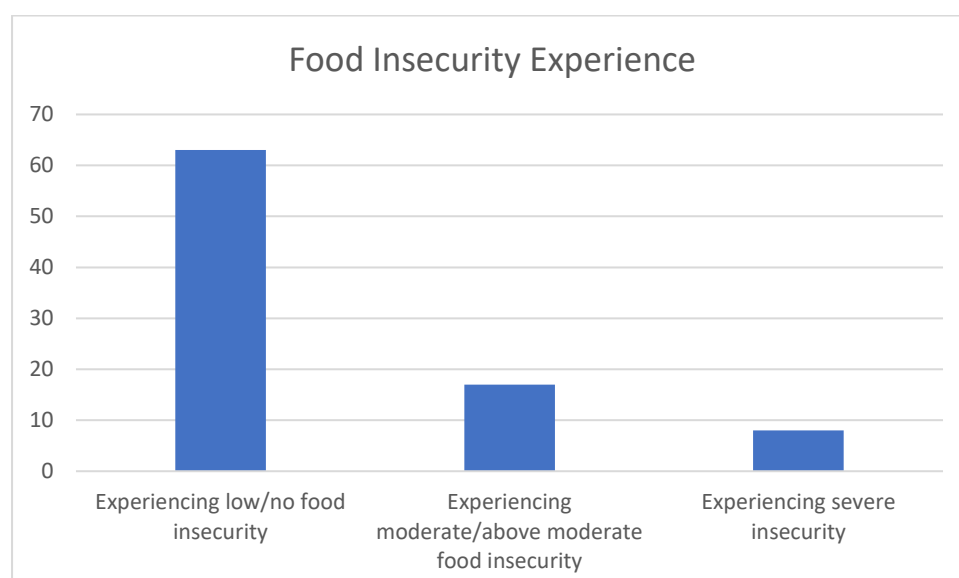


FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SUMMARY, FIJI AND VANUATU

As part of the Climate Resilient Islands programme, communities in Fiji and Vanuatu were surveyed to assess their levels of food security. Questions asked related to times when households went hungry because of lack of access to food or income, stress over food insecurity and whether healthy food was available. The responses were then analysed for trends, and the findings incorporated into each Community Resilience Profile, a key assessment tool in phase 1 of the programme.

Fiji

The Fijian communities surveyed reported fairly low food insecurity overall. Of the 88 respondent households, 63 reported low or no food insecurity (20 of which responded Yes to none of the indicators), with only 8 experiencing severe food insecurity. 17 were in the moderate/above moderate category.

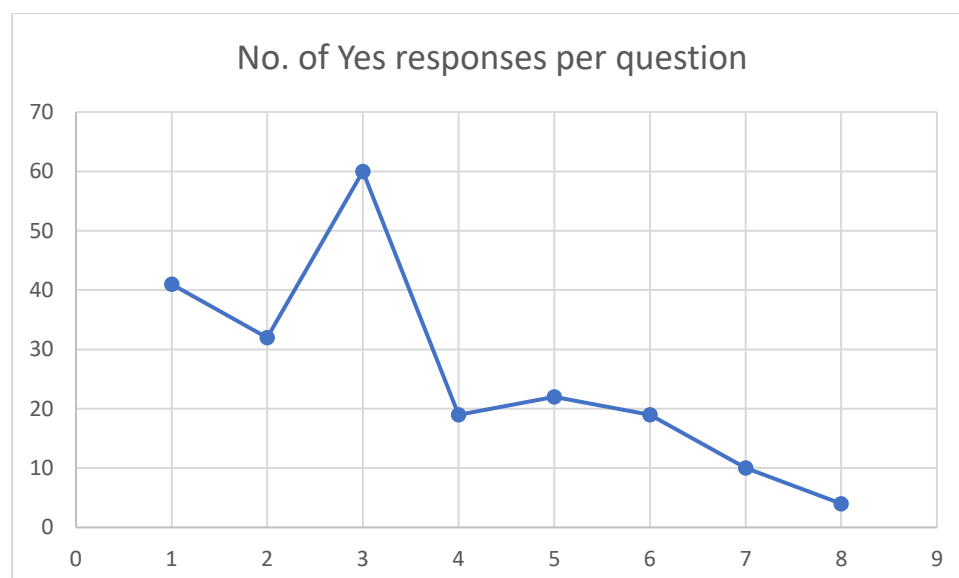


This distribution is broadly consistent across communities. Nawailevu, Naiqaqi, Valeni, Dreketi and Naibulu trend strongly towards lower food insecurity, with more than 70% of households in all these communities reporting low or no food insecurity and typically only one or two households reporting either moderate or severe levels.

Vitina and Laucala are exceptions. Less than half of the surveyed households in each village reported low or no food insecurity, with most experiencing moderate or above moderate levels (5 out of 9 in Vitina; 7 out of 12 in Laucala). For Vitina, this may be due to their relative remoteness, as well as local factors like land degradation, topography and more. However, Laucala's responses are unusual, given it is in-between and very close to Naiqaqi and Valeni, both of which reported very low food insecurity.

The other standout trend is the apparently low variety of foods. The most commonly experienced indicator by far was the third, tagged FEWFOODS, asking '*Was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?*', with 60 **Yes** responses. This is well ahead of the next most common, the first, tagged WORRIED, asking '*During the last 1 MONTH, was there a time when you were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?*', which had 41 **Yes** responses. This means that while less than half were concerned about having enough food, nearly three-quarters of households have or are eating a limited range of foods, possibly having implications on nutrition as well as food insecurity in the future.

Aside from this slight aberration in the data, responses are overall linear in the decreasing affirmative responses, suggesting the information is reliable.



Vanuatu

Vanuatu shows both encouraging and concerning signs for its food insecurity. Averaged out across the 168 respondent households, the surveyed communities have an overall moderate level of food insecurity, but with a highly unequal distribution.



Of the 168 surveyed households, 95 were found to be experiencing low or no food insecurity, 23 moderate or above moderate food insecurity, and 50 were experiencing severe food insecurity.

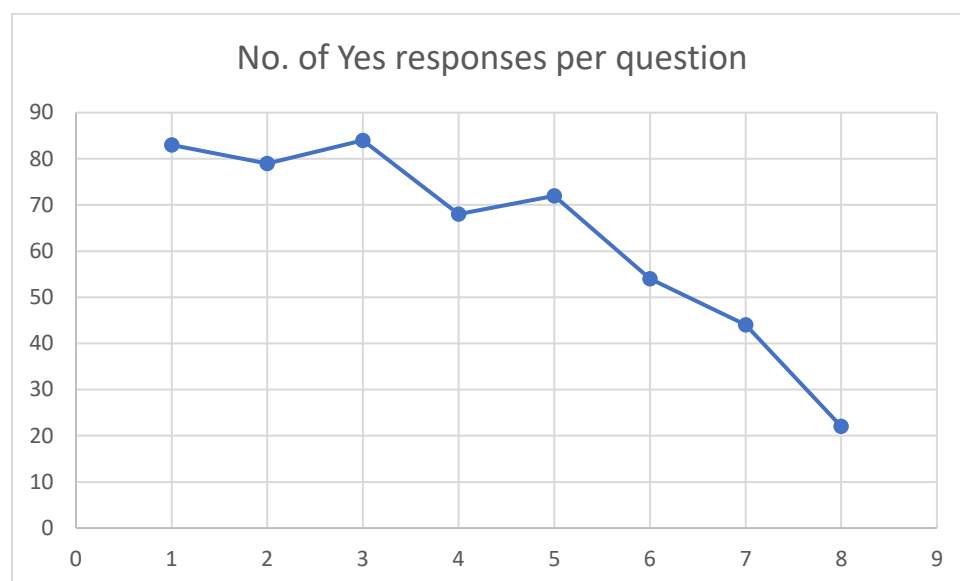
Of the households experiencing low or no food insecurity, 72 responded **No** to every question, meaning the majority of those 95 households were experiencing no food insecurity. While this is a good sign, the 50 households experiencing severe food insecurity reveal an inequality which is seen in the individual community data.

For example, Sunae and Akhamb reported almost no food insecurity, while Loru was also very low. However, 80% of households in Kerepua were in the severe category. This was also the predominant category in Vanausi, which 32 of its 76 households reported experiencing. Kerepua and Vanausi are also the two communities in which the most households were surveyed; together, they supplied 96 household surveys, more than half of Vanuatu's data overall. By contrast, only 28 households were surveyed across Sunae, Loru and Akhamb.

The remaining communities of Pangpang (8 households), Malaliu (9 households) and those of Krab Bay (10 households) similarly reported relatively low food insecurity. This suggests a potential link between community size, or at least number of households surveyed, and the level of food insecurity found.

Across Vanuatu, the most commonly experienced indicators were the third, tagged FEWFOODS, asking '*Was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?*', and the first, tagged WORRIED, asking '*During the last 1 MONTH, was there a time when you were worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?*', receiving 84 and 83 **Yes** responses respectively. The second question, tagged HEALTHY, which asked '*Still thinking about the last 12 MONTHS, was there a time when you were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?*', was close with 79 **Yes** responses. The final indicator, tagged WHOLEDAY, asking '*During the last 1 MONTH, was there a time when you went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?*', was the least experienced, with only 22 **Yes** responses.

There is a linear decrease in affirmative responses across the data set, suggesting the responses are reliable.



Overall

There are a few baseline trends that stand out when the combined data from both Vanuatu and Fiji is analysed.

The first is the relative prevalence of severe food insecurity over moderate/above moderate food insecurity. It is possible this is due to the way the data has been grouped, as the 'moderate/above moderate' category includes respondents that have answered **Yes** to 4 or 5 questions, while the 'severe' category includes those that have responded **Yes** to 6, 7 or 8 questions – a broader range. However, even if we limit the severe category to only those who have responded **Yes** to 7 or 8 questions, there are still 11 more households experiencing severe food insecurity than moderate insecurity. With households in the low or no food insecurity category outnumbering them both by far, this suggests high inequality across the communities.

Another trend is the commonness of the third indicator, which asks '*Was there a time when you ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?*'. FIES responses should, in theory, decline in affirmative responses throughout the indicators – with the first question receiving the most and the eighth question the least. However, the third indicator is the most common, experienced by 19 more households than the first and 31 more than the second. Much of this disparity is due to Fiji's responses, though in Vanuatu the third indicator is still equal with the first and slightly ahead of the second. This suggests a general lack of food variety with possible implications for nutrition and higher food insecurity in the longer term.

Resilience planning

Understanding community food insecurity and how that relates to community assets informs the next phase of the CRI programme – establishing community resilience plans, which involves noting assets most at risk, especially from the impacts of climate change, community capacity for making changes and strategies for increasing resilience.



Climate Resilient Islands aims to strengthen community resilience and adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions working with rural communities in Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The project is a New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiative implemented by Live & Learn Environmental Education.

