



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

HARMONISATION OF INDIVIDUAL QUANTITATIVE FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working hand in hand with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international partners to bring to light existing evidence and knowledge on what people eat.

Food consumption data, particularly Individual Quantitative Food Consumption Data (IQFCD) are collected in many countries, including Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). However, they are largely underutilized, due to poor dissemination and lack of harmonization that prevents comparison across periods of time, seasons and geographical locations.

In response to this, FAO and WHO work jointly to improve the availability of IQFCD worldwide by collating existing datasets, harmonizing them and sharing through an online platform called [the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool](#) (FAO/WHO GIFT).

This Call for Expression of Interest, issued by FAO, is to identify institutions from LMICs, which have access to IQFCD that could be eventually shared through the FAO/WHO GIFT platform, and are interested in entering into a contractual agreement with FAO to harmonize these datasets as well as their supporting documentation according to FAO standards. Based on such agreement FAO would cover the costs of the harmonization work.

THIS CALL IS ADDRESSED TO:

- ✓ INSTITUTIONS THAT OWN
INDIVIDUAL QUANTITATIVE FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA
- ✓ INSTITUTIONS THAT WORK WITH
INDIVIDUAL QUANTITATIVE FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA

BACKGROUND

The Food and Nutrition Division (ESN) of the FAO, together with its partner institutions, created [the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool](#) (FAO/WHO GIFT). FAO/WHO GIFT is a multipurpose global database of food consumption data which fills the gap in understanding what people are consuming around the world, promoting the use of these data to better inform evidence-based policies and guidelines on healthy diets.

The FAO/WHO GIFT platform disseminates harmonized dietary intake data from national and sub-national level surveys conducted all over the world through a FAO hosted web-platform that is publicly available and free of charge to access and use. This platform, intended for use by both experts and the broader audience, aims to facilitate access to age and sex disaggregated data on individual food consumption and to provide high quality food-based nutrition indicators that can trigger targeted policies to improve diet quality. The tool also provides data for the assessment of dietary exposure to potentially hazardous agents. Please visit our website for further information about the platform: <http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>.

Datasets suitable for insertion in the FAO/WHO GIFT platform undergo a process of harmonization. This process includes the mapping of the foods reported as consumed with the FoodEx2 classification system¹, and the formatting of the food consumption database in a specific way. In addition, FAO/WHO GIFT format requires that all recipes (i.e. mixed dishes with more than one ingredient) are disaggregated into single ingredients. Each ingredient should have the amount and nutrient content reported as consumed, which, in the majority of cases, refer to the amount and nutrient content as cooked.

The aim of this Call for Expression of Interest is to identify institutions from LMICs who own or have access to IQFCD and would be interested in sharing the data. Service contracts called Letter of Agreements (LoA) could be awarded by FAO to these institutions. The objective of the service contract between FAO and an institution would be to develop supporting tools related to data harmonization and standardization based on one or more datasets of individual quantitative food consumption dataset owned by the institution.

The supporting tools to be developed can include, but are not limited to: table of foods and recipes reported as consumed in the dataset mapped with the FoodEx2 classification system; recipe database with the disaggregation of all mixed dishes reported in the dataset, including the amount and nutrient values of each recipe ingredient; a list of all the food composition sources used to match the information on the recipe ingredients and the foods reported in the dataset to their nutrient values.

The development and provision of supporting tools based on individual quantitative food consumption datasets will facilitate the insertion of these datasets in the FAO/WHO GIFT platform.

¹ FoodEx2 is a comprehensive and flexible food classification and description system developed and maintained by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). More information available at: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data/data-standardisation

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The Institution

The selected institutions will be universities, research institutes, Governmental institutes, NGOs, that fulfill all of the following criteria:

1. Are legally registered as a not-for-profit entity.
2. Operate and are registered in a low or middle-income country. [Check the country here.](#)
3. Own an eligible dataset (see the requirements below) or have access to an eligible dataset owned by another institution.
4. Provide FAO with all the necessary information on the dataset in order to assess the scope and amount of work required for the development of supporting tools.
5. Are able to perform data harmonization activities which include, but are not limited to, data coding with the FoodEx2 data classification and description system, recipe disaggregation, and documentation of food composition data used in the dataset.
6. Are able to participate in online trainings and meetings with the FAO/WHO GIFT team to receive necessary guidance and technical support in data harmonization.
7. Have sufficient human resources available to perform the work (it is not permitted to sub-contract or use funds to hire additional personnel to perform the work).
8. Are equipped with the necessary IT infrastructure, skills and technical support needed to carry out the work.
9. Are able to communicate with the FAO/WHO GIFT team in English, French or Spanish.
10. Agree to share their data publicly and sign a License to Redistribute Contribution to allow FAO to disseminate the data in the most disaggregated format through its dissemination platforms.

The Dataset

The eligible dataset needs to fulfill all of the following criteria:

1. Method of data collection: Individual quantitative 24h recalls or records/diary (no Food Frequency Questionnaires or Household surveys).
2. Presence of compulsory variables in the dataset (these variables are specified in the attached Application Form).
3. Survey sample should cover the general population i.e. there should be no evidence of selection bias such as medical conditions, people who eat in the same place, etc.
4. Sample size ≥ 100 .
5. Capture of all foods and beverages consumed within 24 hours (the capture of drinking water and vitamin and mineral supplements is preferred but not compulsory).
6. Food list includes ≥ 50 food items.
7. Year of assessment ≥ 1980 .

THE TASKS

Below is the list of tasks, which can be included in the agreement:

- Participation to the FoodEx2 data classification and description system training provided by FAO;
- Mapping of the foods reported as consumed in the dataset(s) to the FoodEx2 classification and description system;
- Development of a recipe database with the disaggregation of all mixed dishes reported in the dataset containing the amounts and food composition information for all recipe ingredients;
- Compiling documentation of the food composition information used and respective bibliographic sources for all foods (food items and recipe ingredients) reported as consumed in the dataset(s);
- Liaison with FAO during the data harmonization and recipe disaggregation processes and prepare data harmonization and analysis reports.

POSSIBLE OUTPUTS

- Food list mapped with FoodEx2 food classification and description system
- Recipe database formatted according to FAO/WHO GIFT template
- Food composition database formatted according to FAO/WHO GIFT template

TIMING

Expression of interest and selection	April - May 2021
Assessment of the work required	June 2021
Signature of the agreement	July 2021
Duration of agreement	6 to 12 months from agreement signature ²
Conclusion of agreement	No later than September 2022.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete and sign the application form that follows. Applications will be evaluated by FAO on the basis of the relevance of your dataset for the country and global needs, and relevant experience of your institution to perform the work. The ten top-ranked candidates will be offered to enter negotiations. The harmonized rates to be offered to institutions to cover the cost of the work depend on the activities and the size of the dataset, and would be decided by FAO. The LoA allocation of funds scheme is presented in Annex 1.

The completed and signed applications should be sent through e-mail to the following address: FAO-WHO-Gift@fao.org, before the application deadline which is 28th of May 2021, stating in the subject of the email: *"Call for EoI – FAO/WHO GIFT 2021: [name of the Applicant]"*. The Expressions of Interest, including the submitted documents, shall be in English, French or Spanish.

Thank you for your time and interest in our Call for Expression of Interest. If you have any questions or doubts, please write us to FAO-WHO-Gift@fao.org and allow up to 5 days for a response.

² According to work required and resources available

APPLICATION FORM

Name of institution:**Address:****Telephone number, including country code:****Contact email:****Name and title of contact person:****Contact email of the contact person:****Name and title of signatory for institution:****Part I: The institution**

1. Please confirm whether your institution complies with the eligibility criteria listed below:

Is the institution legally registered as a not-for-profit entity?	Yes	No
Is the institution registered and operating in a low or middle-income country? Check the country here	Yes	No
Does the institution own an eligible dataset (see the requirements below) or have access to an eligible dataset owned by another institution?	Yes	No
Is the institution able to perform data harmonization activities, which include, but are not limited to, data coding with the FoodEx2 data classification and description system, recipe disaggregation, and documentation of food composition data used in the dataset? ³	Yes	No
Are the institution staff able to participate in online trainings and meetings with the FAO/WHO GIFT team to receive necessary guidance and technical support in data harmonization?	Yes	No
Does the institution have sufficient human resources available to perform the work? ⁴	Yes	No
Are the institution staff equipped with the necessary IT infrastructure, skills and technical support needed to carry out the work?	Yes	No
Are the institution staff able to communicate with the FAO/WHO GIFT team in English, French or Spanish?	Yes	No
Is the institution in a position to obtain the appropriate signature on the License to Redistribute Contribution to allow FAO to disseminate the data in the most disaggregated format through its dissemination platforms?	Yes	No

2. Please describe briefly (Max 200 words) why you believe your institution is qualified to carry out the required activities.

Answer:

3. Please describe briefly (Max 200 words) the role of your institution in the survey(s) planning, implementation and data management.

Answer:

³ FAO will provide required training and guidance to support the technical aspects of the tasks

⁴ it is not permitted to sub-contract or use funds to hire additional personnel to perform the work

4. Are the person(s) identified to perform the activities under this contract involved in the survey(s) planning, implementation and data management?

Yes

No

5. If the answer to the question 4. is “yes” please specify what tasks they were involved in.

Answer:

Part II: The survey

6. Please provide the title of the survey(s).

Answer:

7. Please state which institution(s) is/are the owner(s) of this survey data.

Answer:

8. Please complete the information on the survey⁵:

Country surveyed	
Geographical/administrative coverage of the data collection	National Subnational
Name of the institution who performed the field work	
Is the survey part of a rolling programme ⁶ ?	Yes No
Language of the dataset	
Access link to the online resource (if available) ⁷	
Dietary assessment method	
Data collection start date (mm/yyyy)	
Data collection end date (mm/yyyy)	
Number of rounds of data collection ⁸	
Repeated dietary recall/record	Yes Yes, on a sub-sample No

⁵ If you are applying with more than 1 dataset, please copy the table and fill the information for each dataset separately

⁶ If the survey is implemented periodically, every certain number of years as a part of a long-term programme

⁷ An online resource could be any publication related to your survey or the survey data already available for download from other databases

⁸ If the data was collected multiple times on the same population over different seasons or clear separated time, each data collection is considered one round

Survey population (<i>e.g. children, pregnant women</i>)	
Survey population: were there any special selection criteria such as medical conditions, people who eat in the same place, etc.	Yes, please describe No
Type of area covered by the survey (<i>e.g. rural, urban, peri-urban</i>)	
Total sample size	
Number of different food items in the food list	
Number of unique recipes and mixed dishes	
Capture of all foods and beverages consumed within 24 hours	Yes No
If the answer to the question above was “No”, please list those foods and beverages which were not captured by the survey	
Management of recipes and mixed dishes (<i>Please provide details, e.g. use of standard recipes, data on ingredients collected</i>)	
Presence of compulsory variables (please tick the box next to those which are in your dataset)	Country name Type of area in which the subject is living (Rural/urban/peri-urban) Unique subject identifier (anonymized, if possible) Sex Age (years) Age (months) (if children under 5 years old) Body weight (kg) Method used to measure body weight (Measured/self-reported) Number of survey days Date (year) of consumption Food name Food amount (grams) Energy (Kcal) Macronutrients and micronutrients

Annex 1. The LoA allocation of funds scheme*

Harmonization of food list			
	Funds allocation key	Minimum	Maximum
FoodEx2 mapping of food items	The amount will be determined based on the number of unique food items on the food list	\$1,600	\$2,800
	Funds allocation key	Minimum	Maximum
FoodEx2 mapping of recipe items	The amount will be determined based on the number of unique recipe items on the food list	\$500	\$3,700
Preparation of harmonization report**		\$1,000	
Food Composition Table information***			
	Funds allocation key	Minimum	Maximum
Documentation of nutrient composition information used and respective bibliographic sources (according to GIFT template)	The amount will be determined based on the number of unique food items on the food list	\$1,200	\$2,000
Disaggregation of mixed dishes/recipes***			
	Funds allocation key	Minimum	Maximum
Disaggregation of mixed dishes/recipes	The amount will be determined based on the number of unique mixed dishes/recipes on the food list	\$1,000	\$4,000
Application of yield factor (YF) and nutrient retention factor (RF) to recipe ingredients			
	Funds allocation key	Minimum	Maximum
Preparation of a list of ingredient YF and RF***	The amount will be determined based on the number of unique recipe ingredients on the food list	\$600	\$1,000
Application of YF and RF to consumption dataset		\$600	\$1,000
Additional activities			
Preparation of data cleaning and analysis report**		\$1,000	
Overhead (max 10%)		Max. 10%	
Total estimated value of the LoA	Funds allocation key	Minimum	Maximum
	The estimates are done based on the assumption that compilation of FCT information and disaggregation of the recipes is done under the agreement, and considering the maximum value of the overhead	\$8,250	\$18,150

*FAO decides on the funds to be allocated. The values apply for each dataset included in the LoA, apart from the reports

**The amount of the reports are per LoA, not per dataset

***If already available, minimum of USD 500 could be provided for formatting file to the FAO/WHO GIFT template