



POVERTY MODULE MANUAL

A guide to the definition and the actual questions being asked in the Poverty/Deprivation module, Section S3.7.1 of the HIES

S3.7.1 Deprivation:

Questions and Definitions.

This section looks at a range of items and activities that can be associated with standard of living. Hardship is defined by the respondents’:

- inability to afford items that most people think all families ought to have;
- their other ‘unmet needs’ ; and
- whether they are managing their money and staying clear of problem debts – that is debts they cannot repay and are falling behind with the repayments

These questions will be used to gain a better understanding of people's living standards and the spending choices that they make. None of these items on their own is an entirely adequate measure, but taken together they add up to a very sensitive and reliable measure of family material well – being or hardship.

The series of questions which determine hardship are either factual or opinion based. For them to effectively determine hardship and deprivation the answers *must* reflect the *respondent's interpretation* of the question. Do not attempt to guide or re-phrase the question. If the respondent does not understand what is being asked (for instance they are unclear about what we mean by 'all weather shoes'), simply repeat the question and ask them to answer it to the best of their ability. Please do not give your translation of a phrase or question.

For S3.6.1 (Adult deprivation), the questions will be asked for all Adults (age 16 and over) in the household. S3.6.2 (Household and Children deprivation) the questions will only be asked of ONE adult in the Household, preferably the head of the Household. Parents can be allowed to answer together these questions if they wish.

We are interested in what kinds of things you think are ESENTIAL – THINGS THAT NO ONE IN TONGA (relevant country) SHOULD HAVE TO GO WITHOUT TODAY.

Which of the following EVERYDAY THINGS do you think are essential for everyone in (relevant country) today?

For each item, answer 1 for Yes if the respondent thinks that the item is ‘essential’ and 2 for No if respondents think that the item it is ‘not essential’.

Then answer 1 for Yes if you/your family ‘have it’ and 2 for No if you/your family ‘don’t have it’.

If you have the item, there is no need to provide an answer in the third column.

If you do NOT have an item, indicate in the third column by circling whether or not this is because you cannot afford it (1) or you don’t want it (2).

S3.7.1 Deprivation (All adult members 16 and above)

Q30702: Two pairs of properly fitting shoes, including a pair of all-weather shoes

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: 'Do you have ...READ... two pairs of all-weather shoes?' (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Some respondents may be unsure about what to include when thinking of "all-weather shoes". This must be based on the respondent's judgement - trainers may or may not count, depending on their perception.

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Shoes

The concept of shoes has to be understood in a broad sense. It could include boots, sandals, etc. according to the climatic conditions of the concerned country. On the other hand, all-weather shoes could be defined as any daily life shoes with the exception of sandals and boots.

AQ30703: Two meals a day

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you have ...READ... at least two meals a day? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Q30704: Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you have ...READ... a small amount of money to spend each week on yourself (not on your family)? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

To spend a small amount of money on yourself means to freely spend money. e.g. To go to the movies, to buy a gift for a friend, to go to the hairdresser, etc. The "Yes" answer means that the person can afford to spend this money without having to consult anyone. The variable aims to capture indirectly the effects of the intra-familial income distribution.

Q30705: Clothes to wear for social or family occasions such as parties or special church occasions.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

**Question: Do you have ...READ... clothes to wear for social or family occasions such as parties or special church occasions? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

Clothes includes traditional wears that goes along with it. For example, in the Tongan society, ta'ovala and kafa are traditional wears where different ta'ovala is to be worn at different occasions. In addition, different types of ta'ovala worn by someone will identify how much wealth he/she has. Such traditional wears are similar to other Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) we lived in.

BASIC NEEDS

Q30706: Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

**Question: Do you replace ...READ... any worn-out clothes by some new, not second-hand ones? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

The focus is on the replacement of the worn out clothes by some new clothes. Not all clothes must be new, some can be second-hand. The variable refers to worn out clothes, not to old-fashioned ones.

Q30707: To get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

**Question: Do you get together ...READ... with friends or family around for a drink or meal at least once a month? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

Friends

The friends are people the respondent gets together with in his/her spare time (i.e. after working hours, at weekends, or for holidays) and with whom the respondent shares private matters.

Family (relatives)

The family, or relatives, shall be understood in the widest sense, and shall include father/mother/children, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and families-in-law.

To get together for a drink/meal

To get-together for a drink/meal means spending time eating and/or drinking with friends or family (relatives) at home or elsewhere (restaurant, pub, kava party etc.).

This formulation is thought to be more adapted in a cross national perspective because having friends at home is not the main way to have social relation in Tonga. This variable aims to take into account the multi-cultural specificities as well as the financial and social aspects of deprivation.

Q30708: Presents for friends or families once a year

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you have...READ... presents for friends or families once a year? E.g. for birthdays/weddings etc. (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Q30709: Enough money to be able to visit friends and family in hospital or other institutions (including those from overseas and outer islands)

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you have ...READ... enough money to be able to visit friends and family in hospital or other institutions, including those from overseas and outer islands? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Visiting relatives and friends are parts of the responsibilities of our society. In particular, the Tongan society perform different roles depending on how they related to each other. These obligations are costly these days and this question focus on whether each adult are fulfilling his/her relational function to either his relatives or friends. Normally visiting someone means that food must be accompanied even with other Tongan possessions of ngatu, mats, oils and other necessary possession which are very costly these days.

Q30710: Access to safe public transport such buses, airplanes and boats.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you access ...READ... to safe Public transport such as buses, airplanes, boats etc.? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Accessibility

Accessibility of this service is to be assessed in terms of physical and technical access, and opening hours, but not in terms of quality, price and similar aspects. Consequently, the access should refer to an objective and physical reality. It should not be based on a subjective feeling. Physical access has to be assessed in terms of distance but also of infrastructure and equipment for example for respondents with a physical disability.

Public transport

Public transport refer to the bus, metro, tram, boats/ferries, airplanes and similar. Safety must be considered in these circumstances which will depend on the respondent's local knowledge and interpretation.

Q30711: A good meal with meat/fish on Sundays and other special occasions.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you have ...READ... a good meal with meat and/or fish on Sundays and other special occasions? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Sundays and other special occasions

Sundays are normally a day with special meals for everyone in our society. For example, in the Tongan society, Sundays is a day where neighbours are exchanging trays of food normally at lunch time after the church services. This is similar to special occasions such as birthdays, mothers and fathers days etc. that are normal practice in other PICTs.

Q30712: Fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Question: Do you eat ...READ... fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day? (All adults aged 16 and over are being asked these questions)

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

This refers to having vegetables and/or fruits daily. It can be taken as part of the meal or snack during the day.

S3.7.1 Deprivation

Now I want to ask a few questions about things you and your family can afford to do. These questions generally refer to whether individual/families have the 'means' and not necessarily access to these items/activities. They are household questions and they are to be asked of the head of household.

Household deprivation (respondents will think about all the household members)

FINANCIAL STRESS

Q30713: Replacing worn-out furniture

Reference period: current situation

Unit: Household

**Question: Do you (and your family/and your partner)...READ...
...have enough money to replace any worn out furniture?
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

Furniture

The term "furniture" corresponds to the objects such as tables, chairs, beds, desks, dressers, cupboards, etc. kept in the dwelling to make it suitable or comfortable for living or working in.

This variable is different from the EU-SILC core HS060 "Capacity to face unexpected financial expenses" which aims to capture problems of shortage of money and where, about the time scale, the focus is on the short term. The list of concerned expenses is also different as this variable HD080 only refers to furniture while examples for HS060 are surgery, funeral, major repair in the house and replacement of durables like washing machine, car.

Q30714: Enough money to repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine

Reference period: current situation

Unit: Household

**Question: Do you (and your family/and your partner)...READ...
...have enough money to repair broken electrical goods such as
refrigerator or washing machine
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

MAKING REGULAR SAVINGS

Q30715: Making regular savings for emergencies

Reference period: current situation

Unit: Household

Question: Do you (and your family/and your partner)...READ...
...make regular savings (For example of TOP\$25 a month or more) for emergencies?

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Q30716: All medicine prescribed by your doctor, when you get sick

Reference period: current situation

Unit: Household

Question: Do you (and your family/and your partner)...READ...
...have all medicine prescribed by your doctor, when you get sick?

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Q30717: Having your own means of transportation (car, boat, motorcycle etc.)

Reference period: current situation

Unit: Household

Question: Do you (and your family/and your partner)...READ...
...have your own means of transportation such as car, boat, motorcycle etc.?

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Child Deprivation (All children age 1 – 15years)

CHILDREN ITEMS ASKED AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

The next questions are asked about all the children living in this household. It is preferable that these questions are ask to the 'responsible person' in the household. If the 'responsible person' is NOT available, then an adult who knows and looks after most of the children in the household can answer the questions. Please think about (Names of all children in the household) when answering these questions.

'Responsible person' refers to an adult who is mainly responsible for daily operation of the family such as shopping, cooking, washing etc.

Respondents are asked to think of all children living in the household when answering these questions. Cases may arise, however, where one child 'has' and one cannot afford or one 'doesn't want' and one cannot afford. In these cases priority coding is necessary.

The priority will ALWAYS be cannot afford, therefore in the above two examples, 'cannot afford' should have been coded. Following this, if one child 'has' and one 'doesn't want' interviewers should code 'doesn't want'. Therefore, the priority order is:

The variable holds for the whole group of children aged under 16 and above 1.

Even if only one child does not have the item, the whole group of children in the household are assumed not to have the item. Even if only one child does not have the item because the household cannot afford it, then the answer category should be "No, because the household cannot afford it".

If there is/are child/children under 1 year, only the other child/children of the household should be taken into account.

Note that any 'dependent children' in the household should be included. Dependent children refers to those children who live and depend their livelihood on what is being provided by that particular household but they are NOT biological nor adopted children of the respondents.

Q30718: Two pairs of properly fitting shoes, including a pair of all-weather shoes.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)

...READ... two pairs of properly fitting shoes, including a pair of all weather shoes?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

Shoes

The concept of shoes has to be understood in a broad sense. It could include boots, sandals, etc. according to the climatic conditions of the concerned country.

On the other hand, all-weather shoes could be defined as any daily life shoes with the exception of sandals and boots.

Q30719: Three meals a day

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...

READ...at least three meals a day?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

All children of the household don't have to eat their three meals at the same time; they don't have to share the same food. The three meals can be eaten at different time and/or place. Three meals a day should be understood as the breakfast, the lunch and the dinner. The meal does not need to be cooked necessarily.

Q30720: Some new (not second-hand) clothes

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...

READ...some new not second hand clothes?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

Clothes

The focus is on the affordability for the child to have some new clothes. Not all clothes must be new, some can be second-hand. This is particularly the case for young children. The variable refers to worn out clothes, not to old-fashioned ones.

Q30721: Celebrations on special occasions (birthdays, name days, religious events, etc.)

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...

READ...celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas or other religious festivals?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

Q30722: One meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...

READ...one meal with meat, chicken or fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

All children of the household don't have to eat meat, chicken or fish at the same time; they don't have to share the same food. The meat, chicken or fish can be eaten at different time and/or place.

Q30723: All school uniform of correct size and equipment required (eg. Books, pen, etc)

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have...READ...) ...have all school uniform and equipment required such as books, pens, etc.?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

All children of the household have not only the school uniform but also of the correct size. Also the school books and pens are what the children are used in their respective class or level.

Q30724: Participate in school trips and school events that cost money

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged under 16 and attending school

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ...participate in school trips and school events that cost money?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

Only activities organised by school are concerned.

Q30725: Suitable place to study or do homework

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged under 16 and attending school

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ.....suitable place to study or do homework?

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

The variable holds for the whole group of children aged under 16 and attending school. If the interview occurs during school holidays, please refer to the school period.

Even if only one child does not have the item, the whole group of children in the household are assumed not to have the item.

If there is/are child/children too young for attending school, only the other child/children of the household should be taken into account.

A suitable place to study or do homework means a silent place with enough room and light.

The place is to be at home and not elsewhere, e.g in a library.

Q30726: Tutorial lessons after school at least once a week.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged under 16 and attending school

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ...participate in any tutorial lessons after school hours at least once a week?

THIS IS RESPONDENT' S OWN INTERPRETATION

This refer to any of the student who are doing extra tutorial at least once a week. This means the student may have a home study tutorial or join an after hour class at least once a week.

Q30727: Enough beds and bedding for every child in the household.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged under 16 and attending school

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ... enough beds and bedding each for every child in this household?

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

Every child is expected to have bed of his/her own despite their age except infant who are still sleeping with their mother in bed. If one child does not have a bed and bedding then he/she is considered to be deprived in this indicator. Sharing a bed is allowed only if it's a double bed for only two children.

Q30728: Leisure equipment (e.g. sports equipment or a bicycle)

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ....access to outdoor leisure equipment such as a bicycle or sports equipment?

THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION

This question generally refers to an outdoor leisure equipment for all the children within the household, whether they owned it or access to it. The "Yes" answer corresponds to the situation where there is at least one outdoor leisure equipment (like

a bicycle, roller skates, soccer or rugby ball etc.) for each child of the household, which is adapted to his/her age and physical conditions.

Very cheap or self-made equipment are to be included. In addition, it is not strictly required that all children in the household have leisure equipment/games of their own. Sharing is possible.

Q30729: Books at home suitable for their age (including reference books and supplementary exercises).

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

**Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ....books at home suitable for their age, including reference books and supplementary exercises?
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

This refers to books owned by the households for their children, and not any books that had borrowed from the library or anywhere else. These books must also be age appropriate which parents are providing for their children at home.

Q30730: Fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day.

Reference period: current situation

Unit: all household members aged between 1 and 16

**Question: (Does your child have/do your children have)...READ....eat fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day?
THIS IS RESPONDENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION**

This refers to having vegetables and/or fruits at least once a day. It can be taken as part of the meal or snack during the day.