



The Food and Nutrition Sector: Key Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

SOCIAL Framework Companion Resource

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SOCIAL Framework & Food and Nutrition

Key Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

Social Connection Terms

Belonging	A fundamental human need – the feeling of deep connection with social groups, physical places, and individual and collective experiences.
HiAP	An acronym referring to <u>Health in All Policies</u> .
Loneliness	A subjective unpleasant or distressing feeling of isolation. A perceived discrepancy between one's actual and desired level of social connection.
SIL	An acronym referring to both Social Isolation and Loneliness.
SILC	An acronym referring to Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Connection.
Social Capital	The resources to which individuals and groups have access through their social connections – often used as an umbrella for both social support and social cohesion.
Social Cohesion	The sense of solidarity within groups, marked by strong social connections and high levels of social participation, that generates trust, norms of reciprocity, and a sense of belonging.
Social Connection	The (i) structure, (ii) function, and (iii) quality of relationships with others. Social connection includes not only the size and diversity of one's social network and roles, but the functions these relationships serve, and their positive or negative qualities.
Social Connectedness	The degree to which an individual or population falls on the continuum of social connection.
SOCIAL Framework	An acronym referring to Systems Of Cross-sector Integration and Action across the Lifespan.
Social Isolation	Having objectively few social relationships, social roles, group memberships, and infrequent social interaction.
Social Support	The perceived or actual availability of informational, tangible, and emotional resources from others, commonly one's social network.
Socio-Ecological Model	A framework used in public health to understand the individual behavior as influenced by multiple levels of interaction, including individual, interpersonal, institutional/organizational, community, and societal factors.

[Learn more of the language of social connection in the Action Guide for Socially Connected Communities](#)

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Commensality	The act of eating together.
Community Garden	A collaborative project on a shared open space where participants share in the maintenance and products of the garden, including healthful and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables (USDA).
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	A community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or in spirit, the community's farm; with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production (USDA).
Farm Bill	An omnibus, multiyear law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs (Congress).
Farm to School	A variety of activities conducted by child nutrition program operators that connect children with the source of their food, improve health and education outcomes, and inspire youth toward careers in agriculture (USDA).
Farmers Market	A public and recurring assembly of farmers or their representatives selling the food that they produced directly to consumers (Farmers Market Coalition).
Food	Any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drink, chewing gum and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of "food" but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs (FAO).
Food Insecurity	A household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food (USDA).
Food Sovereignty	The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems (Via Campesina).
Food System	The entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded (FAO).
Nutrition	The intake of food, considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. Nutrition is a critical part of health and development (WHO). Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity (WHO).
Nutrition Counseling	Personalized guidance to individuals who are at nutritional risk because of their health or nutritional history, dietary intake, chronic illness, or medication use (ACL).

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Nutrition Education	Any combination of educational strategies, accompanied by environmental supports, designed to motivate, and facilitate voluntary adoption of food choices and other food- and nutrition-related behaviors conducive to health and well-being (USDA).
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	A federal government initiative that offers food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being (USDA).
Universal School Meals	School breakfasts and lunches provided at no charge to all children (FRAC).
Urban Farms	The cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products (food or non-food) in urban and suburban areas (USDA).