

4-2

Assessing Food Access Points


In Task 4-1 the team identified and mapped where different food access points are within your research site and community. Now that you know where different types of food access points are located, you will do an in-depth assessment of each point. This assessment will help the team understand the characteristics and quality of each food access point in and around your research site. Understanding the characteristics and quality of these different food access points may help the team when working on the problem question, **How do we ensure good nutrition for all?**

Objective



In this task, the team will do a deeper assessment of the different food access points you identified and mapped in Task 4-1. The team will be focusing on the following questions from the question map:

- **What are the characteristics of the food offered at different access points in the community?**
- **What evidence could we collect to help define food- and nutrition-related problems in our community?**

1. Go to the Task 4-2 folder and get the Assessing Food Access Points—FOOD A Data Form or FOOD B Data Form. You will also need the research site map you created in Task 4-1. 
2. Determine which team members will be responsible for assessing each of the access points you have identified.
3. Go to each access point and complete the FOOD A Data Form or FOOD B Data Form for each.
4. As a team, discuss:
 - How could this assessment be useful when thinking about the question, **What are the characteristics of the food offered at different access points in the community?**
 - How could this assessment be useful when thinking about the problem question, **How do we ensure good nutrition for all?**

Hooray! You completed Task 4-2. Check it off the task list. *Go to Task 4-3!*



Task 4-2. Assessing Food Access Points—FOOD A Data Form

Name of food access point _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Hours of operation _____

What kinds of food are available (fresh and/or processed)?

Are there foods from every major food group available here?

What meals can you eat here?

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks

What is your estimate of the average cost of a meal here?

- \$ (\$0–\$20 per meal)
- \$\$ (\$21–\$40 per meal)
- \$\$\$ (\$41–\$70 per meal)
- \$\$\$\$ (\$71+ per meal)

Notes



Task 4-2. Assessing Food Access Points—FOOD B Data Form

Part 1. General Business Information	
Researcher name	
Date	
Name of access point	
Business contact person and role	
Address	
Hours of operation	
Type of business (store, market, restaurant, food stall, etc.)	
Category of business (independent, chain, cooperative, sole trader, etc.)	
Are there similar businesses near this business? (if yes, list other businesses)	
Notes	
Part 2. Business Exterior Appearance (if applicable)	
Describe any exterior signage	
What type of	





signage is most prominent from outside the business?	
In what languages does the exterior signage appear?	
Are any specific food products being advertised? If yes, what types of products?	
Describe the exterior condition	
Is there a trash can available or nearby?	
Notes	
Part 3. Business Accessibility (if applicable)	
Does the business have parking for motorized vehicles?	
Does the business have parking for bicycles?	
Does the business have	





sidewalks and crosswalks for people to easily walk to it?	
Can the business be easily accessed by people in wheelchairs or who have difficulty walking?	
Can the business be easily accessed using public transportation?	
Notes	

Part 4. Product Placement and Advertising

When you first walk into or up to the business, what products are most prominently displayed?	
In what languages do product labels appear?	
What products are advertised inside the business?	

Part 5. Food Group Availability and Quality

How many varieties of each food group are available at this access point?

Fruits	Vegetables	Grains	Protein	Dairy
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How would you rate the quality of each food group available at this access point? (very fresh, somewhat fresh, not very fresh, nearly spoiled, visibly spoiled)				
Fruits	Vegetables	Grains	Protein	Dairy
What percentage of the food is fresh vs. packaged/processed?				
Fresh		Packaged/processed		
Part 6. Price Comparison				
Select a variety of food items from this access point and document the price of each item. Consider items from each food group.				



Additional notes

