Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2015

# Regional Overview of Food Insecurity
# Latin America and the Caribbean


## The region has reached the international hunger targets

2015 Regional Overview of Food Insecurity

# Latin America and the Caribbean

## *Key messages*

- Latin America and the Caribbean have met both international hunger goals. By halving the percentage and total number of undernourished people, the region accomplished the 1C target of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit goal.

- The region's success story is the result of the countries' political commitment with the fight against hunger at the highest level, a process which was underpinned by a general context of macroeconomic and political stability.

- The region proposed not only the reduction of hunger but its complete eradication by 2025 through the Hunger Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative. This objective was endorsed and adopted in 2015 by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, through its Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication.

- Hunger still affects over 34 million people, which requires greater efforts to achieve hunger eradication during the current generation.

- The regional fight against hunger has changed from a sectoral approach to a transversal and cross-sectoral approach. This has allowed countries to meet both the short and medium term needs of their populations, addressing the various causes of hunger through the participation of all stakeholders.

- Thanks to economic growth, increased public social spending and public policies focused on the most vulnerable, Latin America and the Caribbean has also reduced poverty and inequality.

- Latin America and the Caribbean have more than enough food for their entire population. Positive productive performance coupled with a diversity of policies that guarantee access for the most vulnerable, have helped to strengthen food and nutrition security and enabled the region to become a major global food supplier.

- Latin America and the Caribbean must not only face hunger but rising obesity and overweight. The "double burden of malnutrition" is a phenomenon that requires governments to apply the lessons they have learned in their efforts to strive towards zero hunger.

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# Regional Overview of Food Insecurity

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# CONTENTS

# INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, food and nutritional security have become an integral part of the political agenda of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the full eradication of hunger and malnutrition is now a regional development objective.

In 1990-92, Latin America and the Caribbean embraced the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with 14.7% of the population affected by hunger. By 2014-16 this prevalence has fallen to 5.5% and the region has achieved the MDG hunger goal of halving the proportion of undernourished people. The region also met the tougher goal of the World Food Summit (WFS) established in 1996, by having reduced the absolute number of people suffering hunger to 34.3 million. Poverty has also declined from 2002 onwards, from 44% to 28%, although extreme poverty has risen in the last two years.

Improvements in food and nutrition security were driven largely by the positive macroeconomic backdrop in the region during the last decade as well as to the political commitment to fighting food insecurity exhibited by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO, 2014). The most recent example of the importance that the region places on this issue was the approval of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) 2025, the main regional body of economic and political integration.

The CELAC plan is the culmination of a long process characterized by the implementation of various public policies with a strong impact on the most vulnerable families. These include conditional cash transfer programs (CCTs), support to family farming, improvements in the labour market and school feeding, to name just a few. Backed by strong legal frameworks for food and nutritional security and the legislative support of parliamentary alliances against hunger formed in multiple countries, the region has managed to become an example for the rest of the world.

Latin America and the Caribbean pioneered the proposal of eradicating hunger by 2025, a goal adopted in 2005 with the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative and then fully incorporated into CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication. Ensuring that no man, woman, girl or boy is affected by undernourishment requires additional efforts and continued commitment to food and nutrition security in the upcoming agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More than 30 million people have overcome hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean in the last twenty years, revealing in the process a valuable repertoire of public policies that can serve as a basis for other contexts and regions. But what is perhaps more important still is the approach that underlies these achievements, a way to fight hunger, poverty and malnutrition that combines the energies of the whole of society with strong backing from governments. This winning formula continues to gather strength and new allies, which added to the progress already made by the region shows that the eradication of hunger is a goal we can achieve during the lives of the current generation.

**Raúl Benítez**
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This edition was prepared under the coordination of Adoniram Sanches, Senior Policy Officer, Ricardo Rapallo, Food Security Officer, and Tania Santivañez, Plant Protection Officer; who along with the FAO consultants Sandra Caprile, Giovanni Carrasco, Sara Granados, Francisca Nahmías, Rodrigo Perez and Giovanna Zamorano, were responsible for the text. The document was edited by Giovanni Carrasco and Francisca Nahmías.

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# List of Acronyms

**Acronyms that do not have an English translation will be used in their original Spanish*

| | |
|---|---|
| **ALBA** | Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America |
| **CELAC** | Community of Latin American and Caribbean States |
| **CRED** | Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters |
| **ECLAC** | United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| **FAO** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| **FNS** | Food and Nutrition Security |
| **GTA** | Global Trade Atlas |
| **HFLACI** | Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative |
| **HLPE** | High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition |
| **IFAD** | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| **ILO** | International Labour Organization |
| **LAC** | Latin America and the Caribbean |
| **IPCC** | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| **LAIA** | Latin American Integration Association |
| **MDGs** | United Nations Millennium Development Goals |
| **PAHO** | Pan American Health Organization |
| **SDGs** | Sustainable Development Goals |
| **UNDP** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **UNFPA** | United Nations Population Fund |
| **WFP** | World Food Programme |
| **WFS** | World Food Summit |
| **WHO** | World Health Organization |

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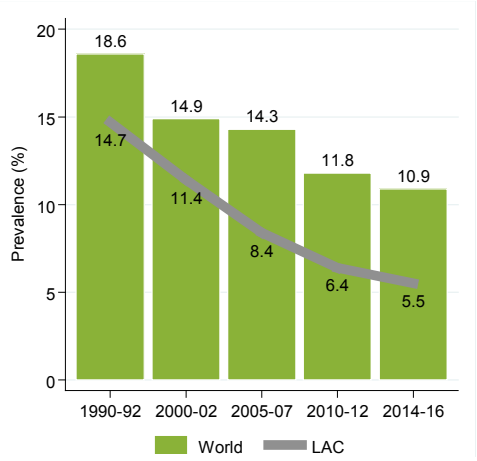
# CHAPTER 1: Latin America and the Caribbean moves towards the eradication of hunger

The latest estimates of FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015) confirm that Latin America and the Caribbean achieved the 1C target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)[1] , by reducing the percentage of undernourishment to 5.5% in the current triennium, down from 14.7% in the 1990-1992 triennium. Although hunger still affects a considerable percentage of the region's inhabitants, this means that LAC reduced the prevalence of people affected by hunger by more than half. Globally, meanwhile, 10.9% of the population is undernourished, almost double the rate seen in Latin America and the Caribbean (see Figure 1).

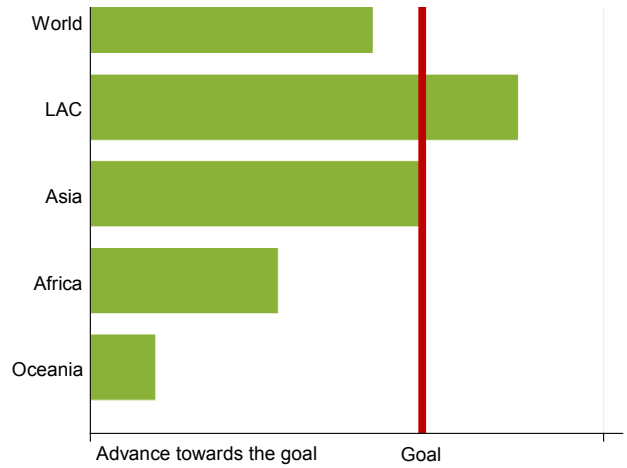
**Figure 1.** ***Evolution of hunger in the world and in Latin America and the Caribbean, prevalence (%)***




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015).

Figure 2 shows that Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia are the only regions that have managed to fulfil MDG goal. Africa has progressed 55.1%, while Oceania presents an advance of 19.1%. The overall global progress, meanwhile, is 82.8%.

**Figure 2.** ***State of progress towards the MDG hunger goal - World, Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions***




Source: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAORLC), based on data from FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015).

The defining characteristic of the region's 25-year success story is the political commitment at the highest level. This has allowed the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to maintain the fight against hunger, while a context of macroeconomic and political stability have sustained this process. In 2005, the region pledged to eradicate hunger completely by 2025 through the Hunger Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative 2025 (HFLACI), supported by all countries in the region. There have since been several new high-level initiatives such as the Mesoamerica without Hunger Programme: More effective institutional frameworks to improve family agriculture, and food and nutritional security cooperation agreement, and the "Hugo Chavez Frías" Plan to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty in the countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) and Petrocaribe, in addition to national flagship projects and policies such as Hunger Zero and Brazil without Misery, and the National Crusade Against Hunger in Mexico. Hunger has reached the top of the regional political agenda, which was clearly demonstrated in January 2015, when the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication was adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, in Spanish)[2], the main regional economic and political integration body of the region, grouping all the 33 countries.

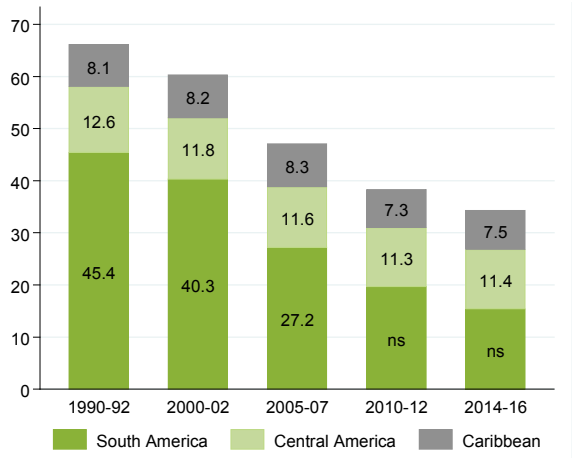
1 See Box 1 for more details

2 A more detailed review of the Plan is available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4493s.pdf

The region has not only met the MDG target of halving the prevalence of hunger but has also achieved the more ambitious goal set at the World Food Summit (WFS), bringing the total number of undernourished people down to 34.3 million, which means that over 30 million people have overcome hunger since the period in which this measurement began.

While the outcome for Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole is positive, there are differences at the subregional level. Figure 3 shows that the largest absolute number of undernourished people live in countries which are part of South America, although this subregion has achieved both the MDG and WFS goals, and the prevalence of undernourishment in this subregion is under 5% . That is due to South America being home to 65.9% of the total regional population (Figure 5), which also explains how the subregion led the whole region's success and indeed made the greatest progress in reducing both the prevalence and the number of undernourished people (Figures 3 and 4).

**Figure 3.** ***Evolution of hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean by subregions, millions of people***




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015)

Note: The abbreviation "ns" indicates values that are not statistically significant. In those countries where undernourishment affects less than 5% of the population, "<5%," is noted.

**Box 1.** ***The international hunger goals***

The international community pledged to meet two hunger goals by 2015. One is the first Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), aimed at "Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger". It includes goals 1A (Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living with less than $ 1.25 a day), 1B (Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and youth) and 1C (Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger). The second goal was set at the World Food Summit (WFS) in 1996 and seeks to halve the total number of people affected by hunger in 1990 by the year 2015.

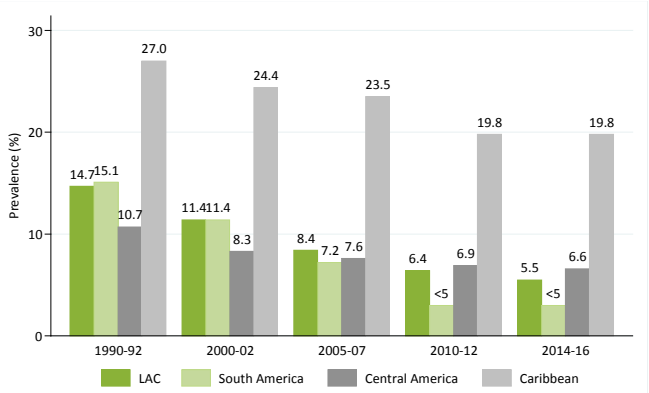
It is important to note that the WFS target is more stringent as it seeks to reduce the absolute number of hungry people, while the MDG target refers to the ratio with respect to the total population. This means that population growth can generate, at the same time, progress in terms of the MDG target (if the population growth is higher than the growth of undernourishment) and a decline in terms of the WFS target, if the total number of people suffering hunger increases. If there are more people in a given country and hunger remains relatively stable, there will be an improvement in the MDG indicator, as the proportion of hungry people with respect to the total will drop, although the number of hungry will not. The goal of the WFS, in that sense, requires to effectively reduce the number of people suffering hunger, independent of population growth.

FAO has been designated to provide data on the progress made towards both goals. To do this, it estimates annually the percentage and the number of people who fail to meet their minimum daily energy requirements to lead a healthy life. This figure is determined based on population structure (height, age, sex, etc.) and other parameters, and the minimum consumption threshold necessary for a healthy life. Then, taking into account the caloric availability and consumption of foods at every socioeconomic level of a country, FAO determines the prevalence and total number of people who fail to meet these minimum requirements. To prevent transient phenomena such as drought, price increases or other factors to increase the volatility of this estimate, FAO uses three year periods – trienniums- for its measurement.

Both the MDG and the WFS goals have 2015 as their final year of accountability. The evaluation of the progress towards these goals assumes an average of three years focused on 1991 as the base period, i.e. the 1990-1992 triennium. To maintain consistency at the end of the measured period, progress is evaluated with reference to the three-year average centered on 2015, i.e., the 2014-16 triennium. Thus the assessment establishes a 25 year period, which includes the trienniums ranging between 1990-92 and 2014-16: since currently the available information covers a period of only 24 years (till 2015), the 50% reduction required to comply with both international goals was adjusted a factor of 24/25.

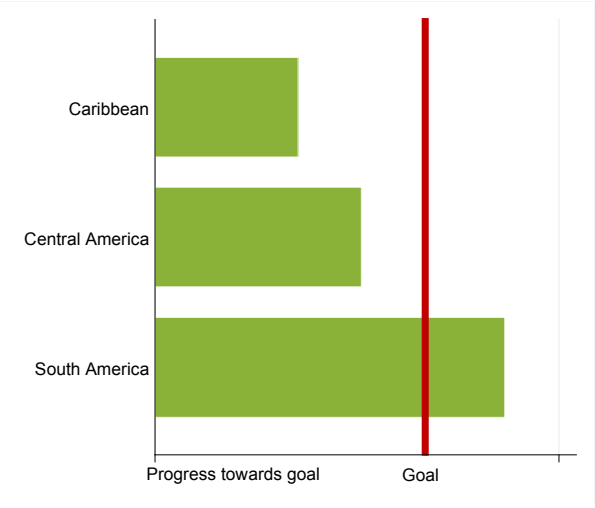
Finally, it is important to note that the FAO makes its estimates regarding hunger based on the available information at the time of calculation, which can vary considerably. This implies, firstly, that new information leads to changes in previously calculated data sets and, secondly, that each new series of hunger figures is not comparable with the previous ones. In this sense, it is only possible to know or analyze the behavior of hunger in a region or a country taking into account the latest available series in its entirety.

**Figure 4.** *Prevalence (%) of hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean*




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015)

**Figure 5.** *State of progress towards the 1C goal of the MDGs in the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean*




Source: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAORLC) based on data from FAO, IFAD, WFP (2015)

Central America has also reduced hunger, but at a slower pace. The number of hungry in this subregion fell from 12.6 million in 1990-92 to 11.4 million people in 2014-2016, translating to a drop from 10.7% to 6.6% of the population. Thus, the subregion achieved 77% of the progress needed for the MDG 1C target. It is important to point out that in the last two trienniums hunger reduction in absolute terms has stagnated, even though there was a 3-percentage point reduction in the same period. This situation requires, undoubtedly, redoubled efforts in the coming years.

The Caribbean is the subregion that has made the least progress. Currently 7.5 million people suffer hunger, only slightly less than the 8.1 million who were undernourished in 1990-92. The proportion of people affected fell by only 7.2 percentage points, from 27% in 1990-92 to 19.8% in 2014-16. The subregion has only progressed 53% towards the 1C MDG target. The role that Haiti plays, however, should be noted, since 75% of the undernourished population of the Caribbean lives in that country. This situation shows the urgency of implementing national, regional and internationally backed actions to address the malnourishment situation in Haiti. In that sense, much of the regional agenda in this field will centre on facilitating mechanisms to allow for the full integration of Haiti in the process of hunger, malnutrition and poverty eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### *State of undernourishment in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Despite the important progress made, the region cannot rest while 34.3 million people still suffer hunger. A country level analysis shows the current development gaps within the region, thus facilitating the orientation of actions to consolidate progress and eradicate hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 1 shows the evolution and progress of the countries of the region. 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries met the MDG hunger target: Argentina, Barbados, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Of these, nine countries have reduced their levels of undernourishment below 5% (Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). Additionally, Honduras and Paraguay have made significant degrees of progress, followed by Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago which have progressed over 80% towards the MDG goal.

With the exception of Guatemala, where current levels are slightly higher than those observed in 1990-92, all countries in the region have made progress toward the 1C goal of the MDGs. Regarding the WFS goal, meanwhile, 11 countries have complied with it: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guyana, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Haiti is an exceptional case: there have been improvements in the prevalence of undernourishment, but the total number of people suffering from hunger has increased, thus, the country shows progress towards the MDG target and setbacks in terms of the WFS. This is explained because the number of people affected by hunger has increased at a slower rate than the population growth, thereby generating a decrease in the percentage of people affected, but an increase in the number of people who are actually undernourished.

**Table 1.** *Number (million people) and prevalence (%) of hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean* [3]

| Country/region | Millons of people | | | | | Prevalence | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990-92 | 2000-02 | 2005-07 | 2010-12 | 2014-16* | 1990-92 | 2000-02 | 2005-07 | 2010-12 | 2014-16* |
| Argentina | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Barbados | ns | <0.1 | <0.1 | ns | ns | <5 | 5.2 | 6.7 | <5 | <5 |
| Belize | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | 9.7 | 5.8 | <5 | 5.7 | 6.2 |
| Bolivia, P.S. | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 38.0 | 32.8 | 29.9 | 24.5 | 15.9 |
| Brazil | 22.6 | 19.9 | ns | ns | ns | 14.8 | 11.2 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Chile | 1.2 | ns | ns | ns | ns | 9.0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Colombia | 5.0 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 4.4 | 14.6 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 11.2 | 8.8 |
| Costa Rica | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | ns | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.3 | <5 |
| Cuba | 0.6 | ns | ns | ns | ns | 5.7 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Dominican Republic | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 34.3 | 28.4 | 24.2 | 15.9 | 12.3 |
| Ecuador | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 19.4 | 18.6 | 18.8 | 12.8 | 10.9 |
| El Salvador | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 16.2 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 12.6 | 12.4 |
| Guatemala | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 14.9 | 20.4 | 15.9 | 14.8 | 15.6 |
| Guyana | 0.2 | <0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | <0.1 | 22.8 | 9.7 | 10.4 | 11.8 | 10.6 |
| Haiti | 4.4 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 61.1 | 55.2 | 57.1 | 49.3 | 53.4 |
| Honduras | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 23.0 | 18.5 | 16.4 | 14.6 | 12.2 |
| Jamaica | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 10.4 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 8.1 |
| Mexico | 6.0 | ns | ns | ns | ns | 6.9 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Nicaragua | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 54.4 | 31.3 | 23.2 | 19.5 | 16.6 |
| Panama | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 26.4 | 27.6 | 22.9 | 13.4 | 9.5 |
| Paraguay | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 19.5 | 12.9 | 11.2 | 12.1 | 10.4 |
| Peru | 7.0 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 3.2 | 2.3 | 31.6 | 20.7 | 18.9 | 10.7 | 7.5 |
| St.Vincent & the Grenadines | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | <0.1 | 20.7 | 16.8 | 9.2 | 6.4 | 6.2 |
| Suriname | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | <0.1 | 15.5 | 13.9 | 11.5 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Trinidad &Tobago | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 12.6 | 11.9 | 11.7 | 9.9 | 7.4 |
| Uruguay | 0.3 | ns | ns | ns | ns | 8.6 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Venezuela, B. R. | 2.8 | 3.8 | 2.5 | ns | ns | 14.1 | 15.3 | 9.0 | <5 | <5 |
| **South America** | **45.4** | **40.5** | **27.2** | **ns** | **ns** | **15.1** | **11.4** | **7.2** | **<5** | **<5** |
| **Central America** | **12.6** | **11.8** | **11.6** | **11.3** | **11.4** | **10.7** | **8.3** | **7.6** | **6.9** | **6.6** |
| **Caribbean** | **8.1** | **8.2** | **8.3** | **7.3** | **7.5** | **27.0** | **24.4** | **23.5** | **19.8** | **19.8** |
| **Latin America and the Caribbean** | **66.1** | **60.4** | **47.1** | **38.3** | **34.3** | **14.7** | **11.4** | **8.4** | **6.4** | **5.5** |

Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015)

Note: The abbreviation "ns" indicates values that are not statistically significant. In those countries where undernourishment affects less than 5% of the population, "<5%," is noted.

* Projections.

3 Latin America and the Caribbean, for the purpose of this publication, is divided into three regions: South America, consisting of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela; Central America, comprising Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama; the Caribbean, integrated by Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

In light of the above data, and despite the differences that exist at the national level, the progress of the region in the fight against hunger is undeniable. However, the existence of 34.3 million people who suffer hunger, and the particular realities of several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, demand that the region continue to implement efforts to consolidate the progress made so far and continue on the road towards the final eradication of hunger. This is not only true for countries that have failed to meet the hunger goals of the WFS and the MDGs, as even countries where the prevalence of undernourishment is less than 5% have not necessarily fully eradicated hunger.

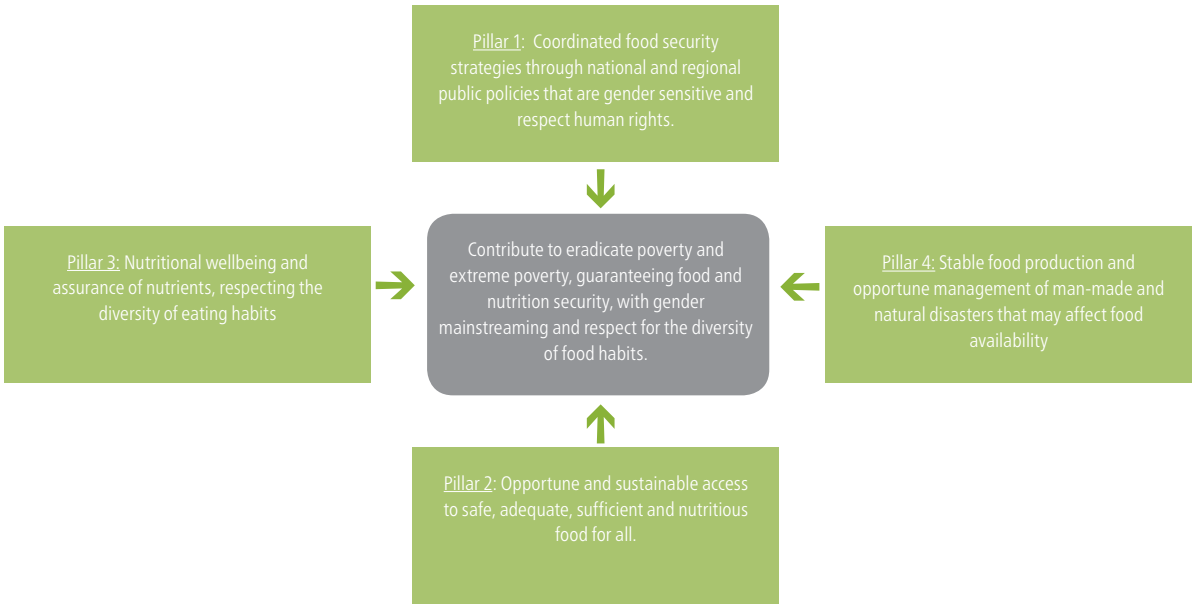
This is particularly true in countries with large populations, where 5% of the population may represent a significant number of people. Therefore, food and nutrition security remains an important and nuanced issue in the policy agenda of all 33 countries of the region.

***CELAC's hunger eradication plan: the region's political commitment to food and nutrition security***

In January 2015, all 33 countries of the region, grouped within the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, in Spanish) approved the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, prepared with the support of FAO, ECLAC and LAIA.

The CELAC Plan is based on four pillars that seek to create a hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean, through specific areas of action that respect the diversity of the political and social projects currently being implemented by the countries of the region (Figure 6).

**Figure 6.** *Outlines of the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025*




Source: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAORLC)

The approval of this Plan established the fight against hunger in the regional agenda as a matter of public importance, a fact that has already been demonstrated in other regional multilateral forums and in the national organizations of each country .[4]

This political milestone of great importance represents the culmination of a historic process that began in 1990-92, ending in 2015 with the achievement of the MDG and WFS hunger goals, and is a new starting point to advance towards the most important objective of all: the total eradication of hunger, poverty and malnutrition in all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4 A more detailed review of this process can be found in the 2014 edition of the Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, available at http://www.fao.org/americas/recursos/panorama/2014/es/

**Box 2.** ***Women and indigenous peoples: two priority groups to strengthen food and nutrition security in the region***

The contribution of rural women is essential in agricultural production, food security and the development of their communities. According to estimates, if yields on land cultivated by women were equivalent to those cultivated by men, agricultural output in developing countries would increase between 2.5% and 4%. An increase of this magnitude could lead to a reduction in the number of undernourished people in the world of between 12% and 17% (FAO, 2011)[1] ; (ECLAC, 2011)[2].

The I Declaration of Rural Women in Latin America, known as the Brasilia Declaration[3], states that despite progress in recent decades, rural women still face social and political inequality—especially indigenous women, and young women. This is particularly important in economic terms: only between 8% and 30% of individual land titles are in the hands of women[4], they receive only 10% of total loans, and there is a gap of between 2 and 10 percentage points the amount of technical assistance received by women when compared to men[5].

**Table A.** ***Rate of participation in subsistence farming activities, by gender in selected countries, circa 2010***

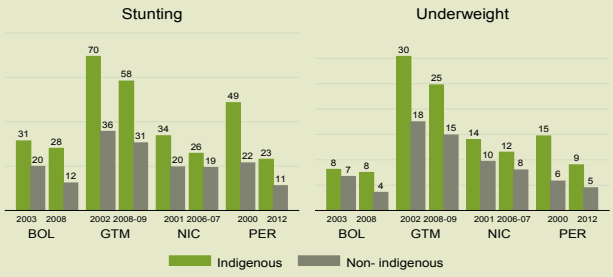
| Country | Year | Women | Men |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brazil | 2006 | 12,7 | 23,5 |
| Ecuador | 2000 | 5,0 | 7,0 |
| Chile | 2007 | 18,0 | 21,0 |
| Peru | 2012 | 6,9 | 11,5 |

Source: FAO, 2014.

The Brasilia Declaration identifies the needs of rural women and seeks to create consensus among countries to promote effective strategies for empowering rural women, furthering their autonomy and fulfilling their rights through legislation, administrative measures and the necessary budgets. This Declaration also seeks to articulate with the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication plan of CELAC.[6]

Indigenous peoples house within their territories the greatest diversity of natural resources and genetic wealth, however, many of them face food insecurity and have higher rates of malnutrition compared with the non-indigenous population. This poses a number of challenges the region must face, the most important of them is in the generation of information and public policies for this sector of the population, considering their knowledge, traditions and values.

**Figure A.** ***Changes in stunting and underweight [percentages (%)], indigenous and non-indigenous population of selected countries, different periods.***




Source: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2014a)

1 The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011. Women in agriculture, closing the gender gap for development (in line: http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050s/i2050s.pdf)

2 Ramirez, Diana (2011): Agricultural productivity of rural women in Central America and Mexico. ECLAC

3 Brasilia Declaration (Online: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rlc/docs/Declaracion_de_Brasilia_AIAF_2014_final.pdf)

4 FAO, Gender and Land Right Database. (Online: http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/)

5 FAO, 2014. Studio: Women, Technical Assistance and Rural Extension in Latin America and the Caribbean.

6 CELAC Food Security and Hunger Erradication Plan Onlin: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rlc/docs/celac/ENG_Plan_CELAC_2025.pdf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## AVAILABILITY

Previous FAO documents have analysed the production and export capacity of the region in depth[5]. It is possible to reaffirm the previous assessments regarding the fact that the region has more food than is required to feed its population. Since the beginning of the 90s, food availability measured in terms of calories[6] showed an upward trend, from a regional average of 2,655 calories per person per day to more than 3,000 in the last available estimate, an increase of 13% in the last 25 years. While there are differences across the region, current food availability in all 33 countries of the region exceeds the minimum energy requirements of their populations.

In Latin America and the Caribbean cereals are the main source of calories, and on average account for 36% of energy availability. A subregional look reveals that these have more importance in Mexico and Central America, where cereals account for 43% of calories available, while in the Caribbean they account for 37% and for 32% in South America (FAO, 2014a).

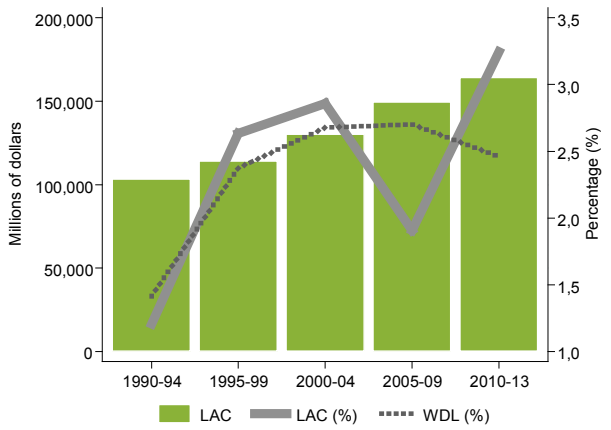
This shows that hunger and malnutrition in the region are not due to or insufficient food availability; on the contrary, increased food production in Latin America and the Caribbean has become a mainstay for strengthening the food and nutritional security of its inhabitants.

***Positive output of the agricultural sector ensures food availability higher than demand***

In recent decades the trend in agricultural production is positive, both globally and in the region. Production growth was higher than population growth, which has allowed for food in sufficient quantities to meet demand. Figure 7 shows the regional trend since 1990, where on average the evolution of agricultural production has presented an annual positive growth rate in all periods, exceeding the global average over the past four years for which there is available information. The productive capacity of Latin America and the Caribbean is noteworthy, since the region as a whole contributes close to 10% of global agricultural production (World Bank, online).

The region has great importance in the global markets of some agricultural products. For example, Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for 58% of global coffee production, 52% of soy, 29% of sugar, 26% of beef, 22% of poultry and 13% of maize production (FAO, online).

**Figure 7.** ***Evolution of agricultural value added, average value per period (constant 2005 US dollars)***




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on information from World Bank (online).

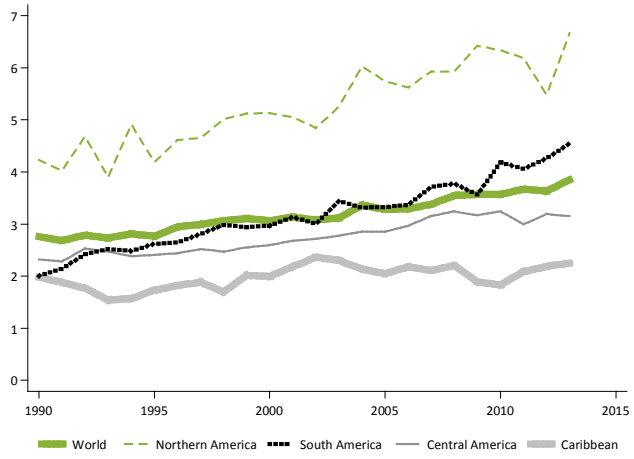
A significant part of the volume of production in the region is destined for international markets, particularly some important commodities in the regional diet such as wheat, of which 56% of production is meant for export. Similarly, 55% of sugar production is for export and 37% of soy and 25% of maize (FAO, online).

While the productive capacity of the region and its contribution to global production is undeniable, compared to other regions in terms of yields, LAC still has room for growth in agricultural terms, since its production yields remain low when compared to the main production regions of the world. Particularly in the case of cereals, yields from North America are significantly higher than those observed in South America, the subregion of LAC which has the best performance in these crops. In Central America and the Caribbean, meanwhile, yields are below the global average. There remain challenges in terms of agricultural productivity for both subregions (see Figure 8). However, productive performance depends heavily on investment in technology, infrastructure and the provision of resources, the availability of which differs among countries in the region and is one of the key aspects for improving agricultural productivity in the medium term.

5 This is discussed, for example, in the 2013 and 2014 editions of the Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, which can be found in http://www.fao.org/americas/recursos/panorama/2013 /es/ and in http://www.fao.org/americas/recursos/panorama/2014/es/ respectively.

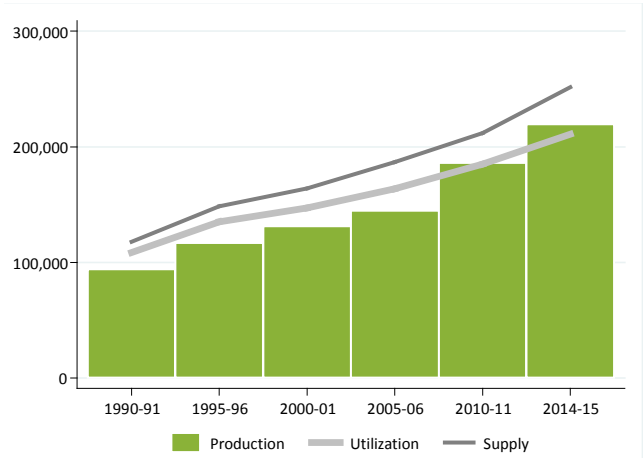
6 The caloric availability is obtained by applying the appropriate factors of the composition of foods to the quantities of available products for human consumption. This is calculated from the sum of production plus imports minus exports plus changes in inventories (increase or decrease), don't considering products used for purposes different than feeding, divided by the total population during the reference period. However, individual values represent the average availability for the whole population and do not necessarily indicate what each person consumes.

**Figure 8:** *Evolution of yields (ton / ha) of the total cereals – World and subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean*




Source: FAO (online).

**Figure 9.** *Grain market in Latin America and the Caribbean, thousands of tons*




Source: FAO.

** Supply corresponds to production plus net imports added to stocks at beginning of period*

***Cereal production in Latin America and the Caribbean has maintained an upward trend***

According to the latest FAO estimates for Latin America and the Caribbean, cereal production for the current season (2014/15) will be close to 220 million tonnes, a slight increase of 0.8% over the previous season. Figure 9 shows the evolution of grain production in the region, which since 1990 has grown by 3.5% per year on average.

The supply of cereals has grown faster than utilization, much in the same way as cereal production in the region as a whole exceeds the use of cereals in recent seasons (in the last season production reached 211 million tonnes), thereby reducing regional dependence on imports to meet the domestic demand for cereals.

Regional averages, however, often hide large differences within LAC. Table 2 shows some of the differences between countries in terms of their cereal production. It shows that the regional result is driven largely by the performance of South America, particularly Argentina and Brazil. Indeed, these two countries account for 2/3 of regional production, while the third regional producer is Mexico, which accounts for 16% of cereal production in Latin America and the Caribbean[7].

**Table 2.** *Production of cereals in Latin America and the Caribbean, averages and values per season, thousands of tons*

| | Averages | | | Values per season | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990-99 | 2000-09 | 2010-15 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| **Latin America and the Caribbean** | **113,956** | **151,385** | **200,210** | **217,938** | **219,589** |
| **South America** | **82,307** | **114,349** | **160,229** | **176,719** | **177,513** |
| Argentina | 27,883 | 35,231 | 48,317 | 51,187 | 54,862 |
| Brazil | 39,855 | 58,276 | 85,069 | 97,171 | 95,950 |
| **Central America and the Caribbean** | **31,649** | **37,035** | **39,982** | **41,219** | **42,076** |
| Cuba | 411 | 684 | 780 | 875 | 880 |
| El Salvador | 813 | 864 | 987 | 1,042 | 967 |
| Guatemala | 1,250 | 1,320 | 1,827 | 1,887 | 1,938 |
| Mexico | 26,762 | 31,409 | 33,361 | 34,196 | 35,669 |

Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC.

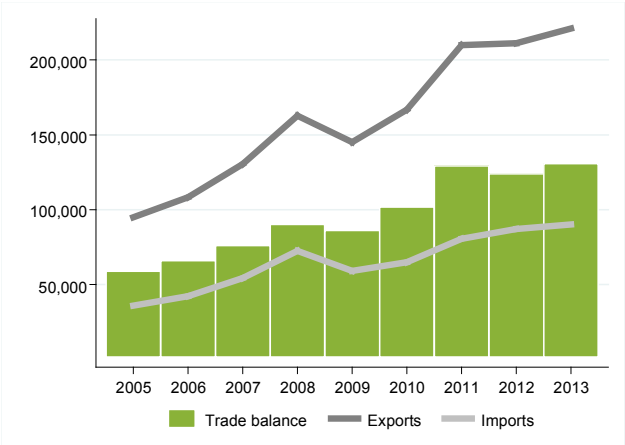
7 In Latin America and the Caribbean Argentina, Brazil and Mexico are the main actors in production and trade, due to the relative size of their economies within the region. The three countries together account for almost 2/3 of the surface area and population of the region, which explains the importance of their domestic markets.

***The region has established itself as a leading provider of global food due to its strong productive output***

Latin America and the Caribbean is a net exporter of agrifood products[8]. Figure 10 shows that regional agrifood exports have far exceeded imports even in 2009, year when trade flows experienced significant contractions in the wake of the global economic crisis. In the past five years, agrifood exports have been more dynamic than imports; shipments from the region have experienced an average annual growth of 7%, exceeding the average growth of imports, which reached 5.4% in the same period (FAO, 2014a).

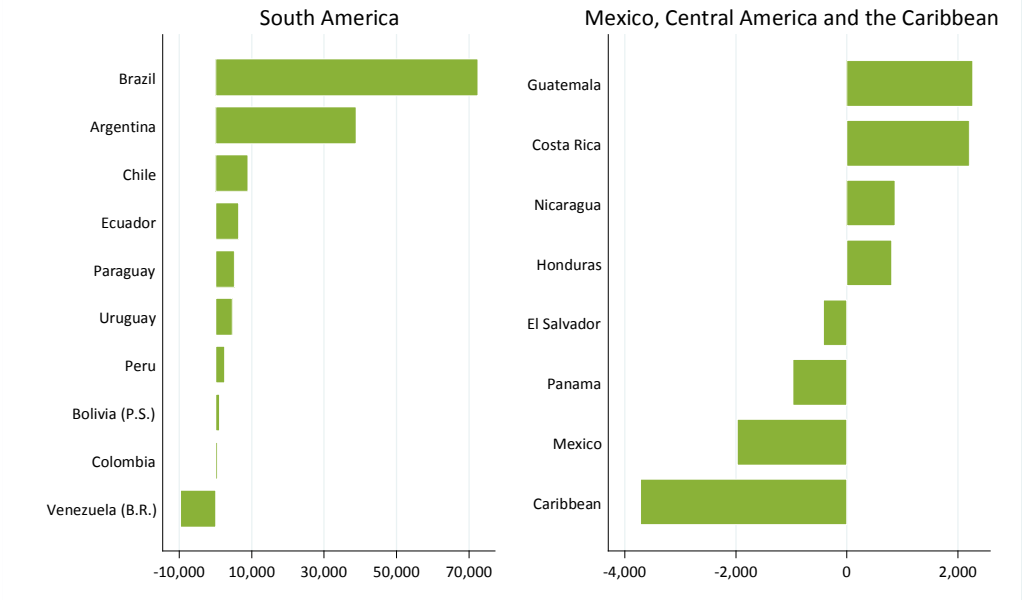
This has allowed a sustained increase in the trade surplus as a whole, which since 2005 has presented, on average an annual rate of 8.4% (FAO, 2014a), positioning the region as a major player in the global food supply. However, as is the norm in the region, there are differences between countries. Figure 11 shows that while most countries in the region have a positive agrifood trade balance, there are significant differences in their magnitudes.

**Figure 10.** *Evolution of agrifood trade in Latin America and the Caribbean 2005-2013, millions of US dollars*




Source: FAO, 2014a.

**Figure 11:** *Agrifood trade balance, millions of US dollars, 2013*




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on GTA (online)

*/Information for Caribbean is based on mirror-data (reported by its trading partners)

8 Agrifood consider all products included in chapters 1 to 24 of the Harmonized System (HS). These chapters consider both commodities and processed foods.

The productive capacity of the region can be seen in the contribution it makes to the international supply of some major commodities. Indeed, Latin America and the Caribbean contributes 55% of world soy exports, 45% of sugar exports, 39% of coffee exports, 27% of poultry exports and about a fifth of worldwide sales of corn and meat, as well as providing nearly 10% of world exports of wheat and rice (FAO, online).

Soy is the main food product exported by the region[9], accounting for 14.3% of the value of agricultural exports, followed by sugar (7%), corn (6%) and coffee (5%).

The major food products imported by Latin America and the Caribbean are maize and wheat, which together account for 14% of the value of agrifood imports. Soy and its derivatives represent 9% of regional imports, while milk, poultry and bovine meat represent around 2.3% each[10].

***There is potential to expand intra-regional food trade between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean***

In 2013, 40% of imports from Latin America and the Caribbean came from the region itself (FAO, 2014a). Consequently, it can be said that an important part of the food supply in Latin America and the Caribbean comes largely from the countries belonging to it. Still, there is a significant volume of purchases that come from extra-regional sources, mainly from the US, a country that provides 37% of the region's agrifood imports (FAO, 2014a). The Caribbean and Mexico are the greater importers of food products from outside the region (FAO and LAIA, 2015).

The main agricultural products traded between the countries of the region are maize, which accounts for 9.2% of intraregional trade, soybean oil (4.7%), derivatives from

**Box 3.** ***Family farming and food and nutrition security***

Family farming has become a protagonist of food and nutritional security, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. It is estimated that over 500 million family farms manage most of the agricultural land and produce 80% of the world's food (FAO, 2015c). Due to the role family farmers play as a food producers who rescue traditional products, catalyse local economies and contribute to rural development, governments in the region have implemented various actions that seek to support this sector. It is relevant to note that there are differences between family farming systems in each country, and that the sector as such is very diverse. Governments promote the sector according to their abilities and specific characteristics. Increased productivity levels for family farming can be achieved through the introduction of new technologies and practices, extension and advisory services, risk management tools, production and post-production infrastructure, and better access to productive resources.

Public procurement initiatives are one of the support mechanisms for family farming that have gained prominence in the region. These involve the purchase by the State of production from family farms on favorable terms, either guaranteeing prices of purchasing volumes. This responds to one of the biggest challenges that family farmers face, since market failures and the limitations that some family farmers face do not allow them to sell their products under favorable conditions. In many cases, the State is the only actor able to facilitate the purchase of these products and thereby increase revenues for small producers, promoting their development.

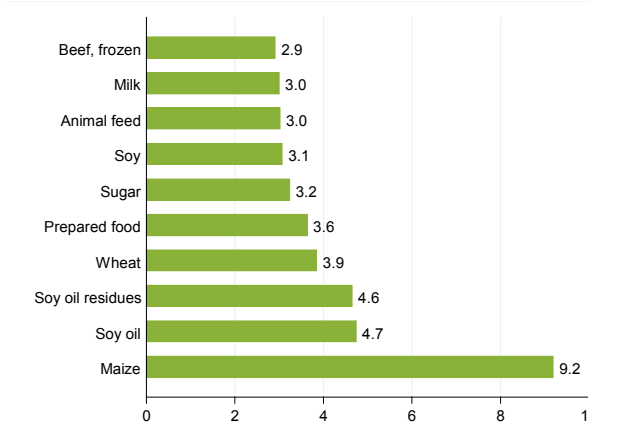
*Further information regarding policies and programs for food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in the Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (http://www.plataformacelac.org/).*

9 By adding soybean oil and its derivatives soy represents more than a quarter of all agrifood exports from the region.

10 The main agricultural products exported or imported by the region are determined by the value of the trade flow for 2013. Further detail can be found in the 2014 edition of the Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, available in http://www.fao.org/americas/recursos/panorama/2014/es/

soybean oil (4.6%) and wheat (3.9%) (see Figure 12). Several of these products are important in terms of their caloric contribution to the regional diet; in this sense, the development of intra-regional food trade can contribute significantly to food and nutrition security in the region.

**Figure 12.** ***Main intraregional agrifood imports from Latin America and the Caribbean, percentage (%) of the total intraregional agrifood trade, 2013***




Source: FAO, 2014a

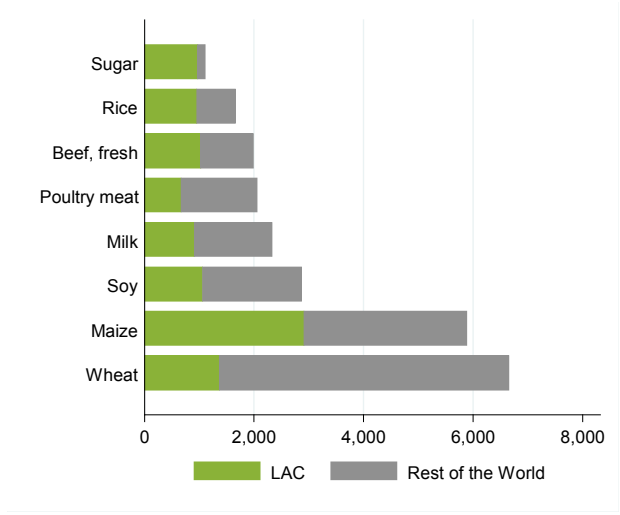
A recently developed study by FAO and LAIA (2015) states that there is much space to expand intra-regional trade. On average, between 2010 and 2012 the value of exports to extra-regional destinations exceed 3.6 times the value of food products purchased from outside the region[11].

While there are several factors to consider, such as free trade agreements, transportation costs and tariff and non-tariff restrictions that can have a direct impact on the development and deepening of intraregional trade, the figures indicate the there is real potential for the expansion of intraregional agrifood trade among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially since there are common diets and cultures between neighbouring countries.

Figure 13 shows the origin of acquisition of some of the most demanded food products by the region. Thus, about 70% of wheat imports and 50% of maize imports come from extra-regional sources. Similarly, although the region is a major producer of soy, over 60% of imported soy comes from outside the region. This clearly indicates that most soy produced in Latin America and the Caribbean is intended for the international market, especially considering that the region contributes 55% of soy marketed worldwide.

11 During that period exports to countries outside the region averaged a value of USD 163 billion while imports reached USD 45.7 billion.

**Figure 13.** ***Origin of imports of selected Latin American commodities, millions of US dollars, 2013***




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on GTA (online)

## ACCESS

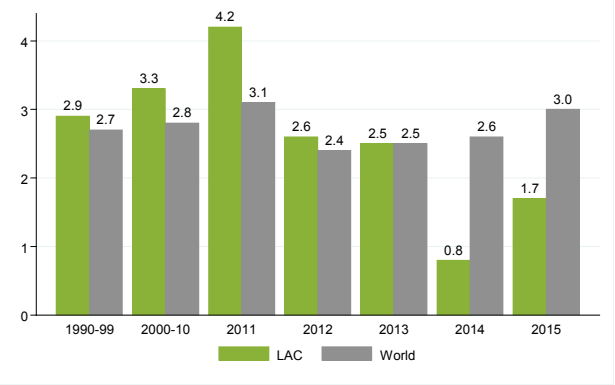
***Economic growth affects the reduction of hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced a long and continuous process of economic growth, which has resulted in a significant increase in average per capita income and a reduction of poverty, which is a reflection of both social and economic policies in the countries of the region (FAO, 2014a).

In the past 24 years, the economies of the region grew by 3% on average, higher than the 2.7% observed globally. In the 90s, the regional average economic growth rate was 2.9% versus 2.7% worldwide, with periods of growth above 5% (1997) and other periods when growth was lower than 1% (three years). In the next decade, while the region showed greater stability in economic growth (despite the slowdown in 2002 and the crisis of 2009 where the regional decrease was -1.6%) the region achieved an average growth of 3%, outperforming the previous decade and the overall average global growth[12] , a situation which has had positive impacts on the welfare conditions of the population of the region (see Figure 14).

12 If the effect of the crisis of 2009 is excluded from the regional average for the decade, growth between 2000 and 2008 would reach 3.5% versus 3.1% worldwide.

**Figure 14.** *Average annual growth (%) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Latin America and the Caribbean and the World (2010 constants US dollars)*




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on World Bank (online)

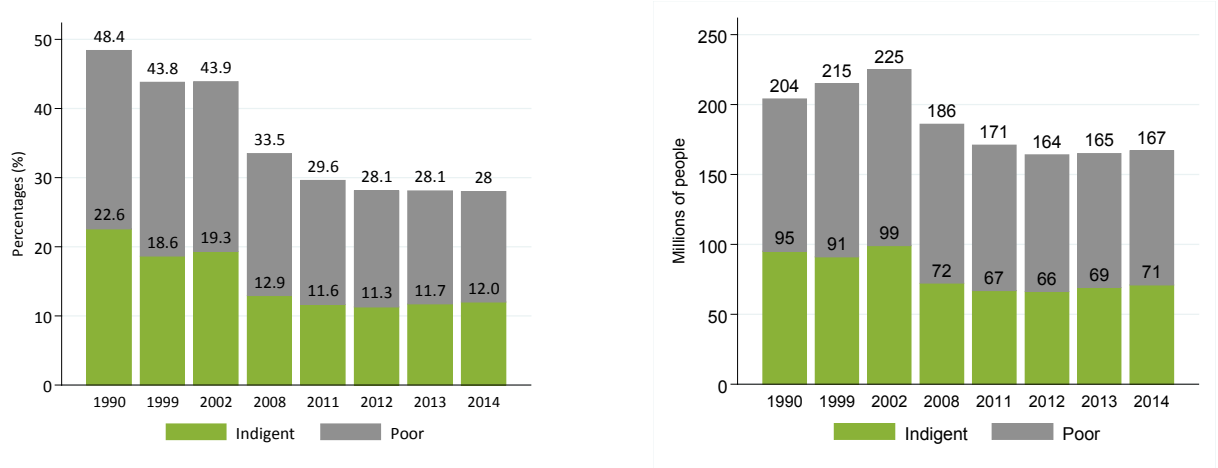
This context, in which GDP growth remained more stable, generated a great impact on the social and economic conditions of the population, expressed mainly in a reduction of poverty and an improvement of household incomes. Additionally, after the crisis of 2009, the region was able to recover quickly, achieving an economic growth rate of 5.6% and 4.2% in the following two years. This shows that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have managed to successfully cope with the fluctuations of the global economy. However, from 2012 onwards the growth rate of GDP in the region has decreased and tended to align with the global trend: the estimate for 2014 is considerably lower, and by 2015 the projection for GDP growth of the region is 1.7% versus 3% globally. This happened in parallel with a reduction in the rate of poverty reduction in the region since 2012.

***Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in the reduction of poverty and inequality, but both phenomena remain outstanding challenges***

Between 1990 and 2002 poverty experienced no major changes in the region, affecting almost half the population (around 45%), more than 200 million people (Figure 15). However, from 2002 onwards, coinciding with the economic expansion of the region, poverty began to decline continuously until 2012. In that period poverty decreased from close to 44% down to 28%, although most part of this change benefited the less poor, i.e. the poor non-indigent. From 2012 onwards, a period when the economy grew at relatively low rates, poverty remained stagnant at about 28%. By 2014, 167 million people were still living in poverty. The most worrisome aspect of this situation is that extreme poverty increased slightly in the last two years, reaching 12% of the population, from 66 million in 2012 to 71 million in 2014.

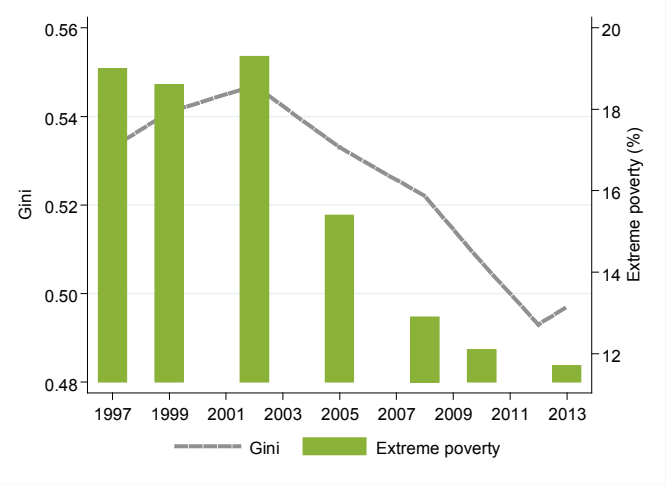
Despite this, in the long-term poverty has generally shown a marked downward trend in the region. This has been accompanied by an increase in average incomes as a result both of the policies implemented by countries and the effects of economic growth. Moreover, even though there has been a certain correlation between the levels of poverty and inequality in Latin America (Figure 16), the distribution of income in the region remains extremely uneven.

**Figure 15:** *Evolution of poverty and extreme poverty in Latin America, percentages (left) and millions of people (right)*




Source: ECLAC, 2014a.

**Figure 16.** ***Evolution of inequality, measured by the Gini index, and extreme poverty in Latin America***




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on ECLAC (online)

Figure 16 shows that the Gini coefficient has fallen from 2002 onwards, however the decline was minor. In fact, if in 2002 the Gini coefficient reached a value of 0.547 on average in Latin America, in 2013 it reached 0.497.

Corroborating the above, information from ECLAC (online) shows than in 2013 the first (poorest) quintile received in 2013 only 4% of all income generated in the economies of the region, while the fifth quintile (richest) receives more than half of these revenues. In this sense, progress in redistributive matter from 2002 to date has been modest, with only slight increases in the first income quintile and concentration still above 50% in the fifth quintile.

***Employment has been a key factor for the increase in household income***

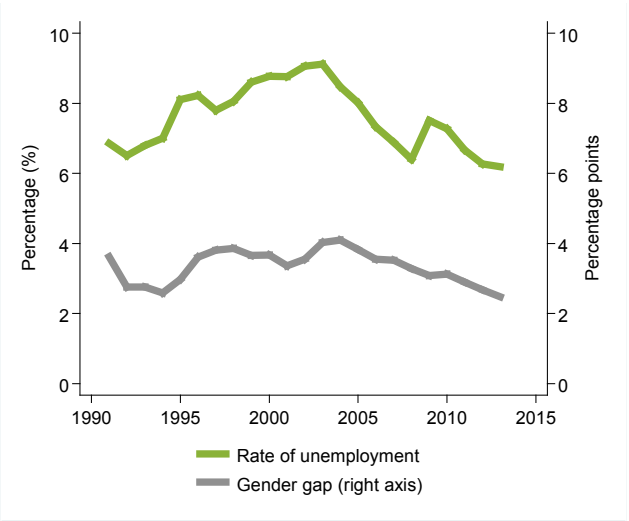
One of the main reasons for the increase in incomes and the reduction of poverty in the region has been the steady growth of the labour force, which has added more people, and a growing number of women. According to the World Bank (online) the workforce in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased at an average rate of 2.4% between 1990 and 2013. The largest increases, however, were observed in the first part of the 90s, when this rate grew 4% per year. Due to the economic downturn of recent years, the workforce has only grown by 1.8% annually on average from 2011 onwards.

An important element to consider about the labour economy is the structure of employment, since this affects the main channel by which family incomes are generated. The service sector is the main employer in the region; its importance has grown steadily between 1990 and 2011, from 57% of all employees to 62%. Agriculture, meanwhile, has reduced its share from 19% to 16% in the same period, while employment in industry has also suffered a reduction in its importance in the overall economy, falling from 24% to 22% (World Bank, online).

The evolution of unemployment in the region shows a drop in the unemployment rate since 2003 till 2008, from 9.1% to 6.4% respectively, while in 2009 it increased to 7.5% due to the international economic crisis. In 2013, meanwhile, unemployment in the region reached 6.2%, the lowest value of the period considered.

While the trend in unemployment has been broadly positive, it is necessary to note that this phenomenon disproportionately affects women, and is one of the challenges the region must face. Figure 17 shows the gap between the unemployment rate for men and women: while it still exists, it has clearly narrowed since 2003 when female unemployment was 4 percentage points above the male rate, since by 2013 this difference is only 2.5 percentage points, the lowest value since 1990.

**Figure 17.** ***Evolution of unemployment in Latin America and the Caribbean***




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on World Bank (online)

** Gender gap is the difference between the unemployment rates for men and women.*

It is important to state that besides the change in the structure of employment, there has been a reduction in what is termed vulnerable employment[13]. In 1991 more than a third of employment in the region was vulnerable, a

13 This indicator is a measure of what is considered the most vulnerable category of employment: the self-employed and contributing family workers. The vulnerable employment rate equals to the sum of the self-employed and contributing family workers in proportion to total employment (ILO, 2009).

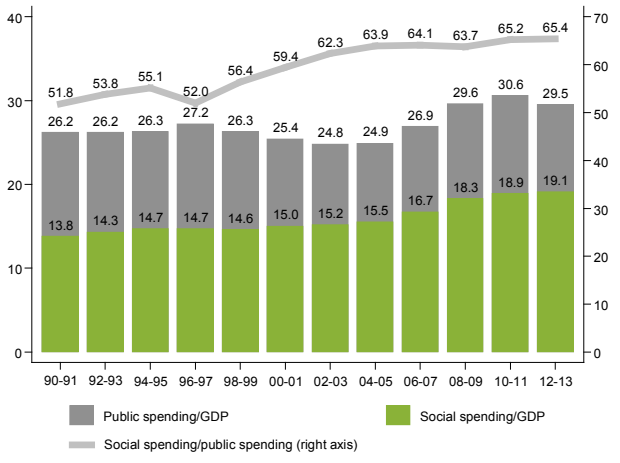
situation that became more critical in 2001, when 36% of paid workers fell in this category. By 2012, although the situation seems to have changed little in terms of numbers, there was a change in trend. The proportion of workers in vulnerable employment fell to 31.5%, a small reduction that, however, indicates that the region is on the right track (World Bank, online).

***Public spending increases in the countries of the region, with emphasis on social issues***

Due to improved macroeconomic conditions and the political commitment of countries, public spending has increased since 1990, and social public spending has also increased. In 1990-1991, public spending was 26.2% of GDP, while for the 2012-13 period, public spending rose more than 3 percentage points, to 29.5% (ECLAC, 2014a).

Regarding the evolution of social spending in particular, it currently represents a larger share of GDP compared to the early 90s. Social spending in 1990-91 reached 13.8% of GDP, while for 2012-13 it represented 19.1% of GDP, increasing throughout the period and representing a growing share of public spending (Figure 18). Initially, the development of public expenditure was related to the economic cycle, but during the decade of 2000 a number of countries in the region made efforts to strengthen programs focused on poverty alleviation and the implementation of measures to face varied external phenomena such as rising food and fuel prices and the financial crisis of 2008-2009. Subsequently, from 2010 there began a process of reform in several countries in the region, to address fiscal deficits related to the efforts listed above and the slowdown of the economy (ECLAC, 2014a). This shows the countries' political commitment with social issues, something that directly affects hunger and poverty eradicating in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Figure 18.** ***Evolution of public spending in Latin America and the Caribbean, in percentage (%) of GDP and total government expenditure***




Source: ECLAC, 2014a

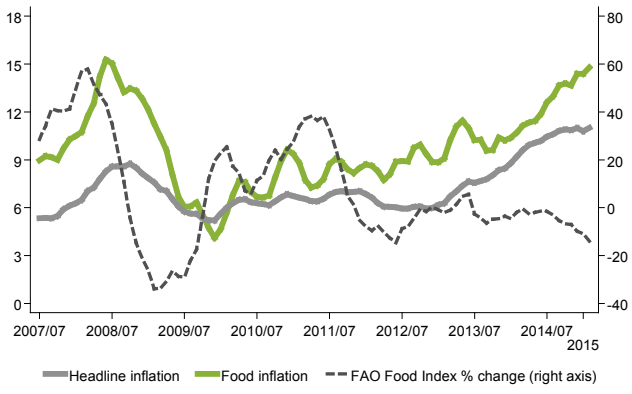
***Headline and food inflation in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Inflation is a key element in terms of the purchasing power of households, since it affects their real incomes. Hikes in food prices have a particularly strong effect on the most vulnerable families, who spend a greater proportion of their income on food consumption; thus an increase in food prices can have significant impacts on the quantity and quality of food that the poor have access to.

The rise in international commodity prices between 2007 and 2008 affected inflation rates in the countries of the region. During an initial period, the international trend showed a close relationship with domestic prices (see Figure 19). Indeed, from mid-2007 until about the end of 2010, food inflation in the region followed a similar annual change with respect to international food prices, with significant increases in both 2007-08 and in 2010.

During 2011, further increases in international prices occurred. However, these did not translate into regional inflationary pressures as drastic as those seen during the food crisis. Since mid-2013, the opposite trend can be observed in international food prices of food, which experienced negative year-on-year variations. LAC, however, has experienced an increase in its annual headline and food inflation, during this period[14].

**Figure 19.** ***Evolution of the rate (%) of annual inflation in Latin America and the Caribbean and annual variation in the FAO Food Price Index***




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on official information from countries and FAO (online).

* / Average of 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries representing about 95% of regional GDP. Countries included are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru,

14 There are important differences between countries in the region; this means that the speed and magnitude of the transmission of international prices to domestic prices varies depending on exchange rate and trade policies, the structure of domestic markets and the importance of certain foods in the diet and the commercial dependence that each country has with respect to these products.

**Box 4.** *Conditional Cash Transfer Programs (CCTP)*

One of the most common instruments used by LAC countries to face and overcome poverty has been conditional cash transfer programs, CCTPs. These programs are focused on the most vulnerable populations who lack the means to meet their basic needs, and which are excluded from other safety nets and social security. They ensure minimum levels of consumption and wellbeing. Currently 21 countries in the region implement these programs, with their average budget close to 0.3% of a country's GDP, benefitting approximately 13% of the regional population (ECLAC, 2014a). The CCTPs have varied characteristics among the countries in the region, showing a diversity of objectives, components, target populations and conditionality's. These programs contribute by building human capital, increase the amount of food consumed by the beneficiary families as well as allowing greater dietary diversify while positively impacting agricultural production and local economies by enabling productive investments.

*More information on policies and programs for food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in the Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (http://www.plataformacelac.org/).*

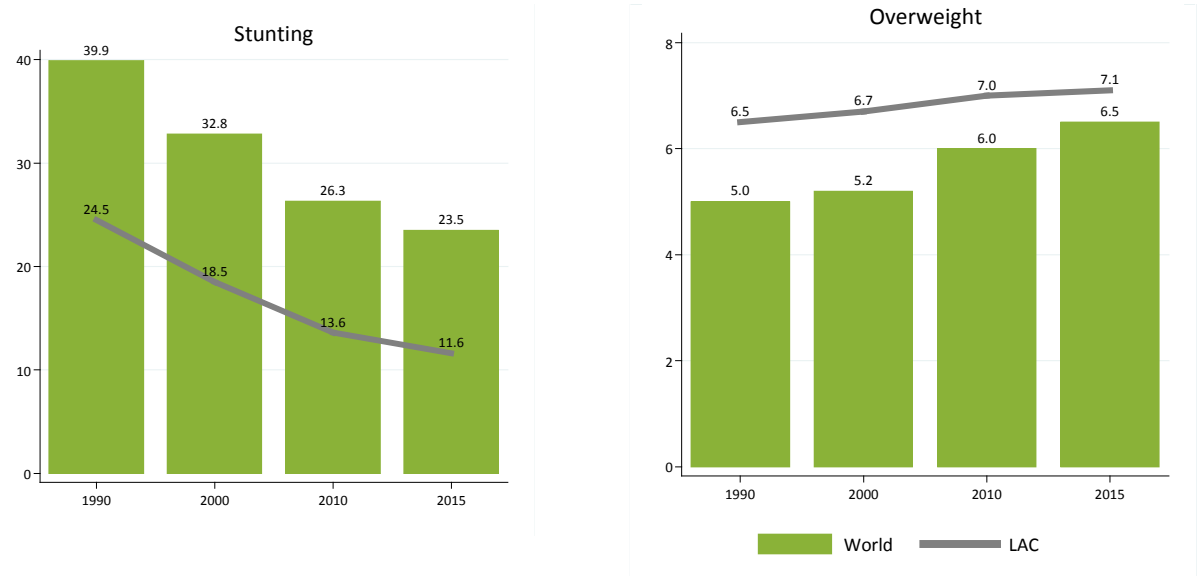
## UTILIZATION

***The double burden of malnutrition, a growing challenge in the region***

Latin America and the Caribbean has made important economic and social advances, which have resulted in a reduction of poverty and hunger. Improvements can also be seen with regard to nutrition, particularly in regard to stunting: while 13.5 million children under five years suffered stunting in 1990, in 2015 this figure fell to 6.2 million (WHO, online). In terms of percentage, Figure 20 shows that stunting of children under 5 years in Latin America and the Caribbean declined by 12.9 percentage points in the last 25 years, from 24.5% in 1990 to the current 11,6%. While the region has followed the global trend, the prevalence in Latin America and the Caribbean has been lower in all surveyed periods.

Moreover, overweight and obesity have definitely become a challenge both in the region and the world. Excess calories, sedentary lifestyles and changes in eating habits in favour of diets with lower nutritional quality have contributed to this result (FAO, 2014a). According to the latest WHO estimates (Figure 20), overweight affects 7.1% of the region's children, higher than the global average, which means that 3.8 million children in Latin America and the Caribbean are overweight.

**Figure 20:** *Evolution of malnutrition in children under five years in the world and in Latin America and the Caribbean, prevalence (%)*




Source: WHO (online).

The subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean follow the same global and regional trend. The prevalence of stunting has fallen since 1990 in all subregions (Table 3), whereas the prevalence of child overweight has increased in Central America and the Caribbean; in South America the prevalence of overweight has remained stable since 1990, close to 7.3%.

Thus, the advances achieved in terms of the reduction of stunting coexists with rising overweight which requires further attention, a phenomenon dubbed the "double burden of malnutrition" (FAO, 2010). Overweight has become an extended problem in the region, affecting 2.5 million children under 5 years in South America, 1.1 million in Central America and 200,000 children in the Caribbean. Stunting, meanwhile affects 3.4 million children in South America, 2.6 million in Central America and 200,000 in the Caribbean (WHO, online).

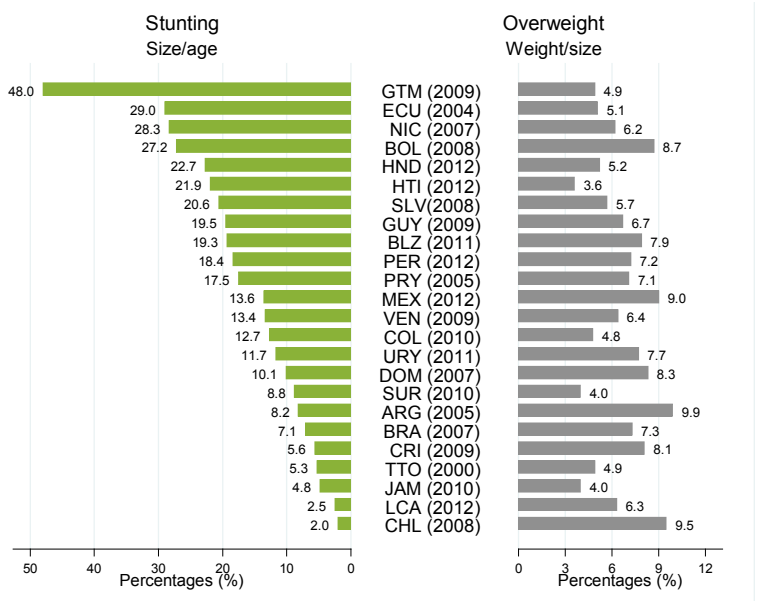
Figure 21 shows both these phenomena at country level. This makes it possible to observe cases such as Guatemala, where 48% of children under 5 years suffer stunting while 4.9% of children are overweight; the opposite is true for Chile, where only 2% of children suffer stunting but 9.5% of children are overweight, one of the highest rates in the region. Mexico, meanwhile, also has one of the highest rates of child overweight (9%), but at the same time 13.6% of the children younger than 5 years are stunted.

**Table 3.** ***Malnutrition in children under 5 years, prevalence (%) in the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean***

| | Stunting | | | | Overweight | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1990** | **2000** | **2010** | **2015** | **1990** | **2000** | **2010** | **2015** |
| Caribbean | 16.2 | 10.5 | 6.6 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 6.1 | 6.6 |
| Central America | 34.1 | 25.7 | 18.7 | 15.9 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 6.5 | 7 |
| South America | 21.2 | 16 | 11.8 | 10.1 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 24.5 | 18.5 | 13.6 | 11.6 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 7 | 7.1 |

Source: WHO (online).

**Figure 21***: Malnutrition in children under five years, Latin America and the Caribbean*




Source: WHO (online)

In addition to the challenges posed by malnutrition, it is necessary to take into account the growing concern regarding "hidden hunger" which refers to micronutrient deficiency, which has direct implications on physical, intellectual and social development. Thus, in addition to the health problems mentioned above, anaemia and iron deficiency are the most prevalent nutritional problems, affecting 44.5% of children and 22.5% of fertile age women (FAO, 2014a).

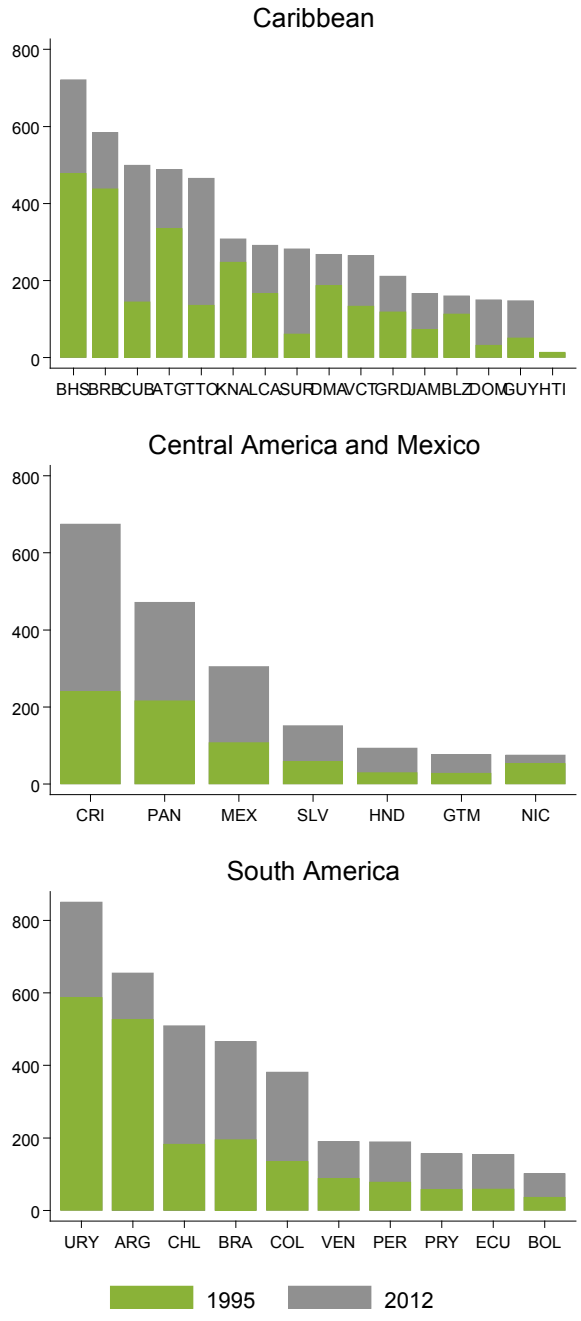
***Public health expenditure: countries face the double burden of malnutrition***

The actions that governments have undertaken have been of vital importance to the success achieved in the regional fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. An important indicator of the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of nutrition is countries' public health spending. This shows the macroeconomic stability that Latin America and the Caribbean has had in recent years, which has led to increased health spending and also underlies the improvements in the region's social and health figures. By 1995 public spending on health reached 3% of GDP at the regional level, while in 2012 this type of spending exceeds 4% of regional GDP. While this increase may seem minor in terms of its relative weight on GDP, it is important to emphasize that in real terms, public spending on health has more than doubled in the recorded period. If for 1995 such spending reached nearly $ 67 billion, by 2012 this amounted to USD $ 147 billion. This is even more remarkable when one considers that during the period total public spending by governments -as a percentage of GDP- has shown a downward trend (WHO, online).

This former is confirmed by observing per capita public spending on health in the countries of the region (Figure 22). With the exception of Haiti, per capita public health expenditure has increased in all countries; in some of them it has more than doubled between 1995 and 2012. This is the case in Suriname, where public health spending in 1990 reached $ 60 a year per person, increasing to USD $ 282 in 2012. This also occurred in in Colombia (USD $ 135 to USD $ 381 in the same period) and Honduras (USD $ 29 to USD $ 93, between 1990 and 2012).

Uruguay, Bahamas and Argentina are the countries with the highest public health spending per person, fluctuating between USD $ 600 and USD $ 800 per capita. By contrast, Haiti is the country with the lowest figures, and even shows a reduction of 14% between 1995 and 2012, with public spending on health dropping to USD $ 11 per person. Haiti is followed by Nicaragua and Guatemala, with public health expenditures of close to USD $ 75 per person.

**Figure 22***: Public health expenditure per capita, constant 2010 US dollars*




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC with information from WHO (online)

***Relationship between extreme poverty and hunger in the countries of the region***

Figure 23 shows information for 18 countries in the region, which indicates a positive correlation between extreme poverty and stunting in children, and extreme poverty and undernourishment. In practice, this means that lower extreme poverty rates correlate to lower rates

of stunting[15] and a lower prevalence of undernourishment. Examples can be seen in the case of Chile, which has an extreme poverty rate of 3.6% and a stunting rate of 2%, or the opposite case of Guatemala, where chronic malnutrition affects 48% of children and extreme poverty affects 29% of the population. Similarly, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay are the countries with the lowest rates of extreme poverty among the 18 countries analysed, and they all have a prevalence of undernourishment below 5%.

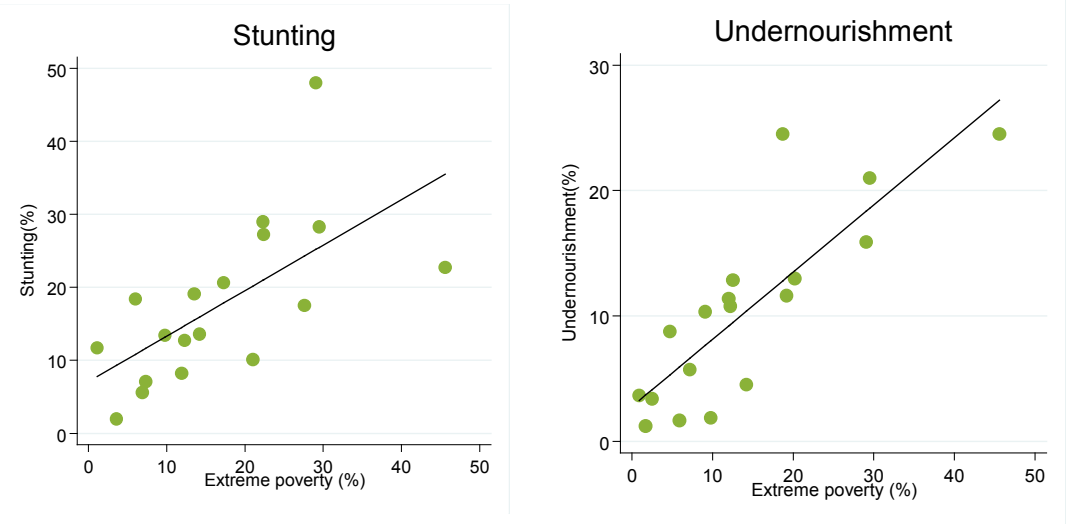
However, the effects of economic factors on the most vulnerable people in the region depend in large part on the actions taken by governments in relation to all dimensions of food and nutrition security. In this sense, the political commitment of countries (expressed in terms of this analysis by the degree of public spending) has been key to improving the socioeconomic conditions of the population, as it produces positive effects in terms of income, health and nutrition.

***Access to basic services in Latin America and the Caribbean***

The region has made significant progress in terms of access to water and sanitation facilities, essential to ensure proper conditions for the utilization of food (Table 4). In countries like Barbados, Belize, Chile and Uruguay coverage is almost 100% for water supply, and over 90% of the population has access to sanitation facilities. By contrast, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Haiti still present challenges in this respect, with Haiti being the country with the least progress, since 37.6% of its population has no access to water supply and 75% have no sanitation facilities, with little to no advance between 1990 and 2012. Paraguay, on the other hand, it the country that has made the greatest progress during the period; while in 1990 only 53.1% of its population had access to water supply, coverage in 2012 reached 93.8%.

Finally, it should be noted that although in general terms the region has made significant progress in this area, there are still differences in terms access within countries, particularly between urban and rural areas, although they have decreased.

**Figure 23***: Relationship between extreme poverty and stunting in children under five years and undernourishment in countries in the region*




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC based on information from WHO (online), FAO (online) and ECLAC (online).

** Data for the latest year available for both related series.*

15 The correlation between extreme poverty and stunting in children under five years is 65%. While the correlation between extreme poverty and undernourishment is 83%.

**Table 4.** *Proportion of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean with access to water supply and improved sanitation facilities*

| | Water supply | | | Sanitation facilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990 | 2012 | Population without coverage | 1990 | 2012 | Population without coverage |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 97.4 | 97.9 | 2.1 | 74.7 | 91.4 | 8.6 |
| Argentina | 93.8 | 98.7 | 1.3 | 86.5 | 97.2 | 2.8 |
| Bahamas, The | 96.3 | 98.4 | 1.6 | 88 | 92 | 8.0 |
| Barbados | 95.4 | 99.8 | 0.2 | 82.3 | 91.6 | 8.4 |
| Belize | 72.9 | 99.3 | 0.7 | 75.9 | 90.5 | 9.5 |
| Bolivia | 68.6 | 88.1 | 11.9 | 28.3 | 46.4 | 53.6 |
| Brazil | 88.5 | 97.5 | 2.5 | 66.8 | 81.3 | 18.7 |
| Chile | 90.4 | 98.8 | 1.2 | 84.8 | 98.9 | 1.1 |
| Colombia | 88.4 | 91.2 | 8.8 | 68.9 | 80.2 | 19.8 |
| Costa Rica | 93.1 | 96.6 | 3.4 | 88.5 | 93.9 | 6.1 |
| Cuba | 89.5 | 94 | 6.0 | 81.5 | 92.6 | 7.4 |
| Dominica | 94.5 | 94.4 | 5.6 | 81.1 | 81.1 | 18.9 |
| Dominican Republic | 88.8 | 80.9 | 19.1 | 73 | 82 | 18.0 |
| Ecuador | 73.9 | 86.4 | 13.6 | 57.1 | 83.1 | 16.9 |
| El Salvador | 74.8 | 90.1 | 9.9 | 50 | 70.5 | 29.5 |
| Grenada | 96.5 | 96.8 | 3.2 | 98 | 98 | 2.0 |
| Guatemala | 81.4 | 93.8 | 6.2 | 62 | 80.3 | 19.7 |
| Guyana | 77.1 | 97.6 | 2.4 | 75.7 | 83.6 | 16.4 |
| Haiti | 60.8 | 62.4 | 37.6 | 18.8 | 24.4 | 75.6 |
| Honduras | 72.8 | 89.6 | 10.4 | 48.2 | 80 | 20.0 |
| Jamaica | 93.4 | 93.1 | 6.9 | 79.5 | 80.2 | 19.8 |
| Mexico | 82.3 | 94.9 | 5.1 | 65.9 | 85.3 | 14.7 |
| Nicaragua | 73.9 | 85 | 15.0 | 43.1 | 52.1 | 47.9 |
| Panama | 83.9 | 94.3 | 5.7 | 60 | 73.2 | 26.8 |
| Paraguay | 53.1 | 93.8 | 6.2 | 37.2 | 79.7 | 20.3 |
| Peru | 74.4 | 86.8 | 13.2 | 54 | 73.1 | 26.9 |
| St. Kitts and Nevis | 98.3 | 98.3 | 1.7 | 87.3 | 87.3 | 12.7 |
| St. Lucia | 93.3 | 93.8 | 6.2 | 57.6 | 65.2 | 34.8 |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | 88.2 | 95.1 | 4.9 | 63.2 | 76.1 | 23.9 |
| Suriname | 87.2 | 95.2 | 4.8 | 80 | 80.3 | 19.7 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 90.3 | 93.6 | 6.4 | 92.7 | 92.1 | 7.9 |
| Uruguay | 95.5 | 99.5 | 0.5 | 92.2 | 96.4 | 3.6 |
| Venezuela, RB | 89.9 | 92.9 | 7.1 | 82 | 90.9 | 9.1 |

Source: World Bank (online)

**Box 5.** *School Feeding*

School feeding programs have a long history in the region and are implemented in all countries of LAC. In recent years these programs have greatly expanded. In Bolivia they cover 89% of students from 4-12 years, in Guatemala 95% of students between the ages of 5-12 years, and in Nicaragua they cover the whole child population of the country. Apart from their expansion in terms of coverage, the components of these programs have evolved: currently they are not limited to supplying food to prevent hunger but also deal with the other burden of malnutrition that affects to the region, i.e. overweight and obesity.
Thus, in some countries schools are promoting health culture, through measures such as increasing the availability of vegetables and fruits at lunch and in school canteens, and the creation of school gardens as part of the learning process.
Aditionally, in some countries, the supply of products such as fruits, vegetables and other perishable fresh foods destined to school feeding programs comes from local producers, and specifically family farmers, favoring the availability of healthy and culturally relevant food as well as helping to establish a stable demand for family farmers, who otherwise often have difficulty getting adequate prices for their products (FAO, 2013).

*Further information regarding policies and programs for food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in the Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (http://www.plataformacelac.org/).*

## STABILITY

In a region like Latin America and the Caribbean, which has made significant progress in the fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition, ensuring the stability of the food and nutritional security is increasingly important. Indeed, the progress made in the last 25 years could be seriously compromised by a number of structural challenges, such as the unsustainable use of natural resources, food losses and waste, and the growing prevalence of natural disasters, among others. To face this, actors from all sectors have agreed to direct their efforts towards sustainable food systems and adaptation to climate change, both necessary conditions to provide sustainabile food and nutrition security over time.

### *Towards sustainable more inclusive and efficient food systems*

Economic growth, rising incomes in countries, population growth and urbanization, among other factors, have placed increasing stress on agricultural and food systems, both from the point of view of production and consumption. These challenges can seriously affect the sustainability of food systems in the medium term, which could have serious implications for food and nutrition security. A hunger-free world requires food production that can satisfy a growing demand both in terms of quantity and diversity, while consumers will play an ever greater role in terms of demanding food quality and safety and the improvement of supply chains (FAO, 2014b).

In the case of production, it is imperative to reduce the negative effects on the environment and natural resources that current production methods have, as well as handling the impacts that climate change will have on them. In terms of consumers, there is a need to control excessive food consumption, adopt more nutritious and varied diets and reduce food waste and losses and their environmental footprint (FAO, 2014b).

In this sense, both consumption and food production should move towards increasing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agricultural and food systems. This requires improvements in terms of the efficiency and inclusiveness of agrifood systems, by generating efficient models of production and supply, management of natural resources, access to capital and marketing, and international agreements and mechanisms to promote efficient markets and to facilitate sustainable market share for both small and medium producers and for agribusiness, while promoting a greater awareness on responsible food consumption.

The development of a sustainable food system is key to the stability of food and nutritional security, as these systems are geared to meeting the food needs of both present and future generations without jeopardizing their economic, social and environmental bases (FAO, 2014c). This is undoubtedly a complex issue, and to respond to it the interaction of different actors and sectors within the food system is necessary. Advancing the sustainability of food systems involves engaging both consumers and producers in the decision making process, ensuring the participation of a broad set of actors, and establishing mechanisms for coordinated decision-making to enable a fair distribution of the costs and benefits of food systems (HLPE, 2014). Reducing food losses and waste and improving supply chains are two areas in which this interaction and coordination is particularly necessary.

### *Food losses and waste reflect the inefficient use of resources*

Food losses and waste are the decrease in the amount of food for human consumption at any point in the supply chain (FAO, 2014a).

The existence of high volumes of food losses and waste shows the inefficient use of productive resources, which directly affects the sustainability of food systems and of food and nutrition security. Indeed, food which is eventually lost or wasted involves not only a waste of resources such as water, land and productive inputs but also the emissions and waste generated in the different stages of the supply chain. Thus, food losses and waste represent an obstacle to the sustainability of food systems, and reducing these phenomena is key to improving the economic, social and environmental performance of food systems. Therefore, the consequences of the existence of food losses and waste affect all dimensions of the food and nutrition security.

FAO (2014a) estimates that close to 15% of food produced in the region is lost or wasted. 28% of total food waste and losses occur during production; another 28% at the level of consumption; 22% occur during handling and storage; 17% during distribution and marketing and 6% during processing. The food wasted and lost each year by the region could feed 300 million people (almost ten times the number of currently undernourished people in the region), which clearly indicates the potential impacts that a reduction of food waste and losses could have on food and nutrition security.

Addressing this phenomenon requires the participation of all sectors involved in the food chain, including producers, distributors, consumers and the state as a regulator and guarantor of relations between them. Similarly, the contribution that civil society and academia can make in this regard is key to generate better practices that can be implemented in each stage of the food chain.

**Box 6.** ***Regional alliance for the reduction of food waste and losses***

Latin America and the Caribbean are currently forming a Regional Alliance for Reducing Food Losses and Waste. This space will gather evidence, methodologies and experiences in order to promote coordinated actions and public policies that can contribute to the reduction of food losses and waste. FAO plays a key role in this respect, promoting cooperation and dialogue between countries, and systematizing and communicating their achievements.

The alliance has a pro tempore Regional Committee of Experts, responsible for validating the actions developed to identify the causes and impacts of this phenomenon as well as recommending actions to reduce loses, reuse and redistribute food.
At the country level, the Alliance develops National Committees, which integrate different public, private and civil actors (FAO, 2015a).

***Public food supply systems: the State as an actor in the food systems***

Supply mechanisms constitute a key element in food systems, whose main objective is to provide a stable food supply, facilitate access to food for the most vulnerable consumers through more supportive conditions, and generate the necessary incentives for food production in an inclusive, efficient and equitable manner, preserving nutritional quality and safety of food. (FAO, 2014a).

Supply systems have an impact on the different stages of production, such as transportation, storage, preservation and distribution. They also count with instruments to influence the price, accessibility and availability of food. In this sense, potentially they have an important role in each of the dimensions of food and nutrition security, and in particular they can ensure stability in periods of socioeconomic or climatic turmoil.

While there are various approaches by which the State takes part in the food supply process , public supply systems have a growing importance in Latin America and the Caribbean. Several countries in the region have specialized institutions in this area, with different levels of development and capacity for action. The recognized potential of public supply systems can be strengthened through linkages with other public programs such as school feeding and support for family farming. This poses challenges in terms of coordination and articulation that, if surpassed, will allow the State to guarantee the sustainability of food systems while also strengthening the availability, access and utilization of food.

**Box 7.** *Public Food Supply Systems*

There are several approaches in Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the design and implementation of public food supply systems. There are differences in the coverage, scope and objectives of these systems. For example, in Brazil, the National Supply Company (Conab) has within its functions the tasks of implementing the policy of Guaranteed Minimum Prices (PGPM), the storage and marketing of agricultural products, the creation and maintenance of public stocks of variety of foods as well as the implementation of the Food Acquisition Program for family farming (PAA); on the other hand, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has the Food Production Support Company (EMAPA), that seeks to develop the agricultural production, avoid the speculation on food prices, facilitate the access to production supplies at low prices and redistribute in a better way the agricultural income. For these purposes, EMAPA gives support to family farming through deliveries of production supplies, has a scheme of public purchases at preferential rates, and also manages the country's food reserves. There are also institutions that not only handle domestic trade but also have a role to play in imports, such as the Marketing and National Importing Board of Granada, responsible for the importation of rice, milk and sugar, which has the ability to create and release food reserves if the national situation warrants it. Similarly, other systems are intended to benefit specific segments of the population, such as DICONSA in Mexico, dedicated to the supply of basic and complementary goods for rural areas with high and very high marginalization.

Further information regarding policies and programs for food and *nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in the Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (http://www.plataformacelac.org/).*

***Adaptation to climate change to ensure the sustainability of food systems***

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change has been one of the growing concerns both in the international and regional agenda. In recent years the region has experienced considerable natural disasters causing major social and economic damage. Given the geography of Latin America and the Caribbean, there are some remarkably vulnerable areas to extreme weather events, which added to population growth, lack of territorial planning and fragility of livelihoods has helped increase their exposure to natural events and their impacts on food and nutrition security (FAO, 2014a).

The impacts of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean are already significant, and it is likely that in the future these will intensify. Its effects on the region are very heterogeneous and asymmetric between countries and within them, depending on their geographical and/or socio-economic characteristics. The various exercises to account for the economic costs of climate change in the region are of interest; conservative estimates predict that an increase in temperature of 2.5°C would involve costs ranging between 1.5% and 5% of regional GDP. The potential impacts of climate change are varied and include effect on agriculture, water, biodiversity, health, tourism, poverty and inequality, among others. Moreover, the global estimates of adaptation costs come close to 0.5% of GDP per year, far below the economic costs of climate change already mentioned: namely, adaptation to climate change for countries is not only a necessity but is also an efficient public investment from an economic point of view. However, it is important to consider that, as with its effects, the distribution of the costs of adaptation to climate change are not evenly distributed (ECLAC, 2014b), and as such there are regions and countries that have higher levels of vulnerability, and therefore, the investments needed by them to mitigate and adapt to climate change may be higher as well.

Consequently, the actions for adaptation to climate change are becoming more urgent, which implies changes in food consumption and production, in addition to investments to improve disaster risk management. The agricultural sector in particular has traditionally been one of the most vulnerable sectors to climate events, which is especially important in region such as Latin America and the Caribbean , which are a great producer and exporter of food. Among other factors, this regional vulnerability is due to productive practices carried out to expand production which have led to a reduction in biodiversity and forestry, as well as the degradation of soil and water, situation which endangers the availability and quality of natural resources and has particularly affected the lives of the most vulnerable (FAO, 2014b).

In this sense, the challenges posed by climate change threaten food systems, and actions in favour of increasing their adaptation to climatic events are key to ensuring the sustainability of food production and food access, especially considering the growing effects of climate change in recent years.

***Natural disasters have become more frequent in recent decades***

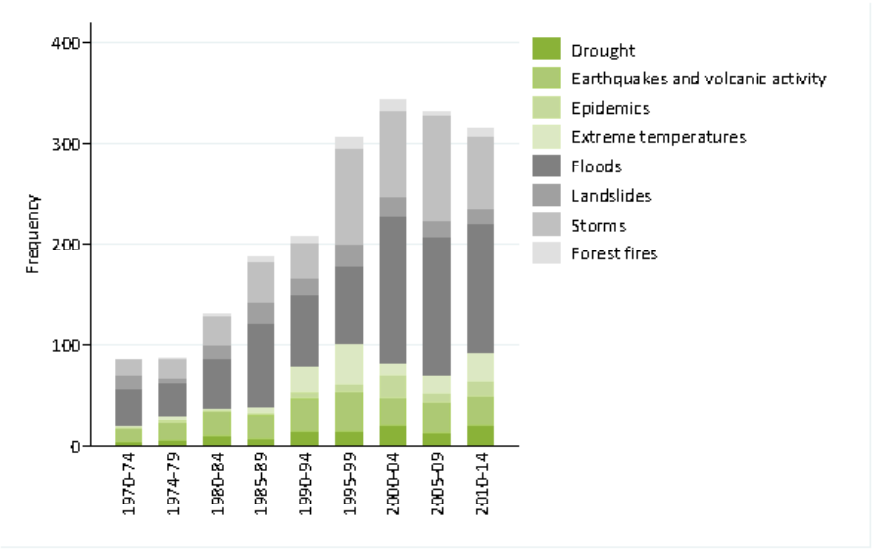
From a historical perspective Latin America and the Caribbean has made a lower contribution to global climate change in terms of the emission of greenhouse gases. However, the region is particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change (ECLAC, 2014b), which necessarily implies facing up to the challenges climate changes poses to the development of the region.

Although during the last ten years natural disasters that have affected the region has been less frequent, their occurrence is still high when compared to previous

decades, and a clear upward trend is observed since 1970. Figure 24 shows that one of the most recurring events in the region are floods followed by storms. There is also a growing occurrence of extreme temperatures and drought. While they are not among the recurring events affecting the region, their frequency has increased since the '90s.

A subregional look also shows an increase in the presence of extreme climatic events, some being more recurring in certain subregions. In the Caribbean, for example, storms are the most common phenomenon followed to a lesser extent by flooding; in Central America, meanwhile, floods are the most recurring event, followed by storms, while extreme temperatures and drought have become more prevalent since the 90s. In South America, flooding is the main event affecting this subregion, although extreme temperatures have increased in prevalence since the 2000s.

**Figure 24:** *Frequency of natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1970-2014*




Source: FAO Regional Office for LAC with information from CRED (online)

**Box 8.** *Climate change poses challenges for achieving development.*

The Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC identifies the following risks, which will pose challenges to the short-term development of the region and will also have direct impacts on food and nutrition security:

- Water availability will be affected in semi-arid and regions dependent on melting glaciers. Central America will also be affected by the reduction in snow cover, extreme rainfall, higher temperatures and drought. Rural and urban areas will be affected by floods and landslides as a result of increased precipitation.
- The production and quality of food could be reduced due to increased temperatures and lower rainfall, particularly in Central America, north-eastern Brazil and in some Andean areas. Meanwhile, the southeast of South America could benefit from an increase in precipitation.
- Climate change will increase health risks, given the rates of population growth combined with the vulnerabilities of health and sanitation systems, access to clean water and adequate housing, the presence of pollution and unsustainable forms of production.

From the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, What does this mean for Latin America?
Available in: http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/INFORME-del-IPCC-Que-implica-para-Latinoamerica-CDKN.pdf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# CHAPTER 3: Hunger reduction in the region: a country outlook

Latin America and the Caribbean's successful adherence to the international hunger targets –both the MDG and WFS goal– - was not the product of a single cause but due to a combination of factors. Among them, the political commitment of the countries of the region to the eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and its subsequent translation into public policies for these areas, was probably the region's differentiating element.

Indeed, once hunger was firmly established in the region's public agenda, the approach undertaken shifted from the technical to the political. This did not mean abandoning technical criteria, but rather their strategic adjustment to political goals and the adoption of integral efforts at the highest national level. This gave rise to a new approach to strengthen food and nutrition security, also called the "political approach", which has the following broad characteristics (FAO, 2014a):

1. Food and nutrition security ceases to be addressed on a sectoral basis and becomes a complex problem that requires coordinated responses under the framework of multisectoral strategies that address the various causes of hunger and malnutrition, integrating all stakeholders, including the State, societies as a whole and the private sector;

2. The development of public policies integrates not only technical contents (policies), but also a comprehensive discussion of the institutional frameworks governing the relationship between state and society (polity) as well as the activities which are specific to political activity and that allow food and nutritional security to be part of the political agenda, through a consensus which facilitates the sustainable implementation of intervention strategies (politics) (Beduschi et al, 2014.);

3. The implementation of public programs addresses the short-term needs of vulnerable populations and gives long-term sustainability to economic, social and nutritional improvements, through a "twin-track" approach (Stamoulis and Zezza, 2003).

This chapter aims to provide an initial overview of how the 17 countries in the region that met the MDG target integrated elements of this "political approach" in their development strategies, and how this was reflected in food and nutrition security.[16] However, it is important to note that all countries in the region, whether they met the goal or not, have implemented efforts to eradicate hunger, poverty and malnutrition, and have done so according to their own political and institutional frameworks. Therefore, the information presented reflects both the commonalities and differences within the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

16 References about public policies, plans, strategies and programs in this section, except as otherwise cited in the text, come from the information contained in the Food and Nutrition Security Platform (www.plataformacelac.org).

## ARGENTINA

Argentina is one of the two countries in the region (along with Barbados) that has had a prevalence of undernourishment lower than 5% since the 1990-1992 triennium. By 2012, poverty and extreme poverty reached 4.3% and 1.7% of the population, respectively, a reduction since 1994 of 11.8 and 1.7 percentage points, respectively[17]. Similarly, the Gini inequality index has been declining, reaching a value of 0.475 in 2012 (ECLAC, online).

Moreover, in the past 25 years Argentina has had an average growth of 4.05% of GDP, and although it decreased on average 5.4% between 2000-2002, reaching a low of - 10% in 2002, the country recovered, and the average growth from 2003-2013 was 6.2% (World Bank, online). The recovery began in 2003, with growth rates above 8% for 5 years in a row, and allowed the consolidation of various public policies and institutions that seek to ensure food and nutrition security.

Regarding this last point, in 2003, Law 25,724 created the National Food and Nutrition Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Nutrición y Alimentación*) as the agency in charge of the National Nutrition and Food Plan (*Plan Nacional de Alimentación y Nutrición*) (latter turned into a program), in order to ensure food and nutrition security for all citizens.

As for the situation of food and nutritional security in the country, as mentioned in the beginning, Argentina began the measurement period of the MDGs with a rate of undernourishment lower than 5%, and despite the crisis of the early part of the XXI century, this index remained below that level. Food supply since the 1990-92 triennium has increased by 22%, exceeding 3,600 calories a day per person according to the last available figures, for a population of over 41 million inhabitants (FAO, online). Also, due to its large production capacity, Argentina is a net agrifood exporter[18].

On the other hand, in terms of the access dimension of food and nutrition security, the country has recovered from the economic and social setbacks observed in the early 2000s. After an increase in the rates of poverty and extreme poverty that saw these figures triple the rates seen in early 2000, reaching 45.2% and 20.9% respectively in 2002, there began a steady decline of more than 40 percentage points in the poverty index and a 20 percentage point drop in extreme poverty during the following decade. Also, as Figure 25 shows, inequality followed a similar trend: after a deteriorating in the Gini coefficient in the early 2000s,

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | <5.0 | <5.0 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | ns | ns | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,999 | 3,153 | 3,667 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1990** | **1994** | **2005** |
| Stunting | … | 7.1 | 8.2 |
| Wasting | … | 1.6 | 1.2 |
| Underweight | … | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2002** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 129.5 | 172.0 | 331.3 |
| GDP per capita | 3,969 | 4,572 | ... |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 10.46 | 14.10 | 17.78 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 7,175 | 9,704 | ... |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 4.5 | 3.0 | 5.4 |
| GDP per capita | 3.2 | 1.8 | … |
| Agricultural GDP | 4.2 | 0.8 | 4.1 |
| Agricultural productivity | 4.1 | 2.9 | … |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2002** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 7.4 | 19.7 | 7.1 |
| Employment rate | … | 52,3/c | 54.7 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1994** | **2002** | **2012** |
| Poverty rate/d | 16.1 | 45.4 | 4.3 |
| Extreme poverty rate/d | 3.4 | 20.9 | 1.7 |
| Gini index/e | 0.515 | 0.578 | 0.475 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2002** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 93.8 | 96.9 | 98.7 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 86.5 | 92.7 | 97.2 |
| **Population/f** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 32,625 | 36,903 | 41,803 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 28,378 | 32,896 | 38,293 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 4,247 | 4,007 | 3,510 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Valor correspondiente al año 2004

d/ Percentage of urban poverty and extreme poverty. Source ECLAC

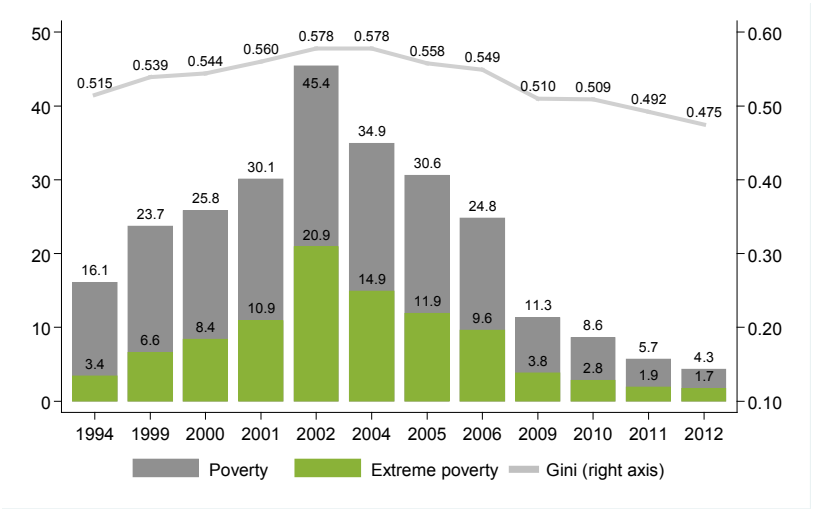
e/ Gini coefficient for urban areas. Source ECLAC

f/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

17 Information for poverty and extreme poverty for Argentina's only covers urban areas since 1994

18 This is clearly seen in the section on availability in Chapter 2.

**Figure 25.** ***Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Argentina.***




Source: ECLAC (online).

*Note: Information available for poverty and extreme poverty in Argentina only covers urban areas.*

Argentina was able to reduce this indicator to 0.475 in 2012, lower than the average coefficient of Latin America.

In this sense, the economic recovery allowed the country to increase its social spending from 18.7% of GDP in 1990 to 27.8% in 2009 (ECLAC, online), which resulted in turn in the implementation of public policies aimed at increasing household incomes and social benefits. Some of these are the Birth Plan (*Plan Nacer*) implemented in 2004 (currently converted into the *Sumar* Program) a health initiative initially focused on maternal and new-born's health, then it expanded to children, adolescents and the elderly. In 2009 the Universal Child Allowance for Social Protection (*Asignación Universal por Hijo para la Protección Social*). began, which is a transfer to improve family income conditioned on the health and education responsibilities, which in 2012 benefited more than 3, 5 million people, 8.62% of the population (ECLAC, online).

Regarding the dimension of food utilization and basic services, 93.8% of the country's population already had access drinking water by the year 1990, which has increased to 98.7% in 2012. Likewise access to health facilities increased by more than 10 percentage points over the same period, and for the year 2012 97.2% of population had access to these services (World Bank, online).

## BARBADOS

Barbados has kept the prevalence of undernourishment below 5% since 1990-1992, except during the 2003-2005 triennium, when it rose to 6% before falling again during the next triennium.

From 1990-2012 the GDP of Barbados had a 0.91% average annual growth. While in the early '90s the average growth was 0.9%, in the 2000-09 period the average annual growth was 1.1%. The impact of the 2009 crisis on the country was severe, and growth in 2009 was -4.13% (World Bank, online). These results are explained in large part by the evolution of tourism, especially considering the important relationship between the growth of tourism and GDP growth seen in the country: 10% to 12% of GDP corresponds to the tourism sector (Jackman and Lorde, 2012). Between 2010 and 2012, the GDP growth averaged only 0.3%, which is consistent with the decrease of -0.2% in the country's per capita GDP in the same period.

In this sluggish economic context, Barbados maintains a food supply of 3,111 calories per person per day, surpassing the minimum requirements of its population (FAO, online). Barbados depends almost exclusively on imports to provide this offer, being a net agrifood importer. In fact, between 2010 and 2012 agriculture contributed only 1.2% of GDP and agricultural GDP has shown a decrease of 5.3% over the same period.

The situation of poverty and inequality, meanwhile, has become a concern in recent years. There was a 5.4 percentage point increase in poverty since 1997, while the Gini coefficient reached 0.47 in 2010, compared to 0.39 in 1997. In this sense, the country has focused on ensuring the levels of income of the population, particularly of the most vulnerable through the Non-Contributory Old Age Pension and the Unemployment Benefit.

With regard to unemployment (Figure 26), there has been an upward trend since 2007, reaching 11.2% in 2013, even though it is 3.5 percentage points lower than the levels seen in 1990. Unemployment, inequality and poverty present significant challenges for the food and nutrition security of the country.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | <5.0 | 5.2 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | ns | <0.1 | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 3,032 | 2,849 | 3,111 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1981** | **1996** | **2007** |
| Stunting | 10.2 | … | … |
| Wasting | 3.9 | … | … |
| Underweight | 5.3 | … | … |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| GDP, in billions | 3.2 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| GDP per capita | 12,217 | 13,801 | 14,350 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.05 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 8,473 | 10,368 | 12,778 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-12** |
| GDP | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.3 |
| GDP per capita | 0.6 | 0.7 | (0.2) |
| Agricultural GDP | 0.2 | (1.4) | (5.3) |
| Agricultural productivity | 4.2 | 2.3 | 2.6 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 14.7 | 9.3 | 11.2 |
| Employment rate | … | 61,6/c | 59.1 |
| **Poverty and inequality/d** | **1990** | **1997** | **2010** |
| Poverty rate | … | 13.9 | 19.3 |
| Extreme poverty rate | … | … | 9.1 |
| Gini index | … | 0.39 | 0.47 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 95.4 | 99.1 | 99.8 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 82.3 | 90.1 | .. |
| **Population/e** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 260 | 267 | 286 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 85 | 90 | 90 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 175 | 177 | 196 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

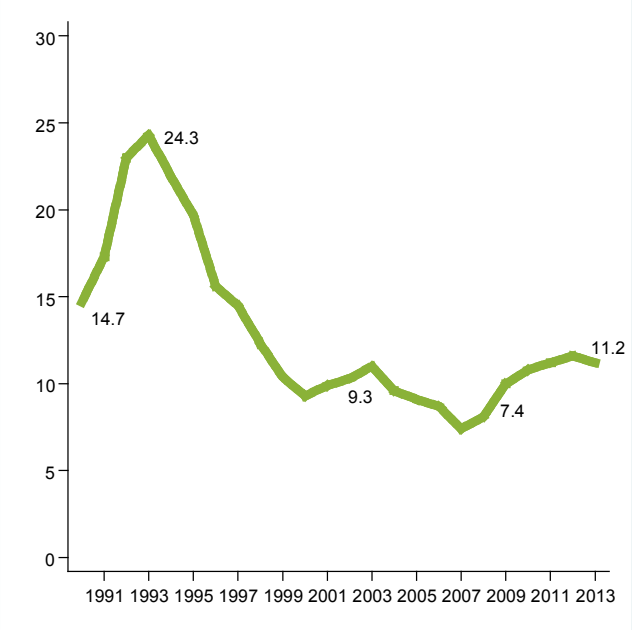
b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source: Caribbean Development Bank. "Development effectiveness review 2013" and "Development effectiveness review 2011" available at http://www.caribank.org/uploads/2015/01/Development-Effectiveness-Review_2013_FINAL.pdf y http://www.caribank.org/uploads/2015/01/Development-Effectivenes-Review_-2011-FINAL.pdf en Consulted in 2015

e/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 26.** *Evolution of unemployment in Barbados 1990-2013*




Source: ECLAC (online)

In this context, in recent years support for agricultural production has increased so as to ensure food and nutrition security and diversify the economy. The State has focused mainly in three areas: arable land, credit and financing, and machinery. The country implements the Land for the Landless Programme, to increase the cultivated area of the country and lease land to farmers who lack productive land. It also provides support through agricultural machinery for small and medium producers who do not have adequate machinery for ploughing and sowing, through the Tractor Cultivation Scheme. Finally, the country delivers financing for productive agricultural enterprises through the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).

Finally, regarding the utilization dimension of food and nutrition security, the country has achieved virtually universal access to safe drinking water in both urban and rural areas, increasing the coverage by 4.4 percentage between 1990 and 2012, reaching 99.8% of the population in 2012. On the other hand, obesity is a major issue in nutritional matters, since 33.4% of the adult population are overweight or obese, with the prevalence in women (44.2%) doubling that of men (21.6%) (WHO, online)[19].

19 2008 values

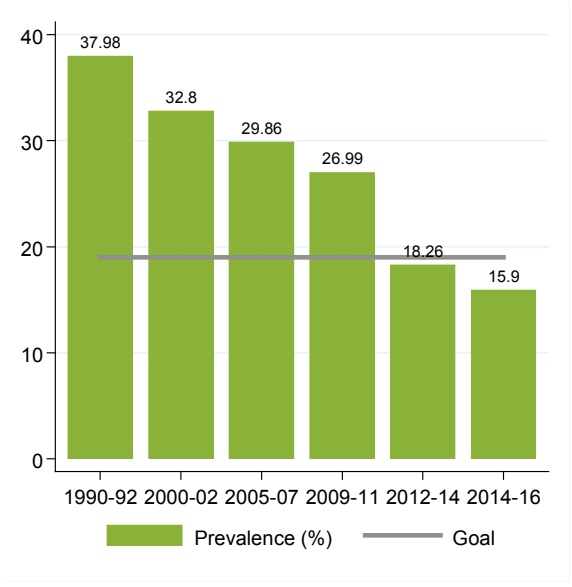
## PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

According to the latest FAO estimates, Bolivia more than halved its undernourishment rate from 38% in 1990-1992 to 16% in 2014-16, thereby fulfilling the MDG Target 1C (Figure 27).

From 1990 to 2013, Bolivia's GDP grew on average 4.08%, with positive growth rates throughout the period. Within this positive trend the lowest values occurred in 1999 when the growth rate was only 0.42%, while in recent years these rates have risen above 5%, with 6.77% growth in 2013, and an average from 2010-2013 of 5.3% (World Bank, online).

Bolivia has managed to substantially reduce poverty and extreme poverty by 25.8 and 18.5 percentage points, respectively, between 1997 and 2011. Figure 28 shows two distinct periods: from 1997 to 2004 poverty remained virtually stagnant at around 60%, while the same was true for extreme poverty, which reached almost 40% of the population; thereafter, both indicators decreased significantly, falling to 36.3% and 18.7% respectively.

**Figure 27.** *Evolution of undernourishment (%) in Bolivia (P.S)*




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015)

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 38.0 | 32.8 | 15.9 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 2.6 | 2.8 | 1.8 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 1,993 | 2,087 | 2,291 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1989** | **1998** | **2008** |
| Stunting | 41.7 | 33.1 | 27.2 |
| Wasting | 2.2 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Underweight | 8.9 | 5.9 | 4.5 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 5.7 | 8.2 | 14.1 |
| GDP per capita | 834 | 965 | 1,323 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.71 | 0.95 | 1.38 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 594 | 607 | 658 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 4.0 | 3.7 | 5.3 |
| GDP per capita | 1.7 | 1.8 | 3.6 |
| Agricultural GDP | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.7 |
| Agricultural productivity | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2010** |
| Unemployment rate | 7.3 | 7.5 | 6.5 |
| Employment rate | … | 63,6/c | 53.6 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1997** | **2000** | **2011** |
| Poverty rate | 62.1 | 63.7 | 36.3 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 37.2 | 38.8 | 18.7 |
| Gini index | 0.595 | 0.643 | 0.472 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 68.6 | 78.9 | 88.1 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 28.3 | 37.0 | 46.4 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 6,794 | 8,495 | 10,848 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 3,776 | 5,253 | 7,388 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 3,018 | 3,242 | 3,460 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

…/ Not available values

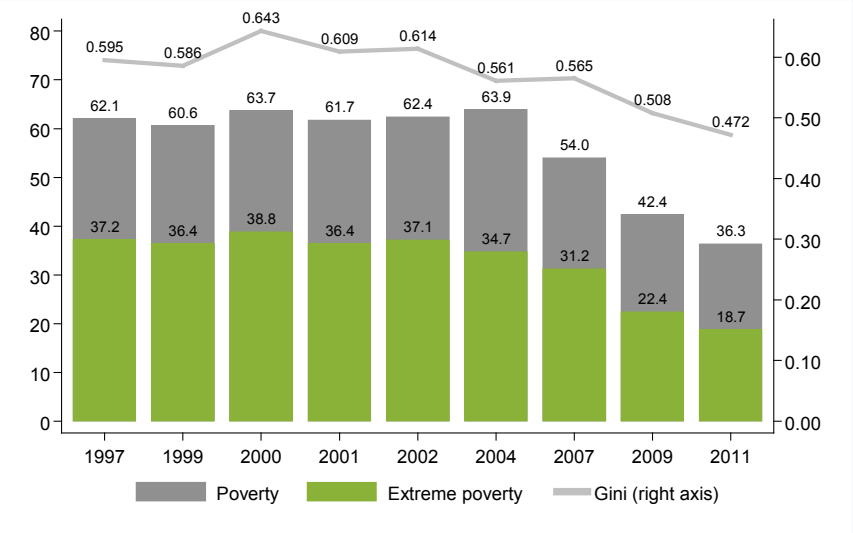
a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 28.** ***Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Plurinational State of Bolivia.***




Source: ECLAC (online).

Besides the undeniable positive impact of economic growth, Bolivia's positive advances are due to the large number of public policies implemented since the second half of the decade of 2000 focused on the most vulnerable, particularly increasing their income through government transfers. One of the most outstanding policies are the conditional cash transfers made by the State, such as the Juancito Pinto Grant (*Bono Juancito Pinto*), a conditional transfer dependant on children's school attendance, which amounts to USD $ 28 given out since 2003; and the Juana Azurduy Grant (*Bono Juana Azurduy*), which provides transfers to more than 700,000 mothers[20] conditional on their healthcare responsibilities (ECLAC, online).

In line with the regional trend, the caloric supply in Bolivia exceeds 2,290 calories per person per day, representing an increase of 15% over the level of 1990-992 (FAO, online). The country has implemented various productive public policies, and in recent times it has enacted a series of legal instruments that seek to institutionalize the state concerns in this matter, thereby strengthening the role of agriculture in food and nutritional security. Among them, the Law No. 144 "Productive Community Agricultural Revolution," the Act No. 338 "of Peasant Economic Organizations, and Native Indigenous Economic Community Organizations for integrating sustainable family farming and Food Sovereignty" and the "Framework Law Mother Earth and Integral Development for Living Well."

In addition to the positive trend in terms of malnutrition and poverty, Bolivia has made important advances in stunting in children, reducing it by more than 14 percentage points from 1990 to 2008. However, this still affects 27.2% of children under 5 years old (WHO, online), and this problem remains a top priority on the national public agenda. To address this situation, one of the flagship programs that the country has implemented is the Multisector Zero Malnutrition program (*Programa Multisectorial Desnutrición Cero*), which includes the delivery of nutritional supplements and health care with emphasis on children under 2 years.

Within the dimension of food utilization, access to basic services has also considerable increased in the last two decades, even though the country still has gaps, particularly in the case of health services. Indeed, the Bolivian population with access to water supply increased from 68.6% in 1990 to 88.1% in 2012, while in the case of health services it increased from 28,3% of the population to 46.4% in the same period (World Bank, online). In terms of water supply, there have been efforts both through international cooperation and by government programs, such as "More Investment for Water - My Water" (*Más Inversión para el Agua - Mi Agua*), that since 2011 till the present has invested more than USD $ 200 million[21] in water and irrigation projects.

20 Data for 2012.

21 http://www.la-razon.com/index.php?_url=/economia/Programa-Agua-III-invertira-millones_0_1857414265.html, checked on 23/4/2015.

## BRAZIL

Brazil reached the MDG target 1C and also met the WFS goal, reducing the number of people suffering from hunger by half between 1990 and 2015. Similarly, poverty and extreme poverty showed significant reductions in the past 23 years, showing a decrease of 29.7 and 17.4 percentage points, respectively.

The positive results are due largely to a macroeconomic and political context that allowed the country to adopt significant large-scale public policies and institutions in favour of the fight against poverty and hunger.

The average annual growth rate of Brazil's GDP was above the average pace of the previous decade, and the same occurred with the growth of per capita GDP (World Bank, online). This improvement of the economic conditions of the country was accompanied by the implementation of strategies that covered the whole spectrum of food and nutrition security, among which the Zero Hunger Program *(Fome Zero)* in 2003 and its successor, Brazil Without Poverty (*Brasil Sem Miseria*), in 2011 stand out. Both programs shared a multisectoral approach as the key to eradicate hunger and coordinate the implementation of different programs and investments that allow for interventions in the four dimensions of food and nutrition security: in Brazil Without Poverty, for example, 22 ministries are included.

Parallel to the establishment of these large-scale public policies, Brazil has also implemented an institutional framework to support the actions undertaken regarding food and nutrition security. Thus, in 2007 it created the Interministerial Chamber of Food and Nutrition Security (*Câmara Interministerial de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional* - CAISAN) and the National Council on Food and Nutrition Security **(***Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional* - CONSEA ), which together are in charge of the formulation and articulation of the country's food and nutrition security policy.

The four dimensions of food and nutrition security are also in good standing in the country. Food supply has increased steadily over the past decade, and caloric supply exceeds 3,300 calories per person per day according to the latest figures, well above the minimum caloric requirements (FAO, online). This shows the productive potential of the country, which is one of the largest food producers in the region. Agricultural value added has been very dynamic from the first years of the 2000s, growing on average by 3.7% per year as a result of increased productivity in the sector. This large productive capacity makes Brazil a net exporter of agricultural products[22]; although during 2014 the food trade balance showed a

22 Agrifood considers all products included in chapters 1 to 24 of the Harmonized System. These chapters consider both primary and manufactured goods.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 14.8 | 11.2 | <5 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 22.6 | 19.9 | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,756 | 2,900 | 3,302 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1989** | **1996** | **2007** |
| Stunting | 19.4 | 13.5 | 7.1 |
| Wasting | … | 2.8 | 1.6 |
| Underweight | 5.3 | 4.5 | 2.2 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 598.5 | 769.0 | 1,166.7 |
| GDP per capita | 3,999 | 4,407 | 5,823 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 25.71 | 35.20 | 56.72 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 1,828 | 2,642 | 5,564 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 1.7 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| GDP per capita | 0.1 | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| Agricultural GDP | 2.6 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Agricultural productivity | 3.3 | 5.5 | 6.6 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 4.3 | 7.1 | 5.4 |
| Employment rate | … | 50/c | 54.0 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2001** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | 47.7 | 37.4 | 18.0 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 23.3 | 13.2 | 5.9 |
| Gini index | 0.627 | 0.639 | 0.553 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2001** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 88.5 | 93.5 | 97.5 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 66.8 | 74.6 | 81.3 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 149,648 | 174,505 | 202,033 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 110,623 | 141,684 | 172,604 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 39,025 | 32,821 | 29,429 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

contraction compared with 2013, on average over the past ten years the food trade balance has grown by 11% annually.

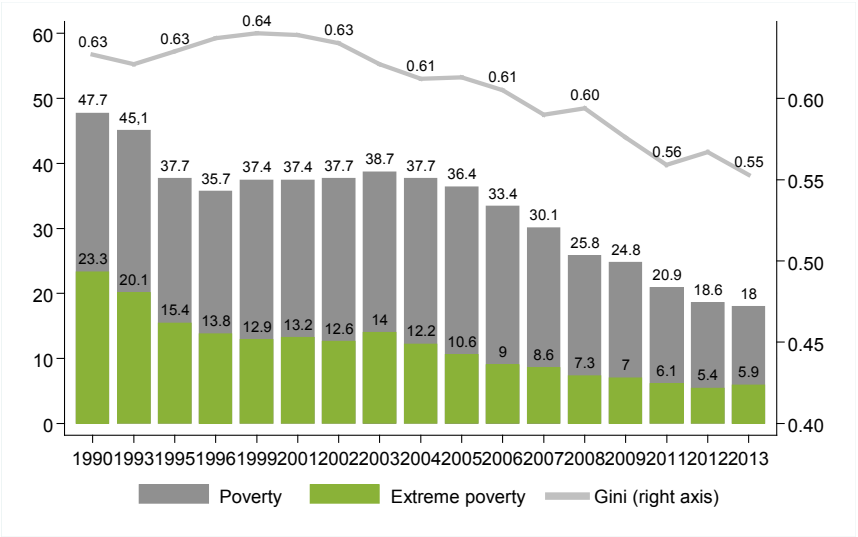
On the other hand, the positive trend in GDP growth, despite the difficult years following the international crisis and slowdown, has allowed the country to not only have resources for social welfare, but brought about a real increase in the financing of public policy. A steady increase in public social expenditure during the 2000s showed an average growth rate of 4.2% per year, which has resulted in an increase in public expenditure, measured as percentage of GDP, from 21% in 2000 to 26.8% in 2012 (ECLAC, online).

Greater public spending, coupled with a steady increase in real minimum wages, can explain the evolution of undernourishment and poverty in the country in recent decades. Indeed, in the early '90s the number of undernourished people exceeded 22 million, affecting 14.8% of the population. To date, this ratio is less than 5%. The proportion of people who are in poverty, meanwhile, has been declining since the beginning of the 90s. In this regard, it is worth noting that since 2003, progress in poverty reduction increased, following an increase in the rates of poverty and extreme poverty in the prior years (Figure 29).

This reduction trend can also be seen in child malnutrition, which shows a significant reduction from the late 80s, when almost one fifth of children under five years suffered stunting, while in 2007 this situation affected 7.1% of children (WHO online).

One of the remaining challenges in Brazil is to reduce inequality, which is also a regional preoccupation. However, progress in this area is also positive: since 2000 income distribution has tended to become more egalitarian. Poverty reduction, however, has stalled in recent years, and there is a need to maintain and strengthen actions to move towards its full eradication.

**Figure 29:** ***Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Brazil.***




Source: ECLAC (online)

## CHILE

Chile has complied in advance both with the MDG hunger target and the WFS goal, halving the prevalence and absolute number of people suffering undernourishment.

Poverty and extreme poverty have also diminished. Between 1990 and 2013 poverty fell from 38.6% to 7.8%, and extreme poverty from 13% to 2.5%. Inequality, meanwhile, shows a decline as measured by the Gini coefficient, from 0.554 in 1990 to 0.509 in 2013; however this decrease began merely in the decade of 2000 and, as evidenced by the figure, there is still much progress to be made (Figure 30).

Undoubtedly, the high economic growth that the country has experienced in the past two decades –with an average of 5.2% between 1990 and 2013 (World Bank, online)- constitutes the principal basis supporting the improvements in terms of poverty and undernourishment. In that sense, while the average growth rate in the '90s was 6.4%, poverty in that same period fell by more than 20 percentage points and extreme poverty did so by 3 percentage points. Inequality during the same period did not decrease, but even experienced a slight increase.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 9.0 | <5.0 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 1.2 | ns | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,626 | 2,867 | 3,083 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1994** | **2001** | **2013** |
| Stunting | 4.2 | 2.8 | 1.8 |
| Wasting | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Underweight | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 54.5 | 101.3 | 171.4 |
| GDP per capita | 4,121 | 6,552 | 9,728 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 3.01 | 4.26 | 6.36 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 3,224 | 4,429 | 6,671 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 6.4 | 3.7 | 5.3 |
| GDP per capita | 4.7 | 2.6 | 4.3 |
| Agricultural GDP | 3.0 | 4.5 | 3.3 |
| Agricultural productivity | 2.5 | 4.7 | 3.7 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Unemployment rate | 7.8 | 9.7 | 6.4 |
| Employment rate | … | 49,3/c | 56/d |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | 38.6 | 20.2 | 7.8 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 13.0 | 5.6 | 2.5 |
| Gini index | 0.554 | 0.564 | 0.509 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 90.4 | 94.8 | 98.8 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 84.8 | 91.6 | 98.9 |
| **Population/e** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 13,214 | 15,454 | 17,773 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 11,003 | 13,302 | 15,881 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 2,211 | 2,152 | 1,892 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

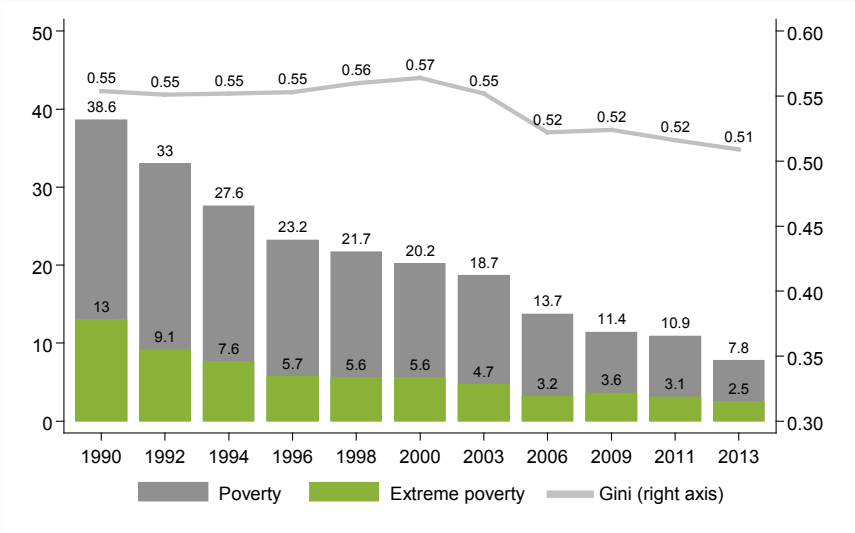
b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/Value for 2013

e/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 30.** *Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Chile.*




Source: ECLAC (online)

Chilean economic growth allowed the State greater resources to finance targeted social programs to reduce poverty and inequality and to better face international crisis with countercyclical measures, so as not to affect the socio-economic developments already achieved in these fields. This was seen mostly from the 2000s onward. Indeed, according to data from ECLAC (online), while public social expenditure as a percentage of GDP averaged 12.7% in the '90s, it rose to more than 14% over the next 10 years. The latter coincides with the launch in 2002 of the Chile Solidarity program, which focuses on the eradication of extreme poverty, which was latter reinforced in 2012 through the implementation of the Ethical Family Income, a conditional cash transfer program focused on the most vulnerable families.

In terms of the availability dimension of food and nutrition security, the food supply, measured as available per capita calories, exceeded 3,080 calories a day during the 2014-16 triennium, an increase of over 17% over the 1990-92 triennium. This means that in terms of caloric energy, Chile has more than enough to meet the needs of its population (FAO, online). At the same time, the country has implemented a series of programs for family farming, such as the Local Development Program (*Programa de Desarrollo Local* –PRODESAL) or the Indigenous Territorial Development Program (*Programa de Desarrollo Territorial Indígena*), both strongly aimed at improving the inclusion of smallholders in markets through technical assistance and financing, among other components.

The trend in terms stunting has followed a similar path to that of undernourishment and poverty. In the last 20 years the percentage of stunted children under 5 years has fallen by more than 2 percentage points, reaching 1.8% by 2013. On the contrary, by 2008 Chile had one of the highest rates in the region in terms of overweight in children of the same age, reaching 10% (FAO, 2014a). In this sense, the challenges in the dimension of food utilization for the next few years will undoubtedly be related to this situation, against which the State has already taken actions such as the Child Protection Subsystem Chile Grows with You **(***Chile Crece Contigo*), a law which established the "Choose to live Healthy" (*Elige Vivir Sano*) system and a Law on the nutritional makeup of food and that also regulates food advertising.

Finally, together with the reduction of poverty, the percentage of the population with access to basic services has also improved. Between 1990 and 2012, the supply of potable water increased from 90.4% to 98.8% of the population, while in the same period access to sanitation facilities grew from 84.8% to 98.9% of the total population.

## COSTA RICA

Costa Rica has met the MDG hunger target, reducing the proportion of people who suffered from hunger to below 5%. In conjunction with this, from 1990 to 2013, the poverty rate has fallen by 8.6 percentage points, and is currently at 17.7%, while extreme poverty fell from 10.1% to 7.2% in the same period.

Notably, Costa Rica started the measurement period (1990-1992) with the lowest prevalence of undernourishment in Central America, and also exhibited positive figures in social and economic matters since the early 90s.

These developments have occurred in a context of positive economic growth. Since 1990 the country has presented positive growth rates of GDP, except for the year 2009 due to the international economic crisis. Thus, on average, between 1990 and 2013 the annual GDP growth was 4.7% (World Bank, online).

However, as can be seen in Figure 31, inequality increased since 1990, from 0.438 in 1990 to 0.512 in 2013. Similarly, since 2007 the reduction of poverty, and in particular of extreme poverty, has stalled, which poses a major challenge for the coming years.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 5.2 | 5.1 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 0.16 | 0.2 | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,726 | 2,788 | 2,960 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1990** | **1996** | **2009** |
| Stunting | … | 9.0 | 5.6 |
| Wasting | … | 3.1 | 1.0 |
| Underweight | 2.5 | 4.5 | 1.1 |
| **Economy (in constant 2005 USD)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 9.8 | 16.3 | 28.4 |
| GDP per capita | 3,188 | 4,158 | 5,839 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.98 | 1.47 | 2.06 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 3,199 | 4,499 | 6,556 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 5.5 | 4.1 | 4.5 |
| GDP per capita | 2.9 | 2.2 | 3.0 |
| Agricultural GDP | 4.9 | 2.4 | 3.2 |
| Agricultural productivity | 4.2 | 2.4 | 4.0 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 5.4 | 5.2 | 8.2 |
| Employment rate | … | 51.8/c | 54.7 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | 26.3 | 20.3 | 17.7 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 10.1 | 7.8 | 7.2 |
| Gini index | 0.438 | 0.474 | 0.512 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 93.1 | 95.0 | 96.6 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 88.5 | 91.3 | 93.9 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 3,078 | 3,929 | 4,938 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 1,539 | 2,320 | 3,749 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 1,539 | 1,609 | 1,189 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

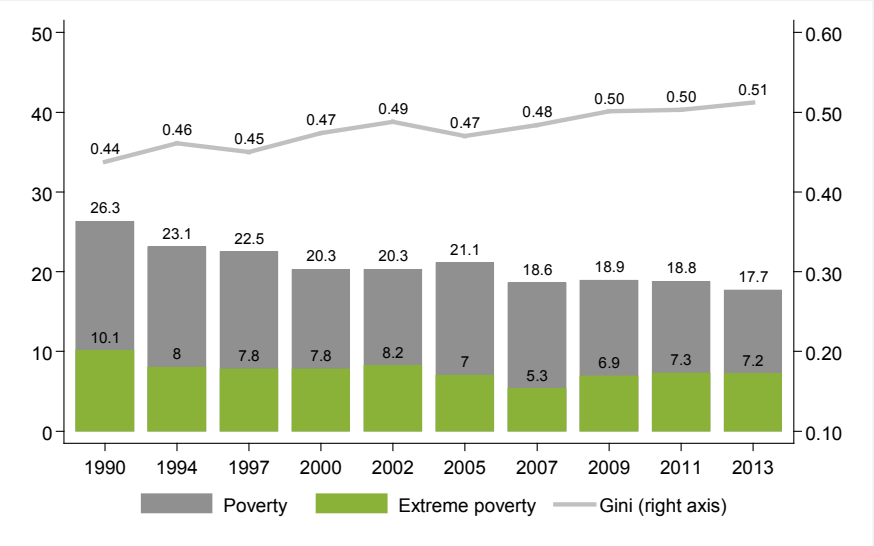
a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 31.** *Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and the Gini Coefficient in Costa Rica*




Source: ECLAC (online)

Unemployment has increased in recent years, from 4.8% in 2008 to 7.6% in 2009 and continued to increase up to 8.2% in 2013. However, it has remained below 9% (ECLAC, online).

One of the means by which the State has faced this situation is the Let's Advance Program (Programa *Avancemos*), a conditional cash transfer program with responsibilities related to school attendance, which in 2013 benefited more than 42 thousand households, representing a total expenditure of 0.19% of GDP (Programa *Avancemos*). Similarly, since 2000 the National Employment Programme (PRONAE *Programa Nacional de Empleo*) has been implemented, designed to employ unemployed people from vulnerable areas to work in community infrastructure plans, so as to guarantee family income and improve community life.

In terms of food availability, for the 2014-2016 trienniums the country had is 2,960 calories a day per person, more than enough to meet the minimum requirements of the population (FAO, online). The country is also a net exporter of food products, due largely to exports of fruits, especially pineapples and bananas, amounting to 38% of agrifood exports (FAO, 2015b).

In line with what has been achieved in terms of undernourishment, underweight in children under age 5 also presents significant improvements. Thus, stunting decreased from 9% in 1996 to 5.6% in 2009; while overweight in children of the same age showed a decrease of 2 percentage points in the same period (WHO, online). Still, it should be noted that 8% of children under five years in the country are overweight, being surpassed only by Mexico in Mesoamerica.

Finally, access to basic services has also seen improvements over the past 20 years. Access to potable water increased by more than 3 percentage points between 1990 and 2012, reaching 96.6% coverage, while access to sanitation facilities increased from 88.5% to 93.9% in the same period (World Bank, online).

## CUBA

Cuba has met the 1C MDG target, and the WFS goal since the early 2000s, with a prevalence of undernourishment below 5%.

GDP has experienced positive growth rates since 1994, and since the early 2000s the per capita GDP also showed a positive trend. However, it should be noted that between 1990 and 1993, Cuba's GDP showed an average growth rate of -10% (World Bank, online).

Even in the face of economic difficulties in the early '90s, Cuba has had sufficient food supply to meet the needs of its population over the past 25 years. In the 2014-16 triennium, the country had a caloric food supply of 3,533 calories a day per person, one of the highest in the region (FAO, online).

It should be noted that Cuba is a net importer of both total goods and food products (FAO, 2015b). The State plays a key role, implemeting social policies to strengthen food and nutrition security. These seek to ensure access to food, health, education and income, improve the quality of life and welfare of the general population, with special emphasis on providing benefits to vulnerable groups, the sick, disabled and elderly. In the particular case of food, the State subsidizes the prices of basic foodstuffs, covering more than half of the nutritional needs of Cubans. It maintains a food network for people with low-income, and provides free or low-cost food in health and education centres, among others (PAHO, 2012).

The role of the State is fundamental not only in relation to food. The prevalence of stunting in Cuba in 2000 was one of the lowest in the region, reaching 7%. Access to basic services has undergone significant improvements, the percentage of the population with access to sanitation facilities in 2012 was 92.6%, up from 81.5% in 1990, while access to water supply increased by more than 10 percentage points in the same period.

An analysis of the food and nutritional security of Cuba intended to identify the trends that have allowed the country to meet the 1C target of the MDGs must take into consideration the difficult situation that the country faced in the 90s, when it had to face great changes with profound implications for the economy. The economic crisis, a reduction in available resources, economic, financial and commercial blockade, and the slowdown of the world economy, are some of the problems Cuba had to deal with during that decade (UNDP, 2003). In this sense, the political commitment that the country maintained to support longstanding universal social policies, despite the difficult situation, was one of the key elements that underpins the positive food and nutritional security situation.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 5.7 | <5.0 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 0.6 | ns | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,720 | 3,087 | 3,533 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1990** | **2000** | **2007** |
| Stunting | … | 7.0 | … |
| Wasting | … | 2.4 | … |
| Underweight | … | 3.4 | … |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2011** |
| GDP, in billions | 38.5 | 33.4 | 56.9 |
| GDP per capita | 3,636 | 2,997 | 5,050 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 3.52 | 2.22 | 2.40 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 4,223 | 3,032 | 4,188 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-11** |
| GDP | (2.0) | 5.6 | 2.5 |
| GDP per capita | (2.5) | 5.4 | 2.6 |
| Agricultural GDP | (5.4) | 1.7 | 2.2 |
| Agricultural productivity | - 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 5.4 | 5.4 | 3.3 |
| Employment rate | … | 69,2/c | 71,6/d |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2001** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | … | … | … |
| Extreme poverty rate | … | … | … |
| Gini index | … | … | … |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | … | 90.7 | 94.0 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 81.5 | 86.8 | 92.6 |
| **Population/e** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 10,601 | 11,139 | 11,259 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 7,777 | 8,390 | 8,666 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 2,824 | 2,749 | 2,593 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Value for 2012

e/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

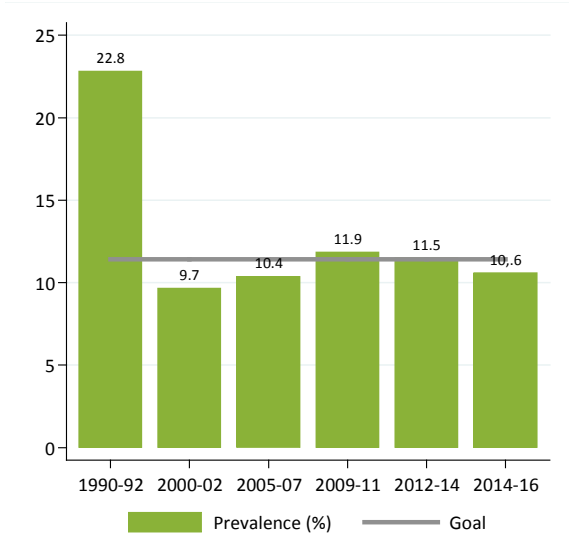
## GUYANA

Guyana has cut by more than half the percentage of undernourished population in the period elapsing between 1990-92 and 2014-16. Such percentage dropped from 22.8% in the 1990–92 triennium to 10.6%, in the 2014–16 triennium (see Figure 32). Likewise, Guyana also achieved the goal of the WFS by reducing the absolute number of people affected by hunger. In any event, it may be observed in the period under analysis, that in the 2000s, such reduction stagnated and the prevalence of undernourishment even suffered a slight increase, which was reversed in the last triennium.

In fact, alike the case of undernourishment, other socio-economic indicators of the country show positive trends in the last 20 years, which nonetheless conceal certain nuances. For instance, the annual GDP growth rate between 1990 and 2013 was 3.2%, although the economic performance of the country between 1998 and 2006 was irregular, registering an average of -0.2% (World Bank, online). As for poverty indicators, despite showing a reduction of 6.9 percentage points between 1997 and 2006, as well as 10 percentage points in the case of extreme poverty, such rates were affected by the decrease in economic growth, remaining practically stagnant between 1999 and 2006.

This is directly linked to the status of calorie supply in the country (see Figure 33). Although between the 1990-92 triennium and the estimates for 2014-16, such rate shows an increase of 16%, making it possible to meet the calorie needs of the population of Guyana, between 2000-02 and 2008-10, such rate showed a steady drop, along with the decline in the undernourishment situation.

**Figure 32.** *Evolution of undernourishment (%) in Guyana*




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 22.8 | 9.7 | 10.6 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 0.2 | <0.1 | <0.1 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,380 | 2,740 | 2,772 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1993** | **2000** | **2009** |
| Stunting | … | 13.8 | 19.5 |
| Wasting | … | 12.1 | 5.3 |
| Underweight | 16.1 | 11.9 | 11.1 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| GDP per capita | 681 | 1,070 | 1,336 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.15 | 0.25 | 0.28 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 2,525 | 4,504 | 5,712 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 4.8 | 0.9 | 5.0 |
| GDP per capita | 4.6 | 0.4 | 4.3 |
| Agricultural GDP | 5.4 | (0.8) | 3.0 |
| Agricultural productivity | 6.2 | - 0.0 | 4.0 |
| **Employment** | **1991** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate/c | 12.0 | 11.5 | 11.1 |
| Employment rate | … | … | … |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1997** | **1999** | **2006** |
| Poverty rate/d | 43.0 | 35.0 | 36.1 |
| Extreme poverty rate/d | 29.0 | 19.0 | 18.6 |
| Gini index/e | 0.516 | 0.445 | … |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 77.1 | 86.2 | 97.6 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 75.7 | 79.2 | 83.6 |
| **Population/f** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 725 | 745 | 804 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 214 | 214 | 229 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 511 | 531 | 575 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

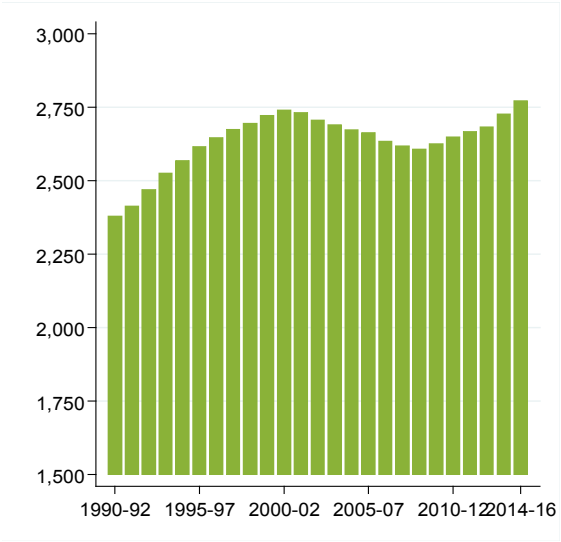
c/ Source World Bank "Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate)"

d/ Source: Caribbean Development Bank. "Development effectiveness review 2013" and "Development effectiveness review 2011" available at http://www.caribank.org/uploads/2015/01/Development-Effectiveness-Review_2013_FINAL.pdf y http://www.caribank.org/uploads/2015/01/Development-Effectivenes-Review_-2011-FINAL.pdf en Consulted in 2015

e/ Source World Bank "GINI index (World Bank estimate)"

f/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 33.** *Calorie supply per capita in Guyana (Kcal).*




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP.

To face this situation, lately the country has implemented an important number of public policies aimed at boosting agricultural production. Some of the most prominent policies include the "Grow More Food Campaign" launched in 2008, encompassing programs such as the Agricultural Diversification Program and the Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Development Project, which made a joint investment of over US$ 27 million in production aid (Persaud, 2008).

It is important to point out that Guyana is a net importer of total goods but a net exporter of agri-food products. Agri-food exports account for nearly 43.4% of total exports, whereas agri-food imports account for 14.8% of the country's total imports (FAO, 2015b).

As for the utilization dimension, Guyana has made relevant progress in the access to basic infrastructure services, with a coverage of 97.6% of the population in 2012, while in the case of access to sanitation infrastructure the rate for the same year is 83.6% (World Bank, online).

On the other hand, on the nutrition front, 19.5% of children under the age of 5 suffered from stunting in 2009. This entails an increase of 6 percentage points with respect to the previous measurement conducted in 1997 (WHO, online). Given the characteristics of Guyana, which is a country with long distances to cover, subject to a variety of natural and anthropogenic disasters, the nutritional risks for the vulnerable population are significant, particularly for inland communities, which register malnutrition rates twice as high as those observed in coastal areas (Guyana Ministry of Health, 2010). The Food and Nutrition Security Strategy for Guyana was implemented to face these challenges. Such strategy has components aimed at strengthening the availability, acceptability and accessibility of food for the whole population, especially the most vulnerable one.

## MEXICO

Mexico has accomplished the MDG related to hunger and the goal set by the WFS ahead of time. Hence, as of the 2005-07 triennium, the percentage of people in undernourished status has been below 5%.

The average growth of the Mexican economy from 1990 to 2013 was 2.9% per year and from 2010 to 2013 it increased to 3.6%. However, during 2008 and 2009, the country was affected by the global crisis, registering growth rates of 1.4% in 2008 and a contraction of the GDP equal to -4.7% in 2009. The economic context faced by the country during the years of the crisis had repercussions on the poverty levels. There was a reversal in the downward trend observed since the measurement taken in 1996, when poverty and extreme poverty affected 53% and 22% of the population, respectively. While in the years before the crisis, such rates were 31.7% and 8.7%, in 2012, poverty affected 37.1% of the population and extreme poverty affected 14.2%. On the other hand, inequality has also registered improvements, with a Gini coefficient of 0.492, in 2012 versus the 0.536 registered in 1989 (see Figure 34).

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 6.9 | <5.0 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 6.0 | ns | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,986 | 3,075 | 3,089 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1989** | **1999** | **2012** |
| Stunting | 40.4 | 21.7 | 13.6 |
| Wasting | 6.1 | 2.3 | 1.6 |
| Underweight | 13.9 | 6.0 | 2.8 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 561.7 | 798.7 | 1,042.1 |
| GDP per capita | 6,526 | 7,689 | 8,519 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 22.89 | 26.93 | 31.98 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 2,712 | 3,111 | 4,203 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 3.6 | 1.8 | 3.6 |
| GDP per capita | 1.6 | 0.5 | 2.3 |
| Agricultural GDP | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Agricultural productivity | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 2.7 | 2.2 | 5.7 |
| Employment rate | … | 55,1/c | 56.2 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1989** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Poverty rate | 47.7 | 41.1 | 37.1 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 18.7 | 15.2 | 14.2 |
| Gini index | 0.536 | 0.542 | 0.492 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 82.3 | 88.6 | 94.9 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 65.9 | 75.3 | 85.3 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 86,077 | 103,874 | 123,800 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 61,475 | 77,617 | 97,766 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 24,602 | 26,257 | 26,034 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

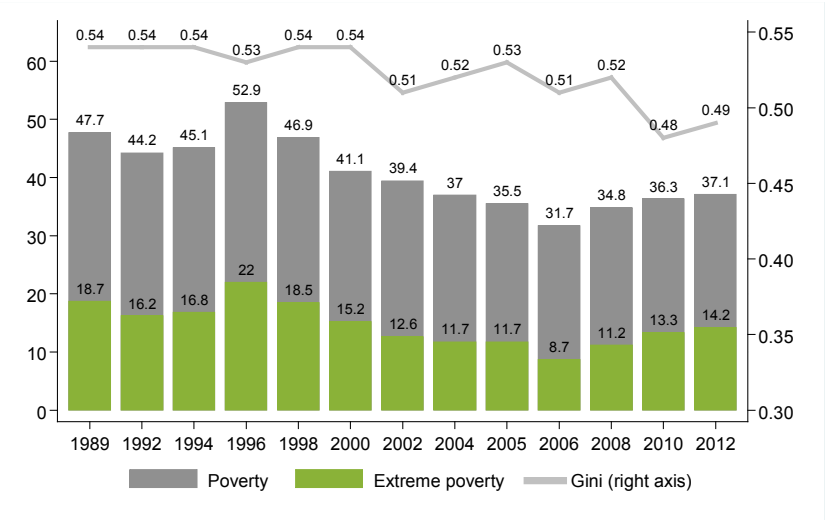
a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 34.** ***Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Mexico.***




Source: ECLAC (online)

The country has designed and implemented a series of programs for supporting the income of the poorest and most vulnerable population, by means of cash transfers, and aid in kind, supply networks and social pensions, among other instruments. The Social Inclusion Program known as PROSPERA (*Programa de Inclusión Social* formerly OPORTUNIDADES and PROGRESA) is the first conditional cash transfer program implemented in LAC. It seeks to improve the living conditions of families in extreme poverty via cash transfers subject to conditions related to health and education.

In addition, following the pattern in the region, poverty is usually more severe in rural areas. In Mexico, the rural population accounts for 20% of the population, and 43.5% live in poverty (ECLAC, online). This has led the country to face the observed disparities between the rural and urban areas by driving actions with differentiated targets, according to the geographical area. An example of this is the work carried out by DICONSA, with the aim of helping overcome food poverty, through the supply of basic and supplementary products in rural areas having high or very high marginalization.

On the food supply front, in the 2014-16 triennium, Mexico will have a supply of 3,089 daily calories per person, which is more than enough to meet the minimal requirements in terms of calories (FAO, online). Imports play an important role in food supply in the country, which despite being one of the greatest players from a production and trade point of view[23], is the main importer of agri-food in the region.

23 México is the largest importer of agri-food products in the region. It concentrates 29% of the imports carried out in the region and it is the third exporter of agri-food products, after Brazil and Argentina, accounting for 11% of the agri-food shipments made by the region.

On the other hand, and in line with the undernourishment trend, malnutrition in children under the age of five has shown important progress: stunting reached 40% in 1989 and it registered 13.6% in 2012. In this area, the National Program called Mexico Without Hunger (*Mexico sin Hambre*), launched in 2014, will play a key role when it comes to continuing with the progress and consolidating the country's nutritional situation, with goals that include the eradication of child malnutrition and the improvement of weight and height indicators in childhood.

Amid the headway made in the fight against hunger, Mexico –much like the rest of LAC- has begun to face the challenges imposed by the other burdens of malnutrition: overweight and obesity. In Mexico, 9% of children under the age of 5 are overweight and 32.8% of adults are obese, which is one of the highest rates in the region. This situation becomes more acute in the case of women, where 38.4% are obese versus 26.7% of men. In light of this situation, the country has become a pioneer, with the implementation of a 10% tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and an 8% tax on food items considered "junk food" in 2013, and also with the enactment of regulations to govern the advertising and labeling of food.

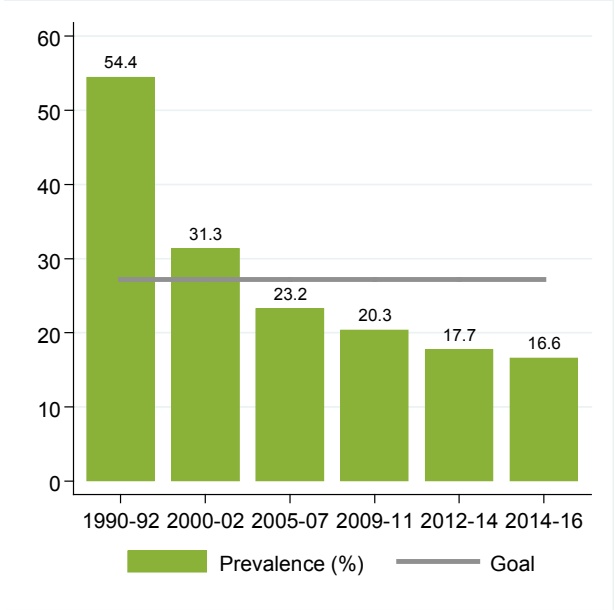
The progress made on the food and nutrition security front and the challenges involved in trying to consolidate it over time are the key reason why this concern has become institutionalized via the implementation of the National System of the National Program Mexico Without Hunger (*Sistema del Programa Nacional México sin Hambre*). This space of expanded governance reflects the country's political commitment to the achievement of the cited goals and how by doing so it intends to ensure the full exercise of the Human Right to Adequate Food.

## NICARAGUA

Nicaragua has accomplished the MDG related to hunger, by reducing the prevalence of undernourishment by 37.8 percentage points. It is important to highlight that in the 1990-92 triennium, 54.4% of the population in the country was undernourished, while such percentage reached 16.6%, in the 2014-2016 triennium, placing Nicaragua among the countries that reduced hunger by the most over the last 25 years in LAC (see Figure 35).

In the same time period, the country has shown significant progress in social matters. It cut the poverty and extreme poverty indexes to 15.3 and 18.9 percentage points, respectively. In any event, according to 2009 figures, poverty still affects 58.3% of the population, while 29.5% of the population is living in extreme poverty. In this case, the figures registered in the early '90s are very significant, and their reduction in the case of undernourishment begins to accelerate in the early 2000s.

**Figure 35.** *Evolution of undernourishment (%) in Nicaragua.*




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015).

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 54.4 | 31.3 | 16.6 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 1,774 | 2,244 | 2,649 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1993** | **2001** | **2007** |
| Stunting | 29.6 | 25.2 | 23.0 |
| Wasting | 2.4 | 2.3 | 1.5 |
| Underweight | 9.6 | 7.8 | 5.7 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 3.9 | 5.4 | 8.3 |
| GDP per capita | 937 | 1,061 | 1,367 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.63/a | 0.88 | 1.24 |
| Agricultural productivity /b | 1624/a | 2,266 | 3,673 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/c** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 3.0 | 2.9 | 4.6 |
| GDP per capita | 0.8 | 1.6 | 3.2 |
| Agricultural GDP | 4.6 | 4.2 | 1.3 |
| Agricultural productivity | 4,6/d | 5.2 | 2.5 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2010** |
| Unemployment rate | 7.6 | 7.8 | 9.7 |
| Employment rate | … | 49,5/e | 65.6 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1993** | **2001** | **2009** |
| Poverty rate | 73.6 | 69.4 | 58.3 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 48.4 | 42.5 | 29.5 |
| Gini index | 0.582 | 0.579 | 0.478 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 73.9 | 80.0 | 85.0 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 43.1 | 48.0 | 52.1 |
| **Population/f** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 4,138 | 5,101 | 6,170 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 2,166 | 2,792 | 3,607 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 1,972 | 2,309 | 2,563 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

…/ Not available values

a/ Value for 1994

b/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

c/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

d/For 1996-99 period

e/ Value for 2003

f/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The economy of Nicaragua maintained an average GDP growth of 3.25% between 1990 and 2013. After the reduction resulting from the 2009 global crisis, it registered an average increase of over 4.6% in GDP, between 2010 and 2013 (World Bank, online). Strong growth has made it possible for a greater amount of resources to be allocated to public social spending and led to a greater number of public policies being implemented in the country. Education, health and housing are the sectors in which a considerable increase in public social

spending may be observed in comparison to the 90's. Thus, in 1990 public social spending accounted for 7% of the GDP and in 2009 it accounted for 13% of the GDP (ECLAC, online). Besides, an increase in the actual minimum wage may be observed during the last 15 years. In 2013 the minimum wage doubled the figure registered in 2000 (ECLAC online).

In fact, this increase in social spending is reflected in the implementation of an important number of public policies, affecting the four dimensions of food and nutrition security in varying degrees. Among such policies, it is worth noting that since 2007, the country has implemented the Food Production Program known as Zero Hunger (*Hambre Cero*). To reduce extreme poverty and stunting in rural areas, this program delivers production inputs to promote self-consumption. It also provides technical support to facilitate the commercialization of any surplus, thus helping to increase the incomes of the recipient families. Hence, the program intends to increase food supply and access, which is quite a different approach compared to other countries in the subregion.

The implementation both of this and other programs is part of a longer-term planning process, evidenced by the presence of policies and other strategic documents, among which the most prominent are the National Human Development Plan (NHDP *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Humano*) and the Policy for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security from the Agricultural and Rural Public Sector (*Política de la Seguridad y Soberanía Alimentaria y Nutricional desde el Sector Público Agropecuario y Rural*), both of which are closely linked to the fight against hunger and poverty in the country.

On the one hand, on examining food supply in Nicaragua, an important increase may be observed over the last 20 years, from 1,774 daily calories per person in the 1990-92 triennium to 2,649 in 2014-16. It is important to point out that this increase of almost 50% occurred in a context in which the food supply in Nicaragua in the early 90's was one of the lowest in the region (FAO, online). At the same time, Nicaragua is a net importer of goods but a net exporter of agri-food products. Agri-food exports account for over 76% of total exports, whereas agri-food imports only make up 16% of total imports. (FAO, 2015b).

In spite of this, as occurs in the case of undernourishment and poverty, the country still faces challenges at the nutritional level. In fact, according to 2007 figures, although stunting dropped by 6.6 percentage points since 1997, it still afflicts 23% of children under five years of age, whilst obesity affects one fourth of the adult population (WHO, online). In light of this situation, in 2011 the country implemented the Policy known as Love for the youngest children *(Amor para los más chiquitos y chiquitas*), aimed at protecting the health and nutrition of boys and girls under the age of 6, by promoting breastfeeding, nutritional follow-up, vaccination and education in healthy eating habits.

## PANAMA

Between 1990 and 2015, Panama accomplished the hunger goal of the MDGs, by reducing the prevalence of undernourishment from 26.4% at the beginning of the period to 9.5% in the 2014-16 triennium. This was achieved despite the slight increase observed in the indicator in the early 2000's (see Figure 36).

Despite the global crises and ups and downs, the country has always shown positive GDP growth rates from 1990 to date. In fact, in the last 3 years, it has registered growth rates above the average in Central America (World Bank, online).

This positive trend in economic growth has supported the downward trend in poverty figures. In the early 2000s, almost 37% of Panama´s population lived in poverty and over 19% lived in extreme poverty. As at 2013, these rates dropped by 13.7 and 7.2 percentage points, respectively. Hence, poverty and extreme poverty affect 23.2% and 12.2% of the population, respectively (ECLAC, online).

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 26.4 | 27.6 | 9.5 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,248 | 2,248 | 2,770 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1990** | **1997** | **2008** |
| Stunting | … | 21.5 | 19.1 |
| Wasting | … | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Underweight | … | 6.3 | 3.9 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 7.6 | 12.5 | 29.9 |
| GDP per capita | 3,073 | 4,100 | 7,740 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.58 | 0.81 | 0.98 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 2,344 | 3,122 | 4,048 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 5.6 | 5.8 | 8.8 |
| GDP per capita | 3.5 | 3.8 | 7.0 |
| Agricultural GDP | 2.6 | 3.0 | 0.1 |
| Agricultural productivity | 2.0 | 3.4 | 1.0 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 20.0 | 15.3 | 4.7 |
| Employment rate | … | 54,6/c | 61.5 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2001** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | ... | 36.9 | 23.2 |
| Extreme poverty rate | ... | 19.4 | 12.2 |
| Gini index | ... | 0.555 | 0.527 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 83.9 | 90.2 | 94.3 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 60.0 | 67.0 | 73.2 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 2,486 | 3,055 | 3,926 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 1,340 | 1,900 | 2,603 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 1,146 | 1,155 | 1,323 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

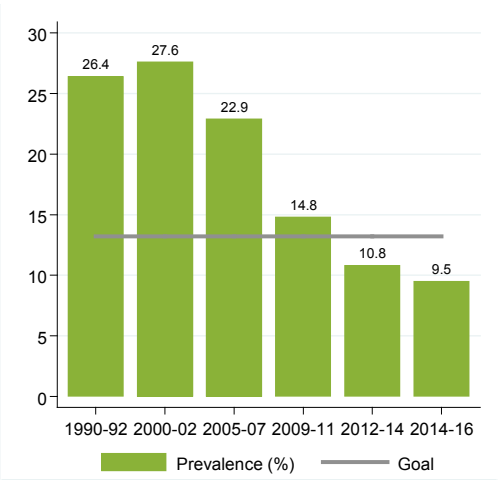
a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

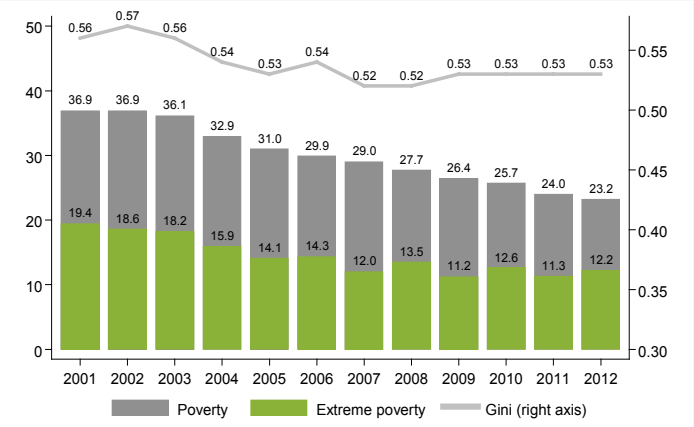
**Figure 36.** ***Evolution of undernourishment (%) in Panama***




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015).

The evolution of both indicators over the last 12 years shows a sustained reduction in poverty. However, in the case of extreme poverty, although there is a general reduction trend in the whole period, there are hikes in some years. This was particularly true in 2008 and 2010, coinciding with increases in global food prices (see Figure 37).

**Figure 37.** ***Evolution of poverty (%),extreme poverty(%) and Gini coefficient in Panama.***




Source: ECLAC (online).

In this respect, considering that the country is a net importer of both total goods as well as of agri-food products, one of the key concerns with regard to food and nutrition security has to do with the impact of food prices on the population's welfare. In light of this, since 2007, the state has implemented a program known as Food Solidarity Program (*Programa de Solidaridad Alimentaria*) via the Institute of Agricultural Marketing (IMA), which collaborates in the supply of food, and in particular, engages in the sale of basic products on a retail basis at accessible prices for the Panamanian population. At the same time, the program known as Family Grant to Buying Food (*Bonos Familiares para la Compra de Alimentos)* has a direct impact on the available income of its beneficiaries, by providing coupons for purchasing food items in stores located in the communities to which the beneficiaries belong. It is worth noting that eligibility for this benefit is tied to co-responsibilities in the areas of health and education.

Despite the results achieved so far, the country still has challenges to face in order to consolidate the improvements made in food and nutrition security. One of the most important challenges in the area of nutrition is that of stunting. Although, stunting has decreased, the pace of such reduction has been slow. It only decreased by 2.4 percentage points between 1997 and 2008, and its prevalence in 2008 equaled 19.1% of children under the age of 5 (WHO, online). To tackle this issue, the State designed the National Plan to Combat Child Malnutrition 2008-2015. The plan is aimed at increasing the health coverage of pregnant women and children under 3 years of age, increasing the percentage of mothers who breastfeed their babies exclusively until they are 6 months old, delivering food supplements to boys and girls starting at the age of 6 months, and reducing micronutrient deficiencies in children under the age of 3.

## PERU

Peru has accomplished the MDG related to hunger and the goal set at the WFS ahead of time. The prevalence of undernourished people decreased from 31.6% in the 1990-92 triennium to 7.5% in the 2014-16 triennium (Figure 38). In the same period, the absolute number of people affected by hunger dropped from 7 million to 2.3 million.

Peru has posted a positive GDP growth trend in the last 23 years. In fact, average growth rates have increased, from 3.2% in the '90s to 5% in the following decade. Between 2010 and 2013, the average GDP growth rate was 6.7% (World Bank, online). This economic context has been one of the factors enabling the country to make headway in the reduction of poverty and extreme poverty. Poverty decreased from 47.5% in 1997 to 23.9% in 2013, whereas extreme poverty dropped from 25% to 4.7% in the same period. Likewise, inequality also decreased, as shown by the Gini coefficient, which went down from 0.532 to 0.444 between 1997 and 2013 (ECLAC, online).

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 31.6 | 20.7 | 7.5 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 7.0 | 5.4 | 2.3 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,113 | 2,342 | 2,760 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1992** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Stunting | 37.3 | 31.3 | 18.4 |
| Wasting | 1.9 | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| Underweight | 8.8 | 5.2 | 3.5 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 41.5 | 60.8 | 124.8 |
| GDP per capita | 1,904 | 2,338 | 4,110 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | … | … | … |
| Agricultural productivity | … | … | … |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/a** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 3.2 | 5.0 | 6.7 |
| GDP per capita | 1.3 | 3.8 | 5.4 |
| Agricultural GDP | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.5 |
| Agricultural productivity | … | … | … |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 8.3 | 7.8 | 5.9 |
| Employment rate | … | 61,1/b | 64.8 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1997** | **1999** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | 47.5 | 48.6 | 23.9 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 25.0 | 22.4 | 4.7 |
| Gini index | 0.532 | 0.545 | 0.444 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 74.4 | 80.6 | 86.8 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 54.0 | 63.2 | 73.1 |
| **Population/c** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 21,772 | 26,000 | 30,769 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 15,001 | 18,991 | 24,088 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 6,771 | 7,009 | 6,681 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

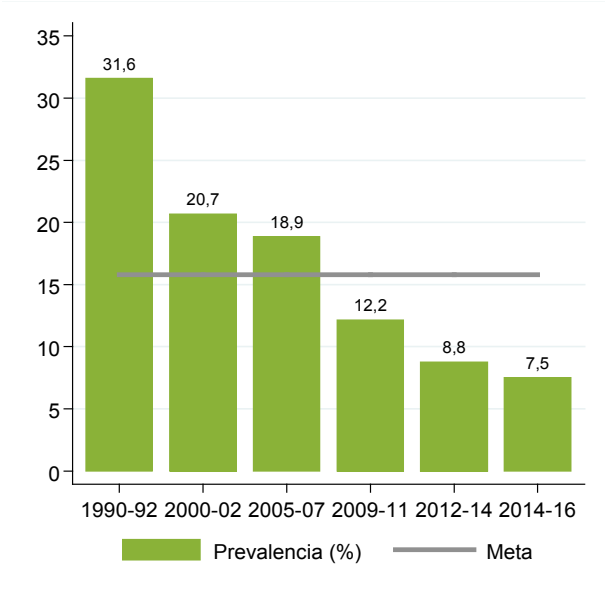
…/ Not available values

a/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

b/ Value for 2003

c/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 38.** ***Evolution of undernourishment (%) in Peru***




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015).

The country's economic growth has helped increase social spending since 2000 (ECLAC, online), making it possible to create and expand the coverage of social programs. Among such programs, the one worth noting involves the implementation since 2005 of the National Program of Direct Assistance to the Poorest known as "Together" Program (*Juntos*), consisting of a public initiative of conditional cash transfers tied to co-responsibilities in health and education. Between 2006 and 2013, the "Together" program has increased its coverage by more than 400% and cash-transfers have more than doubled in the same period (ECLAC, online).

Along with the implementation of programs, Peru has set up an institutional framework that helps coordinate and prioritize actions in the area of food and nutrition security. This was achieved in 2012, through the creation of the Multisectorial Commission on Food Security (*Comisión Multisectorial de Seguridad Alimentaria*), a body in charge of coordinating, evaluating and prioritizing sectorial policies and measures, aimed at ensuring the food and nutrition security of the population.

In line with the reduction of undernourishment and poverty, malnutrition caused by deficiencies has followed a similar trend. Stunting in boys and girls under the age of 5 dropped from 37.3% in 1992 to 18.4% in 2012. Although this figure is still high in the regional context, it represents important progress. To consolidate the good outcomes in this area, the National Strategy for Development and Social Inclusion known as Inclusion for Growth (*Incluir para Crecer*) was created in 2013 to coordinate social initiatives. Its objectives include that of decreasing the prevalence of children affected by stunting. Among the programs implemented within this framework, one worth highlighting is the Crib Plus Program (*Cuna Más*) for providing assistance to boys and girls under the age of 3, in areas having high prevalence of poverty and extreme poverty.

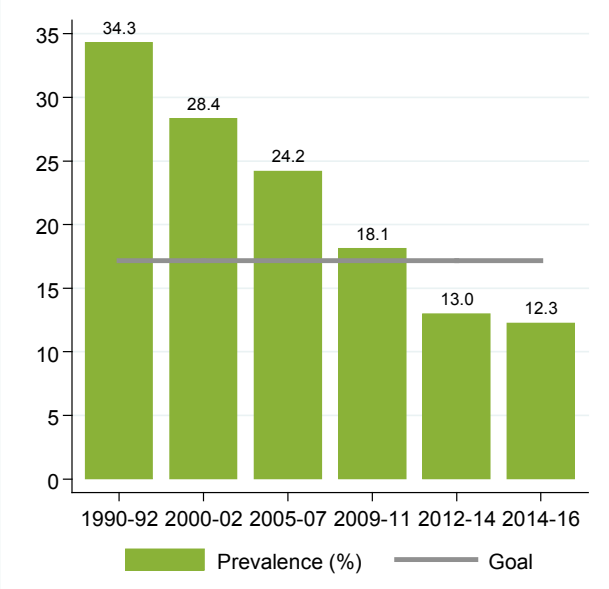
One of the pending challenges observed is the population's access to basic infrastructure services. Although access to drinking water supply increased from 74.4% in 1990 to nearly 87% in 2012, and access to sanitation services improved by 19 percentage points, currently accounting for 73.1% of the national population, differences in coverage between rural and urban areas still persist. Hence, in 2012 the rural population with access to drinking water supply was 72% versus 91% in urban areas, while access to sanitation services was 45% in rural areas versus 81% in urban areas.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In the 1990-92 triennium, 34.3% of the Dominican population lived below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption. By the 2014-16 triennium, that figure dropped by more than 20 percentage points to 12.3%, thus accomplishing MDG 1C related to hunger (see Figure 39).

From 1990 to 2013, the Dominican Republic registered an average GDP growth rate of 4.79%, which is higher than the 3.06% registered by the region in the same period. GDP has expanded every year but one since 1990, the exception being a 0.3% contraction in 2003, and the same is true of GDP per capita, which averaged annual 3.1% growth over the period (World Bank, online).

**Figure 39.** ***Evolution of undernourishment (%) in the Dominican Republic***




Source: FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015).

The positive situation of food and nutrition security in the country also reflects the overall good status of the dimensions that comprise it. Food supply in the Dominican Republic has increased over the last few decades, registering 2,619 daily calories per person in the 2014-16 triennium, although the country is a net exporter of agri-food products. The main imports in the country include corn and wheat (FAO, 2015b). In contrast, rice is an important crop in the island's agricultural production, supported over the last few years via the National Warehouse Receipts Program (*Programa Nacional de Pignoraciones*), which is a public system that ensures the income of farmers and balances supply and demand according to the country's needs.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 34.3 | 28.4 | 12.3 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,117 | 2,256 | 2,619 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1991** | **2000** | **2007** |
| Stunting | 21.2 | 8.0 | 10.1 |
| Wasting | 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| Underweight | 8.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 15.9 | 28.6 | 50.8 |
| GDP per capita | 2,188 | 3,297 | 4,884 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 1.55 | 1.98 | 3.35 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 2,500 | 3,616 | 7,802 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| GDP per capita | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| Agricultural GDP | 1.3 | 3.9 | 5.1 |
| Agricultural productivity | 2.4 | 5.7 | 7.3 |
| **Employment** | **1991** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 19.6 | 13.9 | 7.0 |
| Employment rate | ... | 45,2/c | 47.7 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2002** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | ... | 47.1 | 40.7 |
| Extreme poverty rate | ... | 20.7 | 20.2 |
| Gini index | ... | 0.537 | 0.544 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 88.8 | 85.8 | 80.9 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 73.0 | 77.4 | 82.0 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 7,245 | 8,663 | 10,529 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 4,001 | 5,349 | 8,219 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 3,244 | 3,314 | 2,310 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

.../ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

As for the food access dimension, between 2004 and 2013, the country managed to cut poverty from 54.4% to 40.7%, whereas extreme poverty decreased by 8.8 percentage points in the same period, accounting for 20.2% of the population (World Bank, online). Although the government has made headway in this area, the poverty and extreme poverty rates have remained relatively stable since the end of the 2000s. To tackle this situation, the State has increased public spending on social programs from 6.4% to 7.1% of the GDP between 2004 and 2011 (World Bank, online). This increase in social spending has mainly been reflected in the implementation of social measures such as the cash transfers made via the program known as Progressing with Solidarity (*Progresando con Solidaridad*, formerly called *Solidaridad*). In 2014 coverage of the program reached nearly 25% of the Dominican population (ECLAC, online), equal to five percentage points more than the extreme poverty rate registered in 2013.

At the same time, it is worth noting that the country has been a regional pioneer when it comes to the institutionalization of food aid programs. Since the '40s, the State-owned Soup Kitchens Program (*Comedores Económicos del Estado*) has delivered food rations to the vulnerable population and also operates as a soup kitchen, by selling ready-to-eat food rations at subsidized prices.

Within this framework, it is important to mention the creation of the Council for Food Security in 2008. This institution is in charge of supporting actions in the area of food and nutrition security and of consolidating and strengthening the Dominican social safety net.

Finally, in the dimension of utilization, one of the challenges faced by the country is related to the access to basic infrastructure services. In fact, nearly one fifth of the population had no access to drinking water or sanitation facilities in 2012 (World Bank, online).

## SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has accomplished goal 1C of the MDGs, by cutting the prevalence of undernourishment from 20.7% to 6.2% between the trienniums of 1990-92 and 2014–16. It has also cut its poverty rates from 37.5% in 1996 to 30.2% in 2008. As for extreme poverty, it has registered a significant drop of over 22 percentage points in the same period, and inequality has also decreased, registering a decline from 0.56 to 0.4 in the Gini coefficient, in the same period mentioned.

From 1990 to 2013 the country grew at an average rate of 2.77%. Thus, as at 2013, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had a GDP per inhabitant of USD $5,512, averaging a growth rate of 2.68% since 1990 (World Bank, online). This has undeniably contributed positively to the status of food and nutrition security. However, it must be noted that between 2010 and 2013, the economy averaged a contraction of -0.3%, alike the GDP per capita which declined by a similar rate.

Hence, the actions which may be adopted by the State shall be essential when it comes to maintaining the positive trend observed thus far. One of the public instruments, which play an important role in the four pillars of food and nutrition security, is the National Economic and Social Development Plan, consisting of a framework document with a time window up to 2025 that intends to lay down the guidelines for development throughout the country.

On the food supply front, it is worth noting that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines registers 2,975 daily calories per person, which is more than enough to meet the minimum calorie intake requirements and 26% more than 1990 (FAO, online). However, it should be pointed out that in keeping with the pattern observed in the Caribbean, the country is a net importer of both general goods as well as of agri-food products. In any event, this fact has not stood in the way of ensuring this dimension of food and nutrition security.

However, the country faces a nutritional challenge, given that between 1996 and 2002, stunting affected 23.5% of children under the age of 5 (Martínez, 2005). As regards access to basic infrastructure services, water supply coverage increased from 88% in 1990 to 95% in 2012, while access to sanitation facilities rose from 63% to 76%.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 20.7 | 16.8 | 6.2 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,351 | 2,545 | 2,975 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1989** | **1996** | **2007** |
| Stunting | … | … | … |
| Wasting | … | … | … |
| Underweight | … | … | … |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| GDP per capita | 3,105 | 4,106 | 5,512 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 3,550 | 2,823 | 3,077 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 3.6 | 3.2 | (0.3) |
| GDP per capita | 3.5 | 3.1 | (0.3) |
| Agricultural GDP | 1.3 | 2.5 | (2.7) |
| Agricultural productivity | 2.4 | 2.5 | (2.7) |
| **Employment** | **1991** | **2001** | **2008** |
| Unemployment rate/c | 19.8 | 21.1 | 18.8 |
| Employment rate | … | … | … |
| **Poverty and inequality/d** | **1996** | **2008** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | 37.5 | 30.2 | … |
| Extreme poverty rate | 25.7 | 2.9 | … |
| Gini index | 0.56 | 0.40 | … |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 88.2 | 93.5 | 95.1 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 63.2 | 73.2 | 76,1/e |
| **Population/f** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 108 | 108 | 109 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 45 | 49 | 55 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 63 | 59 | 54 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/Source World Bank "Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (national estimate)"

d/ Source: Caribbean Development Bank. "Development effectiveness review 2013" and "Development effectiveness review 2011" available at http://www.caribank.org/uploads/2015/01/Development-Effectiveness-Review_2013_FINAL.pdf y http://www.caribank.org/uploads/2015/01/Development-Effectivenes-Review_-2011-FINAL.pdf en Consulted in 2015

e/ for year 2007

f/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

## SURINAM

The prevalence of undernourished people in Surinam is 8% for the 2014-16 triennium. This has allowed the country to achieve goal 1C of the MDGs in relation to hunger. In line with the foregoing, malnutrition in boys and girls under the age of 5 has shown important improvements. Stunting dropped from 14.5% in 2000 to 8.8% in 2010. (WHO, online).

This is consistent with the country's economic growth. Its GDP shows positive annual growth rates since 2001, averaging a 4.1% growth between 2010 and 2013 (World Bank, online).

As for poverty and extreme poverty, although a decline of over 10 percentage points is observed in poverty between 1993 and 1999, along with a significant reduction in extreme poverty during the same period, declining to 15%, the situation has become more alarming in the last decade. Between 2000 and 2008 extreme poverty increased by approximately 7 percentage points (ECLAC, 2011).

Food supply in Surinam equals 2,783 daily calories per person, which is more than enough to meet the minimum daily calorie intake requirements (FAO, online). Nonetheless, the country is a net importer of agri-food products, and the main food items consumed in terms of their calorie content are rice, wheat, sugar and soy oil (FAO, 2015b).

Agricultural production is assisted by various services of the Ministry of Agriculture. The State plays a predominant role in banana production, to which end there is a state-owned company which is the largest producer in the country. The country´s main production is comprised of rice, sugar, cane and bananas (FAO, 2015b).

On the other hand, in the social area, the country recently began the implementation of a conditional cash transfer program supported by international cooperation, known as Bromki Fu Tamara (FAO, 2015b).

Finally, access to drinking water supply has improved significantly, increasing from 87.2% of the population in 1994 to 95.2% in 2012. However, access to sanitation infrastructure has remained at 80% since 1994 (World Bank, online), posing another challenge in the policy agenda of Surinam for coming years.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 15.5 | 13.9 | 8.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,500 | 2,536 | 2,783 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1989** | **2000** | **2010** |
| Stunting | … | 14.5 | 8.8 |
| Wasting | … | 7.0 | 5.0 |
| Underweight | … | 11.4 | 5.8 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.5 |
| GDP per capita | 3,121 | 2,910 | 4,569 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.13 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 2,939 | 2,769 | 3,801 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 0.7 | 4.5 | 4.1 |
| GDP per capita | (0.7) | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| Agricultural GDP | (0.6) | 4.6 | 2.1 |
| Agricultural productivity | - 0.7 | 3.2 | 2.1 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **1999** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 15.8 | 14.0 | ... |
| Employment rate | … | … | … |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1993** | **1999** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate/c | 76.5 | 65.9 | … |
| Extreme poverty rate | … | … | … |
| Gini index/d | … | 52.9 | … |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1994** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 87.2 | 88.9 | 95.2 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 80.0 | 80.5 | 80.3 |
| **Population/e** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 406 | 467 | 543 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 267 | 310 | 359 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 139 | 157 | 184 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Source ECLAC, "Poverty and inequality: the Latin American and Caribbean perspective and proposals in the areas of social protection and education" 2011.

d/ Source World Bank "GINI index (World Bank estimate)"

e/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

## URUGUAY

Between 1990 and 2015, Uruguay managed to cut undernourishment significantly, maintaining a prevalence below 5% since the late '90s, thus accomplishing goal 1C of the MDGs. It also managed to cut the number of undernourished people by more than half, in compliance with the goal set by the WFS.

Uruguay averaged 3.4% GDP growth between 1990 and 2013. However, between 1999 and 2002, the country was affected, albeit to a lower extent, by the crisis in Argentina, registering four years of decline in the GDP, which reached its lowest point in 2002, when it contracted 7.7% (World Bank, online). Figure 40 shows the impact of the crisis on unemployment, which registered a rate of 17% that year. After this, since 2003, Uruguay began to show signs of recovery, always maintaining positive growth rates and cutting unemployment to rates below 7% from 2011 to date.

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 8.6 | <5.0 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 0.3 | ns | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,658 | 2,850 | 2,918 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1987** | **1999** | **2011** |
| Stunting | 21.0 | 13.9 | 11.7 |
| Wasting | … | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| Underweight | 6.5 | 5.2 | 4.5 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 12.3 | 17.2 | 26.6 |
| GDP per capita | 3,960 | 5,181 | 7,809 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 1.01 | 1.37 | 2.02 |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 5,475 | 6,967 | 10,975 |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/b** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 3.7 | 2.0 | 6.0 |
| GDP per capita | 3.0 | 1.8 | 5.6 |
| Agricultural GDP | 3.3 | 1.6 | 6.1 |
| Agricultural productivity | 2.7 | 2.2 | 6.6 |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 8.5 | 13.6 | 6.7 |
| Employment rate | … | 48,3/c | 59.5 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2007** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | ... | 17.7 | 5.6 |
| Extreme poverty rate | ... | 3.0 | 0.9 |
| Gini index | ... | 0.456 | 0.382 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2012** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 95.5 | 97.1 | 99.5 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 92.2 | 93.8 | 96.4 |
| **Population/d** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 3,110 | 3,321 | 3,419 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 2,767 | 3,056 | 3,253 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 343 | 265 | 166 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

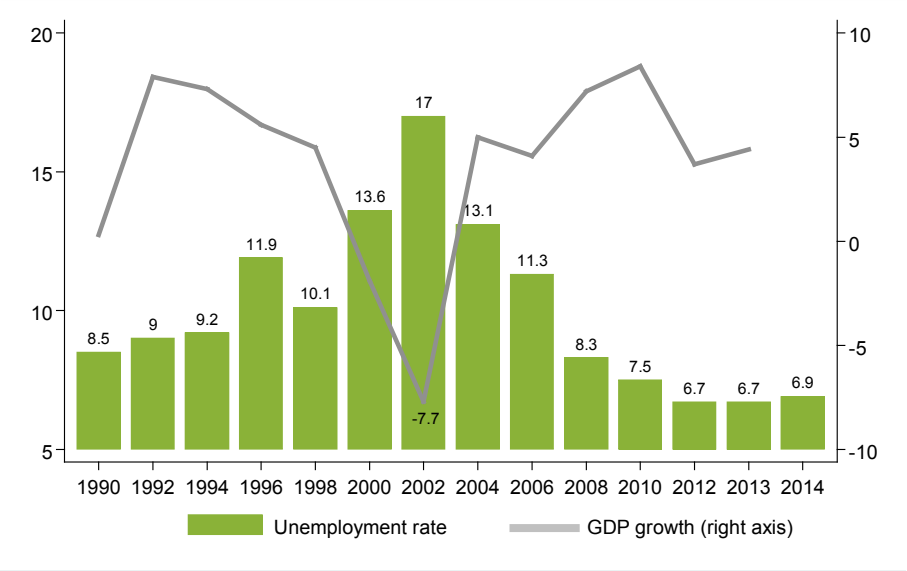
a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

c/ Value for 2003

d/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

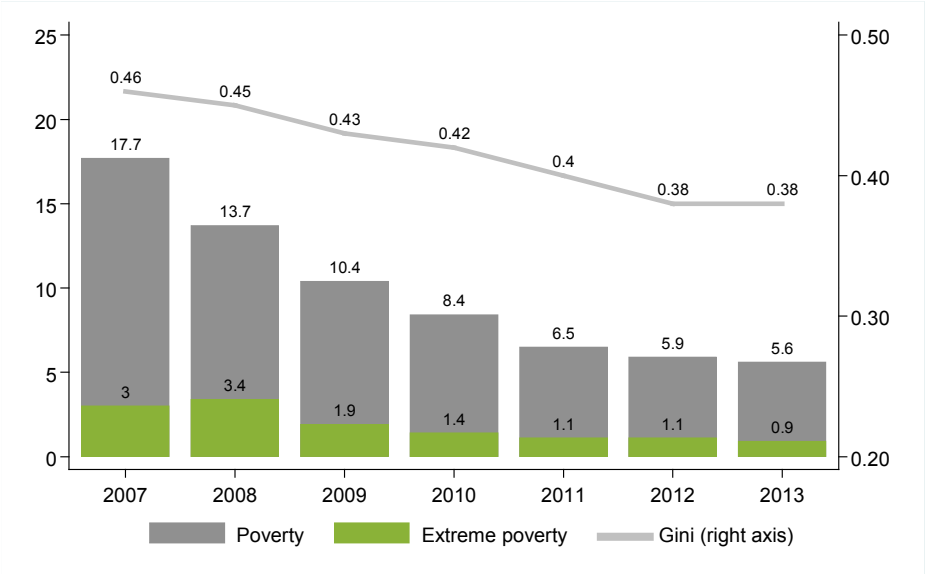
**Figure 40.** *Growth rate of GDP and Unemployment in Uruguay 1990-2014.*




Source: World Bank and ECLAC (online).

As regards poverty, the available data shows that it has evolved, in line with the growth figures observed in the economy and unemployment. Hence, between 2007 and 2013, poverty decreased by more than 12 percentage points, registering 5.6% in 2013, while the extreme poverty rate for that same year equals 0.9%. Likewise, the Gini coefficient for Uruguay has registered an important drop, being one of the lowest in the region, with 0.382 in 2013 (see Figure 41).

**Figure 41.** *Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Uruguay*




Source: ECLAC (online).

In light of these outcomes, it is worth highlighting the broad range of social programs, maintained and implemented by the State in the period. These include the conditional cash transfer programs known as Social Uruguay Card (*Tarjeta Uruguay Social*), aimed at ensuring an income for the most vulnerable families so they can purchase food from the basic food basket; and the Family Benefitsprogram (*Programa de Asignaciones Familiares*), aimed at boys, girls and teenagers in vulnerable situations. While the first program benefitted 300,000 people in 2012, the second program delivered benefits during the same period to 527,000 people, accounting for more than 15% of the population of Uruguay (ECLAC, online).

Along with the outcomes in the area of food access, Uruguay also shows encouraging indicators in the dimension of food availability. In fact, calorie supply per capita registered 2,918 daily calories per person in 2012-2014, exceeding the minimum calorie intake requirements. This availability is based to a great extent on the relevance of the country's production sector. Uruguay is a net exporter of agri-food products, and it is an important player at a regional level in terms of soy and beef production, which together account for 38.3% of agri-food exports (FAO, online). In this area, the State also has a wide array of initiatives, mainly focused on granting financing to farmers. Such initiatives include the Farm Development Fund (*Fondo de Fomento de la Granja*), which facilitates access to loans to small farmers in the country since 2004.

Stunting in boys and girls under the age of 5 also registers important progress, showing a decrease of nearly 10 percentage points since 1987. However, in 2011, it was still above 10% (WHO, online), continuing to pose an important challenge for the country. Uruguay has reinforced its health interventions, through specific programs at a territorial level, prioritizing children under the age of 5 and pregnant women.

## BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Venezuela has accomplished both the MDG and the WFS goals, both halving the proportion and the absolute number of people suffering from hunger between 1990 and 2015,. Over that period, the prevalence of undernourishment declined by more than 9 percentage points, while the absolute number of undernourished people decreased by more than 3 million.

Likewise, the incidence of stunting in children under the age of 5 dropped from 18.6% in 1990 to 13.4% in 2009 (WHO, online).

Venezuela registers a Food supply of 3,026 daily calories per person, an increase of 23% versus the 1990-92 triennium (FAO, online). However, contrary to what might be assumed judging by the magnitude of this indicator, agri-food exports account for merely 2% of the total non-oil exports and 16% in the case of imports. The country is a net importer of both, goods and agri-food products (FAO, 2015b).

Hence, the progress shown in the area of food and nutrition security in Venezuela is undoubtedly linked to growth in national revenues. GDP growth has averaged 3.08% growth between 1990 and 2013, while GDP per capita has averaged 1.14% growth. On examining the trend more closely, GDP grew 4% a year in the '90s, registered negative growth rates of -8.85% and -7.75% in 2002 and 2003, and expanded by 10.5% on average between 2004 and 2010. Between 2010 and 2013, the country showed a lower growth rate, with an average of 2.4%.

Poverty and extreme poverty maintain a downward trend since 2000. Extreme poverty has registered a drop of 8.2 percentage points versus the rate observed in 2000, while poverty decreased from 44% in 2000 to 32% in 2013. In any event, it is important to point out that between 2012 and 2013 there was an upsurge in these two indicators which was added to a slight worsening of inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient. However, in general inequality has registered a steady descent since 2002 (see Figure 42).

| MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Undernourishment and food supply** | **1990-92** | **2000-02** | **2014-16** |
| Prevalence (%) of undernourishment | 14.1 | 15.3 | <5.0 |
| Number of undernourished (millions) | 2.8 | 3.8 | ns |
| Food supply (calories/day/per capita) | 2,460 | 2,418 | 3,026 |
| **Child malnutrition, children under 5 years** | **1990** | **2000** | **2009** |
| Stunting | 18.6 | 17.4 | 13.4 |
| Wasting | 5.7 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Underweight | 6.7 | 3.9 | 2.9 |
| **Economy (in constant USD 2005)** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| GDP, in billions | 104.3 | 128.3 | 194.7 |
| GDP per capita | 5,284 | 5,256 | 6,402 |
| Agricultural GDP, in billions | 3.94 | 4.70 | 6.43/b |
| Agricultural productivity /a | 4,543 | 5,789 | 9210,5/b |
| **Economic growth (%), annual average/c** | **1990-99** | **2000-09** | **2010-13** |
| GDP | 2.5 | 4.0 | 2.4 |
| GDP per capita | 0.2 | 2.2 | 0.8 |
| Agricultural GDP | 1.0 | 2.9 | 3,35/d |
| Agricultural productivity | 1.4 | 4.0 | 5,10/d |
| **Employment** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Unemployment rate | 10.4 | 13.9 | 7.8 |
| Employment rate | … | 56,7/e | 59.3 |
| **Poverty and inequality** | **1990** | **2000** | **2013** |
| Poverty rate | 39.8 | 44.0 | 32.1 |
| Extreme poverty rate | 14.4 | 18.0 | 9.8 |
| Gini index | 0.471 | 0.468 | 0.407 |
| **Access to basic utilities** | **1990** | **2000** | **2007** |
| Water supply (% of population with access) | 89.9 | 92.1 | 92.9 |
| Sanitation facilities (% of population with access) | 82.0 | 88.7 | 90.9 |
| **Population/f** | **1990** | **2000** | **2014** |
| Total population (in thousands) | 19,741 | 24,408 | 30,851 |
| Urban population (in thousands) | 16,638 | 21,474 | 27,439 |
| Rural population (in thousands) | 3,103 | 2,934 | 3,412 |

Sources: World Bank, ECLAC, WHO, FAO

"ns" refers to non-significant values from a statistic point of view

…/ Not available values

a/ Understood as the agricultural added value per worker

b/ Value for 2012

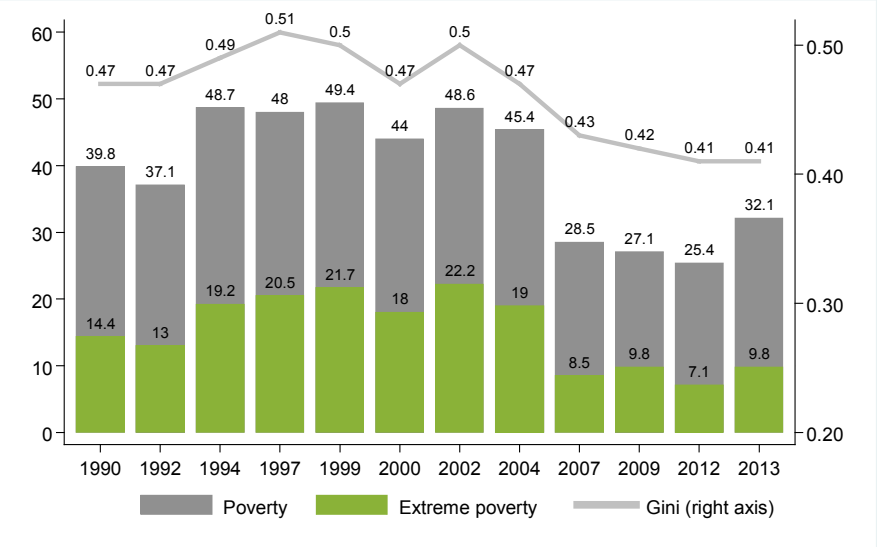
c/ Rates calculated according to dollar values at prices for 2005

d/ For 2010-12 period

e/ Value for 2003

f/ Source United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Figure 42.** ***Evolution of poverty (%), extreme poverty (%) and Gini coefficient in Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela***




Source: ECLAC (online).

However, despite the growth in the Venezuelan economy over the last decade, such growth by itself does not explain the improvement in the country's socio-economic indicators (FAO, 2014). In fact, it is important to point out that the country has implemented a wide array of social programs and benefits, many of which are explicitly aimed at improving the income of the population, such as the so-called Social Missions (*Misiones Sociales*) like Children of Venezuela (*Hijos e Hijas de Venezuela*), Love for the Eldery (*En Amor Mayor*) or Mothers of the Neighborhood (*Madres del Barrio*), all of which deliver cash transfers to people living in vulnerable situations in different age groups.

On the other hand, to ensure food supply, the State operates the Food Mission (*Misión Alimentación*[24]), which is a public network, seeking to ensure access to food in adequate quantities and at adequate prices for the population, in a national context of price increases.

24 This includes the following affiliated bodies: Productos Casa, MERCAL, PDVAL, FUNDAPROAL, SADA, VENALCASA and LOGICASA.

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