FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The global level of the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) has been increasing since 2014, after a decades-long decline (see Figure 47). Nearly 9 percent of the world population suffered from hunger in 2019. The situation is most alarming in Africa, where the PoU is the highest among all regions and has shown a steady increase since 2014. By 2019, almost 20 percent of the population in Africa were undernourished. The PoU in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Oceania, has also shown a slight increase since 2014. In Asia, the PoU has been mostly declining since 2002, although it remains the second highest among all regions (8.3 percent in 2019).

Almost 690 million people in the world were still hungry in 2019 (see Figure 48). This is 121 million people, or 15 percent less than in 2000. Even though its PoU is the second highest, Asia is home to 55 percent of the world's hungry people due to its large population base, and the two countries with the largest number of hungry people are in Asia (see Table 38). However, the number of hungry people in Asia declined by 29 percent, or 154 million, between 2000 and 2019. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 48 million people were undernourished in 2019, a 17 percent decrease compared with 2000 equivalent to 10 million people. By contrast, the hungry population increased by 51 million, or 26 percent, between 2000 and 2019 in Africa, to 250 million. It also increased

Source: FAOSTAT

Note: The prevalence of undernourishment for Northern America and Europe is estimated to be less than 2.5 percent. Values for 2019 are projections.

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