For the purpose of this document, agriculture includes all food-producing sectors, such as crop production, livestock, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.


68 Weight for age provides insights into the short-term impact of improved nutrition, whereas height for age provides information on the long-term effects of improved nutrition.


71 Various types of safety nets (described earlier) can also reduce the impact of the shock by filling the troughs in Figure 19.


74 In the baseline year of 2009, t Jeffrey's realized by farmers who later bought insurance were 86 percent of those obtained by farmers who did not buy insurance. In 2010, t Jeffrey's of those who bought insurance were 476 percent of the yields realized by those who did not.


Notes and sources for boxes


This makes it clear that, when assuming a lognormal model, the skewness cannot be changed independently of the coefficient of variation.

As energy requirements are provided as a function of body mass, the median height of an individual in a group is used to estimate the minimum body mass compatible with healthy status for the typical individual in that group. We do so by considering the weight that would yield a body mass index equal to the fifth percentile of the distribution of normal body mass indexes, according to the WHO.
In order for economic growth to enhance the nutrition of the poor, it must be accompanied by purposeful and decisive public action. Public policies and programmes must create a conducive environment for pro-poor long-term economic development and strengthened ability of the poor, because measures that improve growth conditions must be accompanied by accelerated human development and strengthened ability of the poor, for any measure that improves growth conditions must be accompanied by accelerated human development and strengthened ability of the poor.

The revised results imply that the Millennium Development Goal related to reducing hunger has slowed and levelled off. The most pronounced declines have been in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia. The reduction in undernourishment since 2000 has been by more than 5% in Asia and the Pacific, by 15% in South Asia, and by more than 25% in China (Annex 1).

Despite significant improvements this year to the FAO methodology for estimating undernourishment, further improvements and better data are needed to capture the effects of food price and other economic shocks. The revised estimates do not fully reflect the profound effects of the global economic crisis on the numbers, prevalence, and distribution of undernourishment. Improved undernourishment estimates, from 1990, suggest the problem of undernourishment has been more pronounced than previously believed.

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012. Key messages


1. World Food Summit goal: halve, between 1990–92 and 2015, the proportion of the population suffering from hunger.


3. The latest report period refers to 2010–12 provisional estimates and 1990–92 baseline estimates. Therefore, the undernourishment estimates do not fully reflect the profound effects of the global economic crisis on the numbers, prevalence, and distribution of undernourishment. Improved undernourishment estimates, from 1990, suggest the problem of undernourishment has been more pronounced than previously believed. Most of the extreme poor and hungry.

4. The symbols and colour indicators show the progress that is projected for different years. The blue scale indicates the proportion achieved if prevailing trends continue, the red scale indicates the proportion achieved if the target is reached, the yellow scale indicates the proportion applied to their 1990–92 population. The progress that is projected for different countries since 2009, let alone the recent price increases. The same holds for population data of the United Nations revise their official statistics regularly for the past as well as the latest reported period. The same holds for population data of the United Nations for different years.


12. The symbols and colour indicators show the progress that is projected for different years. The blue scale indicates the proportion achieved if prevailing trends continue, the red scale indicates the proportion achieved if the target is reached, the yellow scale indicates the proportion applied to their 1990–92 population. The same holds for population data of the United Nations revise their official statistics regularly for the past as well as the latest reported period. The same holds for population data of the United Nations for different years.

13. In addition to the countries listed in the table, includes: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.


Economic growth is necessary but not sufficient to accelerate reduction of hunger and malnutrition

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012 presents new estimates of undernourishment based on a revised and improved methodology. The new estimates show that progress in reducing hunger during the past 20 years has been better than previously believed, and that, given renewed efforts, it may be possible to reach the MDG hunger target at the global level by 2015. However, the number of people suffering from chronic undernourishment is still unacceptably high, and eradication of hunger remains a major global challenge.

This year’s report also discusses the role of economic growth in reducing undernourishment. Economic growth is most effective in reducing poverty and hunger when it increases employment and income earning opportunities that the poor can take advantage of. Sustainable agricultural growth is often effective in increasing food security because the poor and hungry tend to be agricultural workers and depend on agriculture for a significant part of their livelihoods. However, growth will not necessarily result in better nutrition for all. Policies and programmes that aim to "nutrition-sensitive" growth include supporting increased dietary diversity, improving access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and health services, and educating consumers regarding appropriate rail and child care practices.

Economic growth stimulates local markets and may not reach the poorest of the poor. Therefore, social protection is crucial for eliminating hunger as quickly as possible. Furthermore, when properly structured, social protection also promotes economic growth by building human capital and helping farmers manage risk so that they can adopt improved technologies. Finally, rapid progress in reducing hunger requires government action to provide key public goods and services within a governance system based on transparency, participation, accountability, rule of law and human rights.

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