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The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013

The multiple dimensions of food security

Economic and Social Development Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi>



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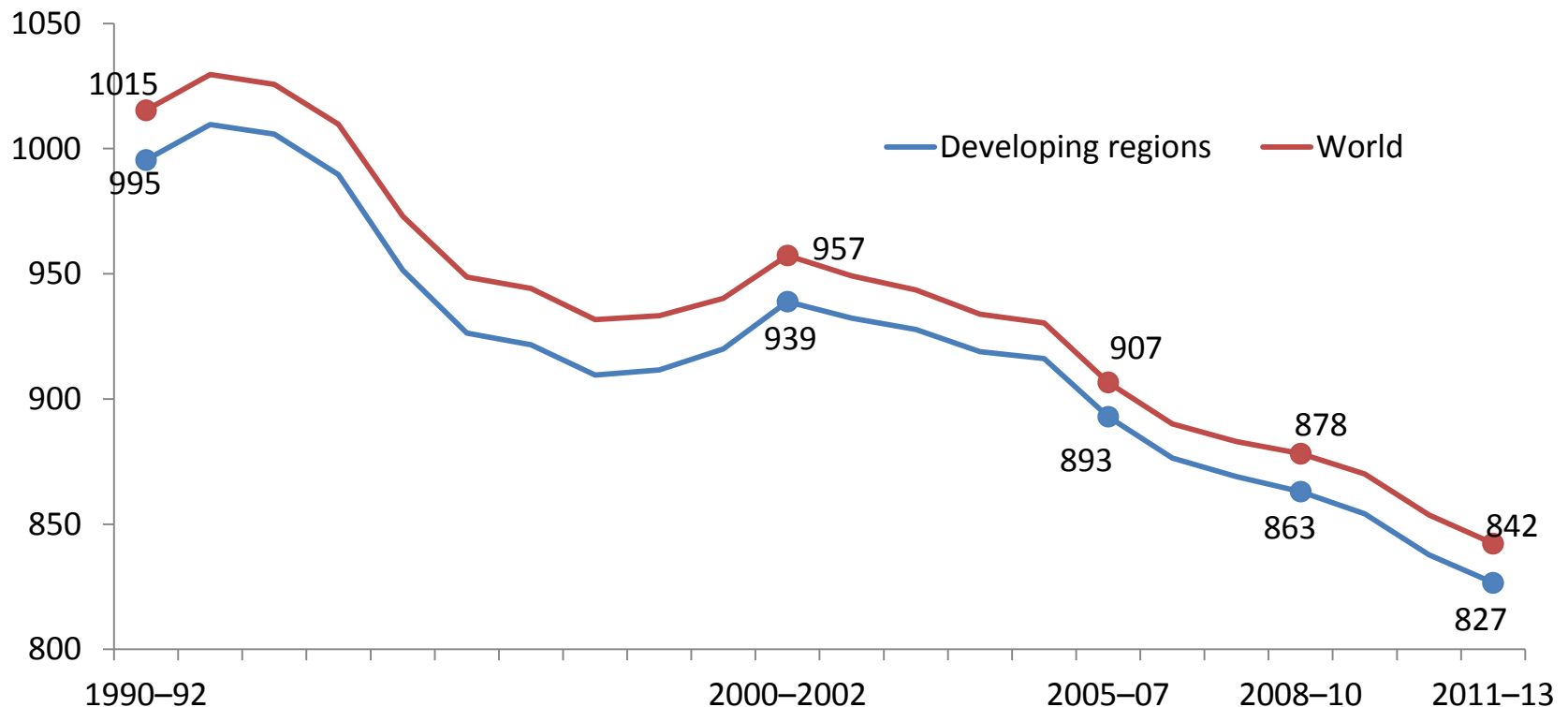
The 2013 Report

Three parts:

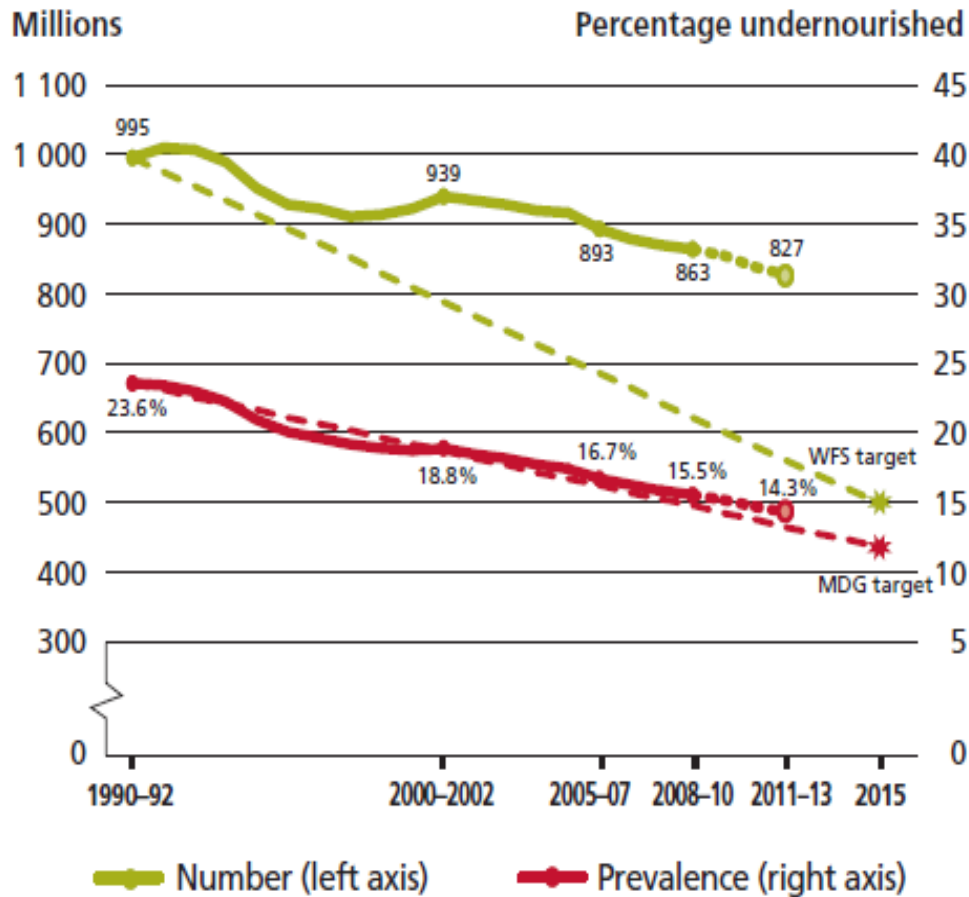
1. Undernourishment around the world: the global monitor
2. Measuring different dimensions of food security: a suite of indicators
3. Food security dimensions at the national level: evidence from country case studies

Undernourishment around the world

- **Hunger is declining:** A total of **842 million people** suffering from chronic hunger in 2011–13, down from 868 million in SOFI 2012
- **The vast majority, 827 million, live in developing countries.**



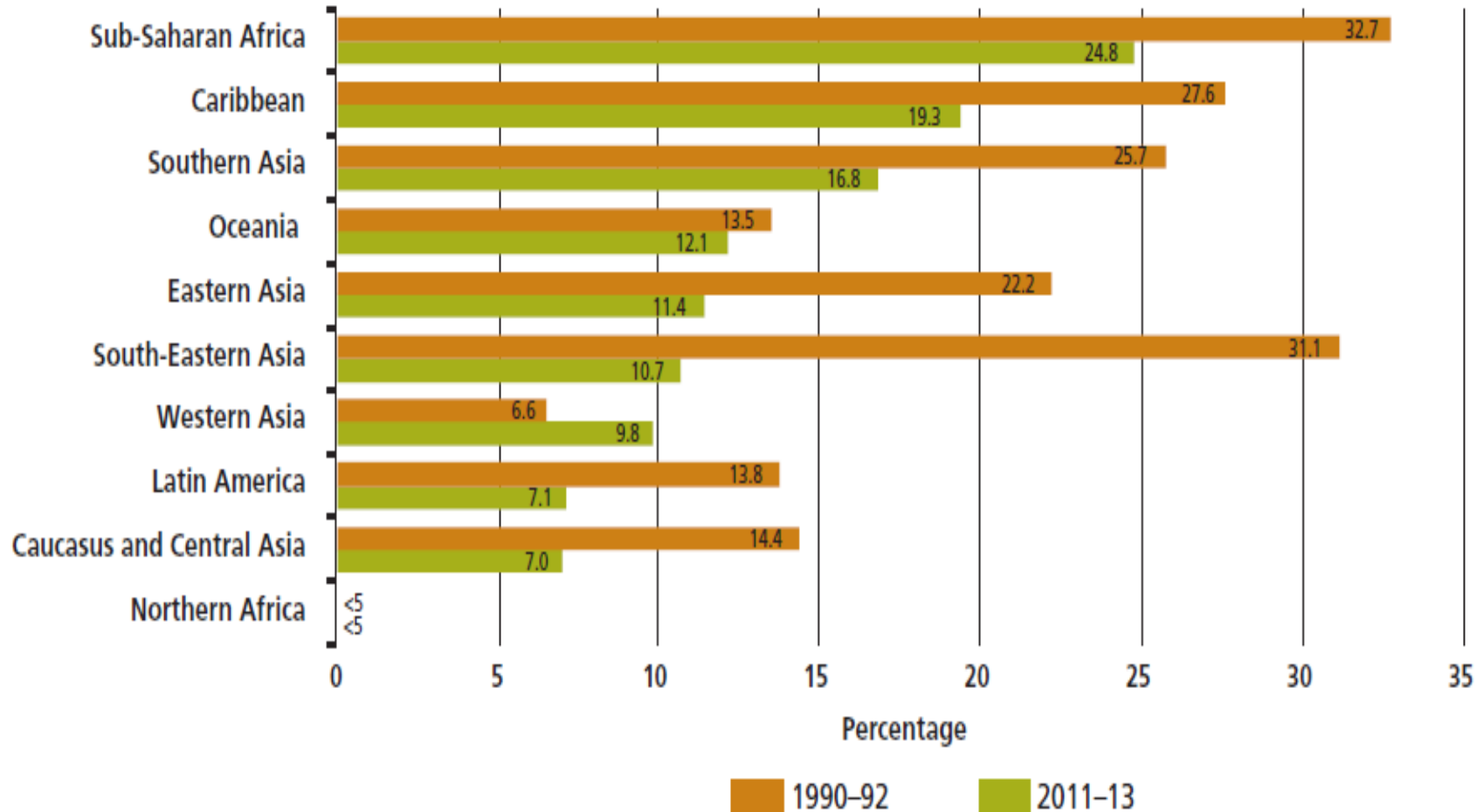
Hunger targets: a mixed picture



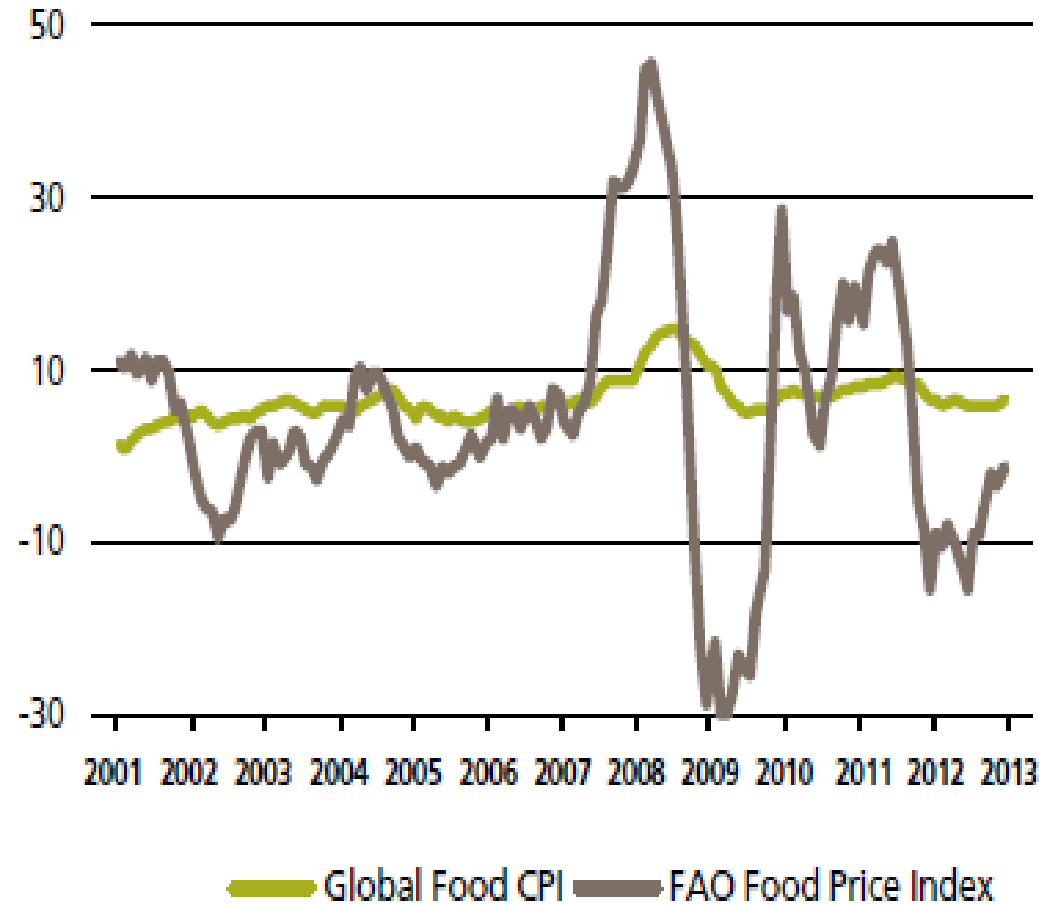
The **WFS target will not be achieved**: the number of hungry people in developing regions should diminish to 498 million by 2015

The **MDG 1 hunger target is within reach**, but additional efforts are needed.

Progress in almost all regions, but at very different rates



Impact of price volatility on food security



Changes in **national consumer prices** of food are much smaller than changes in **international prices of primary products**, and take place with significant delay

Part 1: Key messages

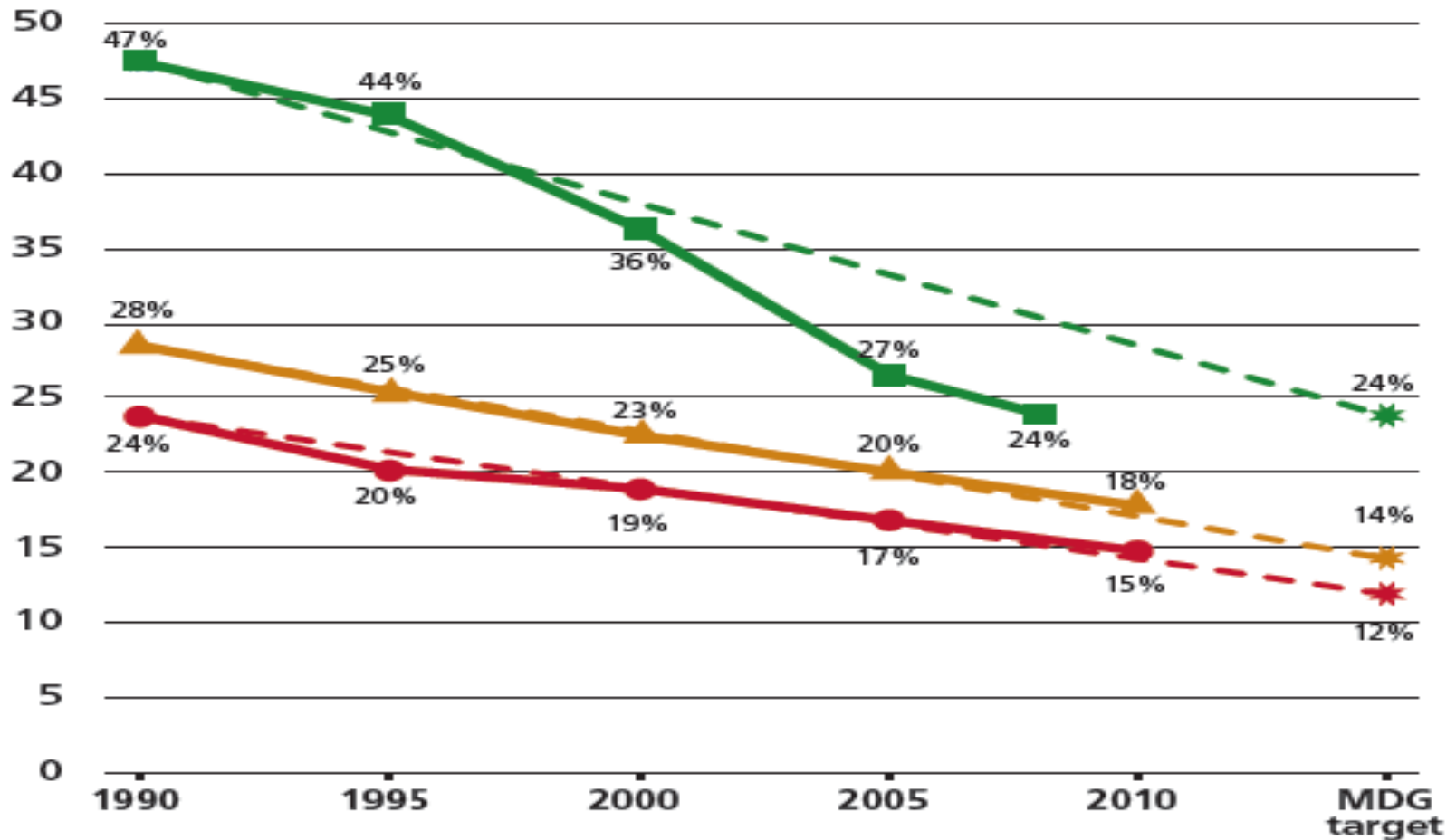
- 842 million undernourished people in 2011–13, down from 868 in 2010-12 in last report
- Significant progress towards the MDG 1 hunger for developing regions; WFS target is globally out of reach
- Sub-Saharan Africa shows the highest prevalence of undernourishment and modest progress. Western Asia shows no progress. Southern Asia and Northern Africa show slow progress
- Significant progress in Eastern and South- Eastern Asia, and in Latin America
- Price hikes in primary food markets had a limited effect on consumer prices and the PoU

The multiple dimensions of food security: a suite of indicators

FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	DIMENSION	
Average dietary energy supply adequacy Average value of food production Share of dietary energy supply derived from cereals, roots and tubers Average protein supply Average supply of protein of animal origin	AVAILABILITY	STATIC and DYNAMIC DETERMINANTS
Percentage of paved roads over total roads Road density Rail lines density	PHYSICAL ACCESS	
Domestic food price index	ECONOMIC ACCESS	
Access to improved water sources Access to improved sanitation facilities	UTILIZATION	
Cereal import dependency ratio Percentage of arable land equipped for irrigation Value of food imports over total merchandise exports	VULNERABILITY	
Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism Domestic food price volatility Per capita food production variability Per capita food supply variability	SHOCKS	
Prevalence of undernourishment Share of food expenditure of the poor Depth of the food deficit Prevalence of food inadequacy	ACCESS	
Percentage of children under 5 years of age affected by wasting Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are underweight Percentage of adults who are underweight Prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women Prevalence of anaemia among children under 5 years of age Prevalence of vitamin A deficiency (forthcoming) Prevalence of iodine deficiency (forthcoming)	UTILIZATION	

MDG1: Food access and utilization

Percentage



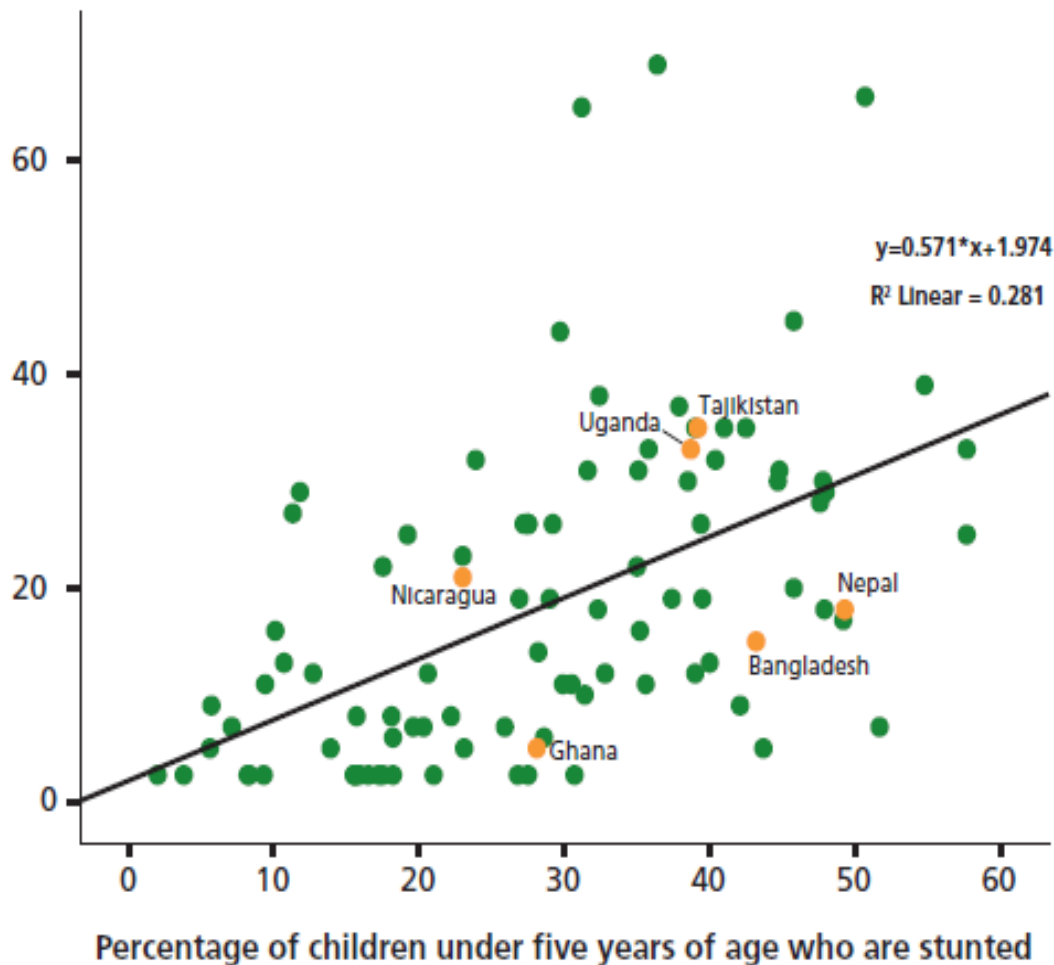
Prevalence of undernourishment

Poverty incidence

Prevalence of underweight

Does improved food access also mean better utilization?

Prevalence of undernourishment



- A weak relationship
- Low undernourishment with high malnutrition: promote access to safe and nutritious food, more dietary diversity, food safety and hygiene
- Often observed where undernourishment decreased within short time

Part 2: Key messages

- Food security is a complex phenomenon. Its dimensions – availability, access, utilization and stability – are better understood when presented through a multitude (suite) of indicators
- Progress has been uneven across food security dimensions. Availability shows faster progress compared to access and utilization.
- When poor access and utilization occur despite sufficient food availability, social protection and improvements in food distribution and supplementation, should be prioritized
- Undernourishment and undernutrition coexist in many countries; but undernutrition may be frequent despite sufficient food intake. In such cases nutritional and healthcare policies should be prioritized

A mixed picture of successes and setbacks towards MDG 1- hunger target

- Bangladesh, Ghana and Nicaragua have managed to halve the prevalence of undernourishment
- Nepal has made significant improvements in the fight against hunger and may reach the MDG1 target
- Tajikistan and Uganda, both are unlikely to meet the target.

Some key facts

- **Stunting rates are considerably higher than the prevalence of undernourishment** for all countries examined.
- **Stunting rates are decreasing at a slower rate** than undernourishment in the 4 of 6 countries.
- **Economic growth not sufficient:** significant declines in poverty rates (Uganda, Tajikistan and Nepal) have not been matched by reduction in undernourishment.
- **Remittances** form significant part of the GDP and can have significant impacts on poverty and food security
 - (Nepal 23% of GDP; Tajikistan 50%, Bangladesh 10%)

Part 3: Key messages

- Long-term commitment to **mainstreaming food security and nutrition in public policies** and programmes is key to hunger reduction
- **Social safety nets** when integrated in food security programs can enhance productive capacities, growth and investment, particularly for small producers; those that target women and children reduce under-nutrition.
- **Nutrition-enhancing interventions** are crucial. Improvements require a range of nutrition enhancing interventions in agriculture, health, hygiene, water supply and education, particularly targeting women.
- **Remittances** can help to reduce poverty, lead to reduced hunger, better diets and, given appropriate policies, increased on-farm investment.

Policy implications of case studies

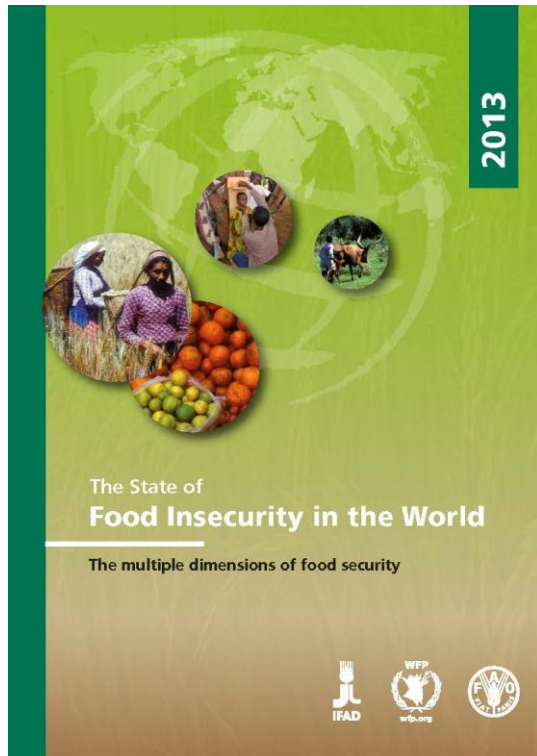
- Broadly shared economic growth
- Growth in agricultural productivity
- Stable, remunerative terms of trade and affordable prices
- Long term commitment to food security and investment in smallholder agriculture
- Structural change
- Economic policy continuity and political stability
- Correlation matrix flags policy coherence opportunities
- High frequency and high quality data on farming structures



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Thank you

For more information ...



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The international reference
on global hunger issues

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