



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



International Fund for
Agricultural Development



2022



THE STATE OF
**FOOD SECURITY
AND NUTRITION
IN THE WORLD**

REPURPOSING FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL POLICIES TO MAKE
HEALTHY DIETS MORE AFFORDABLE

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New York | 6 July 2022

ASSESSING FOOD INSECURITY: DIFFERENT NUMBERS, DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES



SOFI Report:

presenting global indicators founded on rigorous statistical measurement principles, which ensure comparability across countries and over time.

**702 to 828 million
 people in the world**



Chronic undernourishment/ severe food insecurity only

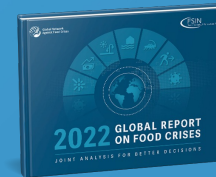
This is a long-term inability to meet food requirements. It is assessed through PoU, which is SDG indicator 2.1.1, and is roughly comparable to the prevalence of severe food insecurity using the FIES.

**2.3 billion people
 in the world**



Moderate or severe food insecurity combined

This is when people face uncertainties about their ability to obtain food and have been forced to compromise on the nutritional quality and/or quantity of the food they consume. This is assessed using the FIES and is SDG indicator 2.1.2.



Global Food Crisis Report:

based on IPC Acute Food Insecurity assessments in food crisis countries, triangulating any available recent evidence, even if partial and from different sources.

**193 million people in
 53 countries/territories**



Crisis-level, acute food insecurity

Sporadic, sudden crises can limit people's access to food in the short term to the point that their lives and livelihoods are at risk.

The number of undernourished reported in SOFI and the number of people facing crisis-level, acute food insecurity reported in the GFCR are not comparable. If people facing acute food insecurity get the assistance they need, their situation will not become chronic.



WORLD HUNGER ROSE FURTHER IN 2021 FOLLOWING A SHARP INCREASE THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Between 702 and 828 million people faced hunger in 2021 – 150 million more people since 2019, before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the middle of the projected range.

INEQUALITIES WIDENED BY THE PANDEMIC HEIGHTEN THE CHALLENGE OF ERADICATING HUNGER

Updated projections indicate that more than 670 million people may still be hungry in 2030 – far from the Zero Hunger target.

AROUND 2.3 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD LACKED ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN 2021

Moderate or severe food insecurity remained stable at the global level, whereas severe food insecurity increased globally and in every region.

THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS

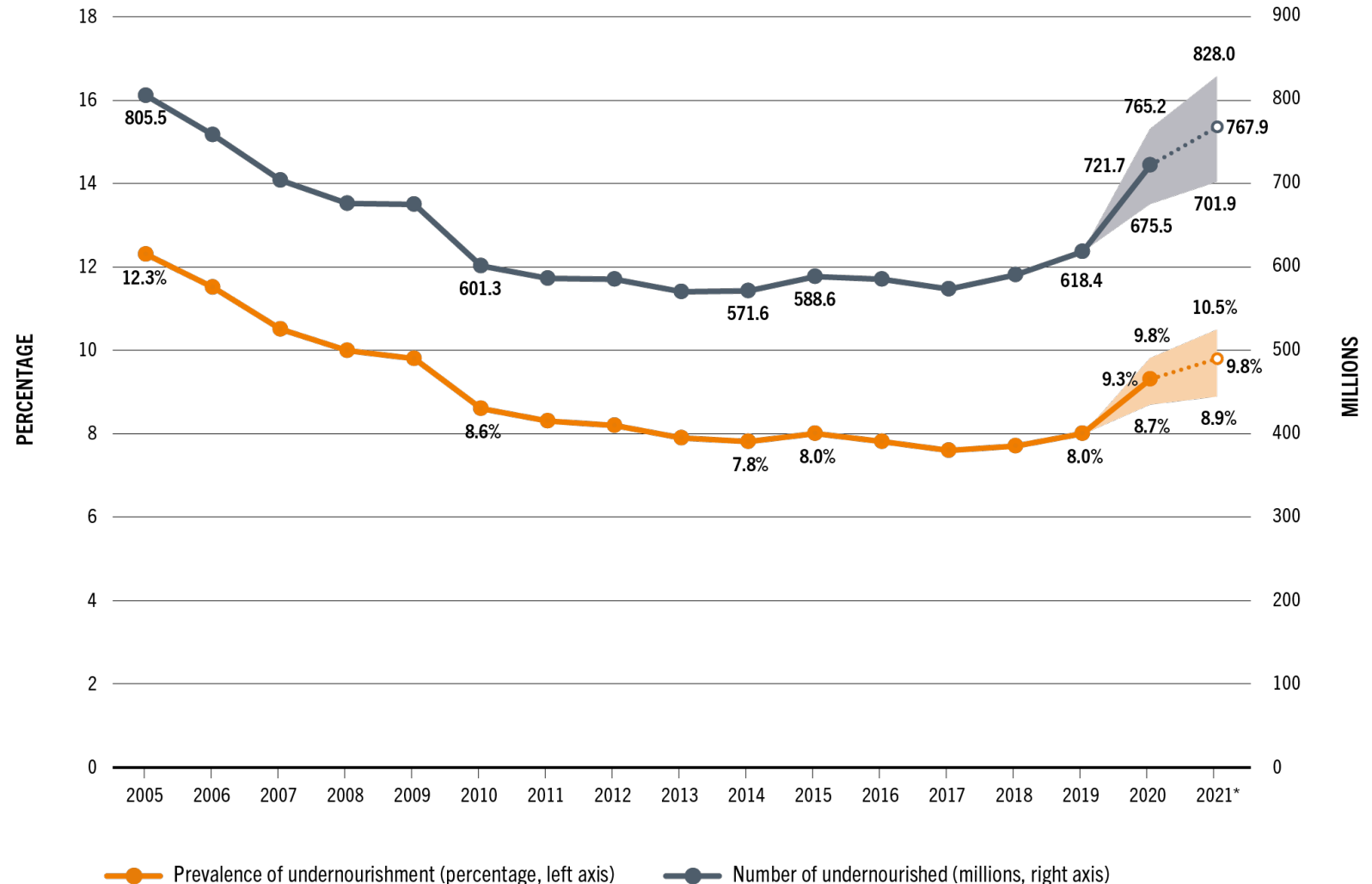
Progress has been made on child stunting and exclusive breastfeeding, but we are moving in the wrong direction on adult obesity and anaemia in women.

ALMOST 3.1 BILLION PEOPLE COULD NOT AFFORD A HEALTHY DIET IN 2020

122 million more people were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2020 than in 2019, reflecting the inflation in consumer food prices.

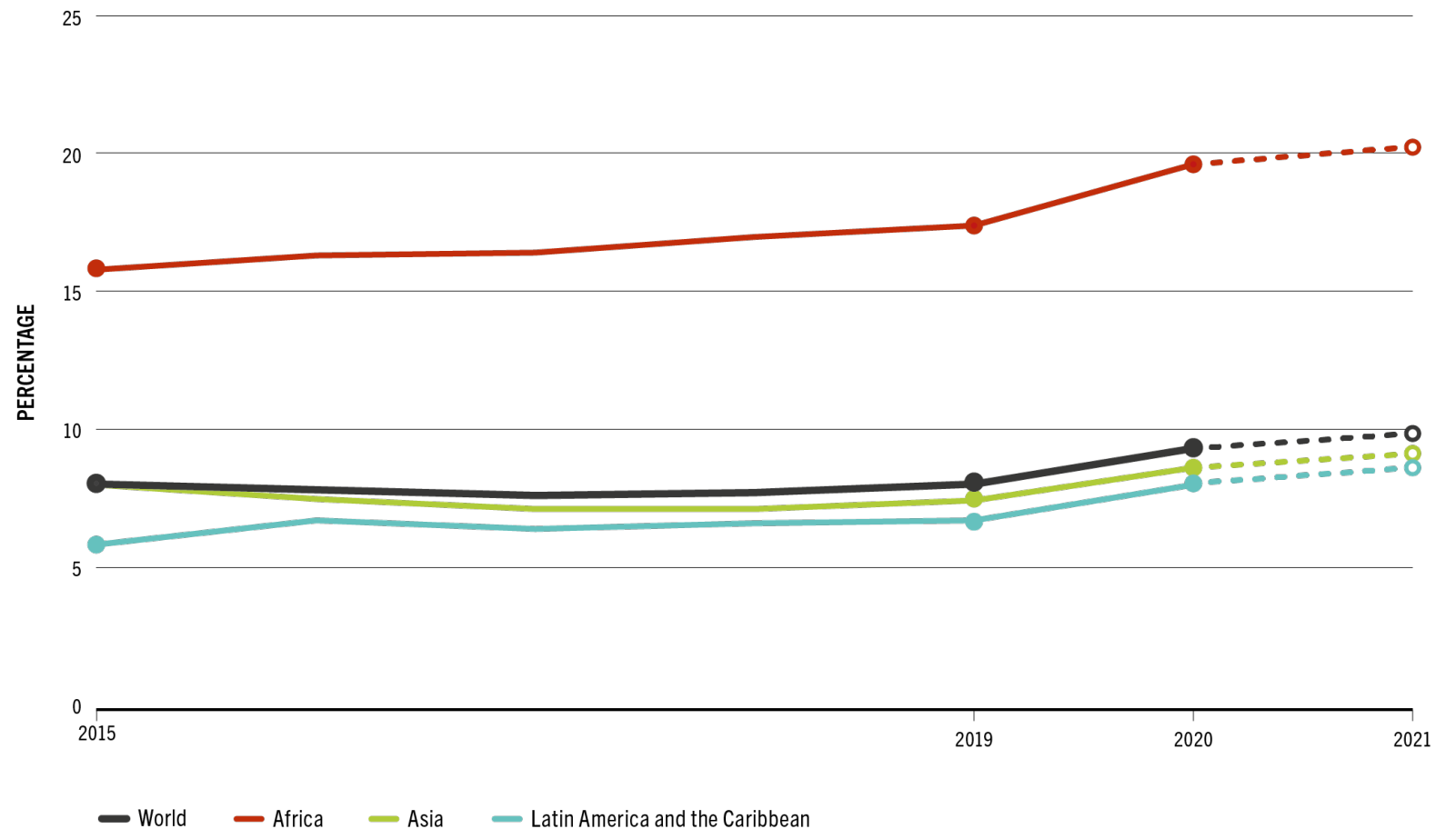
BETWEEN 702 AND 828 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WERE FACING HUNGER IN 2021

- Hunger affected about 46 million more people in 2021 than in 2020 (considering the middle of the projected range).
- A total of 150 million more people since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 (considering the middle of the projected range).



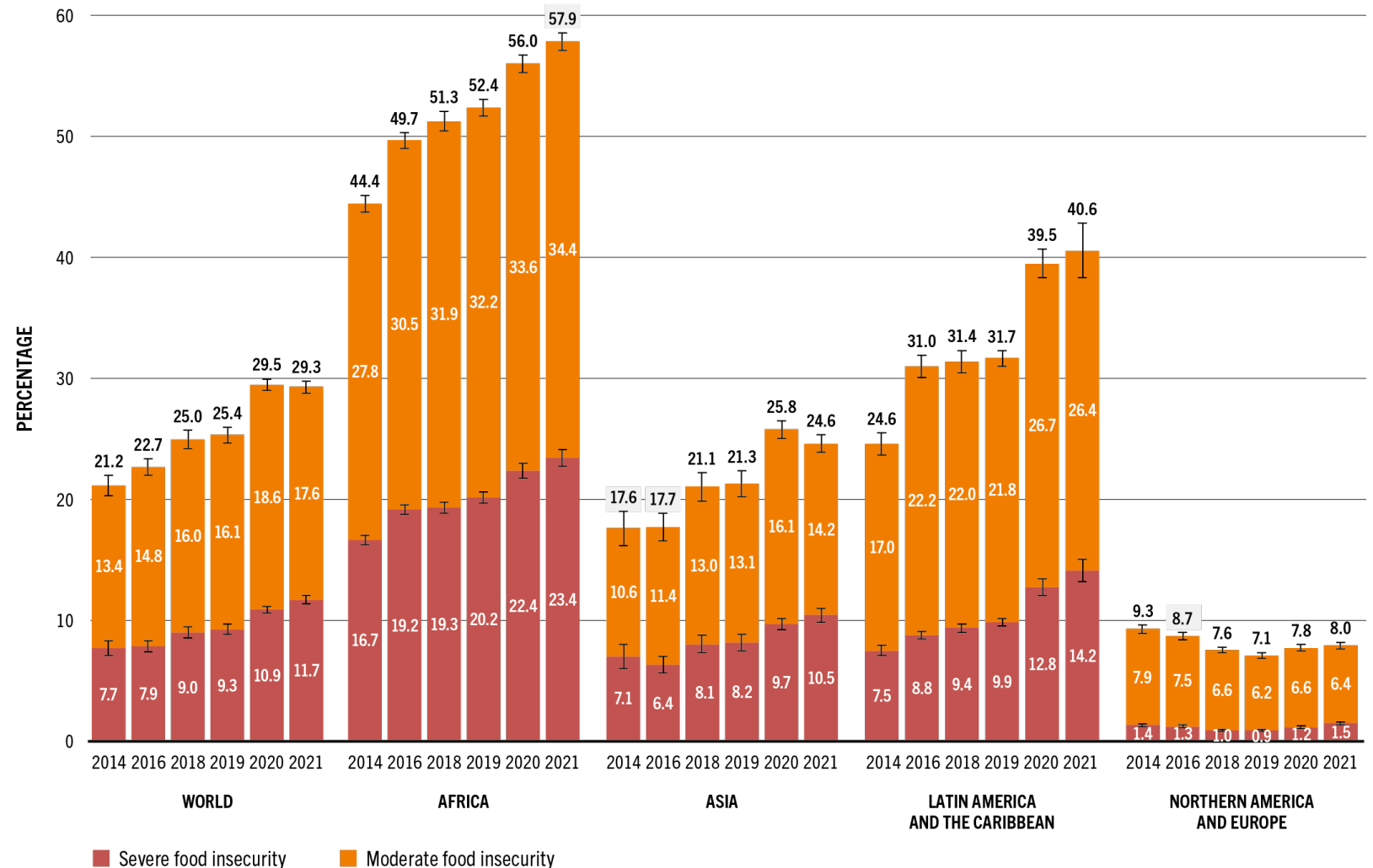
**AFTER SHARP INCREASES FROM 2019 TO 2020 IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,
 HUNGER CONTINUED TO RISE IN 2021, BUT AT A SLOWER PACE**

- In 2021, hunger affected 278 million people in Africa, 425 million in Asia and 56.5 million in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- This is 20.2, 9.1 and 8.6 percent of the population, respectively.
- While most of the world's undernourished people live in Asia, Africa is the region where the prevalence is highest.



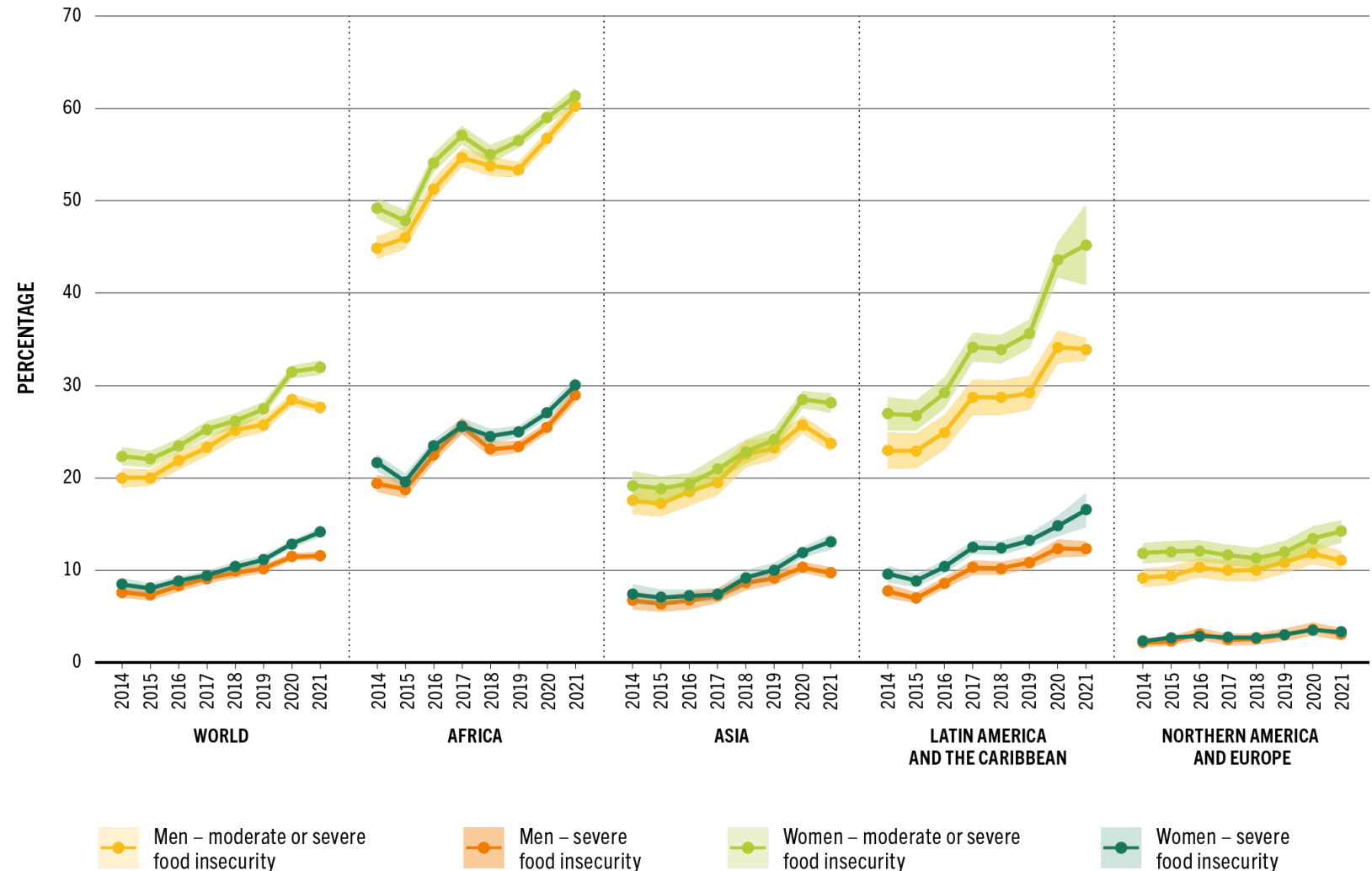
AROUND 2.3 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WERE MODERATELY OR SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE IN 2021

- After increasing sharply in 2020, moderate or severe food insecurity remained stable at the global level despite increases in every region except Asia.
- However, severe food insecurity increased globally and in every region.



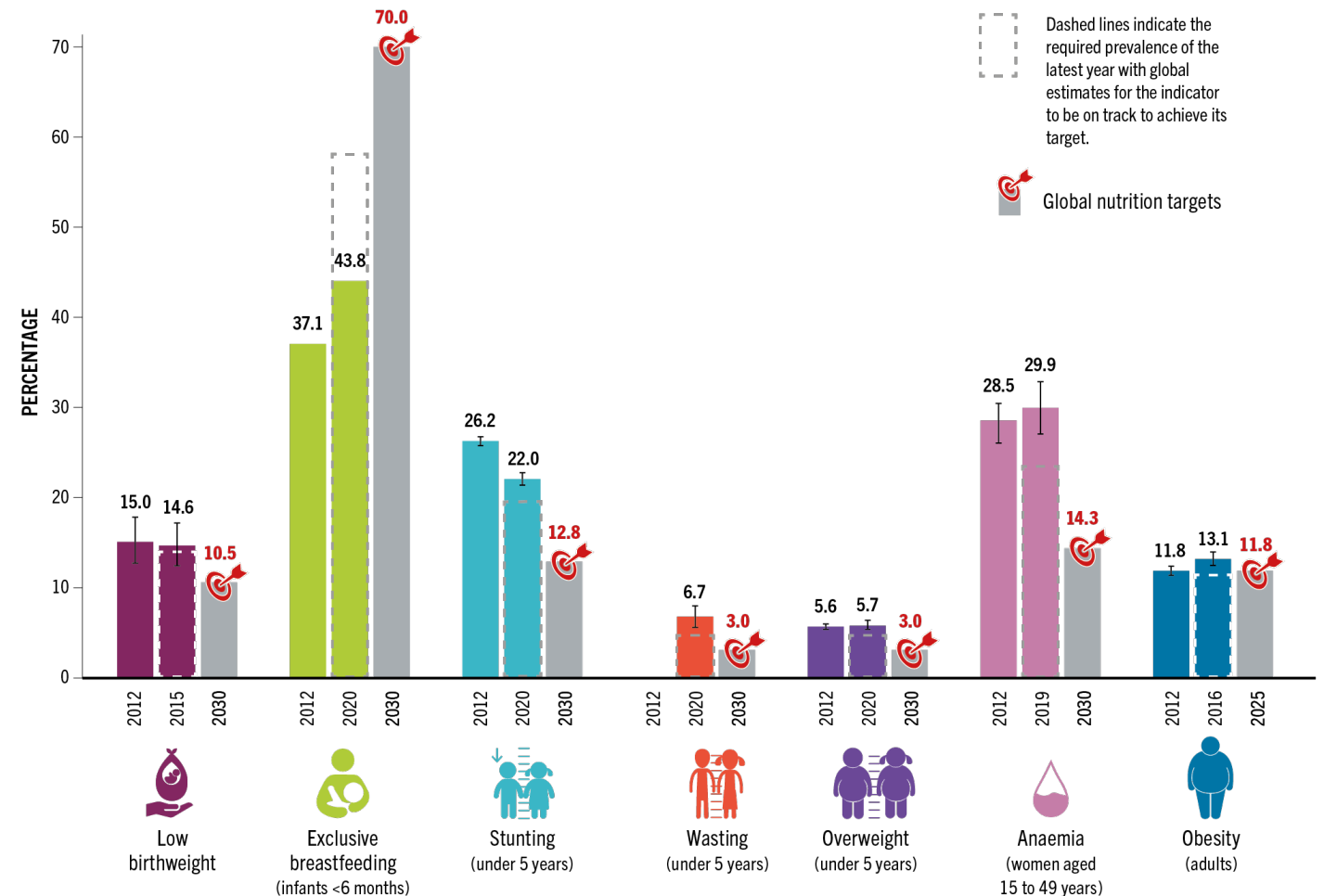
WOMEN ARE MORE FOOD INSECURE THAN MEN IN EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD

- The gender gap in food insecurity has widened under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, and was around 2.5 greater in 2021 than in 2019 globally.
- In 2021, 31.9 percent of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure compared to 27.6 percent of men.



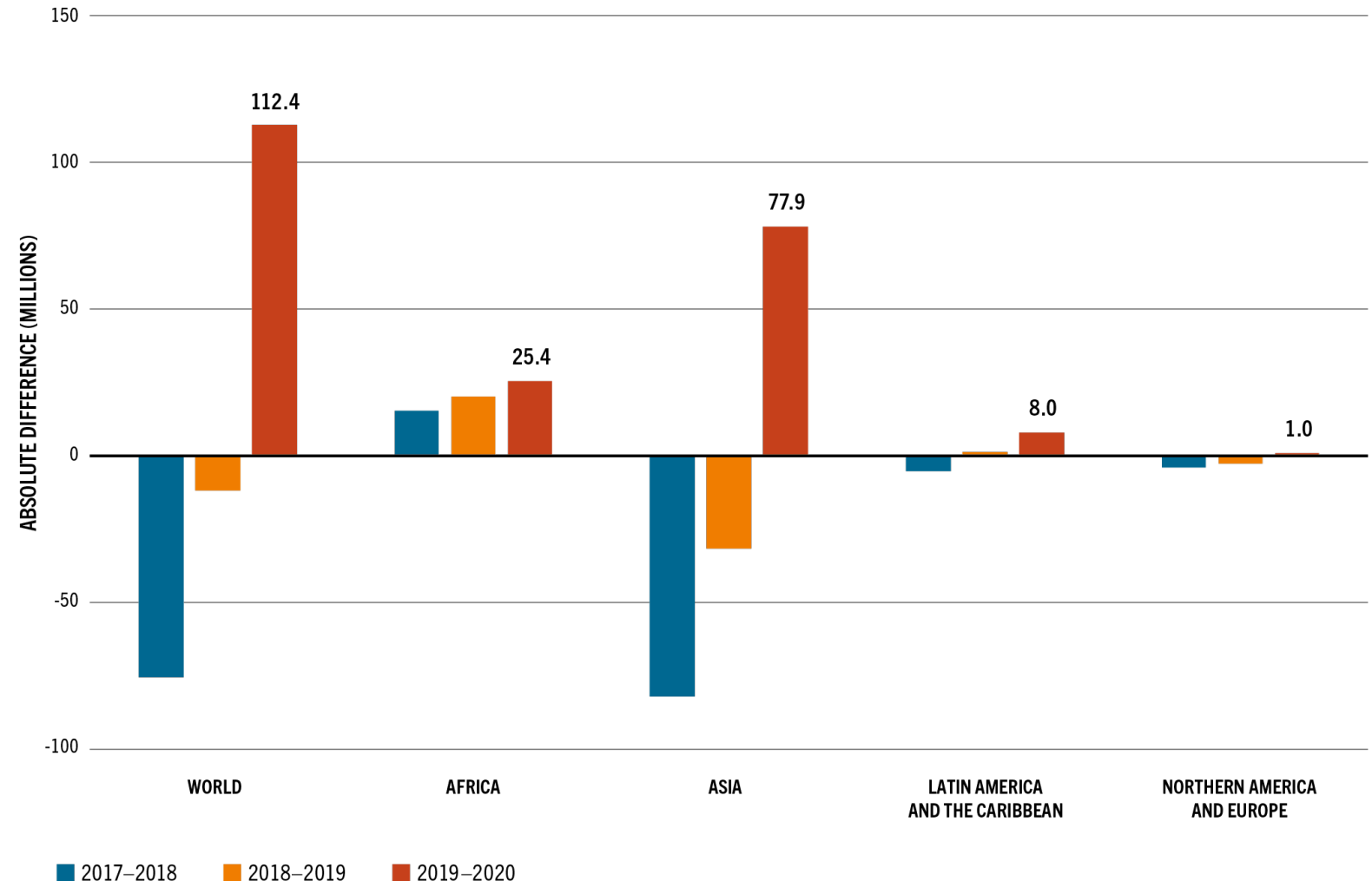
PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS 2030 GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS ONLY FOR EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AND CHILD STUNTING

- In 2020, 43.8 percent of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed – up from 37.1 percent in 2012.
- Among children under 5 years of age, an estimated 22 percent were affected by stunting, 6.7 percent by wasting and 5.7 percent by overweight in 2020.
- Nearly 30 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years were affected by anaemia in 2019.



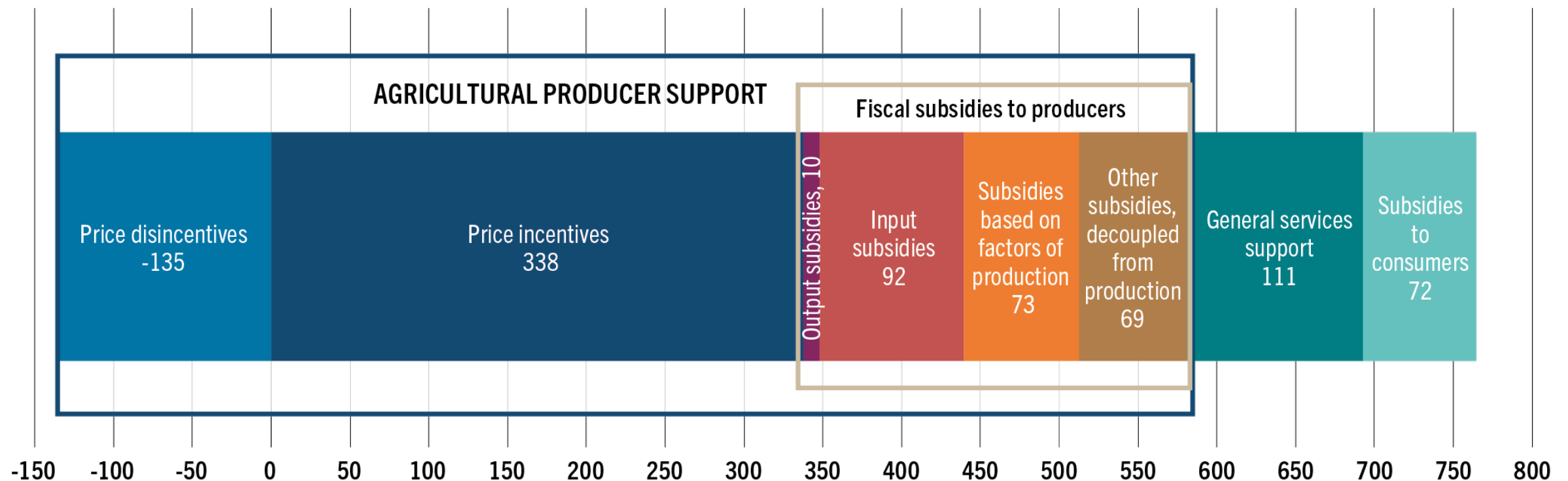
HEALTHY DIETS WERE OUT OF REACH FOR ALMOST 3.1 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD IN 2020

- 112 million more people were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2020 than in 2019, reflecting the inflation in consumer food prices stemming the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This was mainly driven by Asia and Africa (78 and 25 million more people, respectively),



GIVEN THE SETBACKS IN HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IT IS IMPORTANT TO RETHINK THE ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC SPENDING TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The level and composition of global support to food and agriculture (USD billion, average 2013–2018)



PUBLIC POLICY SUPPORT CAN BE BETTER TARGETED TO REDUCE THE COST OF HEALTHY DIETS AND IMPROVE THE AFFORDABILITY OF HEALTHY DIETS

- Repurposing could contribute to make healthy diets **less costly and more affordable**, globally and for across all regions and country income groups.
- But there are trade-offs that would need to be managed.
- Trade-offs vary depending on **country context** and the **type of support that is repurposed**.

Global impact of repurposing 3 types of support to healthy diets, 2030
 (change with respect to the baseline)



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS IN REPURPOSING POLICIES

- **Commitments and flexibilities** under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.
- Repurposing of support **may not be fully equitable** if some farmers cannot specialize in the production of nutritious foods.
- To avoid the trade-offs it may be **necessary to step up new fiscal subsidies to consumers.**
- Where agriculture is still key to the economy and job generation, governments should **spend more in a well prioritized provision of general services.**
- **International development finance** will be needed for low-income countries, and perhaps lower-middle-income countries, given their low public budgets.



Efforts towards reaching SDG 2 targets are proving insufficient in the face of a more challenging and uncertain context.

Governments need to rethink how they can reallocate their existing public budgets to make healthy diets more affordable, with sustainability and leaving no one behind.

Thank you