

2023

# THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

URBANIZATION, AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS  
TRANSFORMATION, AND HEALTHY DIETS  
ACROSS THE RURAL-URBAN CONTINUUM

New York | 12 July 2023

## Global hunger did not change from 2021 to 2022 but remains far above pre-pandemic levels

Between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022 – considering the midrange, about 122 million more people than in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Last year stability in global hunger hides significant increases in some regions and subregions.

In 2022, hunger was still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean and in all subregions of Africa, while declining in Latin America and Asia.

## The pandemic caused a major setback in the fight to eradicate hunger. 2022 made it more difficult.

Almost 600 million people may still be facing hunger in 2030 – 119 million more than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred. The events of 2022 alone will continue to have a longstanding impact, increasing by 23 million the number of undernourished people in 2030.

## Nearly 2.4 billion people in the world lacked regular access to adequate food in 2022

30 percent of people in the world were moderately or severely food insecure – more women than men, and more people living in rural areas than in urban areas.

## Healthy diets are out of reach for more than 3.1 billion people

78 percent of people in Africa were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021, compared to 44 percent in Asia, 23 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 3 percent in Oceania.

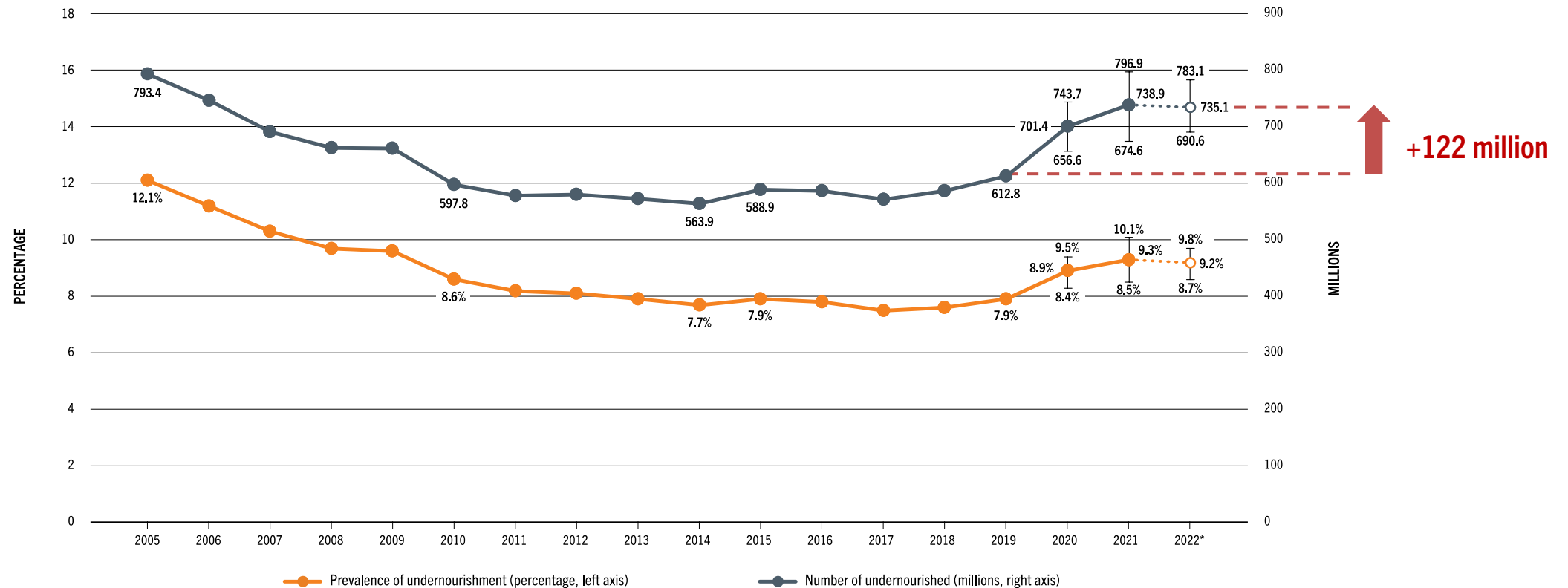
## The world is not on track to achieve global nutrition targets

Stunting in children under five years and exclusive breastfeeding have improved and some progress has been made on wasting, while low birthweight and overweight in children under five have not changed.



Hunger at the global level remained relatively unchanged from 2021 to 2022 but is still far above pre-COVID-19-pandemic levels: 122 million more people were facing hunger in 2022 than in 2019

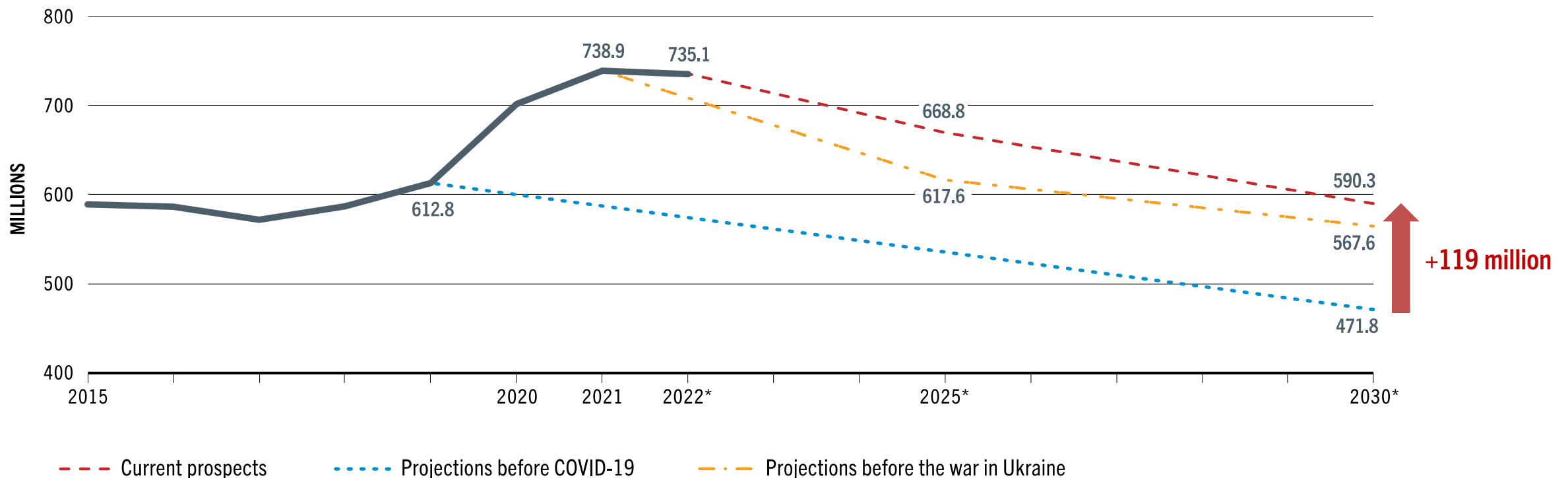
**WORLD PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT AND NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE**



NOTES: \* Projections based on nowcasts for 2022 are illustrated by dotted lines. Bars show lower and upper bounds of the estimated range.

The pandemic provoked a tremendous setback. Projections show 119 million more people facing hunger in 2030 compared to a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred, and around 23 million more than in a scenario where 2022 events had not happened

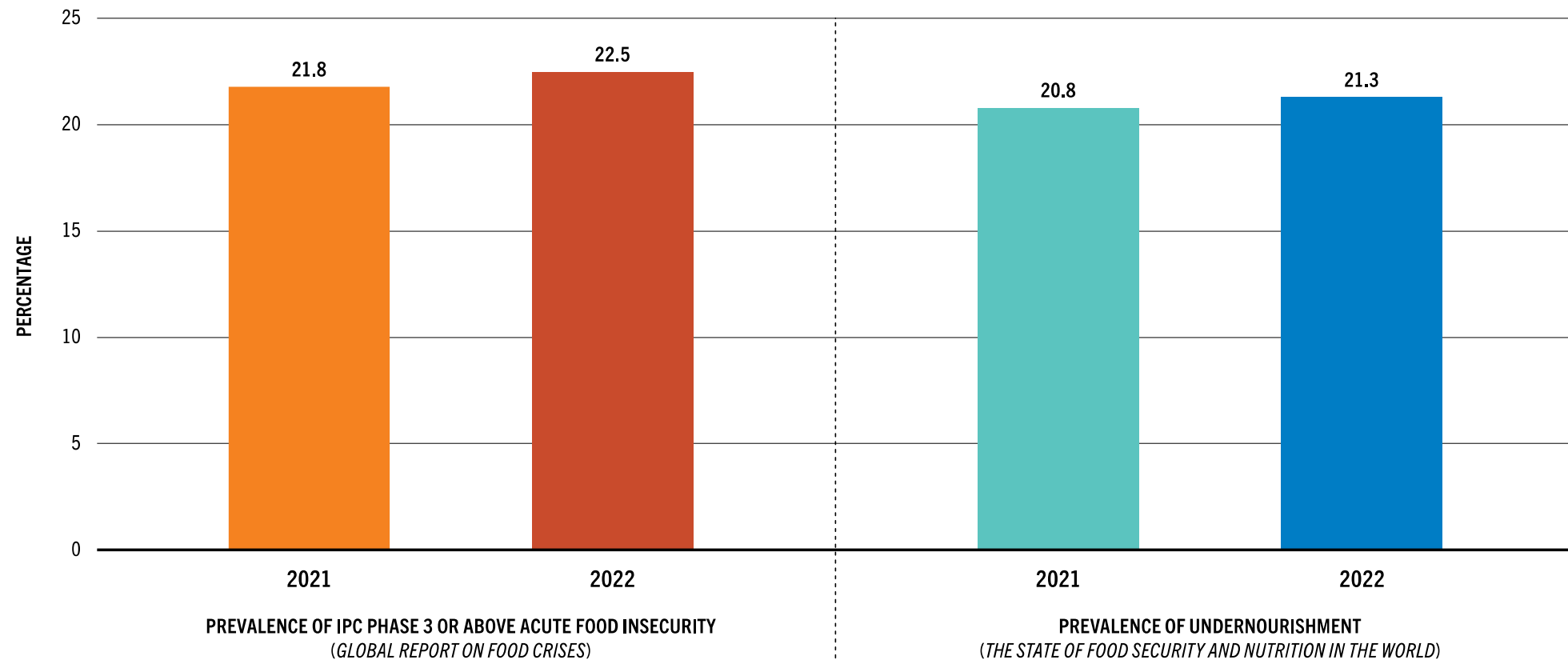
**PROJECTIONS OF THE GLOBAL NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE**



NOTES: \* Projected values. The 2020, 2021 and 2022 values are based on the middle of the projected ranges.

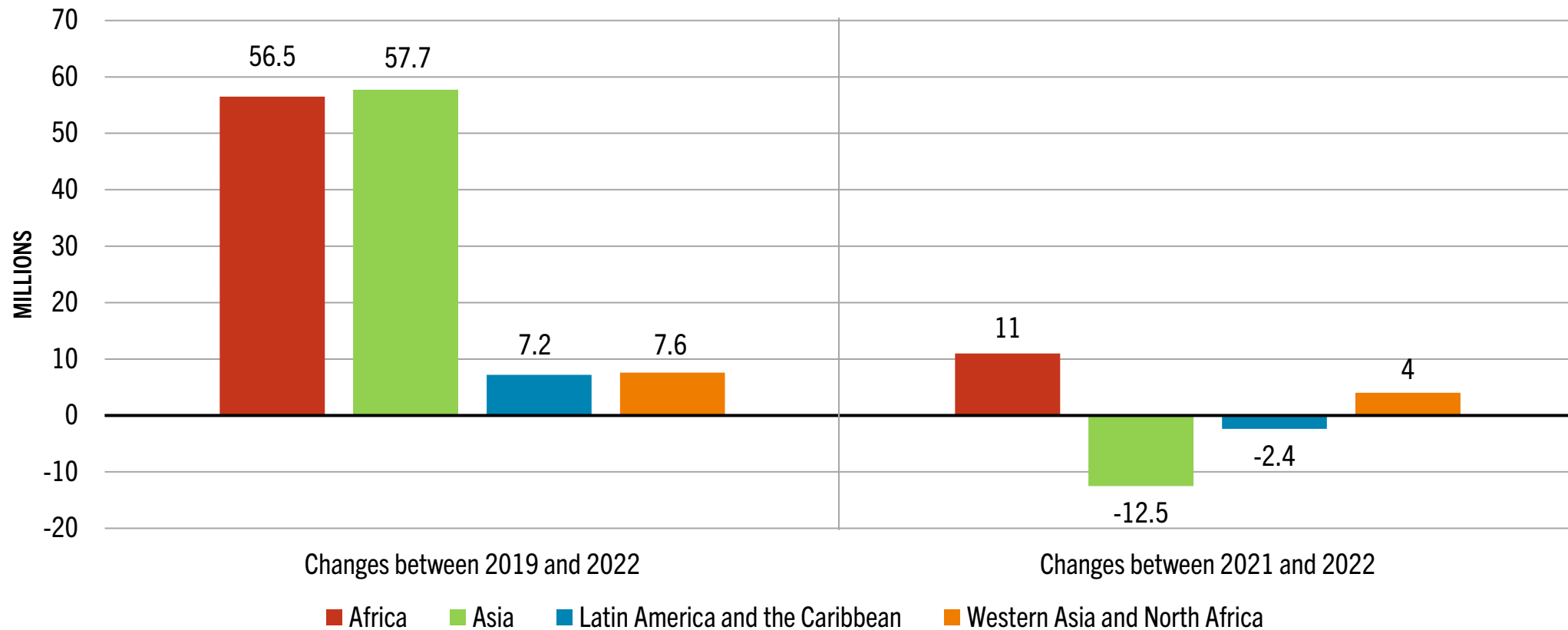
While hunger did not increase at the global level, many places in the world were clearly facing serious and deepening food crises. More than one in five people in 48 food crisis countries was facing hunger in 2022

**PREVALENCE OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY AND PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT IN 48 FOOD CRISIS COUNTRIES**



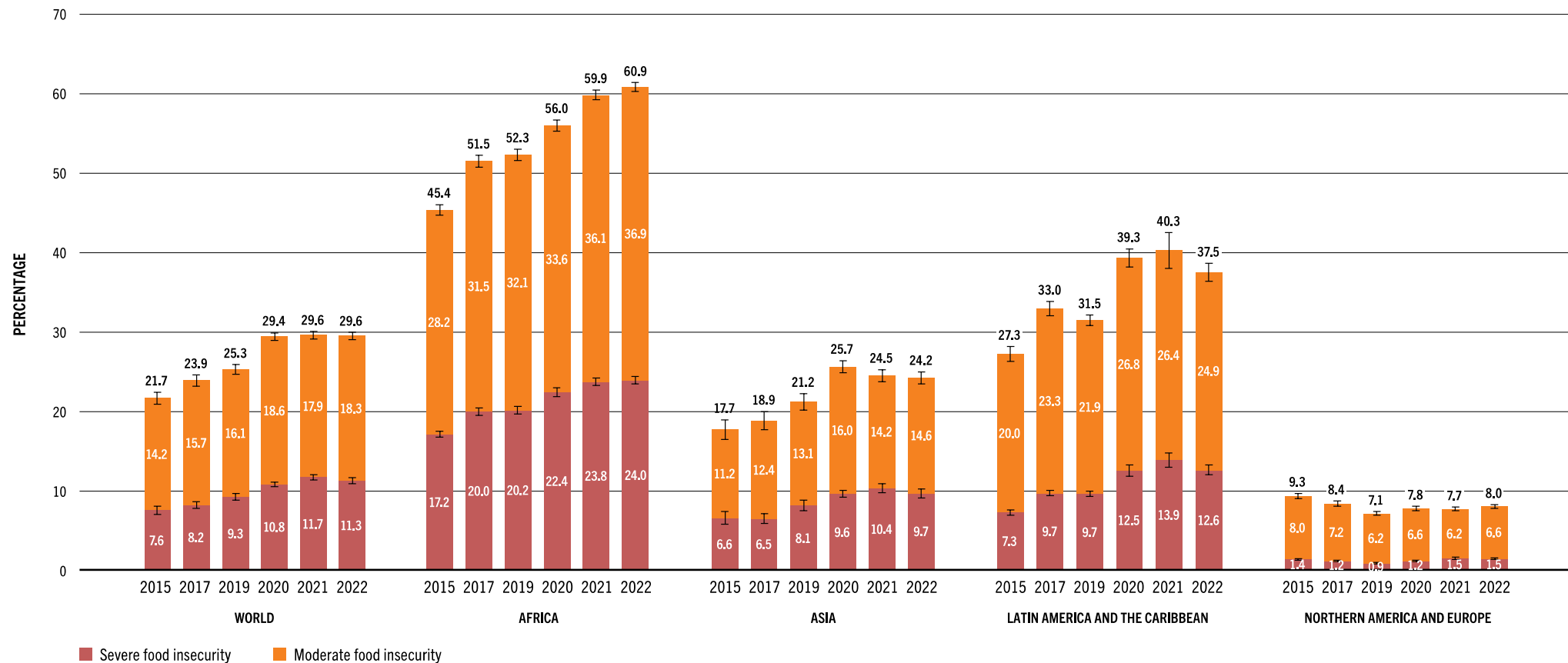
Hunger was still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean and all subregions of Africa from 2021 to 2022

EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE

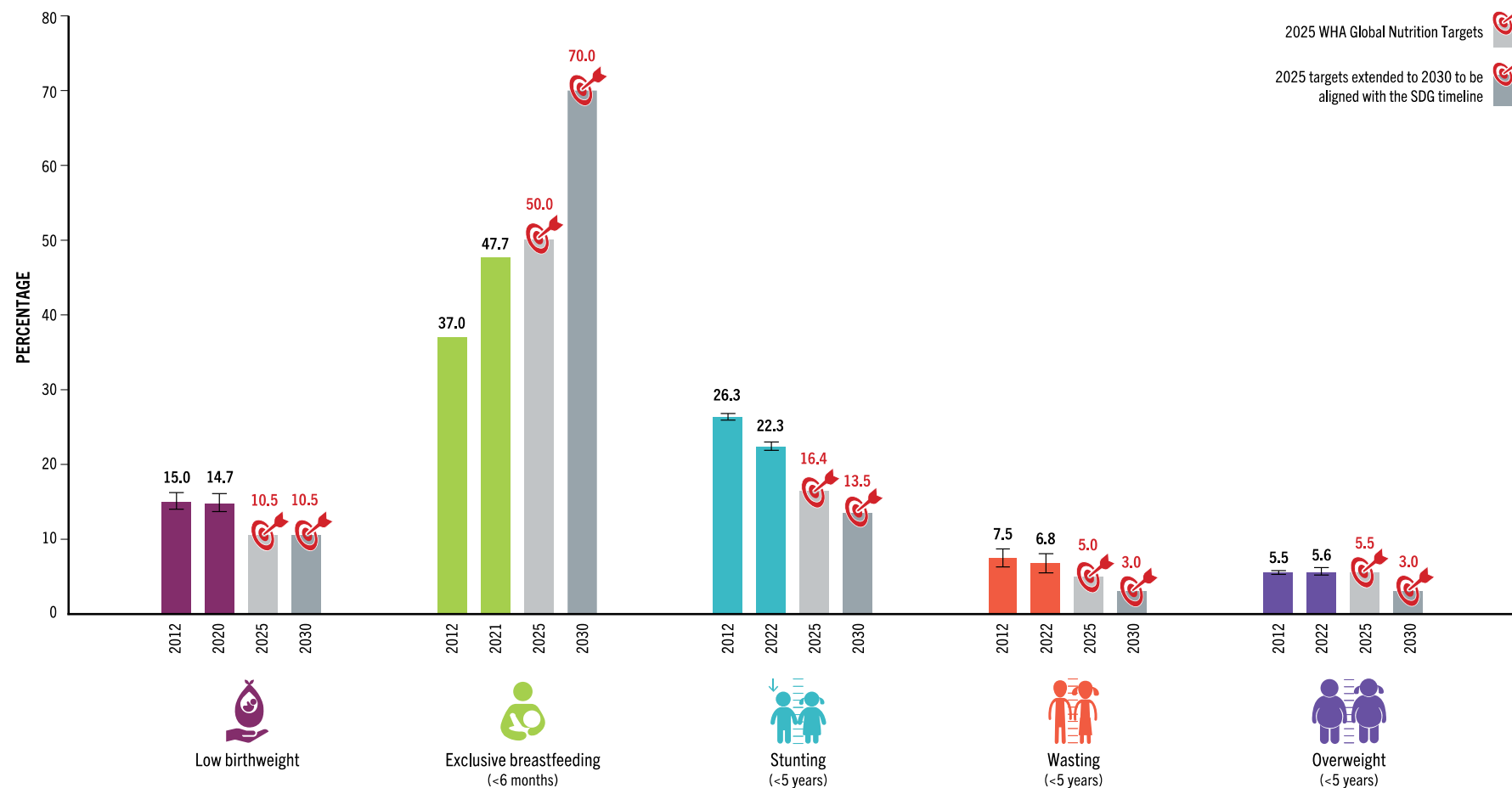


Following a sharp increase from 2019 to 2020, the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity at the global level remained unchanged for the second year in a row but was still far above pre-pandemic levels

**TRENDS IN THE PREVALENCE OF MODERATE OR SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY BY REGION**



Globally in 2022 among children under five years of age, an estimated 148.1 million (22.3 percent) were stunted, 45 million (6.8 percent) were wasted, and 37 million (5.6 percent) were overweight





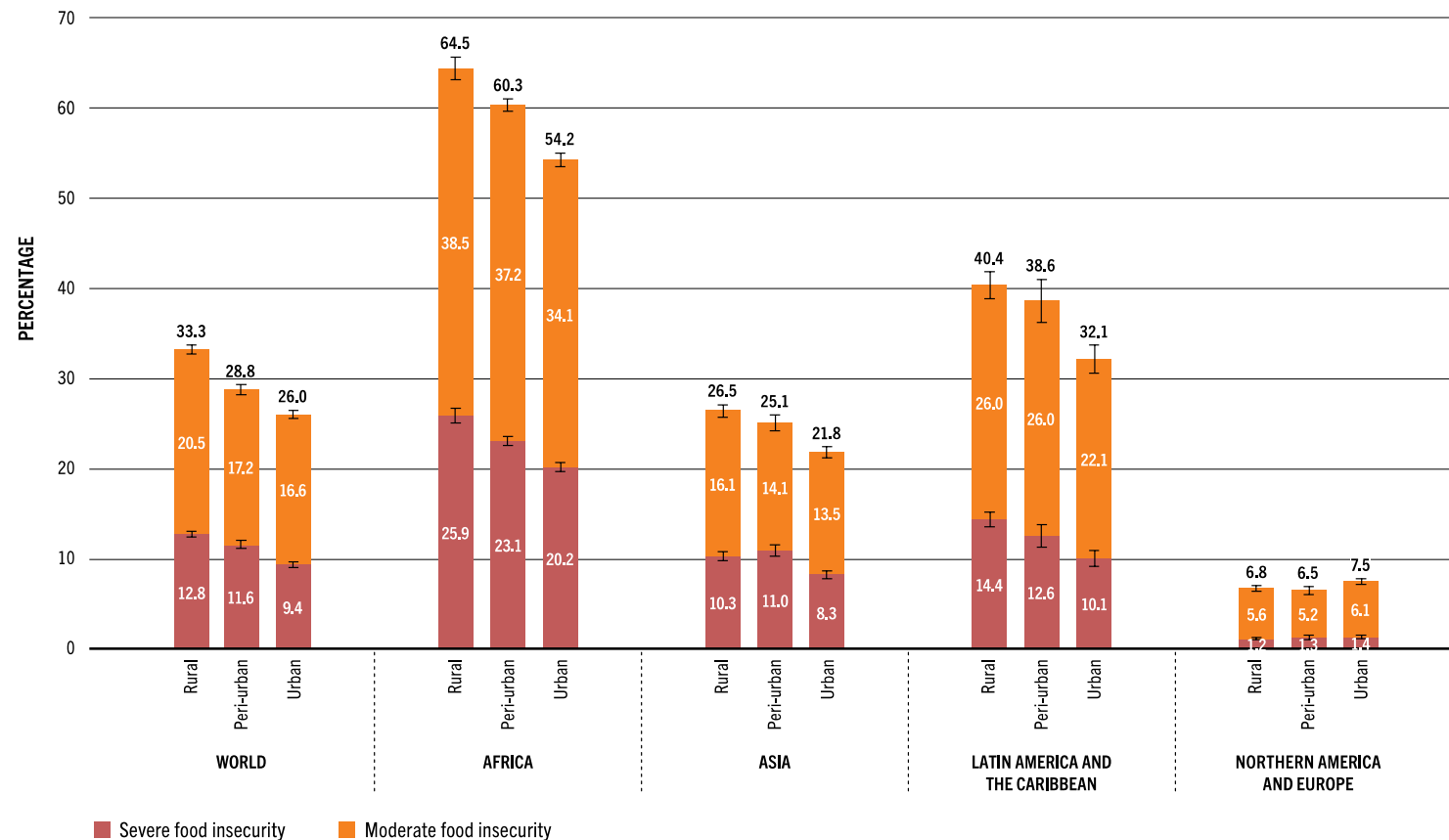


**Urbanization is a megatrend that must factor into our efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.**

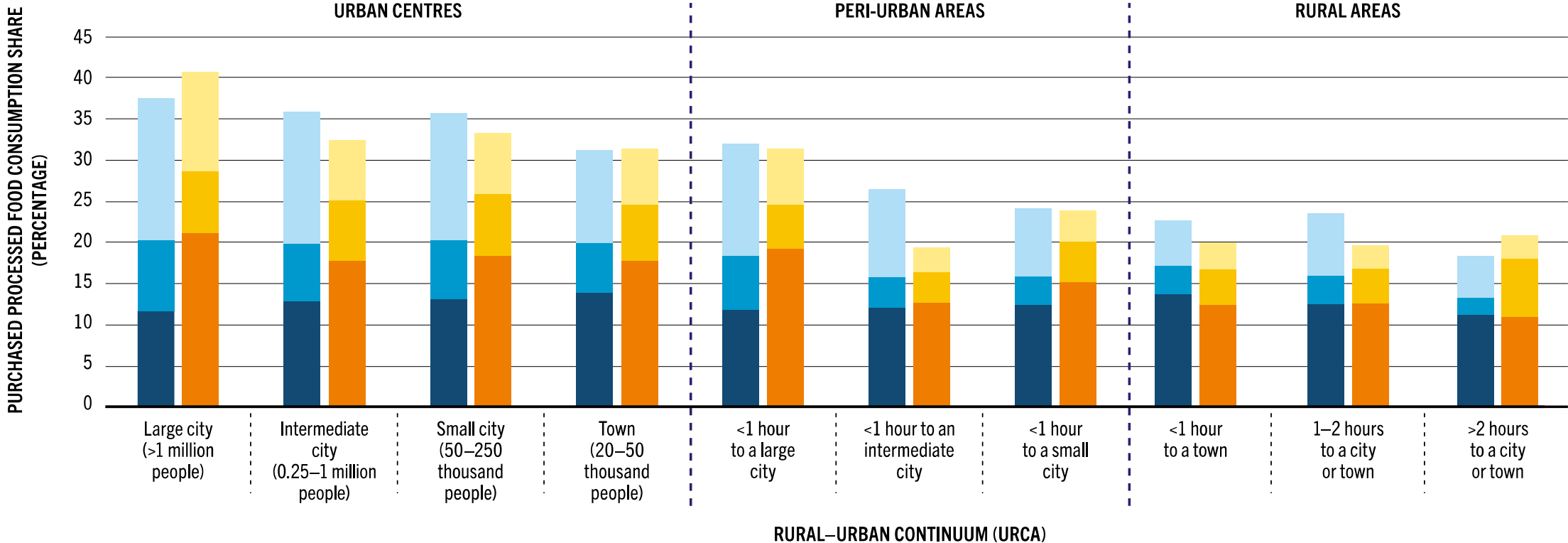
**Reaching SDG 2 targets will require targeted actions, policies and investments across the rural–urban continuum, as well as data development.**

**Food insecurity, at both level of severity, is higher in rural areas than in urban areas  
 in all regions except Northern America and Europe**

**PREVALENCE OF MODERATE OR SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION IN 2022 IN THE WORLD AND REGIONS**



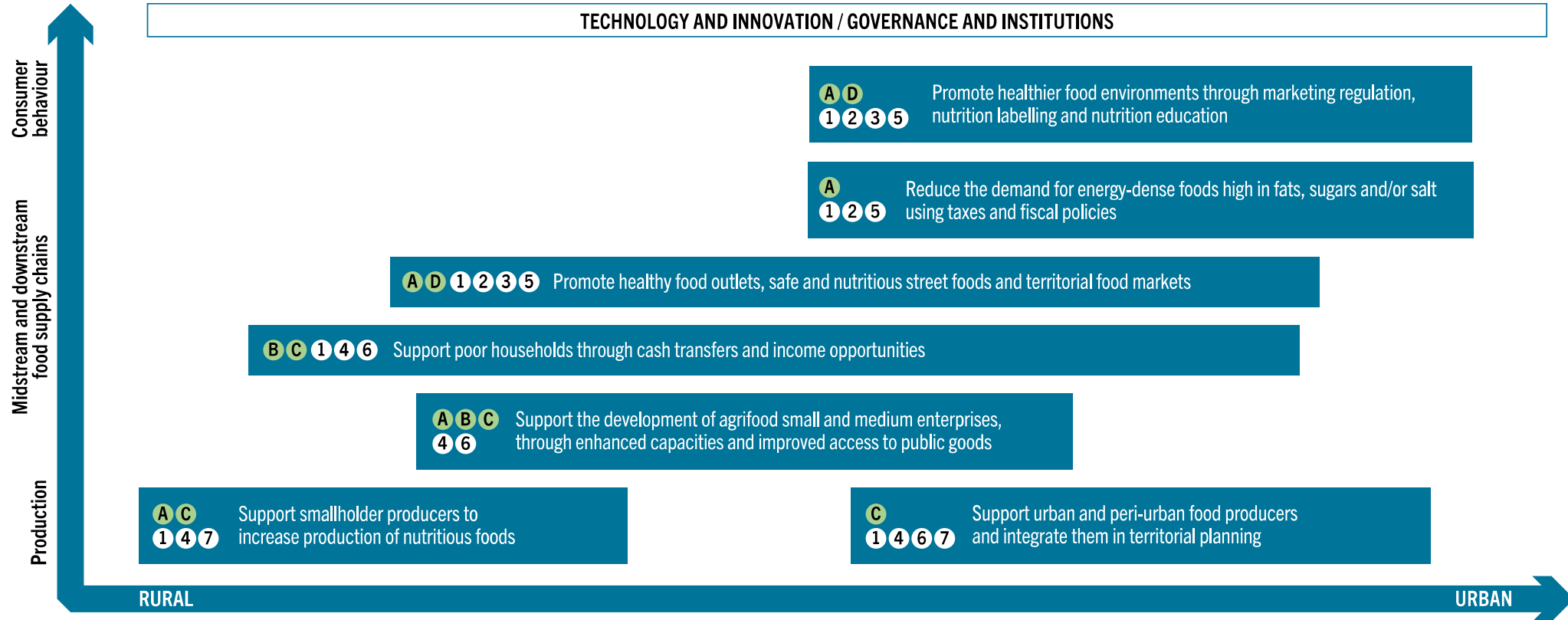
**While the diffusion of processed foods, including highly processed foods, is already advanced in Asia and Latin America, it is spreading quickly in Africa**



**High-food-budget countries:** ■ Low processed foods ■ Highly processed foods ■ Food away from home  
**Low-food-budget countries:** ■ Low processed foods ■ Highly processed foods ■ Food away from home

# THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023

## URBANIZATION, AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION, AND HEALTHY DIETS ACROSS THE RURAL-URBAN CONTINUUM

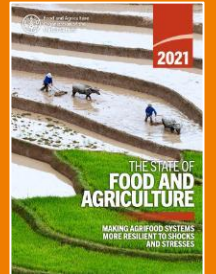


OPPORTUNITIES	
<b>A</b> Widespread diffusion of food purchases in rural areas	<b>B</b> More off-farm employment opportunities
<b>C</b> Better income opportunities for farmers well connected to cities	<b>D</b> More diversified diets

CHALLENGES			
<b>1</b> High cost of nutritious foods relative to energy-dense foods	<b>2</b> Increased demand and supply of convenience, pre-prepared, ready-to-eat and fast foods	<b>3</b> Food deserts and swamps	<b>4</b> Loss of income opportunities for smallholder farmers
<b>5</b> Expansion of supermarkets and hypermarkets supplying cheap highly processed foods	<b>6</b> Threats to (peri-)urban agricultural livelihoods	<b>7</b> Insufficient production and high prices of fruits and vegetables	

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Transform our agrifood systems with greater resilience to make them sustainable and inclusive while ensuring healthy diets are affordable. It requires building early warning systems, absorption capacity and recovery mechanisms.



**Integrate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding policies**



**Protect households and value chains during economic slowdown**



**Scale up climate resilience across agrifood systems**



**Address the specific challenges associated with water management**



**Focus on value chains contributing to healthy diets**



**Realign public expenditures to assure access to healthy diets in a sustainable systems**



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