# Data collection and analysis tools for Food Security and Nutrition

## towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision making

HLPE-FSN Report #17

Presented by
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# An introductory note

Recent developments since the report was conceived

- Developments have been occurring in the **data governance** arena:
  - There is a continued mushrooming of initiatives mentioning **data collaboratives**, **data stewardship**, **data champions**.
- A growing attention is currently being given to **data in emergencies.**
  - Several initiatives have been created to help **assess the situation and anticipate its impact**, which have been impossible to reflect in the report.

**Some of the key recommendations of the report are relevant for these too.**

# The fundamentals

- There already exist data and information that are relevant for FSN
  - There is need to ensure **broader access** and **better use** of them
- Nevertheless, there are still fundamental gaps in areas where – despite efforts – data availability, timeliness and granularity is still insufficient to effectively guide FSN policy and action
  - Need to **strengthen and sustain data collection** efforts in these areas (e.g., small farms, dietary intake)
- New digital technologies and modern data analytic methods offer great opportunities – in part already being explored – but also present specific risks
  - Data generating technology adoption needs to be accompanied by **investing in creating a diffused analytic capacity** to avoid broadening the various forms of technological and digital divide

# Critical urgent data gaps areas

| Level | Dimensions of food security and nutrition | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Availability | Stability | Sustainability | Access | Utilization | Agency |
| Macro | Natural resource base Earth Observation<br>International food commodity stocks and trade | Global/regional food commodity stocks and reserves | Weather and other risk trends and predictions | International food commodity prices | Food composition data<br>Food safety data | |
| Meso | Domestic food availability | National food stocks and reserves | | National food price indices | Water & Sanitation | Market concentration shares |
| Micro | Local food systems | Early Warning Information Systems | | Local food prices<br>Household incomes and consumption patterns<br>Food insecurity experiences | Household living conditions<br>Household water access<br>Dietary intakes | Food insecurity assessment surveys<br>Women's Empowerment in Agriculture<br>Rural Livelihood and Information Systems |
| Individual (Outcomes) | Dietary intake/diet quality; malnutrition prevalence and related health outcomes | | | | | |

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| Micro | **Local food systems** | **Early Warning Information Systems** | **?** **(Environtmental, social and economic sustainability of farming)** | **Local food prices** **Household incomes and consumption patterns** **Food insecurity experiences** | Household living conditions **Household water access** **Dietary intakes** | Food insecurity assessment surveys Women's Empowerment in Agriculture **Rural Livelihood and Information Systems** |
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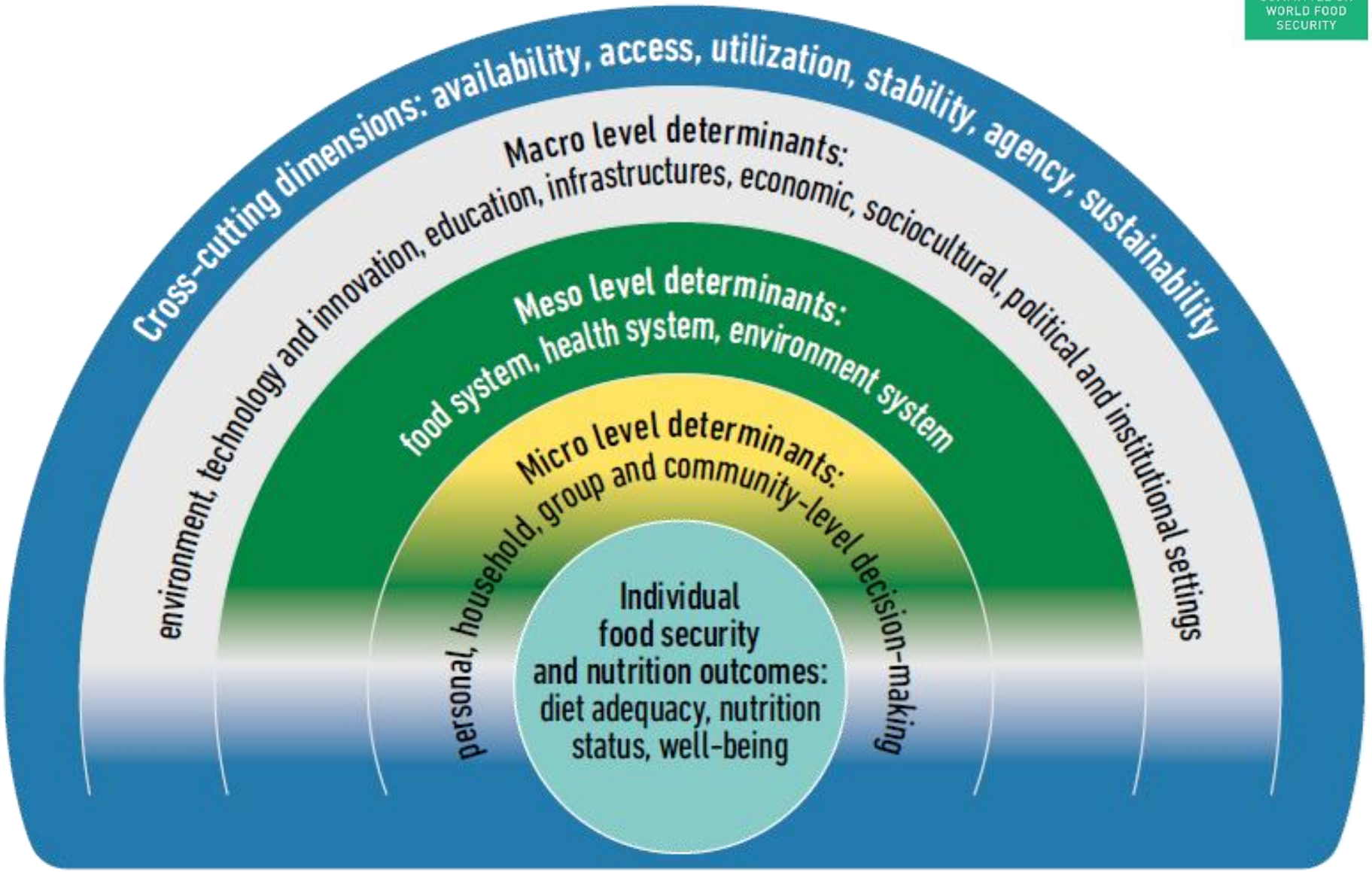
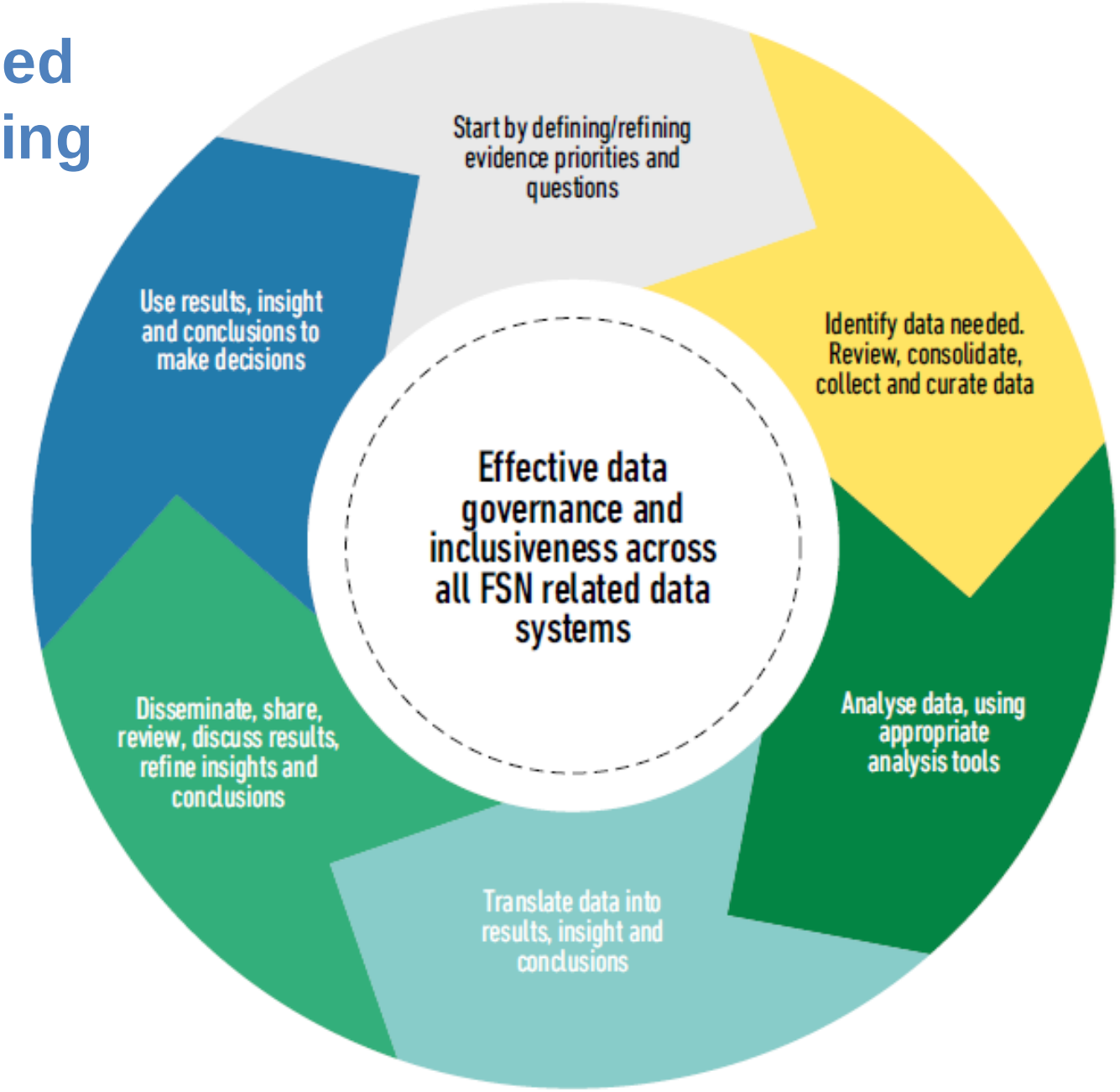
# A framework for a systemic view of FSN

CFS COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
HLPE High Level Panel of Experts



# A data-informed decision-making cycle



# The constraints and challenges

**Not enough resources are invested into generating open access, public good, data and information in agriculture, food security and nutrition**

- Treating data as a real global public good leads to **underinvestment**, typically associated with the ***free rider* problem**

**Data and information *analytic capacity* is still inadequate, and/or largely unexploited at all levels of the data-informed decision-making cycle**

- Existing and new data is of little benefit if not used to inform decisions, but for this to happen, **analysis tools should never be**, or even simply appear as "**black boxes**"

**Inadequate institutional arrangements for data governance**

- The challenge is **how to ensure effective coordination** among the many actors involved, both public and private, national and international, political and academic

# Key messages and recommendations

# Key message #1

**Despite the abundant and growing availability of data and information relevant to food security and nutrition, often decision makers are not aware of the existence, breadth, and relevance of such data, or do not use them appropriately, due to challenges at each step of the data cycle.**

## Calls for action

- **Create** (even) **greater demand for data** for decision-making among governments, policy makers and donors, by promoting a broader data and information analytic culture among decision makers at all levels.
- Optimize and, if needed, repurpose current data-related investments, while increasing collaboration between international organizations, governments, civil society, academia and the private sector, to **harmonize and maximize the sharing of existing FSN data**.

# Key message #2

**Fundamental data gaps still exist to correctly guide action and inform policymaking, especially in terms of timely and sufficiently granular data on people's ability to locally produce and access food, on their actual food and nutrient consumption, and on their nutritional status. Increased and sustained financial investment is needed to overcome these gaps.**

## Calls for action

- **Increase** and **sustain** investment in the collection of essential data for FSN, both for emergency response and for long-term structural policy planning.
- **Provide technical and financial assistance** to resource poor countries.
- **Promote** efforts to **modernize national statistics systems** in order to establish comprehensive, coordinated FSN data systems and to sustain the collection of the disaggregated and detailed data needed over time.

# Key message #3

**Several other constraints limit the effectiveness of data-informed policy action, especially in low-resource countries. Key among them is the low level of data literacy and analysis skills (for both qualitative and quantitative data) on the part of data and information users at all levels – from data collectors and analysts, to decision-makers, and to the people, as the ultimate beneficiaries of food security and nutrition policies.**

## Call for action

- **Invest in human capital** and in the **needed infrastructures** to ensure the sustainability of data collection, processing and analytic capacity especially in resource poor countries.

# Key message #4

**The complexity of the system of public and private actors and institutions involved in food security and nutrition data, coupled with the rapidly changing characteristics of today's data ecosystems due to the digital revolution and the pervasiveness of the internet, brings to centre stage the need for global coordination to improve data governance.**

**Particularly urgent is the need to reach agreement on the nature of FSN data and information as a public good, and, on that basis, to establish a global legal framework that allows for the broadest possible circulation of relevant information, while preserving the rights of the people to whom the data ultimately belongs.**

## Call for action

- **Improve data governance** at all levels, promoting inclusiveness to recognize and enhance agency among data users and data generators

# Thank you!