

# HLPE

## *High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition*

HLPE's work on SDG2  
and COVID-19

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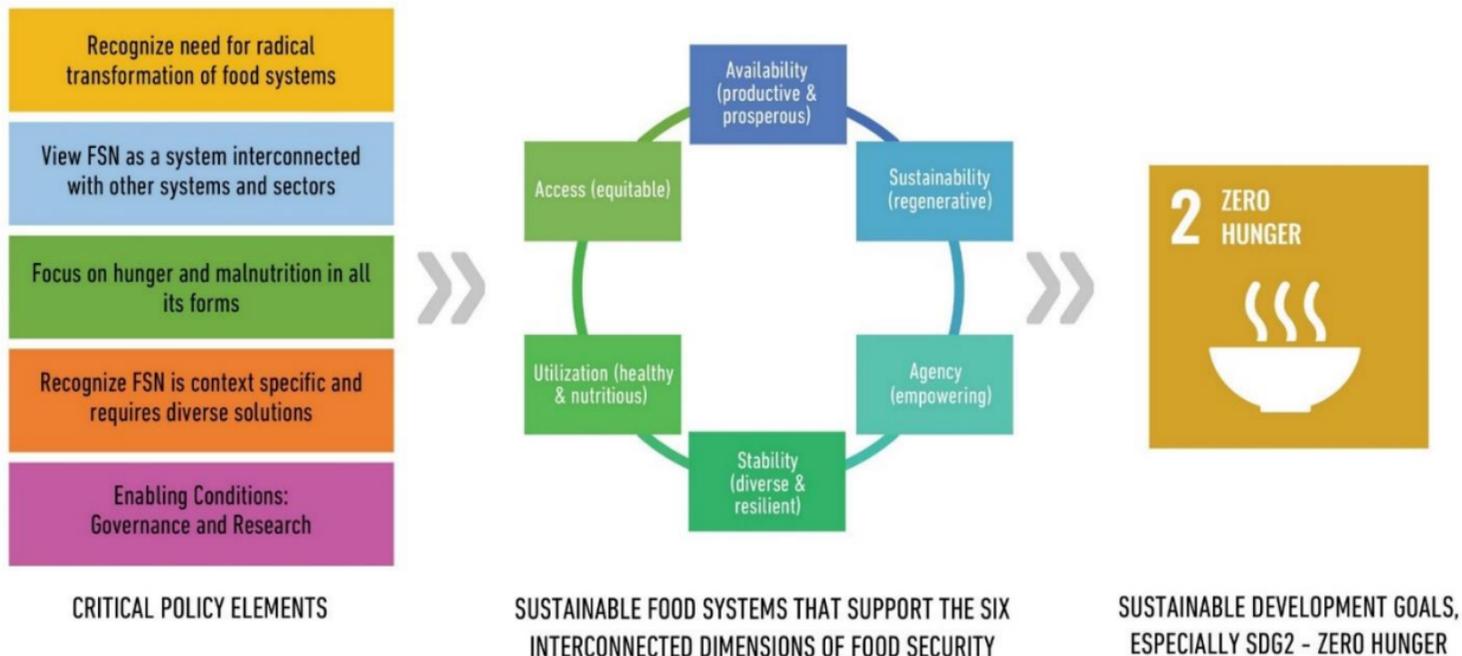


# The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition



- Serves as the Science-Policy Interface for the Committee on World Food Security
- Provides independent scientific assessments as requested by CFS
- Even handed approach to controversial issues
- Incorporates different kinds of knowledge (scientific, farmer, indigenous)
- Highly transparent assessment process involving wide stakeholder engagement

# Recent HLPE work on SDG2

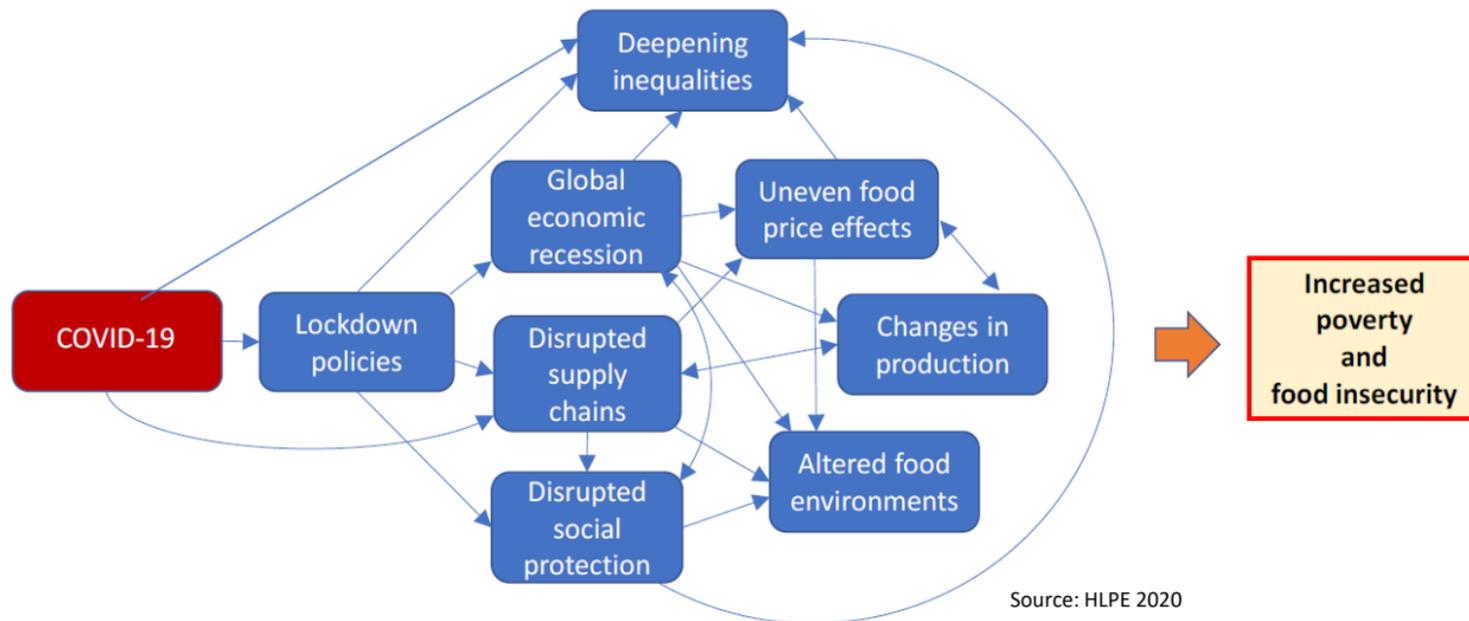


“Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030”  
HLPE Report #15 (2020)

# COVID-19 and Food Insecurity

- Fluid and dynamic situation
- Latest SOFI estimates *additional* 70-161 million people experienced chronic undernourishment in 2020 – reaching 720-811 million people
- 2.37 bn people (1 in 3) now facing food insecurity at a moderate or severe level in 2020 – a rise of 320 million in the past year
- These data point to an urgent need to build more resilient food systems in face of this crisis

# Dynamics of COVID-19 and food security



*These trends overlap in complex ways; not always easy to disentangle*

## The impact of COVID-19 food system dynamics on the 6 dimensions of food security and nutrition

- Loss of jobs & income
- Higher food prices
- Disruption of school meal programmes
- Curtailing of safety nets or diminished access to them
- Closure of proximity and informal markets
- Comorbidities affecting marginalized groups

- Increase in food losses & waste
- Increase in packaging and plastic waste
- Decreased attention to climate change and environmental issues
- Social and economic losses affecting food system viability

- Loss of jobs & affiliation to unions
- Weakened power of farmers' and producers' organization
- Loss of economic and social empowerment
- Inability to meet and organize
- Inequality in ICT access
- Temporary restrictions of rights to demonstrate and organize



- Supply chain disruptions
- Labour shortages
- Closure of high-risk processing plants
- Closure of restaurants and food stalls
- Shift to lower risk crops
- Illnesses among agricultural and food system workers, affecting production and distribution

- Supply chains disruptions
- Uncertainty on markets & inputs access
- Price volatility
- Export restrictions
- Border closures affecting international trade

- Shift to cheaper / less healthy diets
- Shift towards processed and shelf stable food
- Link between malnutrition and COVID-19

Source: HLPE 2020, updated 2021

The pandemic  
underlines  
the need for  
**more resilient  
food systems**

A strong focus on **reducing inequities and upholding rights** is needed, at all scales:

- Social protection for the most vulnerable people
- Protections for food system workers
- Protection for countries dependent on food imports

A greater focus on **diversity** within food systems:

- Food systems that promote ecological and nutritional diversity
- More diverse food supply chains to minimize risks and create more livelihood opportunities