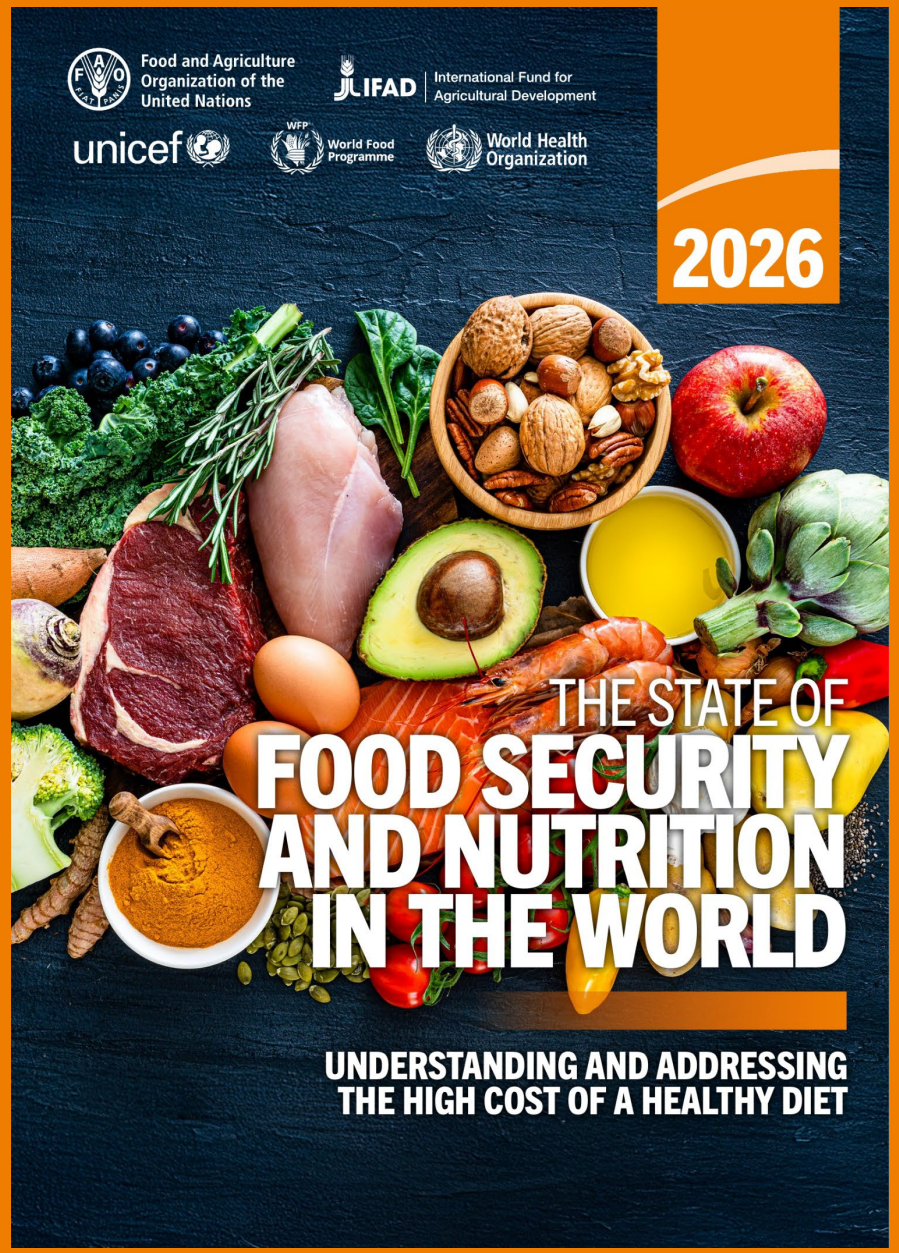


2026

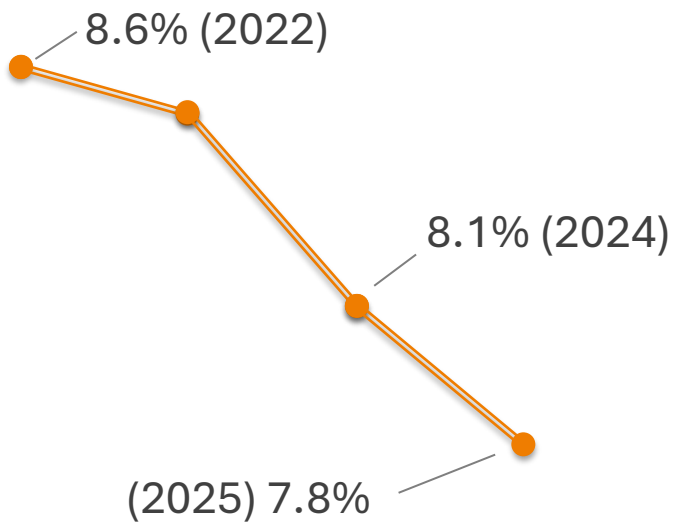
THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE HIGH COST OF A HEALTHY DIET

CFS- 2026

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen
Chief Economist
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

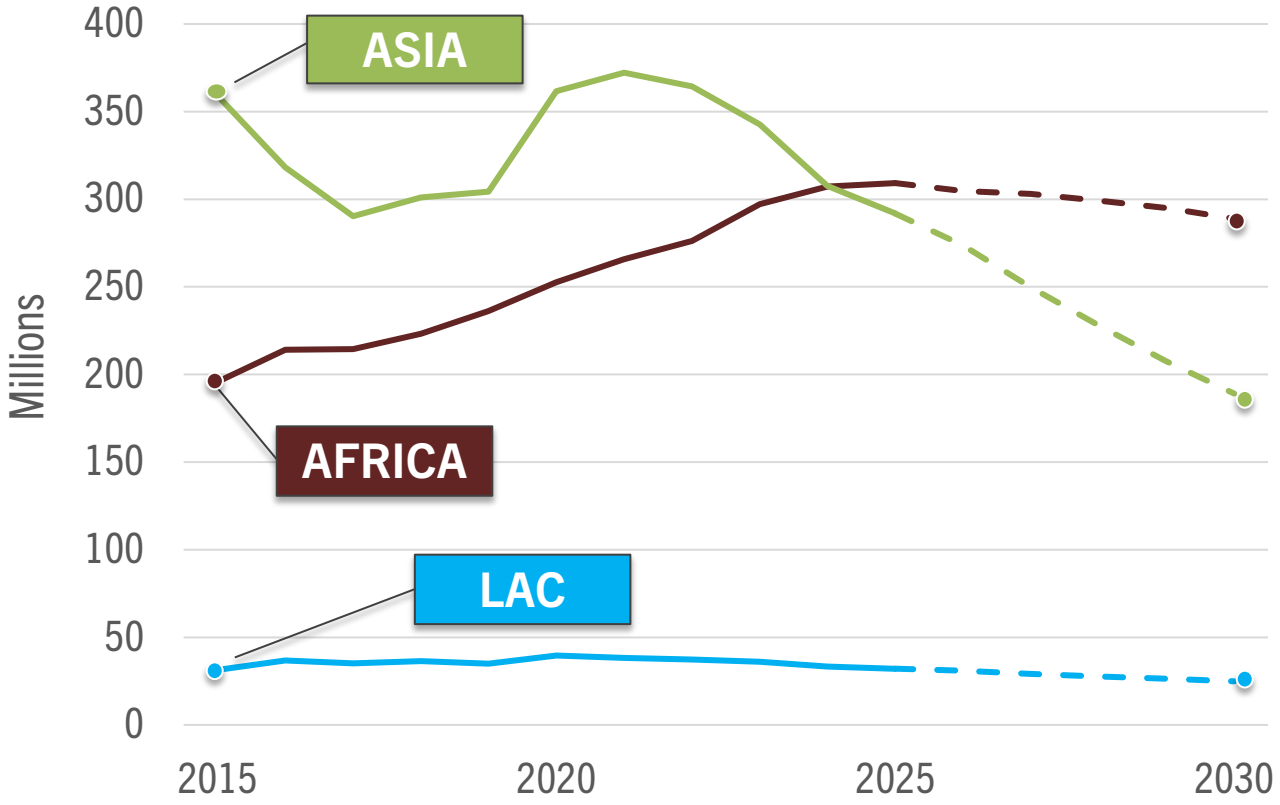
SDG 2.1.1: THE FRAGILE RETREAT OF GLOBAL HUNGER

1 Over 13 People	Steady Decline	A Number Still Too High
7.8% **2025** Global prevalence of undernourishment		**645** **millions people undernourished**

For the first time in years, the key metric of undernourishment is steadily declining, validating ongoing recovery efforts.

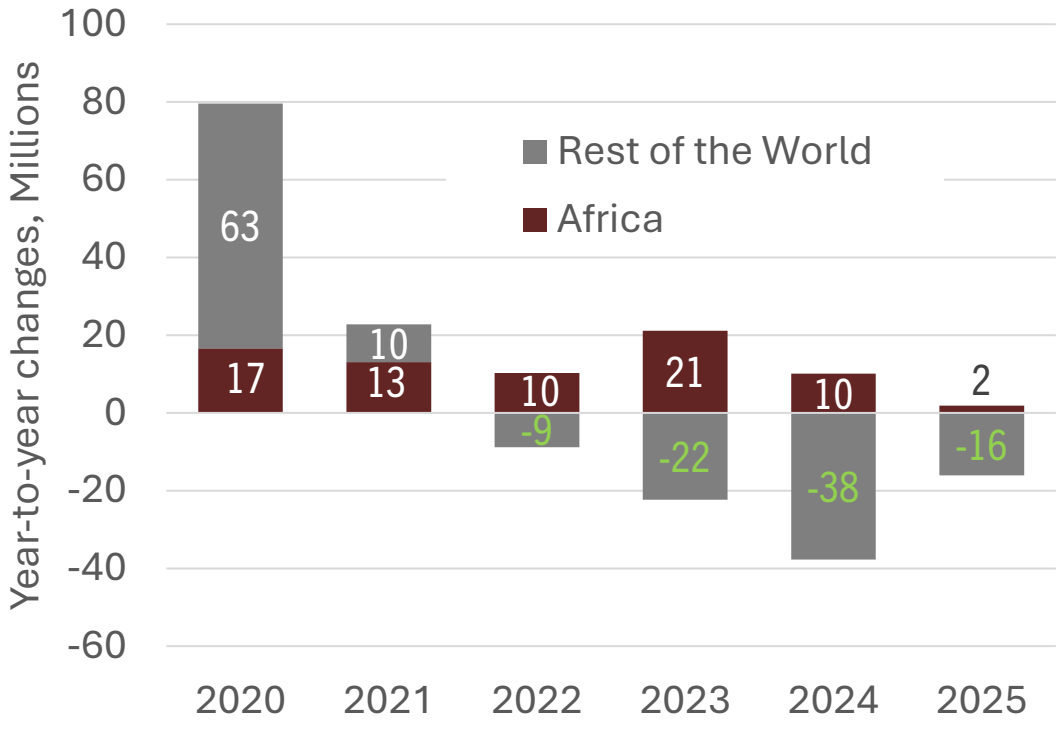
THE EPICENTER OF HUNGER HAS SHIFTED TO AFRICA IN 2025 , BUT THE UPWARD TREND IN HUNGER ON THE CONTINENT HAS COME TO A HALT.

TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE



Notes: 2015-2024 existing statistics, 2025 NoU nowcasts 2026-2030 MIRAGRODEP projections.

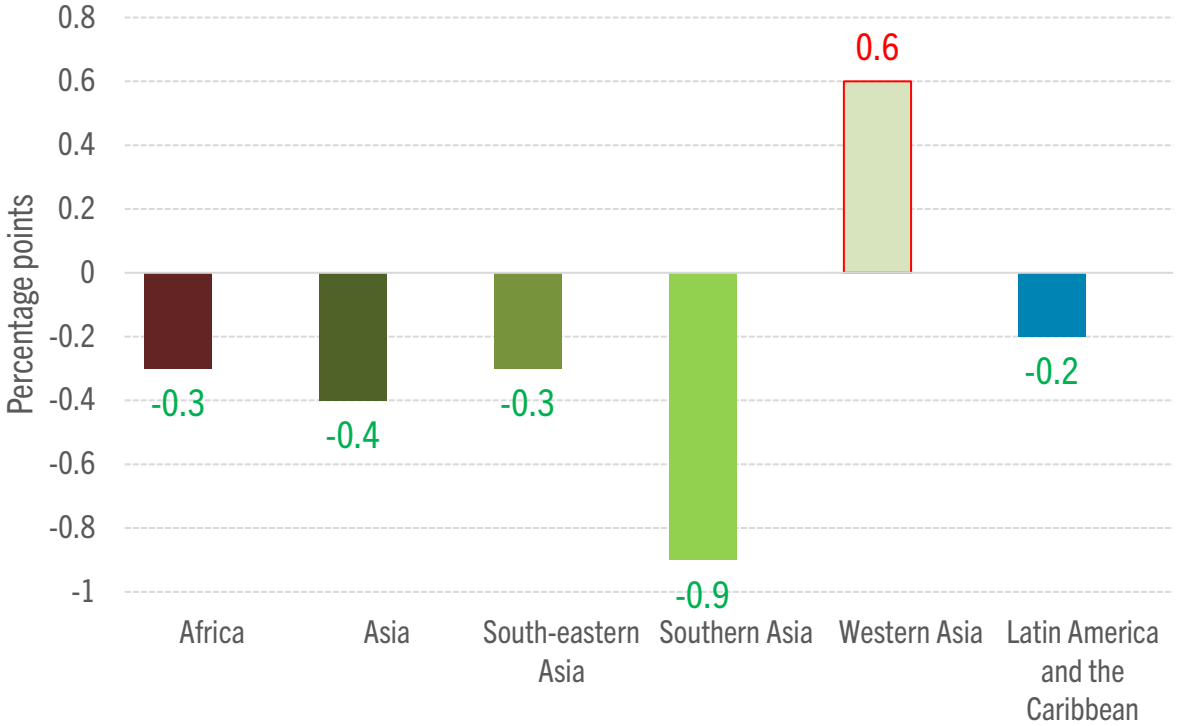
YEAR TO YEAR CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE

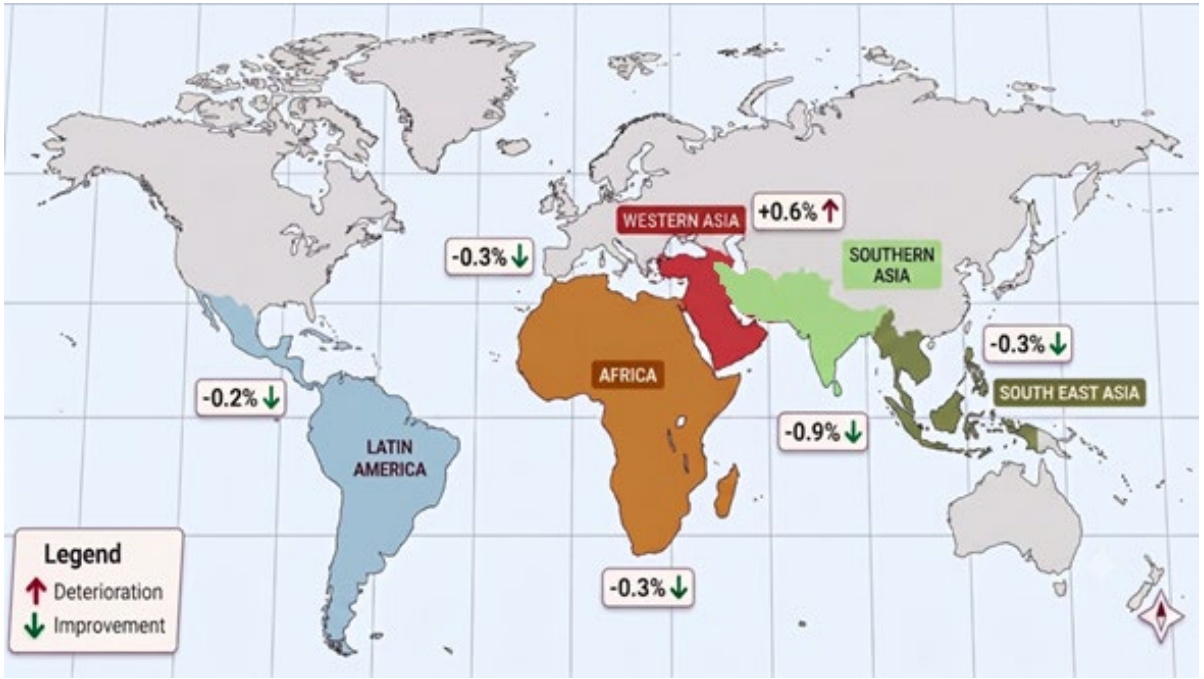


Notes: 2025 NoU based on nowcasts.

MOST SUBREGIONS OF ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN HAVE SHOWN STEADY PROGRESS, AND THE UPWARD TREND IN HUNGER IN AFRICA HAS COME TO A HALT.

PERCENTAGE-POINT CHANGE IN THE PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT FROM 2024 TO 2025*

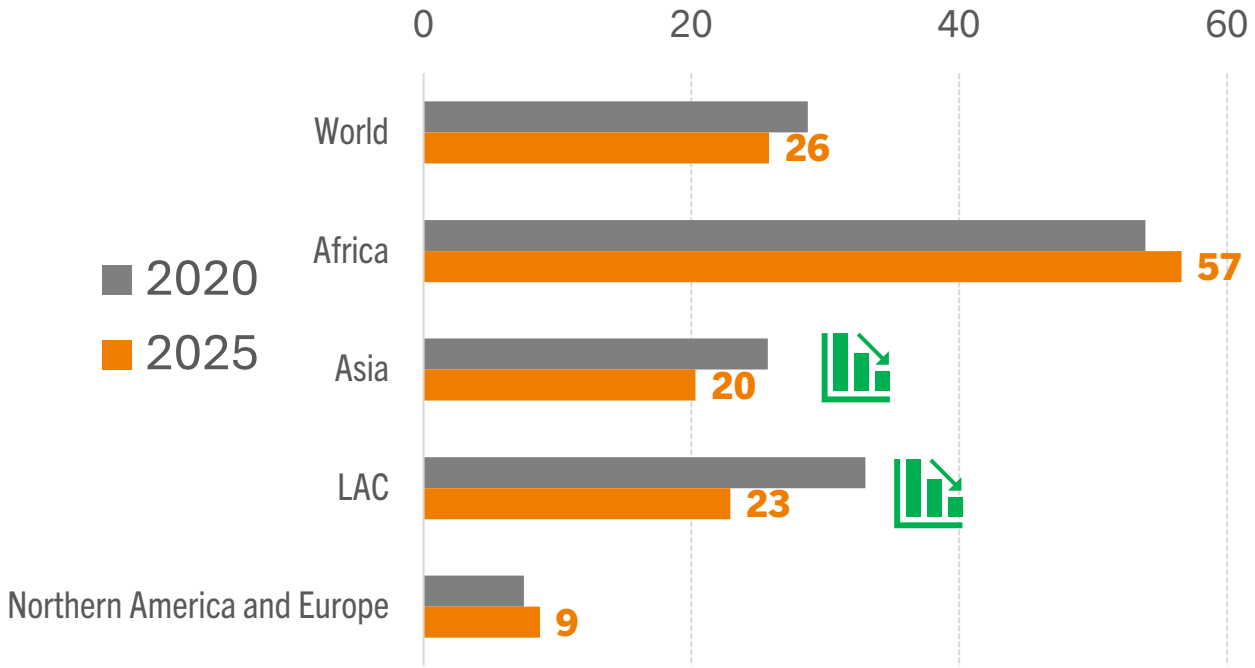




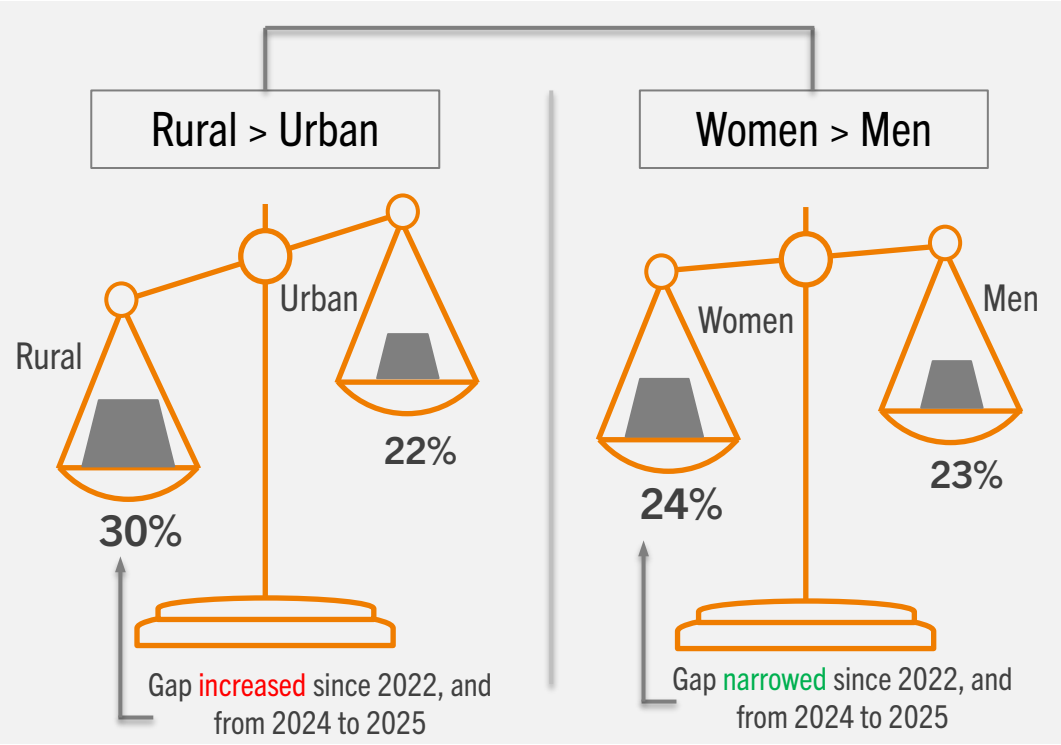
Notes: *2025 PoU nowcasts.

SDG 2.1.2: GLOBAL FOOD INSECURITY HAS DECLINED GRADUALLY SINCE 2020, BUT INEQUALITIES REMAIN WITHIN COUNTRIES.

THE PREVALENCE OF MODERATE OR SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WORLD AND REGIONS

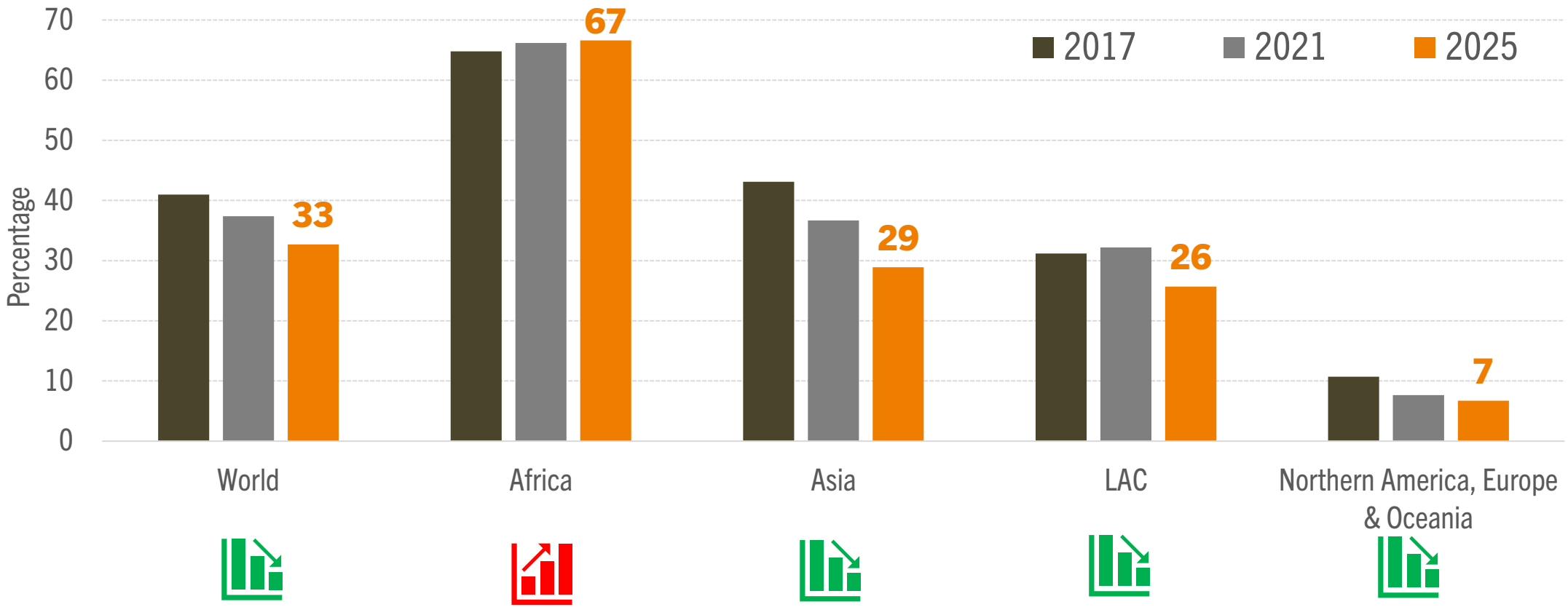


UNEVEN BURDEN



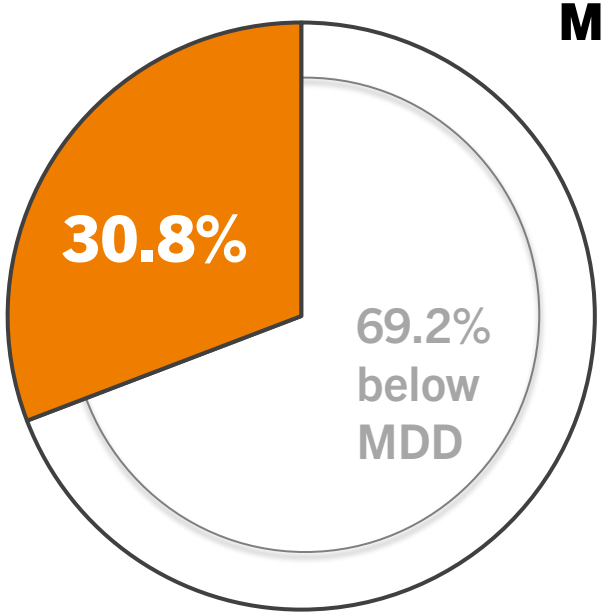
COMPARED TO 2021, THE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION UNABLE TO AFFORD A HEALTHY DIET DECREASED IN ALL REGIONS EXCEPT AFRICA.

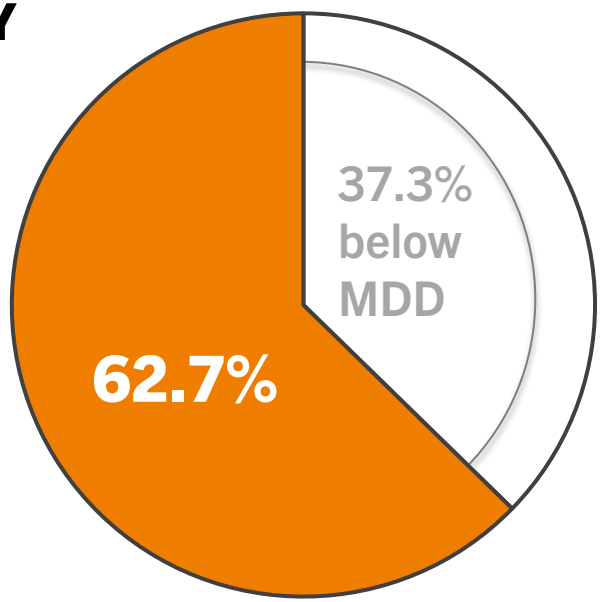
TRENDS IN THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE UNABLE TO AFFORD A HEALTHY DIET



DIET QUALITY REMAINS CRITICALLY INADEQUATE DURING KEY STAGES OF LIFE.

MINIMUM DIETARY DIVERSITY





Children (6-23 months)
Less than 1/3 achieve Minimum Dietary Diversity.

Women (14-49 years)
Nearly 40% fail to achieve Minimum Dietary Diversity.

THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE ANY OF THE GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS BY 2030.

Target	2012 Baseline	Current 2024*	2030 Goal	Status
Stunting	26.4%	**23.2%**	16.8%	Off Track, except for Asia (progresses have stopped) 
Wasting	7.4%	**6.6%**	<5%	Off Track, except for Africa and LAC 
Overweight	5.3%	**5.5%**	<5%	Off Track, except for Asia and Africa 
Exclusive Breastfeeding	37.0%	**47.4%**	At least 60%	Off Track
Low Birthweight	15.0%	**14.7%**	10.5%	Off Track
Anaemia (Women)	27.6%	**30.7%**	13.8%	Off Track, **Worsening**
Adult Obesity	12.1%	**16.2%**	Halt the rise	Off Track, **Worsening**

Note: * for Low Birthweight the latest global estimates re for 2020, for Anaemia (women) the latest global estimates are for 2023.



WHY?

- Diets related health issues represent annually **8.1 trillion USD PPP** of the hidden costs of agrifood systems (SOFA 2024);
- **12.3 percent of all deaths** in 2023 related to poor diets;
- The cost of healthy diets is a **necessary but not sufficient condition** to promote the consumption of healthy diets;
- Cost reduction & **agrifood system transformation**;
- **Inflationary** context.

Part II: Understanding and addressing the high cost of a healthy diet

HEALTHY DIETS REMAIN TOO EXPENSIVE:

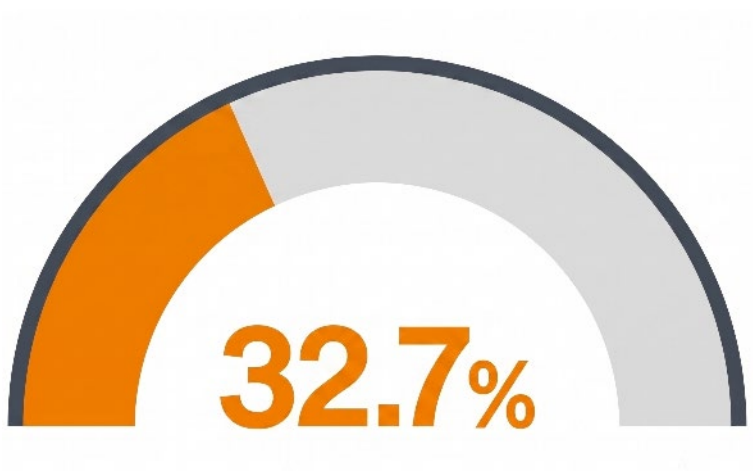
A High Price Tag:

4.28 PPP DOLLARS

2025 global average Cost of a Healthy Diet exceeds poverty lines.

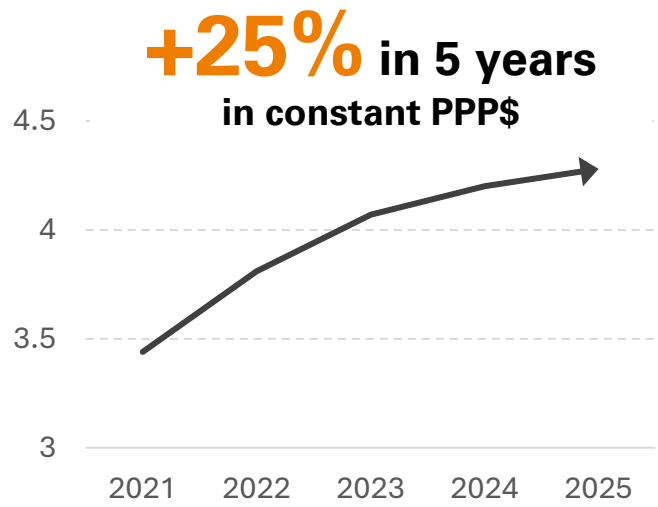
Note: LMIC PL stand for Lower-middle-income country poverty line (World Bank)

The Global Impact:



Of the global population is entirely priced out of a healthy diet.

The Upward Trend:



Inflation-adjusted cost increase reflecting widespread supply and demand shocks.

SCOPE of SOFI 2026

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS of HEALTHY DIETS

NOT ADOPTION & BEHAVIOUR

COST of a HEALTHY DIET (CoHD)

NOT AFFORDABILITY & INCOME

SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE COSTS

NOT BENEFITS OF HEALTHY DIETS

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

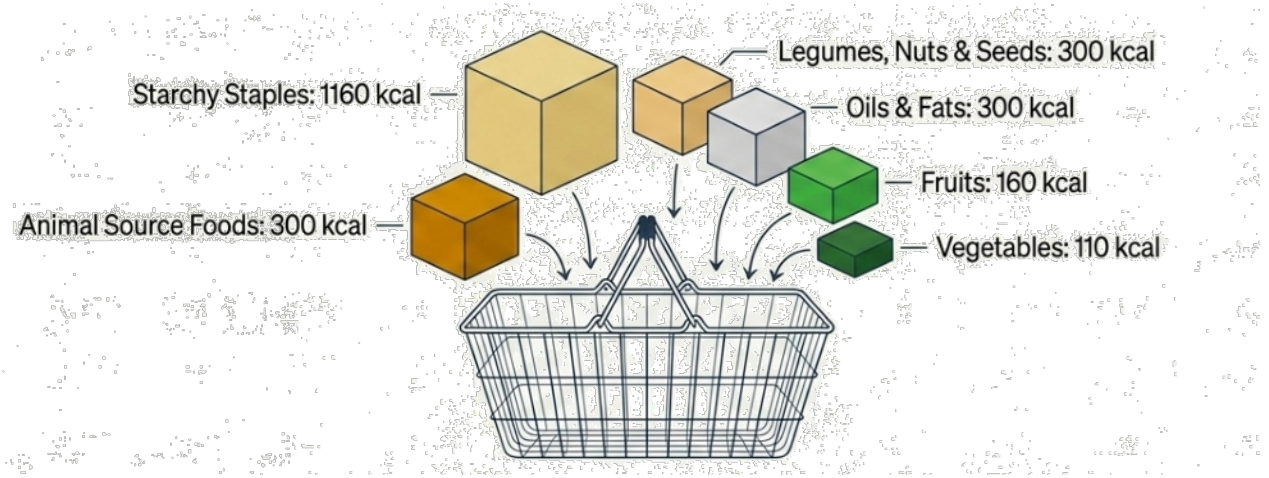
UNDERSTANDING NUMBERS

DETERMINING DRIVERS

IDENTIFYING INTERVENTIONS

DESIGNING REFORMS

DEFINING AND COSTING HEALTHY DIETS: FROM CONCEPTS TO MEASUREMENTS.



OUT OF SCOPE
Behavioral & Hidden Variables

Actual Consumption: Does not track what populations prefer, choose, or actually buy.

Household Overhead: Excludes the time, and fuel costs of meal preparation.

Non-Market Sourcing: Excludes subsistence farming or own-production.

True Cost Accounting: Excludes environmental externalities or social harms.

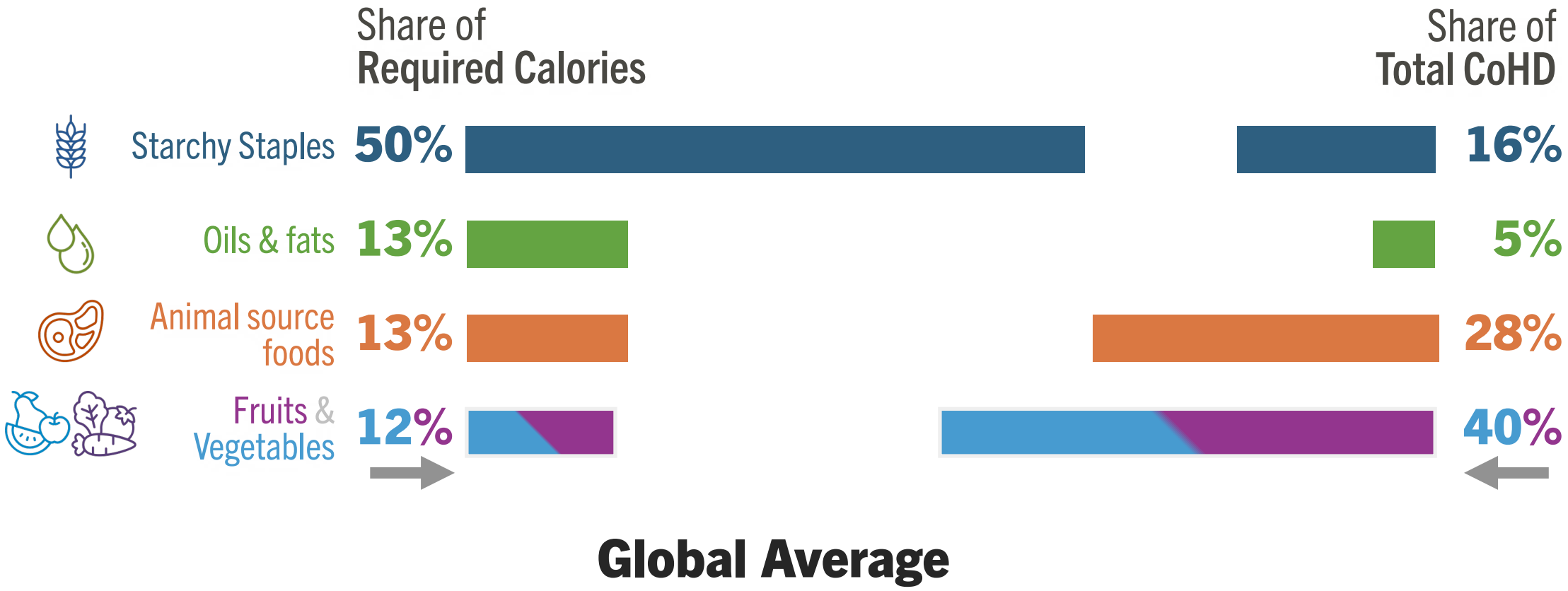
IN SCOPE
The Market Floor

The absolute minimum market budget required to purchase a 2,330 kcal diet aligned with dietary guidelines.

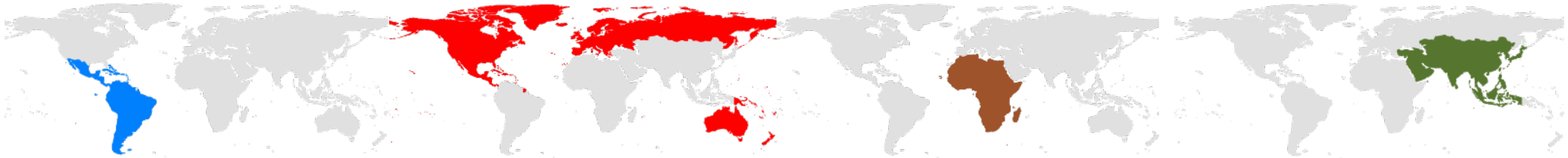
Flexibility for **least-cost, locally available items** across **six** strict food groups.

Retail price tracking via the **International Comparison Program** (ICP).

THE CALORIES VS COST PARADOX:



THE COST OF A HEALTHY DIET VARIES AROUND THE WORLD, AND ACROSS COUNTRIES.



	Latin America & the Caribbean	Europe, Northern America & Oceania	Africa	Asia
WORLD 4.28 PPP $	4.91 PPP $	3.64 PPP $	4.33 PPP $	4.35 PPP $
High regional share compared to the world	25% vs 21%	48% vs 40%	35% vs 28%	22% vs 19%

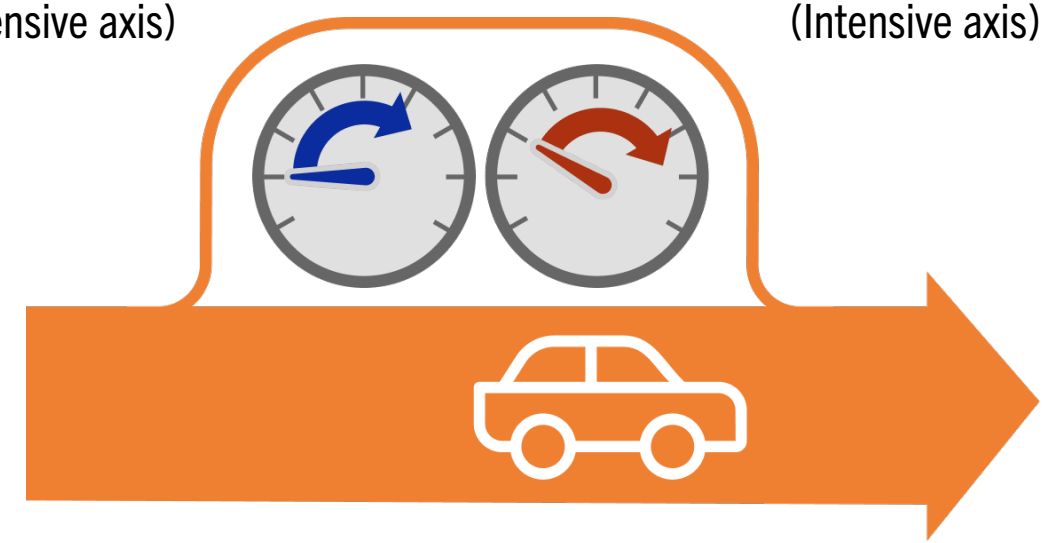
Animal source foods
Oils and fats
Fruits
Legumes
Vegetables
Starchy Staples

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO DRIVE THE PRICE REDUCTION?

COMBINING TWO AXIS

Expanding Supply (Extensive axis)

Reducing unit costs (Intensive axis)



BUT WE CANNOT RUN OPTIMIZED SOFTWARE ON BROKEN HARDWARE.

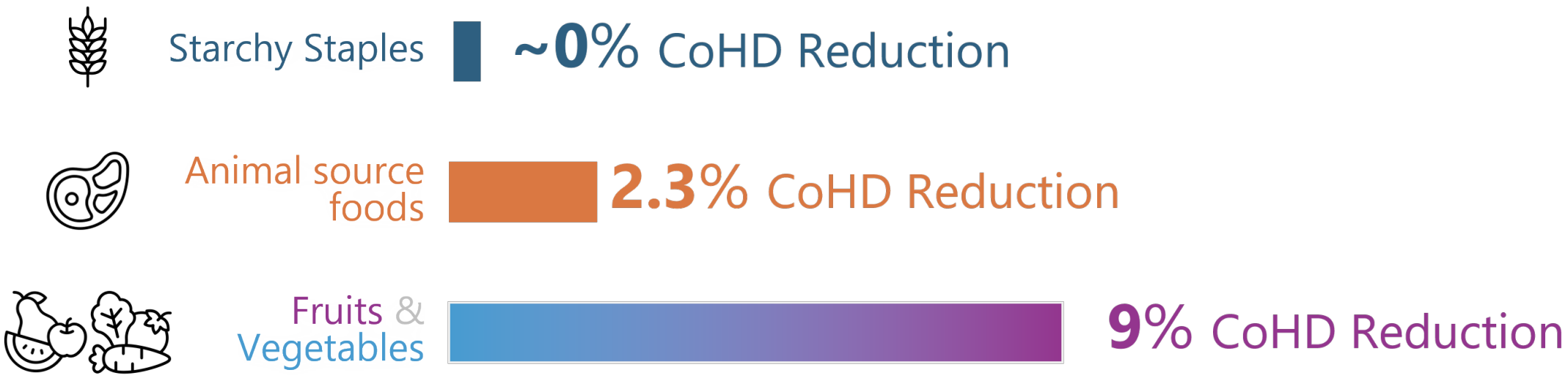
Hardware (Capital Expenditures)

- Cold storage
- Rural road
- Improved seeds

Software (Policy Reforms)

- Subsidy repurposing
- Trade facilitation
- Competition policy

THE RIGHT SECTORAL TARGETING OF INTERVENTIONS MATTERS TO OPTIMIZE IMPACTS.



Source: MIRAGRODEP simulations.

Impact of a 10% increase in efficiency at the global level ('hardware' interventions)

THE EFFICIENCY OF EACH TYPE OF 'HARDWARE' INTERVENTIONS VARIES BY REGION.

Latin America & the Caribbean



Europe, Northern America & Oceania

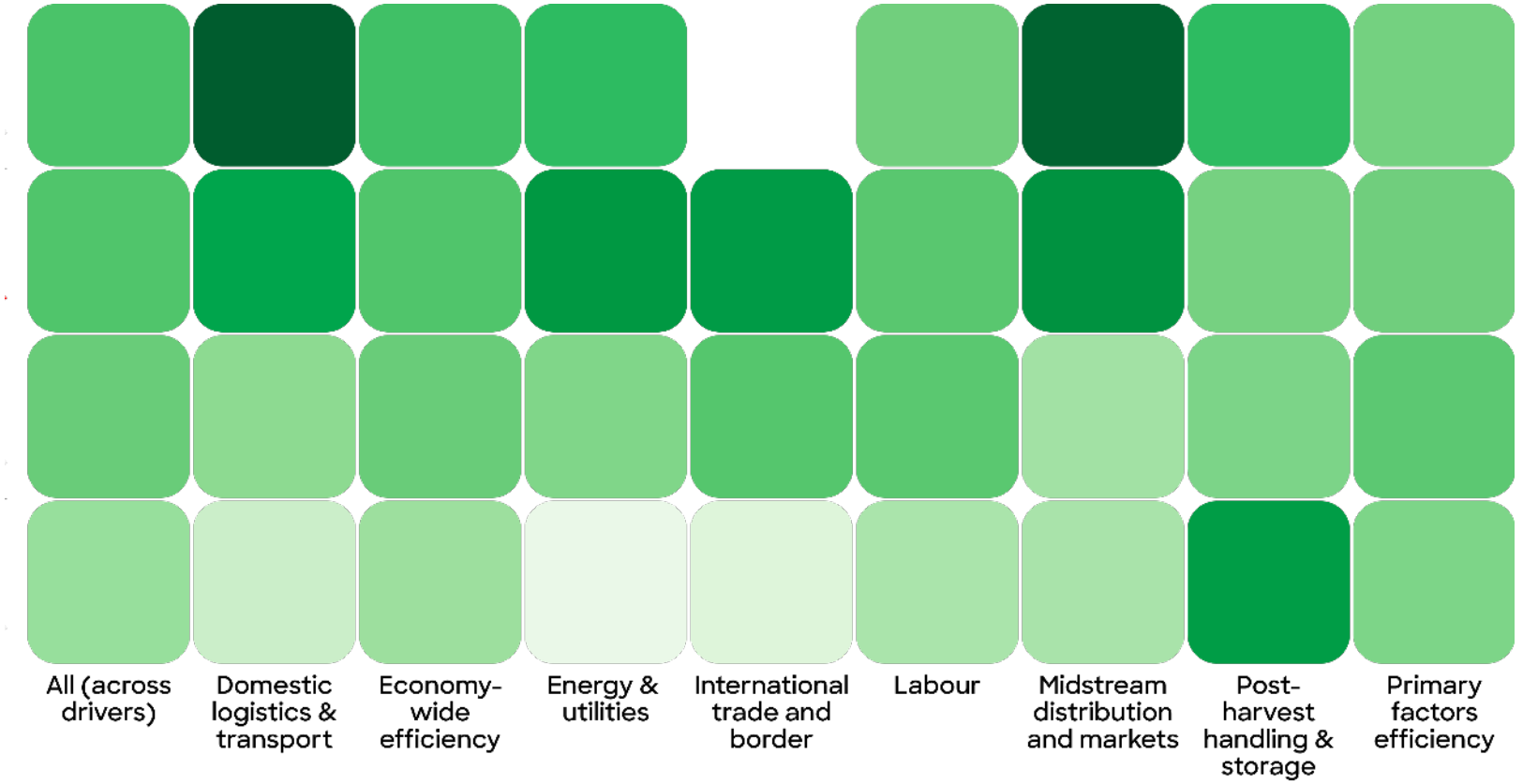


Asia



Africa





Relative impacts compared to the world:



Source: MIRAGRODEP simulations.

THREE PILLARS FOR ACTIONS

PILLAR 1

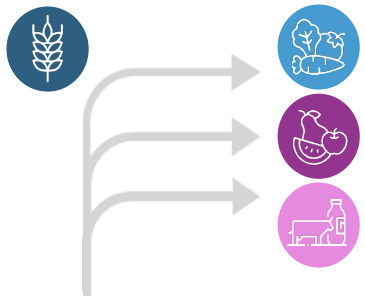
Target the Midstream



- Relentlessly **target** the 70-75% post-farmgate cost accumulation.
- **Prioritize** hardware investments in cold chains, rural road improvement, and packhouses to **eliminate physical food loss in quantity and quality.**

PILLAR 2

Update the Software



- **Halt** the **over-subsidization** of starchy staples.
- **Redirect** finite public R&D and fiscal transfers toward high-cost, highly perishable nutrient-dense foods (Fruits, Veg, Dairy).
- Address the **redistribution and political economy** issues of the reform.

PILLAR 3

Sequence for Stability



- Ensure **supply-side interventions and infrastructure to be ready to scale up production** before triggering demand-side market shocks.
- Control for **hidden costs**.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2030

A FRAGILE RECOVERY UNDER PRESSURE OF COMPOUND SHOCKS:

Geopolitical Fracture

- War in Ukraine
- 2026 Middle East conflict
- Energy market volatility
- Supply chain disruption (inc. fertilizers)

Fiscal Contraction

- Economic Strain
- Debt crisis
- Reduced ODA
- Humanitarian Funding Cuts

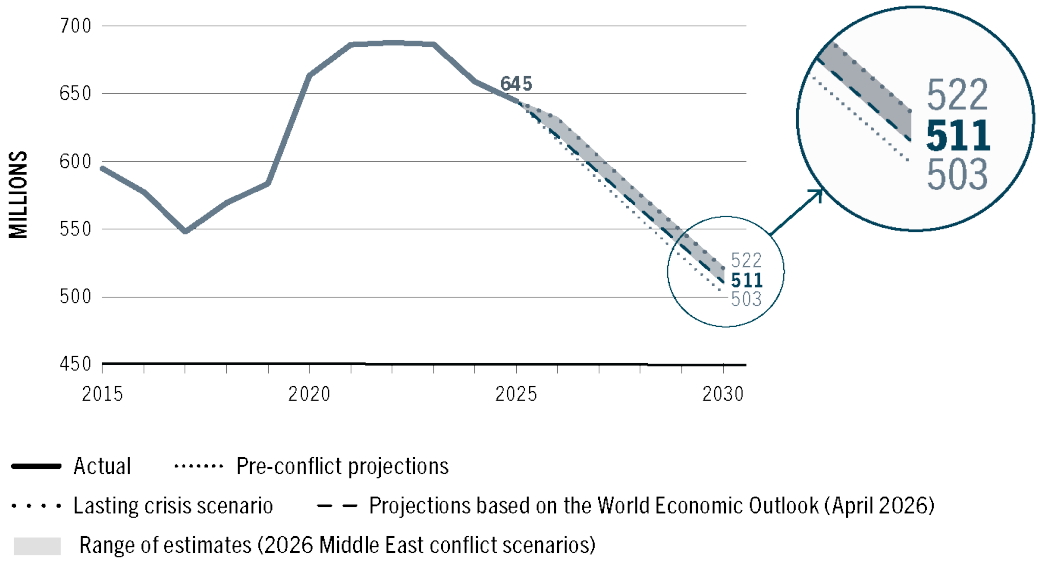


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Weather Extremes

- Weather Anomalies
- El Niño 2026
- Increased temperature
- Water scarcity
- Fires

PROJECTIONS OF THE GLOBAL NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE by 2030



Source: MIRAGRODEP simulations

WE ARE WINNING THE BATTLE FOR CALORIES BUT LOSING THE WAR FOR NUTRITION.





https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8306en

Global hunger has declined for three years in a row but too slowly to achieve Zero Hunger.

From 8.6% in 2022 to 7.8% in 2025 (645 million people).

More than 2.1 billion people in the world lacked regular access to adequate food in 2025.

Inequalities persist. Rural areas & women are hit harder by food insecurity.

Despite improvements, healthy diets are out of reach for one third of people in the world.

2.7 billion people were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2025 (down from 3.0 billion in 2021).

Dietary diversity remains inadequate globally for both children and women.

Only one third of children and two thirds of women achieve minimum dietary diversity.

Nutrition targets are off track at the global level.

Since 2012, child stunting & breastfeeding improved, but adult obesity is on the rise.

The cost of a healthy diet has reached PPP $4.28 but varies around the world.

That cost is often driven by high prices of fruits and vegetables.

Interventions will need to increase efficiency of the system along the value chains.

Priorities will differ across regions, but investments in horticulture is a shared requirement.

شكراً

谢谢

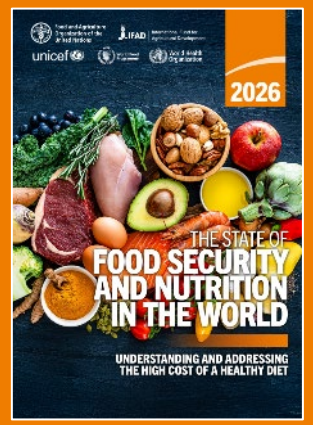
Thank you

Merci

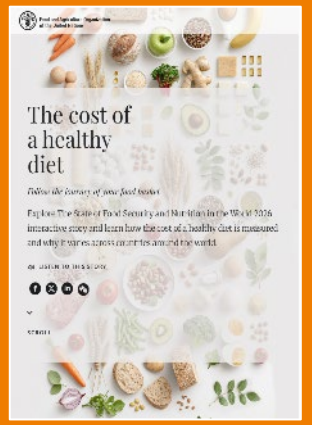
Спасибо

Gracias

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