

Emerging Global Food Security Challenges

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Food and Nutrition Security under Rapid Urbanization



Rural-Urban Linkages



Urban Hunger



Nutrition Transition



Value Chains



Informal Markets



Regional Developments



Food Policy Indicators

Looking back

A glimmer of hope



- Global extreme poverty and hunger rates declined
- Food prices remained low
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement & ICN2 follow-up began implementation
- Urbanization elevated in global agenda

Looking forward

Great uncertainties



Rural-urban linkages

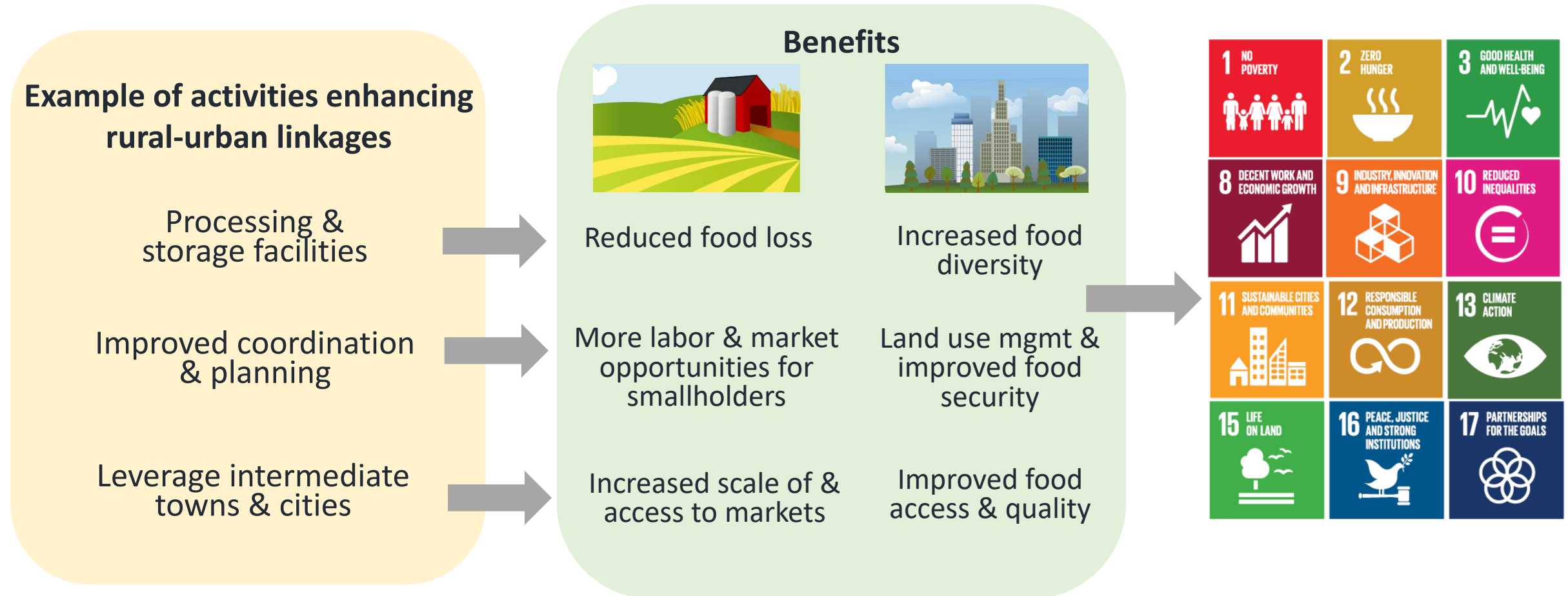
Rural-urban linkages are crucial for ending hunger and malnutrition



- Urban growth creates opportunities for rural producers
- Rural-urban linkages help propel economic development, food security, and nutrition
- Broken value chains and poor coordination weaken linkages, hold back progress

Rural-urban linkages

Strong links for achieving improved food systems and multiple SDGs



Lessons learned



- **Improved infrastructure in the Red River Delta in Vietnam**
 - Better road and transport systems, communications infrastructure, and connections to input suppliers spurred agric. intensification and crop diversification
- **Role of small- and medium-sized towns and cities in Ethiopia**
 - Improvements to access roads, ICT access, and market infrastructure helped small towns become centers for agric. input and produce sales
- **Global value chain development and urban growth in Ghana**
 - Expansion of cocoa production, processing, and trade raised farm incomes and stimulated urban economic activity through increased trade and business services

Policy and research needs



- How can policy coordination between rural and urban be improved?
- How can value chains be made to be more inclusive and efficient?
- How can small- and medium-sized towns best be leveraged to facilitate social and economic links?
- How can rural investments be better targeted?
- What policies and programs on social protection can improve resilience in rural and urban areas?

Urban hunger

Growing cities, new challenges



- **Burdens of malnutrition are shifting to urban areas**
 - One in three stunted children lives in an urban area
 - Rapid increases in overweight and obesity concentrated in urban areas
- **The urban poor face unique challenges**
 - Dependence on cash and the informal sector
 - Vulnerability to income & price shocks
 - Limited access to basic services

Policy and research needs

- What is the extent of poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition in urban areas?
- What is the quality of urban diets, what are the nutrient gaps, and what are the dietary patterns that increase health risks?
- How can we best tailor programs and policies to support the urban poor in tackling the distinct challenges of urban life?

Nutrition transition

Urbanization and the nutrition transition



- **A “nutrition transition” is underway**
 - From consumption of coarse grains, staple cereals, and pulses to consumption of more animal-source foods, sugar, fats and oils, refined grains, and processed foods
- **Overweight and obesity & other diet-related diseases are rising**
- **Urban food environments pose challenges and opportunities**
 - Easier access to unhealthy diets AND nutritious foods (for those who can afford them)

NOURISHING policy framework

POLICY AREA		
FOOD ENVIRONMENT	FOOD SYSTEMS	BEHAVIOR CHANGE
N	Nutrition label standards and regulations on the use of claims and implied claims on food	
O	Offer healthy foods and set standards in public institutions and other specific settings	
U	Use economic tools to address food affordability and purchase incentives	
R	Restrict food advertising and other forms of commercial promotion	
I	Improve nutritional quality of the whole food supply	
S	Set incentives and rules to create a healthy retail and food service environment	
H	Harness food supply chain and actions across sectors and ensure coherence with health	
I	Inform people about food and nutrition through public awareness	
N	Nutrition advice and counseling in health care settings	
G	Give nutrition education and skills	

- Ten potential actions three policy areas
 - Food environments
 - Food systems
 - Behavior change
- Recent actions include
 - “Warning” labels on foods with high fat, sugar, and salt in Chile and Ecuador
 - Restrictions on food marketing to children in Mexico, Korea, and Taiwan, China

Policy and research needs

- What are people eating and how is the urban food environment shaping their choices?
- How can food retailers and services make a greater contribution toward creating an enabling environment for good nutrition?
- What experiences with national and municipal-level policies to address the nutrition transition can help inform policy makers regarding, for example,
 - Food-labeling requirements to provide consumers with more information
 - Taxes on less healthy foods
 - School meal programs
 - Affordable “popular” restaurants

Agricultural value chains

How cities reshape food systems



- **Drivers of change:** Increased commercial flows of agricultural goods, diet transformation, greater role of commercial markets
- **“Quiet revolution” in staple-food value chains**
 - Increased investment in technology & modern inputs
 - Greater vertical integration with growing scale of midstream & retail sections
 - Rise of mobile phone use by farmers for market information

Policy and research needs

- What is the impact of growth in post-farmgate segments and urban markets on employment, prices, and food security for both rural and urban populations?
- How can governments best kick-start changes in agricultural value chains, including through investment in
 - Road and communications infrastructure
 - Reliable electricity grids
 - Agricultural research and development

Governance of informal markets

Informal food markets are key in African cities

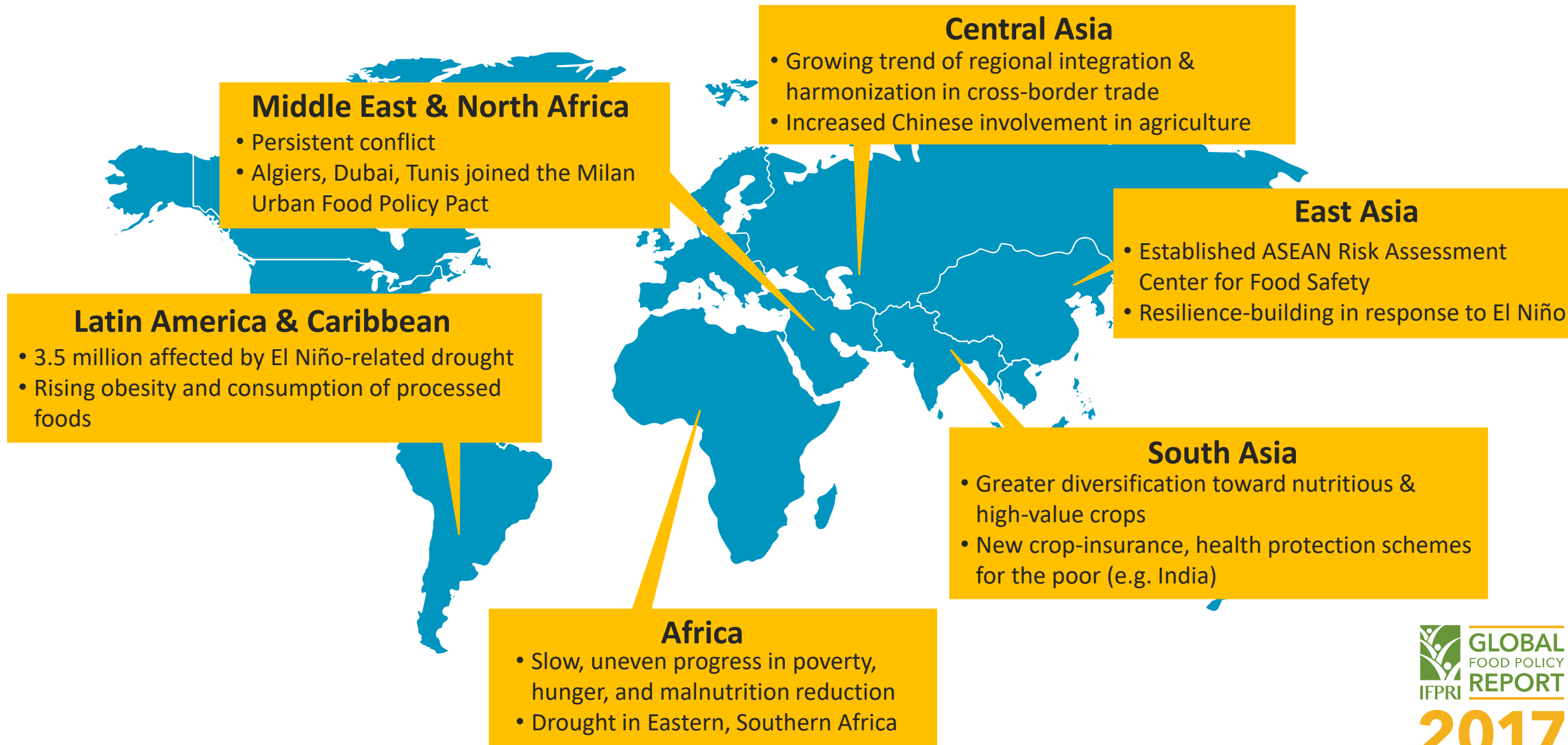


- **In Africa, where urbanization is most rapid, urban poor rely heavily on informal markets for accessible, affordable food**
 - Most eggs, meat, fish, and milk sold to urban poor are from informal markets
- **Policies face institutional, administrative, political challenges**
 - Lack of local mandate for food security
 - Lack of policy integration across sectors & ministries
 - Political contest over cities can lead to violence

Policy and research needs

- What tools can institutionalize regular engagement between local governments and informal workers?
- How can the informal economy be actively incorporated into discussions of urban food security?
- How can cooperation between sectors and ministries be promoted to improve governance of the informal sector?
- What approaches, such as training informal sector workers, can improve food safety and support the benefits provided by the sector?

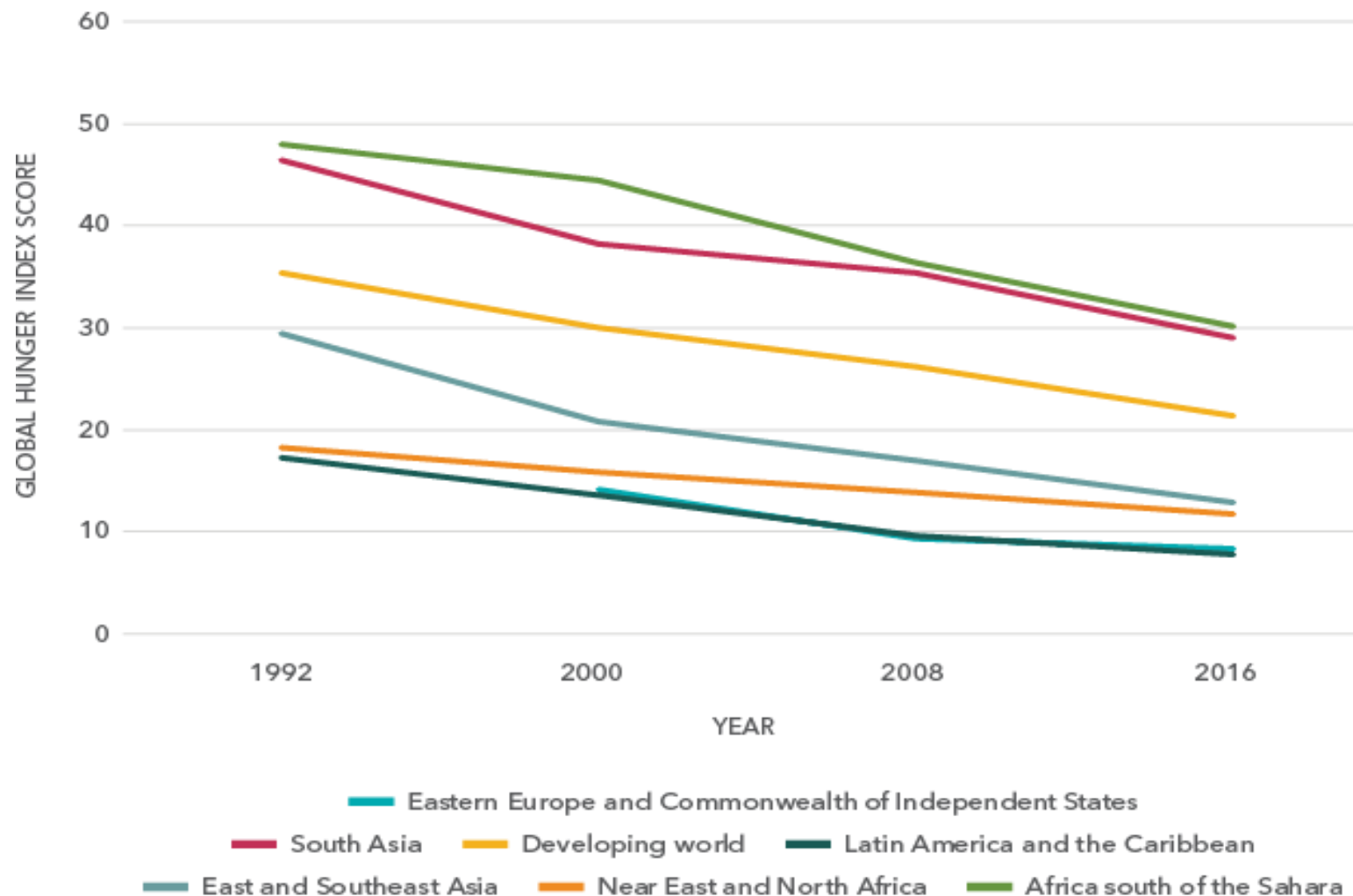
Regional and national developments



Global Hunger Index



REGIONAL GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES



**Hunger is declining
but still serious in
South Asia and Africa
south of the Sahara**

Strengthening Capacity for agricultural research, policy, and development



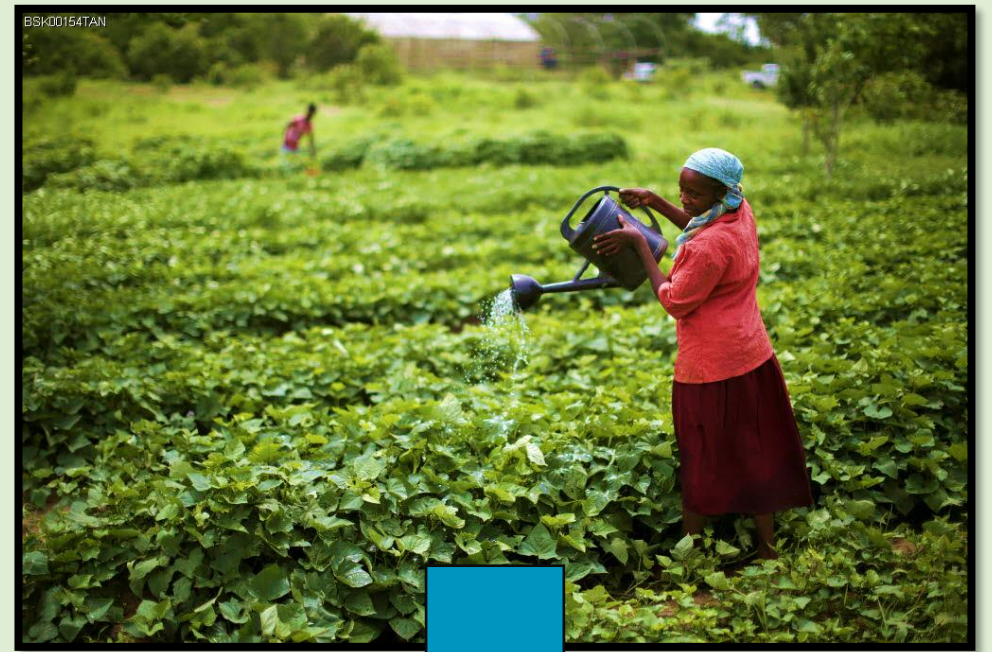
Malawi Media training, 2nd April 2016

Agriculture remains key for development

How can we adjust to the emerging challenges like – COVID-19 – One world and One Health

Urbanization presents opportunities for ending hunger and malnutrition

Capacity for development is fundamental for progress



Food Policy
research and
outreach -
1982 to 2020

