

Ending Hunger and Attaining Global Food

Security: The Need for Collective Action to Support Small Holder Farmers



Arif Husain Chief Economist and Deputy Director, Policy, Programme and Innovation Division - United Nations World Food Programme, Rome Italy.

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World Food Programme (WFP)

- Largest Humanitarian Agency of the United Nations System.
- Provide timely and appropriate humanitarian assistance to save lives and protect livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable households against shocks and food emergencies
- On average serve 80-90 million people annually in about 80 countries—cash, vouchers and in-kind food assistance.
- A voluntarily funded organization—staff 14,000 people worldwide—average annual budget USD 4-5 billion.
- Currently addressing an unprecedented 5 level 3 emergencies: Central African Republic, Iraq, Syria, S. Sudan, Ebola in W. Africa.

WFP: Logistics, Procurement and Analytical Capacity

- Largest logistics network in the humanitarian world—each day 5,000 trucks, 50 aircraft and 30 ships deliver food where needed.
- 2013 Food purchases from 91 countries (72 developing and 19 developed countries) valued at US\$1.16 billion (2.1 million MT).
- A total of 1.8 million tonnes valued at 918,399 million was purchased in developing countries, representing 86 percent of the total quantity purchased and 79 percent of the total value.
- **A global network of 150 food security and nutrition analysts.**

Definition of Food Security

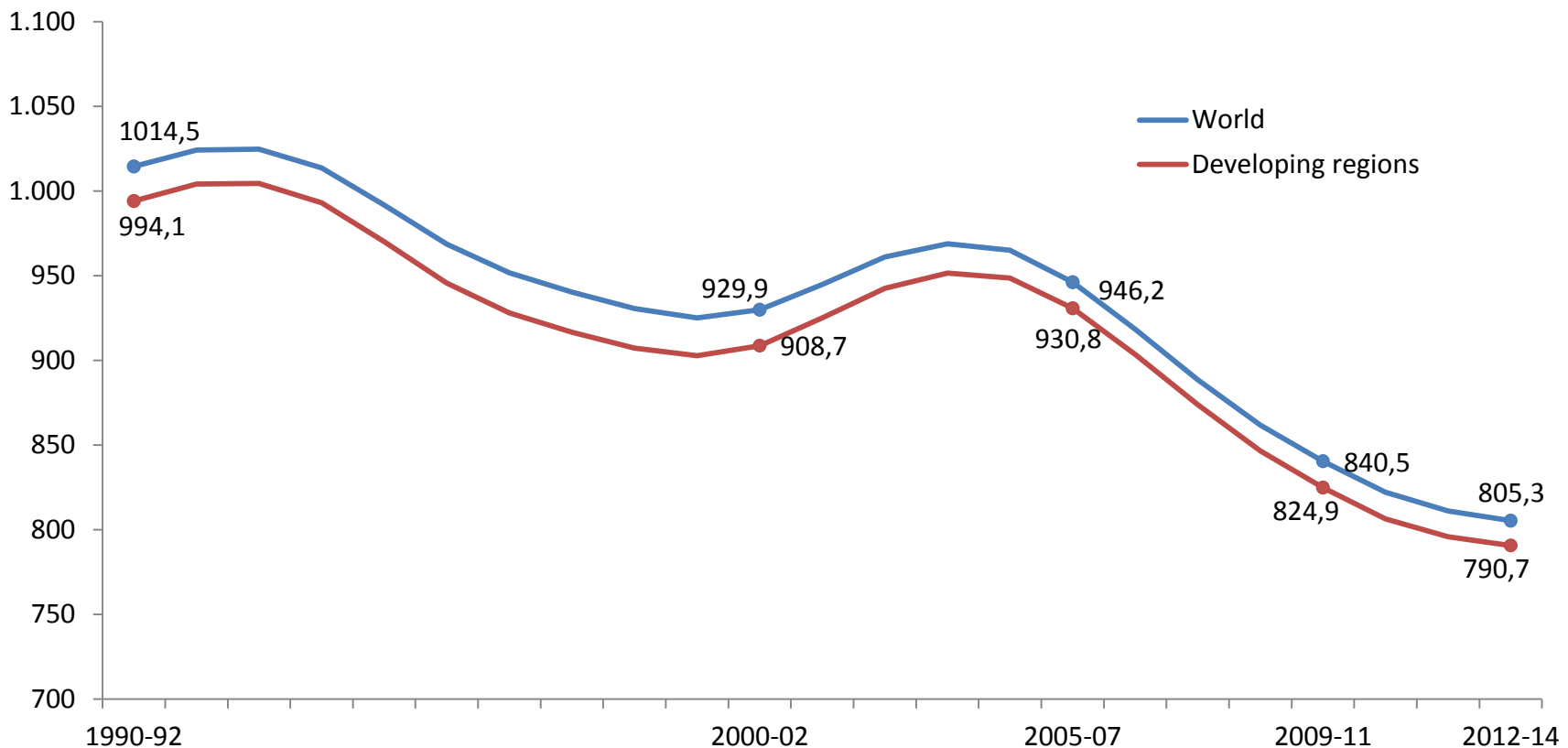
What is food security ?

- Access of all people at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life
- Dimensions:
 - Availability
 - Access
 - Utilisation
 - Stabilization

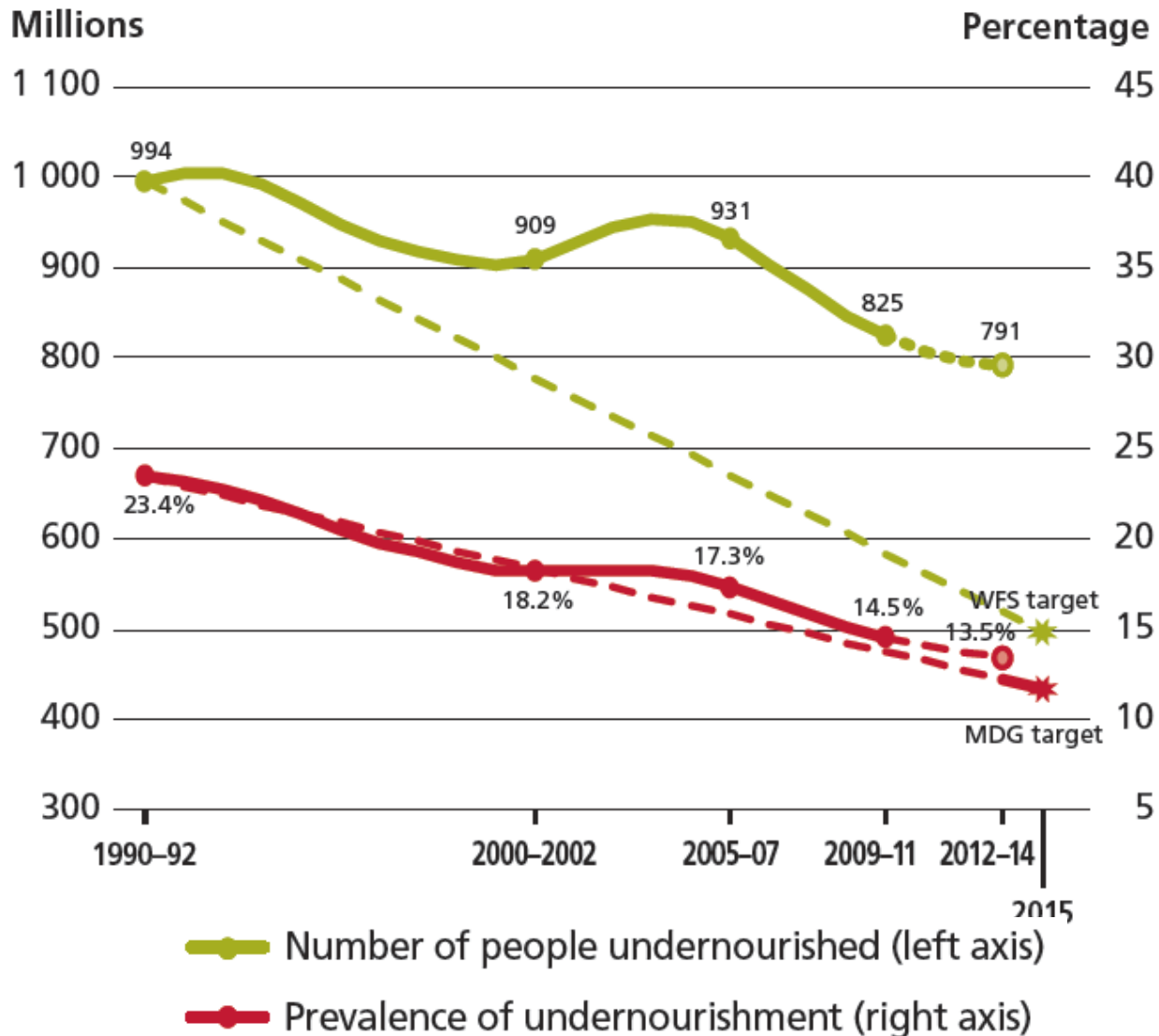


State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) 2014

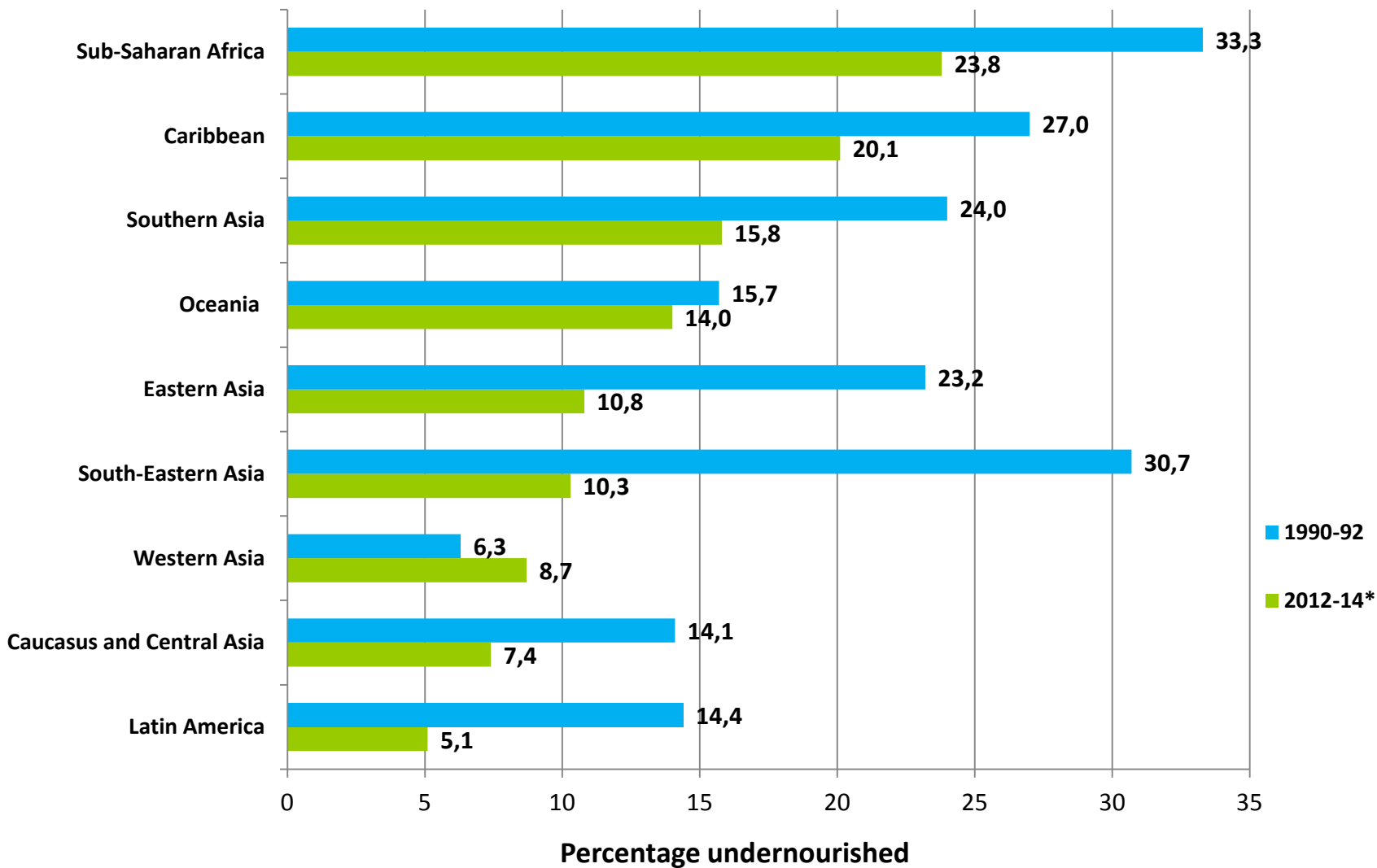
- **805 million people** estimated to be suffering from chronic hunger in 2012–14, down 100 million in the last decade.
- The vast majority, **791 million**, live in **developing countries**.



International Hunger Targets

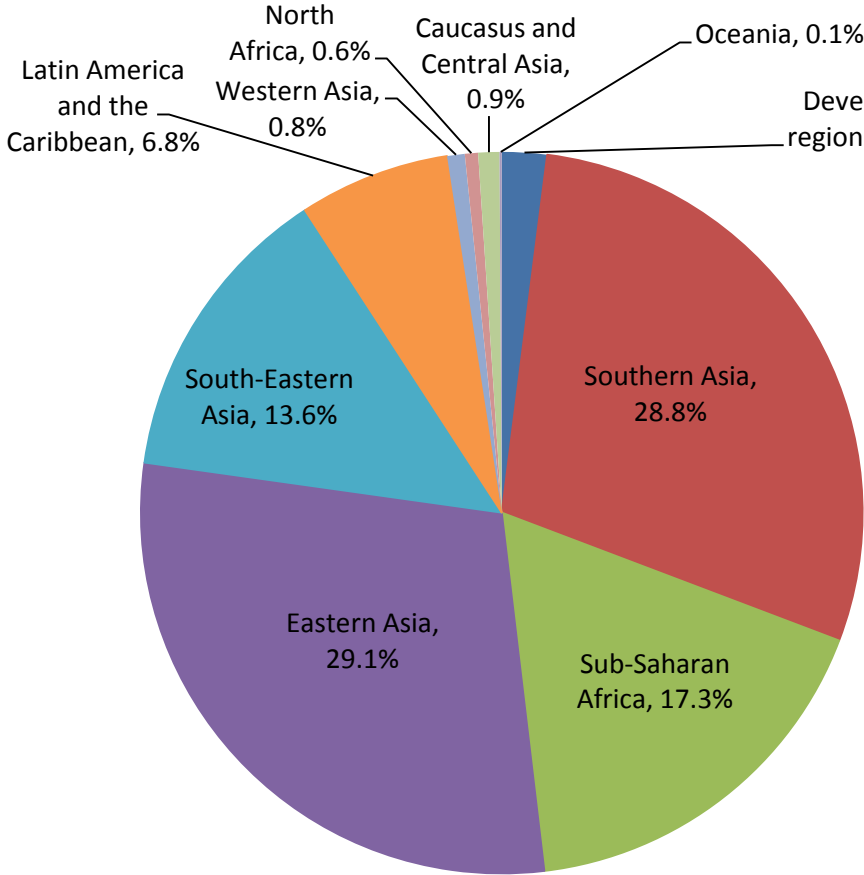


Progress in Most Regions



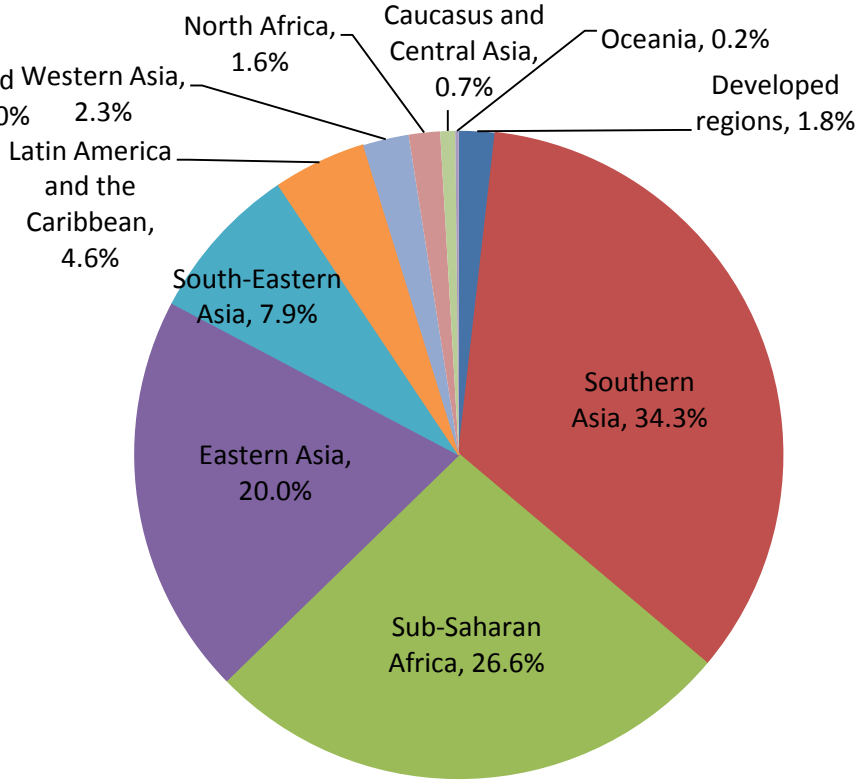
Changing Distribution of World Hunger, 1990–2014

1990–92



Total = 1015 million

2012–14



Total = 805 million

SOFI 2014: Summary Key Findings

- About 805 million people chronically undernourished in 2012–14. **Decline of 209 million** since 1990-92, and by 100 million in last decade.
- Majority of hungry live in **developing countries**, where over one in eight, or **13.5 percent** of the population, remain chronically undernourished.
- The MDG hunger target is **within reach**, but large differences across developing regions remain.
 - East Asia, South-East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have achieved the MDG hunger target. LAC are on track to reach WFS goal.
 - Insufficient progress in sub-Saharan Africa, South and West Asia.

SOFI 2014: Along the Food Security Dimensions

- **Availability** of food is a major element of food insecurity in poorer regions, notably sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South Asia.
- **Access** to food has improved quickly in countries showing rapid economic progress, notably East and South-East Asia.
- Access has improved in South Asia and Latin America with **social protection**.
- **Utilization** remains single greatest challenge, despite progress over past two decades.
- **Stability** remains a challenge in regions heavily reliant on international food markets, such as Near East, North Africa and Caribbean.

The New Face of Hunger

- Extreme poverty – chronic food insecurity
- Exacerbated by:
 - Political shocks
 - Economic shocks
 - Climatic shocks
 - Natural disasters
 - War and Civil Conflict
 - Disease

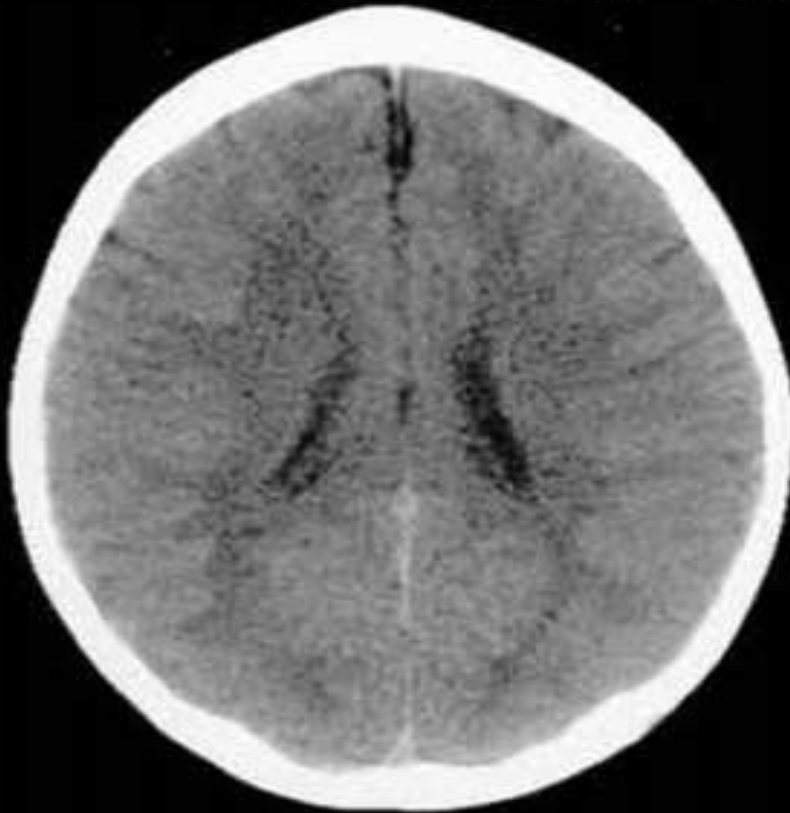


What is the Cost of Hunger and Under-Nutrition

- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) deaths in children under-5—3.1 million each year. The first 1,000 days of life are critical to tackle under-nutrition.
- As much as 5 percent of global GDP—US\$3.5 trillion/yr or US\$500/person/yr is lost in productivity and health care costs.
- The cost of under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies is estimated at 2–3 percent of global GDP—US\$1.4–2.1 trillion/yr.
- Individuals lose more than 10 percent of lifetime earnings.
- Over 80 percent of the world's population lacks access to social protection.

Depravation: Impact on Children

3 Year Old Children



Normal



Extreme Neglect

Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge: Is a Hunger Free World Possible in the Next Decades?



stunted
children
less than
2 years



access
to adequate
food
all year round



food
systems
are
sustainable



increase
in smallholder
productivity
and income



loss
or
waste
of food

HUNGER CAN BE ELIMINATED IN OUR LIFETIMES

Is a Hunger Free World Possible in the Next Decades?

- Realistically possible but time is running out.
- Productivity: Cereal production will have to rise by 50% and meat production by 85% to feed nine billion people by 2050.
- Waste: Food losses are roughly one third of the food produced for human consumption every year - approximately 1.3 billion tonnes.
- Economic and Physical Access.
- **Bottom line: Increased productivity is a must but alone it is not enough to eradicate hunger.**

Why Focus on the Smallholder Farmers?

- 2.5 billion people are involved in smallholder agriculture. They provide 80 per cent of the food consumed in the developing world.
- Most of the 1.4 billion people living on under US\$1.25 a day depend on agriculture for their livelihoods--struggling to get themselves and their families out of poverty and hunger.
- Support for smallholder farmers is 5 times more effective in reducing poverty than investment in any other sector.
- Ignoring them will compound food security and nutrition problems resulting in more future conflicts from the convergence of food, water and energy insecurity

How to Increase Small Holder Marketable Food Surplus Production

- Sustained access to land, water, financial and extension services.
- Rural agricultural infrastructure including appropriate storage and feeder roads to connect farmers to commercial and institutional markets.
- Strong farmers' organisations to improve how farmers negotiate markets and influence agricultural policies and trade regulations.
- **Without these measures, smallholder farmers will continue to struggle with higher transaction costs and remain less competitive even when the market conditions are favourable.**

Paving the Way for the Private Sector

- The public sector investments in rural infrastructure and institutions are necessary to encourage private sector entry to address market failures which impact smallholders.
- Many private sector companies are realising the potential of investing in smallholders as new suppliers to address increasing demand.
- The smallholder farmers are gradually becoming an integral part of the private sector business strategy rather than a half-hearted afterthought to satisfy corporate social responsibility.

WFP: Purchase for Progress Initiative (P4P)

- WFP purchased 450,000 MT of food from small holder farmers for over US\$165 million, primarily from farmers' organisations representing more than one million smallholder farming families.
- Trained half a million smallholder farmers, agricultural technicians, small and medium traders and warehouse operators over the last five years.
- WFP is now working with private and public partners to develop a “procurement platform” to overcome market bottlenecks at scale and address capacity development needs..
- Procurement platform target is about US\$750 million, benefiting 1.5 million farmers by 2016.

The Twin Track Approach

Agricultural Development and Social Protection

- When farmers become more efficient and organised, many will fail and need to look outside the traditional subsistence farming system for livelihoods.
- These individuals and their families will require conditional and unconditional assistance through social safety net programmes until they find new income opportunities.
- Emphasis must be on growing rural economies by providing appropriate agricultural and rural development opportunities to people, particularly youth, who would otherwise migrate to urban areas out of pure economic desperation.

Conclusions

- Farmers are rational yet cautious decision makers who need to be convinced before they adopt anything new.
- **Involve farmers in the decision making process.**
- Provide the enabling environment
 - Policies, programmes, legal frameworks.
 - Human and financial resources.
 - Coordinated, complementary, cooperative mechanisms.
- Evidence-based decision-making.
- Sustained action and not one-off interventions
- Cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders
- **The final measure of success is Adoption of Invention not the invention itself—whether water filters or golden rice**

Thank you!

“It always seems impossible until its done”

Nelson Mandela