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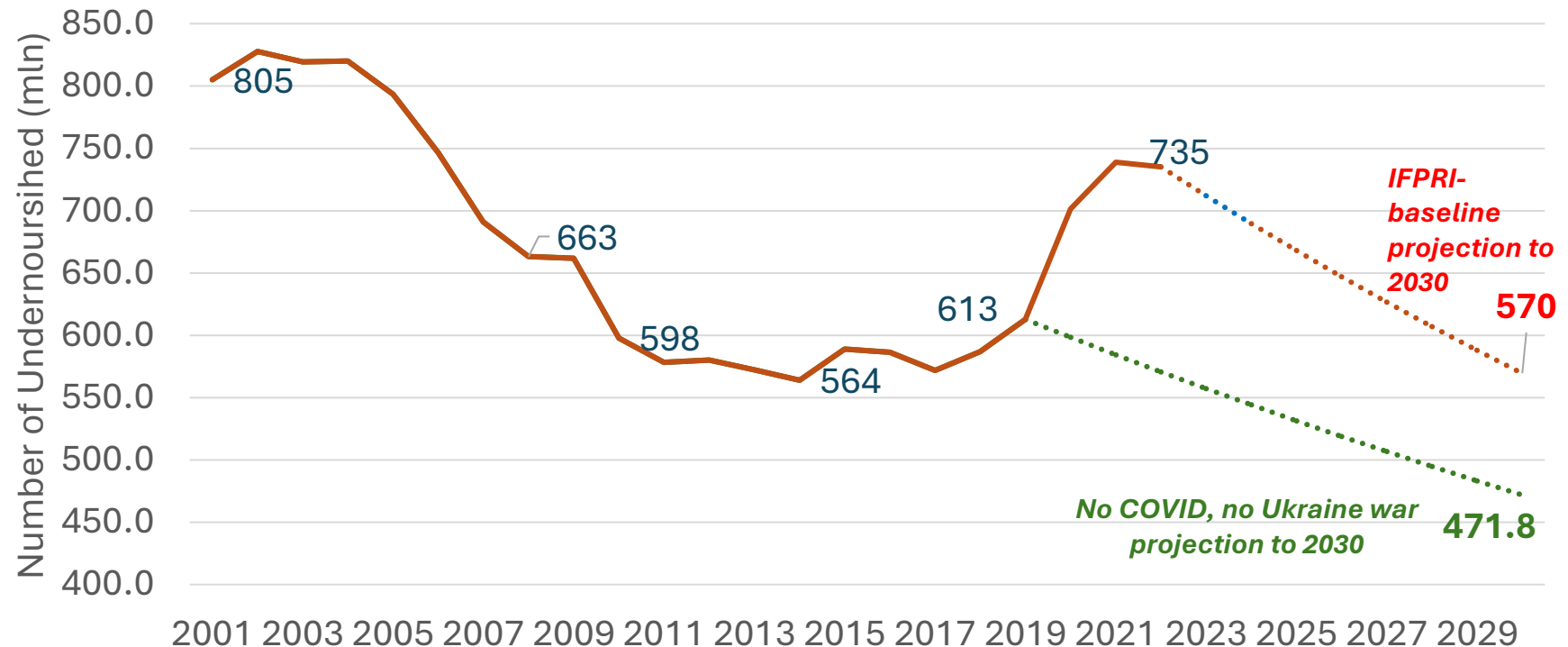
The Geopolitics of Food Security

Johan Swinnen

EU presentation, Brussels, May 24th, 2024

Global chronic hunger has increased in all regions of the world between 2014 and 2022, now affecting almost 750 million people

- Under no plausible scenario will SDG target 2.1 to end hunger by 2030 be met
- **COVID-19, supply chain disruptions and the Ukraine war have provided major setbacks in 2020-2023**
- .. but reversal of trends started well before that driven by:
 - Civil strife/conflict
 - Climate change
 - Economic shocks

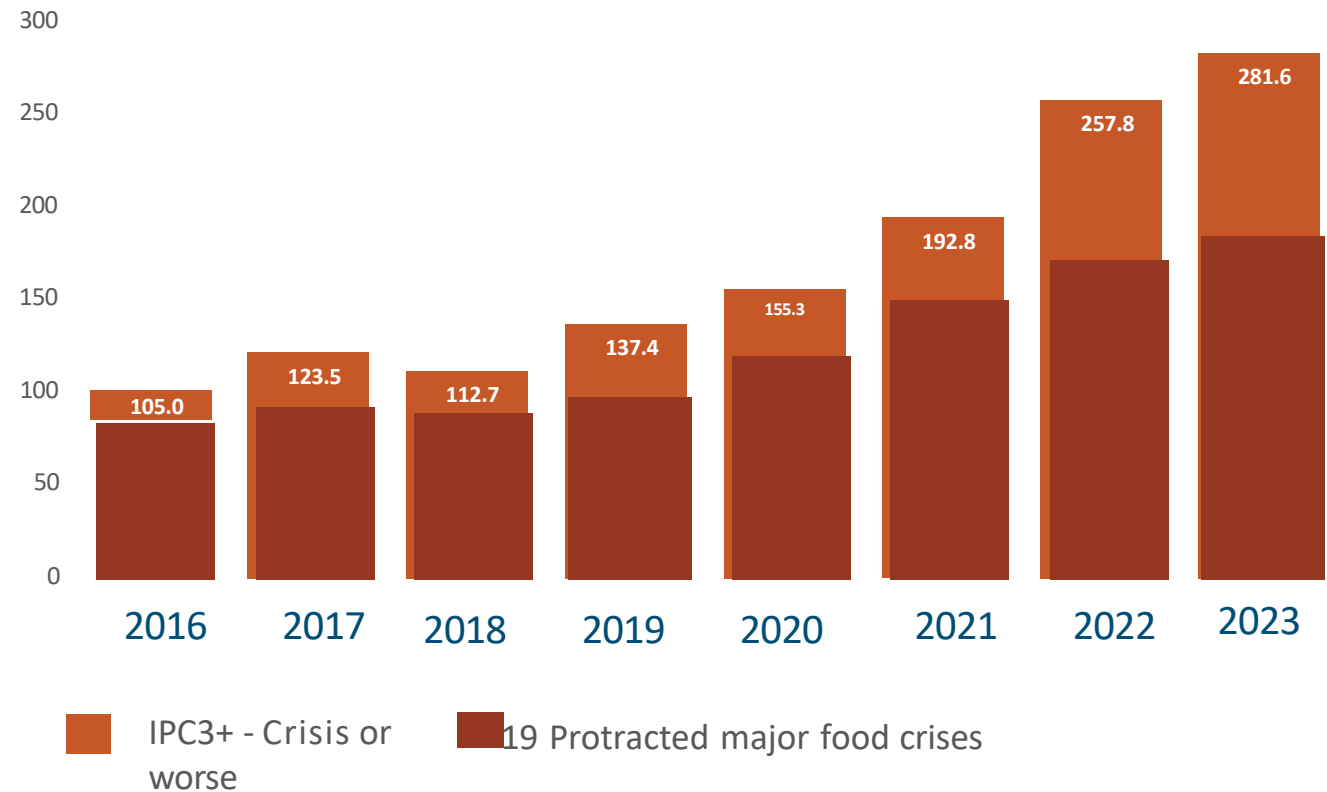


Source: FAO et al. 2023. The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World, Fig. 5; and Glauber, J. & Laborde, D. 2023. Repurposing food and agricultural policies to deliver affordable healthy diets, sustainably and inclusively: what is at stake? Background paper for The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022. FAO Agricultural Development Economics Working Paper 22-05. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4348en>



The same drivers are behind the rise in # of people facing crisis-level or worse **acute food insecurity**, which has almost tripled since 2016

- The EU-supported Global Report on Food Crises shows an increase of people in **acute food crisis** from 105M to 282M between 2016 and 2023
- Almost two thirds are facing **protracted** food crises in fragile settings





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Driver: #1 Conflict

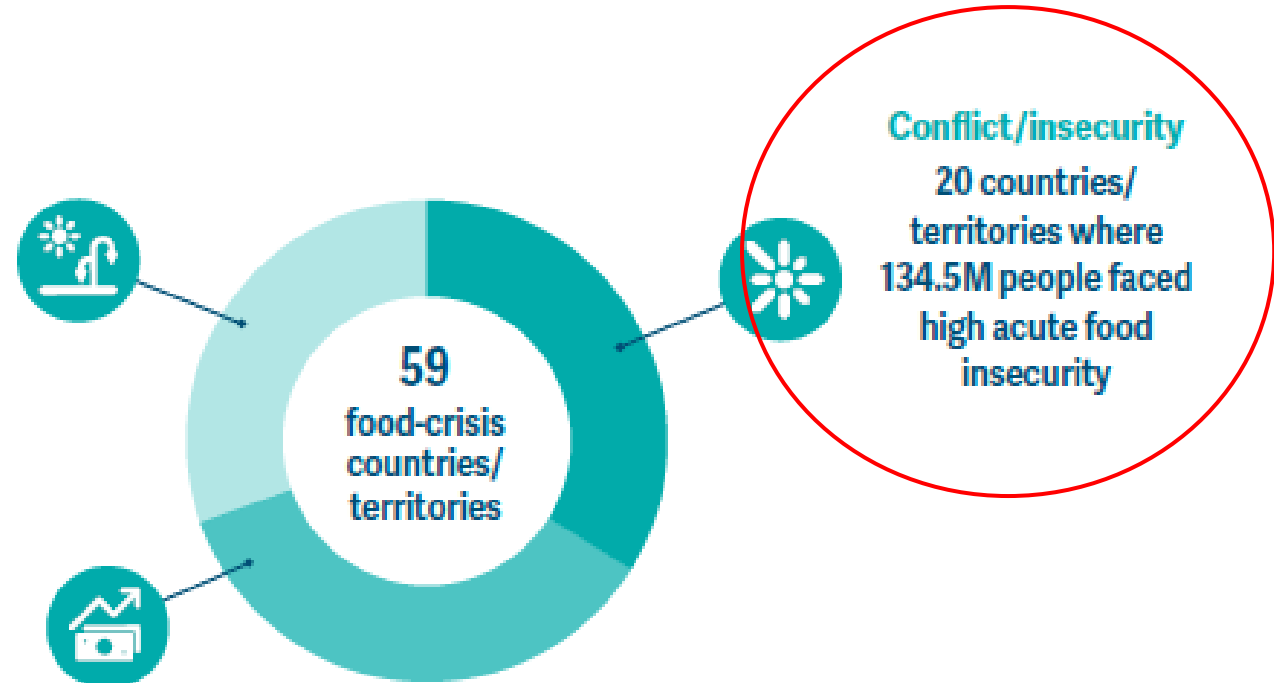
Conflict is a key cause of acute food insecurity

In 2023-24:

- Conflict was a major driver in 20 countries pushing 135M people in severe acute food insecurity

Weather extremes
18 countries
where 71.9M people
faced high acute food
insecurity

Economic shocks
21 countries where
75.2M people faced
high acute food
insecurity



Conflict is on the rise, but most is still intra-state, civil strife

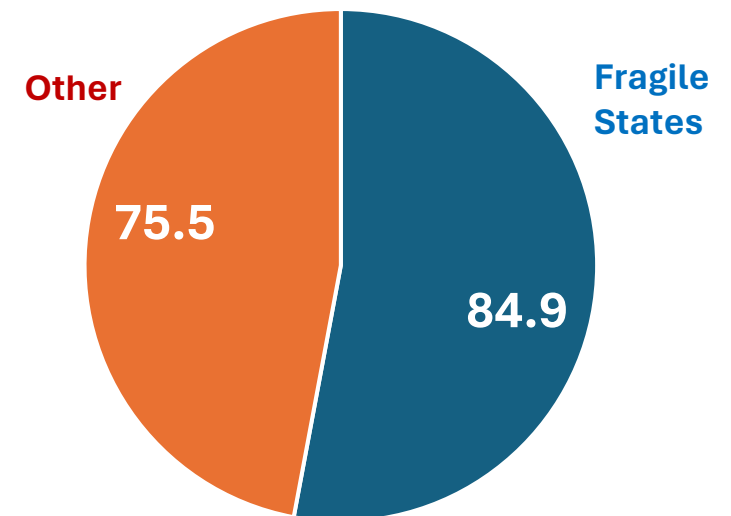
- ... though becoming increasingly internationalized
- ... more than half of the rise in global hunger since 2013 happened in fragile and conflict-affected states

Number of conflicts per year by type of conflict, 1976–2021

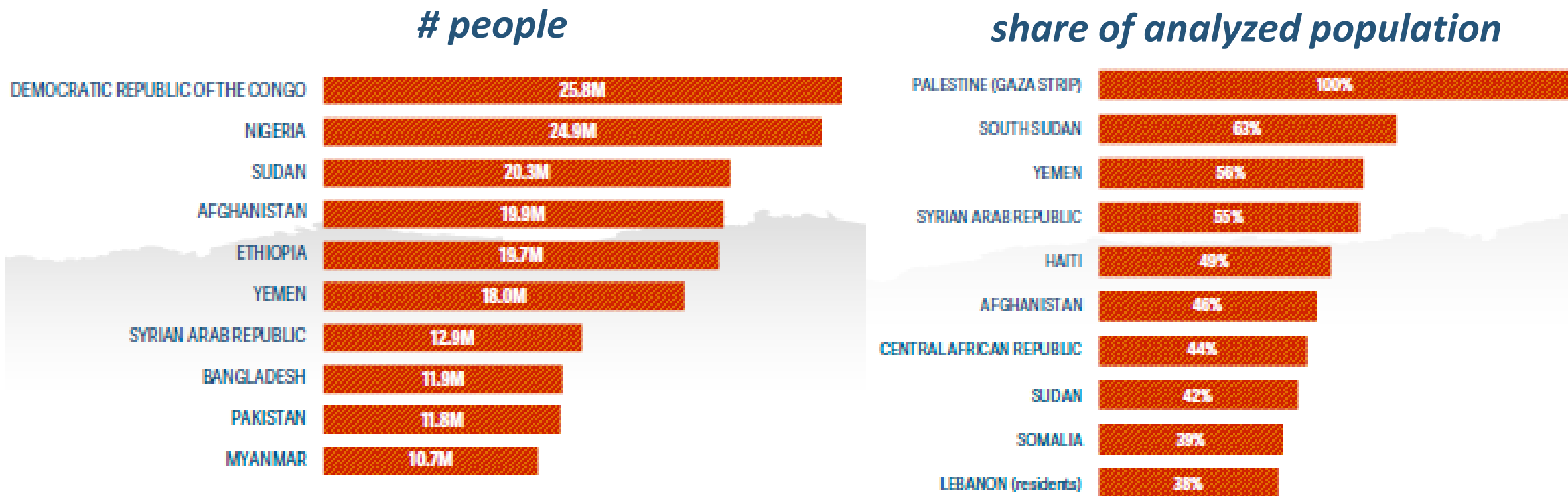


Source: UCDP-PRIO

Fragile and conflict-affected states account for more than 50% of increase in global chronic hunger since 2013 (millions of people)



Major acute food insecurity crises by # people (in IPC3+) and prevalence in 2023 – all facing conflict situations





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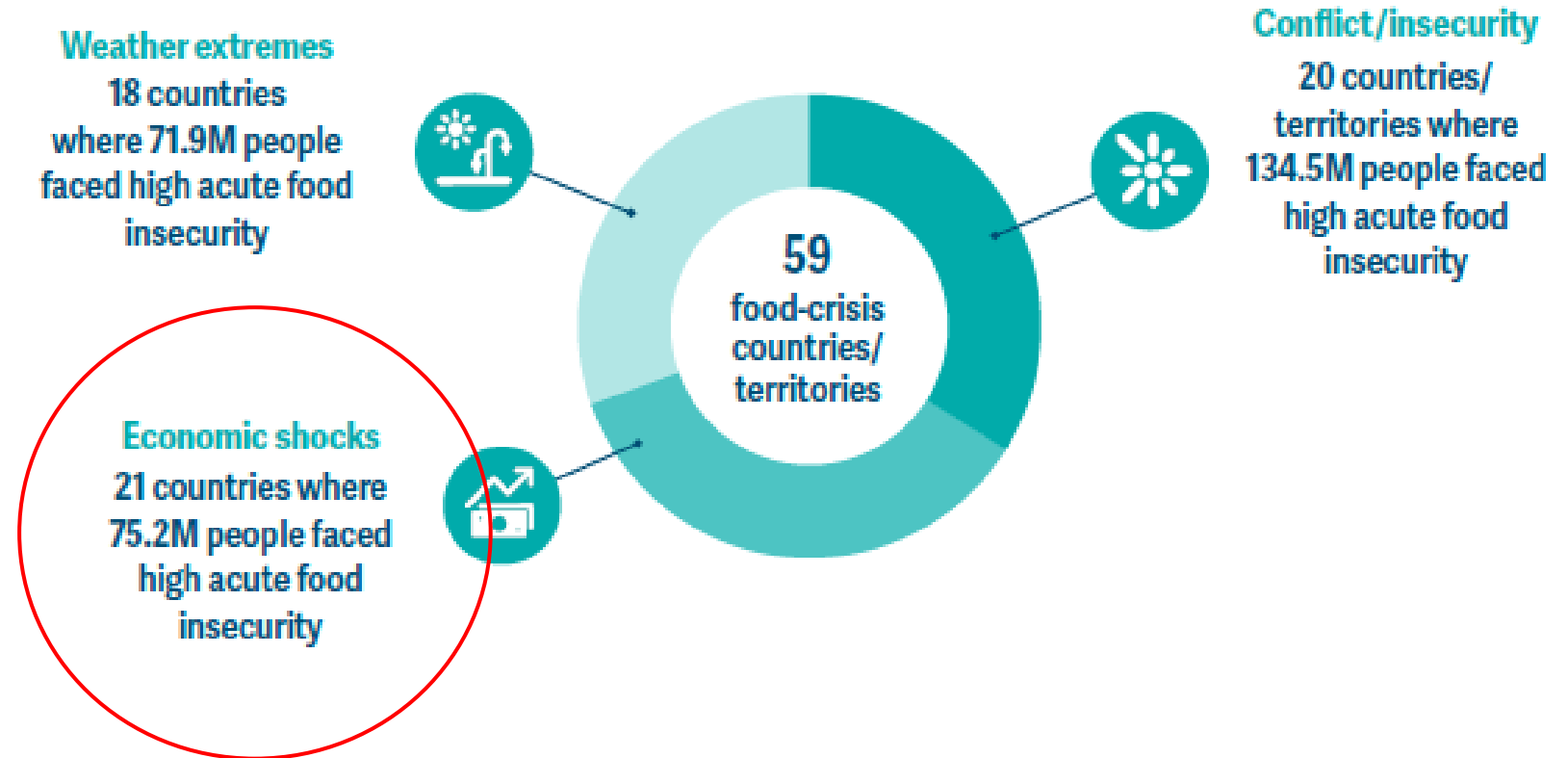
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Driver: #2 Economic shocks

Economic shocks are another key cause of acute food insecurity

In 2023-24:

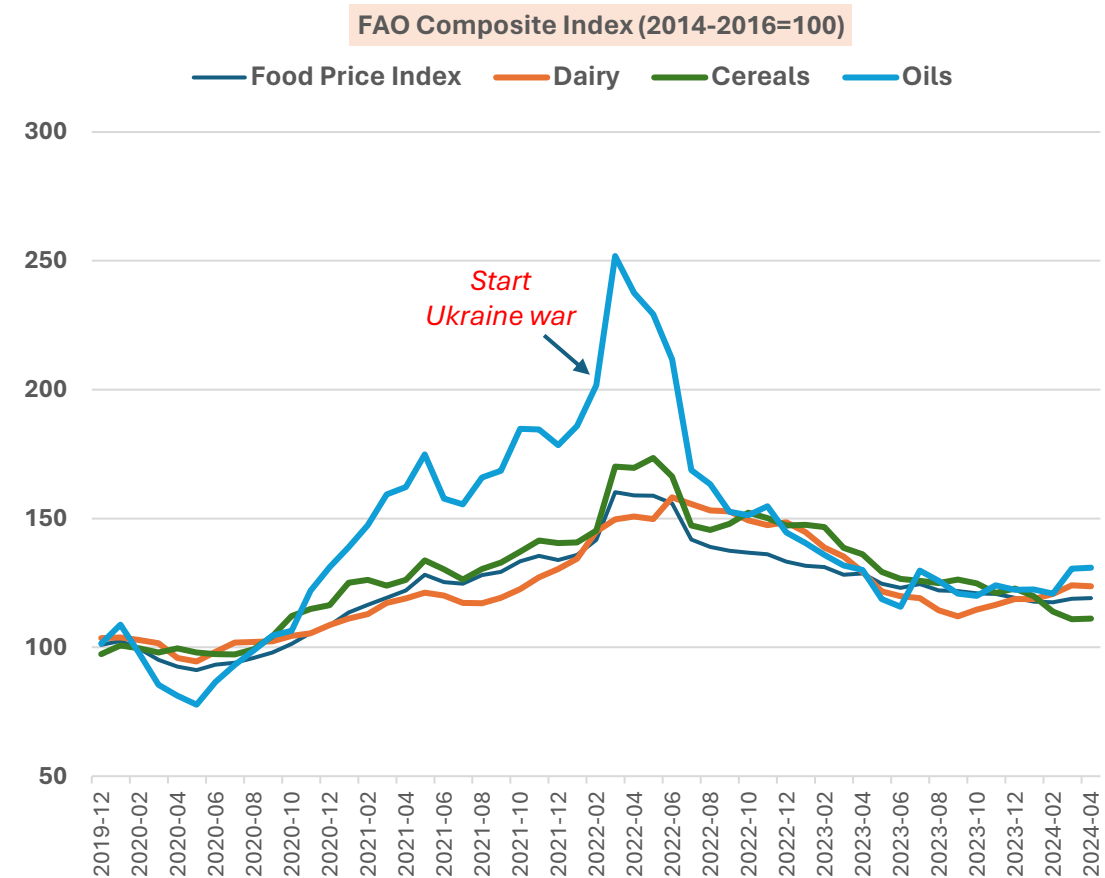
- Economic shocks were a major driver in 21 food crisis countries, especially through sharp food price inflation, causing severe food deficits for 75M people



Ukraine war, economic shocks and global food security

- So, didn't the Ukraine war have any impact?
- Yes, it did. It exacerbated the global food and fertilizer price shocks from post-COVID supply chain disruptions.....
- ... but international staple food prices have declined since mid-2022, falling below pre-Ukraine war levels by early 2023
- Global markets have adjusted, so war in Ukraine no longer the major, **direct** driver of global food insecurity

International prices back to pre-Ukraine war levels, yet above historical average



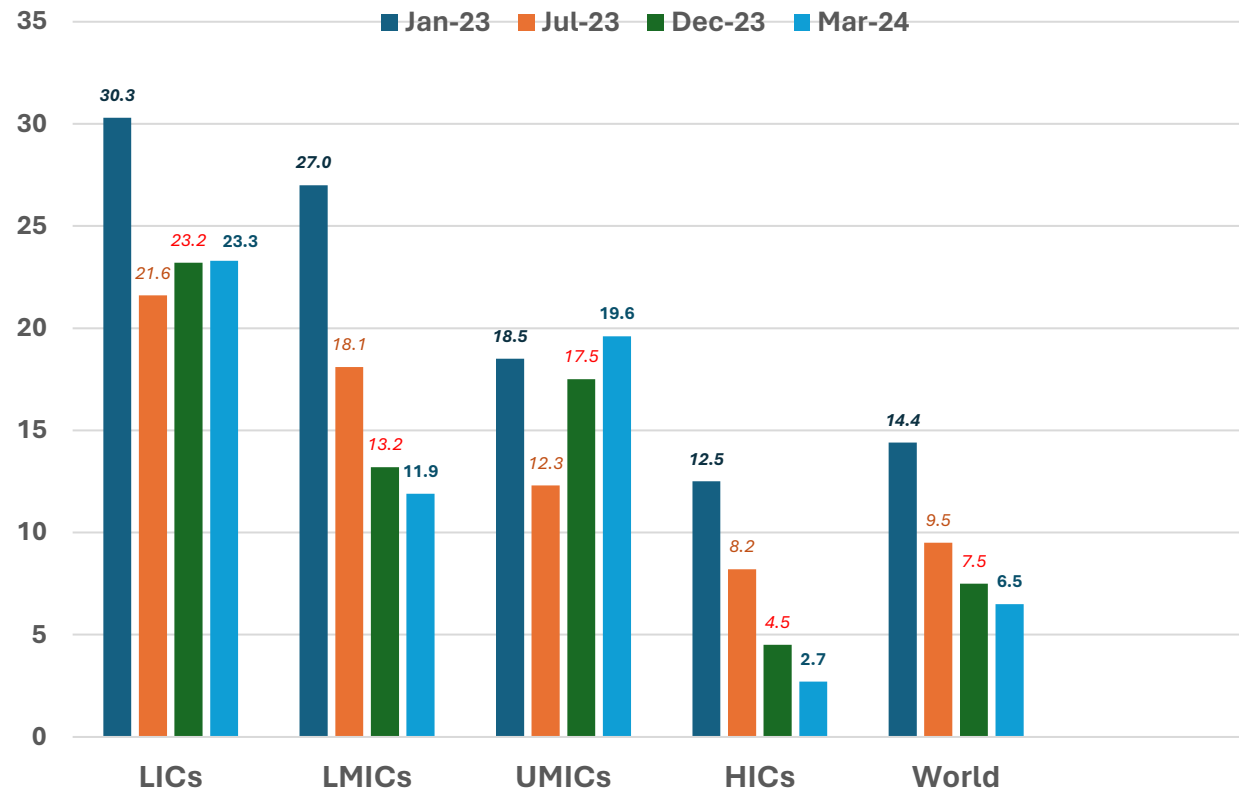
Source: IFPRI, Food Security Portal; based on FAO data

.... Yet, persistent high domestic food inflation continues to affect food access in low-income countries

- Despite lower international prices, domestic food inflation is still high
- Coping with the impacts of COVID and the Ukraine war has caused fiscal and foreign-exchange constraints in many low-income countries...
- causing debt distress, weakening currencies, and persistent high domestic food and general inflation
- Hence, global shocks may be short lived, but “after shocks” may linger in contexts of poorer nations

Domestic (consumer) food price inflation, remains high, especially in LICs

Consumer Food Price Inflation, Jan 2023 - March 2024 (in %; y-o-y)



Source: IFPRI, Food Security Portal; weighted averages for 152 countries



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Driver: #3 Climate change and weather extremes

Weather extremes are already a key cause of acute food insecurity

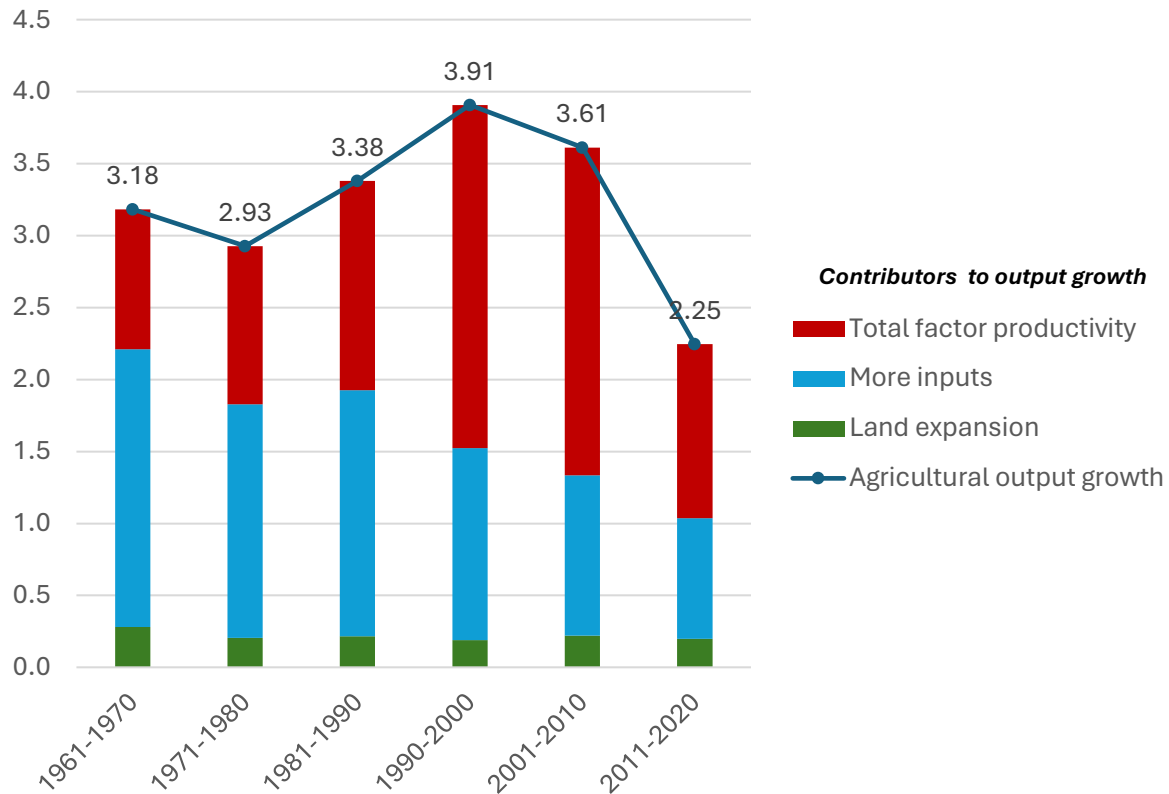
In 2023-24:

- El Niño was a major driver in 18 countries and compounding factor in 27 food crisis countries
- Causing mostly droughts, affecting the Horn of Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa the most



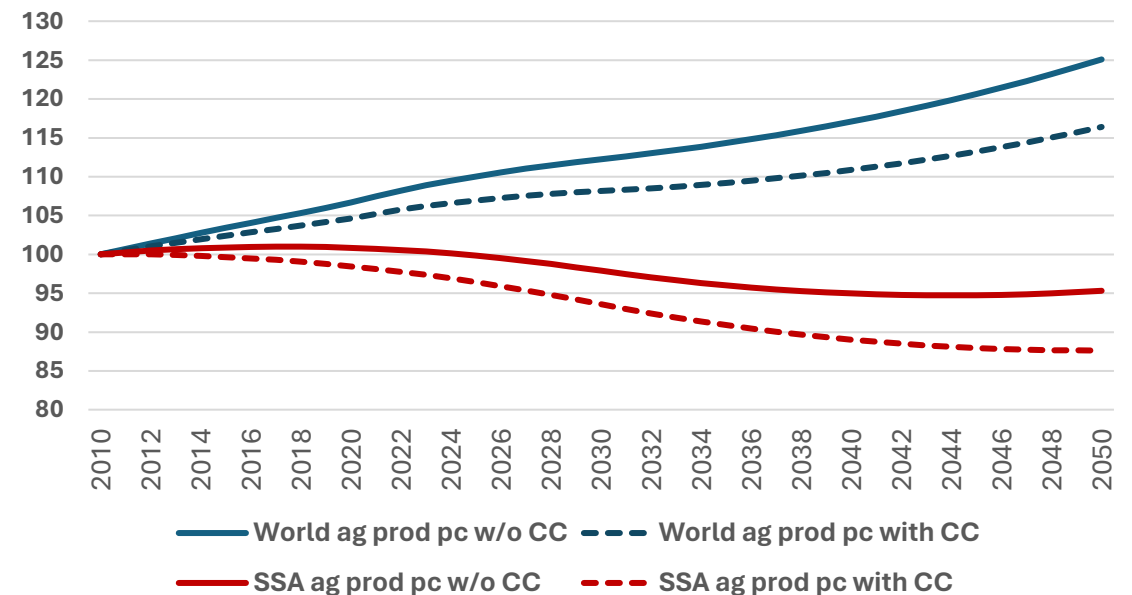
Climate change is considerably slowing agricultural productivity growth, affecting tropical agriculture the most

Agricultural output in developing countries slowed in the 2010s as the rate of total factor productivity slowed ...



.. Growth will slow further with unabated climate change and per capita output in Africa is set to decline

*Per capita agricultural output for the **World** and **SSA**, with and without climate change*



Source: Estimates based on USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) International Agricultural Productivity data product (<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/international-agricultural-productivity/>)

Source: Projections based on IFPRI's IMPACT model (see IFPRI 2022) and UN Population Division for Population Projections (medium variant).





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Further concerning trends

Increasing numbers of displaced persons in food-crisis countries, compound acute food insecurity



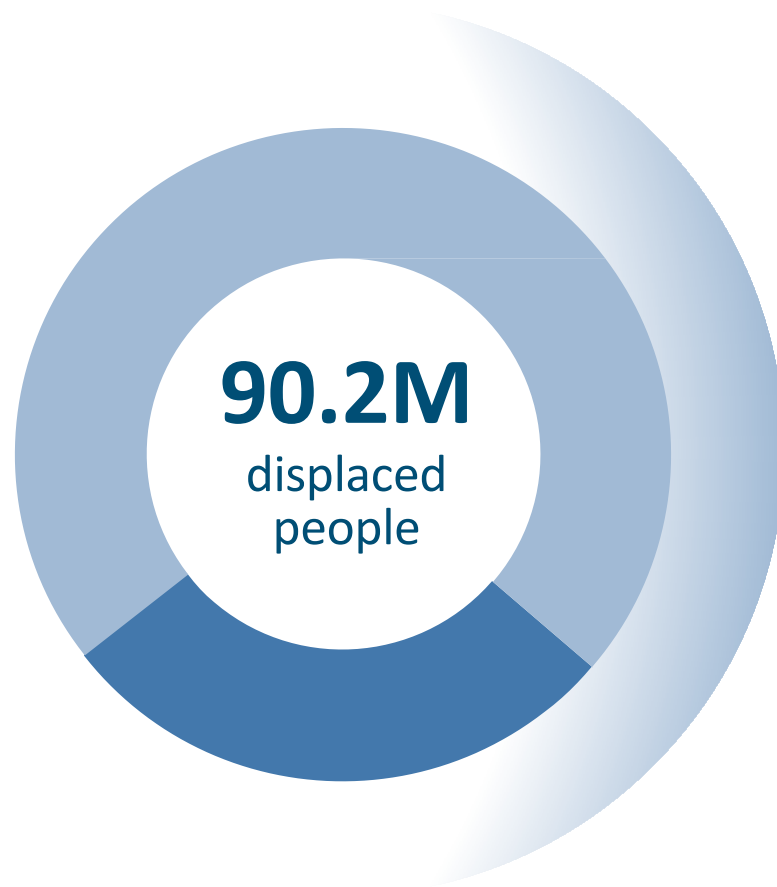
64.3M

IDPs in **38**
countries



26M

refugees and
asylum-seekers
in **56** countries



Sudan became the largest
internal displacement crisis



The highest proportion (75–
85%) of IDPs was in the **Gaza**
Strip

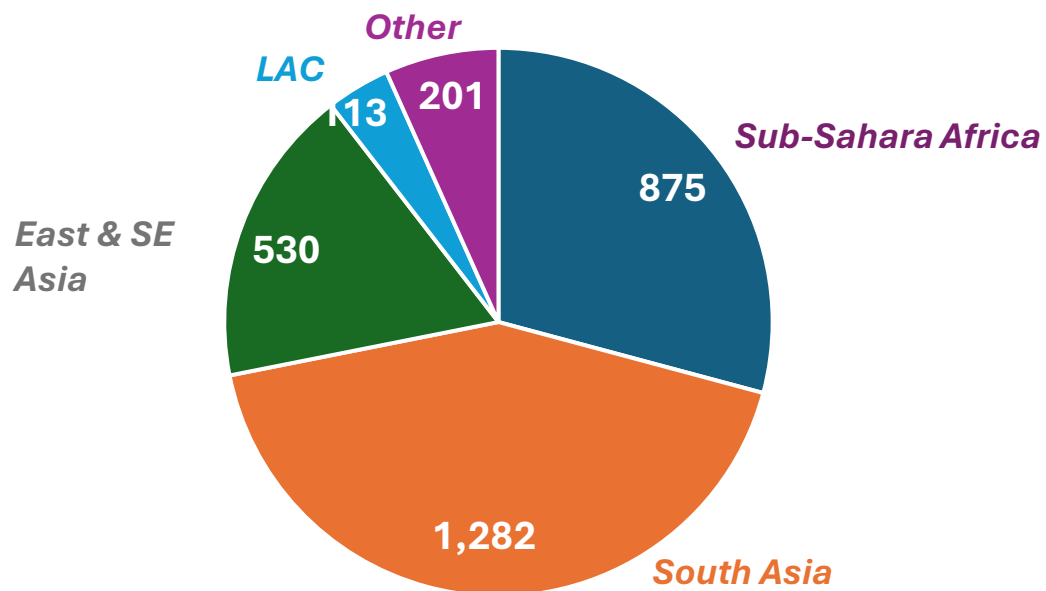


In some contexts over 60%
face high levels of acute food
insecurity

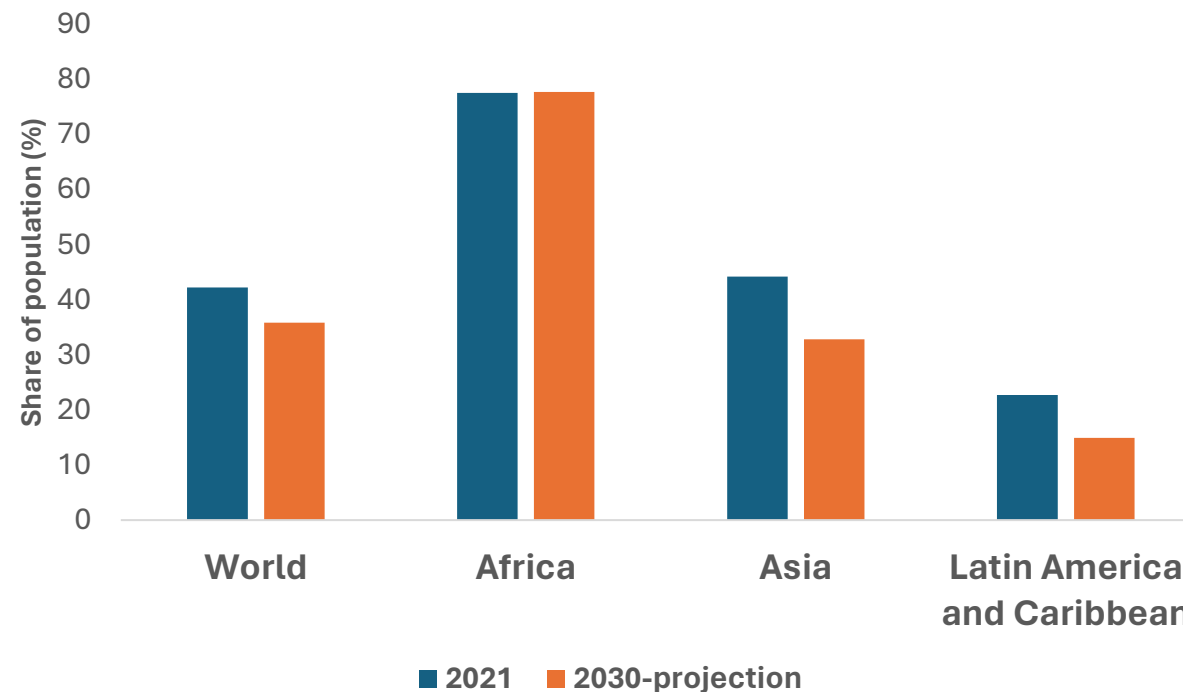
Child malnutrition and “hidden hunger” (lack of micronutrients) is widespread

- **Healthy diets too costly for billions**
- **Food assistance mainly focuses on caloric deficits**

3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet



Affordability of healthy diet remains elusive for more than one third of the world population



Source: FAO et al. 2023. The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World, Fig. 5; and Glauber, J. & Laborde, D. 2023. Repurposing food and agricultural policies to deliver affordable healthy diets, sustainably and inclusively: what is at stake? Background paper for The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022. FAO Agricultural Development Economics Working Paper 22-05. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4348en>



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The situation in Gaza

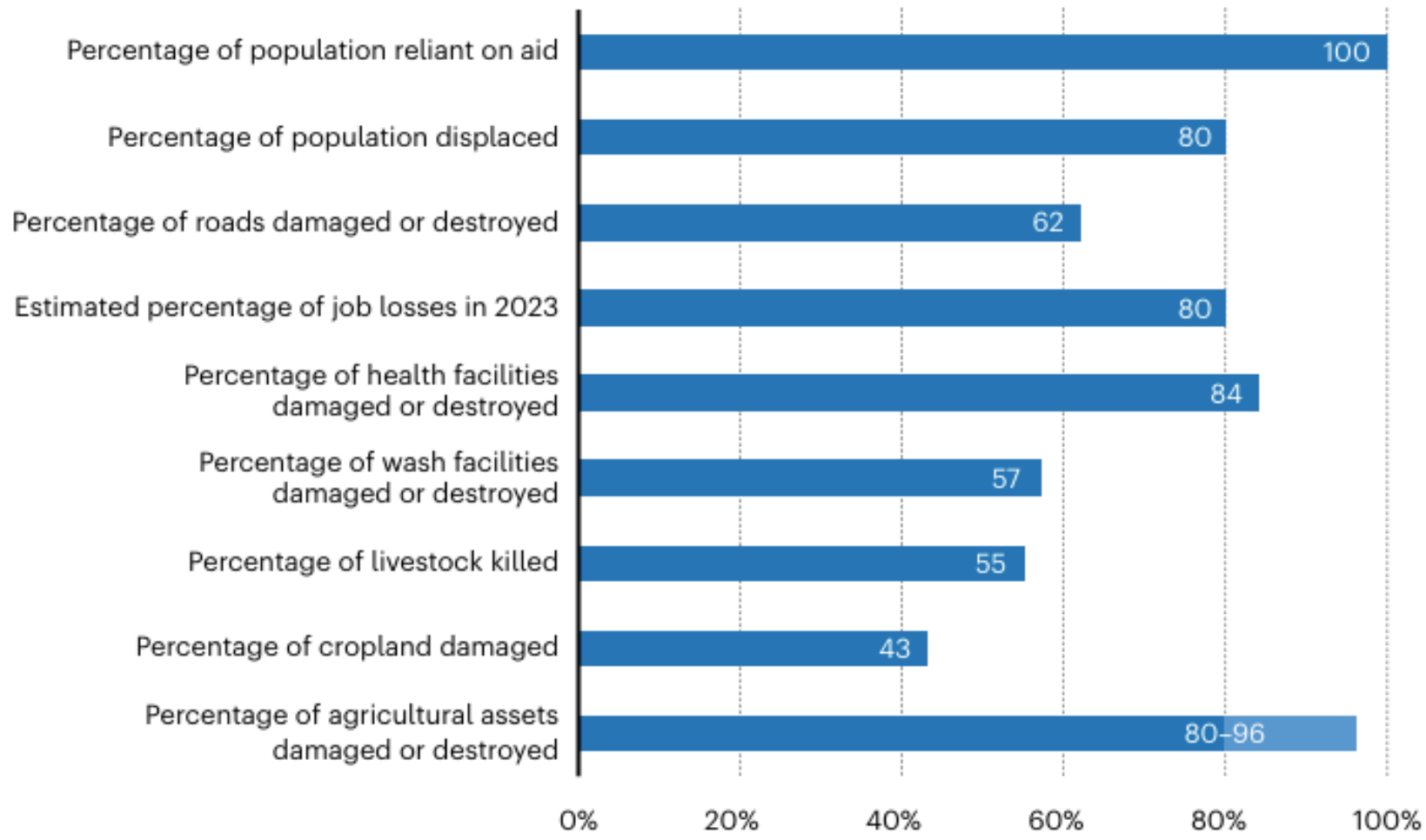
The situation in Gaza

Gaza Population 2.2M		Situation Nov-Dec 23	Projected Dec 23-Feb 24	Situation Feb-Mar 24	Projected Mar-May/Jul 24
Phase 5	People in Catastrophe	378,000	576,000	677,000	1,107,000
Phase 4	People in Emergency	939,000	1,170,000	876,000	854,000
Phase 3	People in Crisis	766,000	478,000	578,000	265,000
Phase 2	People Stressed	145,000	25,000	96,000	-
Phase 1	People in Food Security	-	-	-	-

Source: IPC Global Partners



Damages and impacts of the war in Gaza since October 2023



Data from UNRWA, FSIN 20204 Global Report on Food Crises





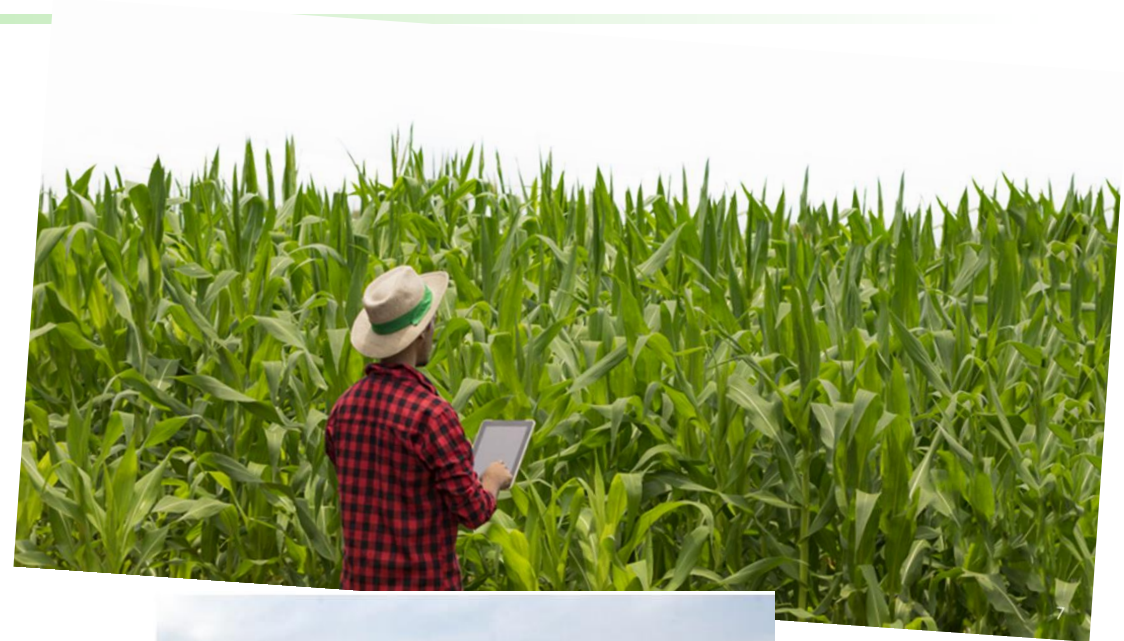
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Some lessons for food crisis prevention and responsiveness

Lessons learned from acute food crises

- Early warning systems need to improve, allowing to monitor in real time and quickly identify causes
 - *IFPRI is responding through EU-supported Food Security Portal*
 - *It is important such mechanism is in place permanently to anticipate and prevent*
- Need to better measure actual food deficits in both caloric and micronutrient intake for more adequate food and nutrition assistance responses



Lessons learned from conflict?

- Supporting the recovery of people in Gaza and other conflict-affected settings (Haiti, Sudan, Yemen) requires multisectoral responses
 - Peacebuilding operations to create secure conditions for rebuilding livelihoods
 - Programmes for climate- and shock-resilient and inclusive agrifood-based livelihoods will reduce risk of conflict
 - Livelihoods-oriented relocation or settlement strategies plans for displaced people





Thank you for your attention

For more information, see:

www.ifpri.org

www.foodsecurityportal.org

- **Special Blog Series**
- **Special Indicator Series**
 - *Food and Fertilizer Export Restrictions Tracker*
 - *Excessive Food Price Volatility Early Warning System*
 - *Staple Food Stock-Use Monitoring System*
 - *Vulnerability Dashboard*
 - *Fertilizer Market Dashboard*
 - *Food security and nutrition dashboard*



FOOD PRICE WATCH

Volatility Warning Commodity Prices COVID-19 Price Monitor

Commodity	Date	Days in High Volatility
HARD WHEAT	4/14/2022	156
SOFT WHEAT	4/14/2022	143
MAIZE	4/14/2022	32
SOYBEAN	4/14/2022	130
RICE	4/14/2022	32
COTTON	4/14/2022	184



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Additional slides

Acute malnutrition continues to worsen in food-crisis countries



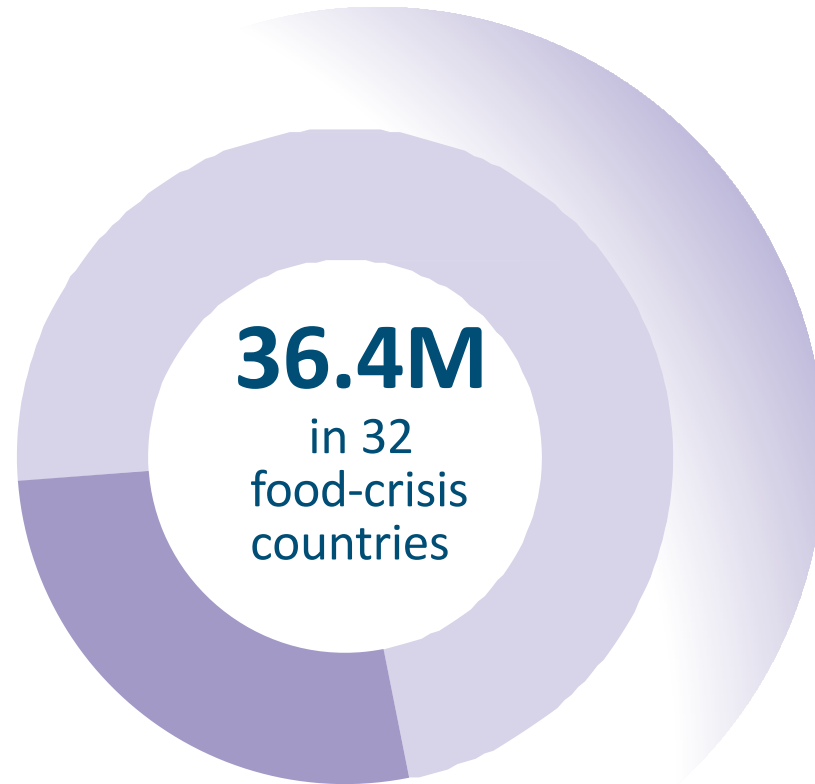
26.6M

children under 5 years with **MAM**



9.8M

children under 5 years with **SAM**



Most are in large food crises:



Nigeria



Ethiopia



Afghanistan



DRC



Sudan

Alarming deterioration among children in the **North Gaza**:



31% acutely malnourished



4% severely






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Conflict consistently identified as major driver

FIG. 1.9 Numbers of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent by primary driver, 2018–2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
 Conflict/ insecurity	73.9M 21 countries	77.1M 22 countries	99.1M 23 countries	139.1M 24 countries	117.1M 19 countries	134.5M 20 countries
 Weather extremes	28.8M 26 countries	33.8M 25 countries	15.7M 15 countries	23.5M 8 countries	56.8M 12 countries	71.9M 18 countries
 Economic shocks	10.2M 6 countries	24.0M 8 countries	40.5M 17 countries	30.2M 21 countries	83.9M 27 countries	75.2M 21 countries

2023:

73

pre-identified as
food crisis countries

59

countries with data

281.6M

People in
IPC3 or
worse



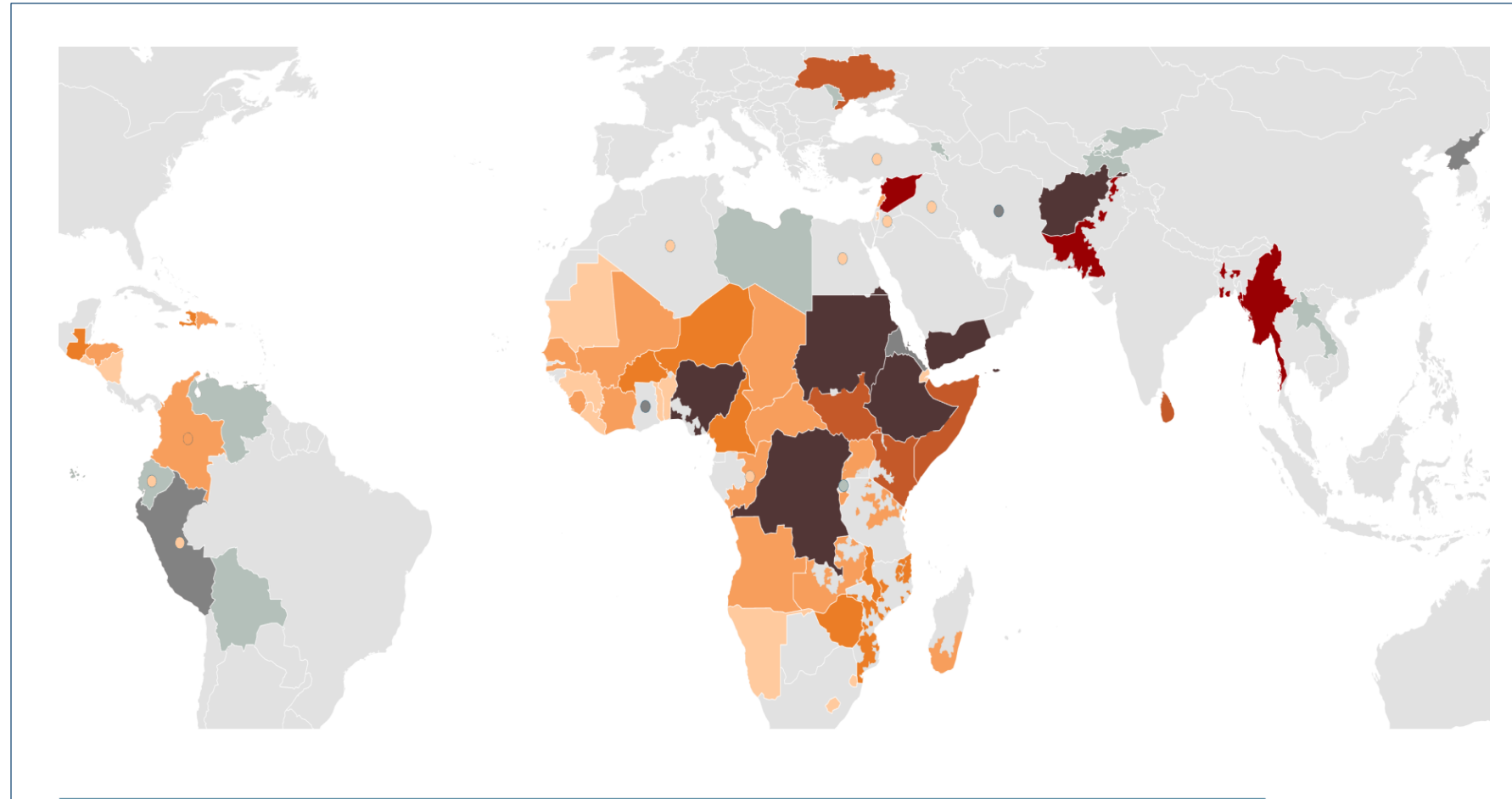
44 countries

in **major** food crisis

(of which **19** in
protracted major crisis)



Magnitude



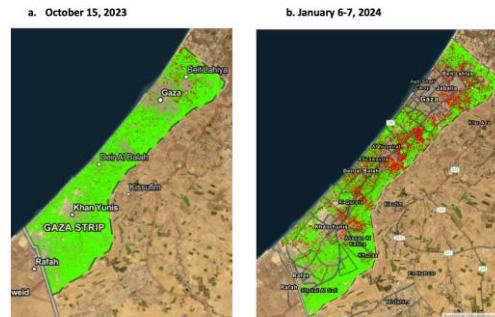
< 1 million **1-2.9 million** **3-4.9 million** **5-9.9 million** **10-15 million** **> 15 million** **Data not meeting GRFC technical requirements** **Data gap** **Country not selected for analysis** **Migrants/refugee populations (colour coding as this key)**

IFPRI's work on Gaza

Long-lasting devastation to **livelihoods** from **damage to agricultural lands** in Gaza

Rob Vos and Soonho Kim

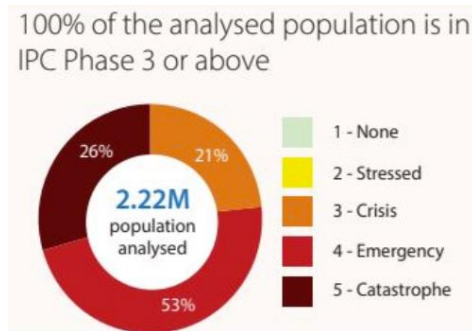
Damaged agricultural land in the Gaza Strip, October 2023 – January 2024



Legend: Green: non-affected agricultural land; red: damaged agricultural land

The population of Gaza is on the **brink of famine**

Rob Vos



Famine in Gaza

Rob Vos, Ismahane Elouafi, and Johan Swinnen



Impacts of **Red Sea shipping disruptions** on global food security

Joseph Glauber and Abdullah Mamun



Six research questions about the **famine in Gaza** – *Nature Food*

Rob Vos, Ismahane Elouafi, & Johan Swinnen

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Comment | Published: 15 May 2024

Famine in Gaza, questions for research and preventive action

Rob Vos, Ismahane Elouafi & Johan Swinnen

Nature Food (2024) | Cite this article

8 Altmetric | Metrics

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza is unprecedented in terms of the share of the population experiencing acute food insecurity and famine and the speed of the



IFPRI's work on Sudan

- In February 2024 IFPRI held a conference in collaboration with UNDP, WFP and USAID on **“Navigating Sudan’s Conflict-research insights & policy implications.”**
 - This helped provide food and nutrition insecurity and reconstruction options to development, policy, private sector, civil society and humanitarian actors.
- IFPRI collaborated with WFP on a randomized control trial study to assess the efficacy of different modalities of assistance provision (cash vs. in-kind) amidst ongoing conflict.



IFPRI's work on Yemen

- In Yemen, IFPRI's research informed the decision to expand a **cash for nutrition intervention** and informed feasibility of school feeding modalities.
- IFPRI is undertaking an **RCT** of geographical targeting of a bundle of cash transfers, nutrition, training, public works, and savings groups
- Other RCTs underway:
 - Solar powered irrigation, drip irrigation package, and horticultural training to farmers
 - Adding fortified UHT milk to school feeding packages (in partnership with HSA Group and Tetrapak)
 - public works program including randomization of complementary training and asset transfer interventions.



IFPRI MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

REGIONAL PROGRAM | WORKING PAPER 19 | April 2019

The Cash for Nutrition Intervention in Yemen

Impact Evaluation Study

Sikandra Kurdli, Yashodhan Ghorpade, and Hosam Ibrahim



IFPRI's work in Myanmar

- IFPRI's program in Myanmar has informed international partners' program designs and priorities such as the new **Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) Strategy 2022-2024**.
- IFPRI has worked with local partners to provide an estimate of the **"Persons in Need"** in the country.
- New IFPRI book: **Myanmar's Agrifood Systems: Historical Development, Recent Shocks, Future Opportunities**

