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Programme

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LIVES



Gaps, Challenges and Progress Towards Food Security in Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts

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Unprecedented Times, Growing Humanitarian Needs

2008

No wars in these 4 countries

No major economic or national security threats in Europe

No frequent, volatile climate shocks

No global pandemic

TODAY

CONFLICT

Syria

Yemen

Ethiopia

Northeast Nigeria

CLIMATE

Back-to-back, major droughts

Multi-year, landscape changing floods

Climate variability and volatility

COVID-19

Massive income losses

Record inflation

Supply chain disruptions

Record debt burdens



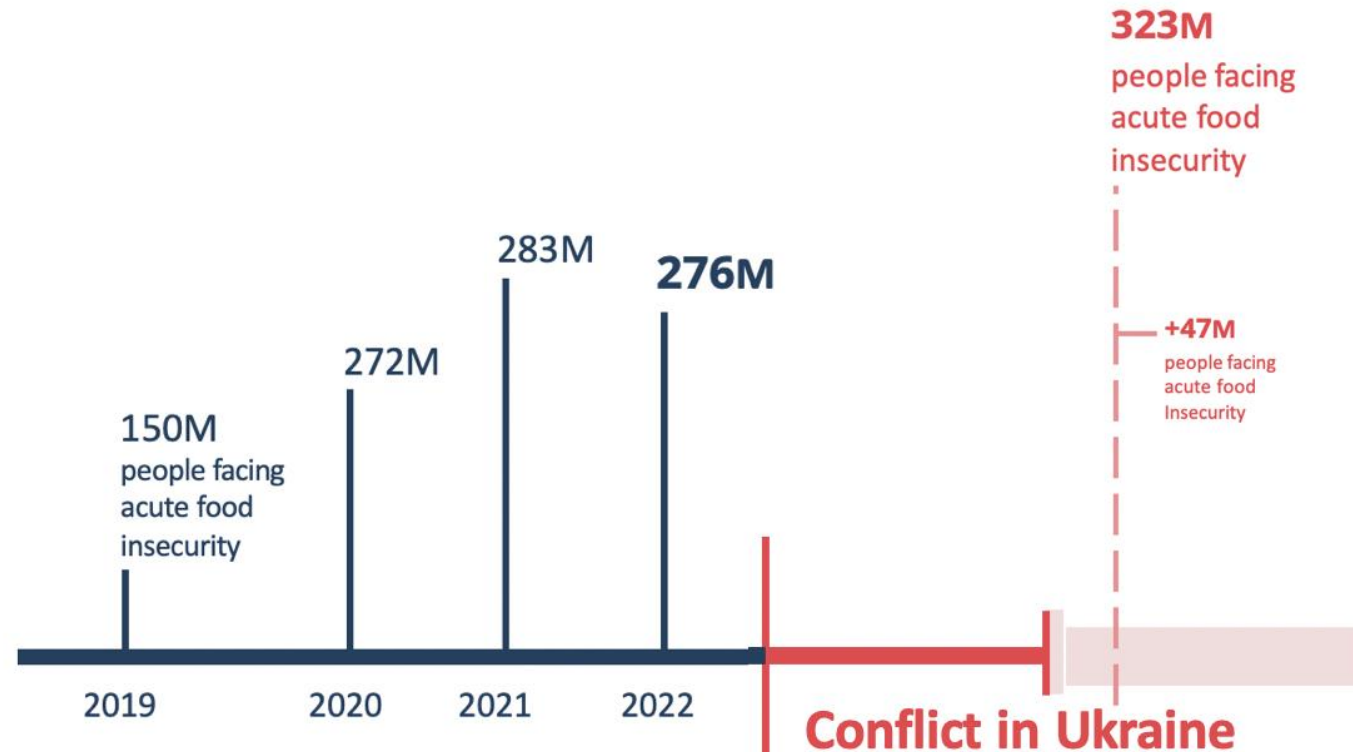
Full-time job losses:
258M in 2020
125M in 2021
52M in 2022



Food inflation is now over **15%** in **31** countries



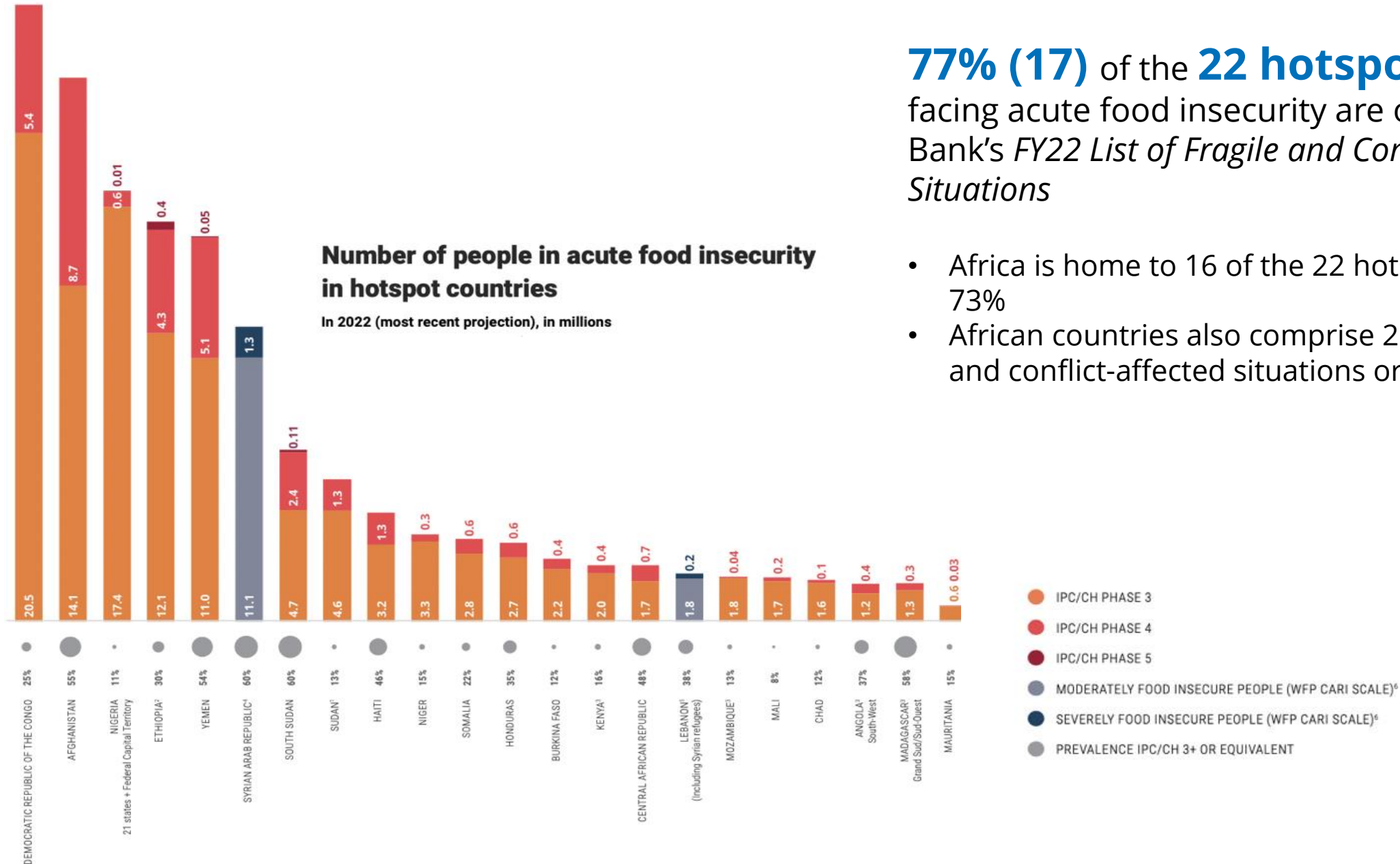
60% of low-income countries at high risk or already in debt distress, up from **30%** in 2015



Food Insecurity and Fragility

Number of people in acute food insecurity in hotspot countries

In 2022 (most recent projection), in millions



77% (17) of the **22 hotspot countries** facing acute food insecurity are on the World Bank's *FY22 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations*

- Africa is home to 16 of the 22 hotspot countries or 73%
- African countries also comprise 21 of the 39 fragile and conflict-affected situations or 54%

Fragile contexts warrant urgent, collective action

- **Fragile contexts will account for a quarter of the world's population in 2030, up from 23% today**
- **Armed conflict**, political violence and violence against civilians are growing in fragile contexts
- **Poverty is concentrated in fragile contexts.** In 2020, 76.5% of those living in extreme poverty (460 m) lived in fragile contexts; could grow by 2030 if fragile situations are not addressed
- **Increasing fragility threatens achievement of the SDGs.** Even before the shock of COVID-19, most fragile contexts were on track to meet just one SDG – SDG 13 on climate action – and progress was particularly challenged on SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (health) and SDG 5 (gender equality).

Key Drivers of Fragility

- 1. Drivers of fragility** are entrenched economic, social, political and environmental challenges underpinned by exclusion, marginalization and inequity.
 - **Primary drivers:** lack of good governance, economic and social exclusion, economic collapse and worsening forms of poverty, state weaknesses and collapse, and religious and ideological extremism
 - **Secondary drivers:** natural resource curse, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, superpower rivalry, youth bulge and demographic stresses
 - **Tertiary Drivers:** neighborhood effect
- 2. Typical development challenges:** poverty, forced displacement and hunger/malnutrition, armed conflict, poor water and sanitation provision, health challenges such as high infant and maternal mortality, low quality of education, gender inequality and insufficient infrastructure provision, in particular energy and transport
- 3. The 4Cs** (Covid-19, climate change, conflicts and rising cost of food, fertilizers and fuel) have amplified fragility in recent times, contributing to widening acute food insecurity, growing humanitarian needs, increasing extreme poverty and lack of progress towards global development goals.

Progress amid Challenges

Recent positive developments:

1. New analytics and diagnostic tools are being developed to inform policy and programming.
2. Development actors are developing FCV strategies to leverage comparative advantages:
 - The World Bank has identified four entry points to support countries in exiting fragility: i) strengthening governance around subsidies and social safety nets; ii) preventing and responding early to food crises; iii) expanding and strengthening the private sector; and iv) reducing conflict risk through sustainable resource management.
 - The IMF's Strategy aims to enhance provision of robust, well-tailored, and longer-term support to help FCV countries achieve macroeconomic stability, strengthen resilience, promote sustainable and inclusive growth, and exit fragility.
3. New and deepened partnerships with UN agencies are enabling the IFIs and other development actors to reach the most vulnerable and support governments.

Continued challenges to exiting from fragility:

- 1) Fragmented and siloed approaches to identified risks; 2) lack of strategic engagement at country level that looks beyond narrow project outcomes; 3) need for frameworks to be more agile and adapted to FCV contexts; and 4) better information systems to design interventions and inform implementation.

Overcoming Compounding Crises and Fragility

1. Address the needs of the most vulnerable first through coordinated actions ranging from provision of emergency food supplies, financial support, and increased agricultural production.
2. Keep trade open and avoid restrictive measures such as export bans on food or fertilizer.
3. Strengthen national emergency preparedness and response, social protection and food systems to build resilience.
4. Synergize approaches to overcome coordination, commitment, and cooperation challenges.
5. Create a more enabling environment for investments and private sector activity in fragile contexts.
6. Continue leveraging new technologies, including social media and analytical tools.
7. Understand FCV political economies.
8. Reinforce monitoring of food vulnerabilities and expand multi-faceted policy advice to affected countries.
9. Leverage partnerships to drive innovative investment in fragile and conflict affected environments.

WFP's Increasing Needs:

“weapons get cheaper by the day, food gets more expensive by the day.”

