

# Impacts of COVID on Food Security and Nutrition: Addressing the Hunger and Malnutrition Pandemic

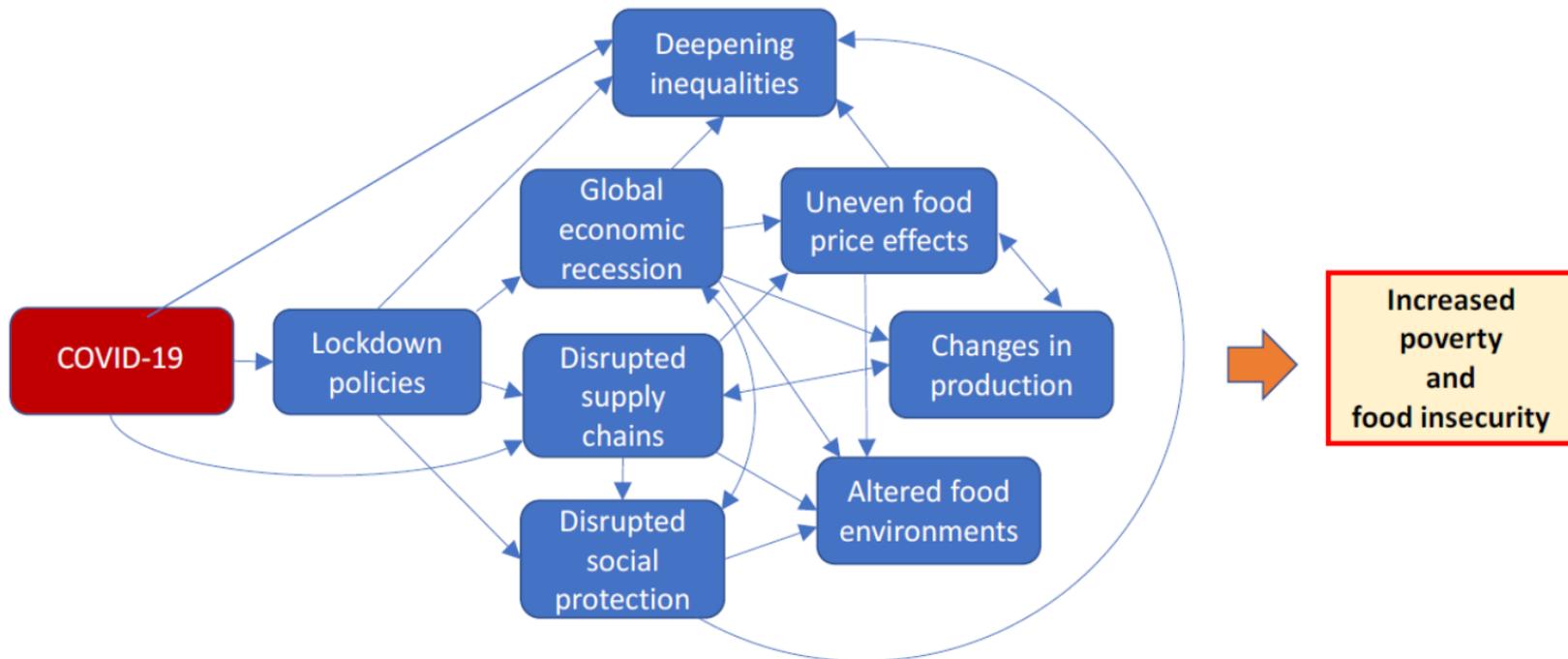


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# Context

- Fluid and dynamic situation
- SOFI 2020 estimates 83-132 million people will be added to the ranks of the world's hungry
- WHO estimates doubling of acute hunger; says worst is yet to come
- Urgent need to build more resilient food systems in face of this crisis

# Dynamics of COVID-19 and food security



*These trends overlap in complex ways; not always easy to disentangle*

# Impact of COVID-19 on FSN changes over time

## Initial effects (first 1-2 months)

Global and local disruptions to food supply chains due to lockdowns affects perishable food items leading to food waste

Massive job losses and income constraints lower purchasing power, affecting food access

School closures mean loss of school meals for millions of children

Fewer fresh foods available in markets (fruits, vegetables, dairy, etc), leading to poor diet quality

Early export restrictions by some countries on some food products causes supply and price disruption

## Medium term (next 2-5 months)

Farm labour and input constraints affect production and prices

Food system worker illnesses contribute to continuation of supply chain disruptions

Global recession sends millions into extreme poverty, further diminishing their ability to access food

Uneven food price effects in local contexts impact food import dependent countries

Altered food environments affects access to healthy and nutritious foods

## Longer term (next 6-24 months)

Loss of livelihoods and people's access to food, resulting in a massive increase in hunger

Loss of food system livelihoods threatens food system stability and resilience

Shift in diets to less nutritious foods impacts health and livelihood prospects

Ongoing uncertainty constrains long-term investment in the food and agriculture sector

Diminished attention to climate and biodiversity threatens food sustainability

# Implications of COVID-19 for the 6 dimensions of food security

- Loss of jobs & income
- Higher food prices
- Disruption of school meal programmes
- Curtailing of safety nets or diminished access to them
- Closure of proximity and informal markets
- Comorbidities

- Increase in food losses & waste
- Increase in packaging and plastic waste
- Decreased attention to climate change and environmental issues
- Social and economic losses affecting food system viability

- Loss of jobs & affiliation to unions
- Weakened power of farmers' and producers' organization
- Loss of economic and social empowerment
- Inability to meet and organize
- Inequality in ICT access
- Temporary restrictions of rights to demonstrate and organize



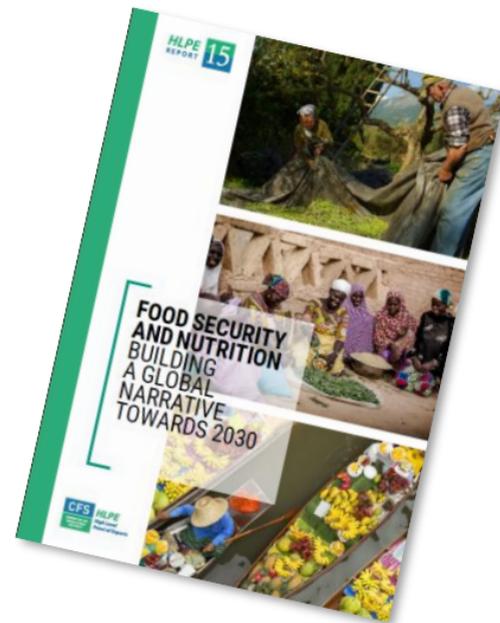
- Supply chain disruptions
- Labour shortages
- Closure of high-risk processing plants
- Closure of restaurants and food stalls
- Shift to lower risk crops

- Supply chains disruptions
- Uncertainty on markets & inputs access
- Price volatility
- Export restrictions

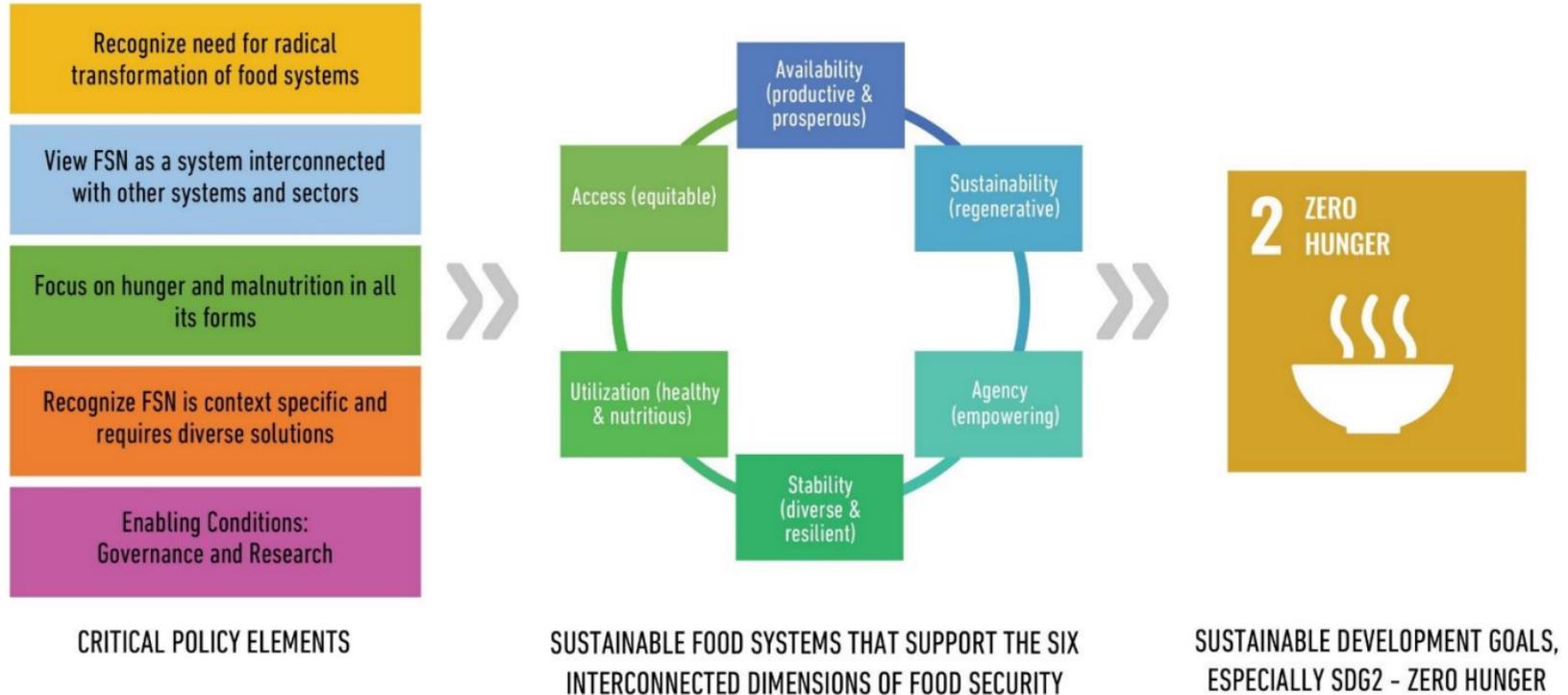
- Shift to cheaper / less healthy diets
- Shift towards processed and shelf stable food
- Link between malnutrition and COVID-19

# Recommendations

- The report reinforces recommendations in other recent HLPE reports:
- March 2020 HLPE Issues Paper on COVID-19
- Supports the four policy shifts called for in the HLPE 15 report (“Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative Toward 2030”) for longer-term achievement of FSN and meeting SDGs



# Theory of change from the HLPE's 15<sup>th</sup> report



# Summary of Recommendations

- **Implement more robust targeted social protection programmes to improve access to healthy and nutritious foods**, including emergency food aid, maintaining robust safety nets, food assistance programmes focused on healthy food, and ensuring access to alternatives to school lunches when schools are closed. Debt relief should be provided to governments in need.
- **Ensure better protections for vulnerable and marginalized food system workers and farmers**, including the recognition of their labour rights in national legislation, access to full protection from hazards and risks – paying special attention to migrant workers, mechanisms to protect farmers and small-agricultural producers from uncertainties and income losses.
- **Provide better protections for countries that depend on food imports**, which are especially vulnerable to supply chain disruptions. Measures include discouraging export restrictions as a response to the pandemic and, in the longer term, support countries to increase their domestic food production capacity.

# Summary of Recommendations

- **Strengthen and coordinate policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic impact** on food systems and food security and nutrition to address the interlinkages of food, health, economic and environmental systems. Recognizing the role of the CFS as a lead body in coordinating an international governance response to the impact of COVID-19 on FSN and in facilitating information sharing among governments to track these impacts are among the recommended actions.
- **Support more diverse and resilient distribution systems**, including shorter supply chains and territorial markets, and support small and medium scale agrifood enterprises' participation in supply chains.
- **Support more resilient food production systems based on agroecology and other sustainable forms of food production**, including by strengthening local food production and ensure that not only farming, but also sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, animal production and forestry are central in policy responses to COVID-19.

**Thank you!**