Lessons learned from policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic for food security in Asia and the Pacific

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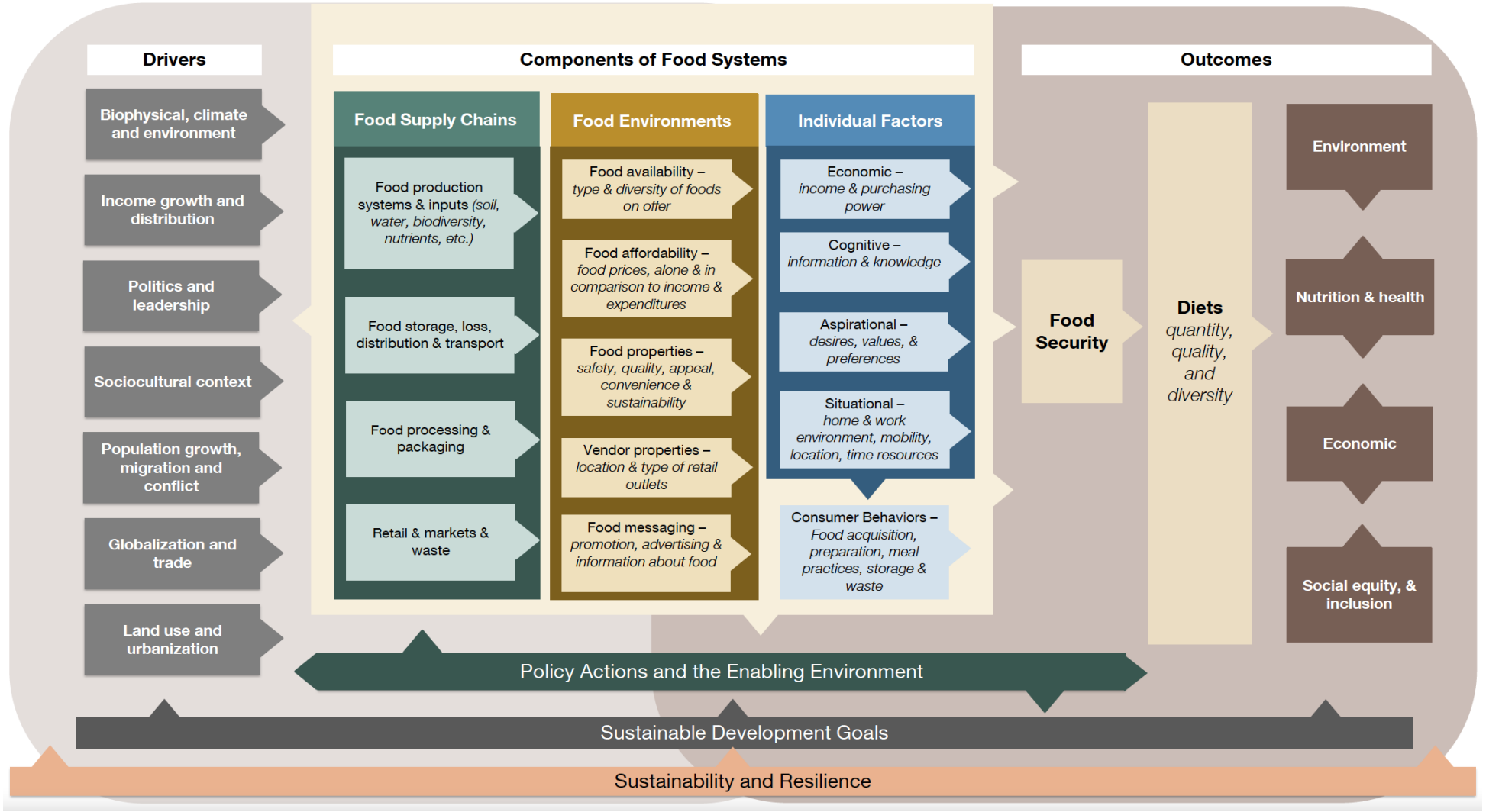
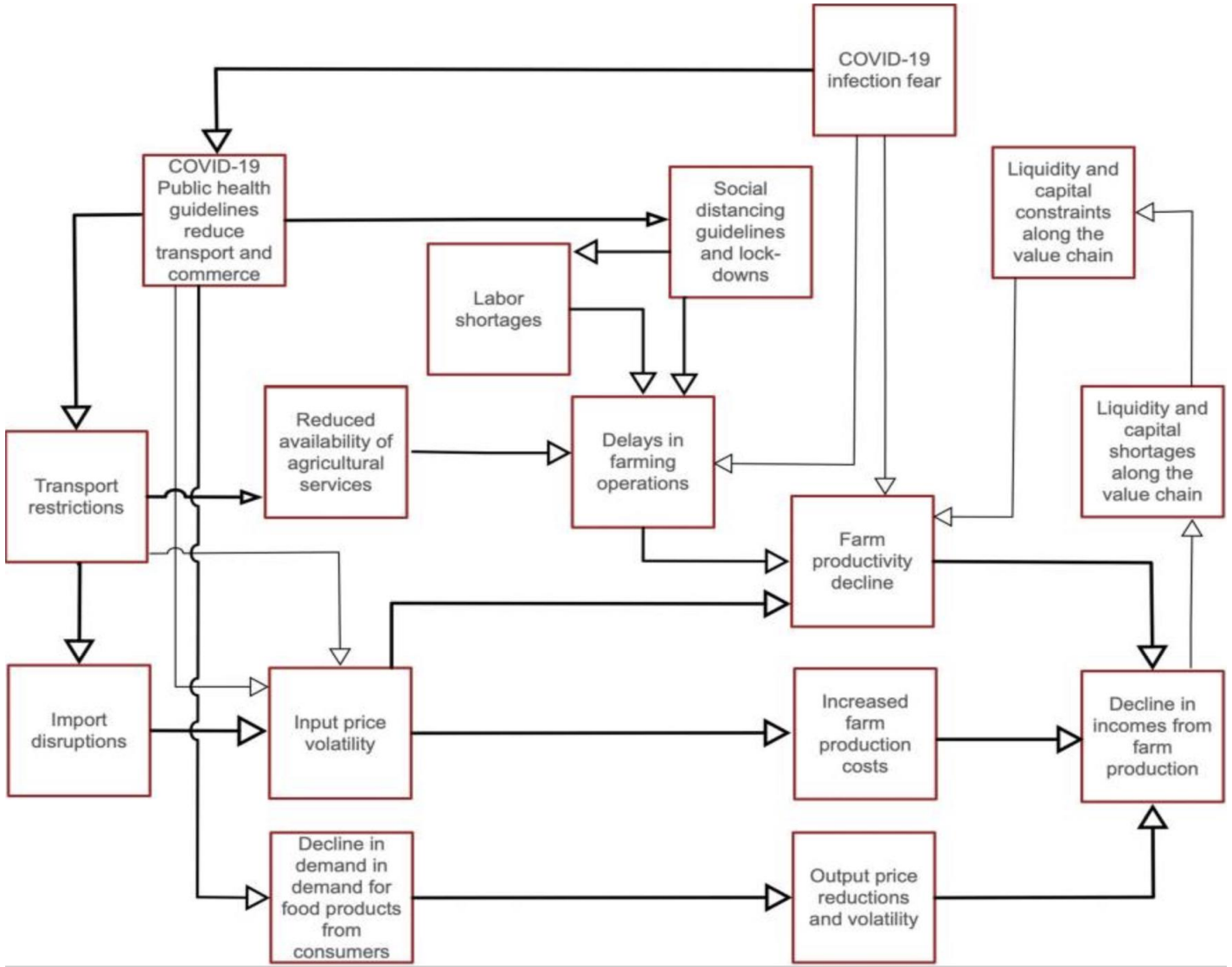
Food systems situation analysis



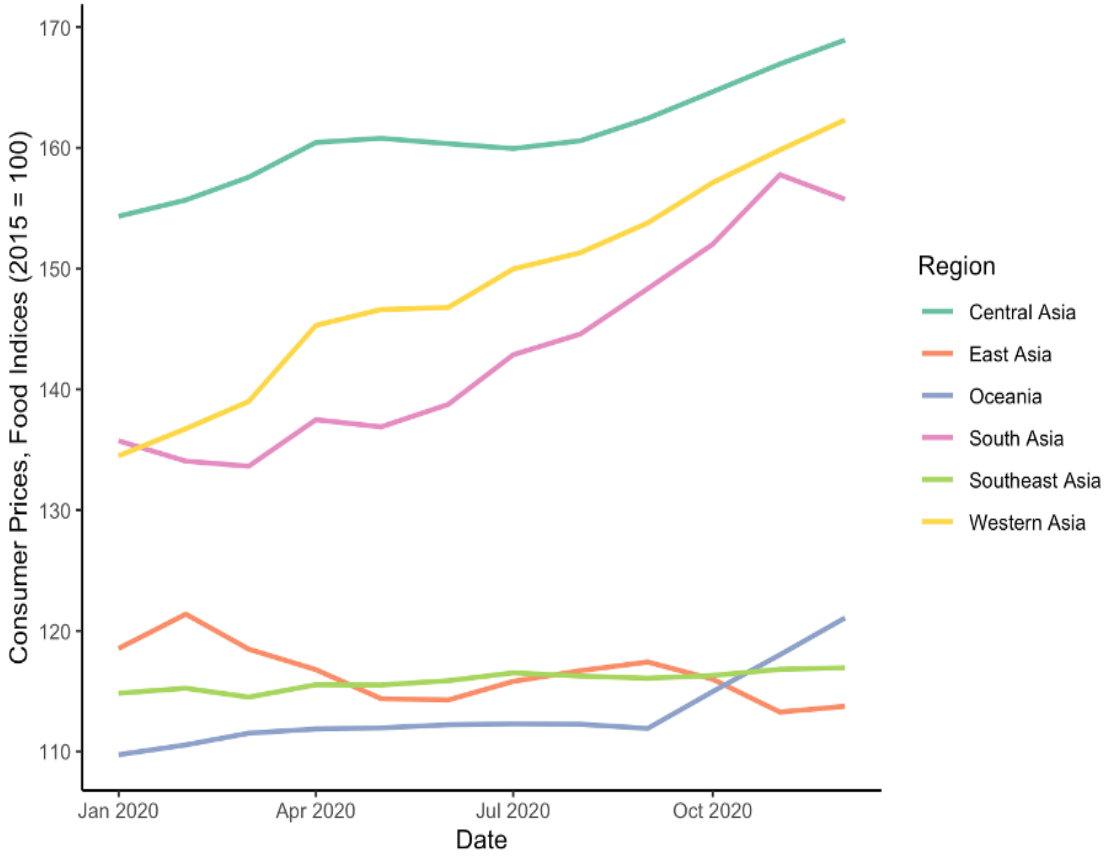
Source: Fanzo et al. (2020).

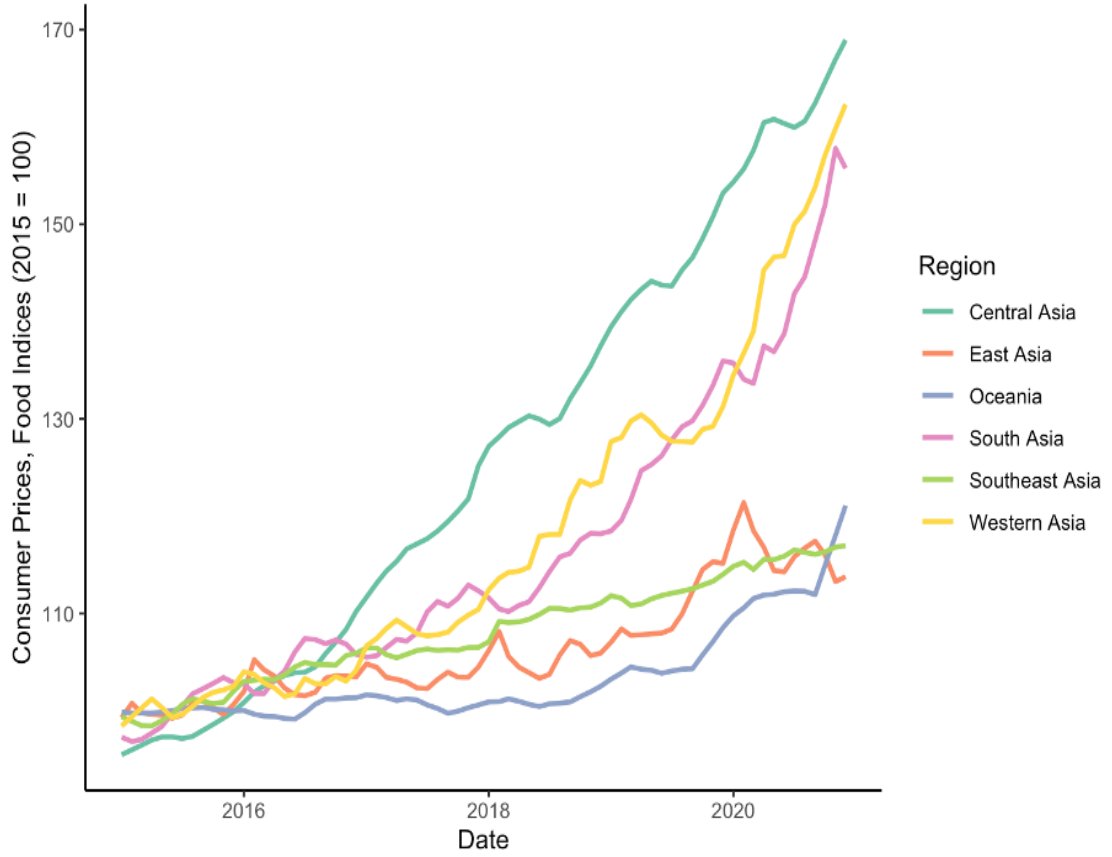
Impacts of COVID-19 on food supply chains in South Asia



Source: Amjath et al. (2020)

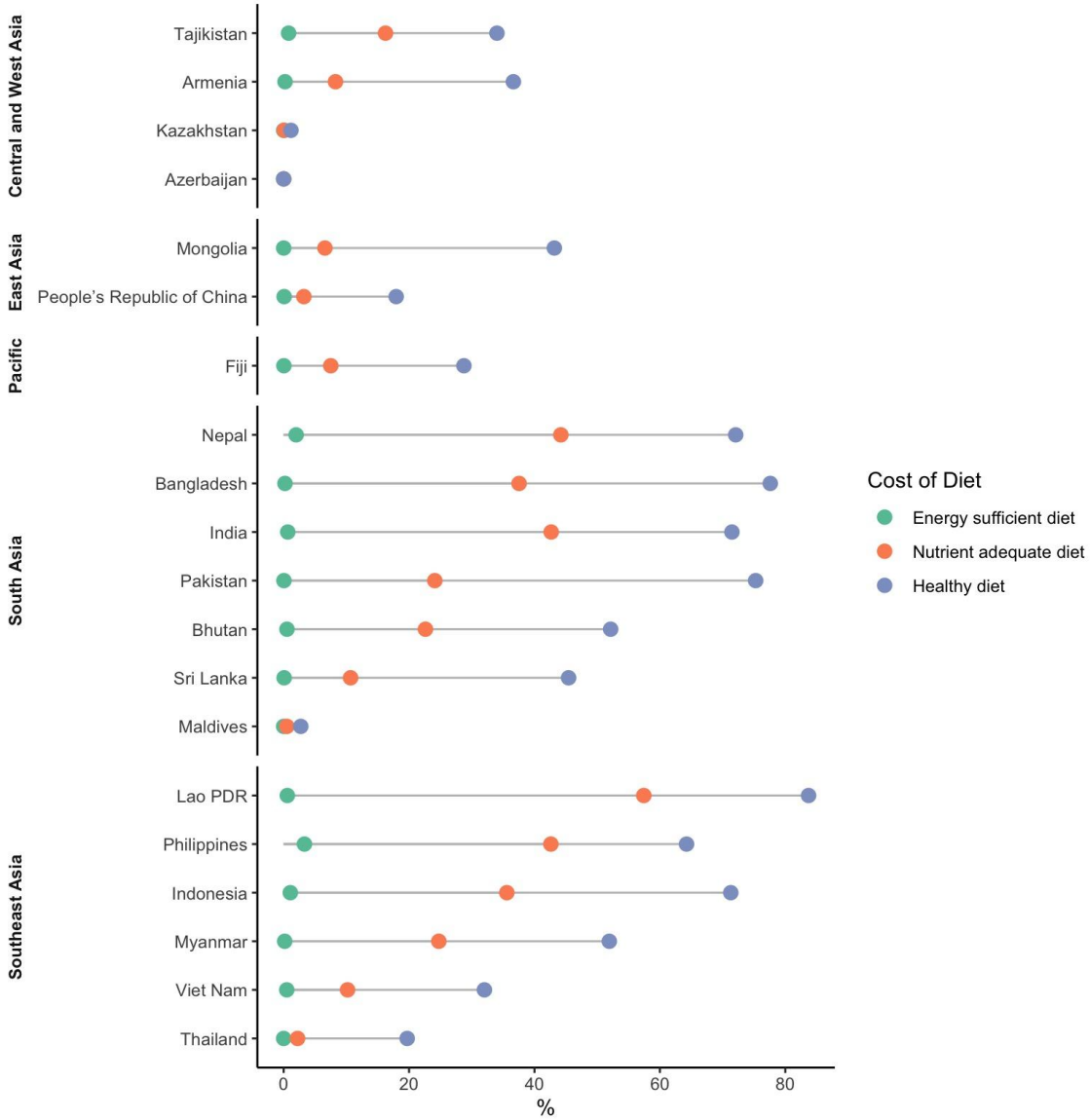
Food prices are increasing



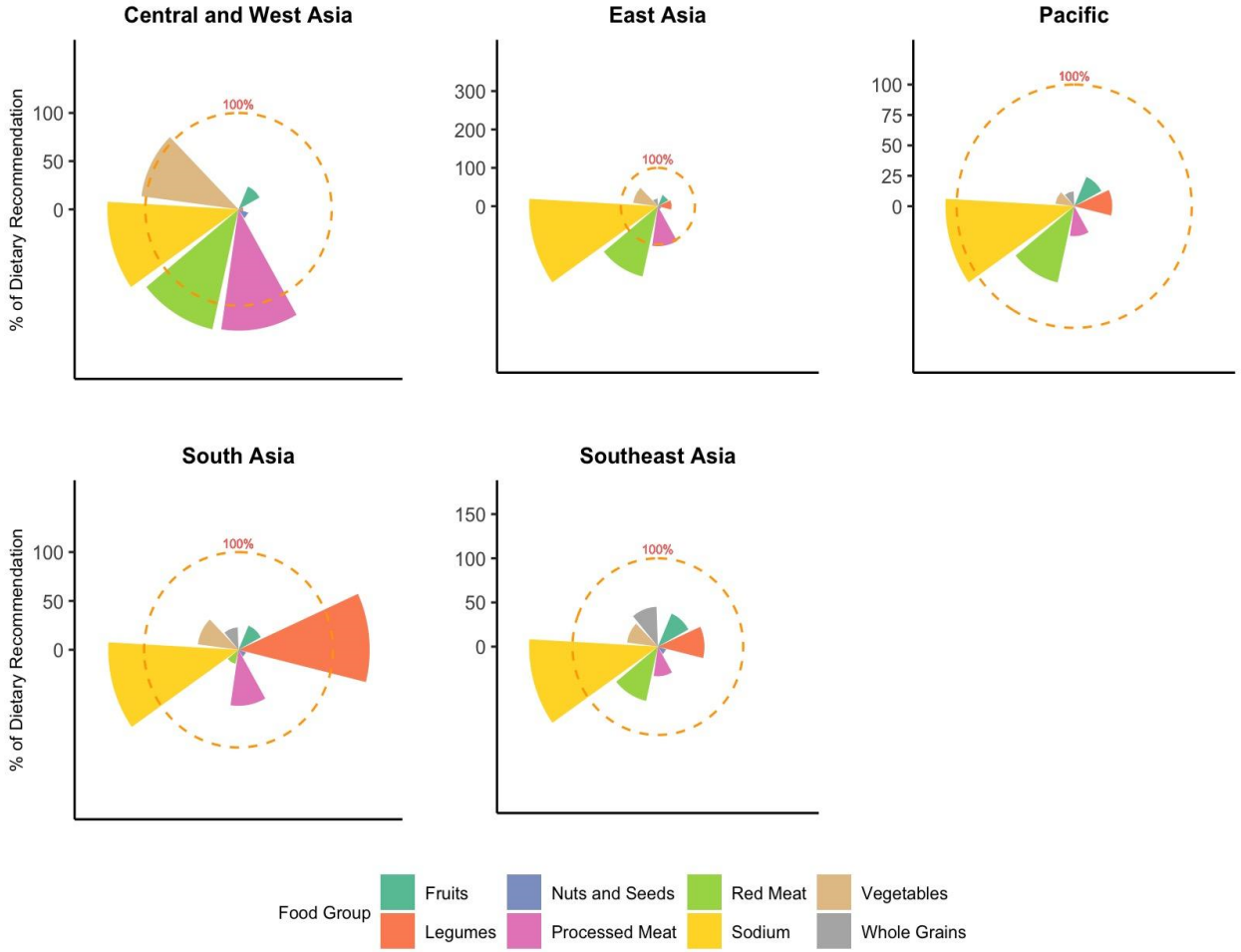


Source: FAOStat 2021; http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data

Diets are expensive and less healthy

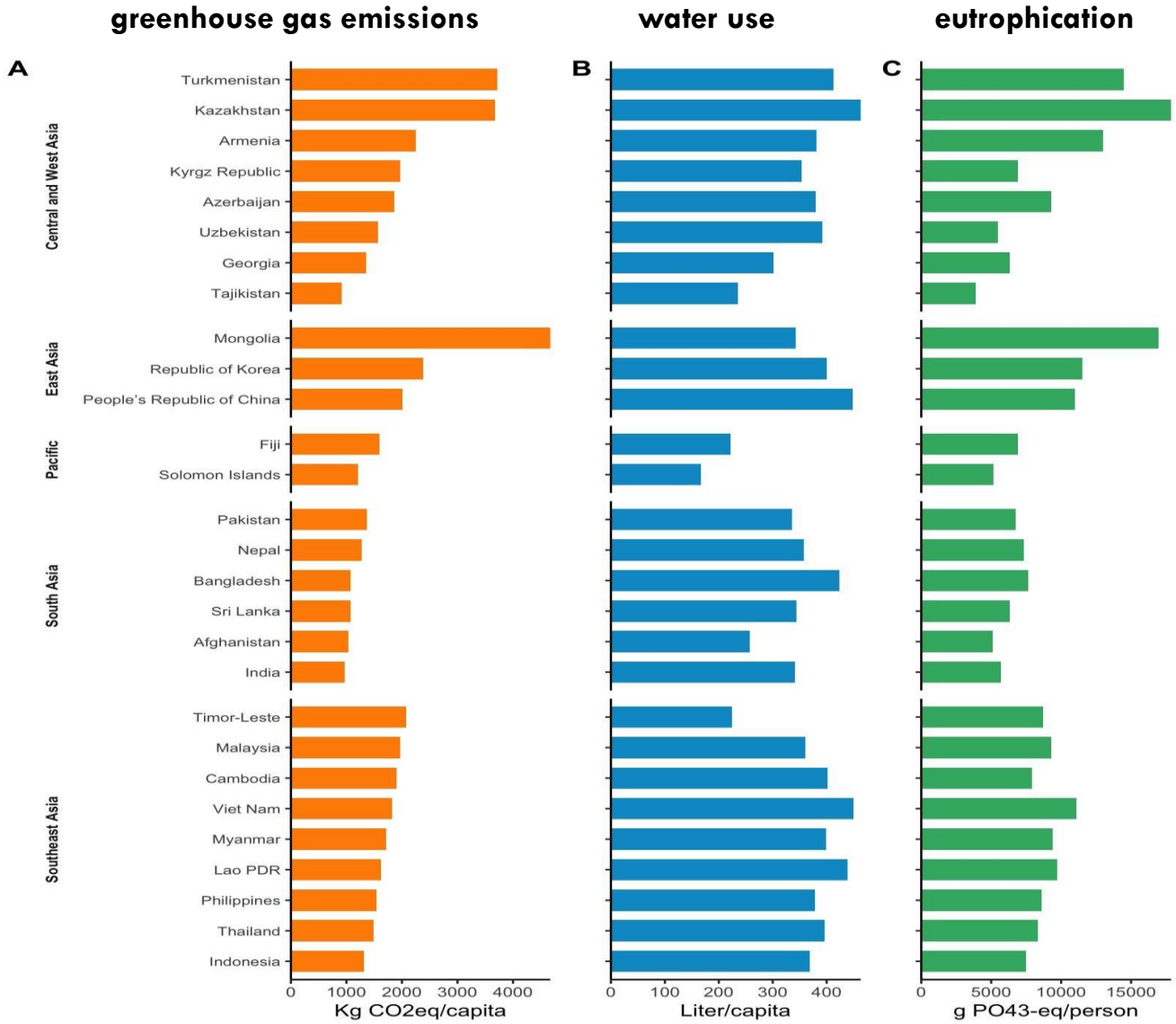


Source: Herforth et al. 2020



Source: Data from 2017 Global Burden of Disease Diet Group estimates.

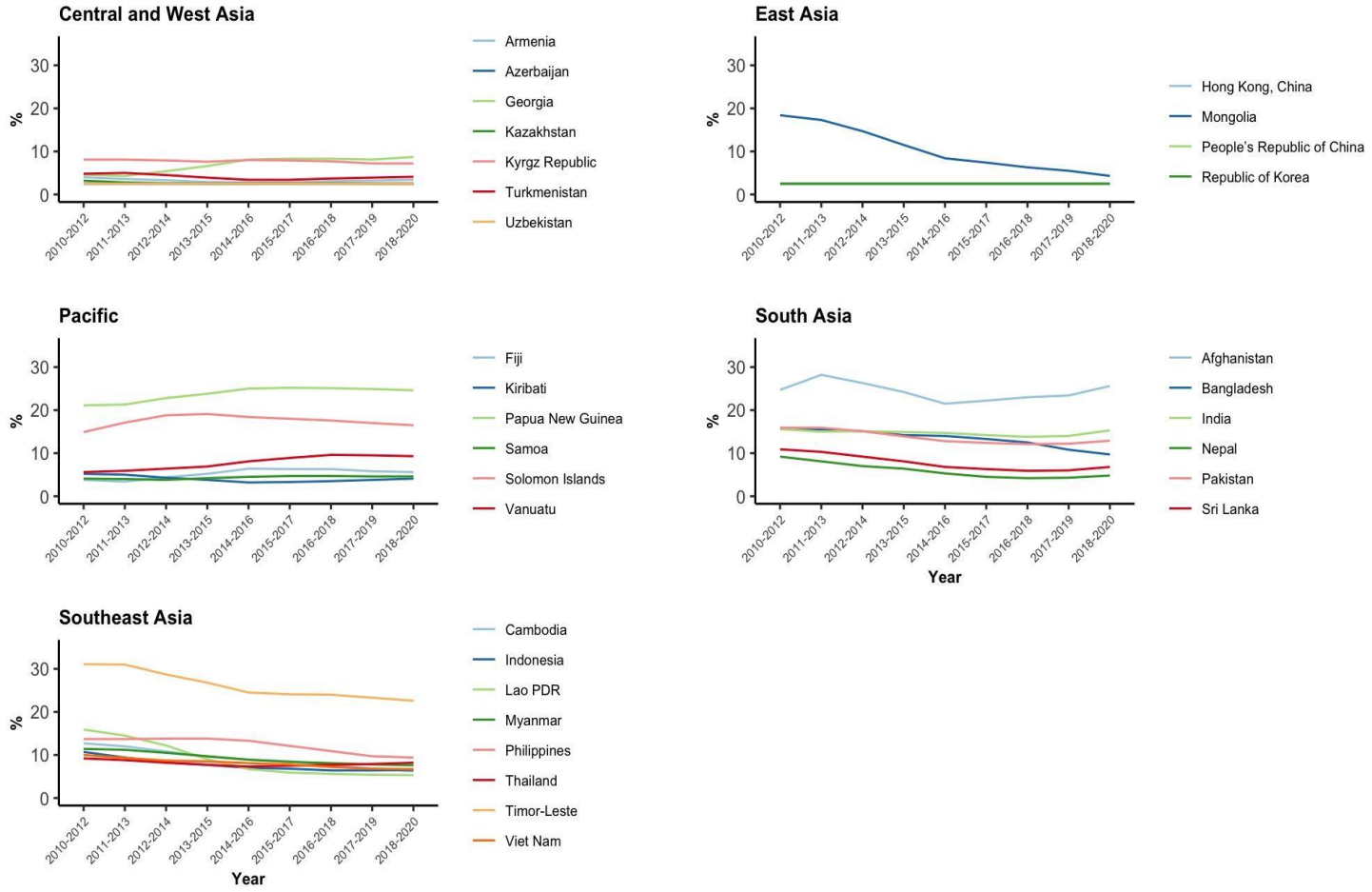
Per capita impact of ***dietary consumption*** on climate and the environment



Source: Food Systems Dashboard 2021

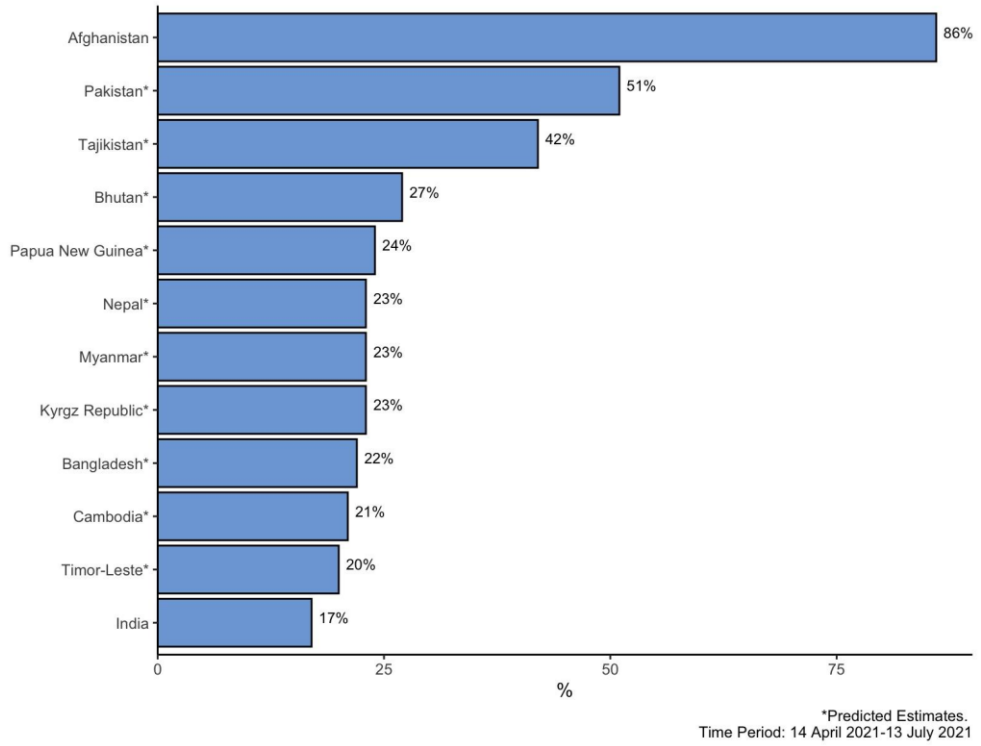
Hunger is increasing

Undernourishment in the region



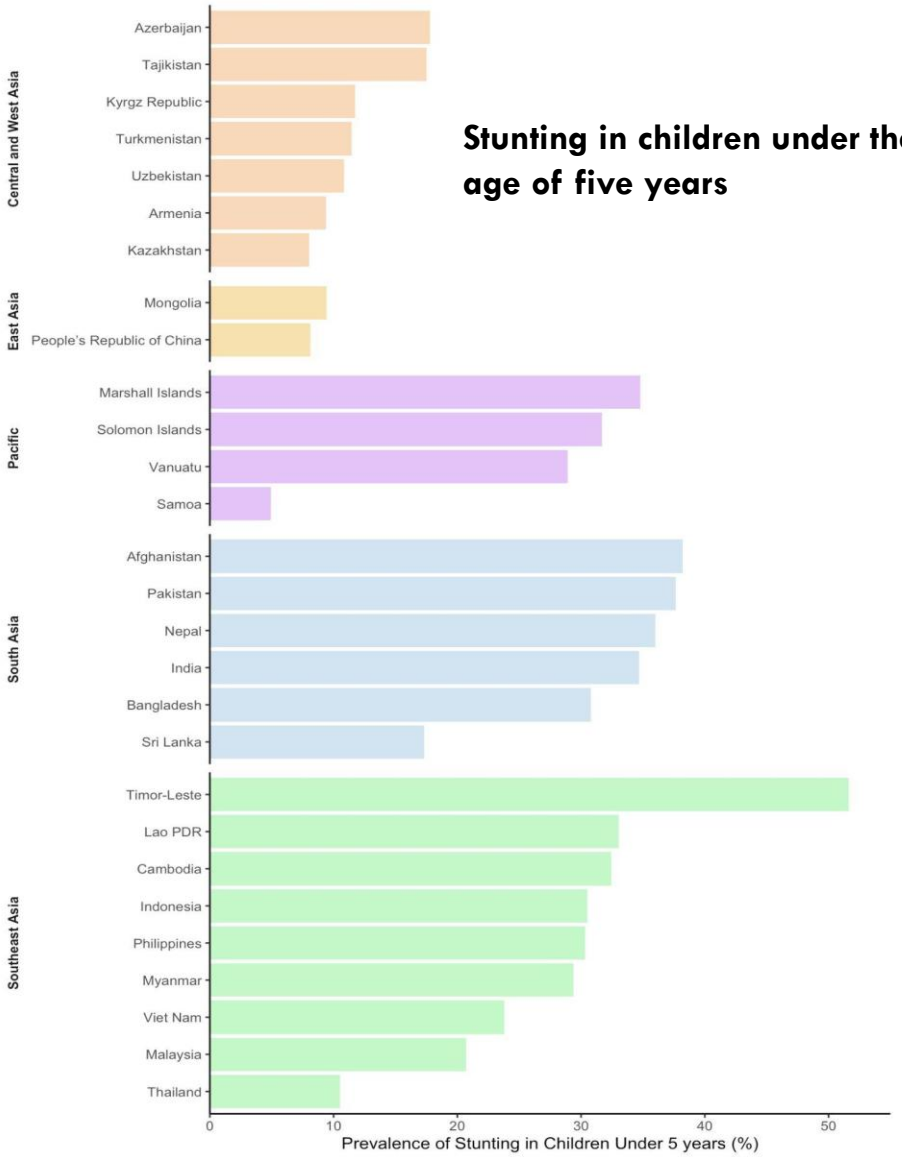
Source: FAOStat 2021. http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data

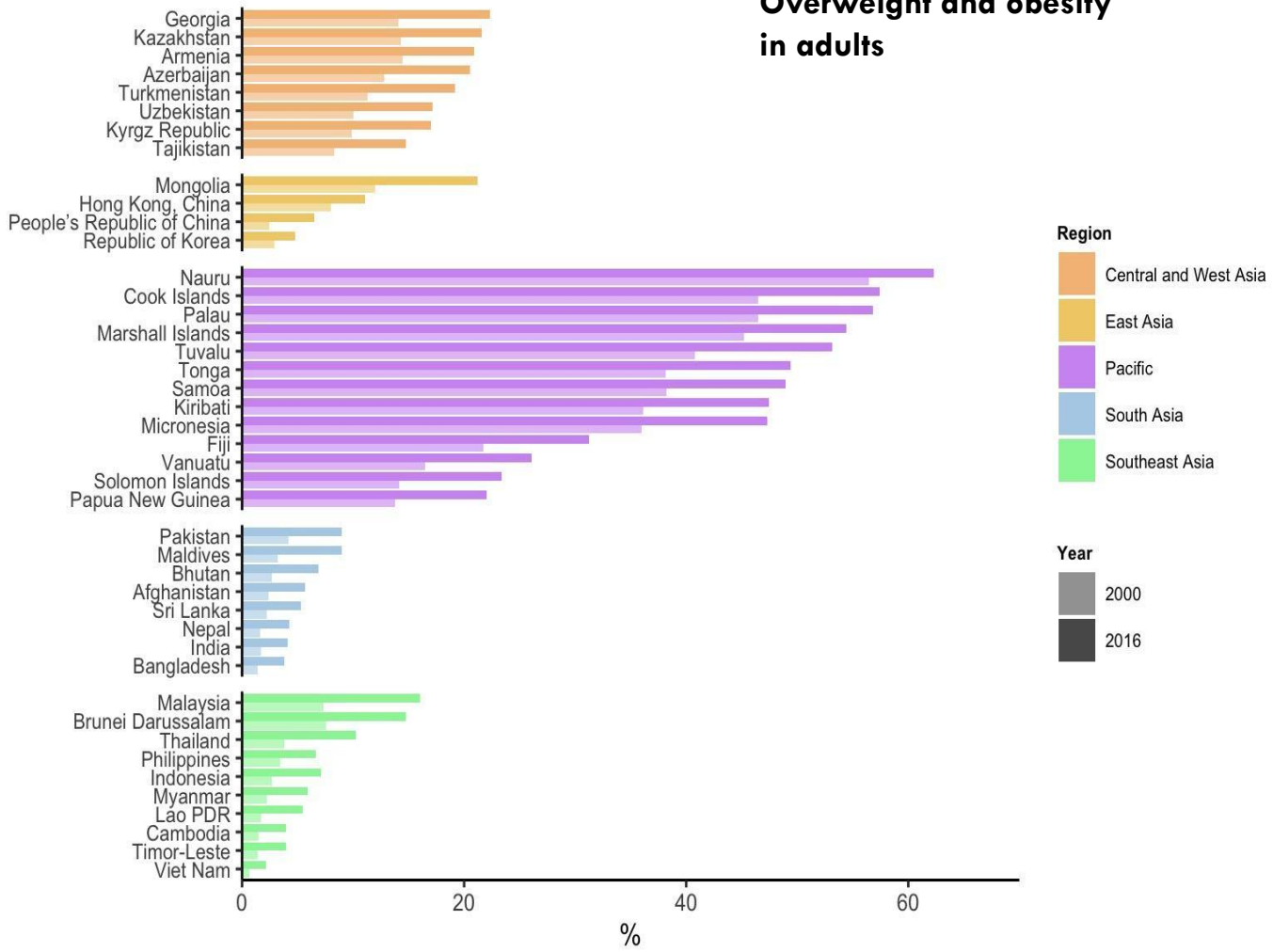
Prevalence of insufficient food consumption in the region (April 2021–July 2021)



Source: World Food Programme Hunger Map 2021.

APR is experiencing a double burden of malnutrition



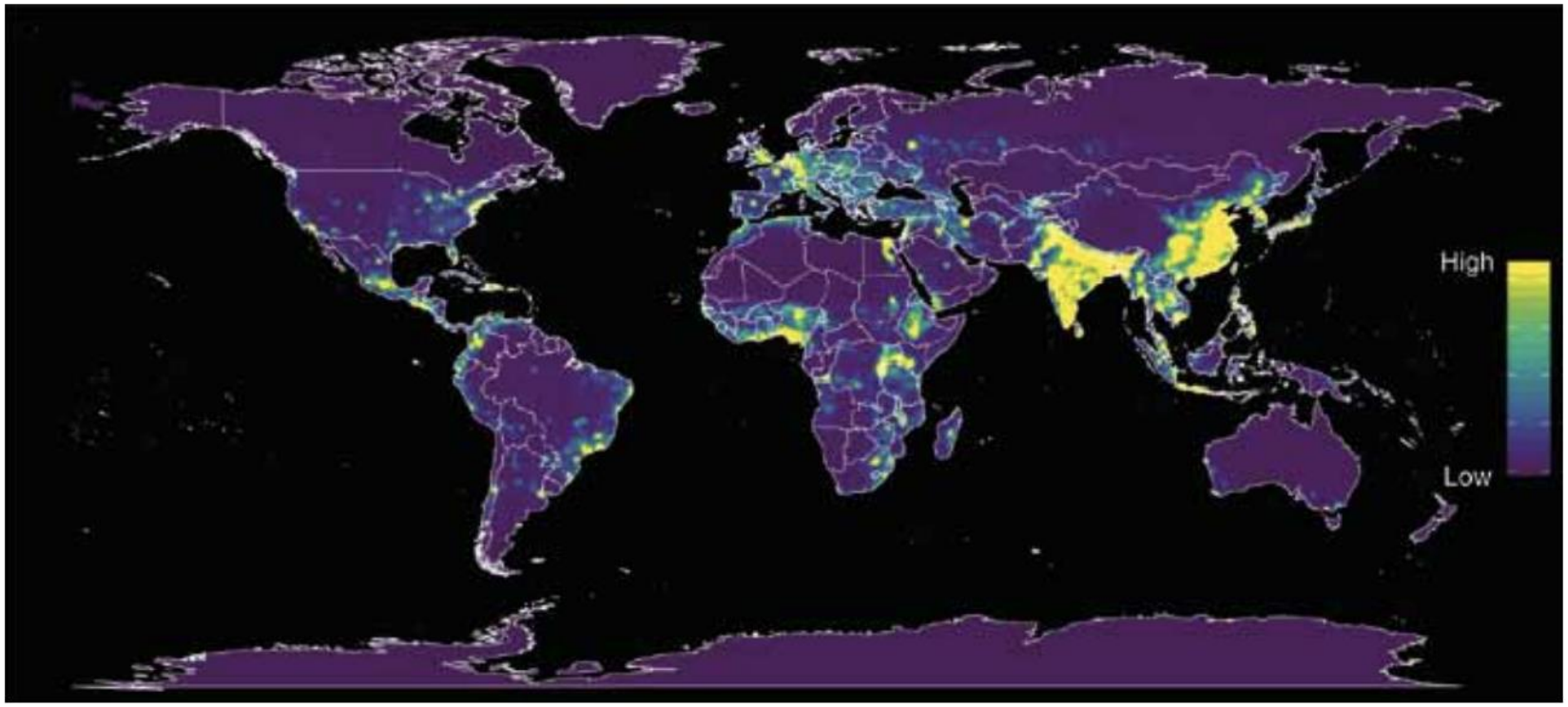


Source: UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and World Bank Joint Malnutrition Estimates 2021.

Source: Food Systems Dashboard 2021.

Spatial Heat Map of Low to High Risk of Zoonotic Emerging Infectious Disease Events

COVID-19 is thought to be a zoonotic disease that jumped from animals to humans. Sixty percent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, and of that 60%, 72% originate in wildlife



Source: Solver et al. (2017)

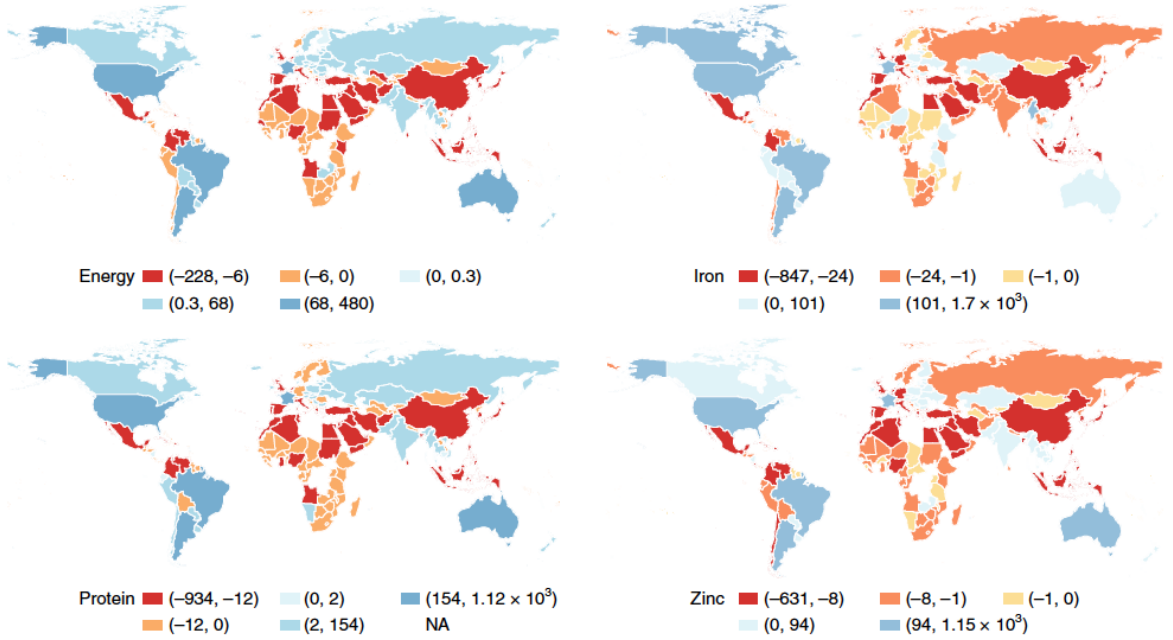
Key findings

- The pandemic is threatening the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 targets on hunger and malnutrition in the Asia Pacific Region (APR). As a result, food insecurity, unhealthy dietary trends, and increased risk of obesity and noncommunicable diseases are worsening in the region.
- The impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods and food systems and increasing food prices have impacted the ability for consumers to access healthy diets in the APR.
- The management of landscapes, the growth of agriculture and livestock sectors, and the demand for animal-source foods have increased the risk of environmental degradation, climate change, and zoonotic spillover events.
- The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to build resilience in food systems.

Short-term lessons

- Protect food system workers across the entire supply chains
- Enact social protection
- Ensure trade flows remain open and strengthen local and global chains

Importance of trade in moving nutrients around the world: Map shows deficiency of key nutrients without trade



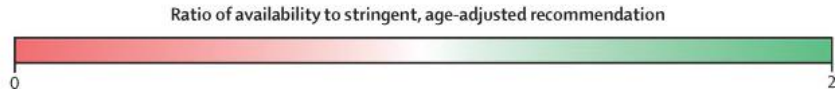
Source: Wood et al. (2018).
Note: Map breaks correspond to minimum, first quantile, medium, third quantile, and maximum for each nutrient.

Medium and long-term lessons

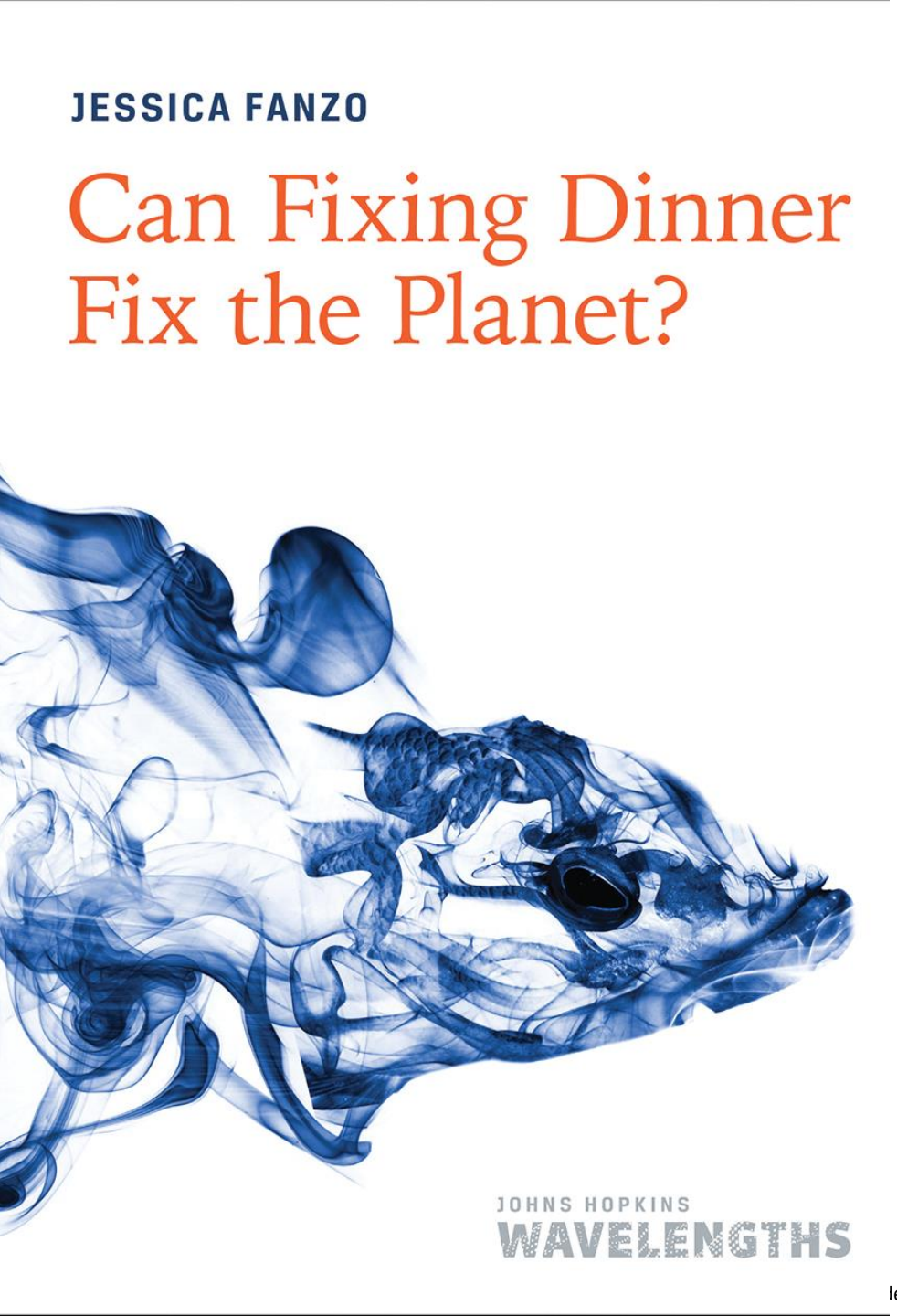
- Integrated cross-sectoral approach to nutrition security
- More targeted investment to enhance the accessibility to healthy and nutritious food
- Scale-up investment to enhance environmentally sustainable food production
- Build more capacity to manage food safety and biosecurity risks

Shortages now and into the future of fruits and vegetable supplies

	Average fruit and vegetable availability (g/person per day)			Ratio of availability to recommended consumption											
				Excluding food waste			Including food waste								
							FAO estimate*			15%			33%		
	2015	2030	2050	2015	2030	2050	2015	2030	2050	2015	2030	2050	2015	2030	2050
East Asia and Pacific	846	958	957	1·49	1·67	1·66	1·38	1·55	1·54	1·27	1·42	1·41	1·00	1·12	1·11
Europe‡	616	643	666	1·08	1·12	1·16	0·87	0·91	0·94	0·92	0·95	0·99	0·72	0·75	0·78
Former Soviet Union	529	611	656	0·94	1·07	1·15	0·82	0·94	1·01	0·79	0·91	0·97	0·63†	0·72	0·77
Latin America and Caribbean	418	462	513	0·75	0·82	0·90	0·68†	0·74	0·81	0·64†	0·70	0·77	0·50†	0·55†	0·60†
Middle East and north Africa	744	779	796	1·35	1·39	1·41	1·19	1·23	1·24	1·15	1·18	1·19	0·91	0·93	0·94
North America	659	716	726	1·16	1·26	1·27	0·84	0·91	0·92	0·99	1·07	1·08	0·78	0·85	0·85
South Asia	331†	540	1002	0·60†	0·97	1·77	0·56†	0·90	1·65	0·51†	0·82	1·51	0·40†	0·65†	1·19
Sub-Saharan Africa	211†	253†	318†	0·40†	0·47†	0·58†	0·38†	0·45†	0·55†	0·34†	0·40†	0·49†	0·27†	0·32†	0·39†
Developing countries	540	637	772	0·98	1·14	1·37	0·75	0·87	1·04	0·83	0·97	1·16	0·65†	0·76	0·92
Developed countries	621	660	680	1·09	1·16	1·19	0·93	0·98	1·02	0·93	0·98	1·01	0·73	0·77	0·80
Global	552	640	760	0·99	1·14	1·34	0·82	0·95	1·12	0·85	0·97	1·14	0·67†	0·76	0·90



Source: Mason-D'Croz, et al., 2019.



Thank you!

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