



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



International Fund for Agricultural Development



World Food Programme



World Health Organization

2020

# THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS  
FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTHY DIETS

2020

# THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS  
FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTHY DIETS

New York | 13 July 2020



## **World hunger is still increasing**

**Up by 10 million people in one year and nearly 60 million in five years**

## **Looking beyond hunger**

**Over 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food**

## **The world is not on track to eradicate hunger**

**If recent trends continue, the number of hungry people would surpass 840 million by 2030**

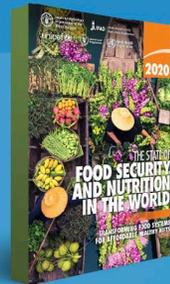
## **Covid-19 poses a serious threat to food security**

**The pandemic may add as many as 132 million people to the total number of hungry in 2020**

## **The world is not on track to defeat malnutrition**

**While there is some progress in child stunting and breastfeeding, child overweight is not improving and adult obesity is rising**

## Assessing food insecurity: different numbers, different objectives



**SOFI Report:**  
 presenting global indicators founded on rigorous statistical measurement principles, which ensure comparability across countries and over time.



**Global Food Crisis Report:**  
 based on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity assessments, triangulating any available recent evidence, even if partial and from different sources.

**690 Million**

**Chronic undernourishment/ severe food insecurity only**  
 This is a long-term inability to meet food requirements. It is assessed through PoU, which is SDG indicator 2.1.1, and is comparable to the prevalence of severe food insecurity using the FIES.

**2 Billion**

**Moderate or severe food insecurity combined**  
 This is when people face uncertainties about their ability to obtain food and have been forced to compromise on the nutritional quality and/or quantity of the food they consume. This is assessed using the FIES and is SDG indicator 2.1.2.

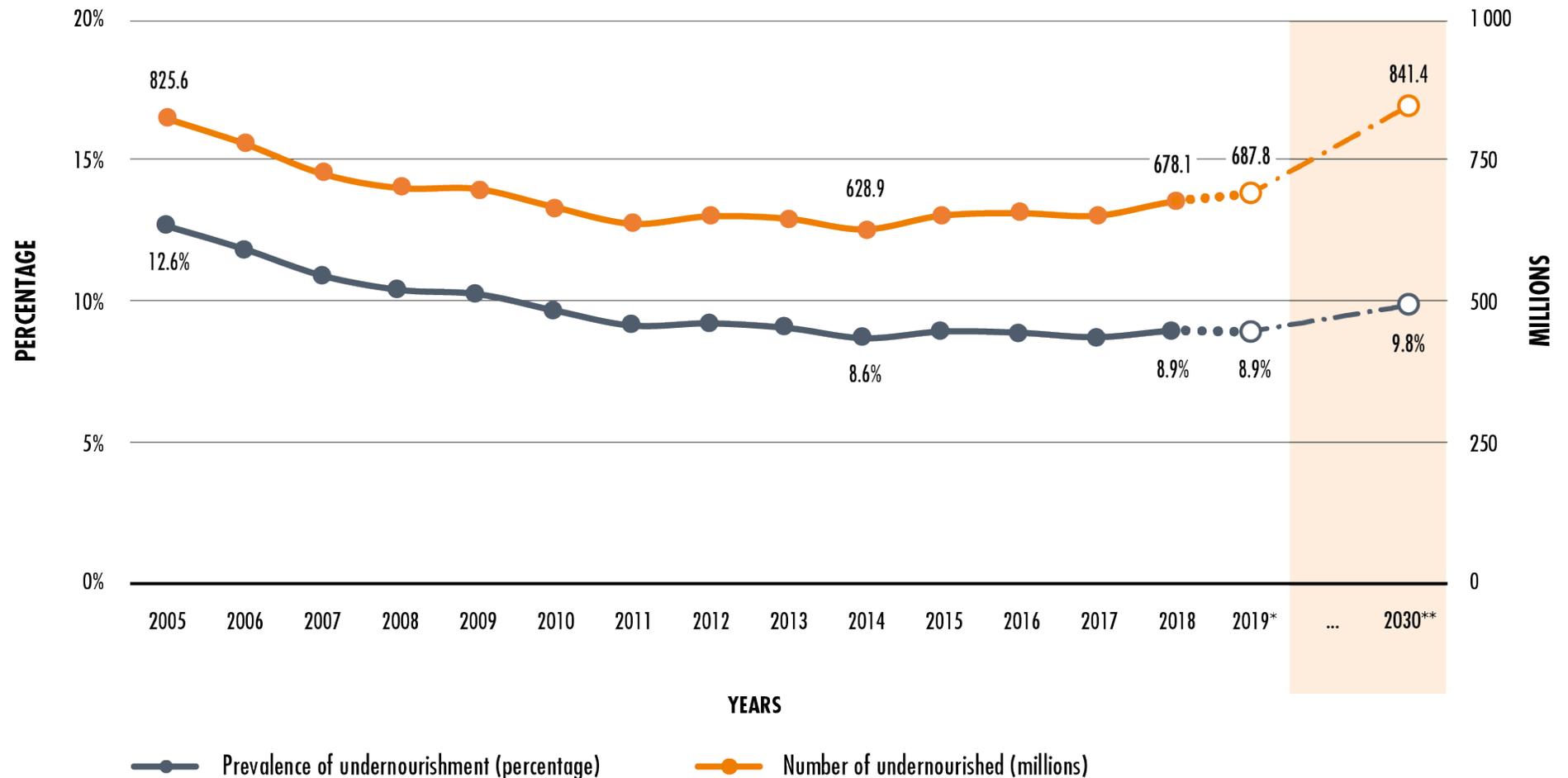
**135 Million**

**Crisis-level, acute food insecurity**  
 Sporadic, sudden crises can limit people's access to food in the short term to the point that their lives and livelihoods are at risk.

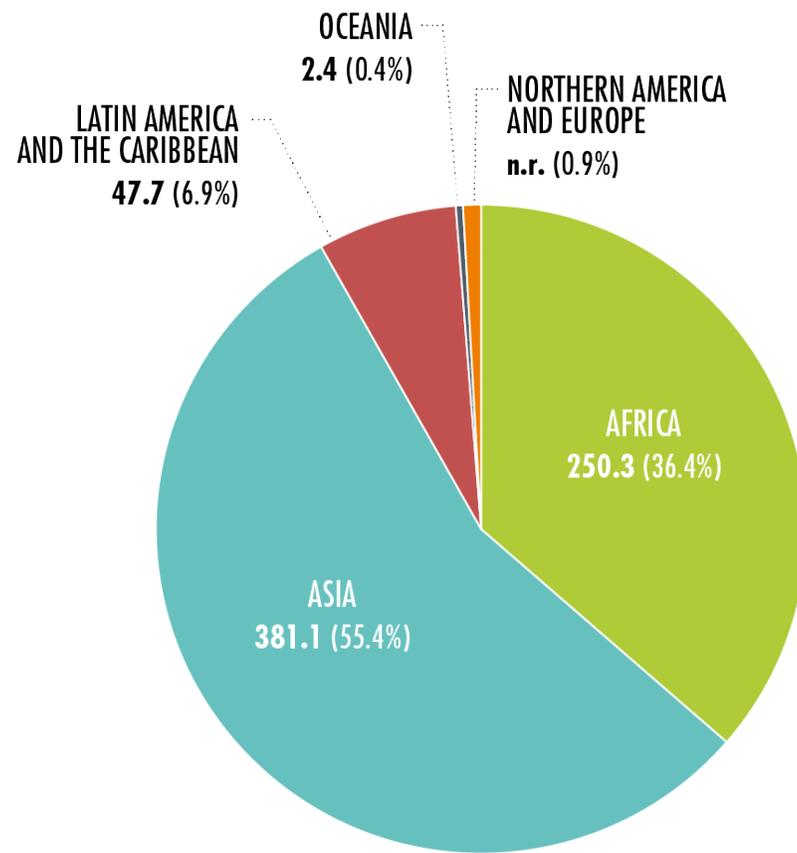
The number of undernourished reported in SOFI and the number of people facing crisis-level, acute food insecurity reported in the GFCR are not comparable. If people facing acute food insecurity get the assistance they need, their situation will not become chronic.

The number of hungry people has been slowly on the rise since 2014 – up by 10 million in one year and by nearly 60 million in 5 years.

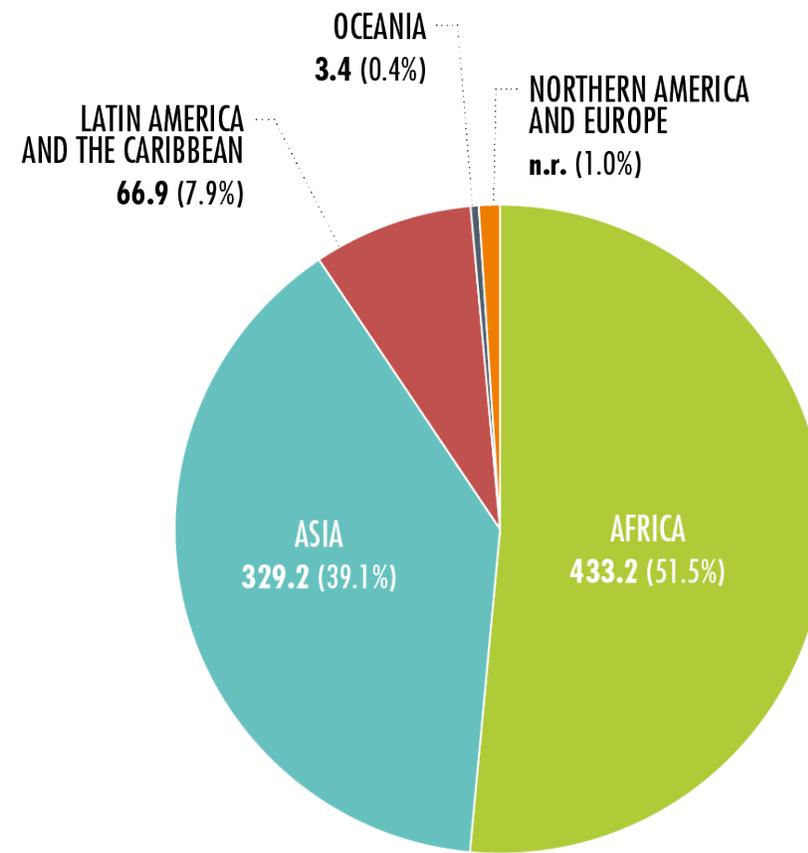
The world is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.



**If recent trends persist, the distribution of hunger in the world would change substantially, making Africa the region with the highest number of undernourished in 2030**

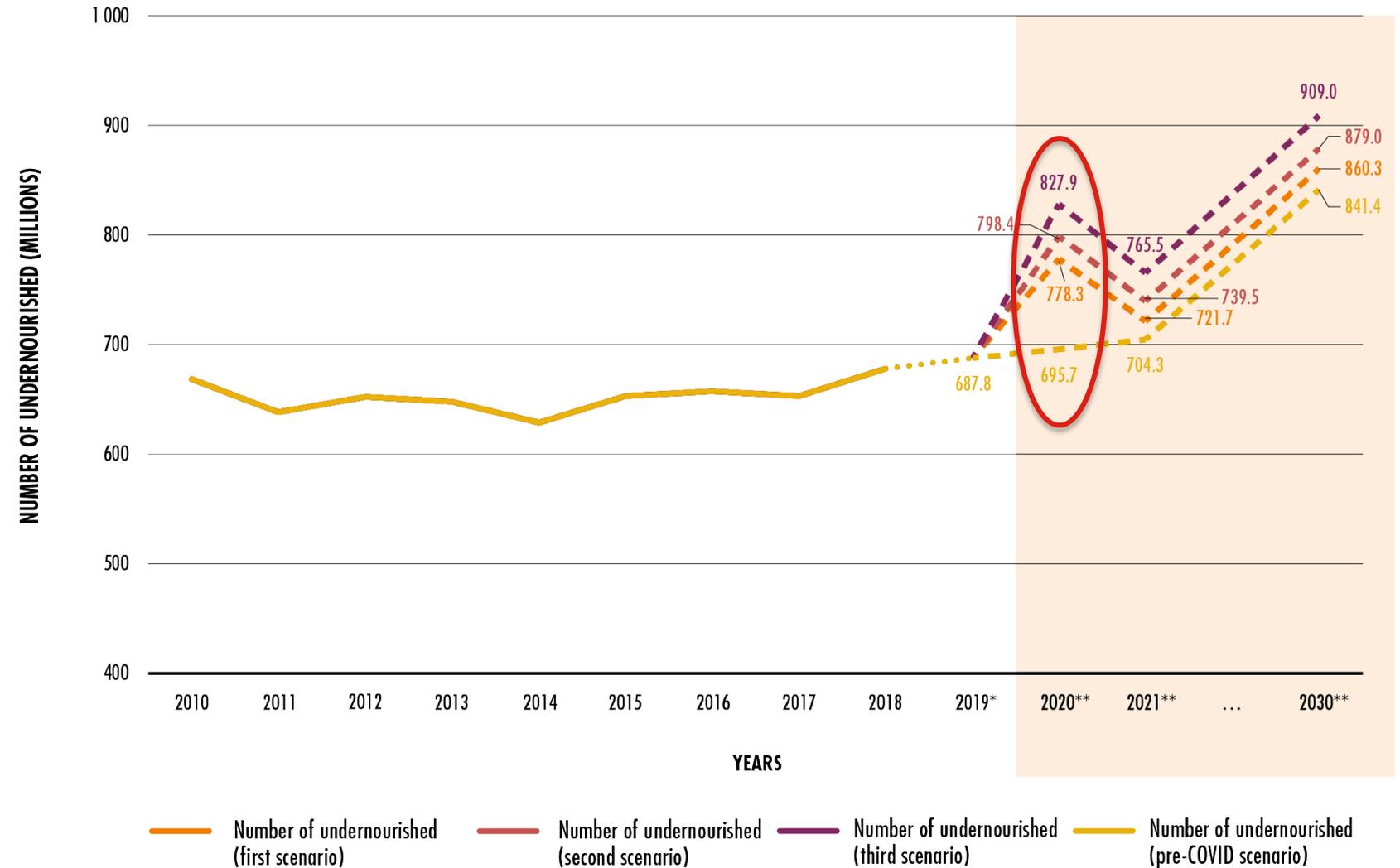


2019\*: TOTAL 687.8 MILLION

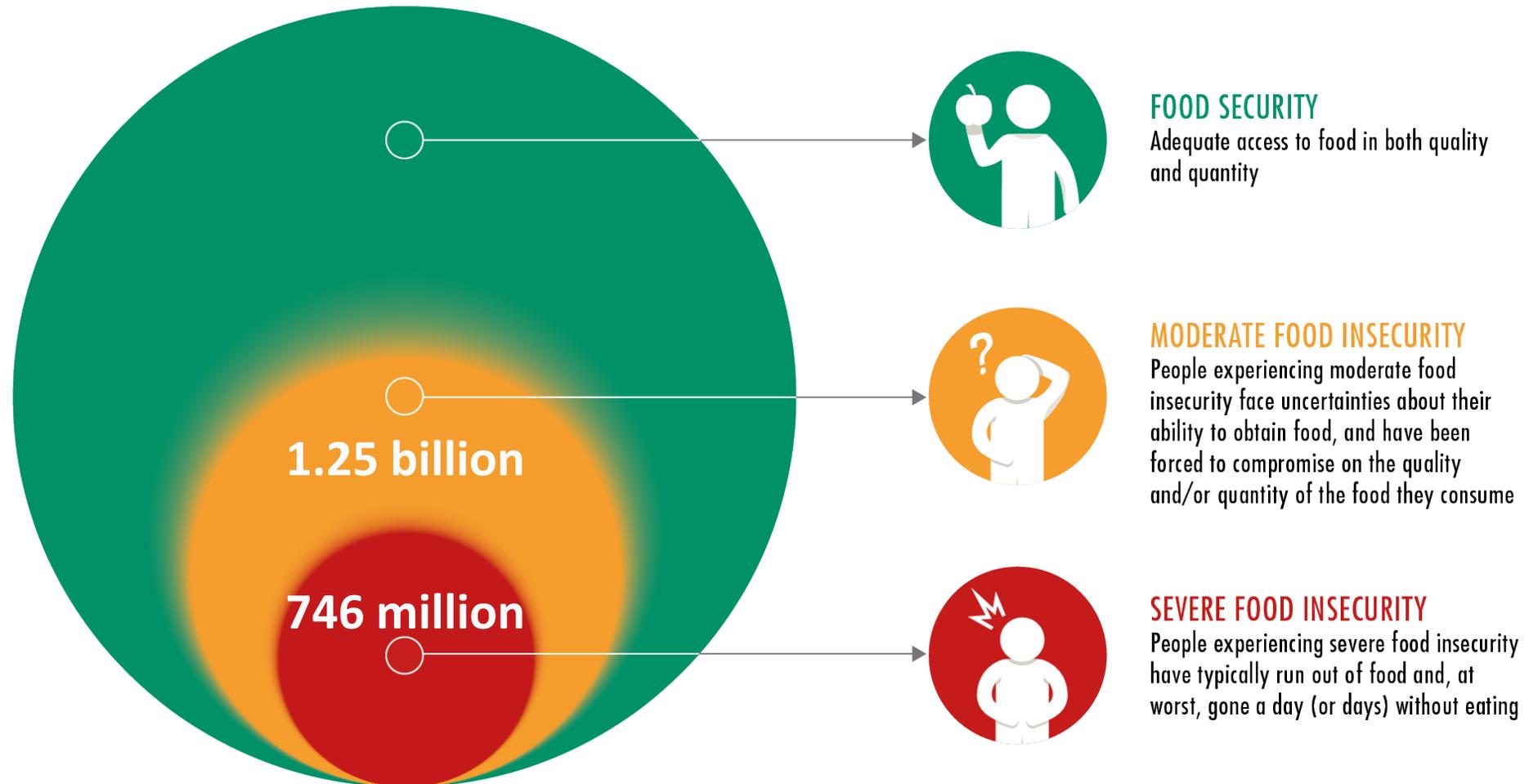


2030\*\*: TOTAL 841.4 MILLION

**COVID-19 pandemic  
 may add between 83  
 and 132 million people  
 to the total number of  
 undernourished  
 people in the world  
 in 2020**

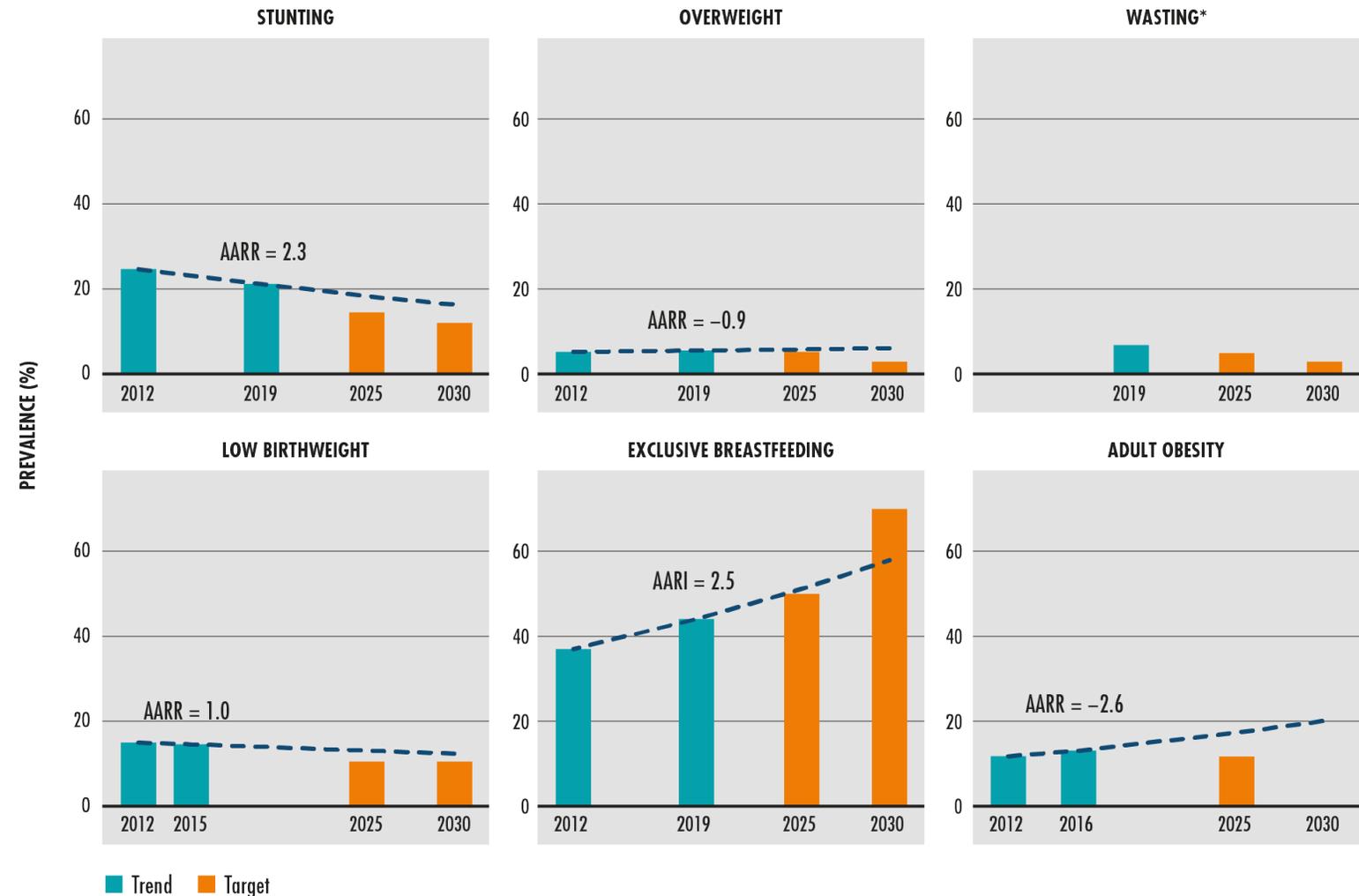


**Food Insecurity is more than hunger – about 2 billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity**



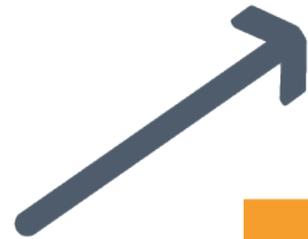
## The world is not on track to defeat malnutrition

While there is progress on child stunting and exclusive breastfeeding, child overweight is not improving, and adult obesity is on the rise.



The cost of a diet increases incrementally as the diet quality increases

## THREE INCREASING LEVELS OF DIET QUALITY

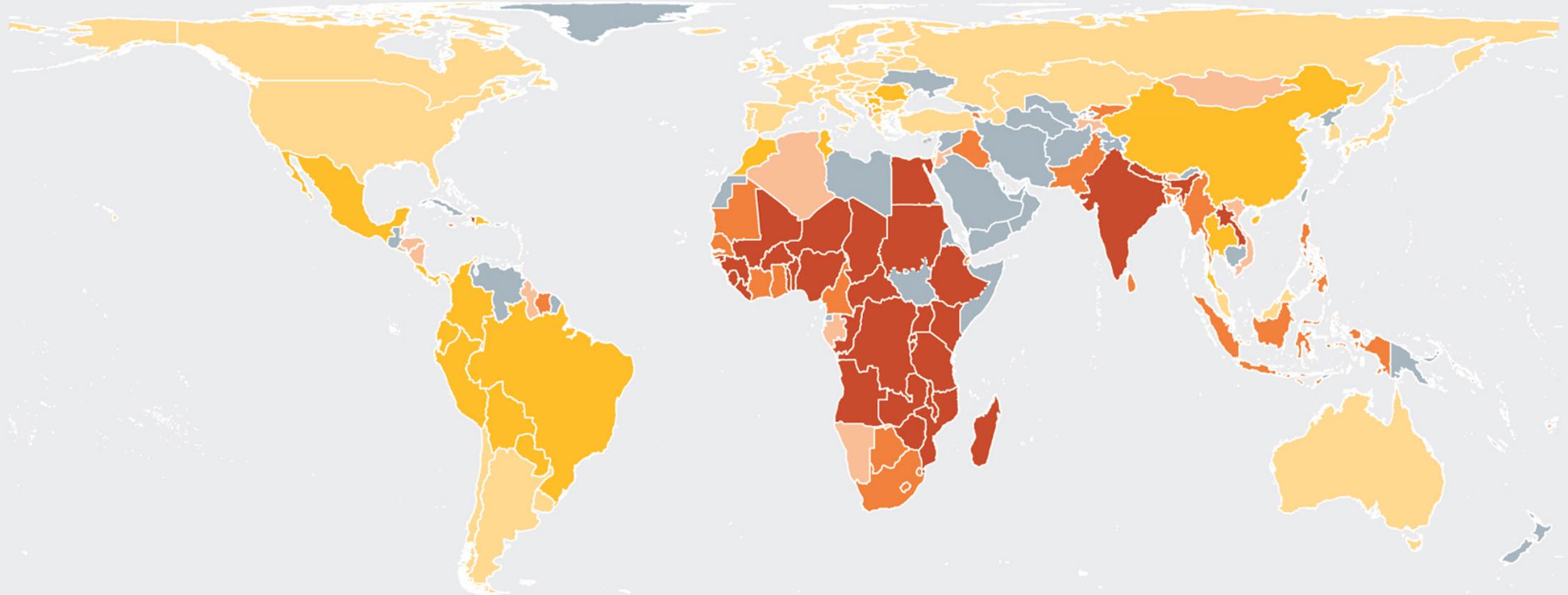


**ENERGY SUFFICIENT DIET**  
meets needs for short-term subsistence

**NUTRIENT ADEQUATE DIET**  
meets required levels of all essential nutrients

**HEALTHY DIET**  
includes foods from several food groups and  
has greater diversity within food groups

More than 3 billion people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet



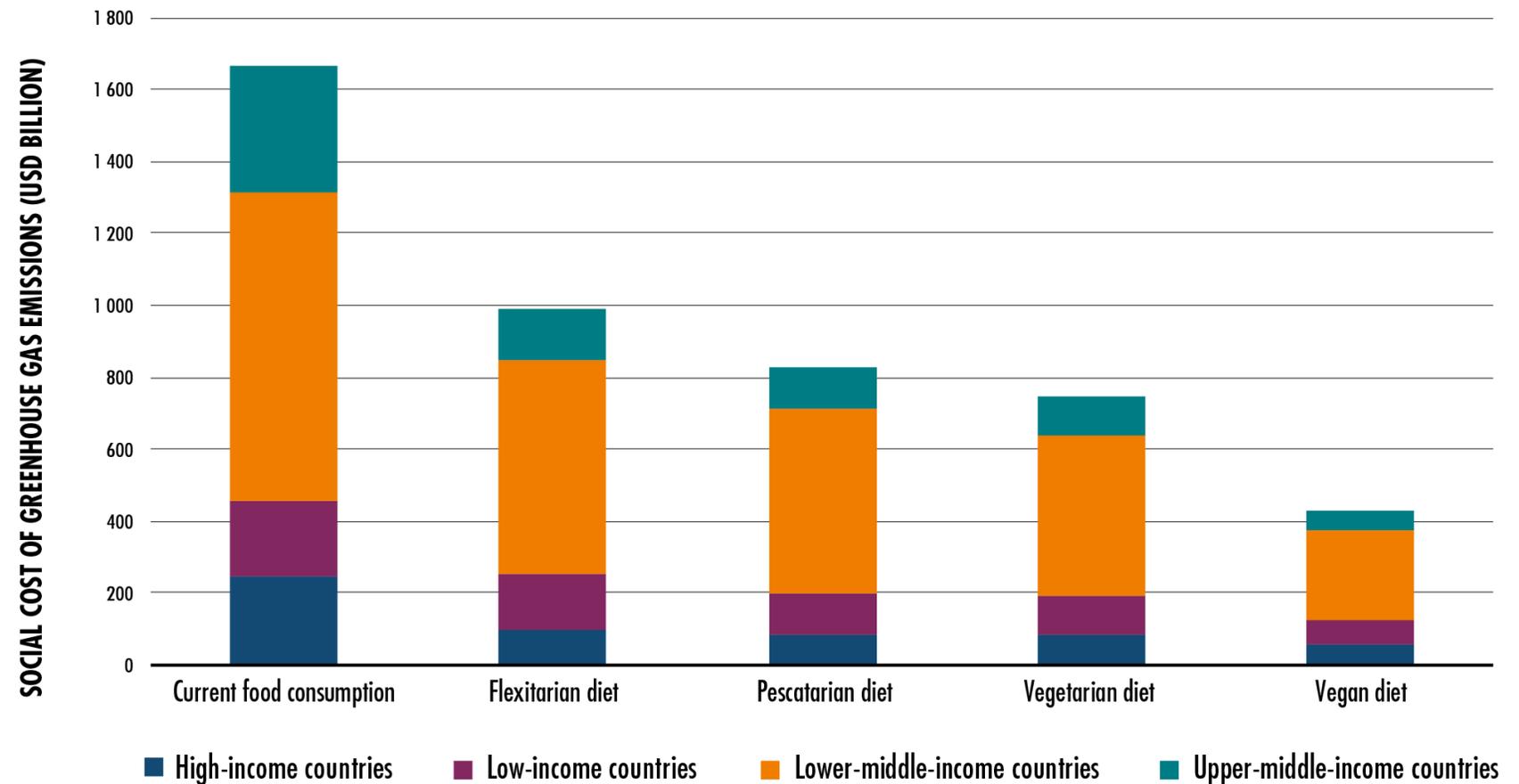
Average percentage of the population who could not afford a healthy diet in 2017

■ No data   ■ < 10%   ■ 10–25%   ■ 25–50%   ■ 50–75%   ■ 75–100%

All diets have  
 “hidden costs”

Understanding them is  
 critical for making  
 progress in other  
 SDGs

**ADOPTION OF HEALTHY DIETS THAT INCLUDE SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS WOULD  
 REDUCE THE SOCIAL COST OF GHG EMISSIONS BY 41–74 PERCENT IN 2030**





**There is no one healthy diet, let alone one that includes sustainability considerations for every context**

**Assessing the context-specific barriers, managing short-term and long-term trade-offs and exploiting synergies will be critical to achieve such transformations**

## Transformation of food systems to reduce the cost of nutritious food and increase affordability of healthy diets

**Policies and incentives  
towards nutrition-sensitive  
investment**



### **THE DOMAINS OF POLICY OPTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR TRANSFORMATION**



**Nutrition-sensitive social  
protection**

**Policy across food supply  
chains to enhance  
efficiencies**



**Consumer oriented policies  
for behavioural change**

**Implement efficient  
international and internal  
trade and marketing  
mechanisms**



**Pursue dietary patterns with  
low impact on health and the  
environment**





**Urgent action is needed to support a shift that makes  
healthy diets affordable to all**

**This shift needs to unfold in a sustainable way, for people and  
the planet, and creates synergies to spur progress on other SDGs**