

Outline

- Introduction
- **How COVID-19 is affecting food security**
 - primary trends affecting food security and nutrition
 - Implications for the six dimensions of food security
- **Recommendations**

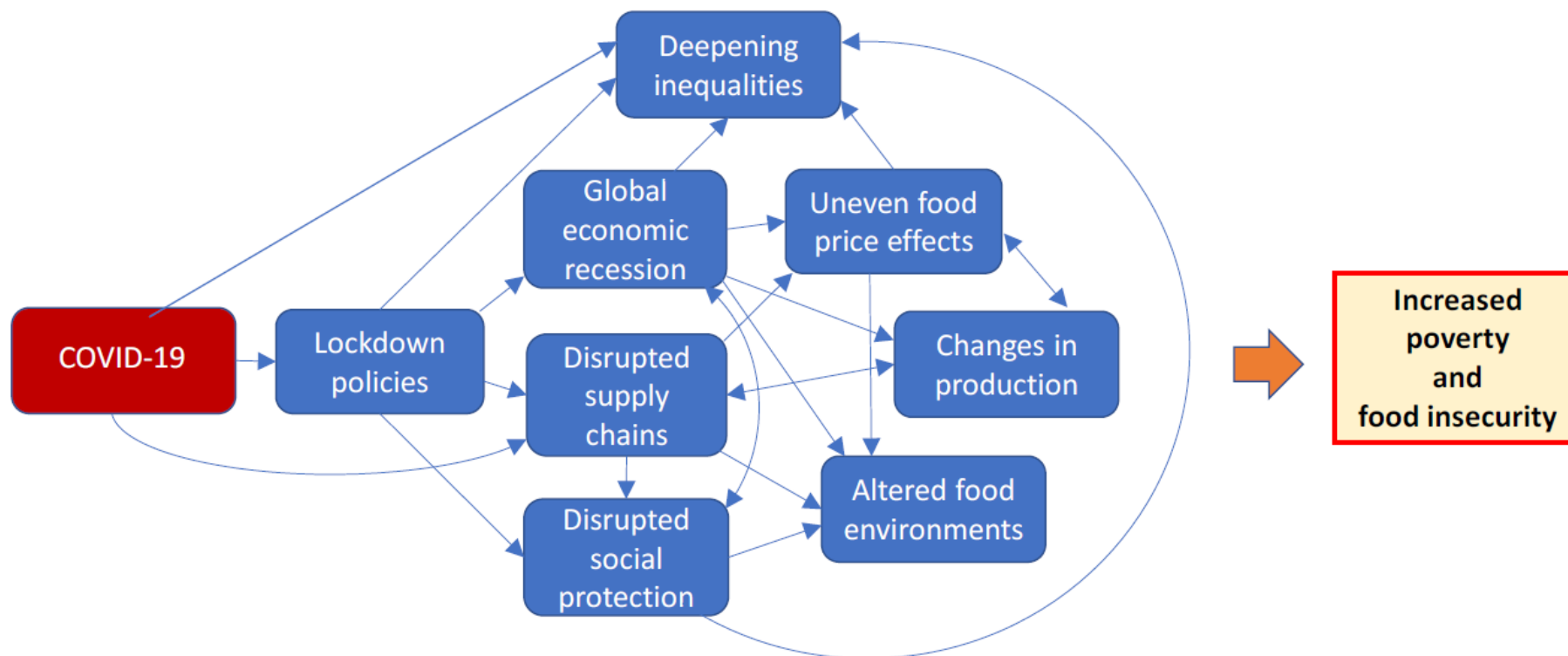


Introduction



- Notes the fluid and dynamic nature of the 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

How COVID-19 is affecting 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

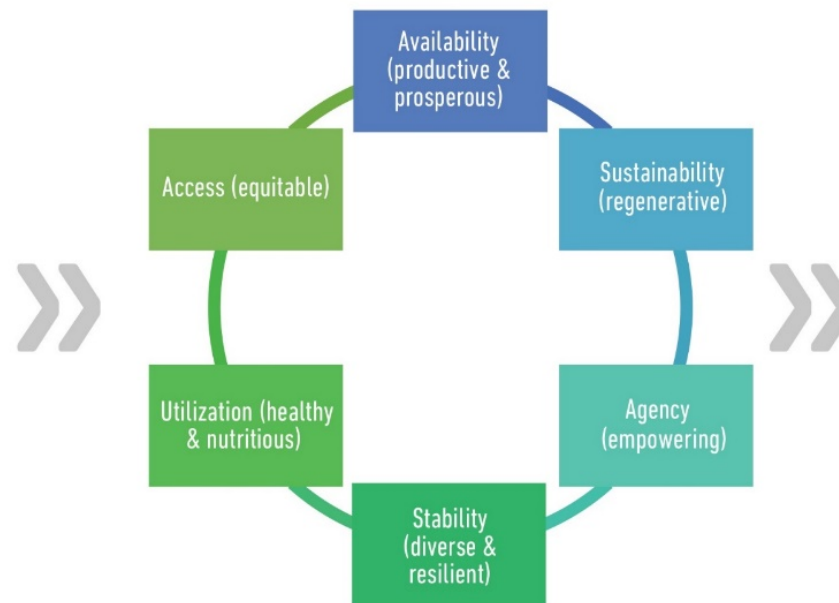
Ongoing uncertainty constrains long-term investment in the food and agriculture sector

Diminished attention to climate and biodiversity threatens food sustainability

Theory of change



CRITICAL POLICY ELEMENTS

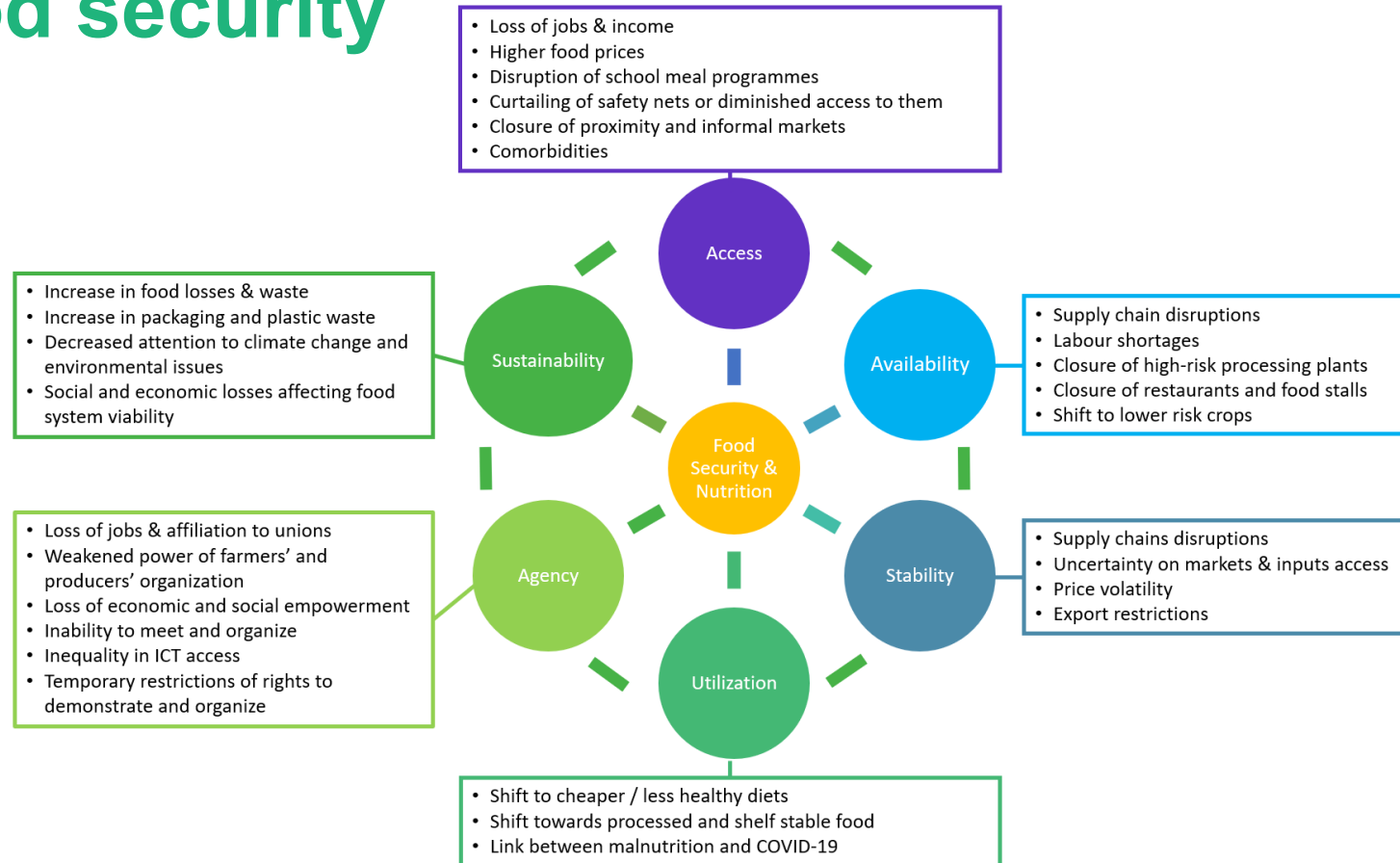


SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT THE SIX INTERCONNECTED DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, ESPECIALLY SDG2 - ZERO HUNGER

COVID-19 impact on six dimensions of food security



Recommendations




- The brief reinforces recommendations in HLPE Issues Paper and Global Narrative Report with respect to COVID-19
- Also notes that these recommendations support the four policy shifts called for in the GN report for longer-term achievement of FSN and meeting SDG goals

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.
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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.
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“The emergence of a coalition of the concerned with reference to the elimination of hunger”

MS Swaminathan, Inaugural Chair HLPE, 2010