

# The Role of Social Protection in achieving Zero Hunger

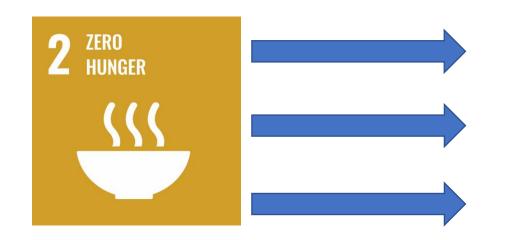


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## ZERO HUNGER THE COMMITMENTS



- **2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular **the poor and people in vulnerable situations,** including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- **2.2** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- **2.3** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.

## The vicious circle



## Poverty is a root cause of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Affecting availability, access, utilization and stability of food supply

In turn, malnutrition is a MAJOR cause of poverty creating traps in several ways:

- 1. Reducing the capacity for physical activity & productive potential of people: <a href="labor">labor</a> is usually their only asset
- 2. Retarding and impairing physical, cognitive and mental development: compromises effectiveness of educational investments
- **3. Damaging** <u>health</u>: higher rates of disease, medical expenditures, system strain & premature death
- **4. Intergenerational transmission**: irreversible damage from a start
- Social and political <u>instability</u> further undermines government capacities





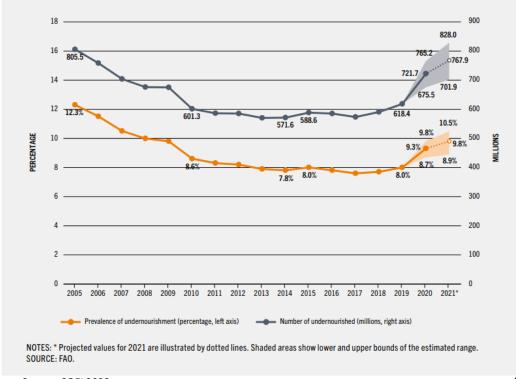


## Numbers are on the rise



- Decade long trend reversed in 2019
- COVID copuled with the global food crisis and extreme climatic events have worsened the Situation
- Based on the 2022 WFP hunger map chronic hunger affects **870 million** people. This is up from
  - **618million -** 2019
  - **675million** 2020,
  - **765 million** 2021
- With an estimated 345 million suffering from acute hunger
- After remaining relatively unchanged since 2015, the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) jumped from 8.0 to 9.3 percent from 2019 to 2020 and 9.8 percent in 2021
- Globally 22 percent of children under five years of age were stunted, 6.7 percent were wasted, and 5.7 percent were overweight.
- Projections are that, which is the same as in 2015 when the 2030 Agenda was launched. nearly 670 million people will still be facing hunger in 2030 – 8 percent of the world population

FIGURE 2 BETWEEN 702 AND 828 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD FACED HUNGER IN 2021. CONSIDERING THE MIDDLE OF THE PROJECTED RANGE (768 MILLION), HUNGER AFFECTED 46 MILLION MORE PEOPLE IN 2021 COMPARED TO 2020, AND A TOTAL OF 150 MILLION MORE PEOPLE SINCE 2019, BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

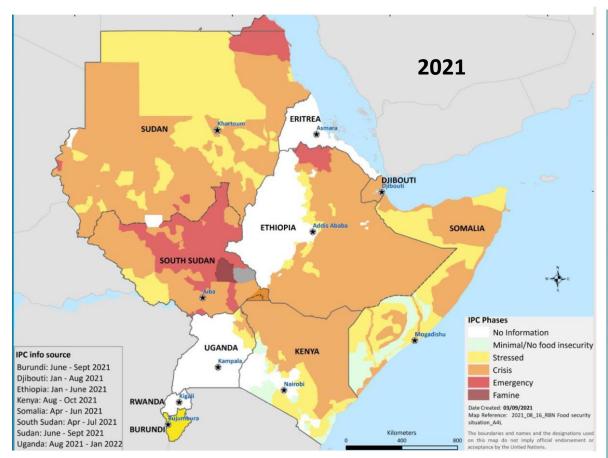


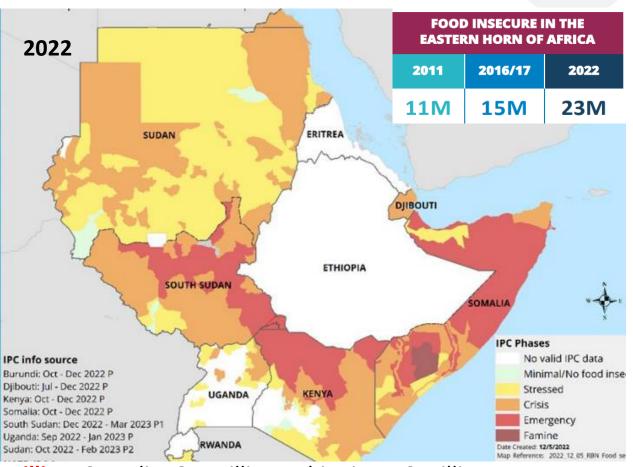




### Numbers are on the rise in East Africa 2021 vs 2022







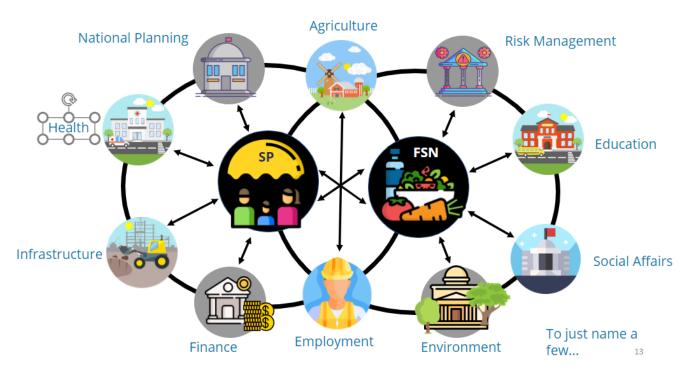
23 Million severely food insecure- Kenya- 4.4 million; Somalia- 6.7 million; Ethiopia 11.8 million;





## ZERO HUNGER AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

 Zero Hunger is a Multi-Sectoral issue in which Social Protection can contribute







## ZERO HUNGER AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



Food security consists of:

#### **AVAILABILITY**

An adequate supply of food exists



Social protection can help because it has the potential to:

- Incentivise local production for in-kind food assistance
- Incentivise investments in agricultural inputs (including through subsidies)
- Enable farmers to engage in higher risk, high-return activities (e.g. through social insurance)
- Support better agricultural production through public works or asset creation programmes
- Incentivise the availability of nutritious foods in all the above.

#### ACCESS

People can obtain it (physically and financially)



- Increase people's incomes
- Increase access through physical distribution of food (e.g. school meals)
- Encourage the development of markets in places that have cash transfer programmes
- Promote social inclusion that improves equitable access to food, resources and markets
- Build human capital so as to enhance future purchasing power
- Increase access to nutritious foods in all of the above.

#### UTILISATION

People's consumption of the food yields the best possible results



- Act as a channel for messaging to promote good health and nutrition, dietary diversity, food storage and preparation, food safety and quality
- Facilitate access to health and education services to improve health status, a foundation of good nutrition
- Improve financial access to safer and higher quality means of food storage and preparation
- Increase consumption of nutritious and diverse foods.

#### **STABILITY**

These outcomes remain stable over time, despite shocks and stresses



- Build resilience of households and communities to shocks
- Smooth household consumption in the event of a shock or seasonal stress (through social assistance or social insurance).

Source: WFP

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION & SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS



SP

		Instruments	Availability of nutritious foods	Access of nutritious foods	Utilization	Stability
SOCIAL PROTECTION		Cash Transfers	<ul> <li>✓ Investments are increased in agricultural production &amp; key assets by beneficiaries</li> <li>✓ Farmers engage in diversification, i.e. high-yield &amp; high-risk ventures</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓ Enhanced physical access via increased food availability.</li> <li>✓ Increase in the purchasing power positively determines individuals' economic access to food</li> </ul>	✓ Via increased purchasing power, diets diversified to meet both caloric and nutritional needs of beneficiaries and their family members	✓ Enhance the ability of beneficiaries to save and have a buffer when there are fluctuations in food prices.
	Social Assistance	School Feeding	<ul> <li>✓ The aggregate and sustained demand for food, progressively increases the supply of food by local producers.</li> <li>✓ Particularly, of local farmers' diversification &amp; production of fresh foods to supply for their demand</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓ Tears down economic barriers for children and their families securing access to food despite lack of or low income</li> <li>✓ Ensures physical access to diversified food bringing it to schools in remote and underprivileged areas</li> </ul>	✓ Meet the nutritional needs of school-aged children through diversified and balanced diets — critical for their cognitive and physical development beyond the 1,000 days	<ul> <li>✓ Sustains human capital development and individuals ability in the long-term to provide food on their own</li> <li>✓ Prevents the deployment of negative risk coping strategies by households taking children out to school to work</li> </ul>
	Soci	In-kind transfers	✓ If food is locally sourced, programme dynamizes the economy via 'multiplier effect'. In a spillover effect, it increases the demand for products and services, including food	✓ Ensures a source of food that due to a low purchasing power, beneficiaries would otherwise be unable to acquire by their own means	✓ Meet the caloric, minerals and vitamin needs of beneficiaries and their family members through diversified food, greater portions and nutritional value	✓ During the lean season food is both available and accessed to meet basic consumption needs.
		Input Transfers	✓ Access to key agricultural inputs (i.e. tools, fertilizers and insecticides) is eased which supports the ability of farmers to respond to their own and their communities' demand for food	✓ The transfer and cultivation of a wider variety of seeds promote access to foods which were previously unavailable in a community	✓ In some cases, beneficiaries and their families have shown to increase the frequency in the intake of protein due to purchasing power	✓ The transfer of fertilizers and insecticides prevents the loss of crops on which beneficiaries rely as a source of food/income
	Social Insurance	Weather- based insurance	✓ Ensures people have the means to rapidly re-invest in agricultural food production despite the failure of crops	✓ Beneficiaries can re-direct financial resources to different agricultural productive activities	✓ Prevents people from reducing the size, and frequency of meals. Also trading nutritional over caloric value of meals	✓ Via increased food production & of income/savings, beneficiaries produce and purchase food to meet their needs over time

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION** 



### What does the evidence Say

#### **Some Very Positive**

#### Some not so positive

Mchinji Social Cash Transfer Scheme found that the proportion of children in beneficiary households whose growth was stunted fell from 55% to 46% in one year, but remained intact in "control group"	PWPs are one-off emergency interventions, the creation of assets are rarely well planned, and as such have only short-term or limited value (McCord, 2013).
<b>PSNP &amp; HABP, Ethiopia:</b> Participation in both schemes boosted agricultural output for farming households, as well as probability of using fertilizers (+21%) and investment in fencing (+29%) (Hoddinott et al., 2012).	Cash transfers are rarely index linked, and are thus reduced in value in situations of inflation or supply failure (HLPE, 2012)
The Hunger Safety Nets Programme in Kenya: Lowered likelihood of selling durable assets by 15.7% chance of experiencing economic shocks (Strupat & Nshakira-Rukundo, 2022).	Impact of school feeding on some anthropometric may be marginal outcomes, as evidence suggests early nutritional deficits are generally considered irreversible after passing the critical window of opportunity of 1,000 days.)
<b>Bolivia's social pension</b> in an average increase in food consumption of almost 165% of the value of the transfer (HLPE, 2012)	There is relatively little evidence to confirm that <b>the rural infrastructure created in PWPs leads to improved productivity.</b> (HLPE, 2012)





## **Building FSN Sensitive Social Protection Key Considerations**

# SOCIAL PROTECTION CONFERENCE

#### **DIMENSION**

COVERAGE

Extension to/prioritization of populations least able to adequately and consistently meet essential needs for nutritious foods

**ACTIONS** 

ADEQUA CY Mind the Affordability Gap – Design transfer to close as much of the cost and nutrition gap as possible

COMPREHENSIVE NESS

Reinforce SP's FSN outcomes by linking to and bundling benefits with key services

**QUALITY** 

Inclusive SP design and delivery, safeguard and empower people, and provide quality of benefits, assistance and services

**RESPONSIVENES** 

Agile SP design and implementation in the face of changing needs

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Rural informal, urban dwellers, and migrants;
- Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and Children under 2;

**Deteriorating FSN indicators and nutritional vulnerability:** 

**EXAMPLES** 

- Adolescent girls

Focus on nutritious food:

- Specialized Nutritious Food first 1000 days (Pakistan);
- Healthy Deliveries Program (Chile);
- Fresh Food Voucher PLW (Ethiopia)
- Uptake of e.g., Antenatal Nutrition (ANC), immunization
   Young Child Feeding (IYCF) (Kenya and Pakistan);
- Strengthening food producers' livelihoods (Chile)
- Mobile money to reduce opportunity costs (Haiti, Dominican Republic);
- Effective complaints, feedback and accountability mechanisms (India);
- Consultation and participatory processes (Egypt)
- -Connect SP with early warning systems to enable a timely and appropriate response (Mauritania, Malawi, Dominican Republic, Madagascar)
- Connect to social insurance and livelihood schemes



## **Final Reflections**

- Zero Hunger is a Multi-Sectoral Outcome
- Social Protection can contribute to different key aspects of Zero hunger
- Social protection programmes aim at addressing unmet basic needs are vital for ensuring people's access to food. Paradoxically, they do not always lead to better nutrition
- Its not enough to have social protection programmes
- To achieve Zero hunger we need to be intentional in the design and implementation of Social Protection Programmes







## THANK YOU!

**ANY QUESTIONS?** 

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