

An International Perspective on Sustainable Food Systems

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Unique features:

- Connects domestic and foreign policy
- Connects production with diets

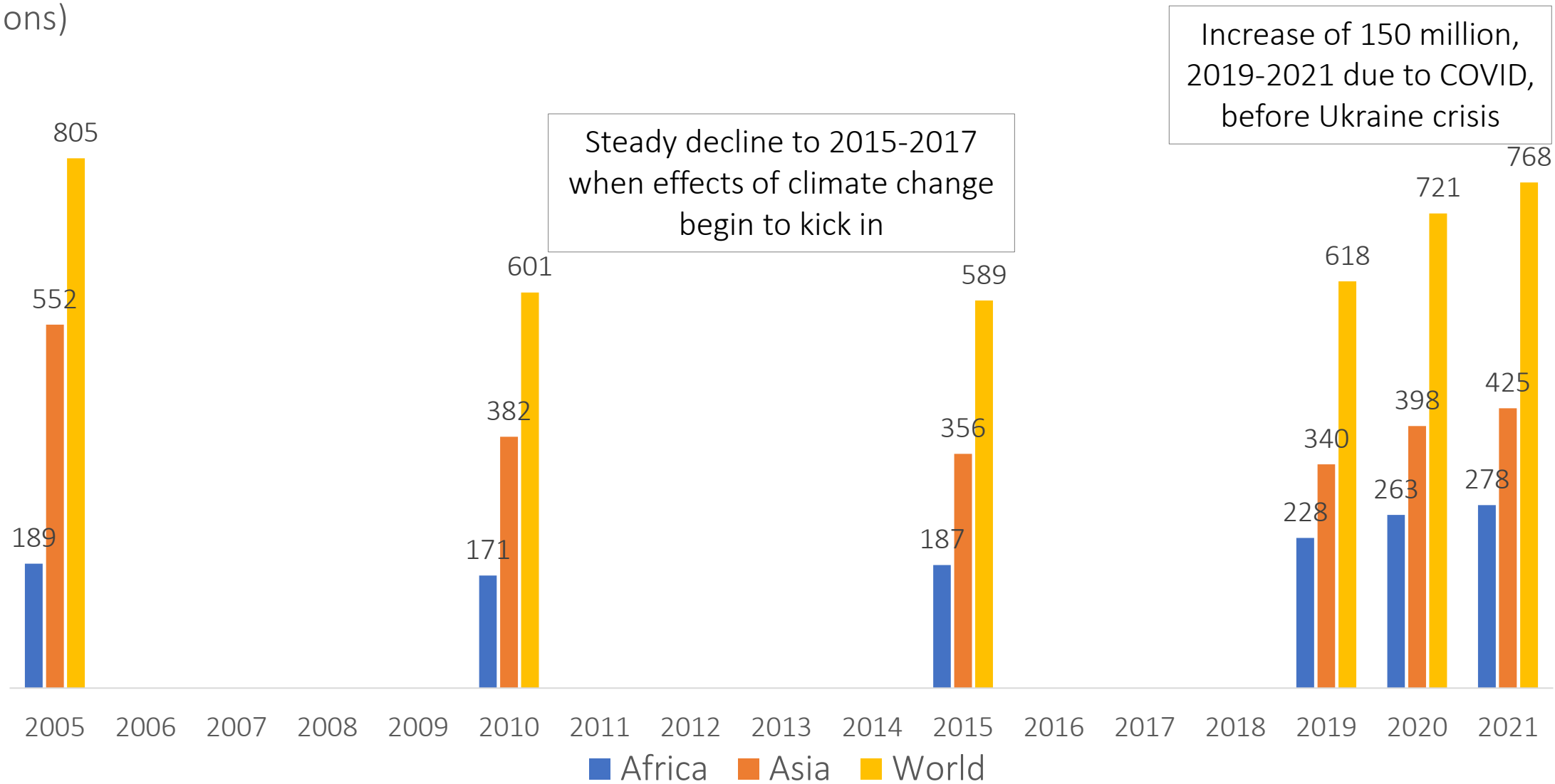
Food Vision 2030

A World Leader in
Sustainable Food Systems

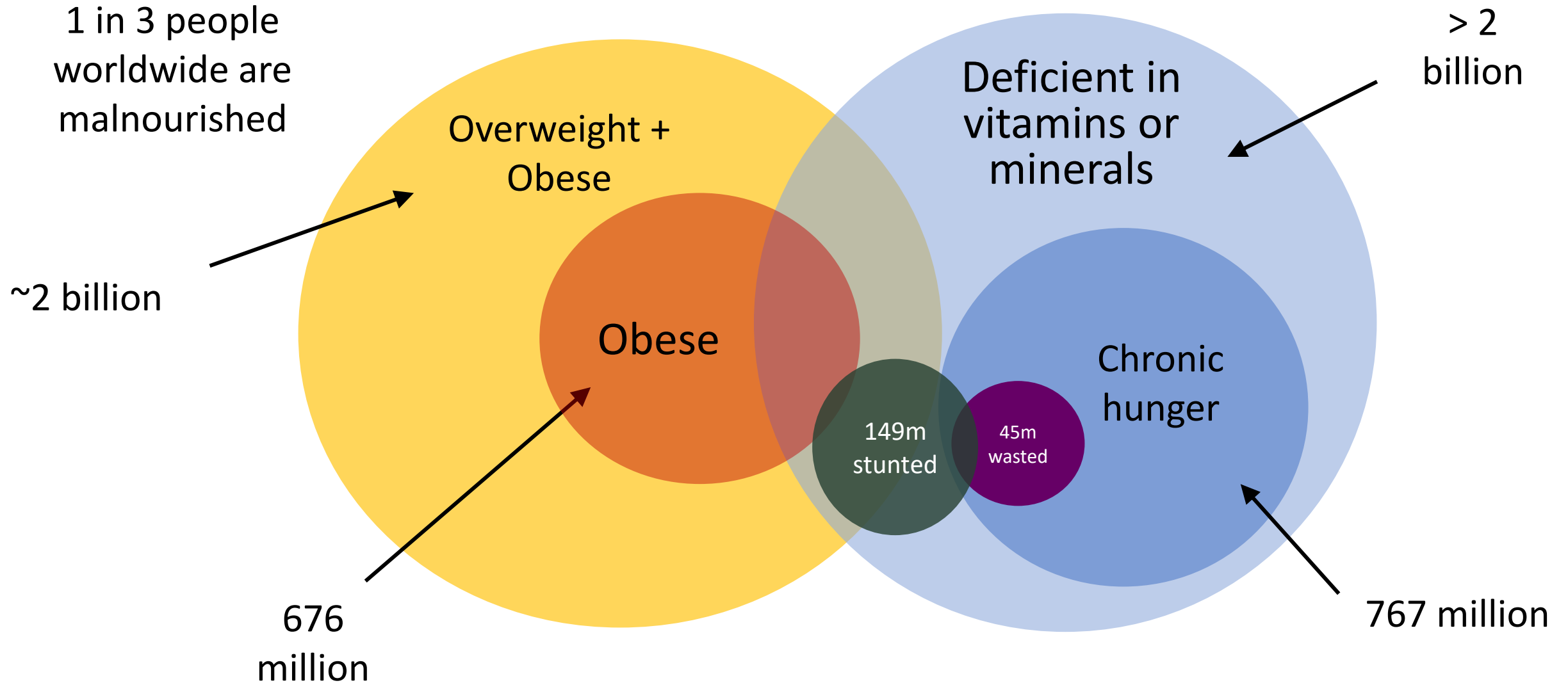


Events and choices are turning back the clock on hunger: the number of chronically hungry people is approaching 2005 levels

(millions)



But the hunger and malnutrition have many faces



Based on SOFI 2022 Data

For children
under 5, the clock
is turned back
permanently.

Why?



Look at the brain weight of a healthy individual:
very strong brain development in first year

At birth



400g

At 1 year



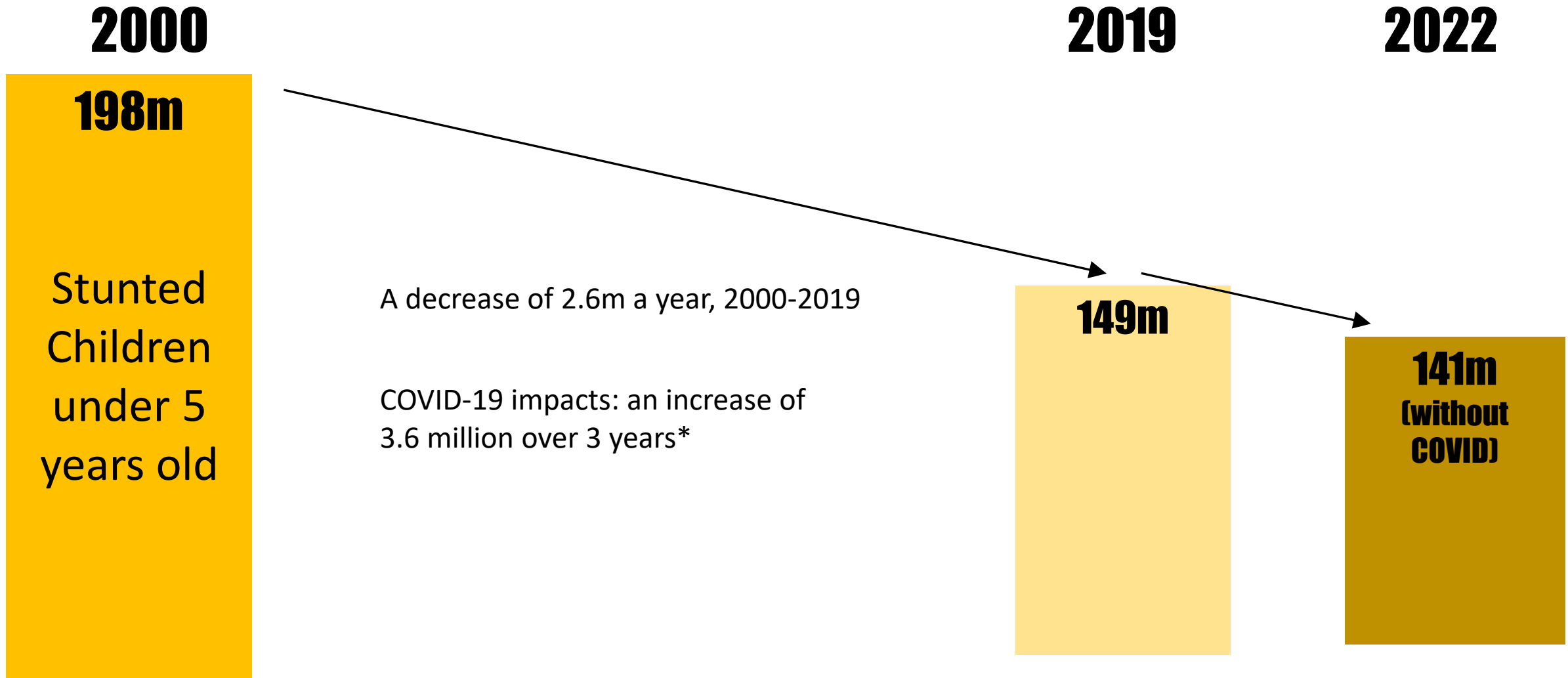
800g

Adult

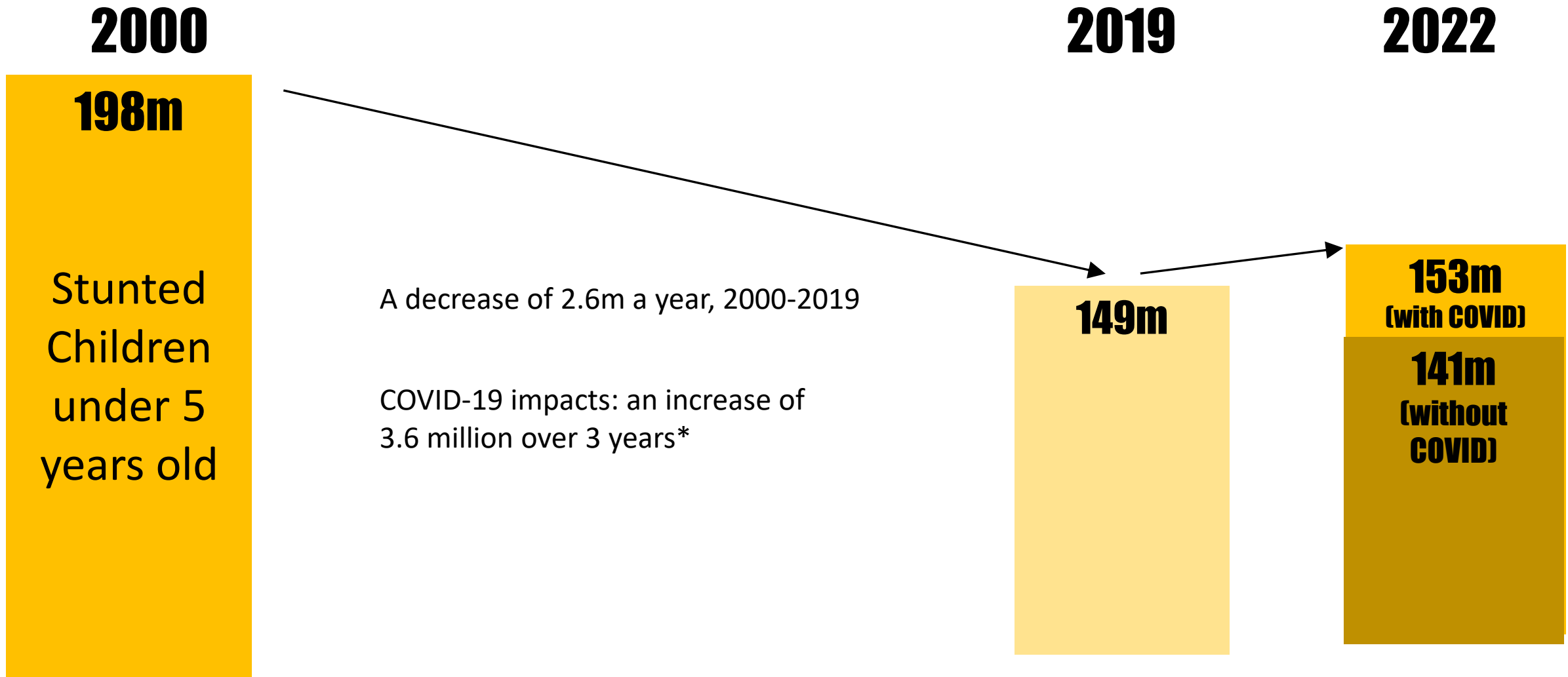


1.2kg

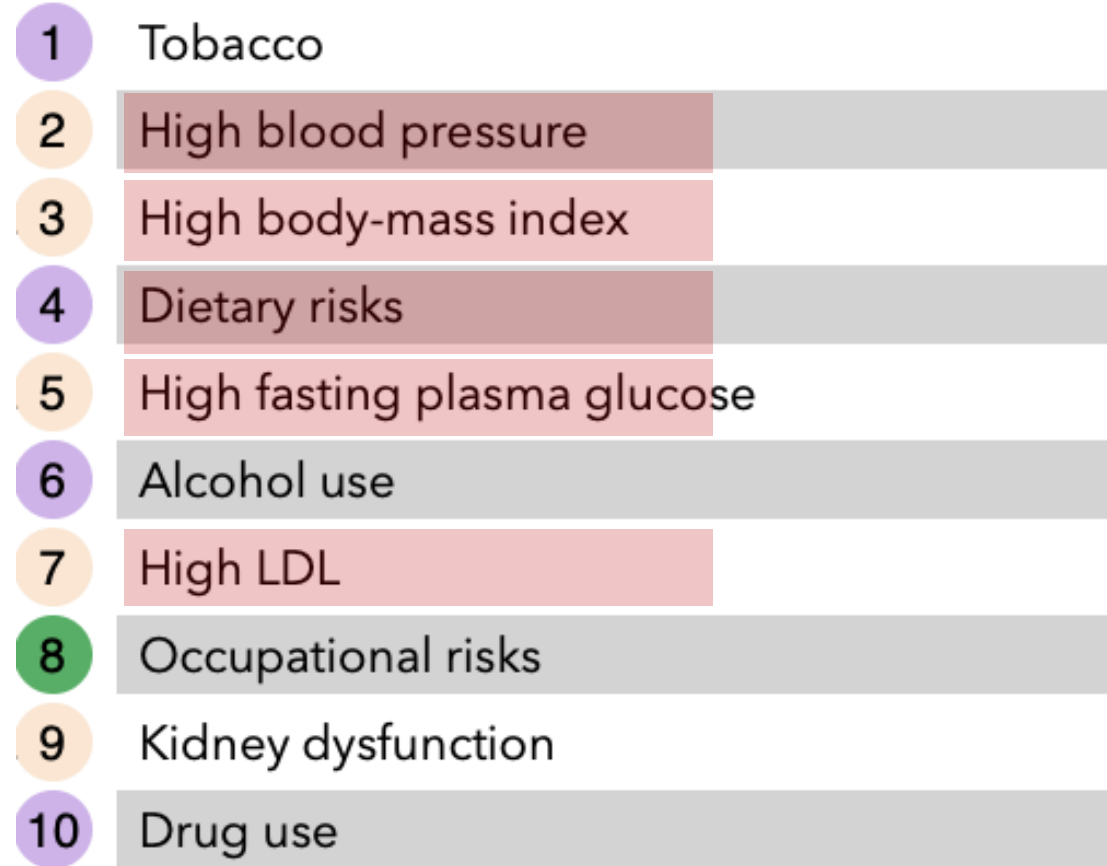
Globally, COVID 19 projected to generate 12 million more stunted children



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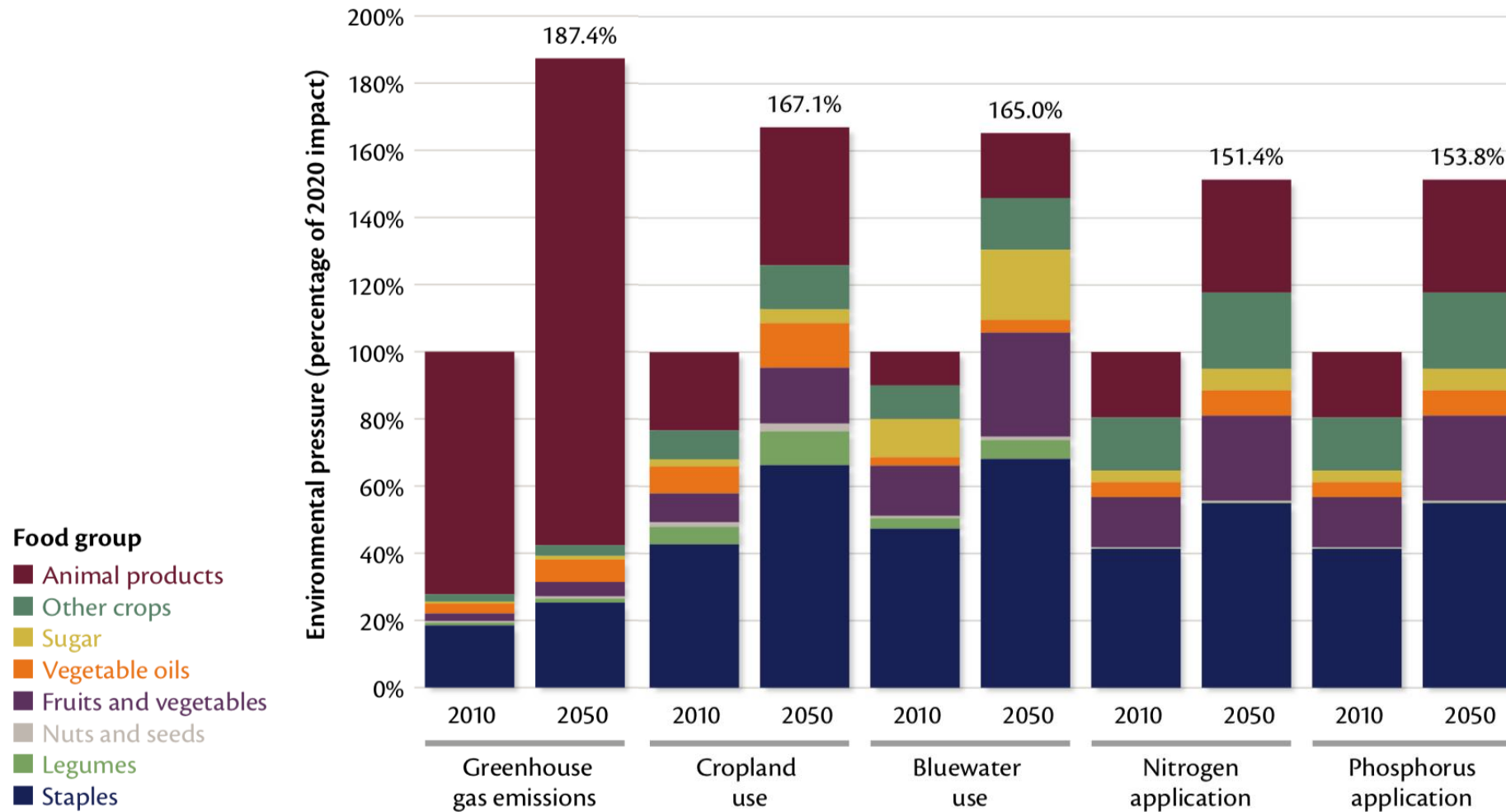
Ireland: 5 of the top 7 risk factors for death and disability are diet related



Improve the availability, affordability, desirability *and* sustainability of nutritious and safe foods



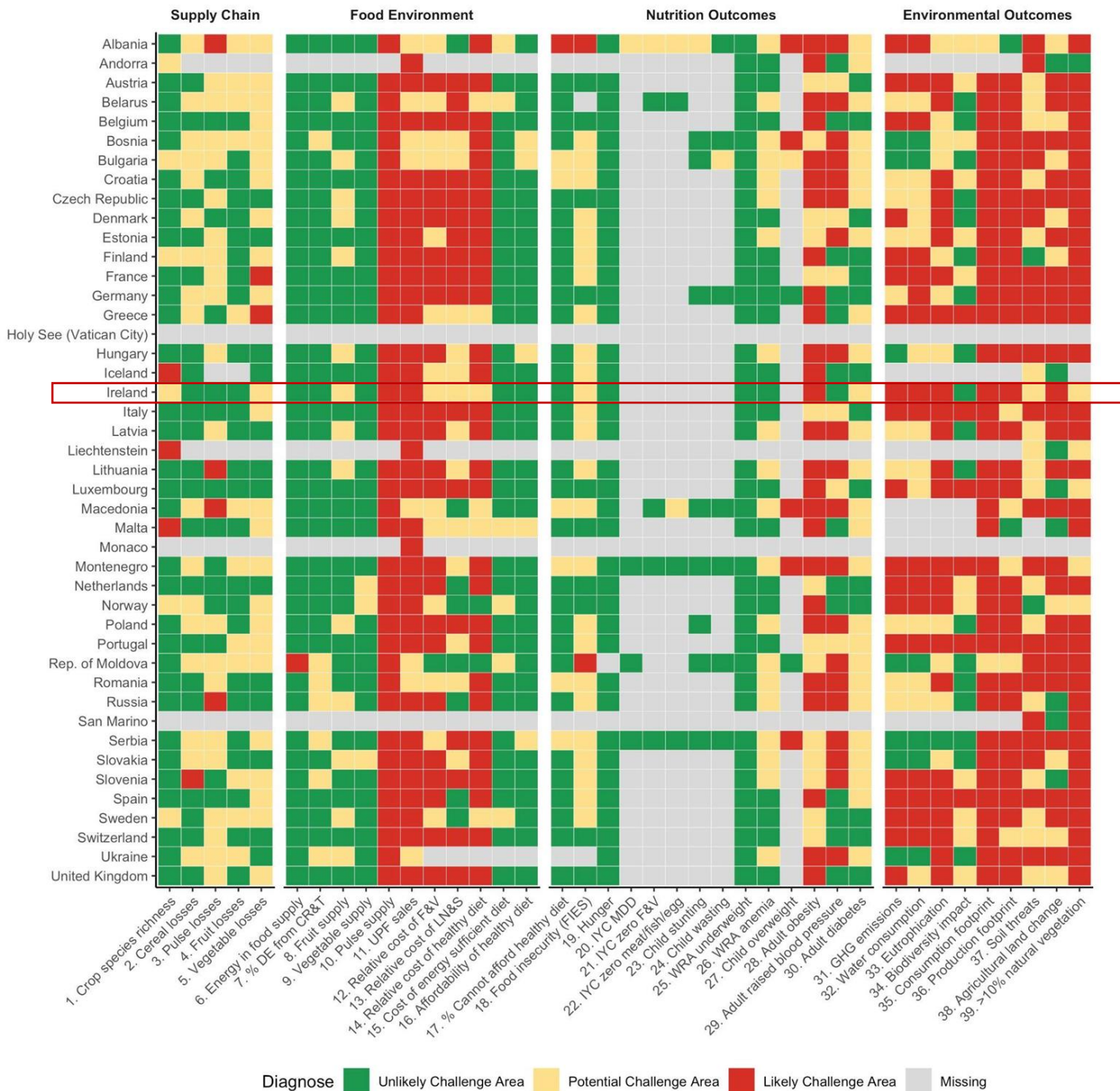
Different food groups have different impacts on different environmental dimensions



Note: Bluewater is fresh water in streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers.

Source: Global Nutrition Report (2020)⁵

https://www.glopan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Foresight-2.0_Future-Food-Systems_For-people-our-planet-and-prosperity.pdf



The problems--and answers--are within food systems

Ireland's challenge areas

- Low supply of pulses
- High consumption of ultra processed foods
- Adult obesity
- GHG emissions
- Water consumption from food
- Eutrophication (quality of body of water)

From the Food Systems Dashboard

www.foodsystemsdashboard.org

1. Don't
sacrifice the
long term for
the short term

short
term

long
term

There was a massive scale up social protection programs due to COVID-19

“over 2020-2021, cash transfers reached 1.36 billion individuals, that is, one out of six people in the world received at least one cash transfer payment”

But few links to building nutrition assets either on demand or supply side...

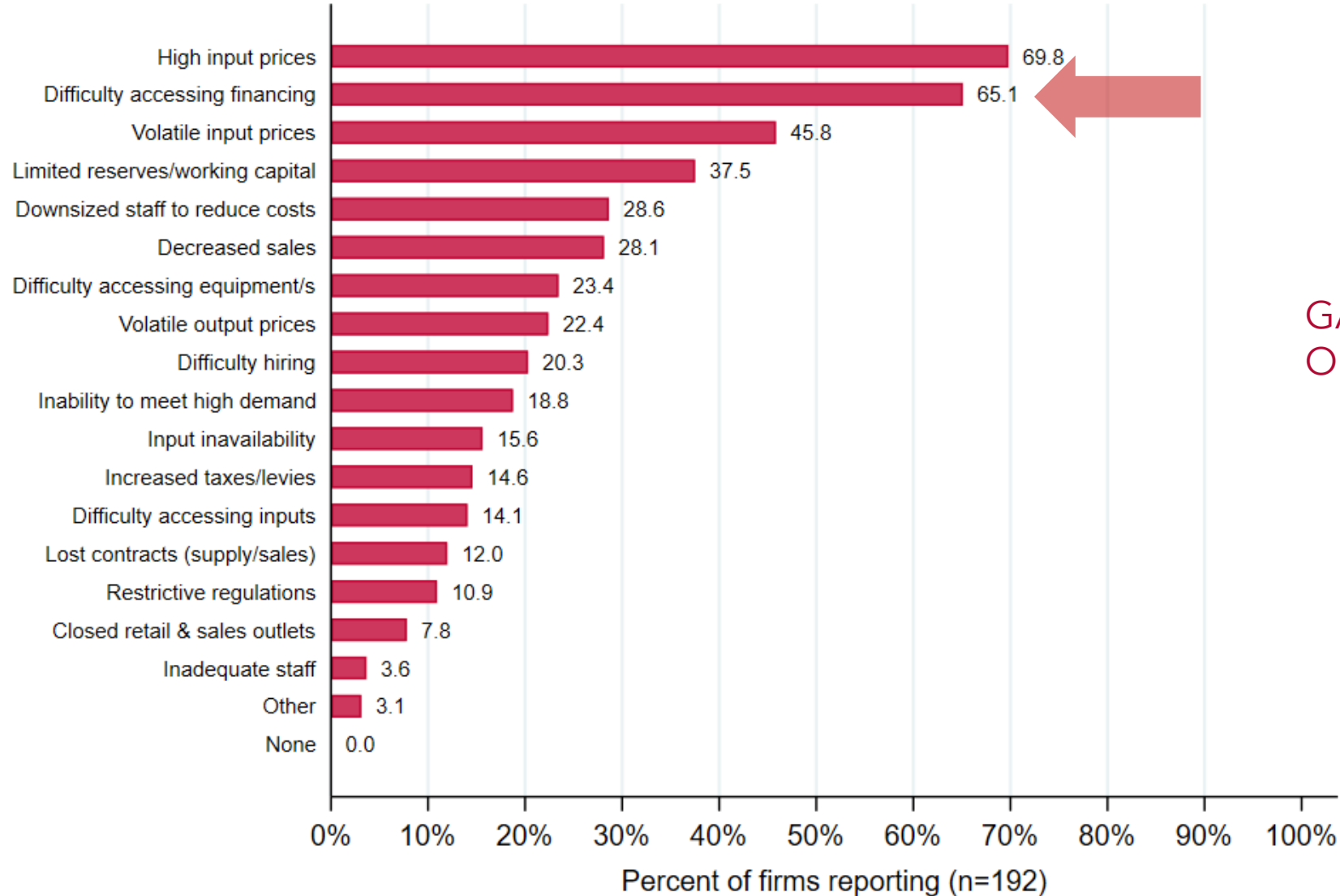


2. Support SME's

They are the backbone of food systems used by low income families

Many of Africa's agri-food SMEs are facing a very challenging time now

Main challenges reported by businesses



GAIN-WFP-SBN August 2022
Online Survey (192 African SMEs)

\$200 Billion Impact Investing Industry:

Need mechanisms to get a greater share of the \$\$ to SMEs supplying nutritious foods



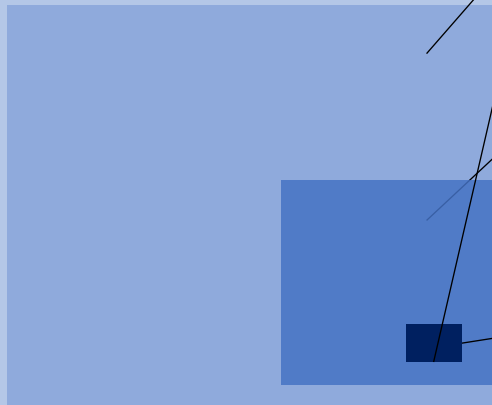
N3F GAIN-Incofin

\$60m Nutritious Foods
Financing Facility (N3F)

\$18 billion to Africa

\$6 billion to food and
agriculture in Africa

~\$200m to nutritious
foods for domestic
consumption in Africa



A black and white photograph of a wire basket filled with eggs, some cracked, on a wooden surface with straw bedding. The basket is made of dark metal wire and is filled with several eggs. Some of the eggs are cracked, with the shells broken and the contents visible. The basket is placed on a wooden surface, and there is straw bedding around it. A single egg lies on the wooden surface to the right of the basket. The text "3. Diversify, Diversify, Diversify" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

3. Diversify,
Diversify,
Diversify

We should be diversifying food systems. Instead they are becoming less diversified

Diversify the types of foods grown

- 7000 species used for food throughout history, but 103 plants are alone contribute to more than 90% of the world's calories
- *Find neglected underutilized crops that are good for planet, people, prosperity*

Diversify energy used by agriculture

- the top 3 energy sources were responsible for 78% of emissions in 1990 & 87% in 2019
- *Use more green energy in agricultural production*

Reverse biodiversity loss in food & agriculture

- Many key components of biodiversity for food & agriculture are in decline.
- *Embrace agroecological principles*

Diversify diets

- UNICEF: % of infants in low income countries that achieve a *minimum* diet diversity barely rose in last 10 years (21% to 24%).
- But between countries diets are becoming more western with more obesity, diabetes and hypertension.
- *Make nutritious food more accessible and desirable*

4.Support Country Food System Pathways

A key outcome of the UN Food
Systems Summit , 2021



Conclusions

- Complex nutrition and hunger problems are getting worse
- Many of the problems stem from --and are solvable within -- food systems
 - Don't sacrifice the long run for the short run
 - Support food SMEs that serve domestic and regional markets
 - Diversify, diversify, diversify food systems
 - Support the UN Country Food System Pathways



A large group of school children, both boys and girls, are shown from the chest up. They are all wearing matching maroon V-neck sweaters over collared shirts. Many of the girls are also wearing dark grey pleated skirts. The children are in a state of high excitement, with their mouths wide open as if shouting or cheering. Their arms are raised high in the air, with some holding their fists and others with open palms. In the center of the group, a boy is holding a clear glass trophy. The background shows a brick building with white-framed windows and several colorful flags (yellow, blue, white) hanging from the top. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is centered over the upper part of the image, containing the text "Thank you" in white.

Thank you