SDG2 and the Hunger Challenge: State of Progress and Scale of Commitments to Achieve Zero Hunger Goals

Aziz Elbehri, Senior Economist, FAO regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Presented at the Fourth South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (28-29 October, 2020)
Undernourished people in the world kept rising, from 653 million people in 2015 to 690 million people in 2019.

If recent trends continue, the number of people affected by hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030, or 10 percent of the global population.
Trends of food insecurity in Asia: 2014 to 2018: Progress since 2014 reversed in recent years

In 2019 Asia counted 381 million of undernourished people or 55% of global total

Source: FAO 2020
Countries that demonstrated progress in reducing hunger over 2000-2017 period

19 countries achieved substantial progress in reducing hunger over 2000-2017 (+50% reduction in PoU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>PoU-2001</th>
<th>PoU-2018</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor Leste</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAO/ZEF 2020
COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the global food security situation

Preliminary estimates of COVID-19 impacts:

- Between 83 - 132 million more undernourished in the world in 2020
- About 6.7 million more children suffer from acute malnutrition
According to an analysis by FAO and ZEF (2020) which estimated the incremental investment costs of ending hunger and malnutrition (using a marginal cost curve approach):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To meet the <strong>G7 commitment of lifting 500 million people out of hunger</strong> by 2030</th>
<th>An incremental average annual investment ranging between about <strong>US$ 11 and 14 billion</strong> would be required for this mix of least-cost intervention options.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To create a <strong>world without hunger</strong> by 2030</td>
<td><strong>require total annual investments in a range of about US$ 39 to 50 billion</strong> (which includes the abovementioned investments of US$ 11 to 14 billion).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interventions required for reducing hunger and malnutrition:

- Multisectoral action: health, food, education, social protection, planning and economic policy sectors.
- Food environments must be transformed to make nutritious foods more available and affordable.
- Agricultural R&D,
- Agricultural extension services,
- ICT - agricultural information systems,
- Small-scale irrigation expansion in Africa,
- Female literacy improvement,
- Scaling up existing social protection programs.
Food sector Interventions required for reducing hunger and malnutrition:

- Food environments must be transformed to make nutritious foods more available and affordable.
- Agricultural R&D,
- Agricultural extension services,
- ICT - agricultural information systems,
- Small-scale irrigation expansion in Africa,
- Female literacy improvement,
- Scaling up existing social protection programs.
Conclusions

- Trends of global and Asian hunger: Progress is reversing since 2017
- Many countries, including in Asia, have demonstrated progress in reducing hunger over 2000-2017 period
- COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the global food security situation
- Between 11 to 14 Billion USD annually are needed to slash hunger by 500 M people and from 40 to 50 billion annually through 2030 to eliminate hunger from the world
- FAO work program is realigned to support SDGs, especially SDG 1, 2 and 10 (reduced inequality)