

THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

**ADDRESSING HIGH FOOD PRICE INFLATION
FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

Food Security Task Force, G20 South Africa | 19 September 2025
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Hunger is declining, but too slowly

8.7% in 2022 → 8.2% in 2024 (673 million people).

Nearly 2.3 billion people in the world lacked regular access to adequate food in 2024

An estimated 28 percent of the global population were moderately or severely food insecure

Healthy diets are still out of reach

2.6 billion people can't afford one (down from 2.9 billion in 2020).

Nutrition targets off track

Progress on stunting & breastfeeding, but none of the 2030 global targets are on track

Inequalities persist

Rural areas & women hit harder by food insecurity

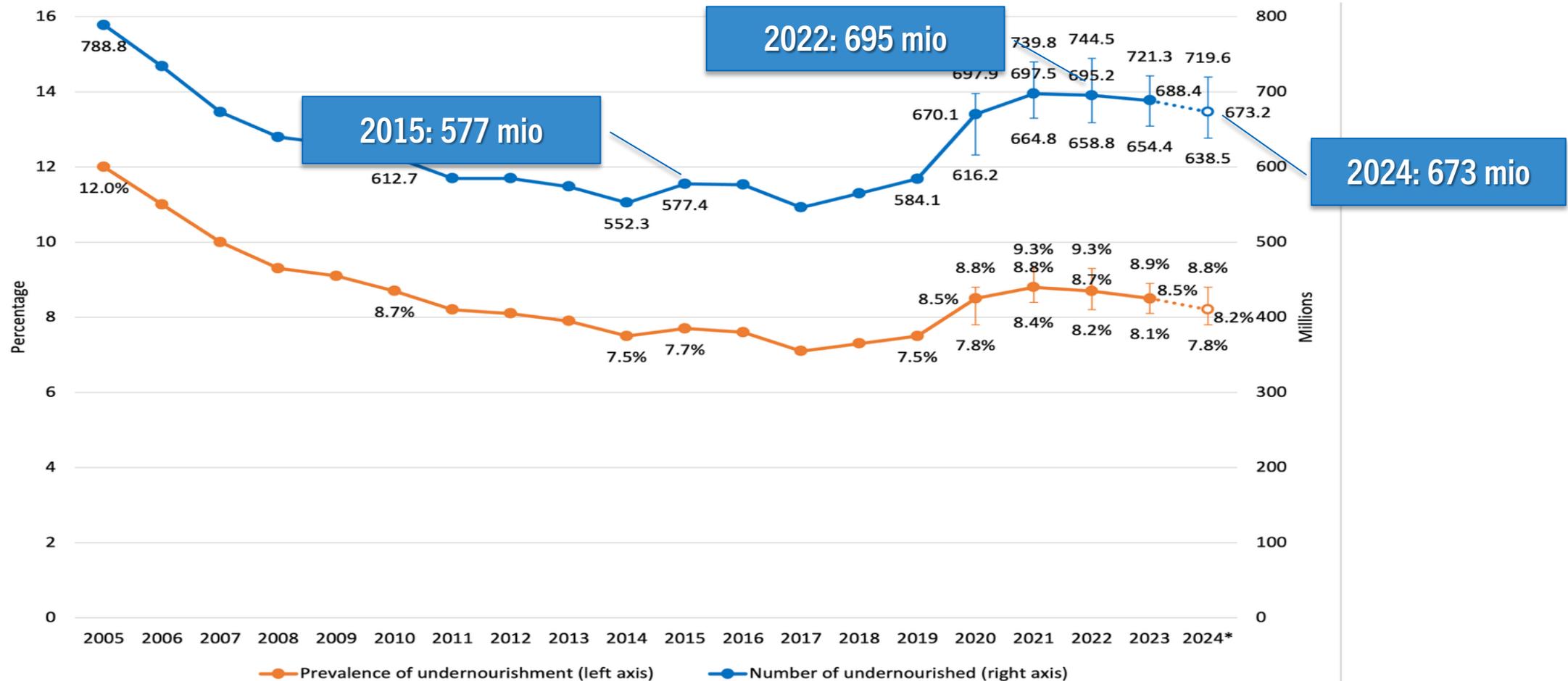
Global food price inflation has emerged as a major concern since 2021

Global food inflation: 2.3% (2020) → 13.6% (2023)

A 10% price hike = 3.5% more people food insecure

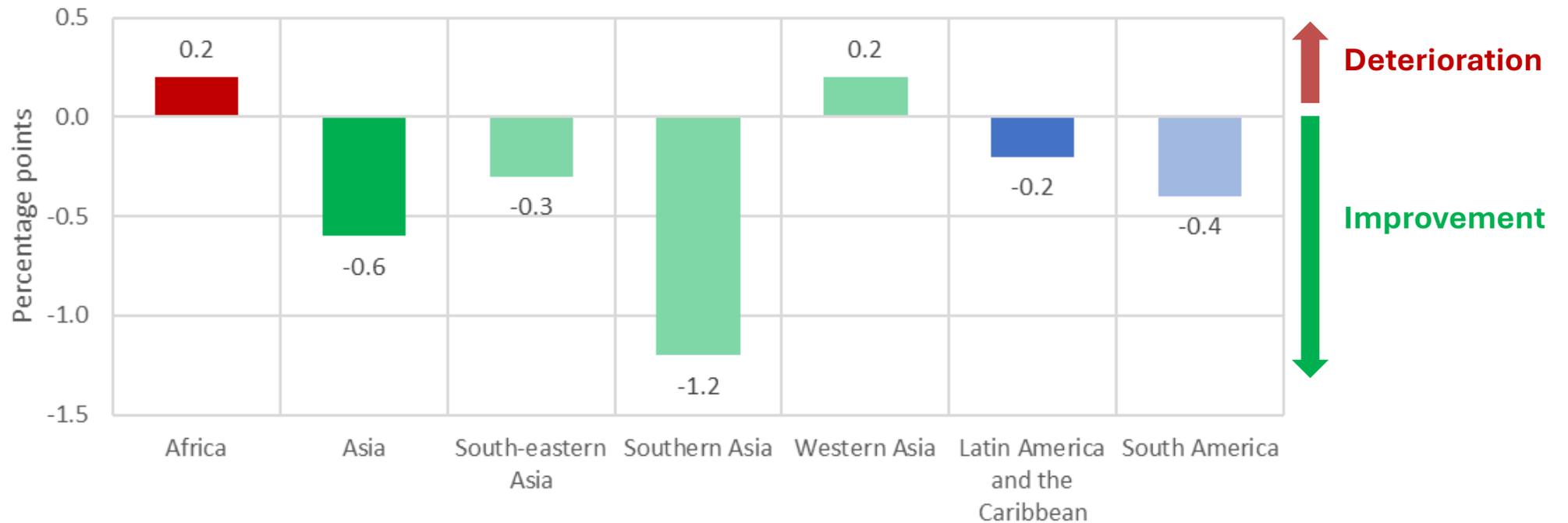
Updated global estimates reveal a decrease in world hunger in recent years

WORLD PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT AND NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE



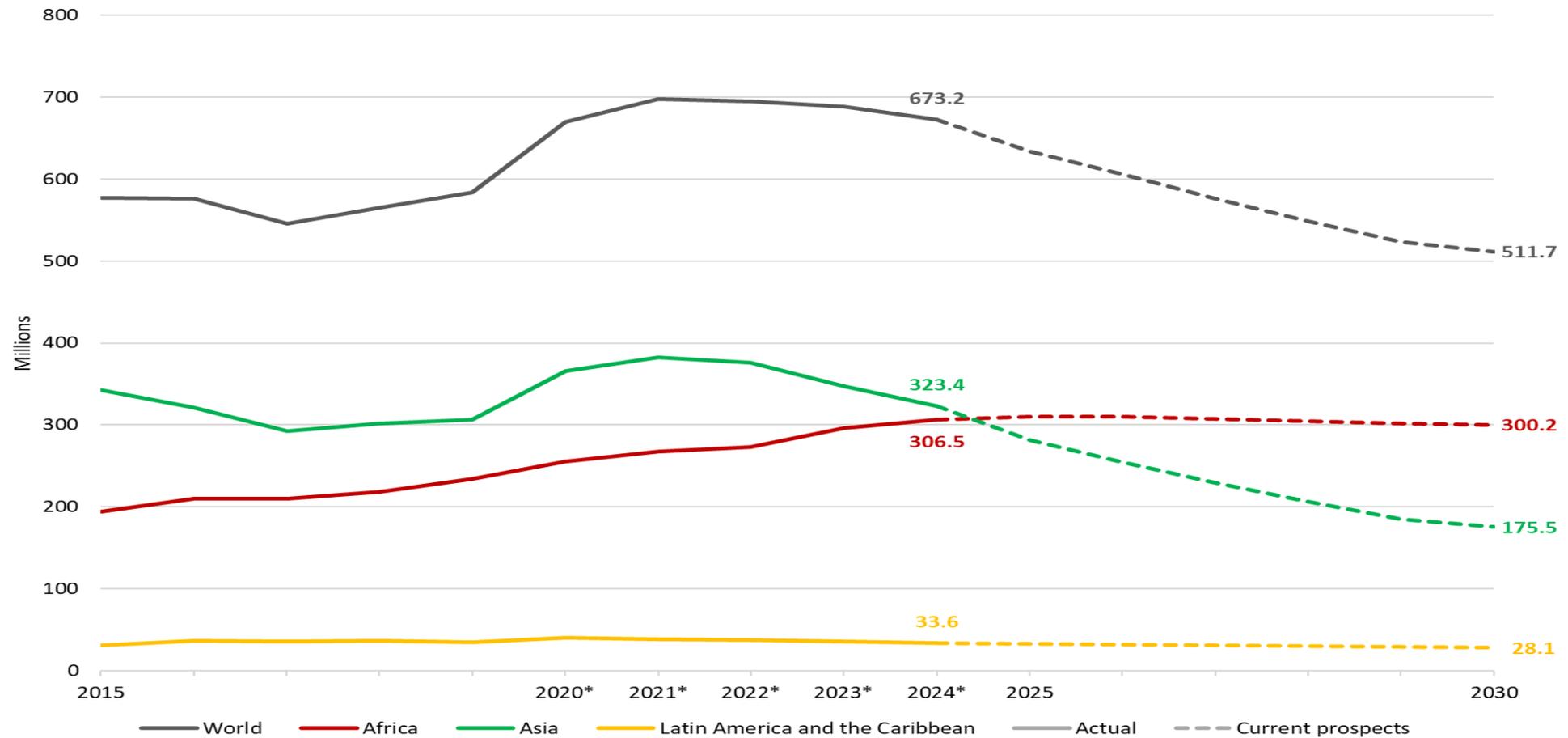
Progress has been uneven, with notable improvement in Southern Asia, South-eastern Asia, and South America and deterioration in Western Asia and in most subregions of Africa

PERCENTAGE POINT CHANGE IN THE PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT FROM 2023 TO 2024



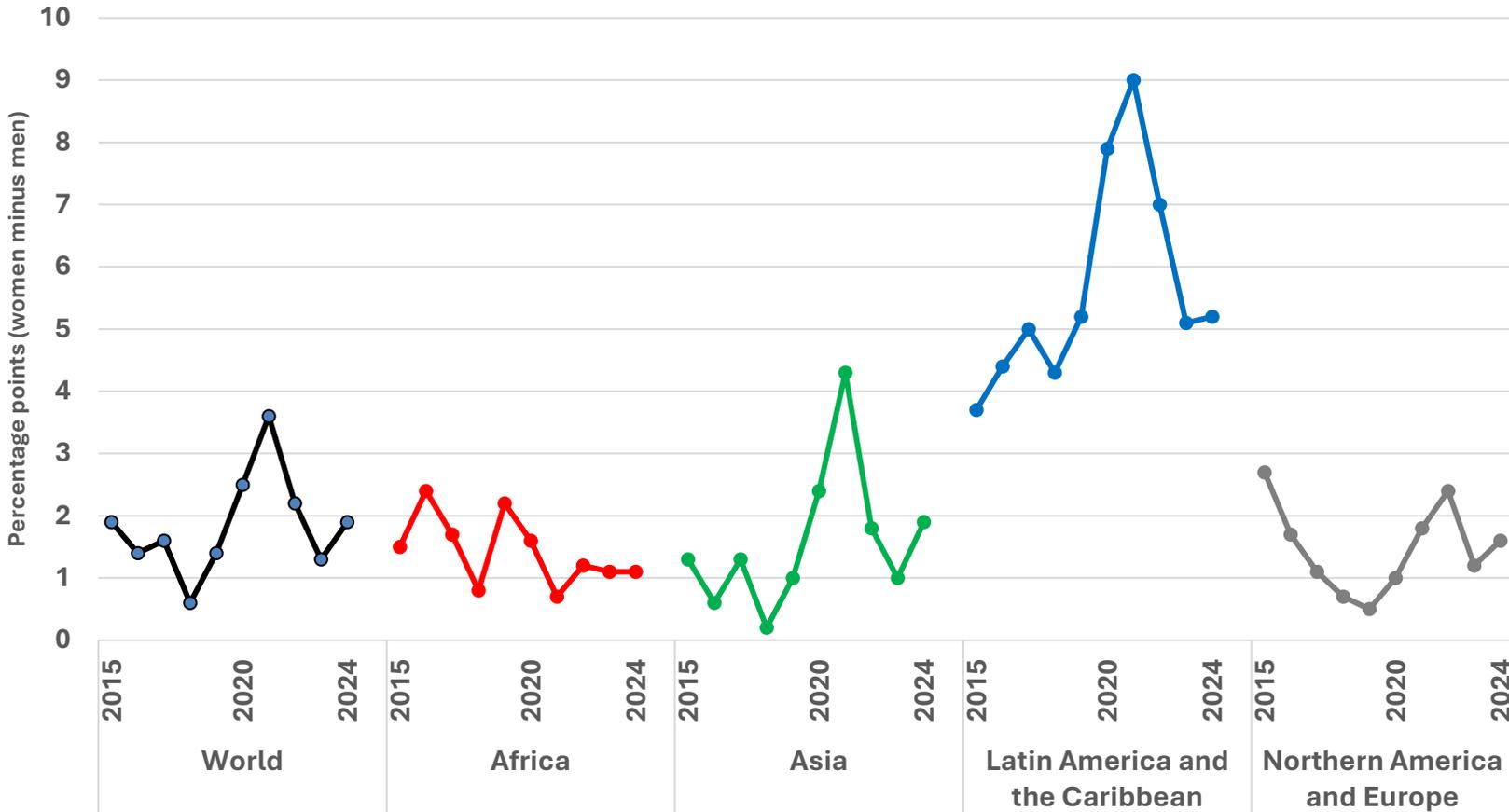
Projected numbers of undernourished indicate that the world is far off track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030

PROJECTIONS OF THE GLOBAL NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE



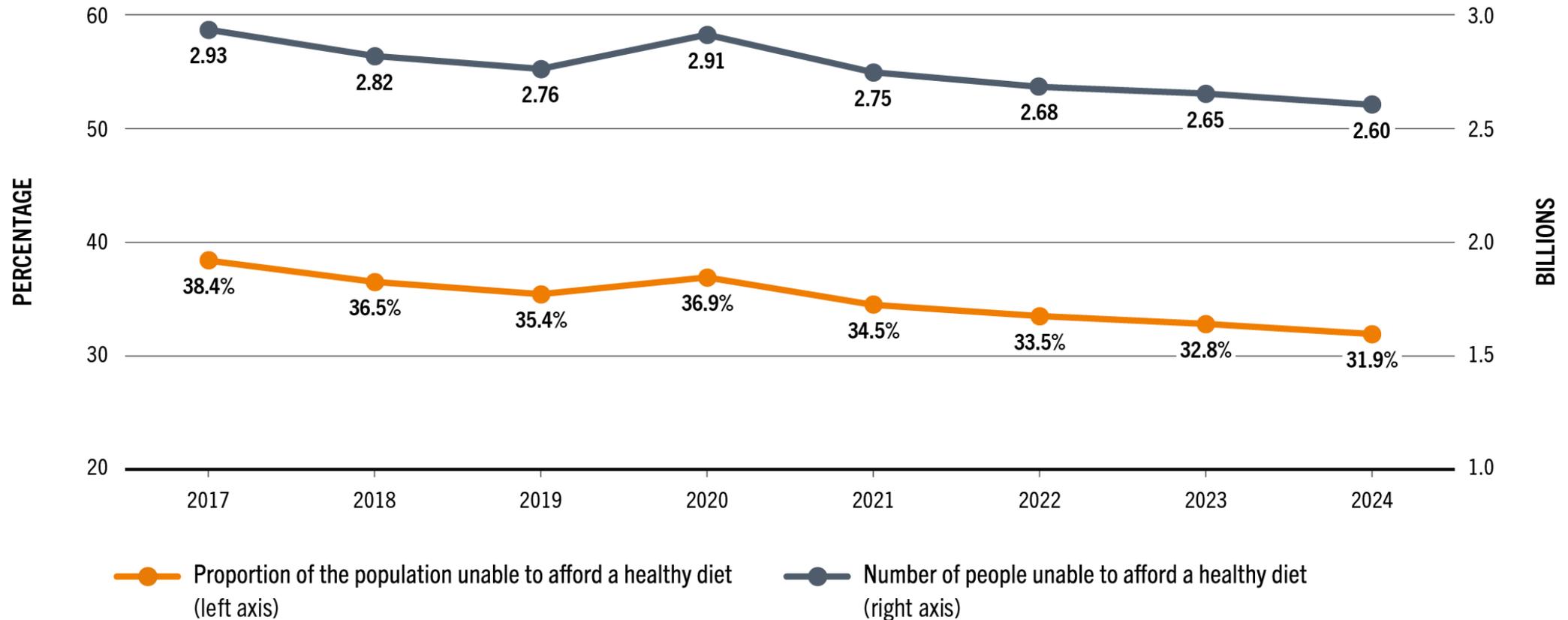
Food insecurity affects women more than men globally and in all regions

EVOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENCE IN PREVALENCE OF SEVERE AND MODERATE FOOD INSECURITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN



A healthy diet is still out of reach for 2.6 billion people in the world

PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNABLE TO AFFORD A HEALTHY DIET

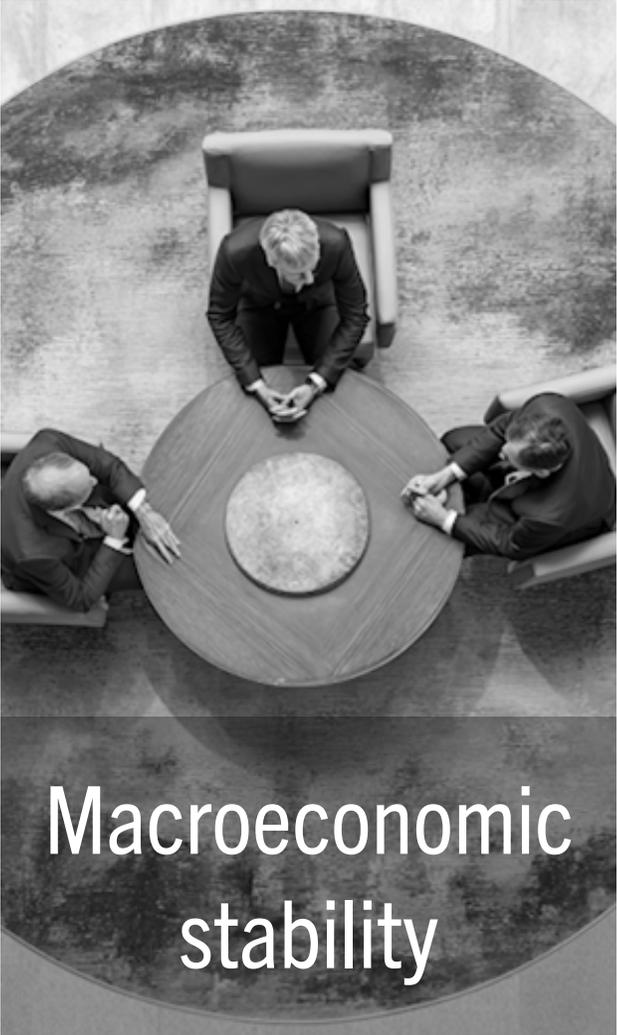


Food Price Inflation

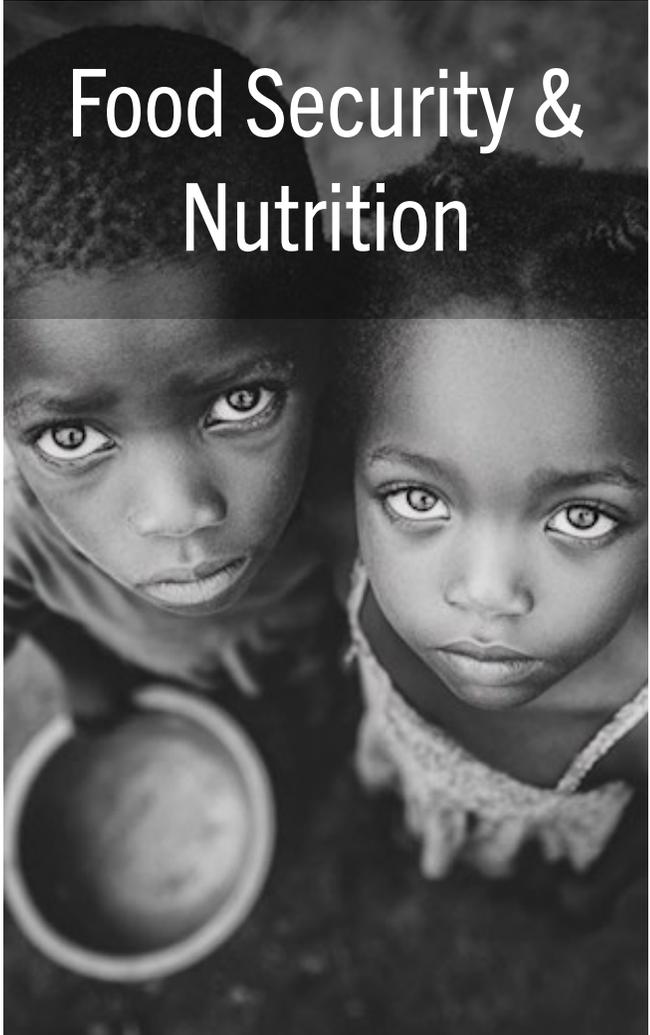
Why it
matters?



Political stability



Macroeconomic
stability



Food Security &
Nutrition

Food Price Inflation

Why it matters?

Political stability

Around the world, 46 percent to 80 percent of voters consider food price as a decisive factor in their election choice.

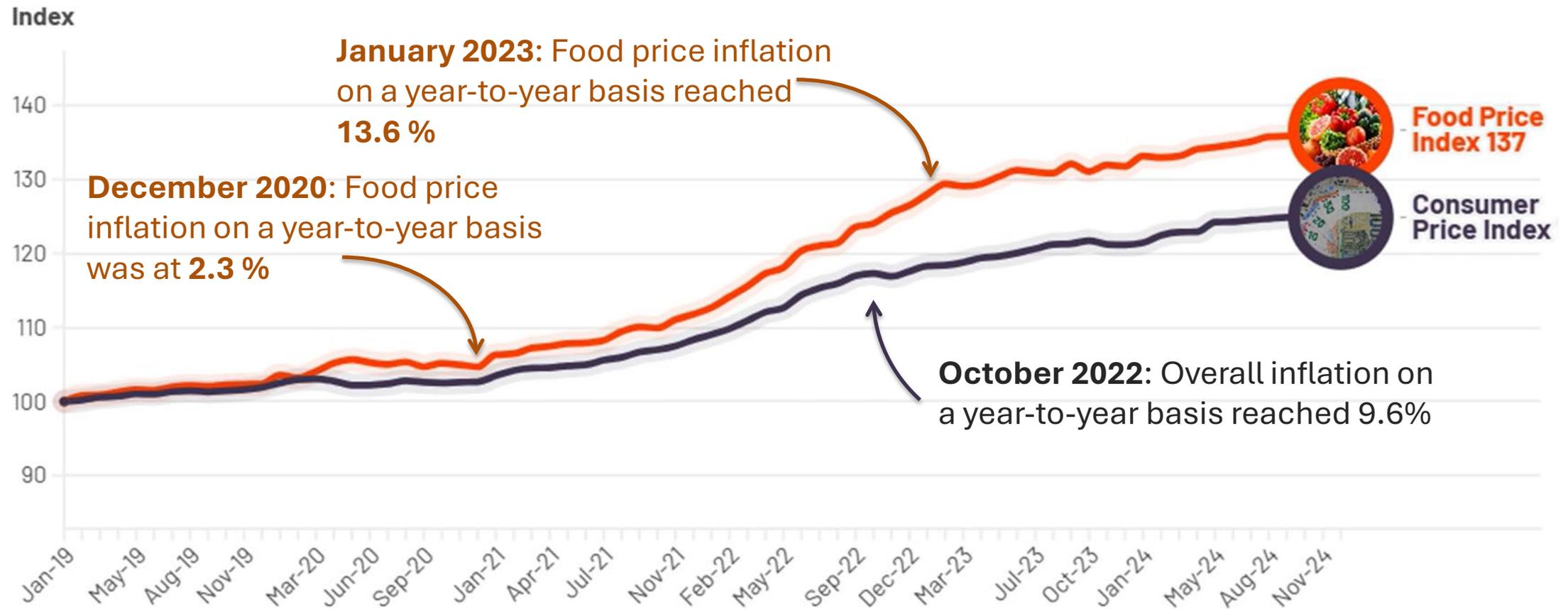
For 60 percent of countries, food products represent more than 25 percent of their CPI basket.

Macroeconomic stability

Food Security & Nutrition

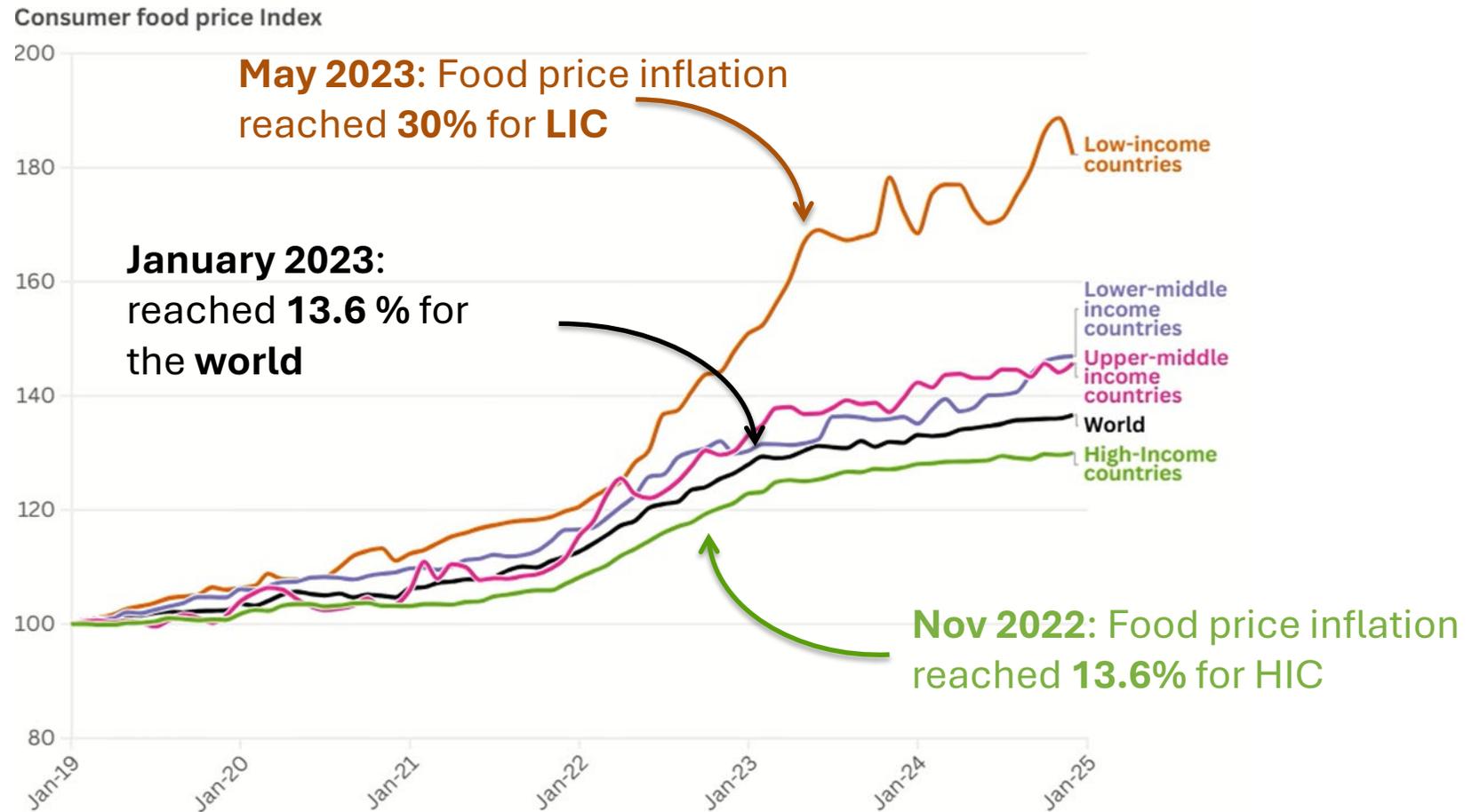
It hurts vulnerable groups.

Overall inflation and food price inflation

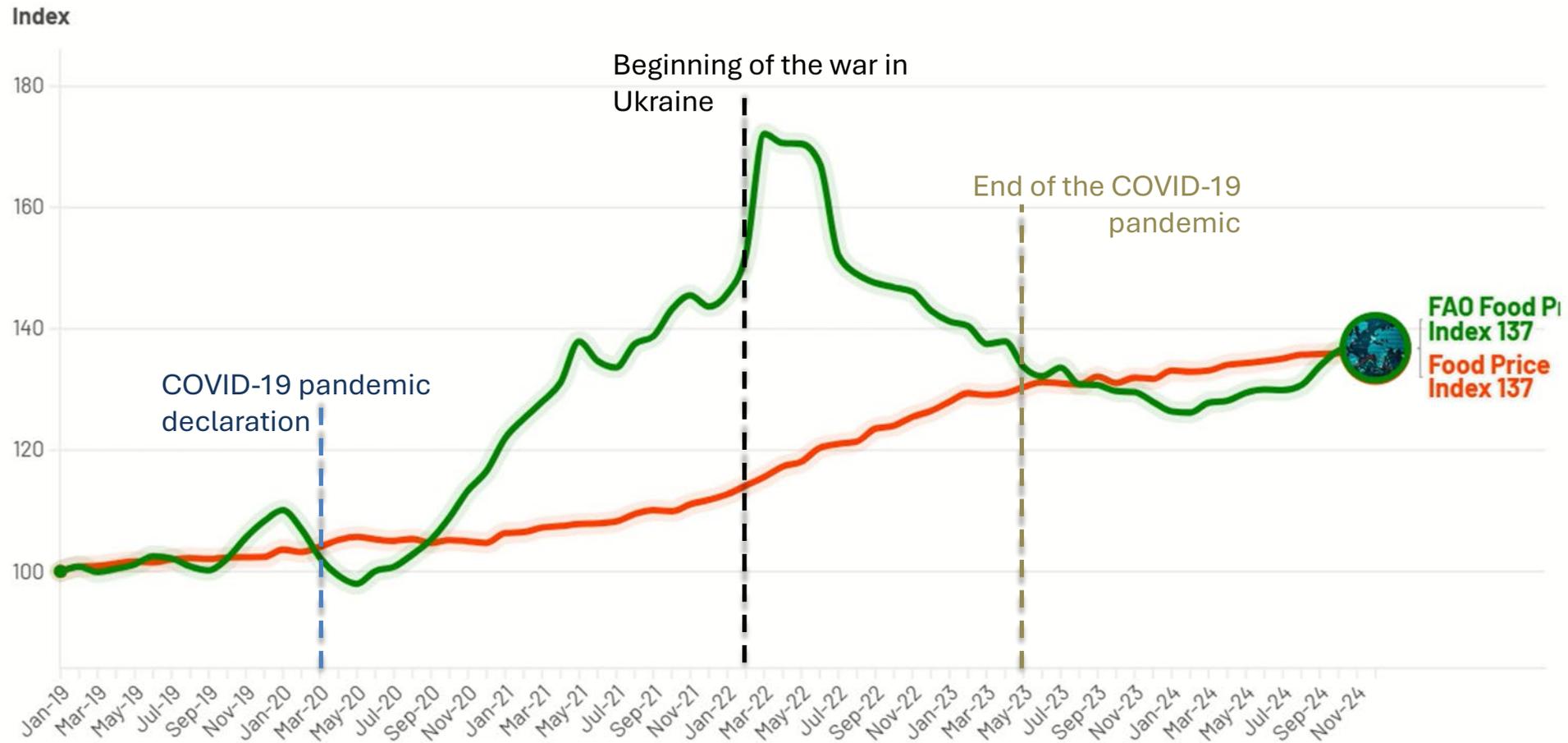


Note: global numbers are computed using the median consumer price index (CPI) across 203 countries or territories.

Food price inflation was the highest in low-income countries, impacting more households in these countries that spend a higher fraction of their income on food items.

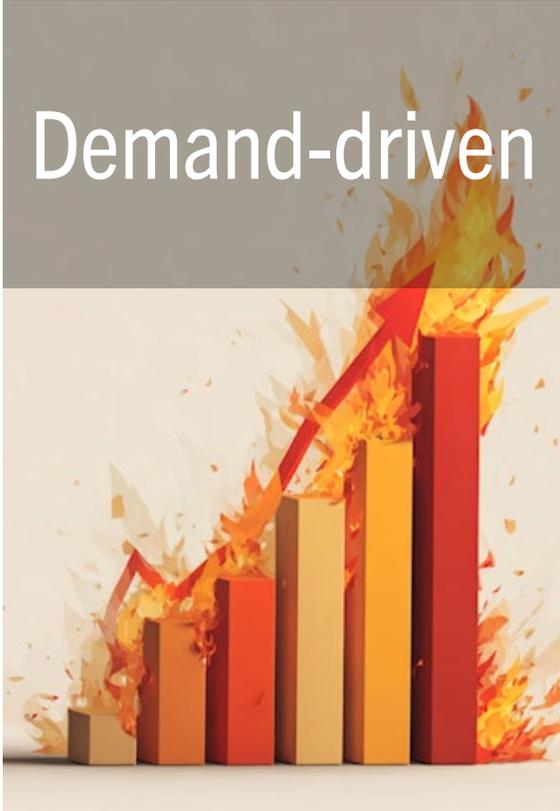


Domestic food inflation vs global food commodity prices



Why do we face food price inflation?

Demand-driven



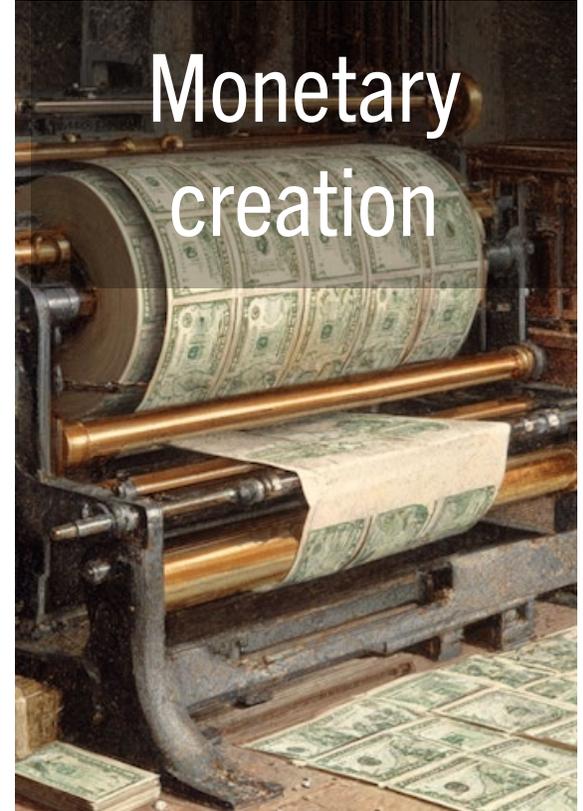
Supply-driven



Imported



Monetary creation



Why do we face food price inflation?

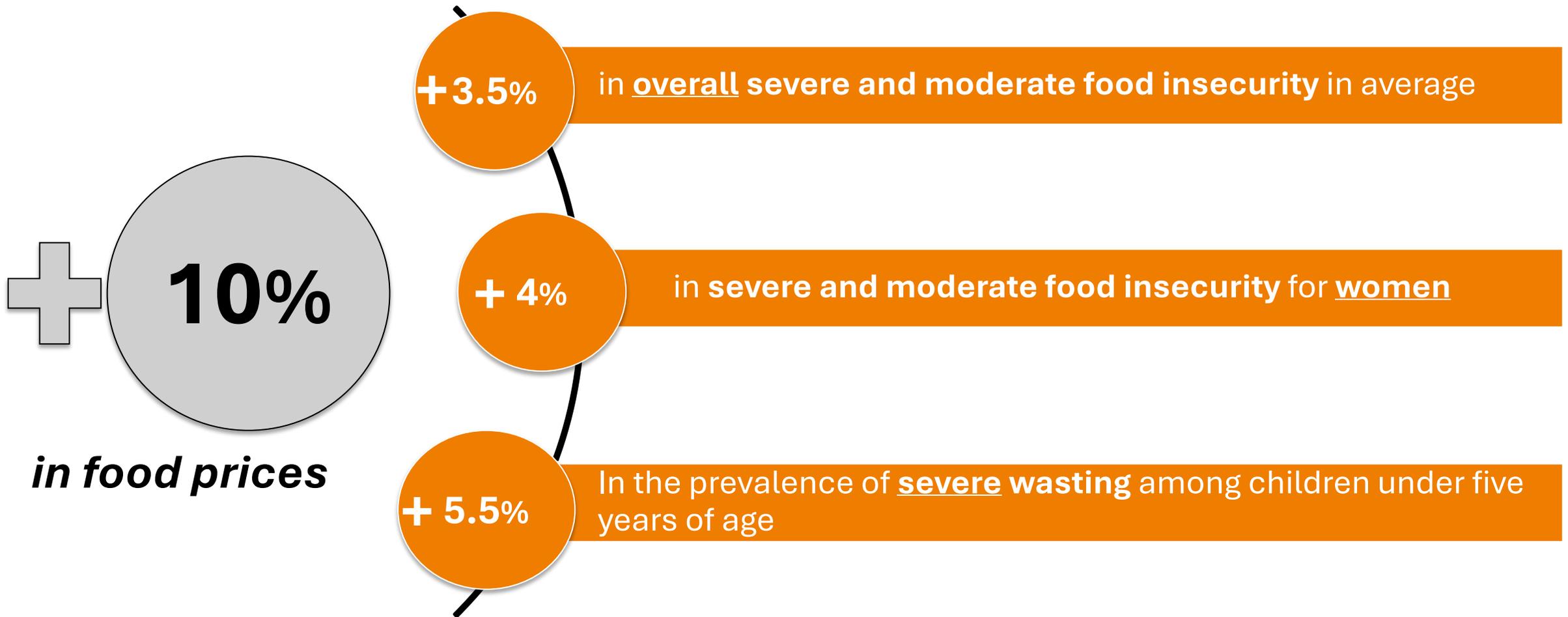
Governments spent **17 trillion in fiscal support** to overcome the **COVID-19** situation. Consumption accelerated in late 2022.

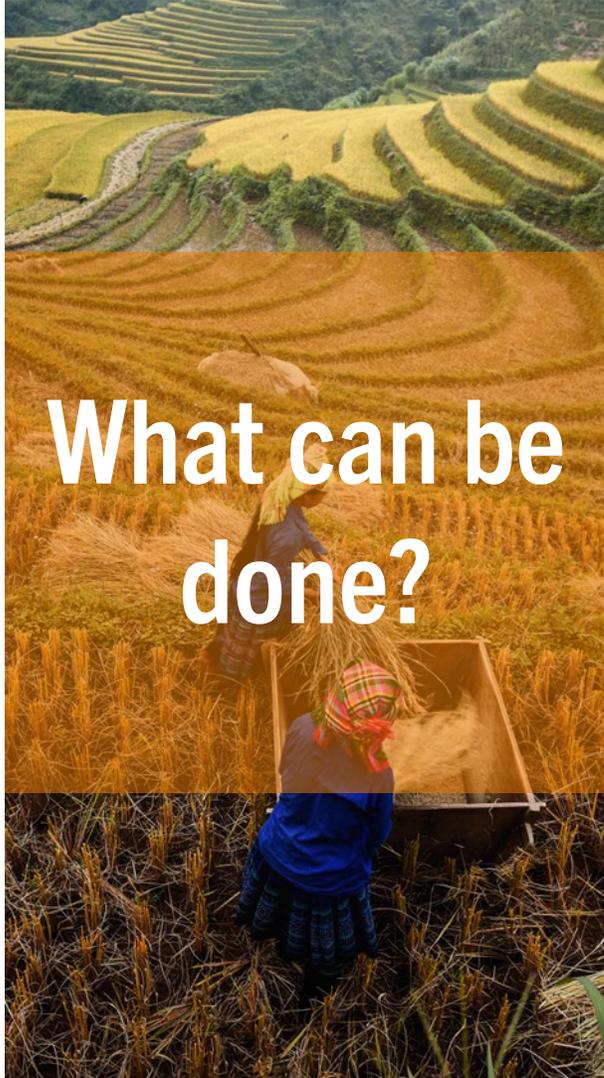
COVID-19 impacts on value chains, rising **energy prices**, the **war in Ukraine** and **extreme weather** events accelerated in 2022.

Strong appreciation of the US dollar, by more than **20 percent** compared to low & middle-income countries currencies by 2022.

Massive monetary creation supported the **COVID-19** fiscal policies. The US Fed added **2.2 trillion USD** in monetary mass in 4 years.

Food price inflation negatively impacts food security and nutrition.
The association between food prices and food security varies across countries and groups





What can be done?

A more coordinated, informed and restrained policy response

Governments showed greater awareness of the potential repercussions of uncoordinated action, and policy responses were more measured, better targeted, and grounded in lessons learned.

Global food markets remained functional with less disruptive trade interventions

The recent food price inflation episode saw few market interventions, and these were generally more short-lived and less disruptive.

Importance of market transparency and timely information has been reaffirmed

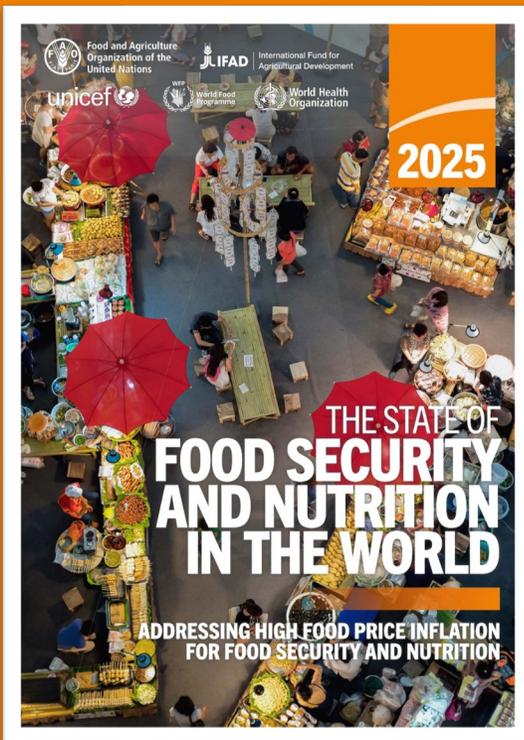
By providing reliable data and improving communication between countries, market information mechanisms reduced the risk of panic-driven policy reactions.

Robust institutions and sound coordination mechanisms make a difference

Stronger coordination between fiscal and monetary institutions allowed for more coherent policy packages that balanced short-term support to the most vulnerable population with long-term macroeconomic stability.

Balancing immediate relief with structural reforms to address future food price spikes

Effective responses to food price inflation should combine well-targeted fiscal measures, structural reforms, and coordinated policy actions.



Thank you

For more information, please contact
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and consult the whole SOFI collection



Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms



Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum



Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable