

# Fourth Development Dialogue Forum

## Food Security: A Regional Perspective

By: Ojijo Odhiambo, UNDP-Namibia.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



# Main Messages: Where we Are



- In much of Sub-Saharan Africa people are **trapped in a vicious cycle** of low food security and human development
- Two disturbing paradoxes: 1) Recent significant **economic progress** has not had commensurate impact on malnutrition, and 2) Food insecurity exists and persists despite **abundant natural resources**
- This is mainly due to **misguided policies, weak institutions and failing markets**. Importantly, two biases persist: one against rural areas and one against women
- Changing course implies **breaking with past practices** while facing down **new threats** of population growth, environmental pressures and climate change

# Main Messages: What to Do

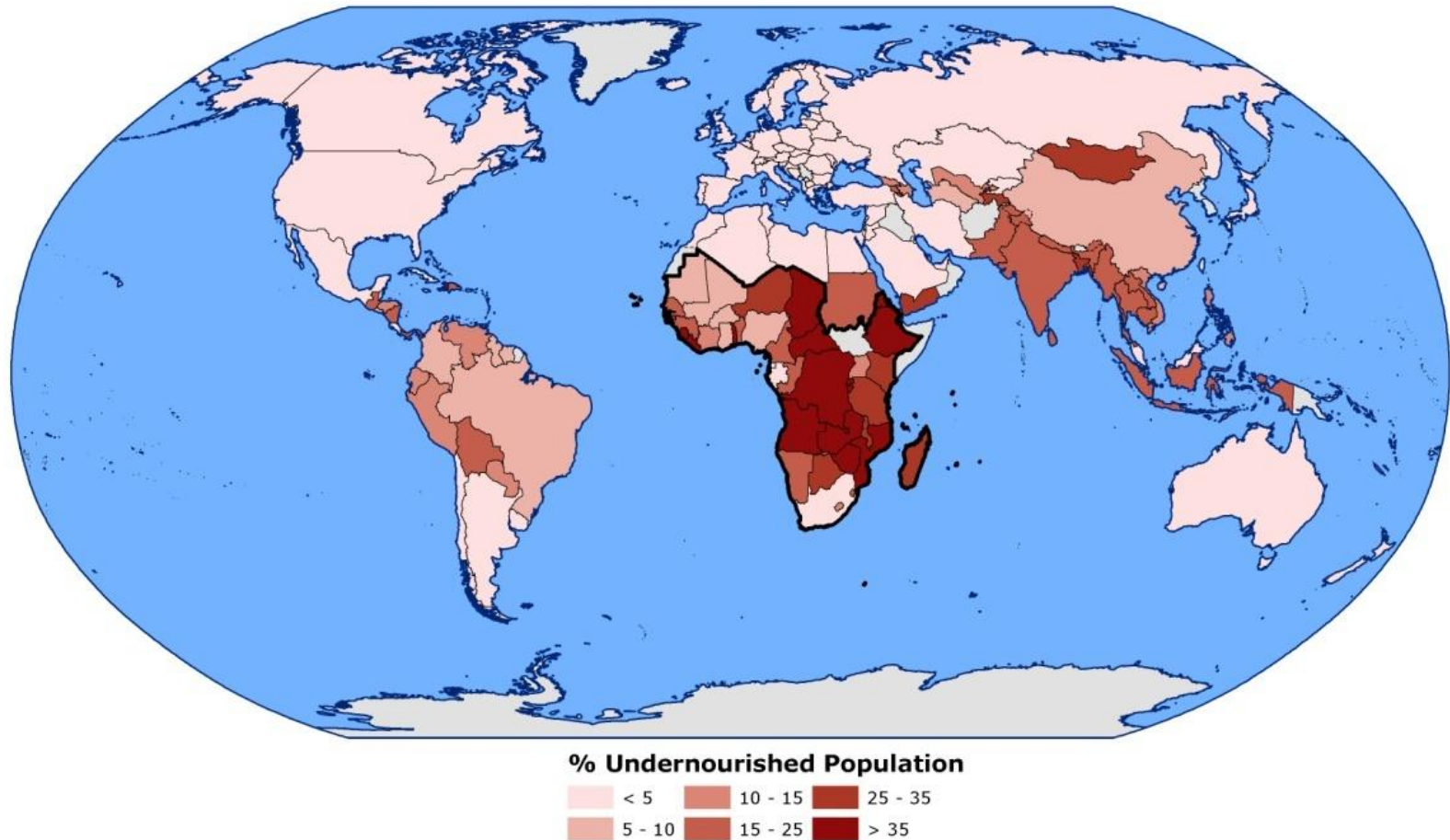


- **Improve agricultural productivity** by bringing yields up sustainably, to increase food production and to generate income and employment on and off the farm
- **Advance nutrition** outcomes through interventions that intercept malnutrition in children and mothers to stop forfeiting the future of families and countries
- **Enhance the resilience** of families and countries by implementing social protection to stabilize food systems
- **Empower the rural poor and women** by providing access to information, markets and knowledge, in order to unleash their transformative power

# Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of hunger in the world



Percentage of undernourished population, 2006-2008

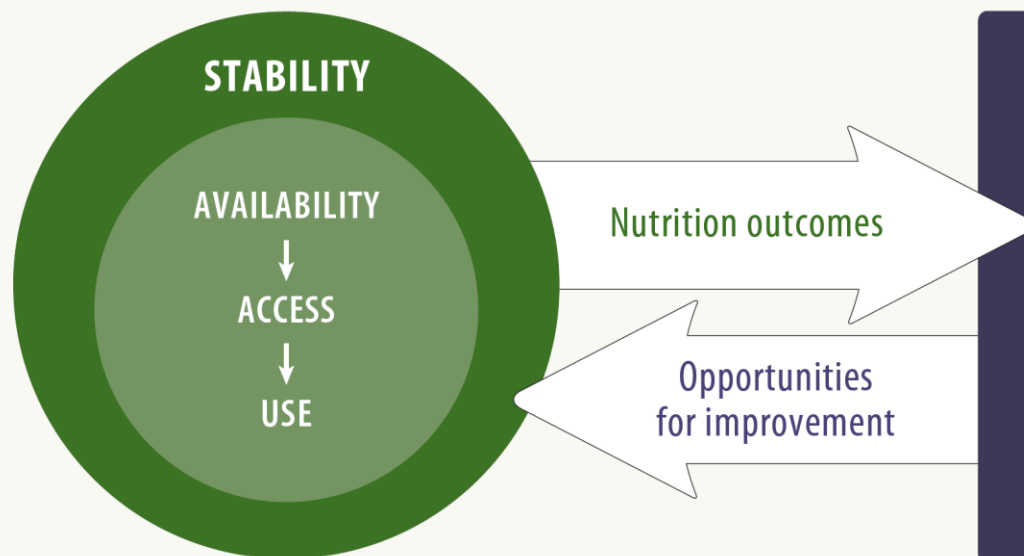


Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All. New York, Palgrave MacMillan.

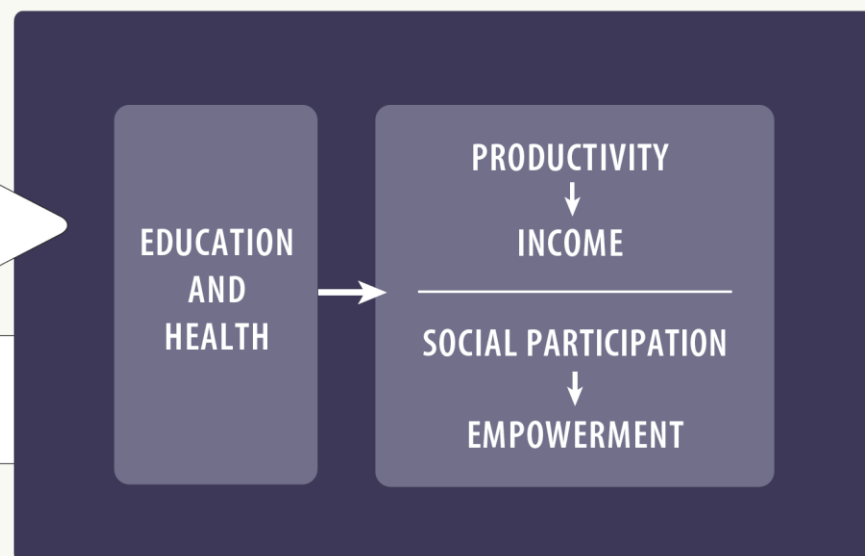
# Linking Food Security and Human Development



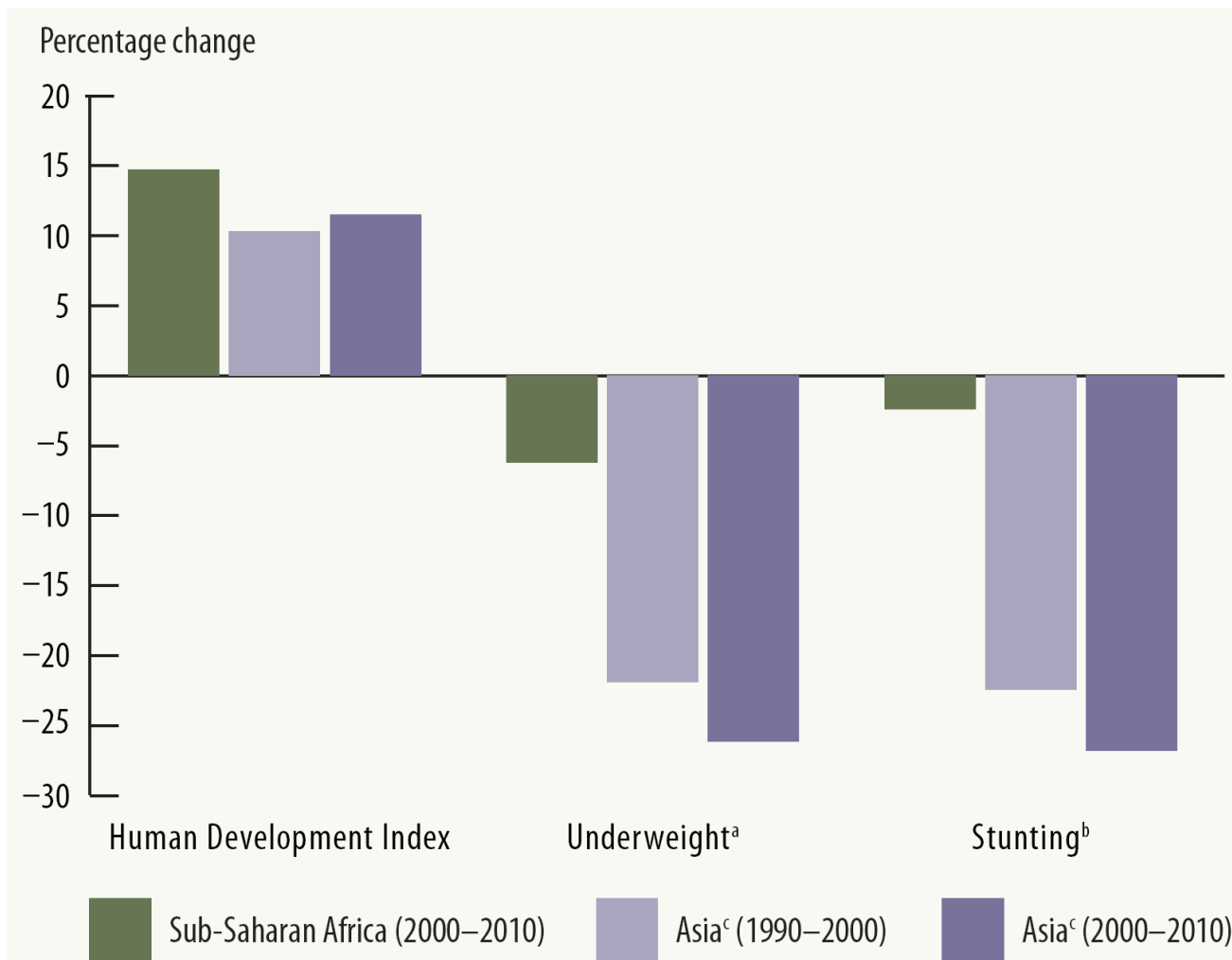
## FOOD SECURITY



## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



# Less success reducing malnutrition in Sub-Saharan African than in Asia



Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All. New York, Palgrave MacMillan and Human Development Report Database. New York.  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>. Accessed January 2012



# Proximate and deeper causes of food insecurity



- **High levels of rural poverty, low agricultural yields, poor infrastructure, limitations in access to health and education services** in rural areas are key proximate causes
- Food price volatility, erratic weather patterns and violent conflict add to **instability in food systems**
- **Deeper causes of food insecurity** include:
  - high levels of inequality, skewed control over resources and access to opportunities;
  - policy bias especially against rural areas and against women;
  - detrimental international practices, including the lingering effects of structural adjustment, lavish agricultural subsidies, the rise of bio-fuels and neglect of agriculture in ODA

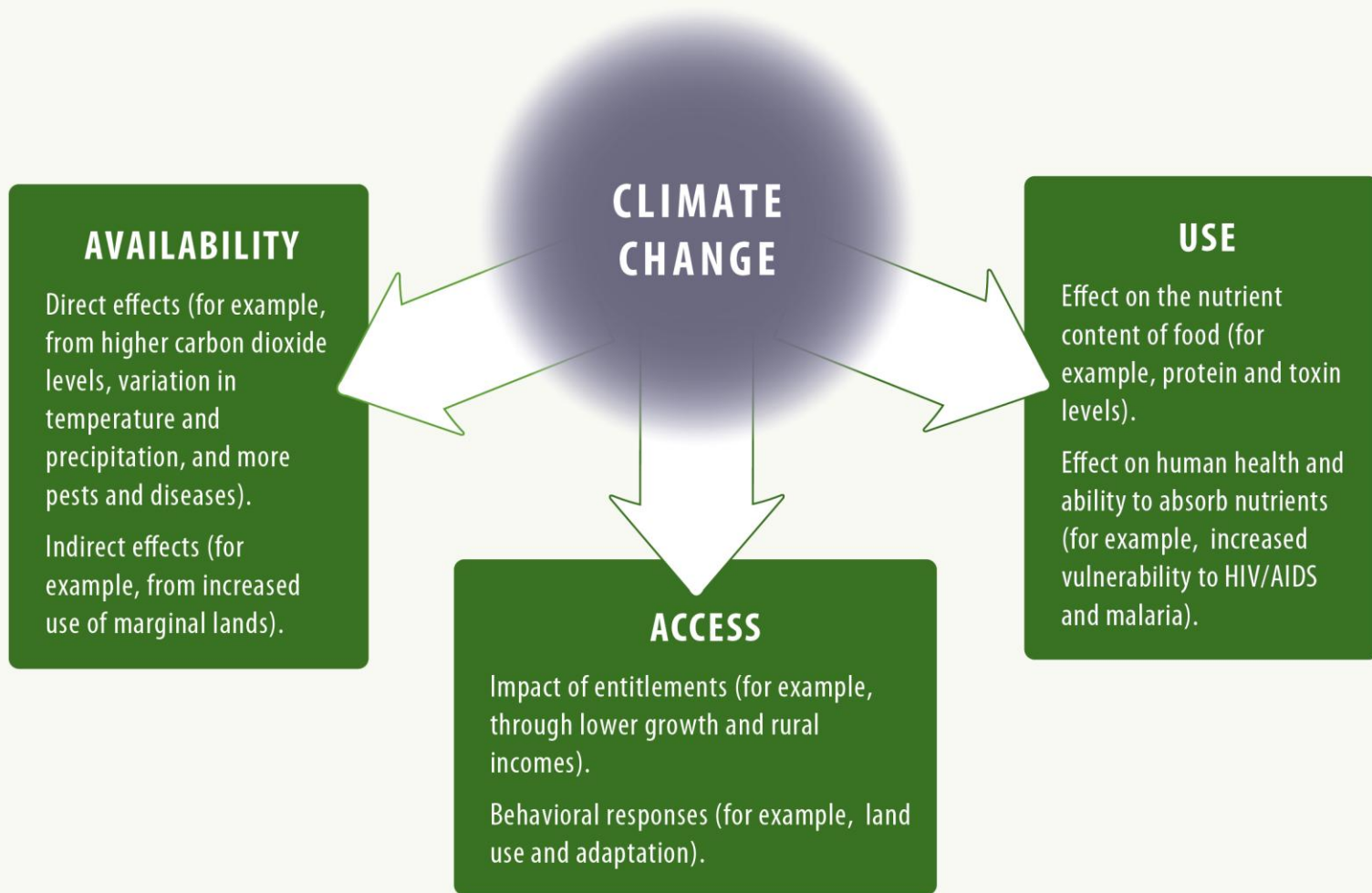
# Emerging threats



- **Changing population dynamics** as the world's fastest growing population is in SSA: from 856 million in 2010 to 2 billion in 2050, migration and urbanization
- **Environmental challenges:** in mid-1990s almost one quarter of agricultural land was degraded, up to 40% loss in yields
- **Perils of climate change** could increase water stress for 250 million people and halve yields from rain-fed agriculture, maize yields could fall by 30% by 2030; 25-40% of species habitats could be lost



# Destabilizing effects of climate change



Boko, Michel, Isabelle Niang, Anthony Nyong, Coleen Vogel, Andrew Githeko, Mahmoud Medany, Balgis Osman-Elasha, Ramadjita Tabo, and Pius Yanda. 2007. Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ed. Martin L. Parry, Osvaldo F. Canzianali, Jean P. Palutikof, Paul J. van der Linden, and Clair E. Hanson. Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge University Press.

# Overarching policy focus

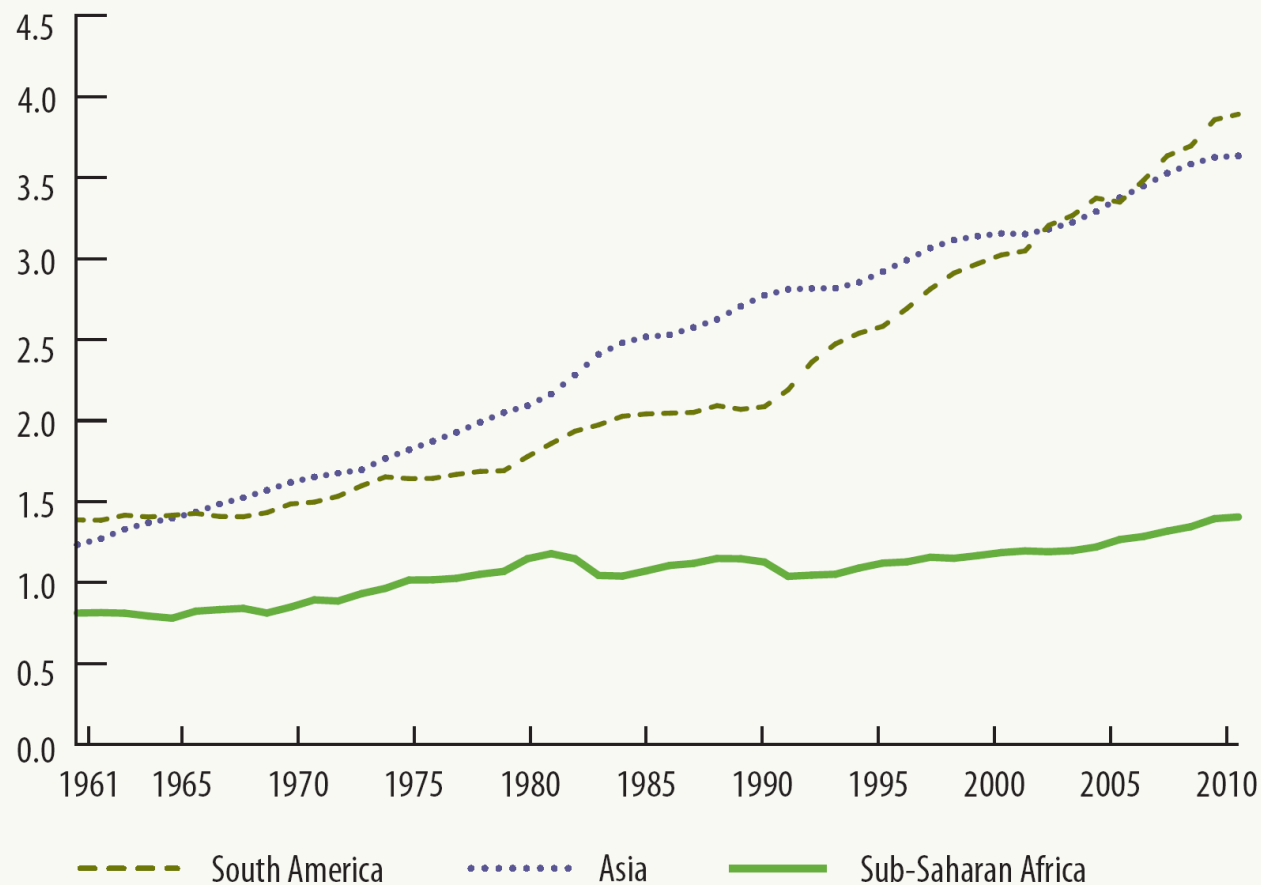


- No **blue print for development**—no silver bullet—but guidelines for countries and many examples that must be tailored to country needs and circumstances
- Food sector is not a narrow issue for line ministry or specialized agency alone—should be at the **centre of national development**
- **Need to bring on board the Office of President or Prime Minister**, and coordinated by ministries of finance, planning and/or economic development
- If addressed effectively the result can be **profound structural change and human development**

# Cereal yields have stagnated for decades



Tonnes per hectare (three-year moving average)



Calculations based on FAOSTAT. Rome. <http://faostat.fao.org>. Accessed 10 January 2012.

# Increase agricultural productivity



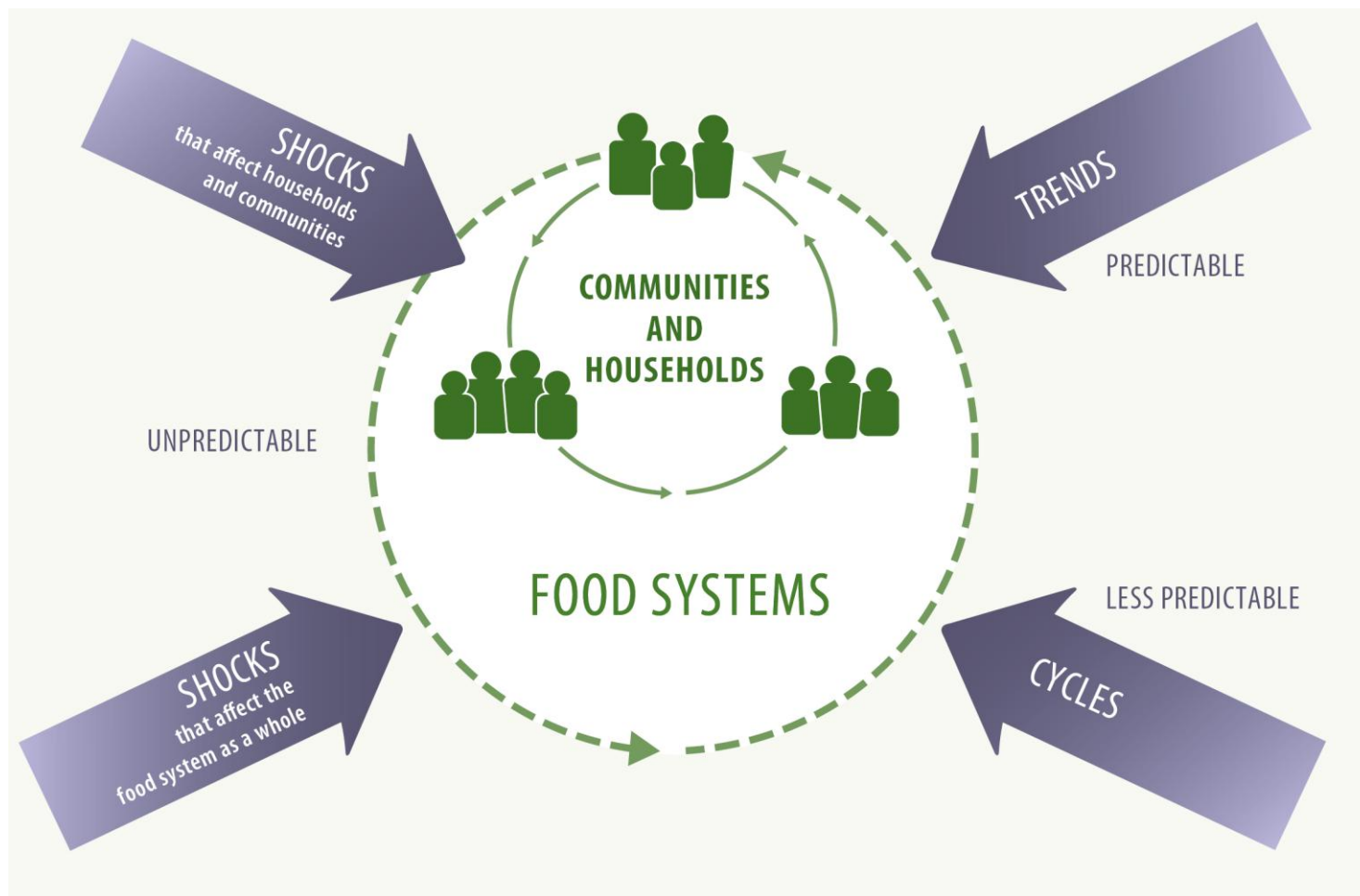
- **Faster and more sustainable uptake of inputs**
- **Smart subsidies** for fertiliser, new seed varieties and improved access to credit/insurance
- **Investing in rural infrastructure** (storage, roads, irrigation) to remove bottlenecks in marketing
- **Investing in R&D** and adapting new knowledge which is the key to raising productivity and engaging the youth

# Strengthen nutrition



- **Nutrition interventions** such as school meal programmes, awareness raising, improve micro-nutrient (e.g. Vitamin A, iron and zinc)
- **Fortification**, including bio-fortification
- **Improve basic services:** health care, safe water and sanitation
- **Remove inequalities** in access to resources and opportunities, especially for women
- **Integrate nutrition** into national development policy

# Change dynamics in food systems

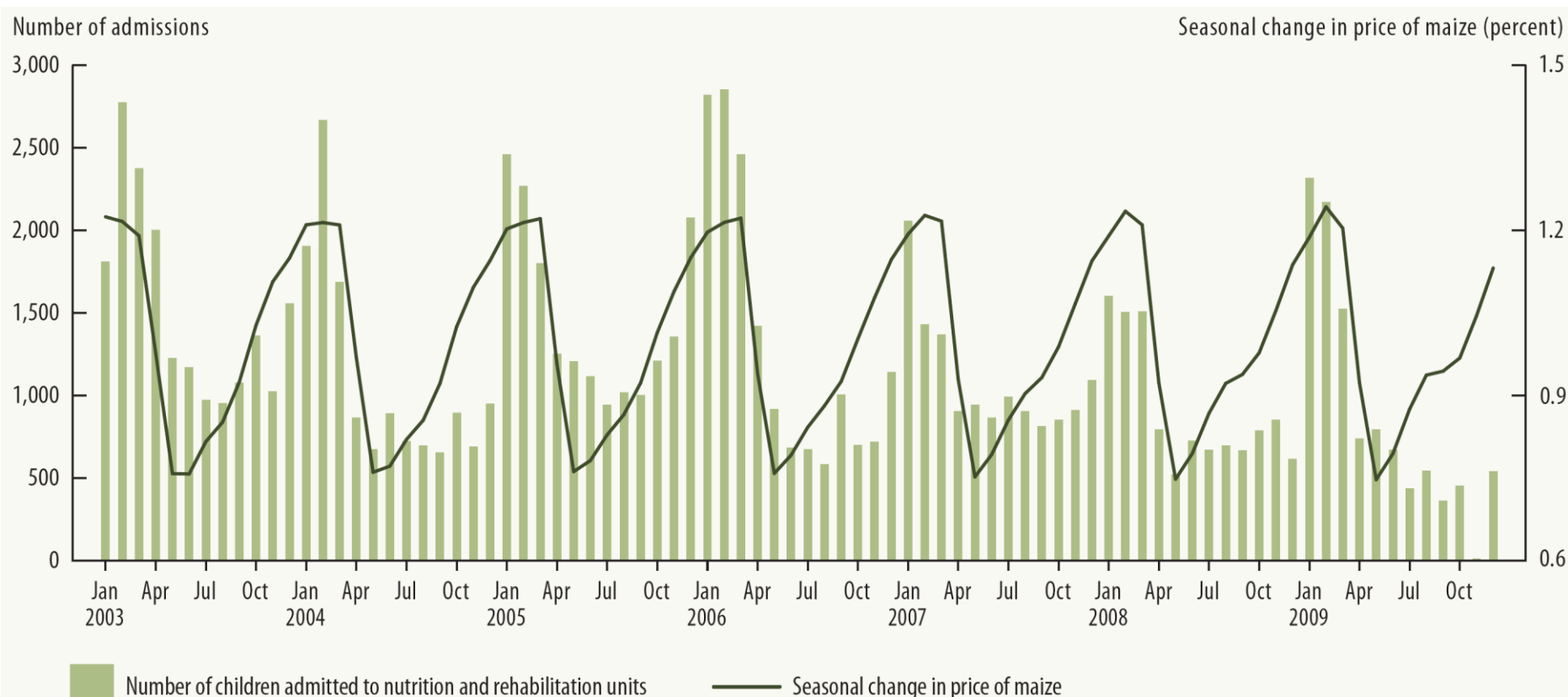




# Food price seasonality drives child malnutrition in Malawi



## Seasonal changes in food prices and admissions to child nutrition and rehabilitation units



Cornia, Giovanni Andrea, Laura Deotti, and Maria Sassi. 2012. "Food Price Volatility over the Last Decade in Niger and Malawi: Extent, Sources and Impact on Child Malnutrition." Working Paper 2012-002. United Nations Development Programme, Regional Bureau for Africa, New York. <http://web.undp.org/africa/knowledge/working-afhdr-niger-malawi.pdf>. Accessed 14 march 2012.

# Build resilience

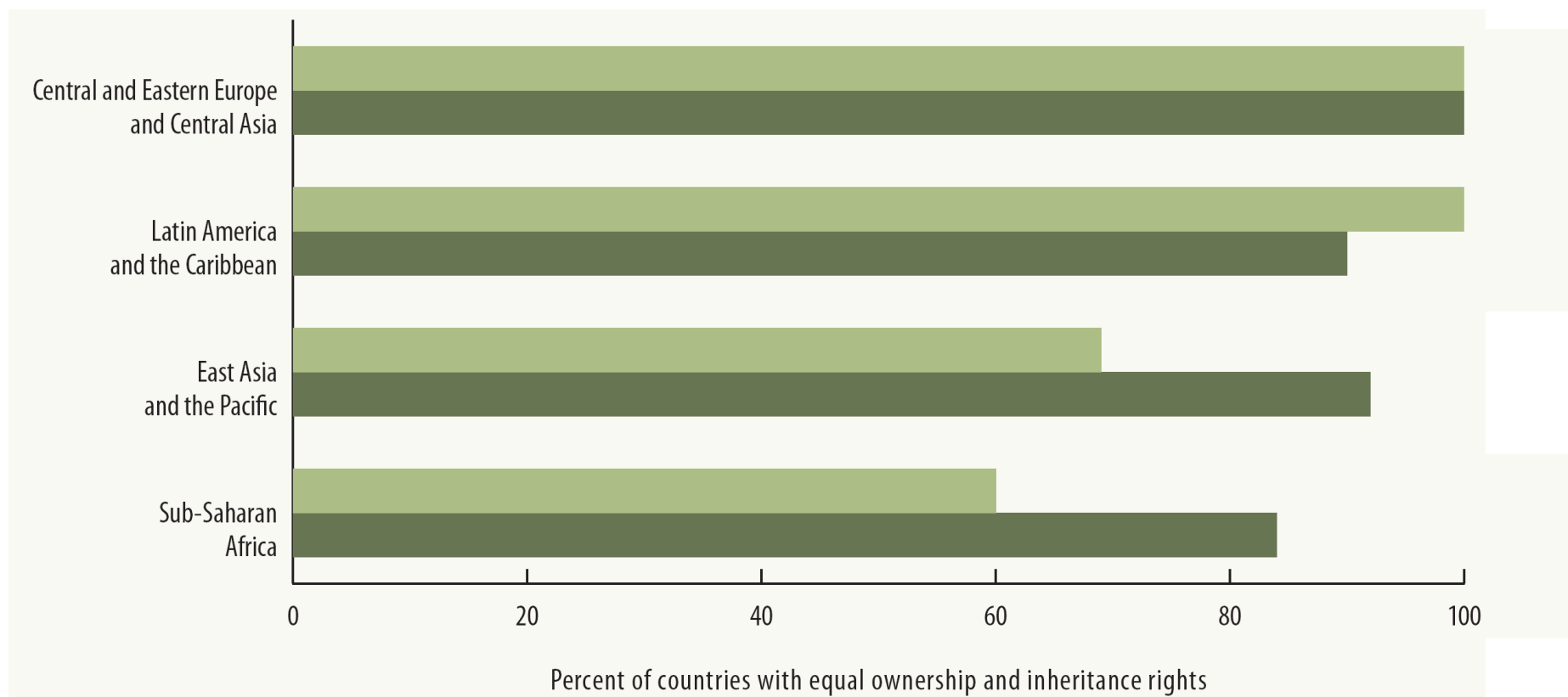


- **Population growth** can be slowed by addressing unmet needs for contraception and improving girls' education
- **Agro-ecological approaches** can relieve environmental pressures under specific conditions
- **Conflict prevention and recovery** is critical and interlinked with population and environmental dynamics
- **Social protection** can reduce vulnerability to shocks and improve risk management. Can also be a tool to leverage interventions for food security, human development and social justice

# Equal ownership and inheritance rights



## Share of countries with equal ownership and inheritance rights between men and women



UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women). 2011. 2011-2012 Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice. New York.



# Empower women and the rural poor



- **Empowerment** is intrinsic to human development but it can also be instrumental for food security
- **Unleashing the power of markets** by investing in infrastructure, encouraging innovation and harnessing new technologies
- **Boosting participation and voice** through local government, producer organizations and civil society groups
- **Advancing social justice and accountability** by defining rights, improving equity in land access and managing land acquisitions
- Unleashing the **transformative power of women**
- Report available at:  
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/africa-human-development-report-2012/>