



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# End hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2): Status, trends and food systems approach

**Seventh North and Central Asia Multistakeholder Forum on the  
Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

**November 1 - 2, 2023  
Almaty, Kazakhstan**

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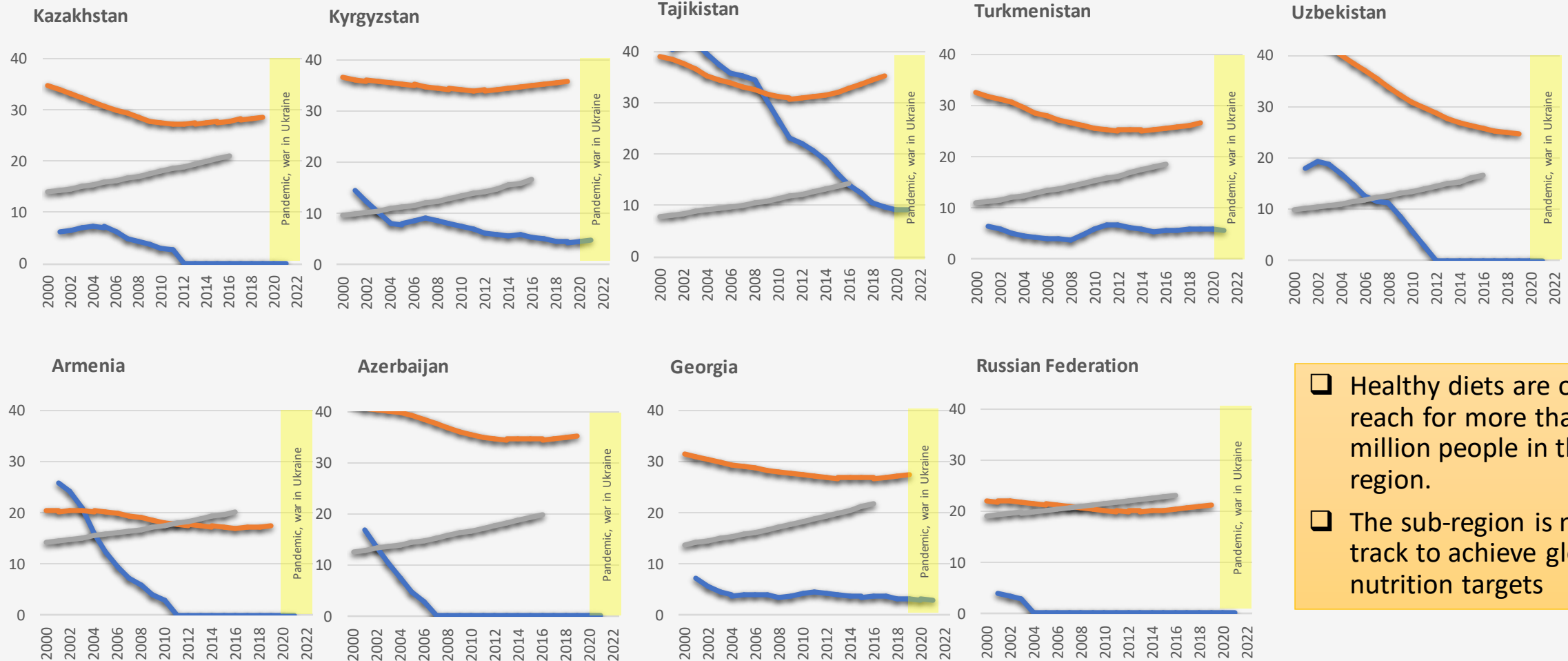
# Outline

1. Status and trends of food security and nutrition in North and Central Asia sub-region
2. Major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition in the sub-region
3. Possible pathways towards transformation of food systems to address those drivers
4. Inspiring practices towards food systems transformation in the sub-region

# Status and trends of food security and nutrition in the sub-region

Hunger has reduced significantly for the last two decades, but the progress is stagnant in recent years. Micronutrient deficiencies and obesity persist in the sub-region and the rising trend underscores poor economic access to nutritious diet.

- Prevalence of undernourishment (Chronic Hunger), SDG 2.1.1, %
- Prevalence of anemia (deficiency in micronutrients such as iron), SDG 2.2.3, %
- Prevalence of obesity, %

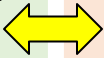
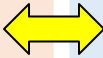
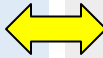


❑ Healthy diets are out of reach for more than 13 million people in the sub-region.

❑ The sub-region is not on track to achieve global nutrition targets

# Major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition in the sub-region

Climate extremes, water stress, economic slowdowns and downturns, and inequality affect four dimensions of food security, which have pushed us off track to meet the food security and nutrition targets.

Food availability	Food access	Food utilization	Stability of food security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ National level food supply has increased significantly, amid increases in production and import.</li><li>❑ However, <b>food supply was hindered</b> by pandemic and the war in Ukraine.</li><li>❑ <b>Water stress</b> in Central Asia is intensifying. Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan belong to the “severe water stress” category by Water Stress Index.</li><li>❑ Supply needs to increase further to meet the demand from <b>increasing population and consumption.</b></li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Overall income and purchasing power has increased.</li><li>❑ Recent <b>food inflation</b> hinders economic access to food.</li><li>❑ <b>Poverty</b> rate has risen in recent years.</li><li>❑ Inequality in food access exist Agriculture remains a primary livelihood source among rural households.</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Dietary patterns</b> are shifting to high calorie energy dense food as populations become urbanized</li><li>❑ Increased modern glossary retailers (supermarkets) improved access to both healthy and nutrition poor food</li><li>❑ Low public awareness of a balanced diet</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Producers and consumers are affected by unexpected and rapid <b>rises and falls of food prices</b></li><li>❑ Increasing intensity and frequency of <b>drought</b> causing livestock die-offs, shortages of water for irrigation, rising prices of seasonal vegetables</li></ul>

# What needs to be done to transform food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets?

One or more possible pathways towards transformation of food systems



# Inspiring practices towards food systems transformation in the sub-region

## Food Systems Based Dietary Guidelines (FSBDGs)

- **Countries:** Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Serbia
- **Institutions:** Ministries of agriculture, health, education, civil societies, academia, FAO, UNICEF
- **Thematic focus:** Food environments, consumer behavior
- **Actions taken:** FSBDGs are being developed 1) to guide policy makers actions to link dietary and nutrition priorities to the country's food systems for systemic changes; and 2) to inform and encourage individuals to eat healthy. 6 capacity building workshops and 1 regional webinar have been organized. A regional meeting in Nov 2023 will further enable the exchange of experiences.

Ministries, civil societies, statistics agency, academia in 3 countries are developing a Situation Analysis and Evidence Review (SAER) report to provide evidence-base for developing National FSBDG.



Related details available at: <https://unece.org/issue-based-coalition-sustainable-food-systems>

## Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems (IBC-SFS)

- **Countries:** Europe and Central Asia Region
- **Institutions:** Chairs: FAO, UNICEF, WHO; Members: IFAD, UNDP, UNECE, WFP, WMO
- **Thematic focus:** Improving multi-stakeholder collaboration and knowledge management
- **Actions taken:** Advocacy among UNRC/UNCT in the region on food systems approach and multisectoral collaboration. Capacity development and knowledge sharing to support countries in developing/implementing appropriate policy measures through the provisioning of analytics, tools, guidelines and sharing good practices.

IBC-SFS's publications to support UNCTs in adopting a food systems lens, including guidance for UNFSS national dialogues, technical note on food systems, and Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition.



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Thank you!

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