

Global food security in turbulent times

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Prices for grains, fertilizer and energy (updated October 2023)





Evolution of the share of global food and feed trade, in calories, impacted by export restrictions

Daily update. Includes food, feed and other uses of food products.



X-axis shows the week of the year. 1= first week of the year. Chart: David Laborde • Source: IFPRI



Role of export restrictions since 2022

Percent of global food and feed exports (calorie basis)



Chart: David Laborde • Source: FAO computations based on Food and fertilizer export restriction tracker, IFPRI



Nominal Food Inflation

Food Inflation in Real Terms



Source: International Monetary Fund, Haver Analytics, and Trading Economics.

Note: Food inflation for each country is based on the latest month from June 2023 to September 2023 for which the food component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and overall CPI data are available. Real food inflation is defined as food inflation minus overall inflation.





Food Import Bill by Country Income Groups US\$ billions

* Preliminary forecasts

Source: FAO, Trade Data Monitor (TDM), FAO calculations

Projections show 119 million more people

facing hunger in 2030 compared to a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred, and around 23 million more than in a scenario where 2022 events had not happened

PROJECTIONS OF THE GLOBAL NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE

Early warning hunger hotspots November 2023 to April 2024

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Hunger Hotspots

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The basic risks/uncertainties for the agrifood systems

Water stress and climate change

Losses around the world because of disasters:

Relative to agricultural GDP losses are high in Africa, SIDS and low-income countries

TOTAL AGRICULTURAL LOSSES AS A SHARE OF AGRICULTURAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY SUBREGION (1991-2021)

Planetary Limits in 2023

Source: "Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, based on analysis in Richardson et al 2023".

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Agrifood systems exert pressures on the environment

Climate Change

31% of GHGs emissions sources from agri-food systems

Biodiversity

loss

80% of threatened terrestrial species are in danger due to land use change driven by agriculture

Water scarcity

70% of fresh water withdrawal is used by agriculture

Pollution

80 % of marine pollution comes from the land

While the diffusion of processed foods, including highly processed foods, is already advanced in Asia and Latin America, it is spreading quickly in Africa

Low-food-budget countries:

Low processed foods

Highly processed foods

Food away from home

The value of agrifood systems is not in doubt

But while agrifood systems benefit us greatly, they also generate significant **hidden costs affecting all countries**

Using true cost accounting to quantify hidden costs for 154 countries

AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAIN

Agricultural inputs	Primary production	Food manufacturing	Food retail	Food Consumption	Food waste
GHGs	GHGs Nitrogen Blue water use Land-use change	GHGs	GHGs	GHGs	GHGs Nitrogen
Poverty among those employed in the agrifood sector				Undernourishment	
				Unhealthy dietary patterns	
AGRIFOOD SECTORS				CONSUMERS	

Global agrifood systems generate over USD 10 trillion in hidden costs

Hidden costs of agrifood systems differ substantially by income group

Total quantified hidden costs of agrifood systems by income group

Share of hidden costs to GDP (costs per capita on the right-hand side)

Hidden costs of agrifood systems differ substantially between countries

■ Climate ■ Blue Water withdrawal ■ Land ■ Nitrogen ■ Agrifood worker poverty ■ Undernourishment ■ Dietary pattern

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Transform our agrifood systems with greater resilience to make them sustainable and inclusive while ensuring healthy diets are affordable. It requires building early warning systems, absorption capacity and recovery mechanisms.

Integrate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding policies

Scale up climate resilience across agrifood systems

Focus on value chains contributing to healthy diets

Better policies, and investments in more sustainable agrifood systems, can reduce hidden costs without increasing families' expenditure on food

Protect households and value chains during economic slowdown

Address the specific challenges associated with water management

Realign public expenditures to assure access to healthy diets in a sustainable systems