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Challenges for Food Security and Nutrition in Central Asia

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The State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) 2017

- Monitors not only the progress made towards ending hunger, but also the progress made in eliminating all forms of malnutrition not only in developing countries, but also in developed ones.
- Report is in line with the Agenda 2030 and the targets 1 and 2 of Sustainable Development Goal number 2.



Whose Right to Food?



- Global hunger is on the rise: 10.7% of the global population.
- Estimated number of undernourished people increased to 815 million in 2016.
- Globally, the prevalence of stunting fell from 29.5 to 22.9%.
- 155 million children under five years of age across the world still suffer from stunted growth. Worldwide, an estimated 41 million children (about 6 percent) under five are overweight.
- Wasting affects one in twelve (52 million) of all children under five years of age.



	Prevalence of undernourishment in the total population		Prevalence of wasting in children (under 5 years of age)	Prevalence of stunting in children (under 5 years of age)		Prevalence of overweight in children (under 5 years of age)	
	2004-06	2014-16	2016	2005	2016	2005	2016
	PERCENTAGE						
Central Asia	14,1	8,3	3,8	22,1	12,5	9,4	10,7
Kazakhstan	5,8	<2,5	3,1	17,5	8,0	16,9	9,3
Kyrgyzstan	9,7	6,4	2,8	18,1	12,9	10,7	7,0
Tajikistan	41,5	30,1	9,9	33,1	26,8	6,7	6,6
Turkmenistan	4,8	5,5	4,2	18,9	11,5	4,5	5,9
Uzbekistan	14,5	6,3	n.a.	19,6	n.a.	12,8	n.a.



	Prevalence of obesity in the adult population (18 years and older)		Prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age (15-49 years)		Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding among infants 0-5 months of age	
	2005	2014	2005	2016	2005	2015
Central Asia	11,7	16,4	37,0	33,8	23,2	40,0
Kazakhstan	17,0	22,7	32,0	30,7	16,8	37,8
Kyrgyzstan	9,3	13,0	31,9	36,2	31,5	41,1
Tajikistan	7,2	10,9	34,9	30,5	25,4	34,3
Turkmenistan	12,0	17,9	33,5	32,6	10,9	58,9
Uzbekistan	9,7	14,4	42,3	36,2	26,4	n.a.



Double Burden of Children Malnutrition and Adult Obesity

	Number of undernourished people	Number of children (under 5 years of age) who are stunted	Number of children (under 5 years of age) who are overweight	Number of adults (18 years and older) who are obese
	Millions			
Central Asia	5,6	1,0	0,8	7,0
Kazakhstan	n.s.	0,2	0,2	2,6
Kyrgyzstan	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,5
Tajikistan	2,6	0,3	0,1	0,5
Turkmenistan	0,3	0,1	<0,1	0,6
Uzbekistan	1,9	n.a.	n.a.	2,8



Outlook

Tomorrow

- World Population 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050
- Expected growth mainly in countries in process of development
- Food production must increase by 60% to meet the demands for food and bio - fuels



Challenges

- Growth of the purchasing power of the population increases the demand for animal products (meat – milk)
- Climate change (70% of current disasters related to climate change). Erratic weather patterns lead to fluctuations in production and price volatility.
- Increasing pressure on natural resources (exploitation and degradation). In the last 40 years, 30% of the agricultural land become non-productive land. Underground water levels are decreasing as a result of overuse.
- Fundamental changes in agricultural production and food systems. Integration of the production chain, changes in agricultural research agendas, increased private investment in agriculture; affect the availability and access to food.



Challenges

- Growing urbanization increases urban poor and changes in lifestyle (sedentarism, fast food)
- Changing markets (changes in land use for food production to biofuel production), market speculation of agricultural food products, Free Trade Agreements
- Economic and financial crises (in 2008 the economic crisis increased food insecurity and malnutrition levels)



Challenges

- Institutional: Institutions weak and slow to respond to new needs and challenges of the new context, lack of financial and human resources. Budgets for Food Security.
- Social inequalities, problems related to access to productive resources (land, water, etc.).
- Diversity of actors, lack of coordination.
- Weak Civil Society Organisations. (usually fragmented, unable to impact, lack of participation).



Creating an enabling environment for food security and nutrition is key to eradicating hunger; it entails:

- Sustained political commitment at the highest level is a prerequisite to hunger eradication,
- Social participation and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in policy processes are crucial.
- Legal frameworks contribute by helping to ensure that government, civil society and formal and informal groups work together responsibly.
- A coherent approach must ensure complementarities among agriculture, food, economic, health, environmental, education, i.e. more coordinated and effective public investments.
- • Better coordination and governance mechanisms are essential, and require strong political support, a clear mandate, broad inclusion and well-defined roles and responsibilities.
- Policies and programmes are most effective when based on sound analysis and using appropriate, accessible and inclusive information systems.



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To eradicate hunger, one must fight poverty and inequality ensuring equal opportunities of people to access food.