United States Department of Agriculture

International Food Security Assessment, 2018-2028

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What Is the Issue?

International food price spikes over the past decade impacted of price shocks on the food security of vulnerable populations. Low food prices and rising incomes can improve a country's food security situation because people can more readily afford and access food. The speed of improvement in food security is also affected by inequality in income and consumption, as well as agricultural production and market conditions. Understanding how these factors combine provides a measure of progress in food security and its drivers.

What Did the Study Find?

Given projections for lower food prices and rising incomes for most countries in this report, food security is expected to improve between 2018 and 2028: the share of the food-insecure population is expected to fall from 21.1 percent to 10.4 percent; the number of food-insecure people is projected to fall from 782 million to 446 million; the food gap—the amount of food required to allow all food-insecure people to reach the caloric target of 2,100 calories per person per day—is projected to decline from 36 million tons to 24 million.

Gains in food security vary across regions. In *Asia*, where income growth is strong, the share of the food-insecure population is projected to decline from 16.6 percent in 2018 to 4.7 percent in 2028. The challenge is greater in *Sub-Saharan Africa* (SSA) where population growth is higher and income growth lower. In 2018, SSA is projected to have 35.3 percent of its population food insecure; despite improvements, 24 percent are still food insecure in 2028. In *Latin America and the Caribbean* (LAC), the share of the population that is food insecure is projected to drop from 19.5 percent in 2018 to 9.5 percent in 2028. Food security is also projected to improve for *North Africa*, s the most food-secure region in the study. There, the share of the population that is food insecure falls from 4.9 percent in 2018 to 2.3 percent in 2028.

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How Was the Study Conducted?

The ERS demand-oriented International Food Security Assessment (IFSA) model projects food consumption (food demand) and food gaps in 76 low- and middle-income countries through 2028. Food security is evaluated for each country by estimating the share of the population unable to reach a caloric target of 2,100 calories per person per day. The intensity of food insecurity is measured by determining the gap between projected food consumption (food demand) for those falling below the threshold and the caloric target. Food demand is expressed in grain equivalent based on caloric content to allow aggregation across four separate food groups: the major grain consumed in the country, other grains, roots and tubers, and all other food.

Average per capita food consumption data are from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Balance Sheets and FAO's cereal balances. Observed domestic prices are from FAO's Global Information Early Warning System (GIEWS) database. Tariff data are from the World Bank World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS). Incomes, exchange rates, and Consumer Price Indexes (CPI) are from the ERS International Macroeconomic Dataset. World prices are from USDA's *Agricultural Projections to 2027*.