

**Food Security Assessment.** Shahla Shapouri and Stacey Rosen, coordinators.  
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## Abstract

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An estimated 1 billion people in the 70 low-income developing countries in this study face a precarious food-security situation in 2002, up from 896 million in 2001. By 2012, however, the number is projected to decline to about 708 million. Regionally, Asia will show the greatest improvement in food security, as the number of hungry people in the region drops more than 50 percent over the next decade. In contrast, Sub-Saharan Africa will experience a 27-percent increase in hunger. Low-income countries must contend not only with poverty but also with short-term shocks—natural as well as economic—that intensify chronic food insecurity by affecting food production. Fifty-three of the 70 countries suffered short-falls from trend exceeding 20 percent at least once during the last 20 years. Seventeen experienced shocks greater than 20 percent more than five times over the same period.

## Preface

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This report continues the series of food assessments begun in the late 1970s. Global Food Assessments were done from 1990 to 1992, hence the GFA series. In 1993, the title was changed to Food Aid Needs Assessment to more accurately reflect the contents of the report, which focuses on selected developing countries with past or continuing food deficits. In 1997, we widened our analysis beyond the assessment of aggregate food availability to include more aspects of food security. We therefore changed the title to Food Security Assessment.

## Acknowledgments

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