



**IV Encontro do Programa Nacional de
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The World Food Crisis

Ute Meir, Chief School Feeding, WFP



World Food Programme (WFP) / Programa mundial de alimentação (PMA)

- Part of the United Nations system
- Established in 1963
- Headquarters in Rome, Italy
- Very decentralised - Regional Bureaux, Country Offices
- Ca 10,000 staff, of whom 90 percent work in the field delivering food and monitoring its use
- In 2007:
 - helped 86 million hungry people worldwide
 - Worked in 80 of the poorest countries of the world



WFP and the fight against hunger

- **More than 923 million people in the world are chronically hungry:**
 - 25% in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - 61% in Asia and the Pacific
 - 6% in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - 5% in the Near East and North Africa
- Proportion of hungry people declined over the past few years but the **actual number of undernourished people has been rising** for the past decade at a rate of four million a year
- **Challenge to reach MDG1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger):**
 - East and south-east Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, European part of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), North Africa: on track
 - Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia: highest rates of malnutrition, not on track
 - West Asia, Asian countries in the CIS: no progress or even deterioration
- WFP is the world's **frontline organisation in the fight against hunger**
- WFP Strategic Plan 2008-2011: **Five strategic objectives:**
 1. Saving lives in emergencies
 2. Prevent acute hunger, support disaster preparedness
 3. Rebuild lives, livelihoods after emergencies
 4. Reduce chronic hunger
 5. Build country capacities to reduce hunger, support local purchases



The world food crisis: origins

- Food prices have increased since 2001, and particularly steeply since 2006. The increase has affected nearly all food commodities, although to different degrees
- A number of factors are behind these increases:
 - rising demand for food, due to the changing diets of people benefiting from rapidly growing economies;
 - depreciating dollar;
 - Less food production, mostly weather-related;
 - land degradation and low productivity growth;
 - high fuel costs leading to high input costs (of fertilizers and transport);
 - increasing investments in commodities by financial investors
- Although food prices declined most recently they remain significantly higher than in 2005 and are predicted to remain high



The world food crisis: origins

In addition to rising food costs:

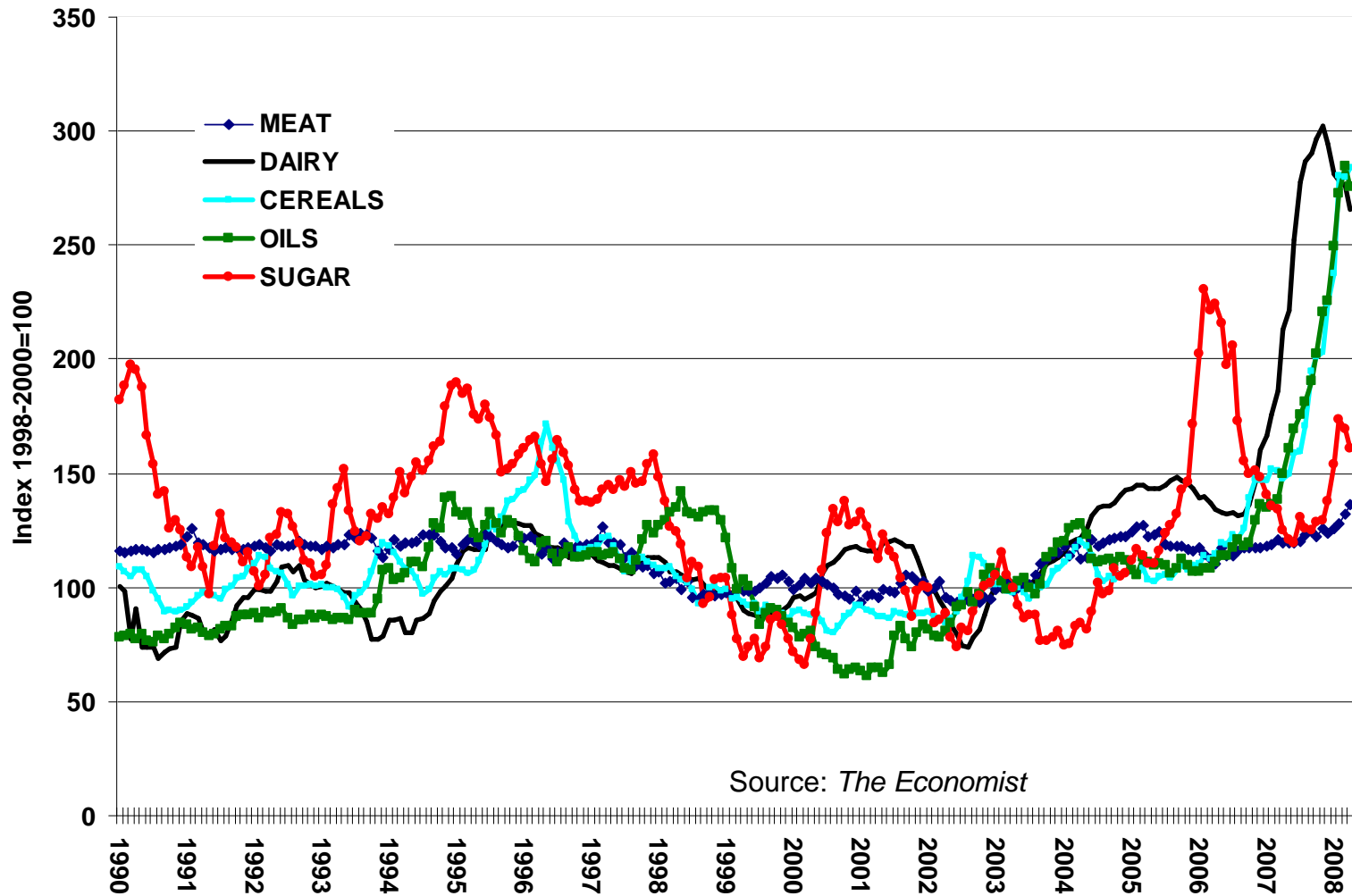
- Climate change: more frequent, more intense weather disasters
- Economic crisis:
 - Slower economic growth
 - Less income to buy food at household level
 - Governments at risk of reducing spending on education, nutrition, health
 - Less resources available for international development



“The perfect storm” – combined effect of several crises happening in parallel!



High food prices

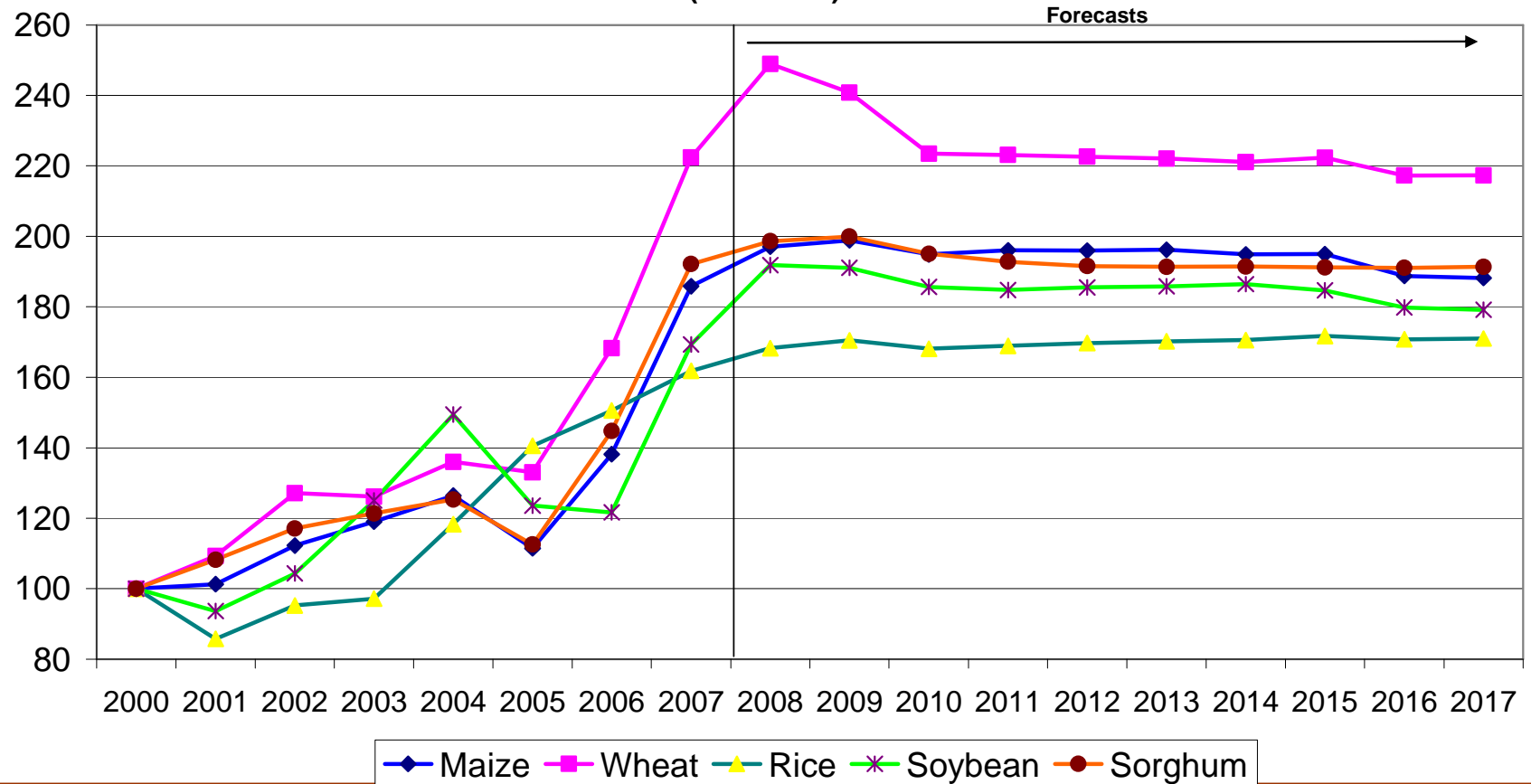


Source: *The Economist*



High food prices

Food prices will peak in 2008 or 2009 but remain high
Average of forecasts of EIU, FAPRI, IFPRI, OECD/FAO, USDA and World Bank
(2000=100)



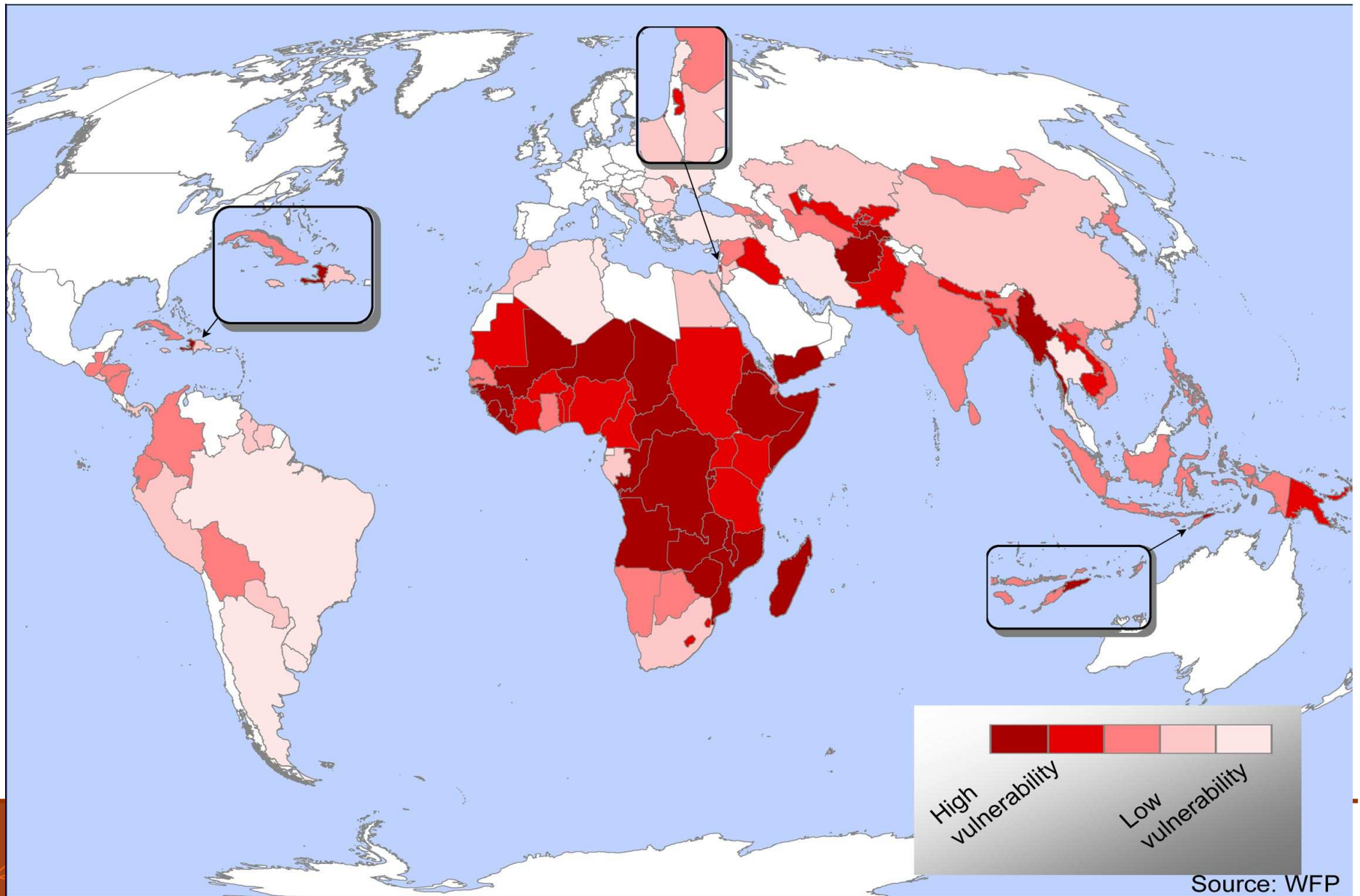
countries most at risk

- ➔ those importing high proportion of food requirements
- ➔ those with limited international reserves
- ➔ those already facing inflationary pressure
- ➔ those whose populations spend a large proportion of household income on food
- ➔ those experiencing an additional “shock” such as extreme weather or conflict

The impact is greater in countries with an already high incidence of hunger



High food prices: countries most at risk



High food prices: people most at risk

- refugees, internally displaced people
- infants and mothers
- orphans and vulnerable schoolchildren
- the rural poor
- HIV/AIDS patients
- pastoralists
- small-scale farmers
- the urban poor with less than \$1 a day



High food prices: Consequences

- Less education:
 - Bangladesh: ca 50% of households surveyed reduced spending on education to cope with rising food costs
 - Indonesia: 1997 economic crisis was associated with a doubling of the numbers of out-of-school children
 - Sub-Saharan Africa: Droughts were found to lead to reduced education, child nutrition
- Less nutrition:
 - Consuming less food, eating fewer meals
 - Eating less nutritious food
- Increased vulnerability, less able to deal with crises:
 - Selling household assets in desperation
 - Afghanistan: average Afghan family now spends about 45% of its income on food; in 2006 the figure was 11%.



High food prices: Consequences

World Bank estimates:

- 100 million people being pushed deeper into poverty
- A setback of almost 7 years of progress towards Millennium Development Goals



The fight against hunger has not been won!



World food crisis – The response

Comprehensive Framework for Action

April 2008: UN Secretary-General set up special task force to deal with the global food crisis.

June 2008: FAO summit in Rome prepared Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA).

Short term actions:

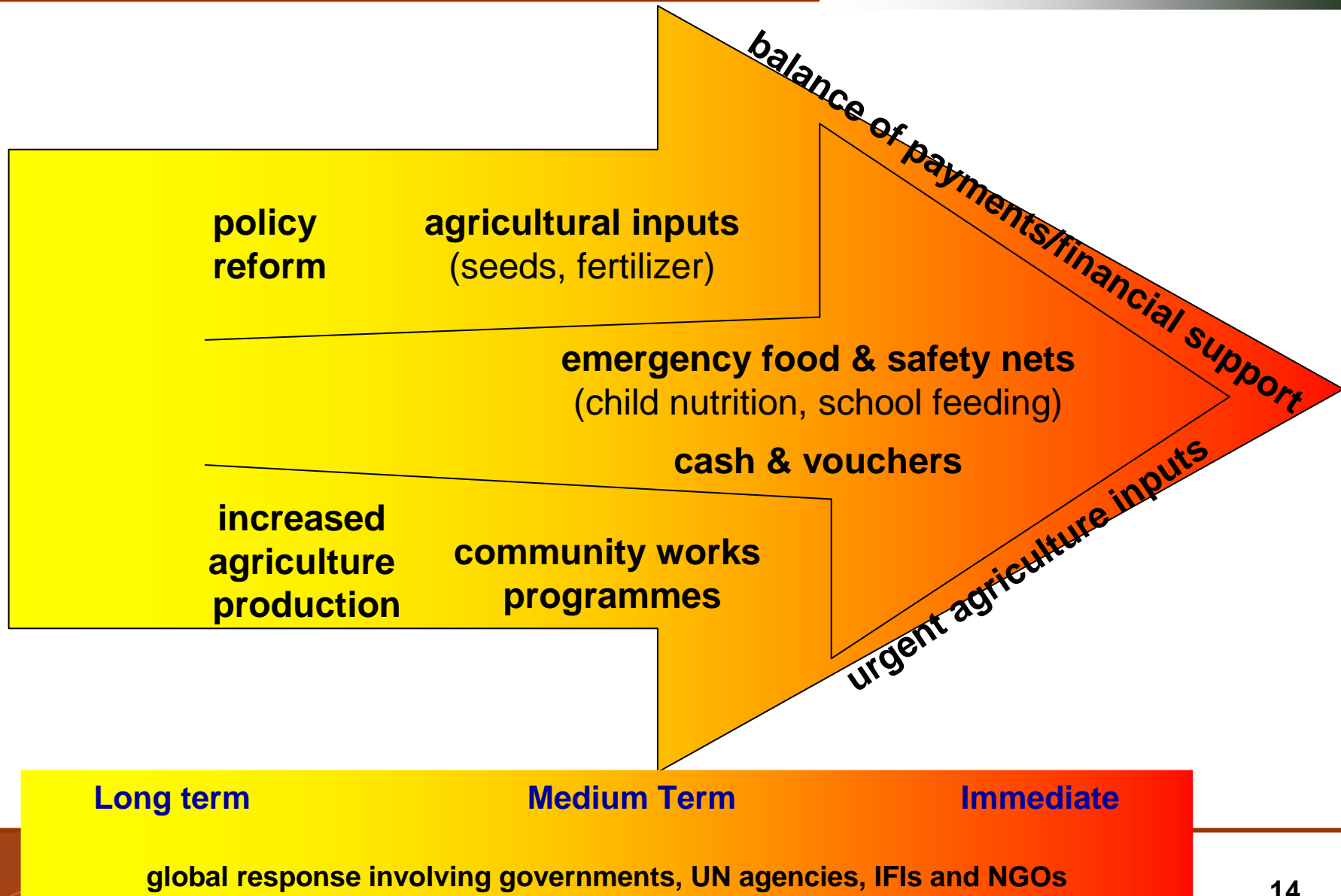
- 1) boost social safety nets and food assistance; 2) give smallholder farmers the inputs they need for immediate planting; 3) improve assessment and monitoring of prices and food security; 4) help affected countries manage the economic impact of high prices; 5) ensure taxation policies do not contribute to price rises and try to remove trade restrictions.

Medium/long term actions:

- 1) make sure small farmers have sustained support to boost production; 2) expand/improve social safety nets; 3) improve efficiency of international commodity markets work; 4) improve risk management in agriculture; 5) find a way of reconciling biofuels with food security. .



World food crisis: A coherent global response:



World food crisis – WFP's response

- Immediate focus on emergency elements of global response:
 - Saving lives (emergencies, refugees, etc.)
 - Prevent malnutrition, especially of most vulnerable (mothers, young children)
 - Expand social safety nets (food, cash, vouchers)
- February 2008: WFP appealed for additional US\$750 million to cover existing operations and continue feeding 73 million people in 78 countries
- Significant response: 1.2 billion US\$ raised, used to:
 - Refocus existing programmes to target most vulnerable
 - 26 new projects specifically addressing effects of food crisis



WFP's response: School feeding

- About two thirds of new high food price projects include school feeding as part of the response
- Innovative approaches to increase the benefits of school feeding in response to the crisis:
 - Expand programmes to urban areas particularly affected by rising food costs (examples: Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Liberia)
 - Use schools as platform to distribute food rations to families during school holidays (lean season!) (examples: Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal)
 - Expand distribution of food take-home rations to keep children in school and meet family food needs (examples: Pakistan, Yemen)
 - Improved food baskets in school feeding: higher nutritional value to improve child nutrition



WFP's response: School feeding

Cooperation with partners, particularly World Bank:

- World Bank Global Food Crisis Response Facility (1.2 billion US\$): school feeding eligible because of its value as a social safety net and impact on education
- 9 countries currently supported – WFP and World Bank working together on school feeding in these countries
- Joint WFP/World Bank Technical guidance note on school feeding, social safety nets and education (under preparation)



World food crisis: rationale for school feeding

Why school feeding to respond to the food crisis?

- income/food transfer to households – social safety net
- prevent negative coping strategies – preserve access to education
- enhance educational outcomes - learning
- Preserve child nutrition – meet immediate food needs, prevent deterioration of micronutrient status



World food crisis: rationale for school feeding

Why school feeding to respond to crises?

- The current reach of the programmes:
 - WFP = 71 countries
 - Good entry point into communities
 - Often the largest and the only existing direct transfer programs
- Infrastructure is already there:
 - possibility for quick scale-up of existing programmes
 - use of school feeding for other interventions
- Politically popular
- Respond to immediate needs while also laying the basis for sustainable investments in human capital



international and national consensus

Significantly increased interest and international support for school feeding as a result of the food crisis:

- Yokohama Declaration – TICAD IV Japan May 2008
- UN Secretary General's Special Task Force on Rising Food Prices
- FAO High-level Meeting on Food Security – Rome June 2008
- Education for All: global crises and school feeding as part of the solution on the agenda of the 2008 High-Level Group (December 2008)
- Governments are increasingly interested in school feeding as national safety nets



School feeding and the Millennium Development Goals

School feeding.....

- directly contributes to **MDG 2**: achieve universal primary education
- directly contributes to **MDG 3**, Target 2: eliminate gender disparity in primary education
- contributes to **MDG 1, Target 2**: reduce by half the proportion of the hungry by 2015
- supports all six **Education for All** goals
- recommended as a “**Quick Win**” solution to achieve the MDGs (UN Millennium Project)



In times of crises more important than ever:

- The fight against hunger has not been won!
- The current crises risk to move us further away from winning this fight!
- School feeding is an effective tool for the fight against hunger, including in crisis situations!
- Despite the economic pressure on national government and donors - investments in school feeding and other hunger-reduction programmes have to remain a high priority!
- Neglecting such investments will have lifelong consequences in terms of children's health, education and productivity!
- The cost of neglecting hunger is unaffordable!





**World Food
Programme**



Muito obrigada pela sua atenção!

Para mais informação:

www.wfp.org
