



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

WTO Seminar on Food Security

Tuesday, 26 April 2022

“Food Security and Trade: Setting the Scene”

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Chief Economist, FAO



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- **Food security and nutrition in the world**
- **Risks for 2022**
- **Trade and food security**
- **Final remarks**



THE SITUATION OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

Global hunger increased under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic **heightened the challenge** of eradicating hunger

Between 720 and 811 million people faced hunger in 2020 – around 118 million more hungry people than in 2019. About 660 million may still face chronic hunger in 2030.

Nearly 2.4 billion people in the world lacked access to adequate food in 2020

The increase in moderate or severe food insecurity in 2020 equalled that of the previous five years combined

Healthy diets are **out of reach** for around **3 billion people**

The increased cost of healthy diets and high levels of income inequality put healthy diets further out of reach in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean

The world is not on track to achieve global nutrition targets

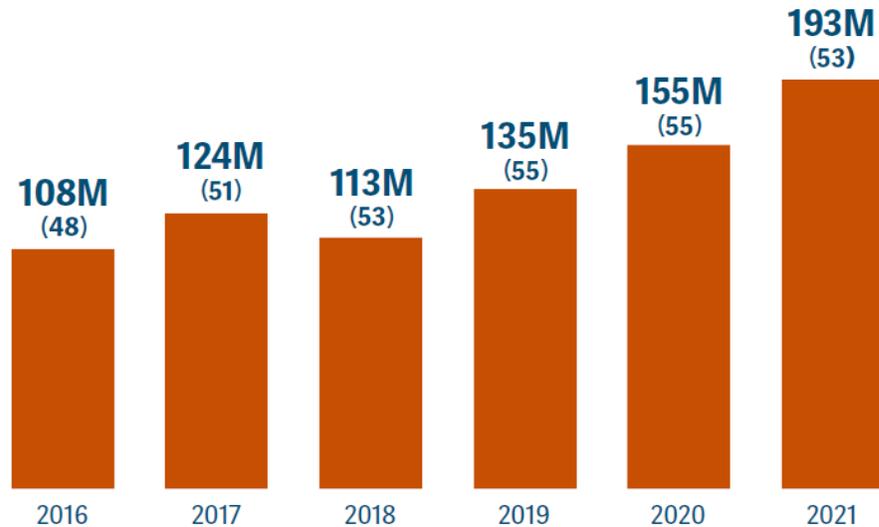
Some progress has been made, but the effects of the pandemic on nutrition will cause setbacks





ALARMING LEVELS OF GLOBAL ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Between 2016 and 2021 the population in **Crisis or worse** (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) increased by around 80 percent, from **108 million people** to **193 million people**



Numbers in brackets refer to numbers of food-crisis countries/territories.
Source: FSIN

Six countries reported large increases: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Nigeria



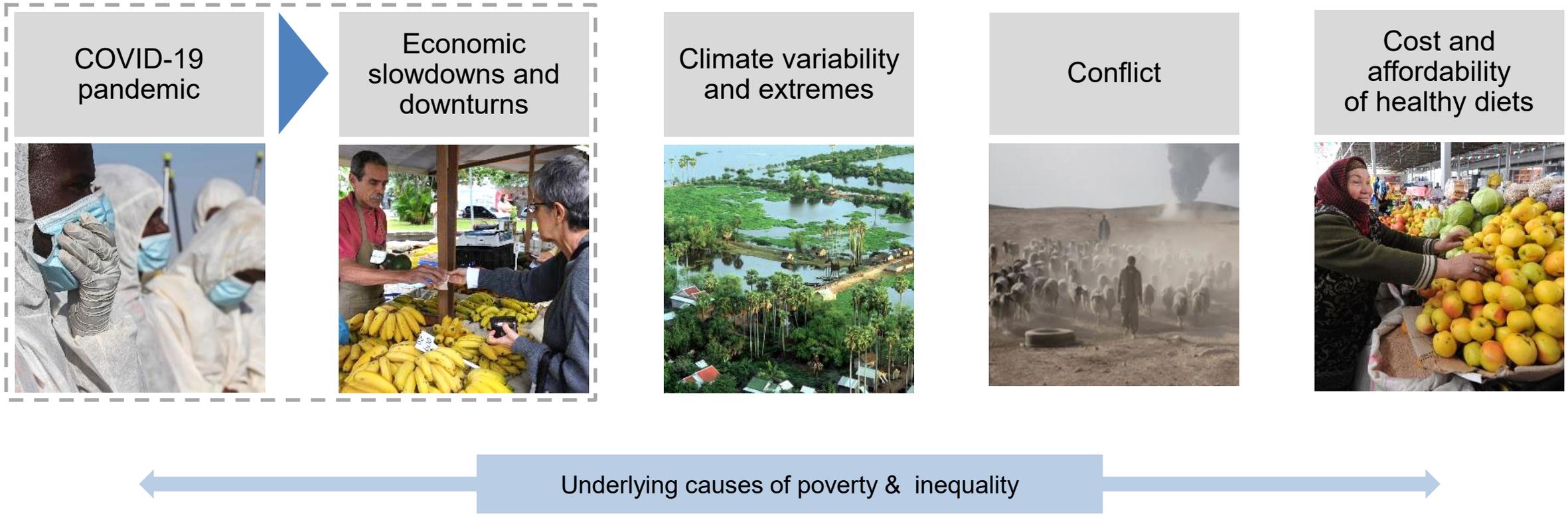
Accounted for around **two-thirds of the increase over the six years (58 million people)**

All of them **significantly affected by conflict and insecurity** during at least one of the six years



MAJOR DRIVERS AFFECTING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

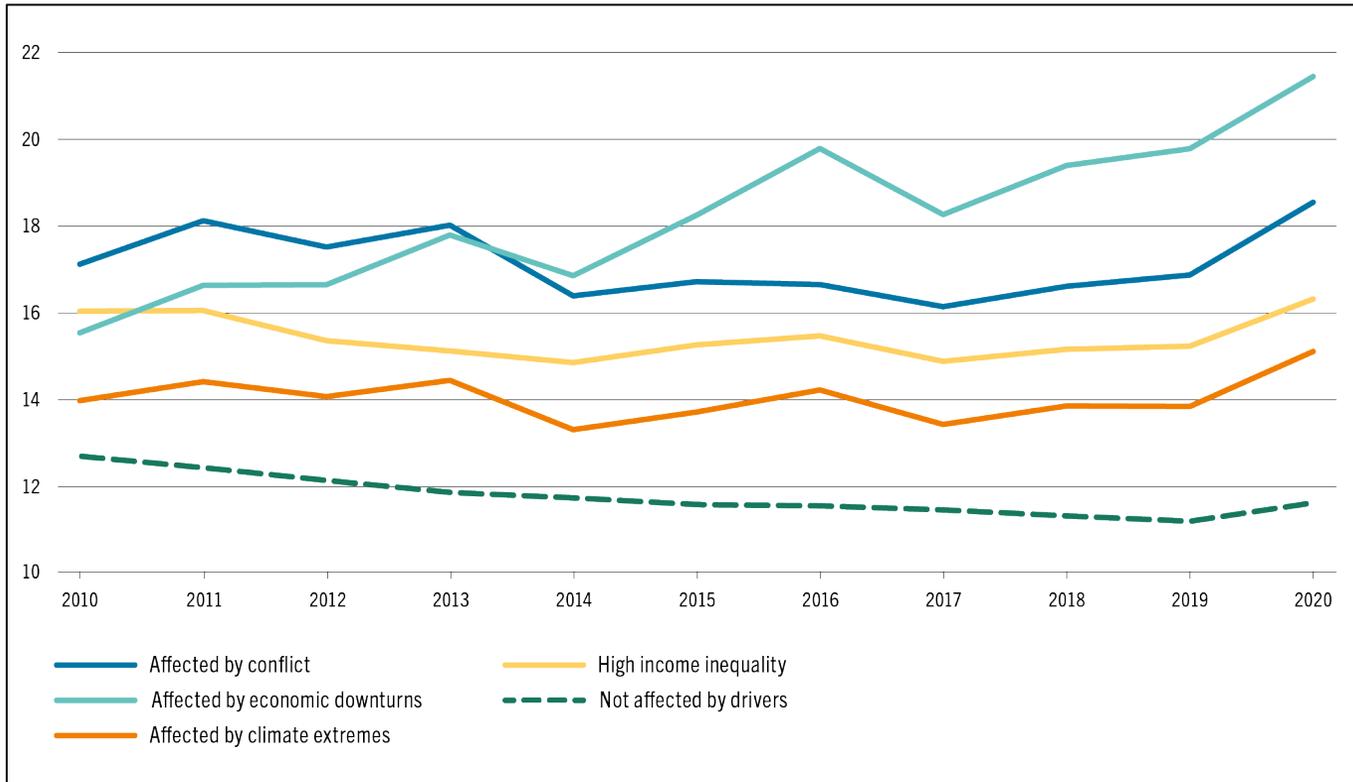
In 2021, the world was not on track to ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition



HUNGER: THE IMPACT OF THE MAJOR DRIVERS

Hunger is higher and has increased more in countries affected by the major drivers and where there is high inequality

PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)



- The increased occurrence of these major drivers has led to a rise in hunger and has **undermined progress in reducing all forms of malnutrition**
- **70% of low- and middle-income countries** were affected by at least one of the drivers
- Between 2017 and 2019, **the PoU increased by 4%** in countries affected by one or more of these major drivers



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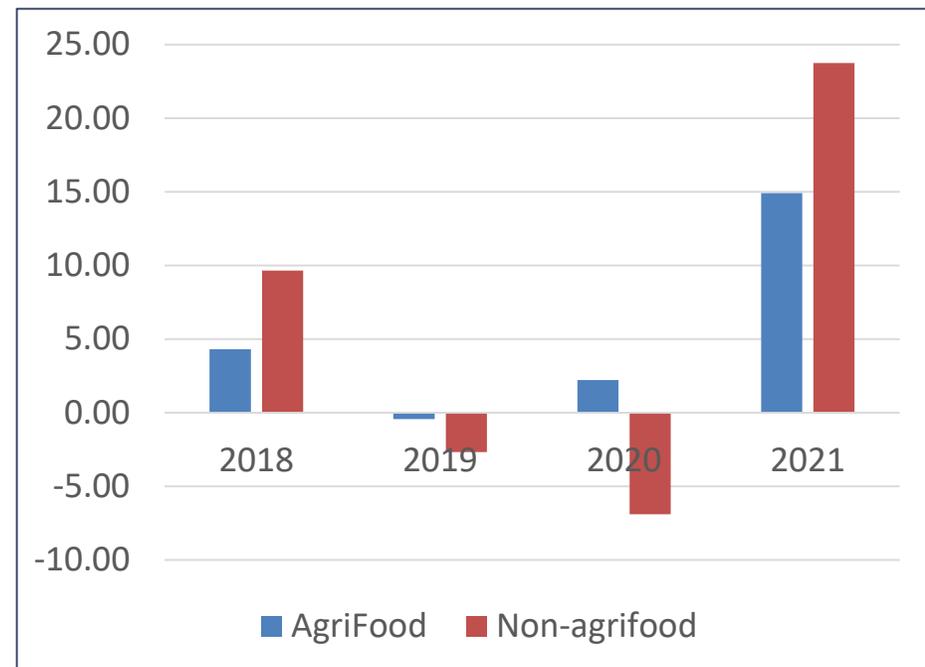
- **Food security and nutrition in the world in 2021**
- **Agrifood trade and risks for 2022**
- **Trade and food security**
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AGRIFOOD TRADE SHOWED RESILIENCE DURING COVID-19

- Between 2019 and 2020, agrifood exports **expanded unlike trade in other sectors**
- Driven by economic recovery, strong import demand and soaring commodity prices, **the value of agrifood exports expanded roughly 15% in 2021**

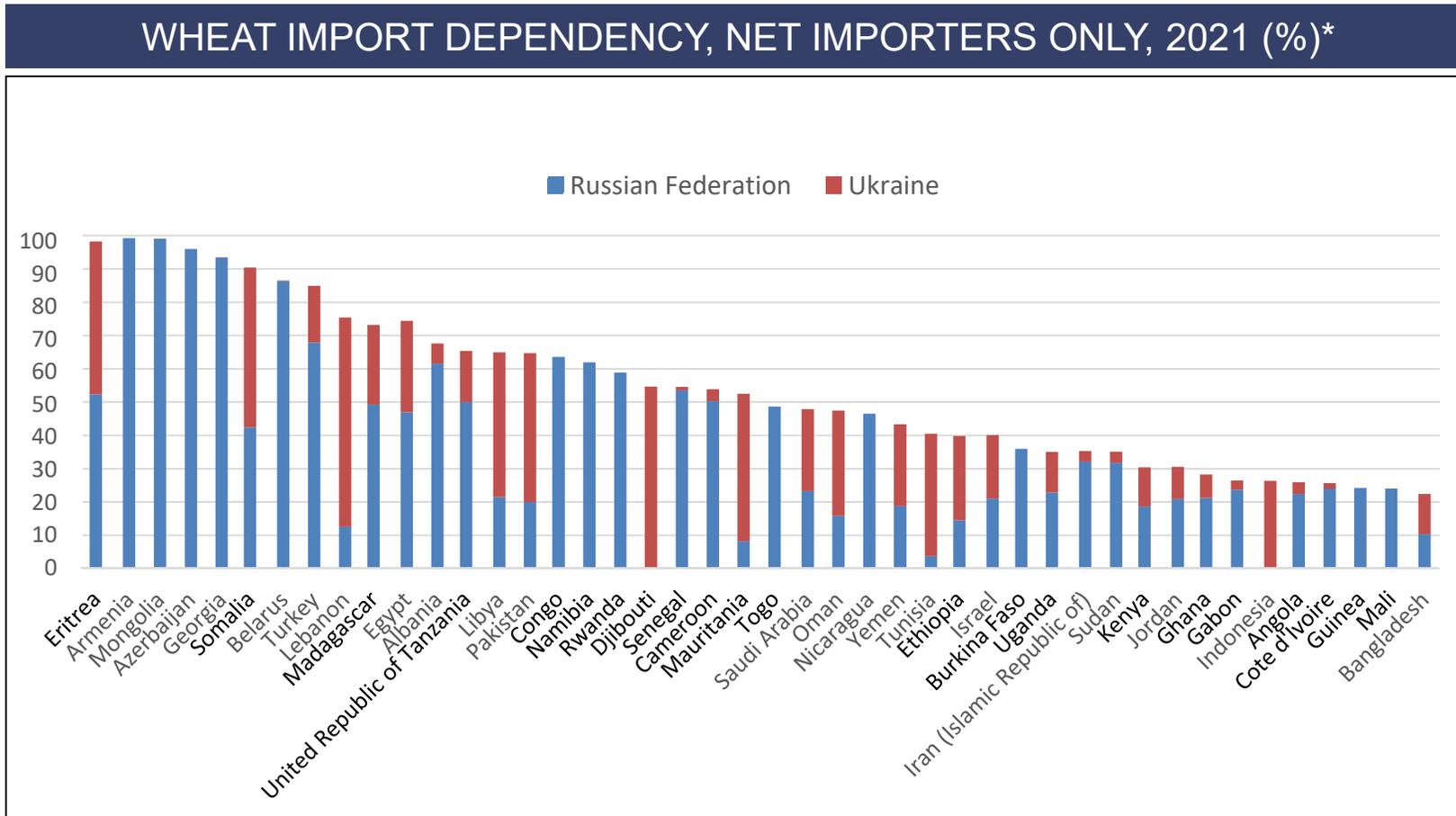
NOMINAL VALUE OF GLOBAL EXPORTS
(USD), ANNUAL % CHANGE





HOW IMPORTANT ARE UKRAINE AND RUSSIA FOR AGRIFOOD TRADE?

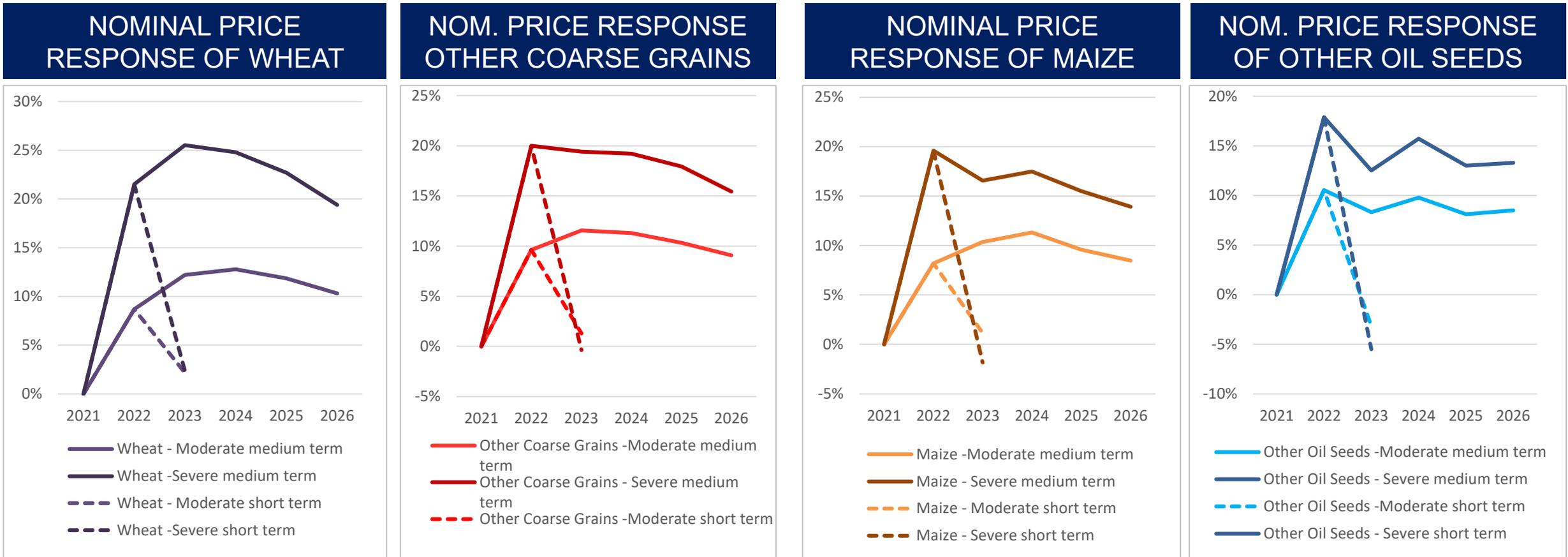
The case of wheat





GAUGING THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF TRADE RISKS ON WORLD MARKET PRICES

WM price risks: short and medium term, moderate and severe supply disruptions





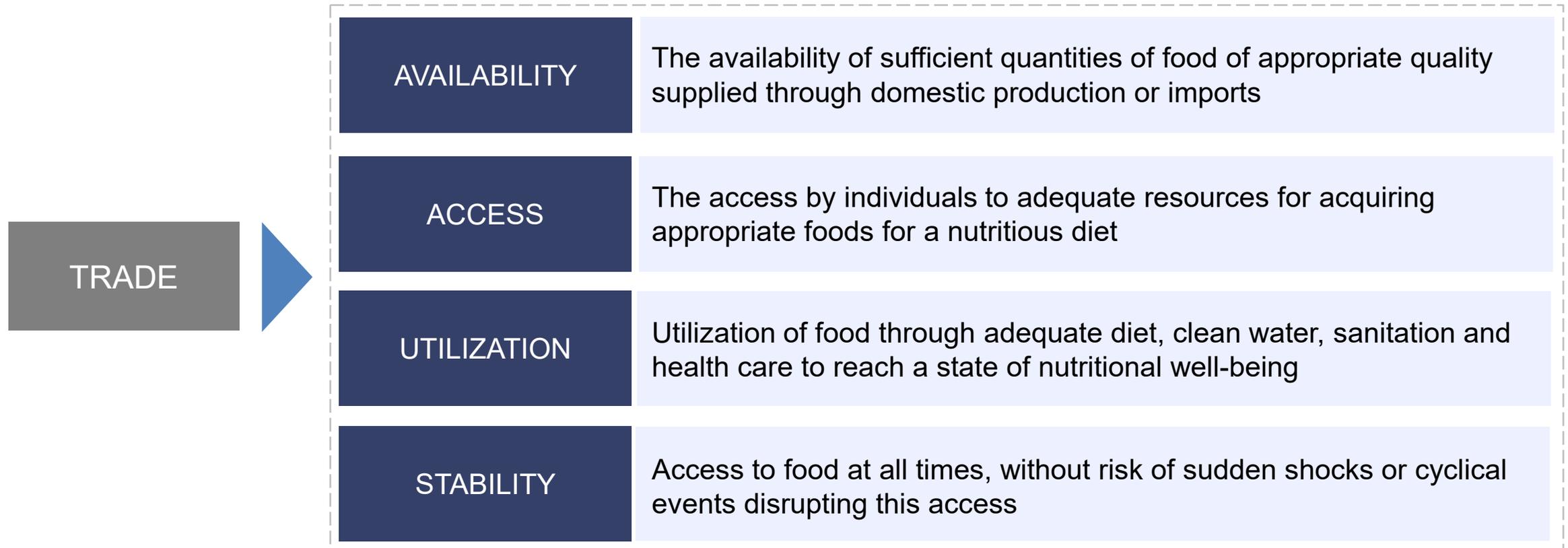
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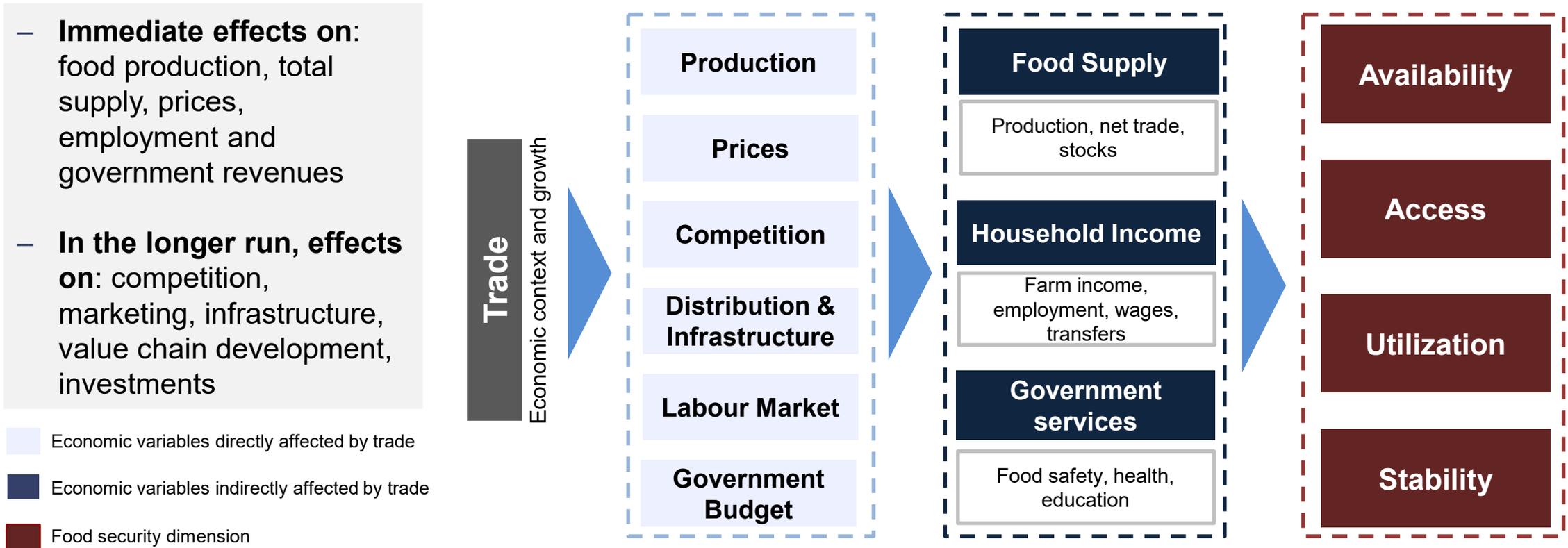
LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY

Trade affects all the four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability



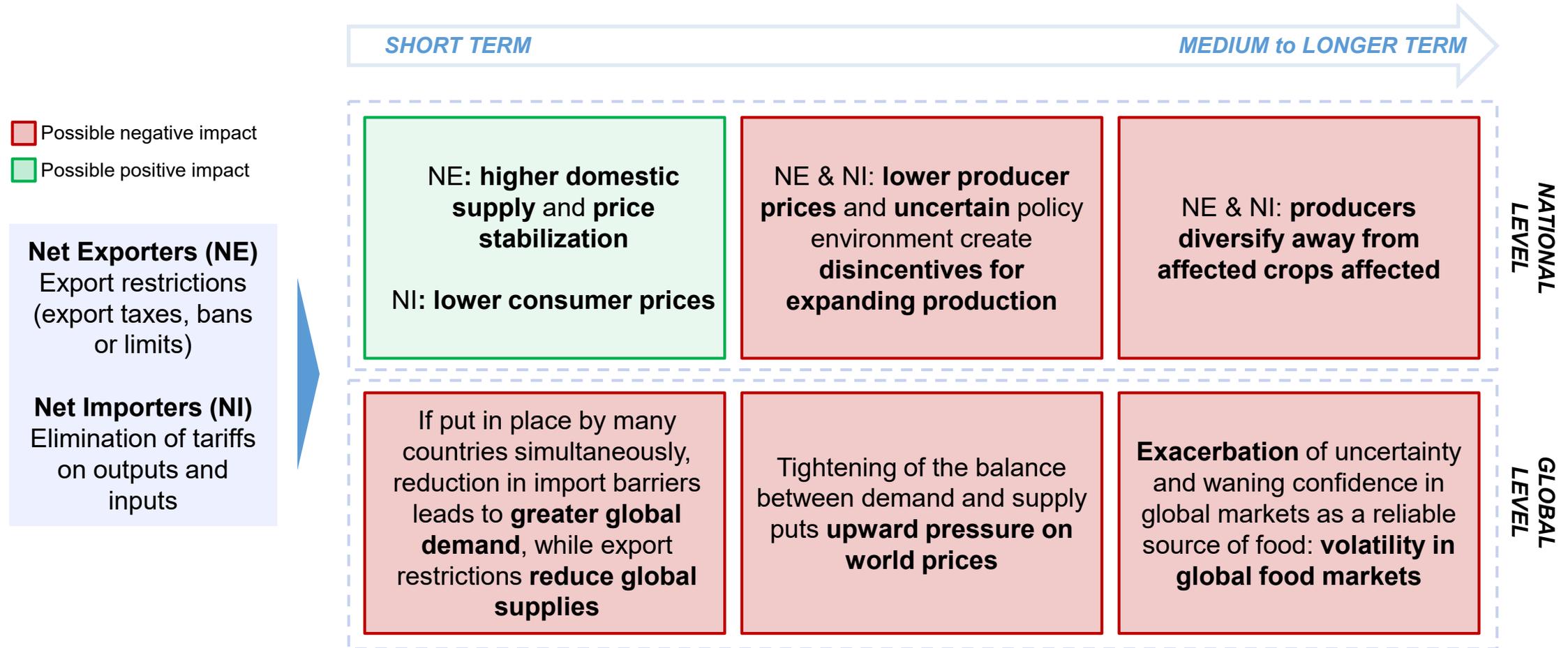
ROLE OF TRADE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The links between trade and food security are complex, with several channels of interaction affecting the different dimensions of food security simultaneously and with different short- and long-term impacts



TRADE POLICIES CAN HAVE MIXED EFFECTS ON FOOD SECURITY

Impact of short-term trade policy interventions: export restrictions and tariff reductions





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FINAL REMARKS

Food system transformation and the contribution of trade policy

TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS

- **Integrate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding** policies in conflict areas
- **Scale up** climate resilience across food systems
- **Strengthen the resilience** of the most vulnerable to economic adversity
- **Intervene along supply chains** to lower the cost of nutritious foods
- **Tackle poverty and structural inequalities**
- **Strengthen food environments and changing consumer behaviour** promoting healthy diets

CONTRIBUTION OF TRADE POLICIES

- Trade and related policy must **prioritize long-term objectives**
- **Avoid policy responses that can jeopardize the food security situation**
- **Market transparency and policy dialogue** should be strengthened
- Reinforce the **multilateral trading system**
- Support **market functioning and facilitate trade**, including through **digital tools**
- Ensure access to nutritious foods, including through safety nets and targeted **social protection programmes**



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THANK YOU
