

Challenges to Realizing the Right to Food in our Hemisphere

San José de Costa Rica, 22 August 2013

Ricardo Rapallo

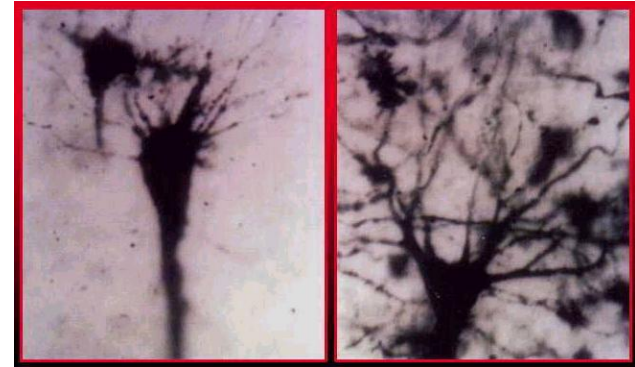
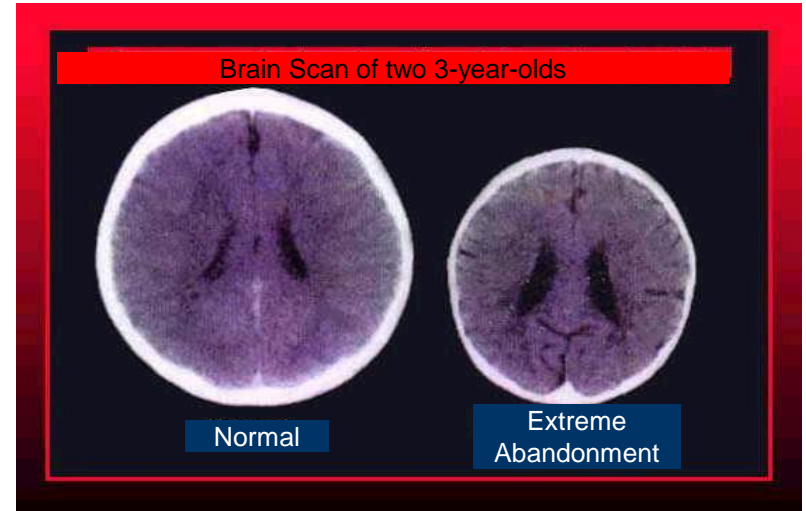
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AMÉRICA LATINA Y CARIBE
SIN HAMBRE

The Problem

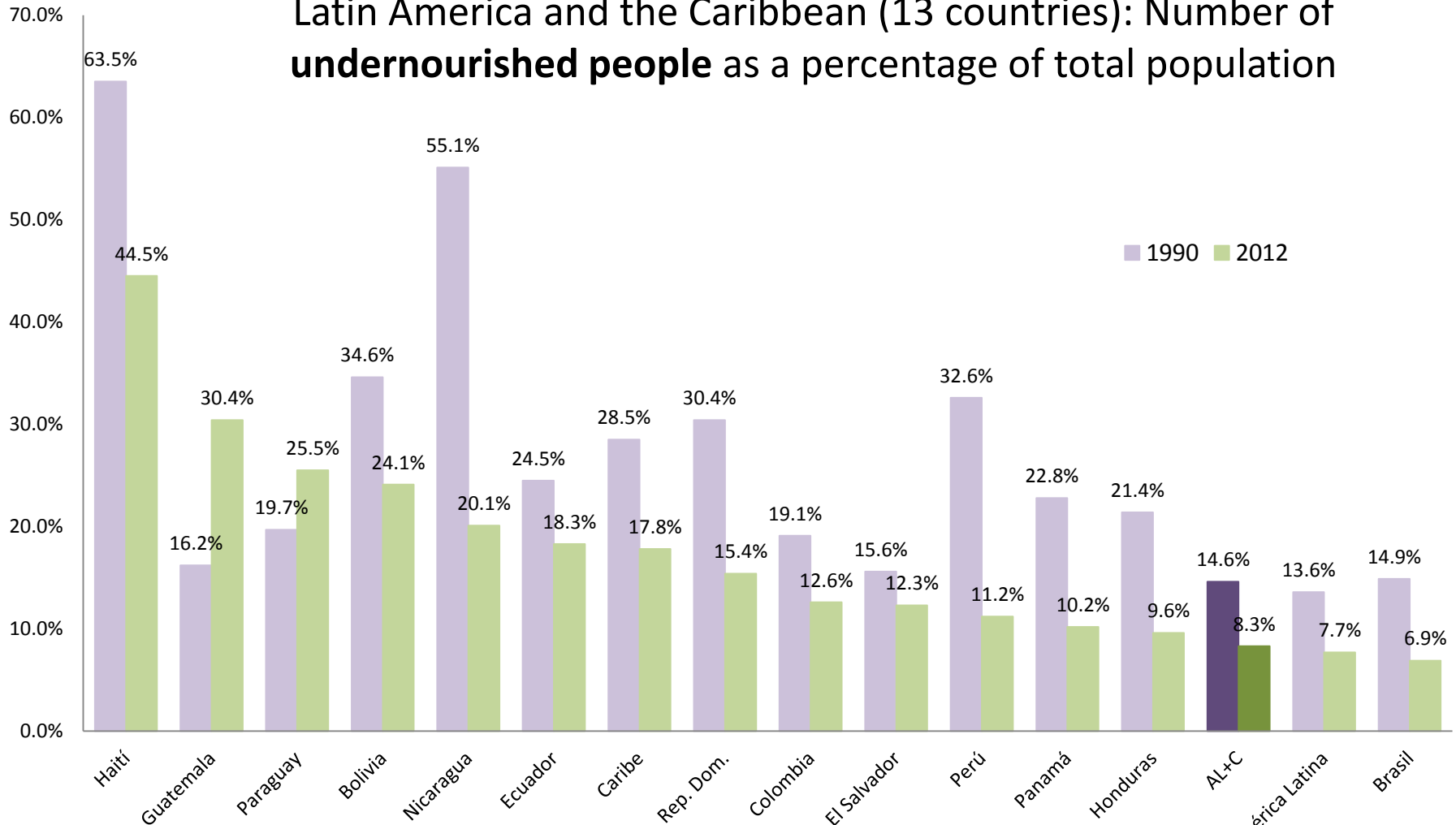


The Problem



The Problem

Latin America and the Caribbean (13 countries): Number of **undernourished people** as a percentage of total population

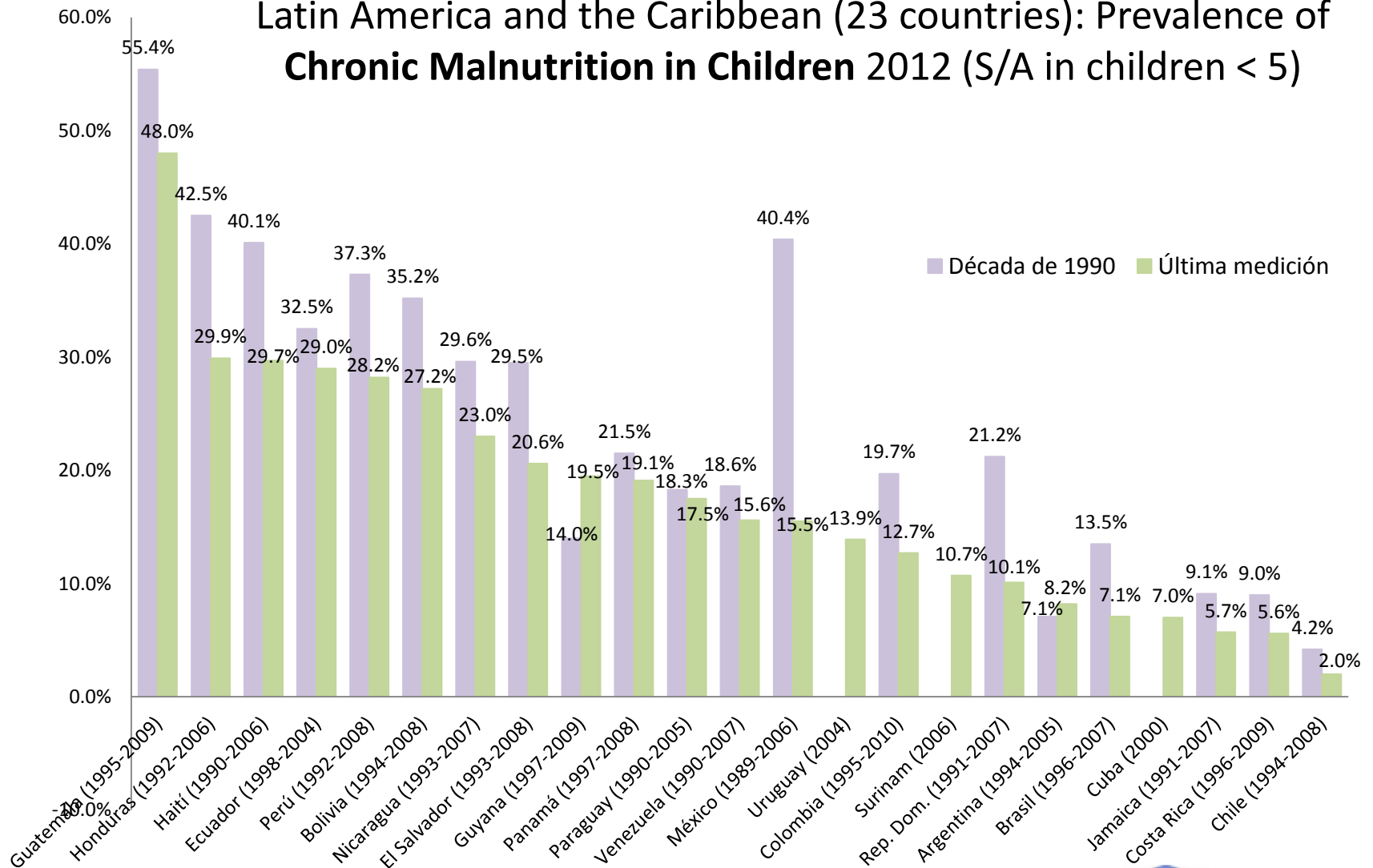


Source: FAO, IFAD and PMA (2012). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*. Rome: FAO.



The Problem

Latin America and the Caribbean (23 countries): Prevalence of Chronic Malnutrition in Children 2012 (S/A in children < 5)



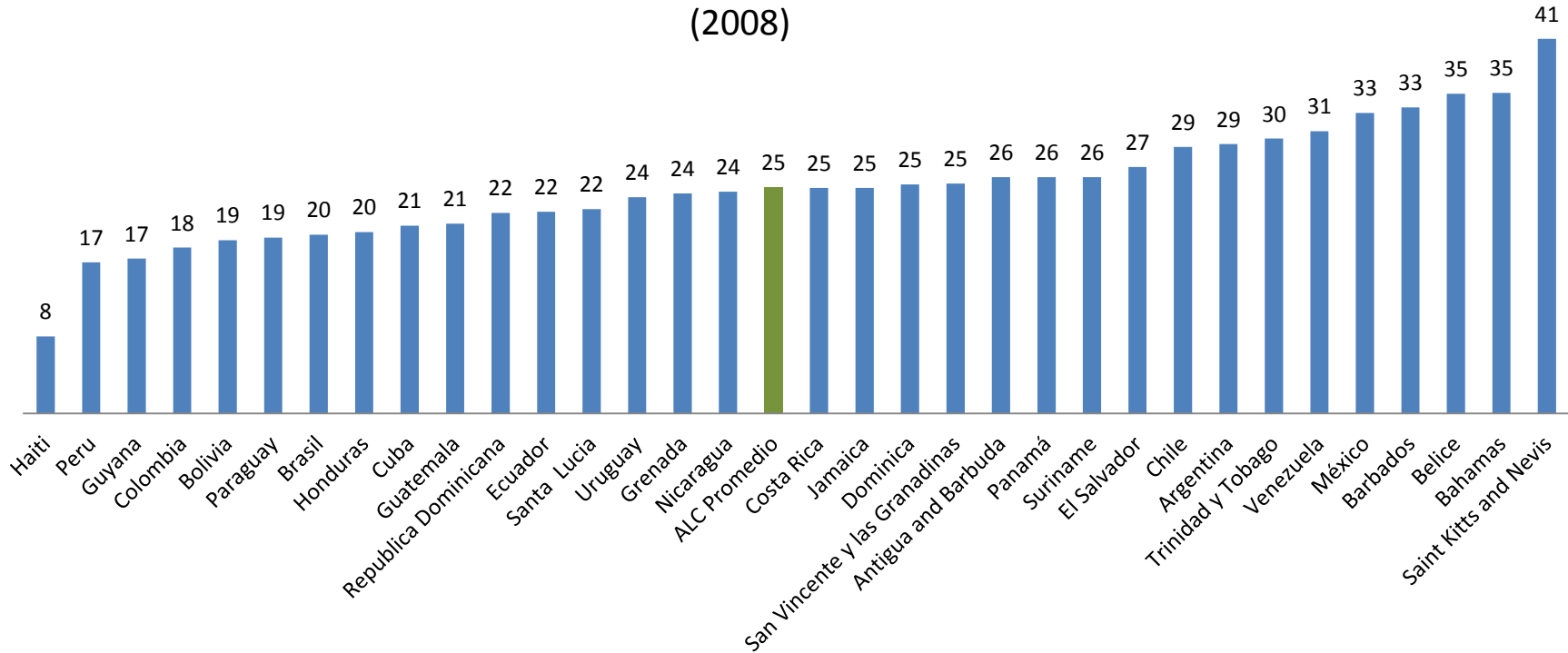
Source: Own chart, based on data taken from WHO (2012). Global Health Observatory Data Repository (available on:

<http://apps.who.int/ghodata/>)



The Problem

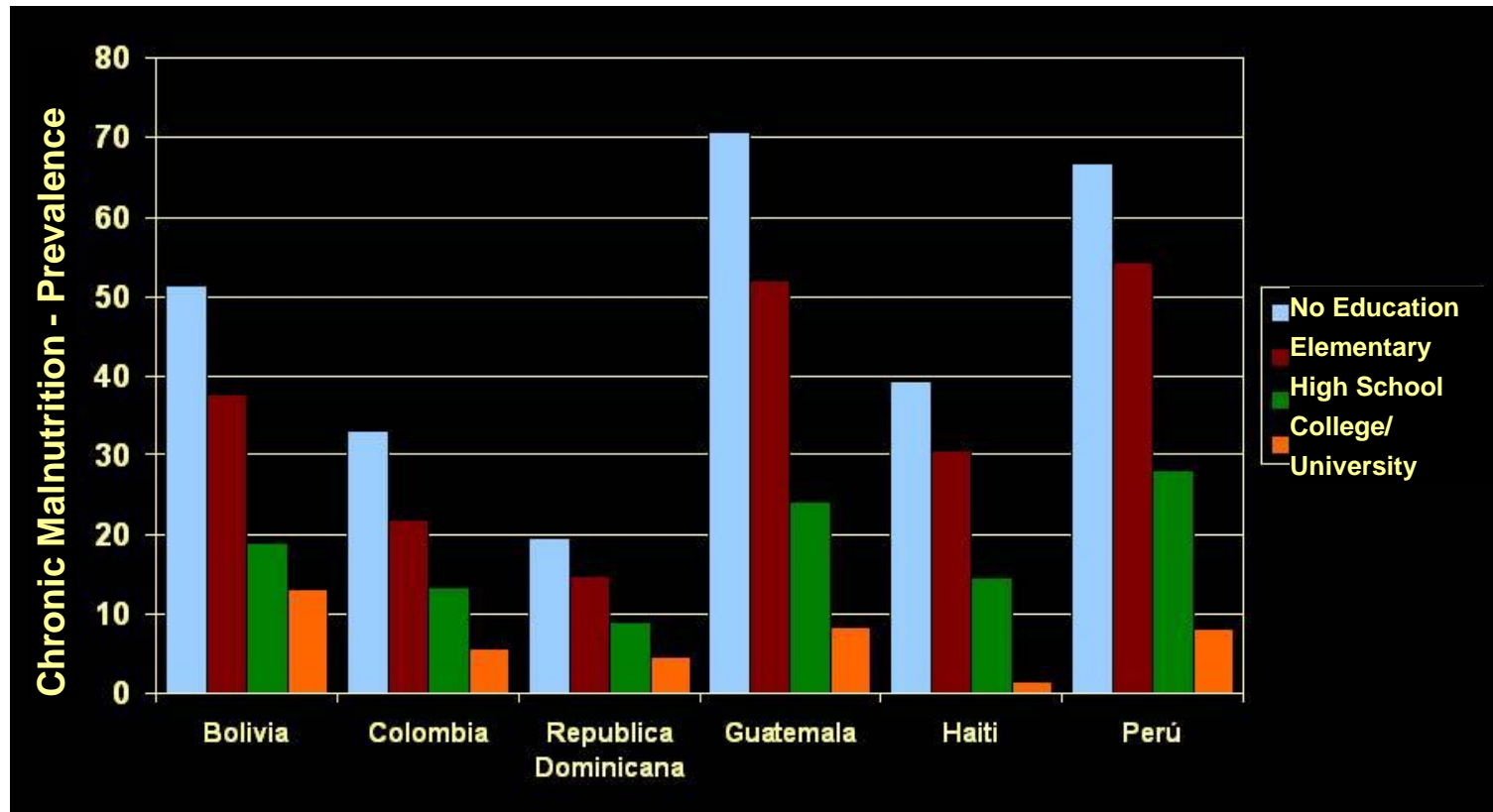
Prevalence of **Obesity** in +20 adults (%) in Latin America and the Caribbean
(2008)



Source: FAO (2013). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2013*. Rome: FAO.

The Problem

Prevalence of chronic malnutrition as a function of literacy level of mother



•2003

•2005

•2002

•2002

•2005

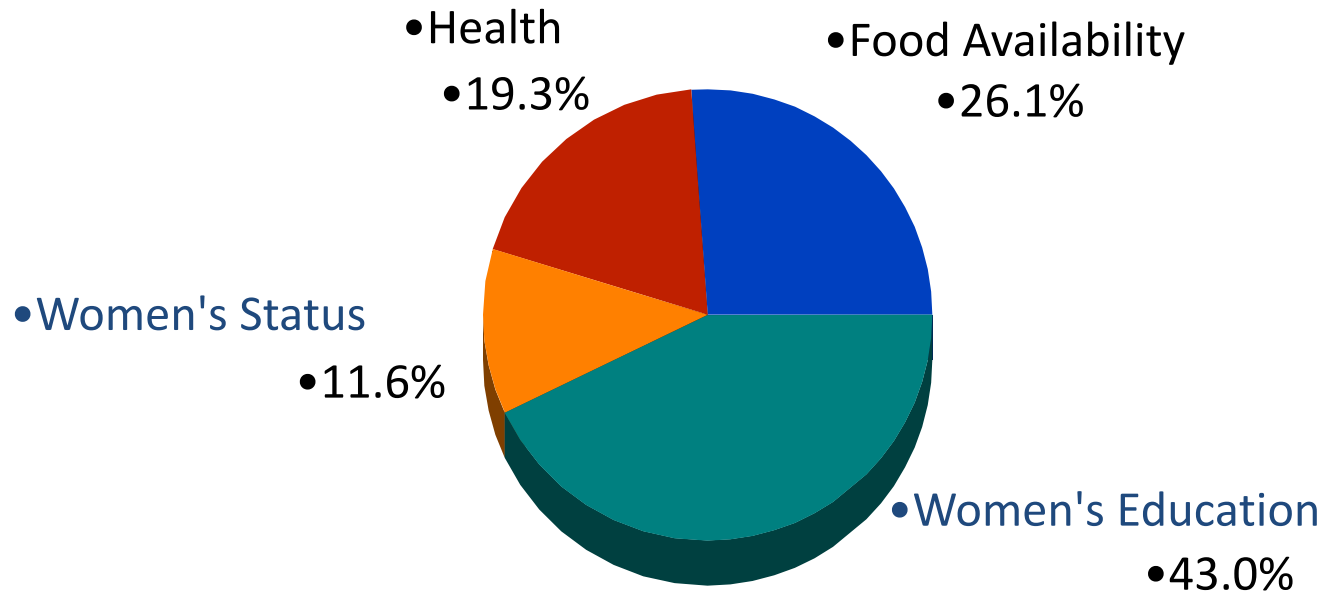
•2004-6

•Source: DHS



Food Culture and Consumption

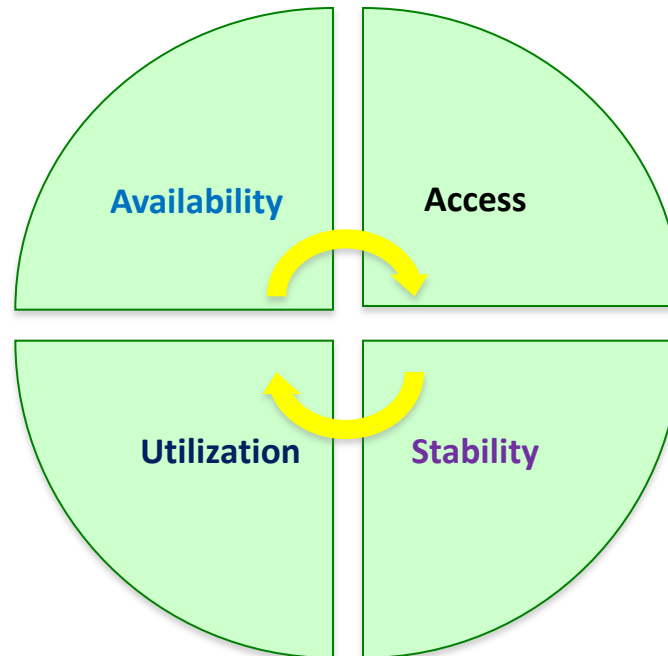
An Estimate of Determinants and their Contribution to Reducing Child Malnutrition in the Period 1970-1995



The Roots of the Problem

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to a sufficient supply of safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences to lead an active and healthy life.

(World Food Summit 1996)

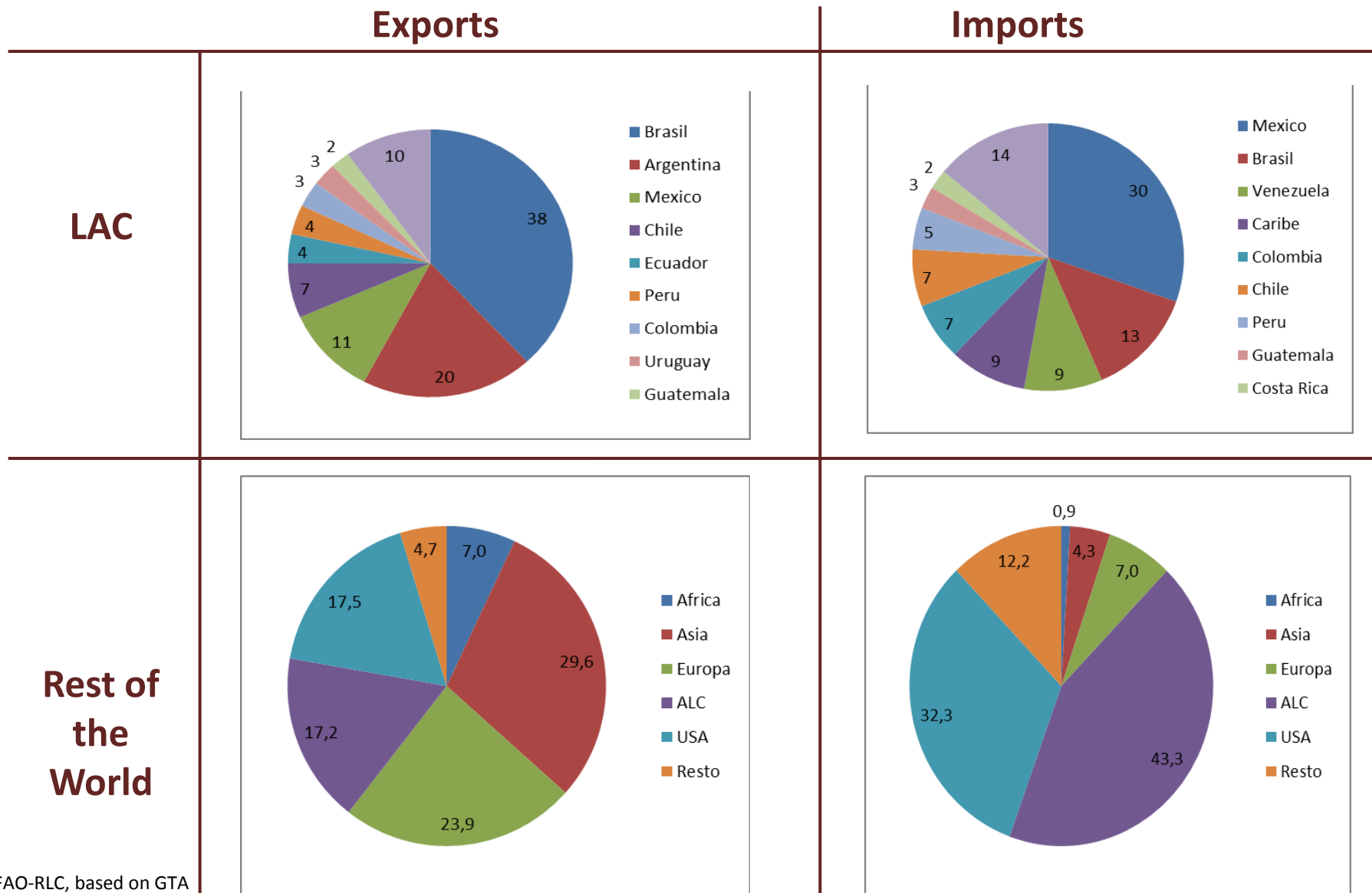


The Roots of the Problem



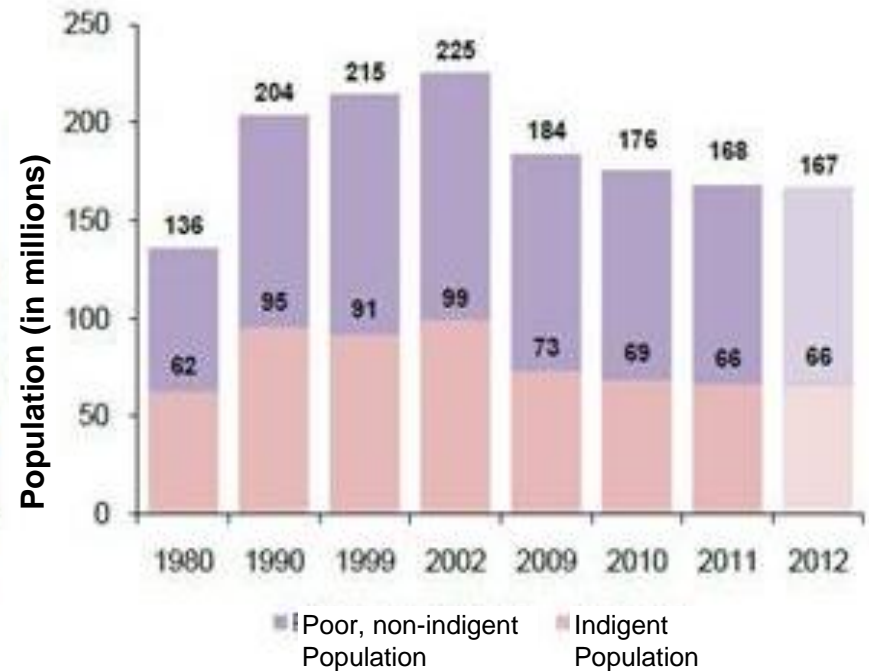
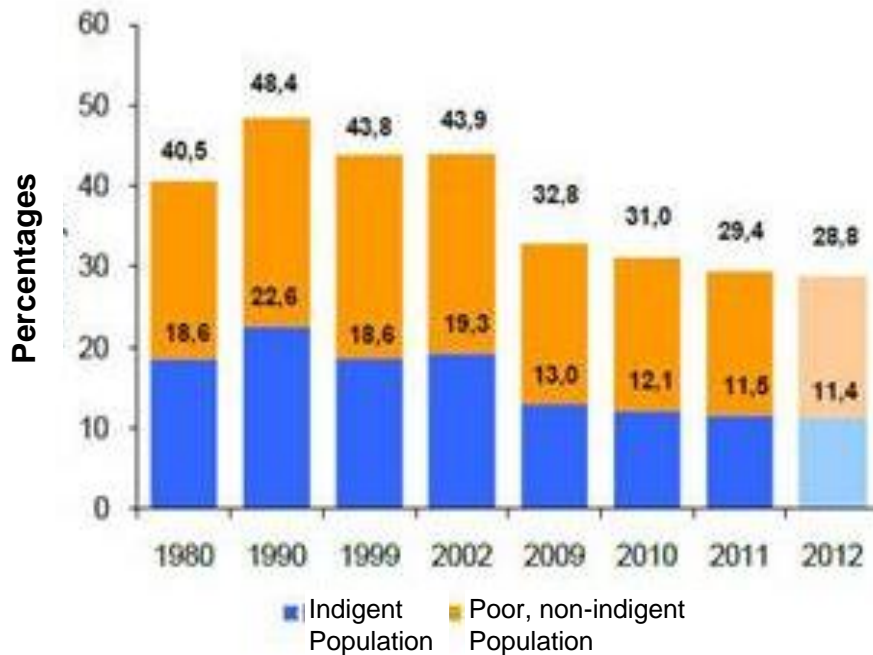
The Roots of the Problem

Breakdown of Agri-Food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012



The Roots of the Problem

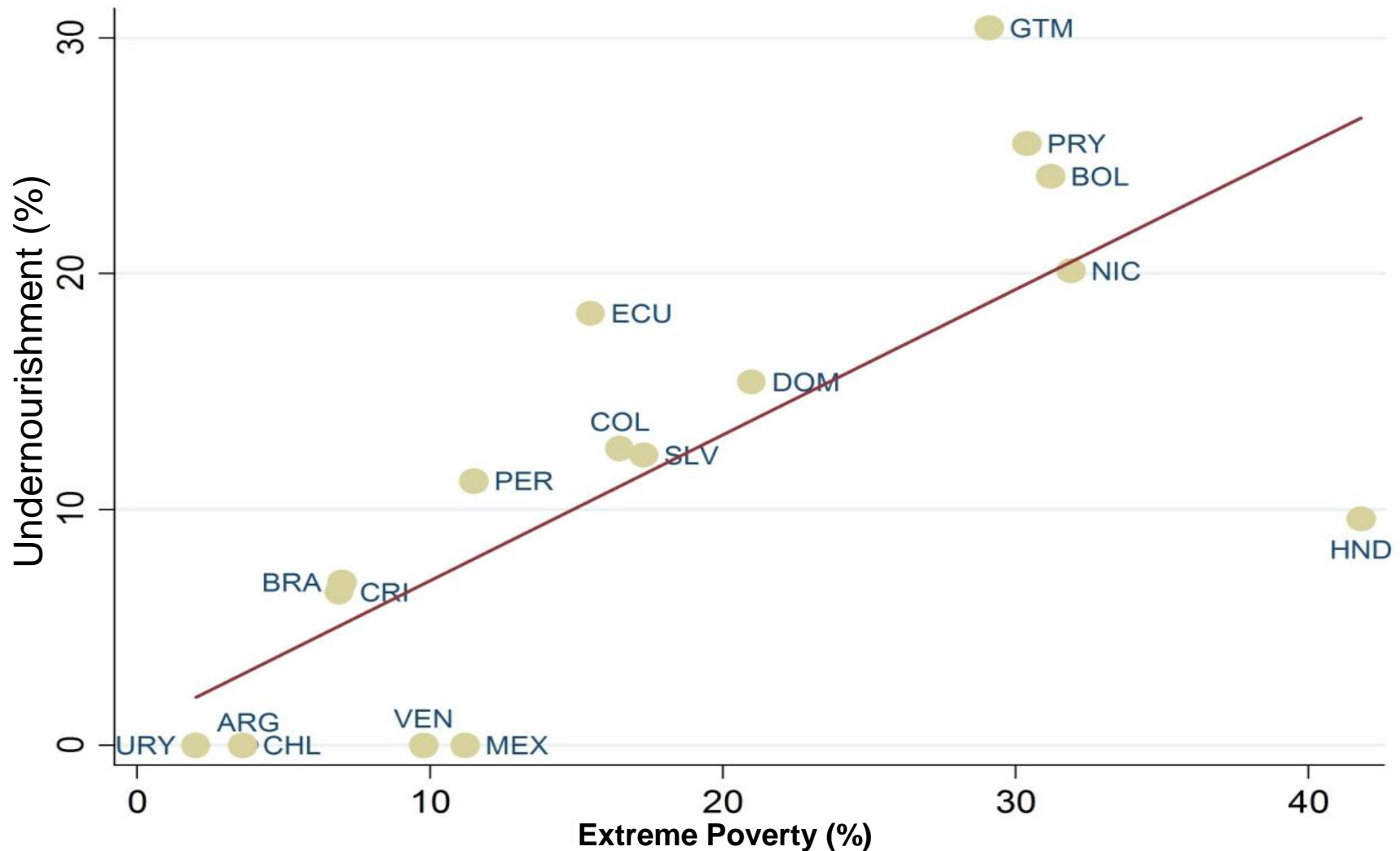
Latin America: Evolution of Poverty and Indigence, 1980-2012



Source: ECLAC, based on special tabulations drawn from household surveys in different countries

The Roots of the Problem

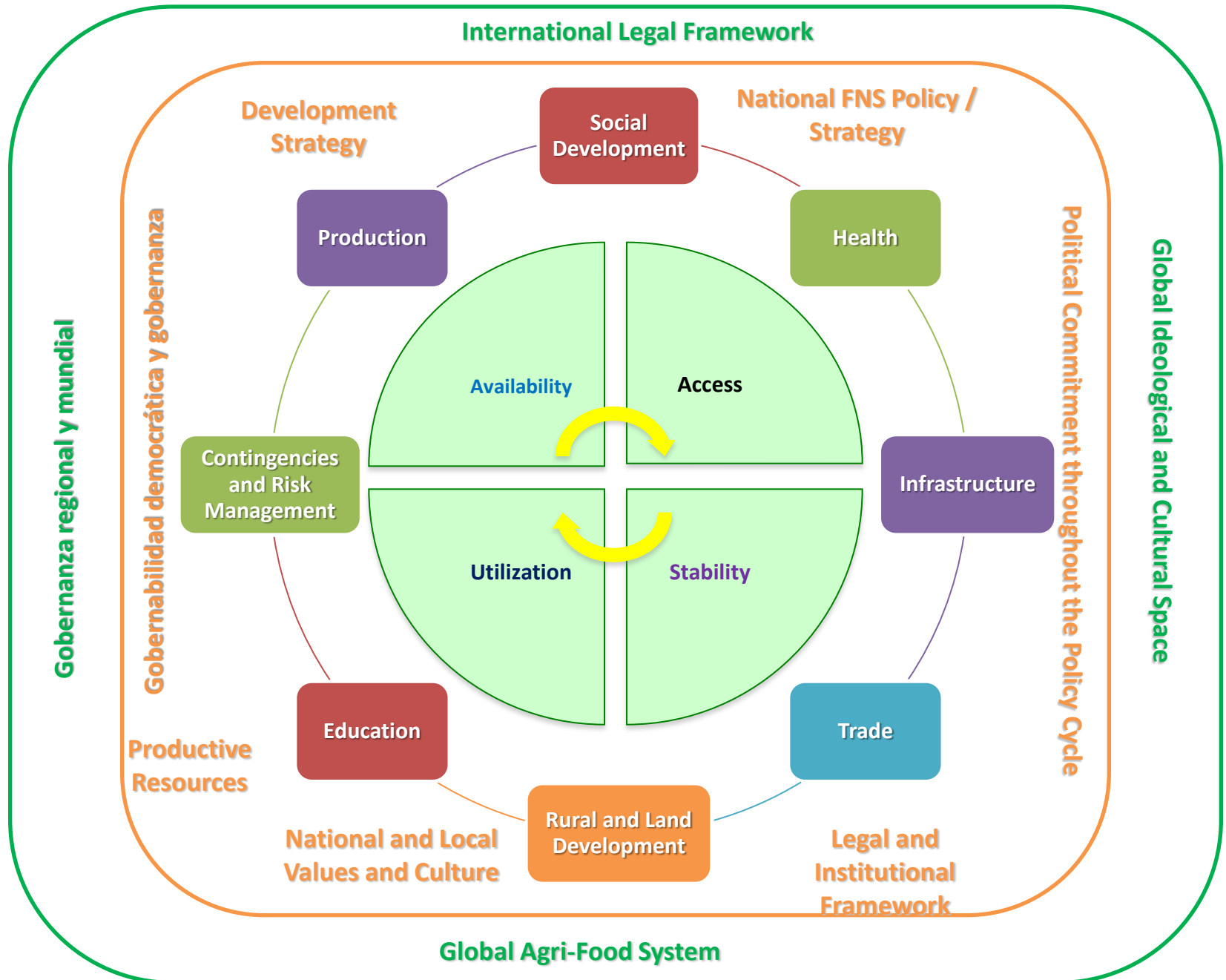
Latin America and the Caribbean (17 countries): **Extreme Poverty - Undernourishment Ratio**
 (2012)



An Answer to the Problem, from a Rights-based Approach - The Right to Food

1. Public Policy with a Rights-based Approach
2. Legislation on the Right to Food

Complexity of Effective Food and Nutrition Security Policies



1. Public Policy with a Rights-based Approach

Some policies making a difference in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

- Promotion of Family Agriculture
- Social Protection
- Dietary supplementation in women of child-bearing age and children under 2
- School food
- Healthy habits; nutrition education
- Focus on women and children.

2. Legislation on the Right to Food

Binding vs. Non-binding International Instruments:

- ✓ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) (ICESCR) and other Human Rights Conventions
- ✓ General Comment 12. The Right to Adequate Food, 1999
- ✓ Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996
- ✓ Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, 2004
- ✓ Declaration of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security
- ✓ Regional Instruments

International Law

ICESCR, Article 11.

1. the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including **adequate food**, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.
2. The fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger
 - ✓ *Acknowledgement of undertakings 1) progressive adoption of legislative measures (maximum utilization of resources); 2) non-discrimination; 3) respect, protection and guarantees; 4) international assistance and cooperation.*
 - ✓ *Implementation (progressively vs. immediate enforcement)*
 - ✓ *Inclusion in pertinent legislation (CESCR)*

2. Legislation on the Right to Food

Developing **national legislation**

- The Right to Food in the **Constitution** (Recognized in different forms: explicit, implicit, governing principle, collective right, individual right, etc.)
- **Framework Legislation**
 - ✓ Development Process: Participation, scenario assessment, ex-ante legislative and impact assessment
 - ✓ Contents of the Law
 - ✓ Law Enforcement
- **Sector-specific Legislation**
 - ✓ Compatibility

2. Legislation on the Right to Food

- 1) Is a Framework Law for full realization of the Right to Food enough?
- 2) Is a Framework Law to *regulate* the legal framework for food and nutrition security enough?
- 3) What are the laws supplementing the legal framework on FNS?

2. Legislation on the Right to Food

Examples in the Region

In Latin America, 8 countries have a law regulating Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food:

- Different objectives
- Different scopes
- Different approaches
- Different characteristics
- Different processes
- Different scenarios

YEAR	COUNTRY	LAW
2003	Argentina	National Food and Nutrition Programme
2005	Guatemala	Law on National FNS System
2006	Brazil	Organic Law on Food Security
2008	Venezuela	Decree-Law on Food Security and Sovereignty
2009	Ecuador	Organic Law on Food Sovereignty Regime
2009	Nicaragua	Law on Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security
2011	Honduras	Law on Food and Nutrition Security
2011	Bolivia	Law of the Productive, Communal, and Agricultural Revolution

Regional Commitment to the Right to Food

Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean

<http://www.fao.org/alc/es/fph/>



Regional Right to Food Observatory

<http://www.oda-alc.org/>



Thank you very much

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