Central Asia/Caucasus:

Food security and rural development

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OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Overview of the state of food security in the CCA region
- Examples of success stories
- Look into the future

Population, wealth and livelihood indicators of CCA countries

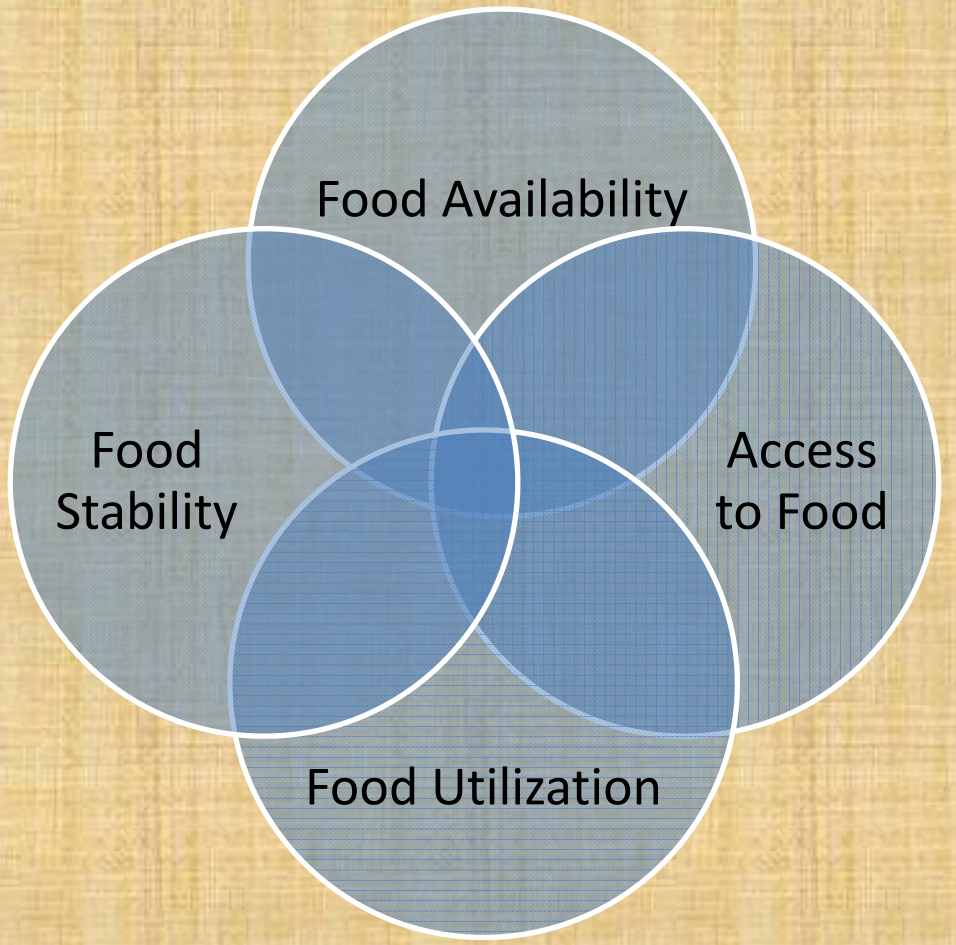
	Population, mln.	Average population growth, annual %	Per capita GDP, current $	Agriculture value added, % of GDP	Rural population, % of total population
	2012	**2000-12**	**2012**	**2012**	**2012**
Armenia	3.0	-0.3	3,351	22	36
Azerbaijan	9.3	1.2	7,164	5	46
Georgia	4.5	0.1	3,490	9	47
Kazakhstan	**16.8**	**0.9**	**12,116**	**5**	**46**
Kyrgyzstan	5.6	1.1	1,160	20	65
Tajikistan	**8.0**	**2.1**	**871**	**26**	**73**
Turkmenistan	5.2	1.2	6,798	15	51
Uzbekistan	29.8	1.6	1,717	19	64

Source: World Bank, 2013

Food Security in CCA region at a glance: Availability

Food Availability

- *Much improved, while some concerns still remain*
- Case of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan



Selected food availability indicators

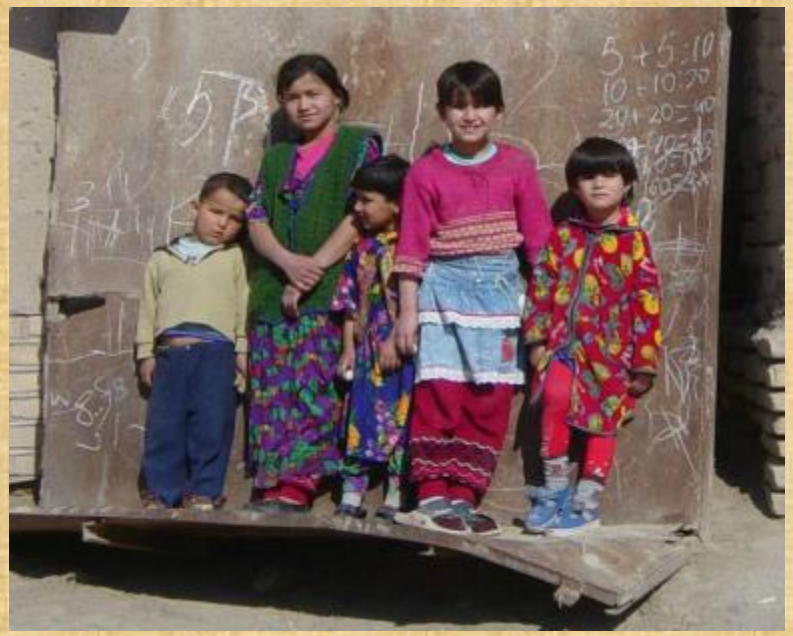
	Average Dietary Energy Supply Adequacy, %	Prevalence of Undernourishment, %	Average Value of Food Production, 1$/ caput
	2011-13	**2011-13**	**2009-11**
Armenia	123	<5	297
Azerbaijan	132	<5	245
Georgia	n/a	n/a	153
Kazakhstan	146	<5	449
Kyrgyzstan	123	5.9	283
Tajikistan	**102**	**30.2**	**149**
Turkmenistan	132	<5	377
Uzbekistan	117	5.7	299
CCA	**125**	**7.0**	**281.5**
Least developed countries	**105**	**29.0**	**154**
Developing countries	**118**	**14.3**	**263**
Developed countries	**135**	**<5**	**480**
World	**122**	**12.0**	**302**

Sources: World Bank (2013), FAO (2012, 2013a), WHO (2013), UNICEF (2013), UN Data (2013)

Food Security in CCA region at a glance: Access

Food Availability	Access to Food
• *Much improved, while some concerns still remain* • Case of Tajikistan	• *Uneven progress across the region* • ECA faces a unique problem of long harsh winters • Rural vs. Urban poverty • Vulnerable groups (youth, women, migrants, elderly, people with disabilities) • Nonexistent or rapidly deteriorating rural infrastructure

Faces of Poverty



- Households that leave on $2.50 per day for each person, struggle to afford heating and food. Such households are considered to be extremely poor
- Child poverty
- Remittances: Tajikistan (48% of GDP) and Kyrgyz Republic (31% of GDP)
- Social programs: In Tajikistan only 1% of the households in the poorest quintile receive social benefits

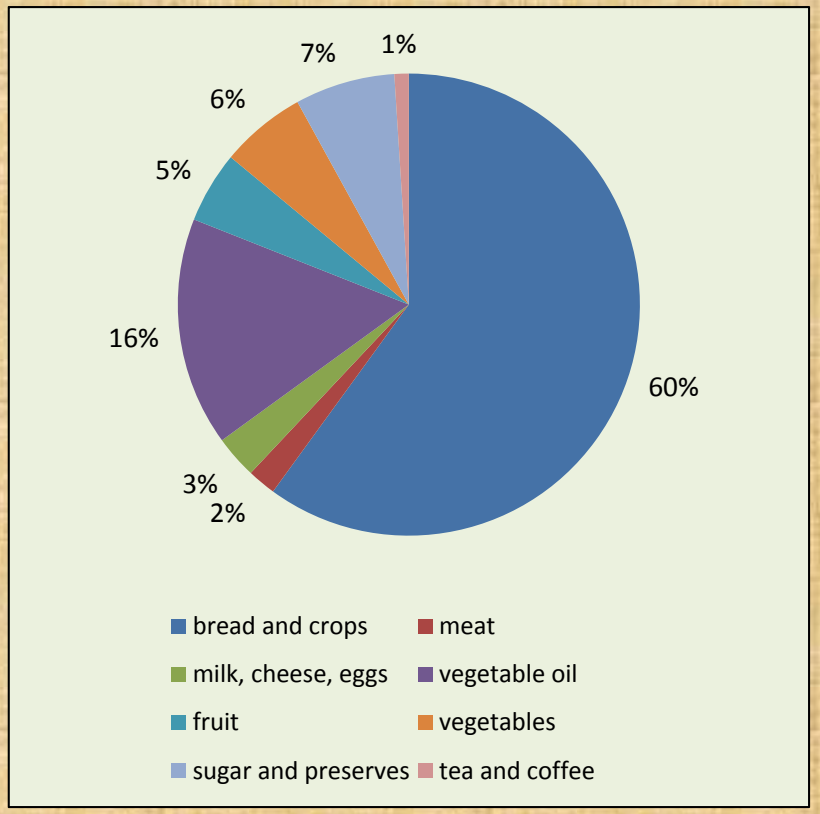
Food Security in CCA region at a glance: Utilization

Food Availability	Access to Food	Food Utilization
• Much improved, while some concerns still remain • Case of Tajikistan	• Uneven progress across the region • Rural vs. Urban poverty • Vulnerable groups • Long, harsh winters	• Nutrient deficient and unbalanced diets are universal problems for all the countries • Obesity

Selected food utilization indicators

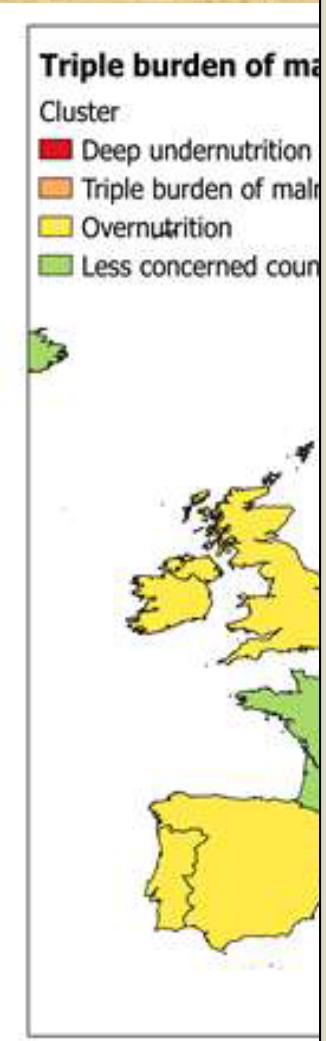
	Share of Dietary Energy Supply Derived from Cereals, Roots and Tubers, %	Children Under 5 y.o. who are Stunted, %
	2008-10	**2007-11**
Armenia	46	19
Azerbaijan	63	25
Georgia	n/a	11
Kazakhstan	47	17
Kyrgyzstan	55	18
Tajikistan	**63**	**39**
Turkmenistan	59	19
Uzbekistan	58	19
CCA	**56**	**20.9**
Least developed countries	**68**	**n/a**
Developing countries	**56**	**n/a**
Developed countries	**32**	**n/a**
World	**51**	**n/a**

- Structure of meals of poor children (in calories), Tajikistan

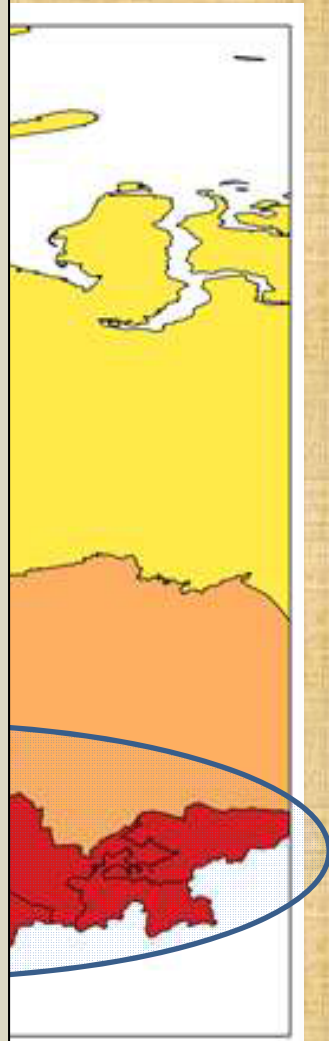


Sources: World Bank (2013), FAO (2012, 2013a), WHO (2013), UNICEF (2013), UN Data (2013)

Scope of malnutrition burden in the CCA region



- 33% of children less than 5 suffer from **vitamin A deficiency** in CCA countries (except Kazakhstan).
- More than 50% of school-age children in CA suffer from **iodine deficiency**



Source: FAO (2014)

Food Security in CCA region at a glance: Stability

Food Availability	Access to Food	Food Utilization	Food Stability
• Much improved, while some concerns still remain • Case of Tajikistan	• Uneven progress across the region • Rural vs. Urban poverty • Vulnerable groups • Long, harsh winters	• Nutrient deficient and unbalanced diets are universal problems for all the countries • Obesity	• Increased fluctuations in food supply are a rapidly growing concern • Climate change processes • Unsustainable production practices • Dependency on food imports and oil exports • Or focus on self-sufficiency policies

Success Stories:
Fighting nexus of poverty and malnutrition

Mercy Corps Food for Education Program, Kyrgyzstan

- Since 2011 the program has been implemented in 2,300 kindergartens* in 40 regions of the country
- **Goals:**
  1) Commodity distribution and monitoring
  2) Capacity building nutrition training for participants and stakeholders
  3) Provision of infrastructure repair grants and expertise

Mercy Corps Food for Education Program: Outcomes

- Provided assistance to 80% of country's kindergartens
- Achieved impressive nutritional outcomes
  - Reduction in stunting from 13.8% at baseline to 8.6%, also decrease in the prevalence of wasting and underweight;
- Increased school enrollment and lowered dropout rates;
- Increased parental involvement and support from the government.

Mohair yarn spinning development project, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

- Launched in 2009 by IFAD and implemented by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) with the help of Aga Khan Foundation.

- The project thought to boost rural women's and small livestock producers' livelihoods and incomes through improved mohair production and exports

Major Outcomes

- Profits of women artisans rose nearly sevenfold in some communities
- Diversified livelihood options
- Training in small business practices
- Increased self-confidence among women and emergence of women leaders

"The husband of the lead knitter says he cannot go anywhere without being asked about his wife and if she would be willing to train someone to knit. He himself is also very proud of her. Of course the fact that these women earn income is also a big part of this. Earning their own cash has a huge impact on the self-confidence of women."

~Liba Brent

Future challenges

Access	• Deteriorating access to social services, including public health, education, and social safety networks • Growing income inequality
Utilization	• Prevalence of overweight and obese people as a major risk factor
Stability	• Underinvestment in agricultural sector, land fragmentation and weak property rights • Land degradation, limited water supplies and extensive approach to agriculture • Increased frequency and severity of climate change processes • Higher and volatile commodity prices