



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



WORLD BANK GROUP



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Food  
Programme



Sweden  
Sverige

## Regional Forum on Accelerating Food Systems Transformation in the Arab Region

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# Leveraging Social Protection for Inclusive Food Systems

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**“Social protection is a set of policies and programmes aimed at preventing and protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion, throughout their life cycle placing a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups”.**

**“3Ps”  
Protect,  
Prevent,  
Promote**

# Social Protection Instruments

Social transfers (5303)

**Cash transfers (4591)**

Conditional cash transfers (1374)

Unconditional cash transfers (800)

Cash plus (104)

Universal Basic Income (67)

**Social pensions (53)**

**In kind transfers (1086)**

**School feeding programmes (321)**

**Voucher (147)**

Nutritional programmes (97)

Unconditional in-kind transfers (77)

Conditional in-kind transfers (68)

**Subsidies (879)**

Price subsidies (418)

Food subsidies (205)

Fuel, water, and electricity subsidies (112)

Housing subsidies (110)

Agricultural input subsidies (39)

Service subsidies (331)

Health benefits / reduced medical fee (259)

Educational fee waiver (55)

Transport subsidies (11)

**Social care services (395)**

Tax credits / exemptions (62)

**Loans/micro loans**

Access to credit

**Social insurance (1499)**

**Old-age pension (387)**

Public health insurance (332)

Disability pension (125)

Maternity / Paternity / Parental benefits (78)

Work injury benefits (33)

**Family and child allowance (31)**

Survivors pension (4)

Funeral grants (3)

Labour market / employment programmes (1470)

Active labour market programmes / Productive inclusion (509)

**Job training (188)**

**Public works programmes (173)**

Cash for work (118)

Food for work (33)

Productive / economic inclusion programmes (106)

Employment / Wage subsidies (63)

Public procurement from self-employed, microentrepreneurs and smallholder farmers (47)

Entrepreneurship / Start-up incentives (4)

Labour market services (3)

Passive labour market policies (250)

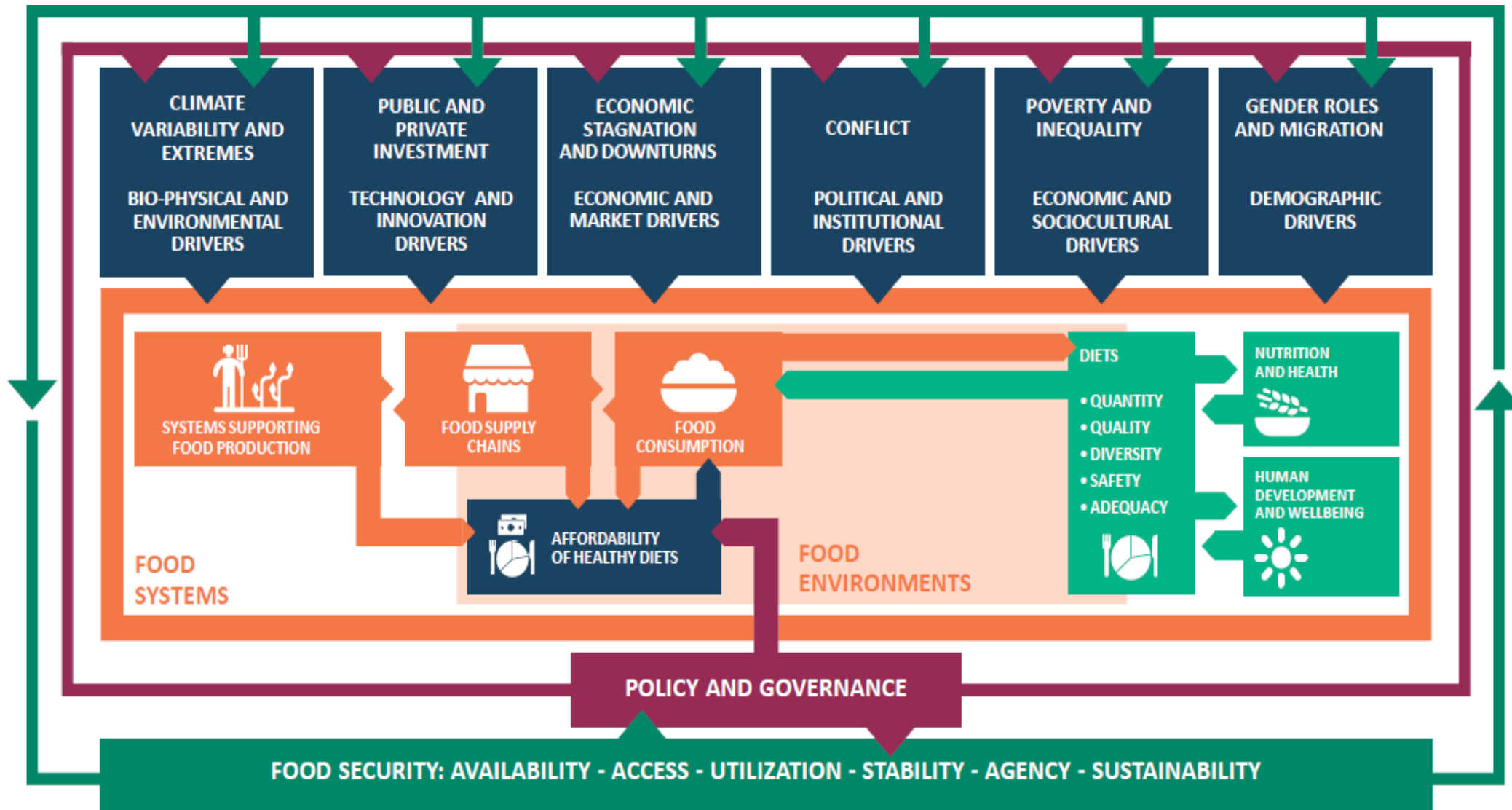
**Unemployment benefits (245)**

Unemployment insurance (contributory) (123)

Unemployment assistance (non-contributory) (41)

Early retirement for labour market reasons (2)

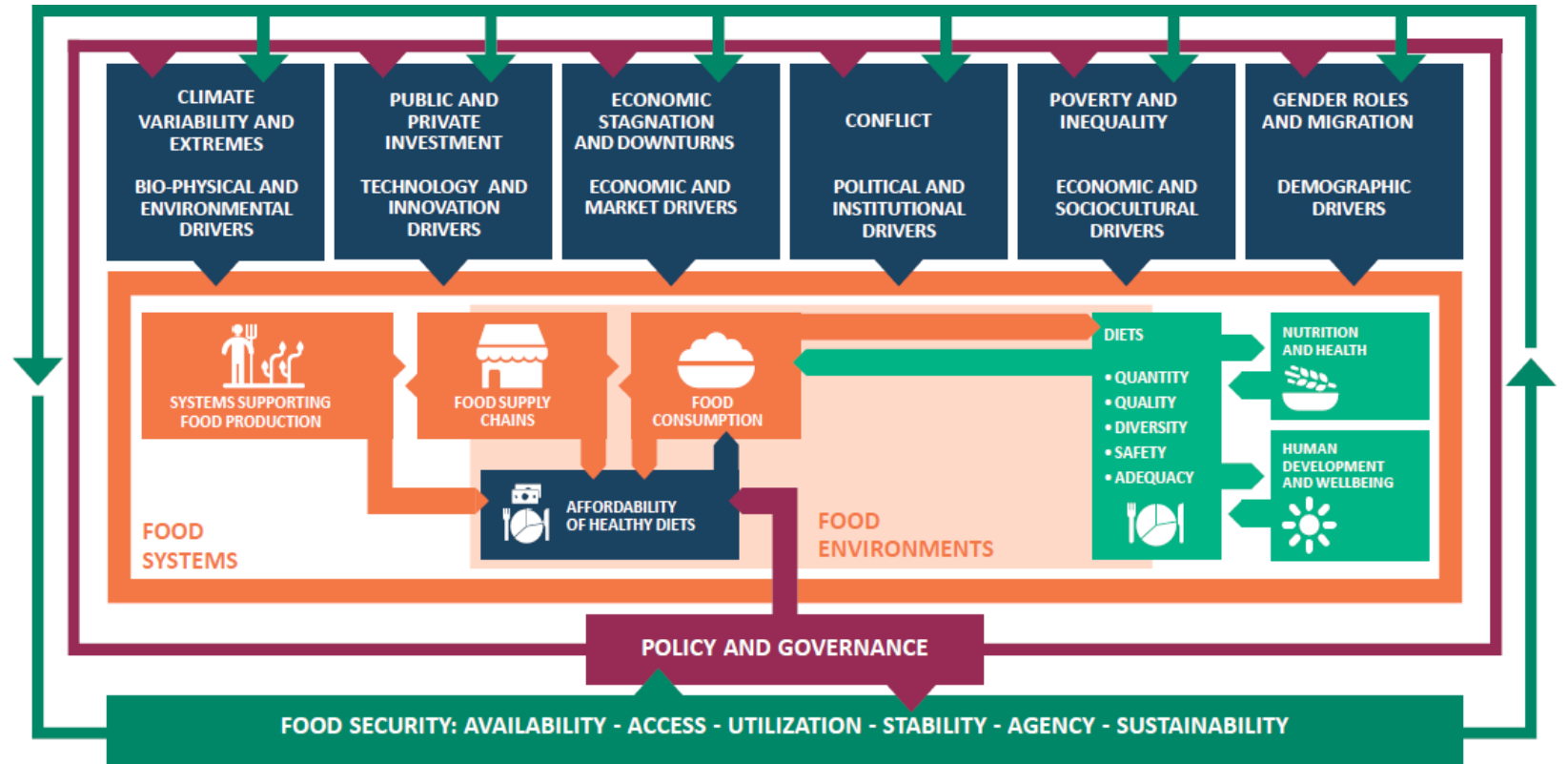
## Social Protection & Food Systems: A common framework for action



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**Social Protection** plays a key role in **reducing risks & vulnerabilities** and can help **buffer shocks** and support faster **recovery** from stagnation/ downturns (as well as addressing structural poverty and inequality).

**Reduces inequalities,**  
**Supports inclusiveness,**  
**Promotes growth.**



**Opportunities (& Challenges)  
for leveraging Social Protection  
for Food Systems Transformation**

# Food Systems Transformation OPPORTUNITIES



## FOOD PRODUCTION



## FOOD ENVIRONMENT



## FOOD CONSUMPTION

## SOCIAL PROTECTION



- Enhance productivity of farmers
- Availability of nutritious foods
- Investments in and diversification of livelihoods and assets
- Support higher risk-higher return ventures
- Multiplier effects in local rural economies

SP can raise productivity at various stages across the food production systems- from supporting farmers to helping families diversify their livelihoods/economic empowerment.

- Facilitate *physical access* to markets
- *Increase affordability* to nutritious food AND other inter-related needs
- *Complementary interventions* supporting food safety, regulation, quality including fortification
- Schools as important entry points in food environment: links to production/consumption

SP helps enhances access of families to nutritious foods, especially where demand and access to markets is low.

- Improvement in diversification, size, frequency and sustainability of nutritious choices
- Empower public to demand nutritious foods through transformational social behavior change
- Consumption is sustained over time meeting changing needs

SP can facilitate effective access to essential services like health and nutrition that underpin people's food consumption and ability to make the most of the food they eat to live full and healthy lives.

# Food Systems Transformation CHALLENGES



## FOOD PRODUCTION

- Size of the benefits to ensure affordability of food, savings and investments
- Create explicit incentives for the production of nutritious foods
- Manage risk of crop failure and natural hazards
- Establish links to insurance and advisory services

Encouraging the production of nutritious food can be high risk for farmers, and therefore would require SP programs to be complemented with risk management, insurance, and technical support for producing new crops.



## FOOD ENVIRONMENT/ACCESS/POLICIES

- Benefits partially cover needs
- Essential needs compete for allocation of resources
- Insufficient quality of essential complementary services
- Unhealthy foods and drinks are cheaper than healthy foods and often easily available

Along the food supply line, SP programs need to be complemented with necessary regulations, quality control, taxes, nudges to encourage healthy food choices and food fortification in places with high levels of malnutrition.



## FOOD CONSUMPTION/UTILIZATION

- Nutritional needs change throughout the lifecycle requiring adequate transfers, tailored to meet changing needs and risks
- Suboptimal food preparation and consumption practices
- Nutritional status also affected by environmental hygiene and other disease risks

SP benefits can lead to increased access to nutritious diets, but they must be complemented with service provision, and high quality social change programs to achieve impact.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION





# Overview of Egypt's Social Protection Programmes supporting Food Systems Transformation

- **Takaful & Karama** is Egypt's largest cash transfer programme (**5.2 million** households).
- **Tamween** food subsidy programme (**60 million+** beneficiaries)
- **National School Feeding Programme** reaches (**17 million school** children)
- **The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030**
- **"Bedaya / A New Beginning for Human Building"**

# How WFP contributes to linkages between social protection and food systems in Egypt

- **Resilience building** of vulnerable rural community groups
- **Smallholder farmers** integrated support
- **Women economic empowerment** (capacity-building, financial inclusion and income-generation).
- Youth unemployment / **skills development** .
- **'First 1,000 Days'**
- **Fortification** of staple commodities.
- **School snacks and conditional cash transfers** to rural community school children.

# Conclusions

- **Fostering linkages** between food systems pathways and social protection programmes can significantly impact people's livelihoods, food & nutrition security, and health outcomes.
- Well designed & monitored social protection programmes can **support Food Systems Transformation**, and can also contribute to its acceleration.
- WFP and UN agencies have a **catalytic role** in modelling cross sectoral collaboration, and enhancing social protection systems that take into account food systems transformation

# The End

