



COVID-19 and Global Malnutrition: A Sting in the Tail or a Chance to Remake our Food and Nutrition Systems?

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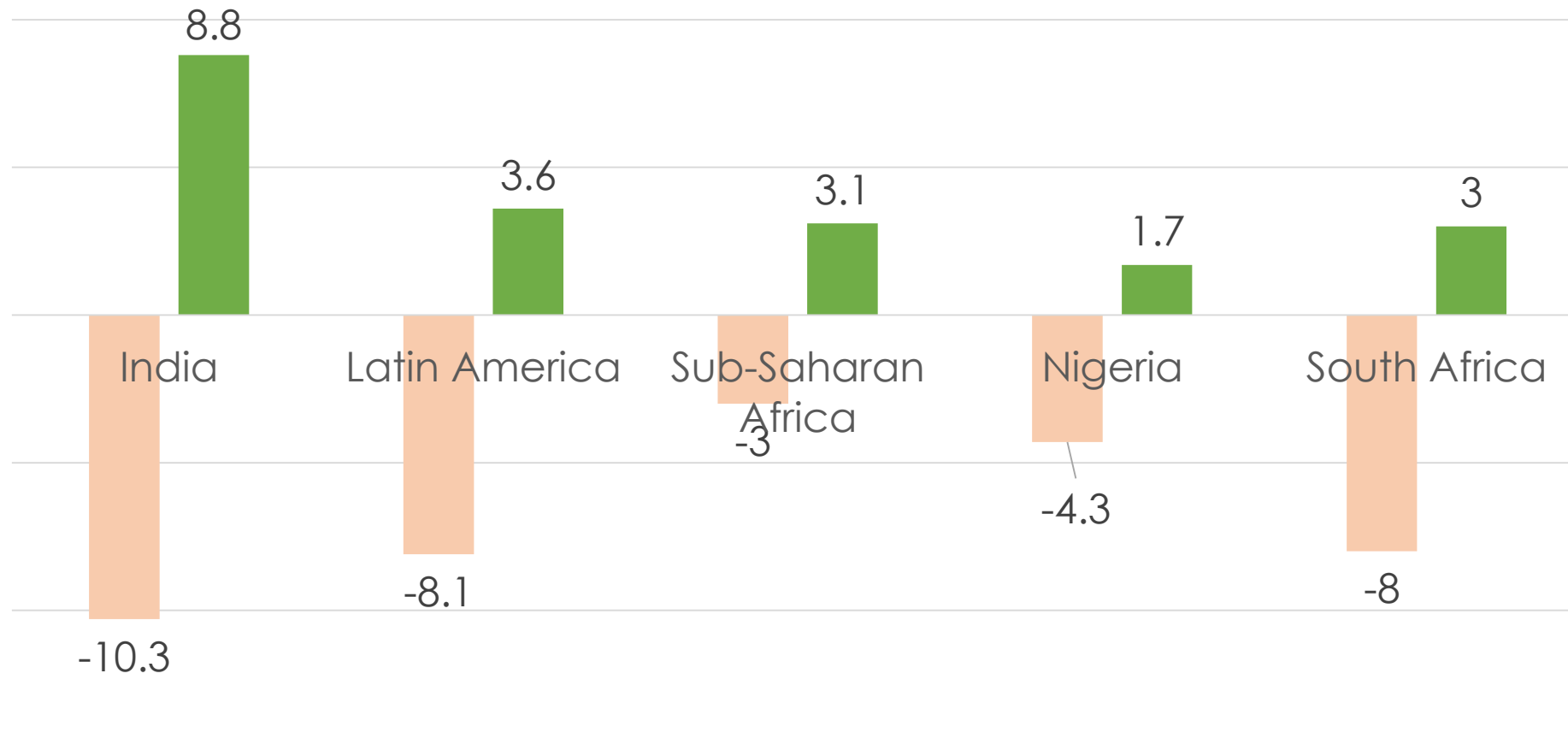
How we Think COVID-19 & Lockdowns Impact Malnutrition



GDP declines in 2020 will be large

Overview of
the World
Economic
Outlook GDP
Projections
(% change)

(October 2020
Estimates)

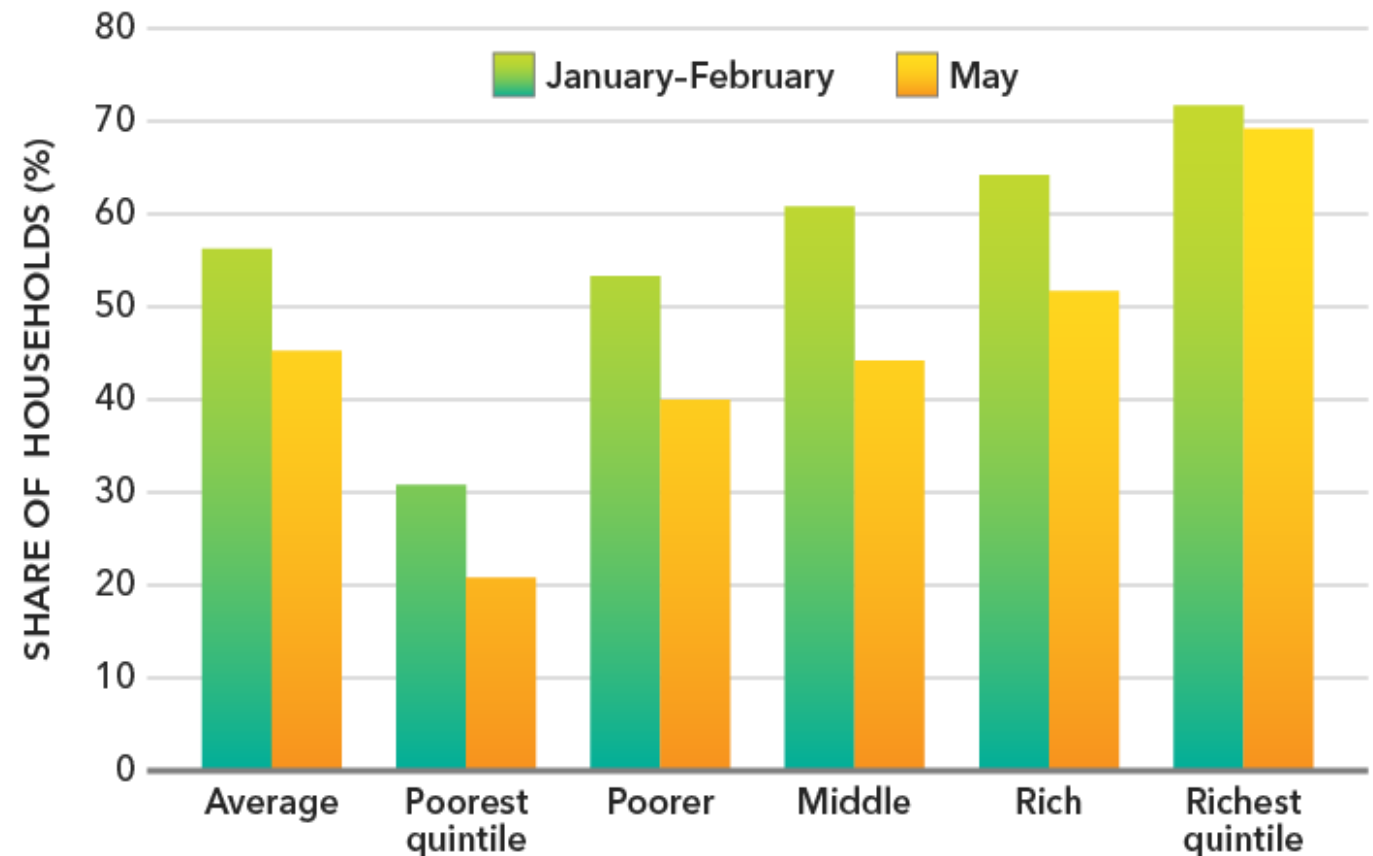


Access to nutritious foods is affected by COVID19 measures

- Production of these foods is labor intensive and more impacted by physical distancing
- These foods are more likely to perish when markets are disrupted
- These foods are more expensive and the first to be dropped from the household menu when incomes fall

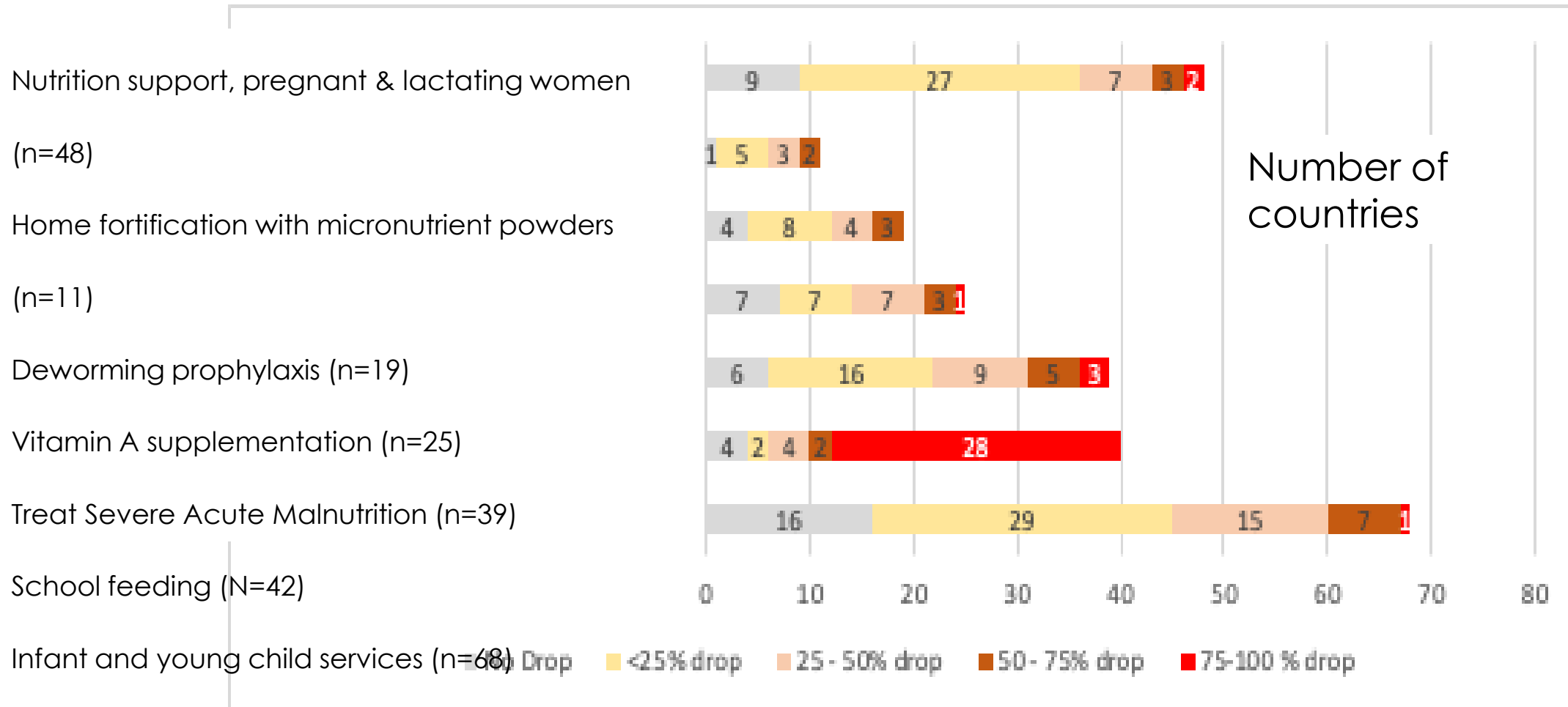


FIGURE 1
Dairy consumption in Addis, 2020,
January-February versus May



Source: Wolle et al. (2020); Hirvonen et al. (2020)

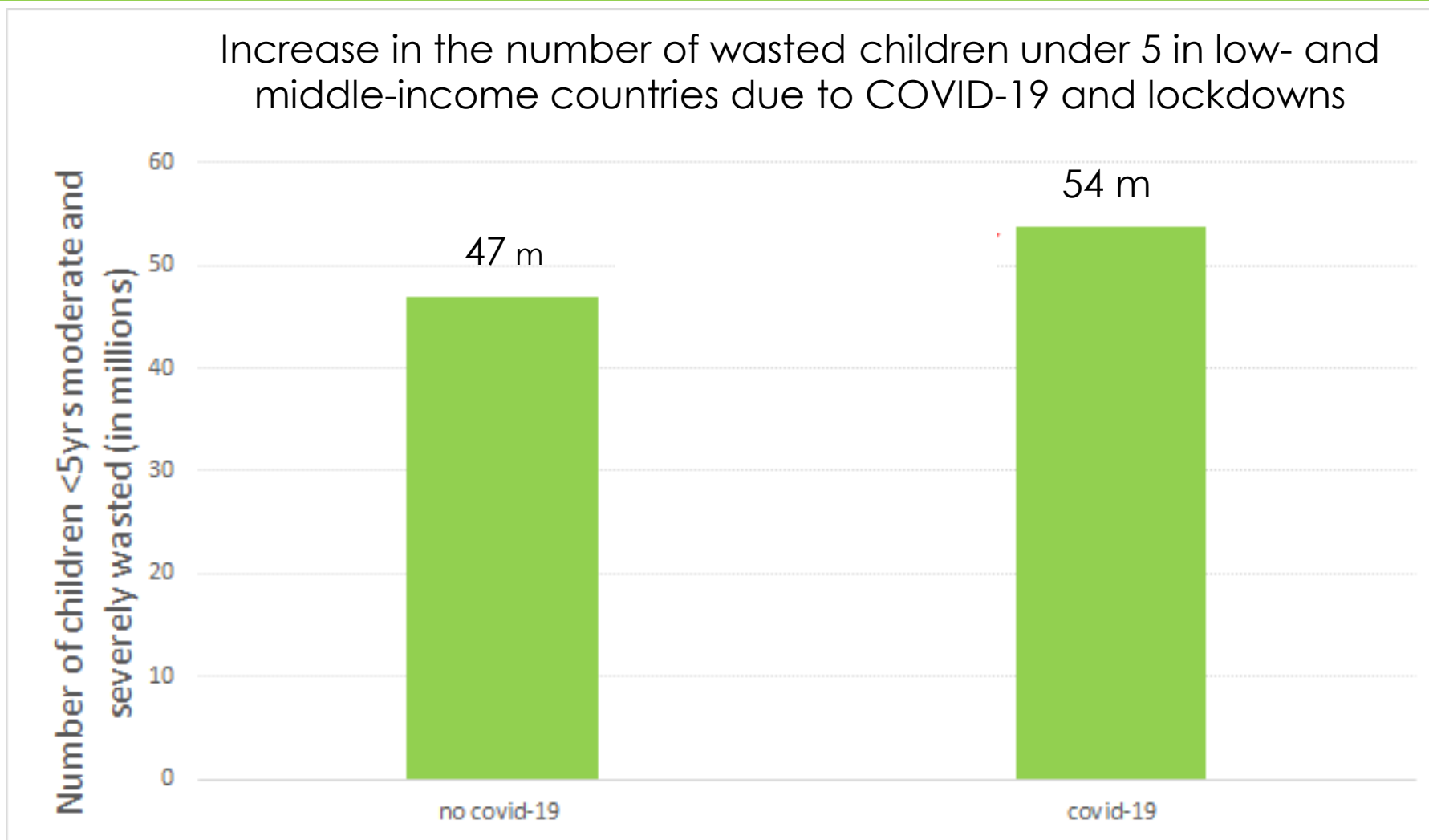
Essential nutrition services are disrupted by COVID and the lockdown



Source: UNICEF rapid situation tracking. Update June 8, 2020.

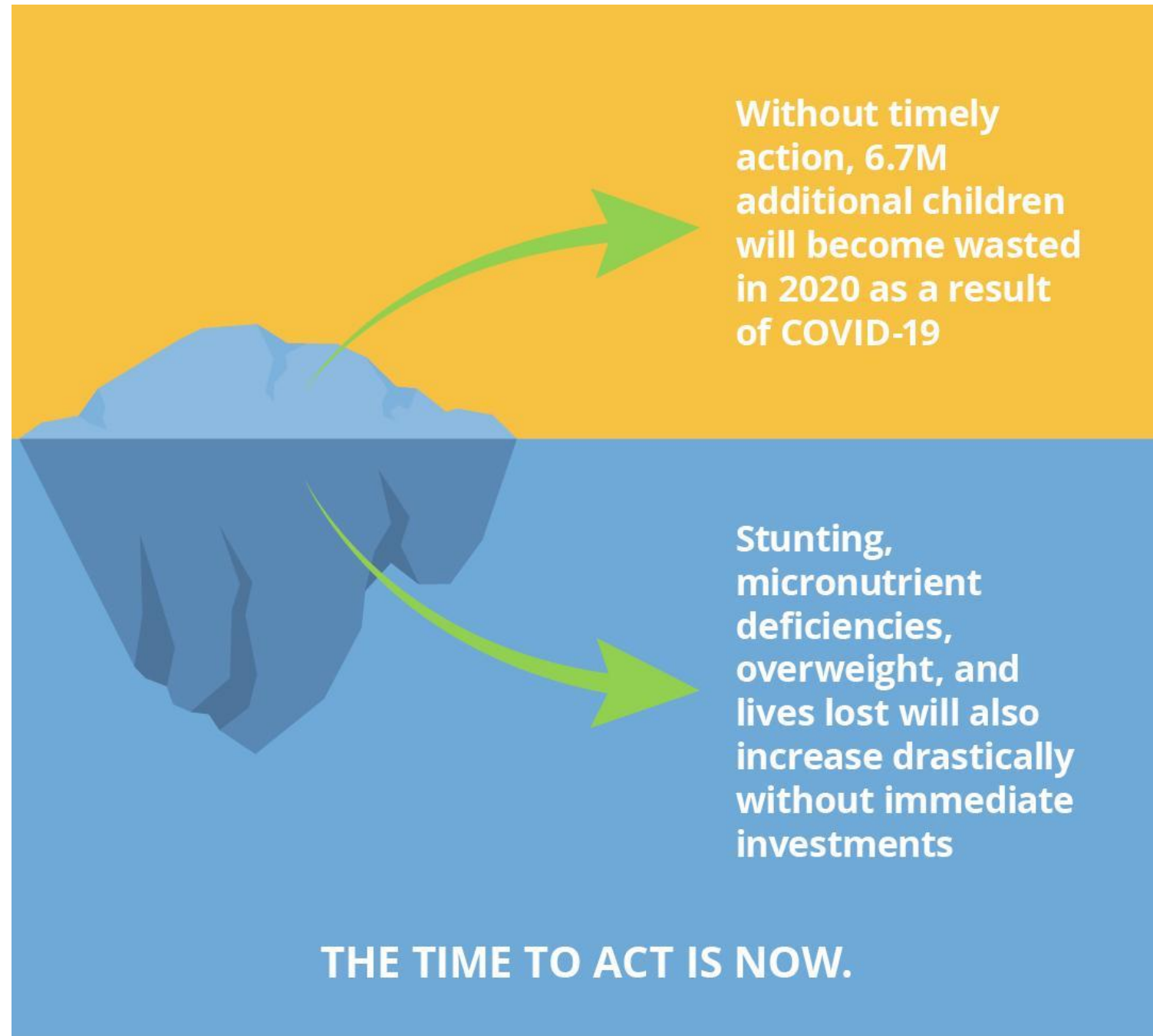
<https://data.unicef.org/resources/rapid-situation-tracking-covid-19-socioeconomic-impacts-data-viz/>

COVID-19 could result in an additional 6.7 million children with wasting in 2020



Wasting is a leading indicator—it is just the tip of the iceberg.

There is a lot more to come, unless we act, **now**



Need to Build **Forward** Better: Health and Social Protection Systems

	Threat	Opportunity to Build Forward Better
Income	Dropping significantly as jobs lost	Social Protection Programs to promote consumption of nutritious foods
Child development in first 1000 days	Children cannot bounce back like the economy	Ensure ANC, Breastfeeding Promotion, Vitamin A Supplementation, Food Fortification are part of the COVID-19 response to prevent co-morbidities and promote general immunity
Communicable Diseases	nutritious whole foods become more expensive	symptoms heightens awareness of the need to tackle obesity, diabetes type 2

Need to Build **Forward** Better: Food Systems

	Threat	Opportunity to Build Forward Better
Front line workers in food system	Their nutrition status worsens due to proximity to customers and need to come to work	Recognition of the essential role they play by businesses → workforce nutrition programs
Small and Medium Enterprises in Food System	SMEs in nutritious food business are going out of business	New impact investing facilities diverting some of the \$200bn industry to SMEs to develop resilient nutritious food systems
Fresh Food Markets	Closure due to inadequate infection/safety protocols/PPE	Protocols and PPE provided to keep markets open raise awareness of need for physical distancing & mask wearing, while raising consumer awareness of food safety

Conclusions



- Unchecked, COVID-19 and lockdowns threaten to reverse 10 years of progress in 10 months
- Need to deny COVID-19 an intergenerational legacy: protect the nutrition of the very youngest
- Need to Build Forward Better: the policy space is fluid—we need to make the case for nutrition as a routine part of the COVID-19 response in Economic, Food, Health Sectors
- Sting in the Tail or a Chance to Remake our Food and Nutrition Systems? Both!



Thank You

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