



WORLD FOOD ASSISTANCE 2017

Taking Stock and Looking Ahead



World Food Programme

















wfp.org

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Objectives and Approach



WoFA 2017 begins by defining “food assistance” and distinguishing it from “food aid”

FOOD ASSISTANCE		
Instruments	Objectives & Programmes	Supportive Activities & Platforms
 In kind food transfers	 Improved nutrition	 Early warning and preparedness systems
 Vouchers and cash vouchers – physical and digital	 Increased resilience	 Vulnerability analyses and mapping
 Cash transfers – physical and digital	 Increased agricultural productivity	 Needs assessments
 Food purchases	 Increased school enrolment	 Supply chain arrangements
	 Gender equality	 Information and communication technology
	 Disaster risk reduction	 Capacity development for national agencies, safety nets and social-protection systems

Using that definition of food assistance, WoFA 2017 addresses three questions



1 What are the **levels, trends and patterns** of food assistance at global, regional and national levels?

2 What are the primary **challenges** facing design and delivery of food assistance in different contexts of food system functioning?

3 How are these challenges being met? That is, what kinds of **innovations** in food assistance are being developed to address the challenges?

Three themes cut across the report

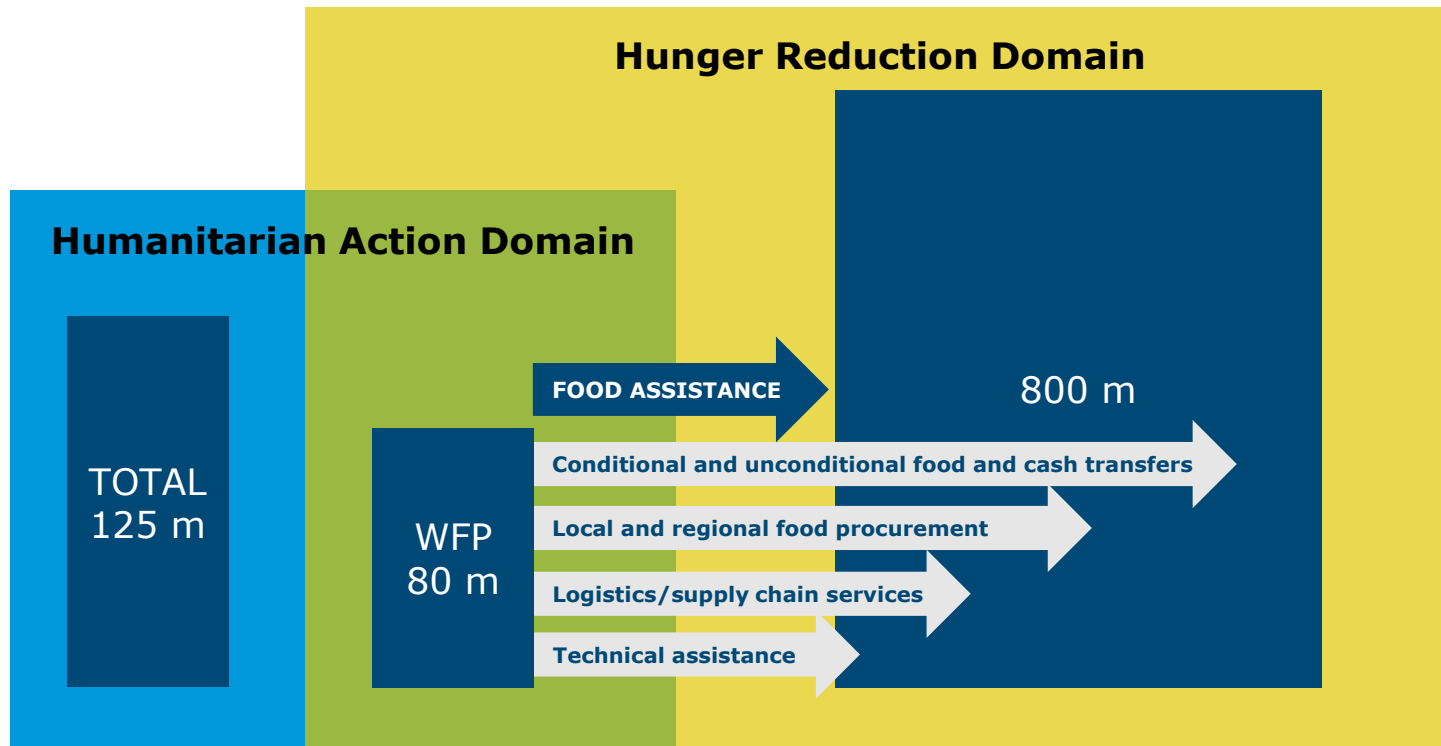


1 Food assistance at the intersection of **humanitarian action** and **hunger reduction**;

2 Food assistance in **food systems** – the complex networks involved in producing food, transforming it and ensuring that it reaches hungry people; and

3 Food assistance is a **public endeavour** built on many layers of **commercial activity**.

Food assistance is uniquely positioned at the intersection of the domains of humanitarian action and hunger reduction



Food assistance is examined as a “sector” with a “demand” side and a “supply” side

Drivers and reflections of food assistance **demand**?

Drivers and reflections of food assistance **supply**?

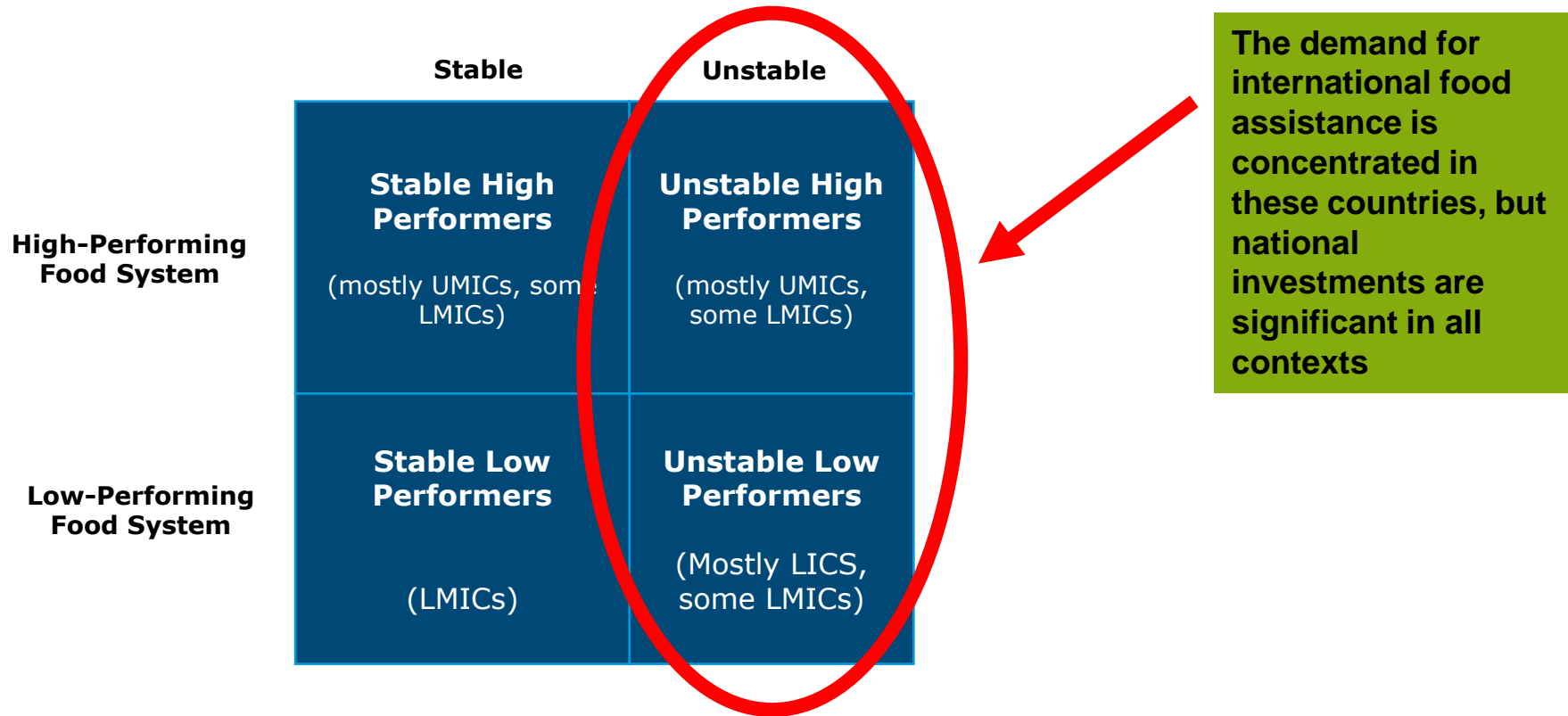


Scale, breadth, composition and quality of food assistance measures

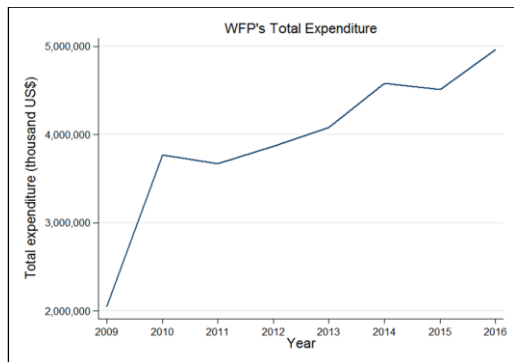
Key Findings



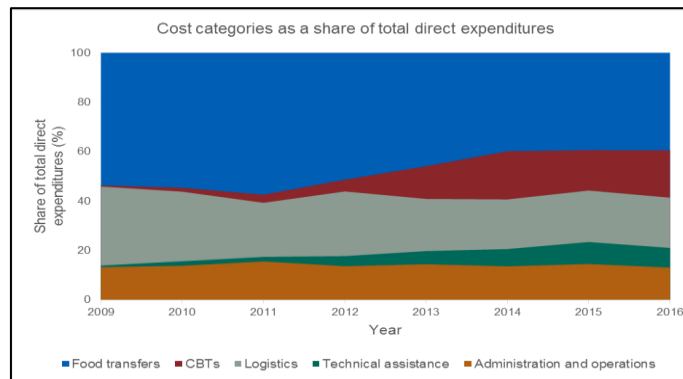
Four groups of countries emerge on the basis of stability and food-system performance across income levels



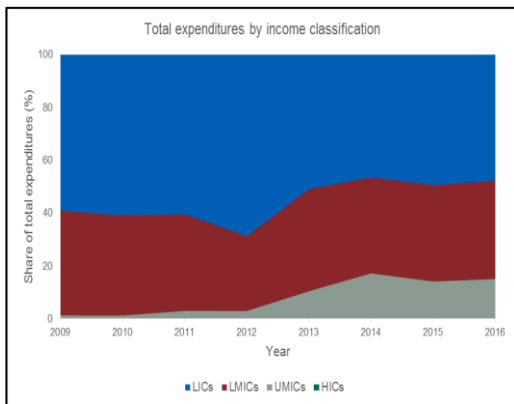
The supply-side has witnessed major changes since 2009



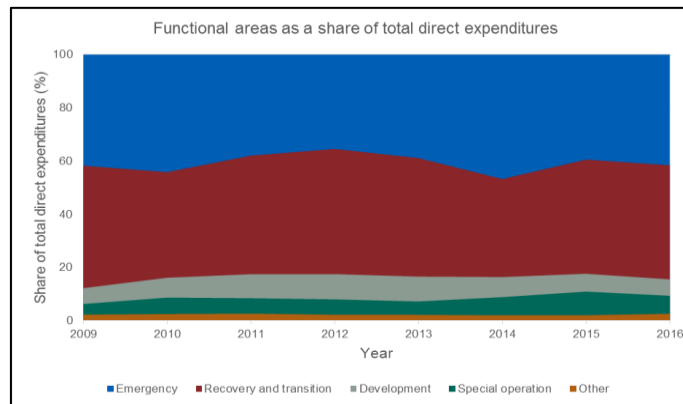
Total expenditures more than doubled



Cash-based transfers surged



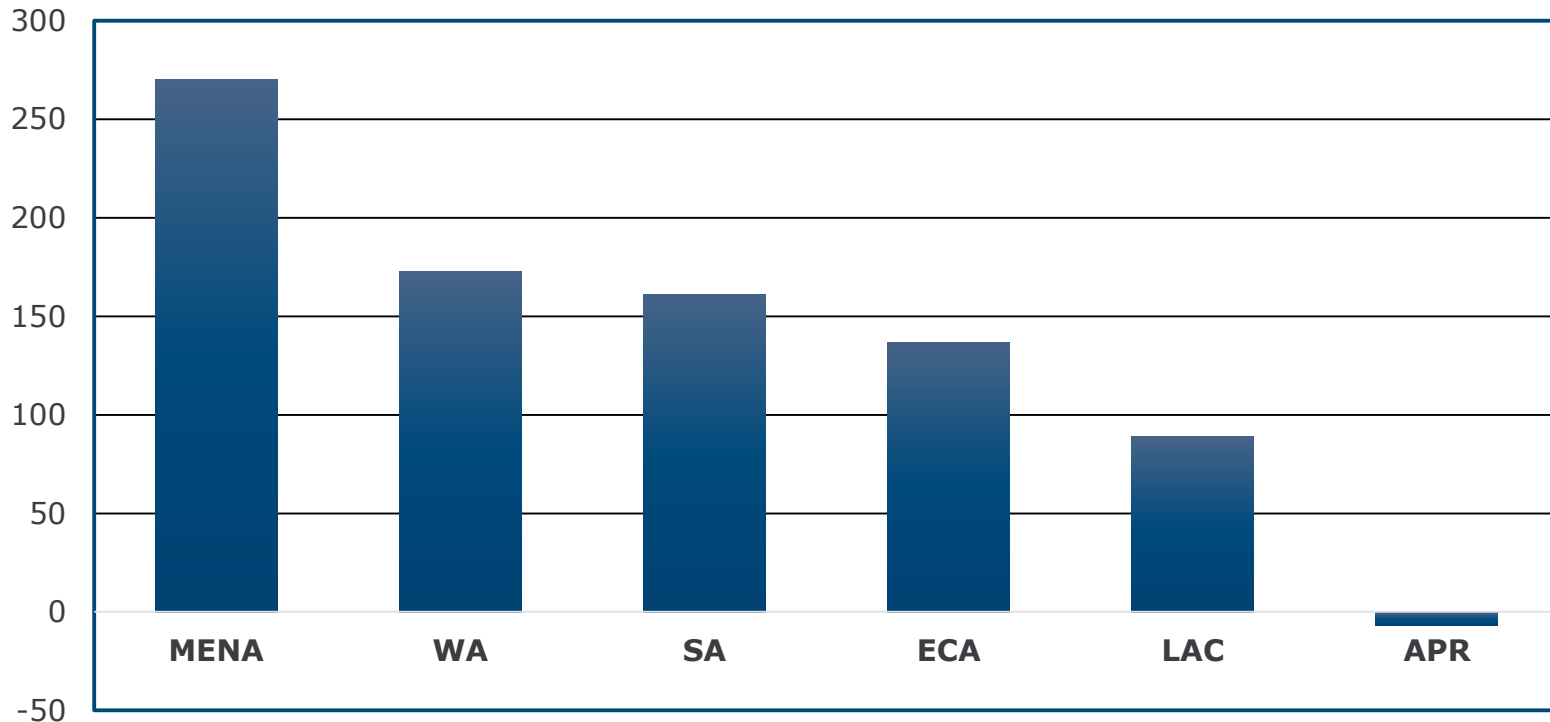
MICs grew in importance, especially UMICs



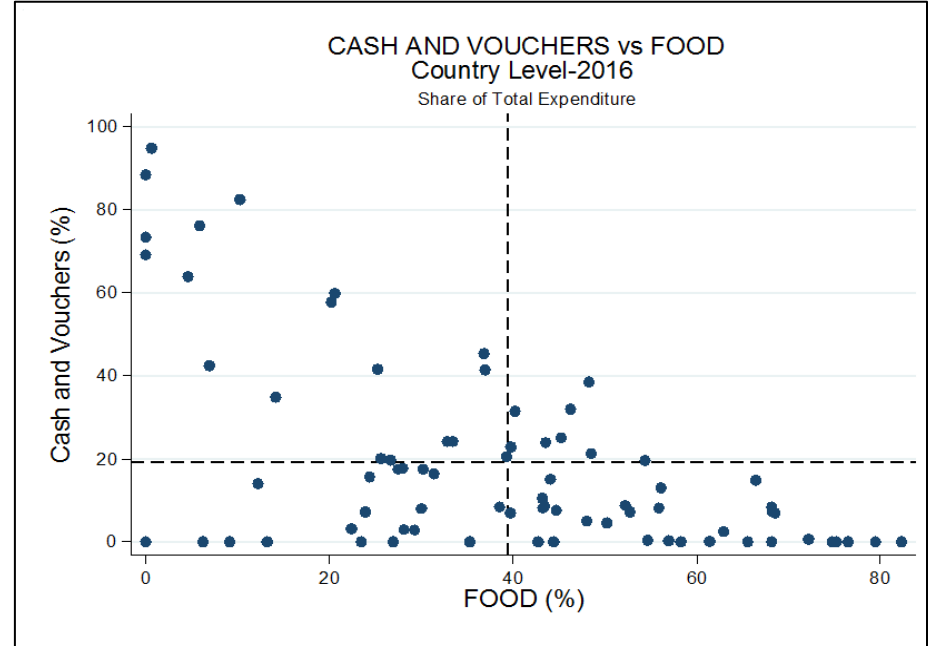
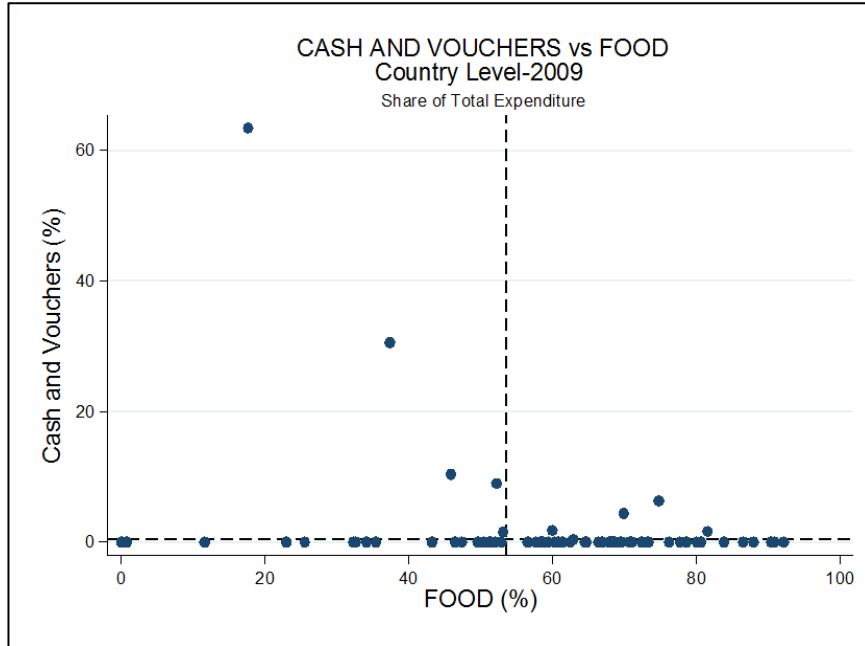
The distribution of expenditures across contexts was relatively stable

There were sharp differences across regions of the world

Percent change in expenditures – 2016 vs. 2009

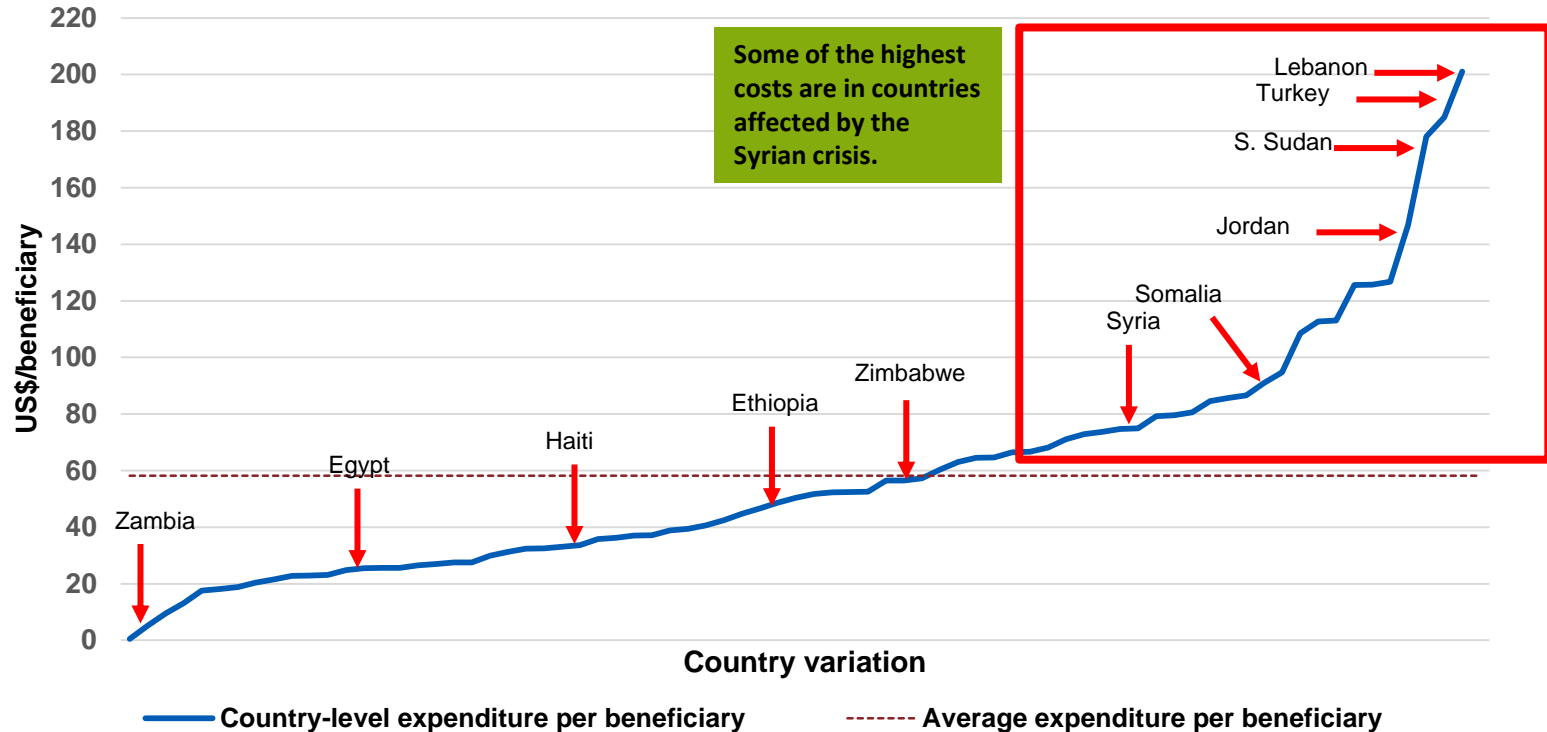


Mixed/blended portfolios are now the norm



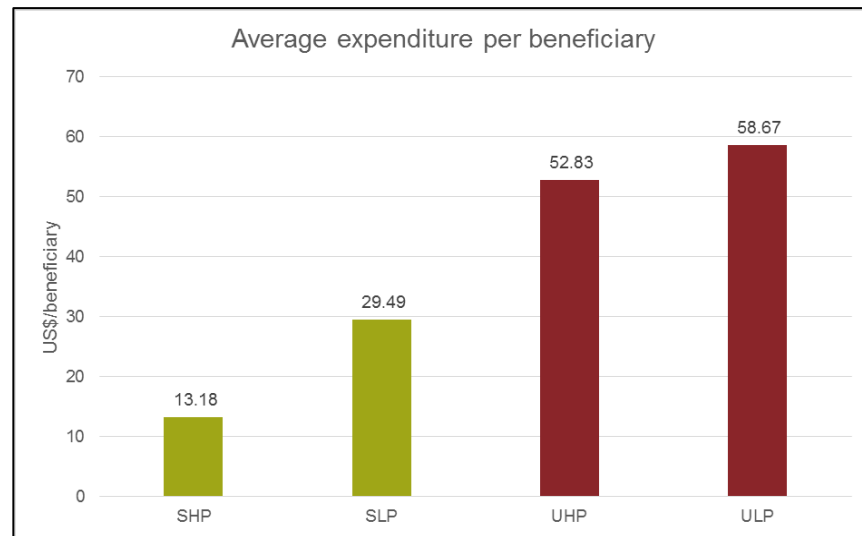
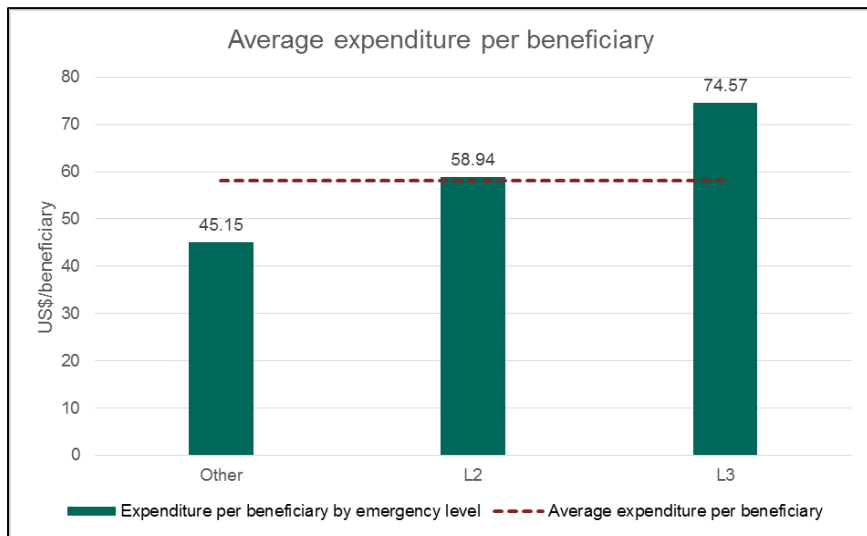
Expenditures per direct beneficiary vary significantly across WFP's portfolio; a small number of countries have very high unit costs

Expenditure per direct beneficiary in 2015 (USD/year)



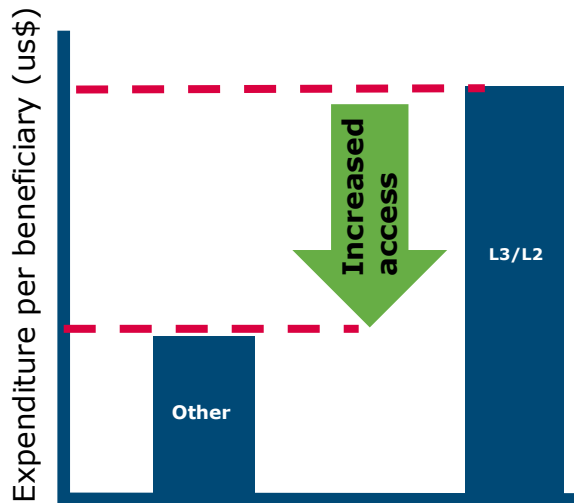
Costs vary systematically depending on the severity of the emergency, the level of instability, and the performance of the food system

The poorer the humanitarian access, the greater the level of instability, and the lower the performance of the food system, the higher are expenditures per beneficiary

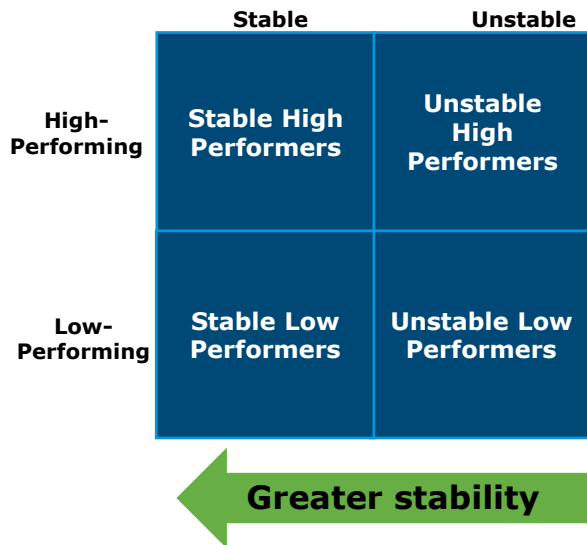


Three experiments are suggested...

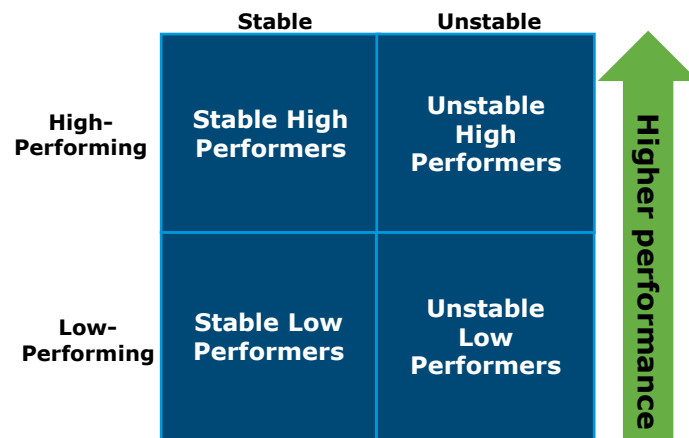
1 What if access increased?



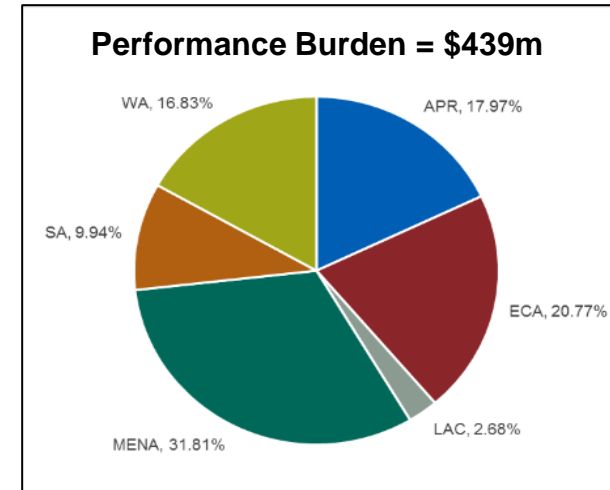
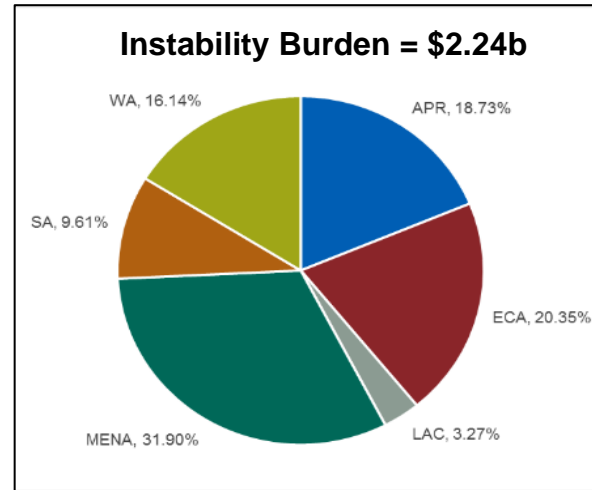
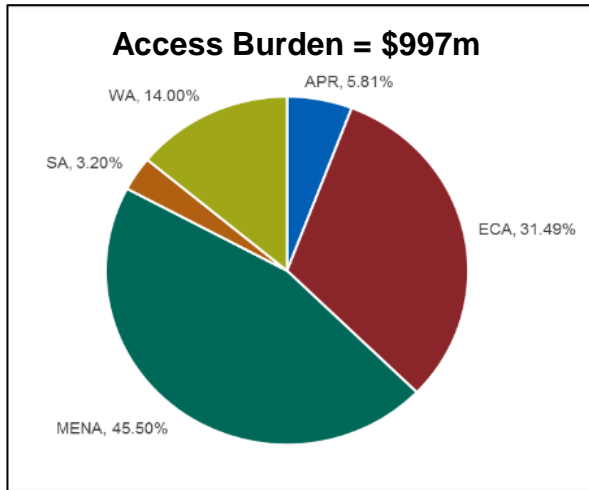
2 What if there were greater stability?



3 What if food-system performance improved?



Food assistance-related costs of poor access, instability, and low food system performance are significant, with a strong regional pattern



Total burden = \$3.45 billion

These burdens can also be viewed as potential “dividends” to successful efforts and investments to address access, instability, and performance problems

Challenges facing food assistance agencies have three broad origins, as do major innovations in food assistance

Origin	Systemic challenge
Global and national trends and disruptions	Climate change
	Conflict
	Urbanization
	Inequality
Humanitarian action	Funding problems
	Access, protection, and security problems
Food system structure and functioning	“Bad year/lean season” problems
	“Last mile” problems
	“Good year” problems

Implications and Recommendations



There are three types of implications and recommendations for action and investment

1 Urgent

Stabilize, increase and unleash humanitarian funding
Confront the political drivers of vulnerability and hunger

2 Important

Invest in high-quality food assistance programmes
Enhance national capacities and South-South cooperation

3 Strategic

Fill vast data gaps
Frame and implement a practical research agenda

Thank You

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