

Evidence based Policy: IFAD's Impact Assessments for promoting food and nutrition security

Plenary 4: Enhancing Food Security and Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific



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CHALLENGES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION



Up to **757 million**
undernourished people

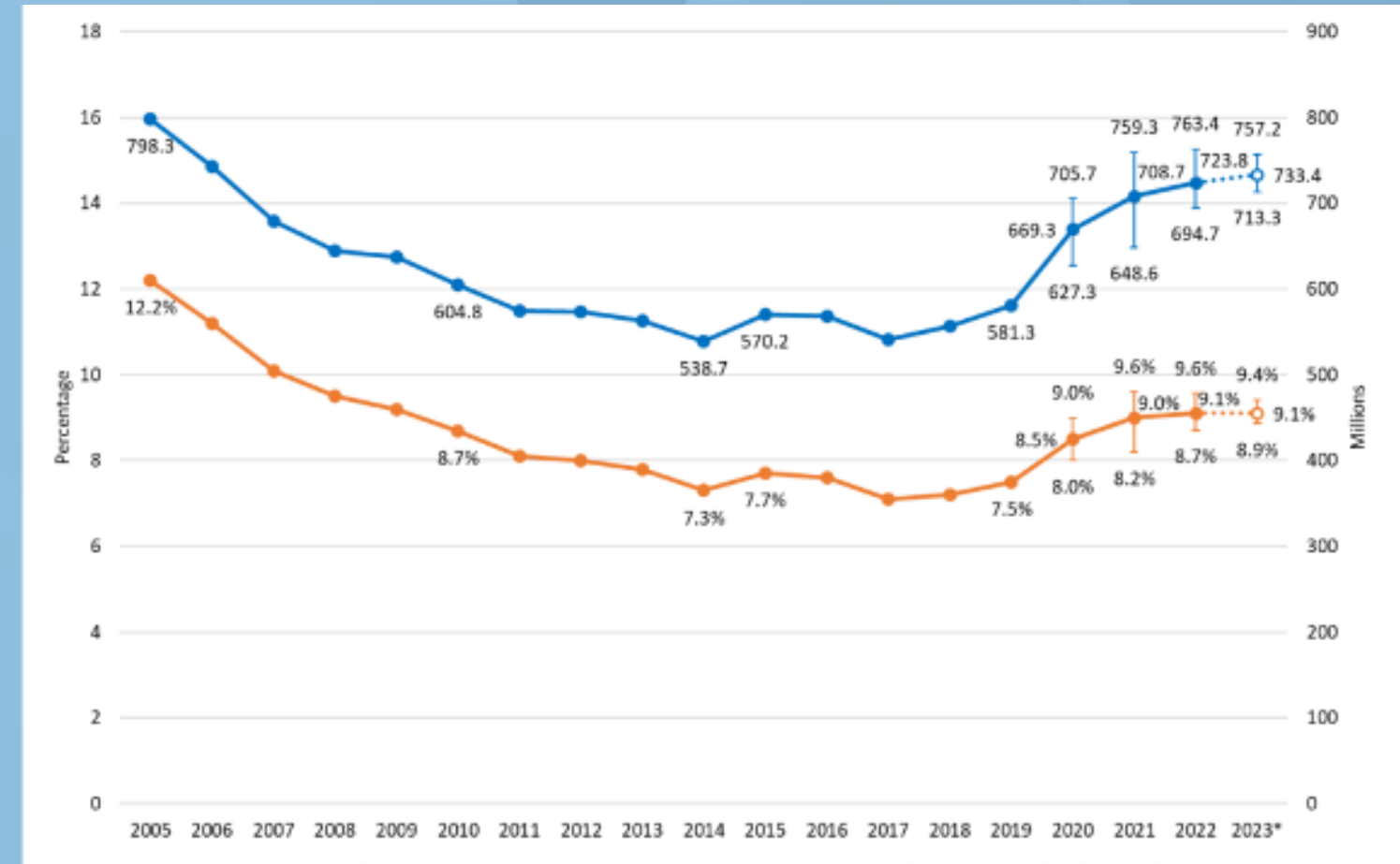


2.3 billion food insecure
people



2.8 billion people can't access
healthy diets

GLOBAL HUNGER ROSE SHARPLY FROM 2019 TO 2021 AND PERSISTED AT THE SAME LEVEL TO 2023



Source: SOFI 2024 report (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO; 2024)



IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN IFAD

OBJECTIVES

- Be accountable and report results
- Learn, understand and improve future investments

1 REVIEW OF PORTFOLIO

Number and types of projects
Projects closing during replenishment period

2 SELECTION OF PROJECTS

At least 15% of portfolio
using a selection protocol

3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Across selected projects

4 META - ANALYSIS

And projection
to the portfolio

X
MILLION
PEOPLE IMPACTED



METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATING IFAD'S IMPACT

Each project's IA reports attributable impacts of that project on a standardized set of indicators for its beneficiaries compared to a counterfactual

- Harmonized estimation strategy across the whole set of IAs

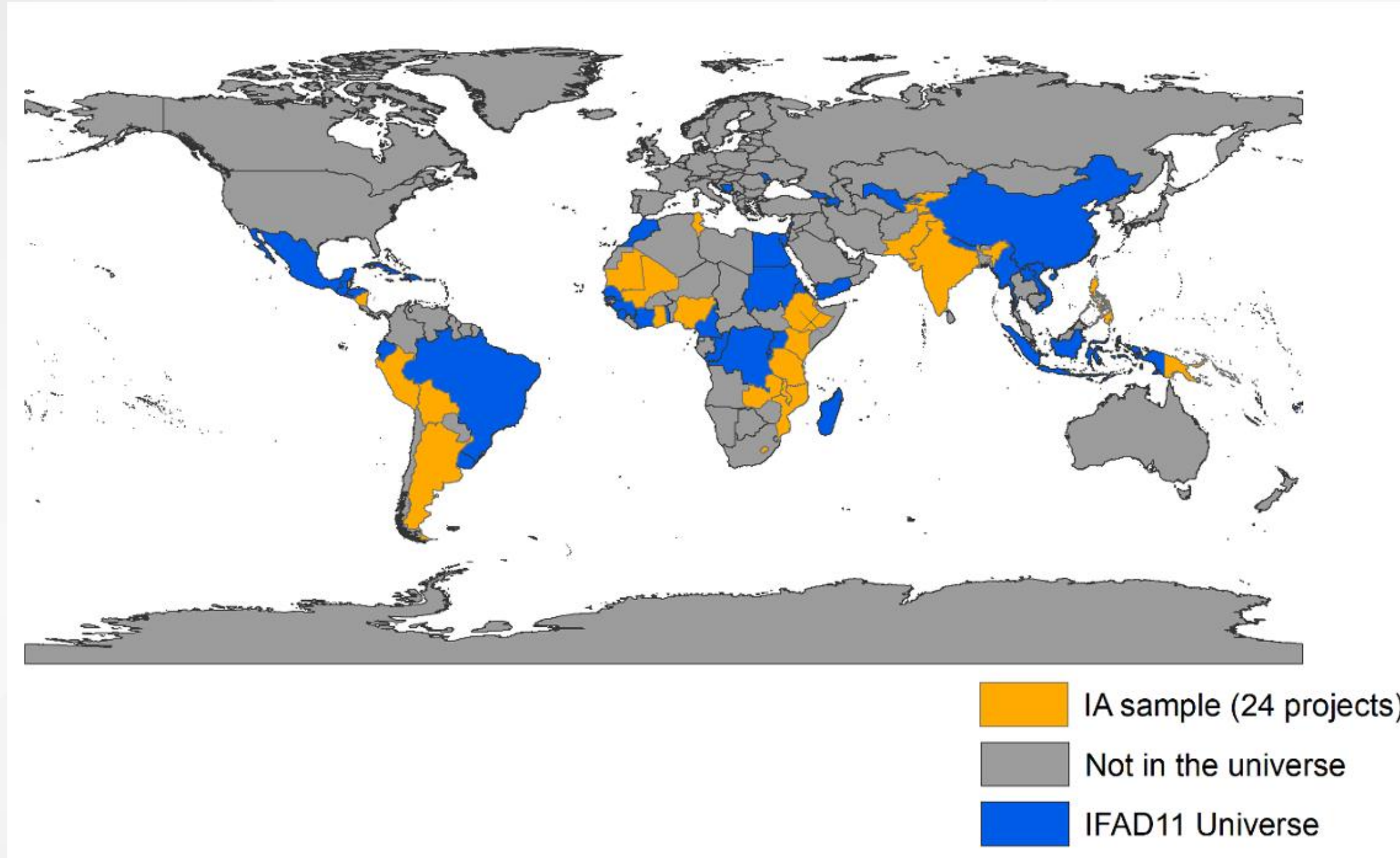
Meta-analysis: to aggregate impact estimates across selected projects and arrive at the mean effect size, i.e. impacts, as % change over the comparison group for the same a standardized set of indicators

Projection to the entire portfolio of projects: to calculate the total number of beneficiaries that exceeded the target for each indicator.

- Economic mobility and incomes
- Productive capacities
- Market Access
- Resilience
- Food security
- Nutrition



IFAD11 IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (2019-21)



RESULTS FOR NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY DURING IFAD 11

- Food security (FIES) of 58 million beneficiaries increased.
- Dietary diversity (HDDS) improved for 0.6 million beneficiaries.
- Consumption of unhealthy foods also increased in some cases.

LESSONS LEARNT: Nutritional improvements require a dedicated theory of change (intent) based on context anchored towards availability of healthy foods, affordability and consumer preferences for healthy foods.

- Develop partnerships/ coordinate with existing nutrition programmes.
- Promote local/ traditional healthy foods.
- Use training, role-modeling and communication for behavioral change.
- Integrate behavioral components into projects to promote change in nutritional choices.



**ANALYSIS ON FOOD SECURITY AND DIETARY DIVERSITY FOCUSING
ON PROJECTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

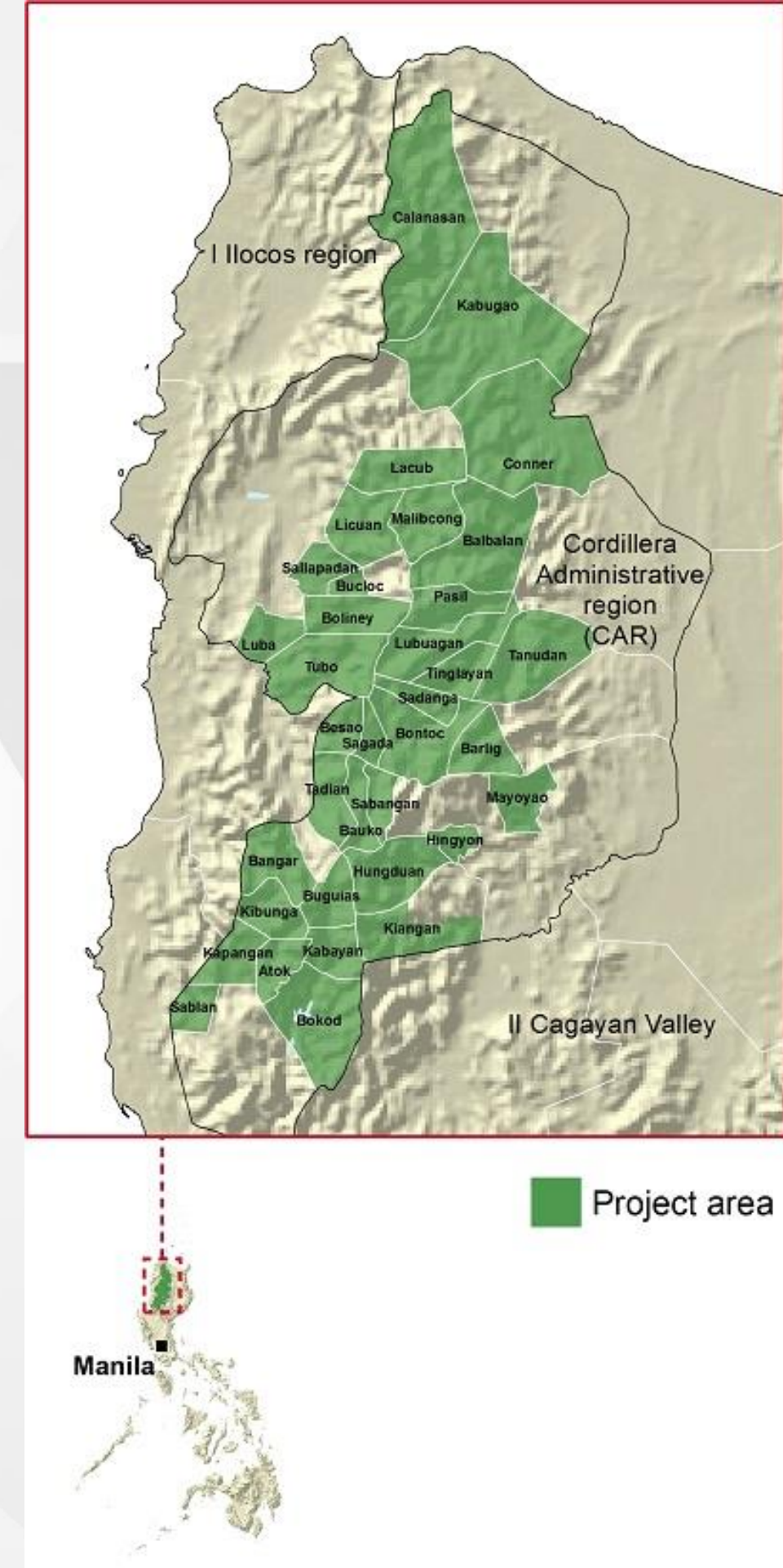


SECOND CORDILLERA HIGHLAND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (CHARM II) IN PHILIPPINES

Objective: improve livelihoods and food security of poor households through:

Community level interventions included investment in community watershed conservation, reforestation, and agroforestry; development of community infrastructure (farm-to-market roads, foot bridges, small warehouses, solar drying pavements), small-scale irrigation schemes and land titling.

Household level interventions included farmer field schools; learning visits; seed money for small economic activities.



KEY FINDINGS

- **Positive impacts on gross income** among beneficiary households driven by
 - **Higher crop income** due to commercialization of farming, that is higher production of cash and non-seasonal crops, as well as higher land area cultivated and higher probability to participate in crop farming. Increase in productive assets presumably contributed.
 - **Higher livestock income** due to higher probability to participate in livestock farming and more livestock assets



The project had improved food security but no impact on nutrition-- > Income is the key channel

THANK YOU

