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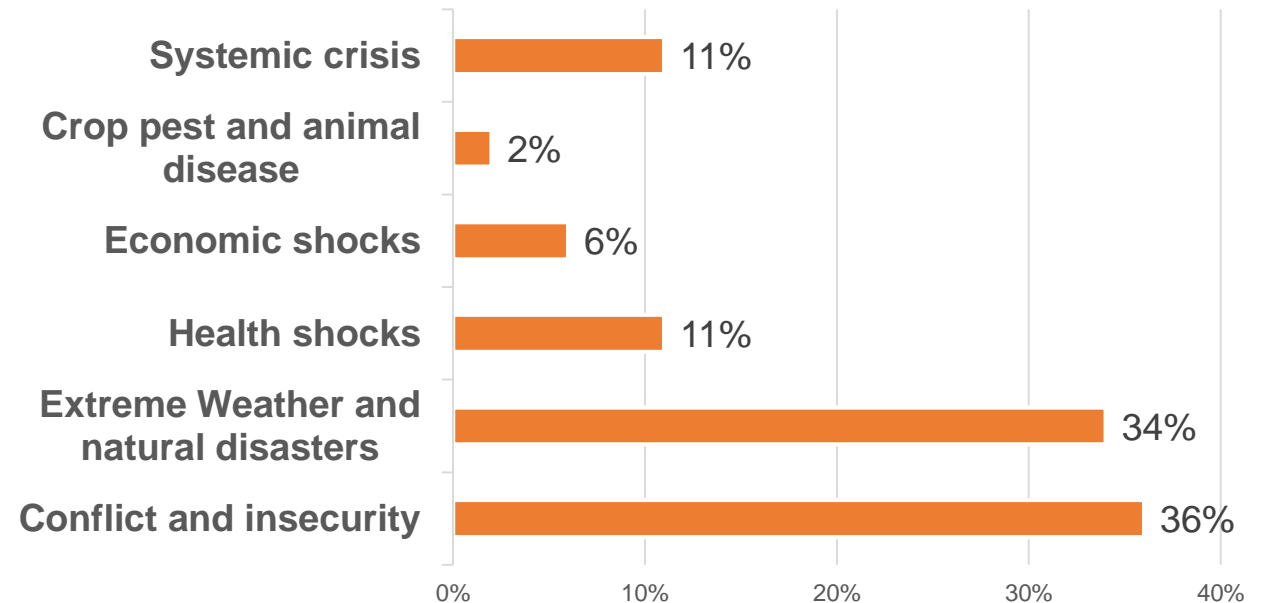
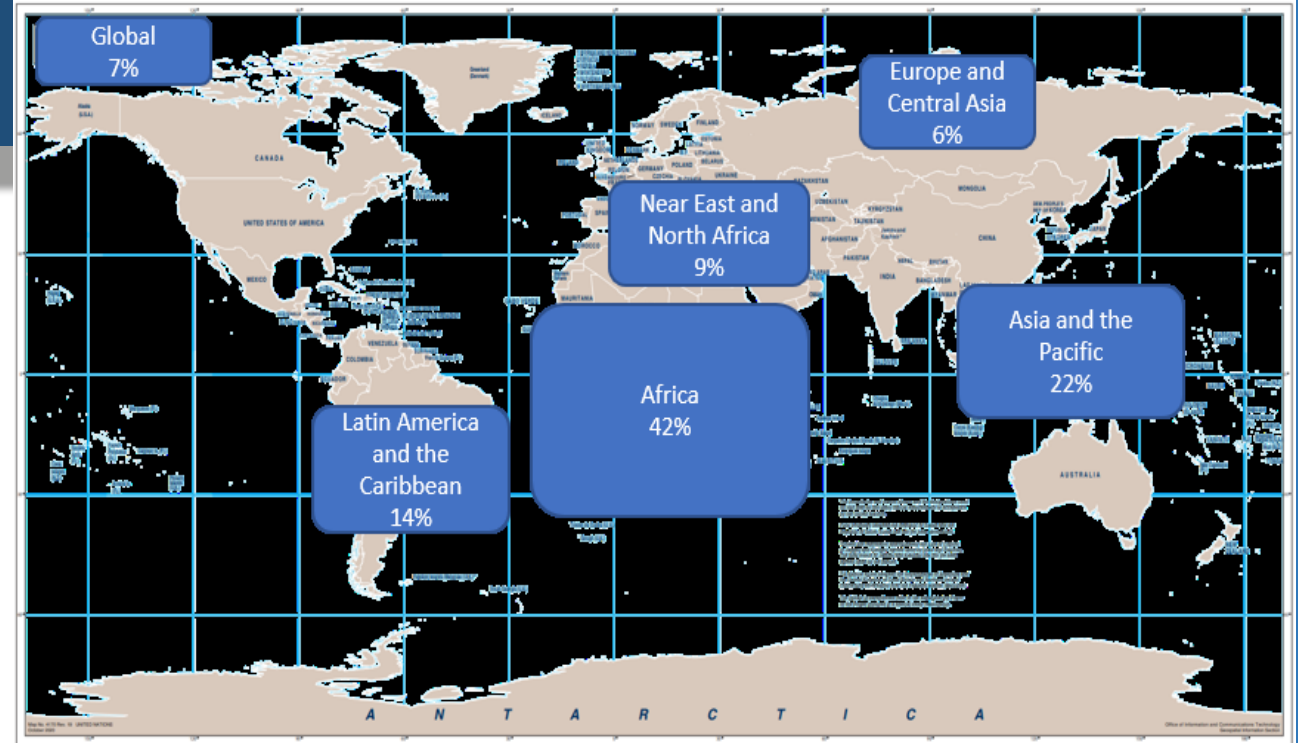
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Evidence from a UN Evaluation Group Summary on Food Security During Crisis Situations

Fabrizio Felloni, Deputy Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

Webinar on 'Food security and broader resilience using evaluation lens'
ECG Webinar Series

- ❑ In 2020, Evaluation Offices of FAO, IFAD, UNIDO and WFP worked on a rapid evaluation evidence summary on food security during times of crisis
- ❑ 65 evaluation reports by 15 multilateral and bilateral organizations that assessed responses to different types of shocks (see graph)
- ❑ Followed UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. Three pillars :
 - (i) social protection and basic services;
 - (ii) economic response and recovery; and
 - (iii) social cohesion and community resilience.



• **Key factors influencing the effectiveness**

- Level of **collaboration** with national and local partners and stakeholders;
 - Quality of **needs assessments and targeting** of beneficiaries;
 - Agility and learning to **adjust** to evolving contexts; protection and safety of staff and beneficiaries.
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- ❑ **Cash transfers** were effective to preserve food security during crises, but depend on enabling factors, such as functioning markets, banking services and suitable infrastructure to make transfers viable
 - ❑ **School meal programmes:** effective to support social protection and preserve food security during crises
 - ❑ **Food distribution** contributed to preserving food security in response to different types of crises. It requires a major logistical efforts. Costly, problematic to maintain these schemes
 - ❑ **Distribution of agricultural inputs** (seeds, fertilizer, tools): effective channel to restore agricultural outputs and livelihoods, but with limited long-term welfare effects, largely due to timing issues and/or lack of scale

- **Key factors influencing the effectiveness**

- Strength / fragility of **public institutions**;
 - **Governance** arrangements for policy change/programme implementation;
 - **Breadth of partnerships** with the private sector, financial institutions, academia and research institutes.
- Support to **food supply chain development /preservation** was effective in promoting economic recovery. Required involvement of the private sector, rural finance and infrastructure and, often, a phased approach.
 - **Early warning systems** in supporting economic response: **mixed assessments**. Early warning information has not necessarily triggered early action.
 - **Policy advice**: useful when anchored in dialogue on national policies. Sometimes confronted by a lack of data for assessing the welfare impacts of a crisis and hence for targeting specific interventions
 - **Rural employment and entrepreneurship promotion**: effective in providing poor workers with income while contributing to the rehabilitation of infrastructures. Require a long-term multisectoral commitment to produce lasting change

- ❑ When specific approaches to foster social cohesion, such as social dialogue and **conflict resolution** mechanisms, were explicitly included, they contributed to more robust and resilient communities.
- ❑ Interventions **with limited scope and focus on small target groups**, such as demonstration/pilot projects that grant some benefits to only one community, can instill tensions with other vulnerable groups, if not handled well.
- ❑ Comprehensive and **differentiated targeting approaches** and participation of civil society organizations in the design and implementation of interventions contributed towards greater social cohesion.