

Accelerating Hunger in the Society: Impact of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Pandemic on Social Security

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Abstract— The contemporary world is under the uncertain, unprecedented, fearful, and painful COVID-19 regime. Within about a year and half thousands people lost their lives, and it continues. The impact of COVID-19 can be seen every sphere of society – social, political, economic, and other aspects of social system. More importantly COVID-19 created the death threat every single people in the planet; however, its impact on the people living in the poverty so severe that they have been under the phobia of death as well as phobia of hunger. The impact on food security generates multiple chain effects in families, society, state, and globe. In this paper, based on secondary source of information, in this paper, we present- how COVID-19 has hampered the social and economic system of the globe and how the marginalized people are facing the hunger and death threat.

Index Terms— Hunger, Society, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic, Social, Economic and Political Impact, Bashudhaiva Kutumbakam

I. INTRODUCTION

“Current estimates are that nearly 690 million people are hungry, or 8.9 percent of the world population – up by 10 million people in one year and by nearly 60 million in five years. The number of people affected by severe food insecurity, which is another measure that approximates hunger, shows a similar upward trend. In 2019, close to 750 million –or nearly one in ten people in the world – were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity.....A preliminary assessment suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020 depending on the economic growth scenario” (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO 2020).

It is general notion that, the poor, weak and marginalized people are always the victim of every disastrous events. The

impact of COVID-19 has double impacts (death and hunger) of on those whose livelihood had been dependent on day-to-day labor basis. On one hand they lost their daily wages job and another hand, they are the major victims of pandemic because they do not have resources to maintain the minimum requirements to be safe. As such poverty has been always societal pain and the COVID-19 is playing the triggering role to increase poverty and leading more people towards hunger. As World Vision 2021, notes:

Around the world, 690 million people regularly go to bed hungry--Globally, about 8.9% of the world’s population — 690 million people — go to bed on an empty stomach each night. Since 2014, the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise. If it continues at this rate, it will exceed 840 million by 2030.

The world is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal for hunger.-The hunger Sustainable Development Goal calls for ending hunger in the world by 2030. Unfortunately — with world hunger on the rise — this goal will likely not be met, even without considering the effects of COVID-19. Estimates suggest that an additional 83 million to 132 million more people will be chronically hungry due to the pandemic.

Some regions have a higher proportion of malnourished people than others.--Sub-Saharan Africa is still the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment, estimated at 22% of the population. This is expected to increase to 29.4% by 2030.

a healthy diet still is out of reach for the world’s poor-The COVID-19 pandemic also threatens to reverse decades of progress in the fight against global poverty.

National economic growth does not necessarily mean better nourishment for all (World Vision 2021)

The scenario shows that, the world is not ready to cope with

the impact of COVID 19, and the world need to prepare to tackle with the unprecedented direction leading towards the more divided world between the haves and have not groups.

II. COVID 19 A PAIN OF THE WORLD

In December 2019, a new type of coronavirus causing pneumonia and death was identified in Wuhan, China which is called SARS-CoV-2 because it is genetically like SARS-CoV which caused the 2002 outbreak of severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) (Calder 2020). Till the February 2021 the total cases of COVID-19 transmission reach to 7.8 billion with the death toll of 2.5 million (WORLDOMETERS 2021). The highest death toll (16,713) was on January 28 of this year. The death toll and the cases of COVID-19 transmission each day has been shocking everyone before the COVID

vaccine was in place. Nowadays the COVID Vaccine has been introduced and used in several countries, and the world has been getting into the new-normal. Despite the vaccination campaign globally the threat of second wave that is much stronger has induced intimidation to the society. Nevertheless, very few people are aware that hunger is the biggest cause of death even today. Ten million people die every year (more than 25,000 per day) (bhookh.com 2021) due to hunger and hunger related diseases, much more than of COVID-19 transmission. Over 2.5 million Indians die of hunger every year that counts over 7,000 every day. A child dies from hunger every ten seconds (The World Counts 2021). As per UNICEF report (2018) approximately 3.1 million children die from undernutrition each year. That is nearly half of all deaths in children under the age of five. Thus, the hunger is still the world's biggest health problem.

Region	Population (2020)	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered
World	7,794,798,739	113,671,230	2,521,588	89,232,519
Europe	747,636,026	33,799,202	806,662	23,336,707
North America	368,869,647	33,326,877	752,589	22,956,269
Asia	4,641,054,775	24,828,921	396,271	23,352,785
South America	653,962,331	17,766,122	461,913	16,097,489
Africa	1,340,598,147	3,899,021	103,026	3,455,005
Oceania	42,677,813	51,087	1,088	34,268

Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/> visited on February 26, 2021.

Source: Open- WORLDOMETER - www.worldometers.info

As shown in table 1, the total cases of COVID-19 on February 26, was 113,671,230; whereas in April 23, the total number reached to 146,193,347, table 1.a. it clearly indicates

that, the pandemic is spreading in alarming rate, with death toll rise. The phobia of death and hunger are more severe to the people in poverty, in vulnerable climatic zone and developing world where health care system is not well established.

TABLE 1.A- COVID-19 – WORLD - ON APRIL 23, 2021, 23:23 GMT

<i>Total Recovered</i>	<i>Active Cases</i>	<i>Serious, Critical</i>	<i>Tot Cases/ 1M pop</i>	<i>Deaths/ 1M pop</i>
124,301,635	18,793,534	109,910	18,755	397.5
<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>		<i>New Deaths</i>
146,193,347	868,708	3,098,178		13,491

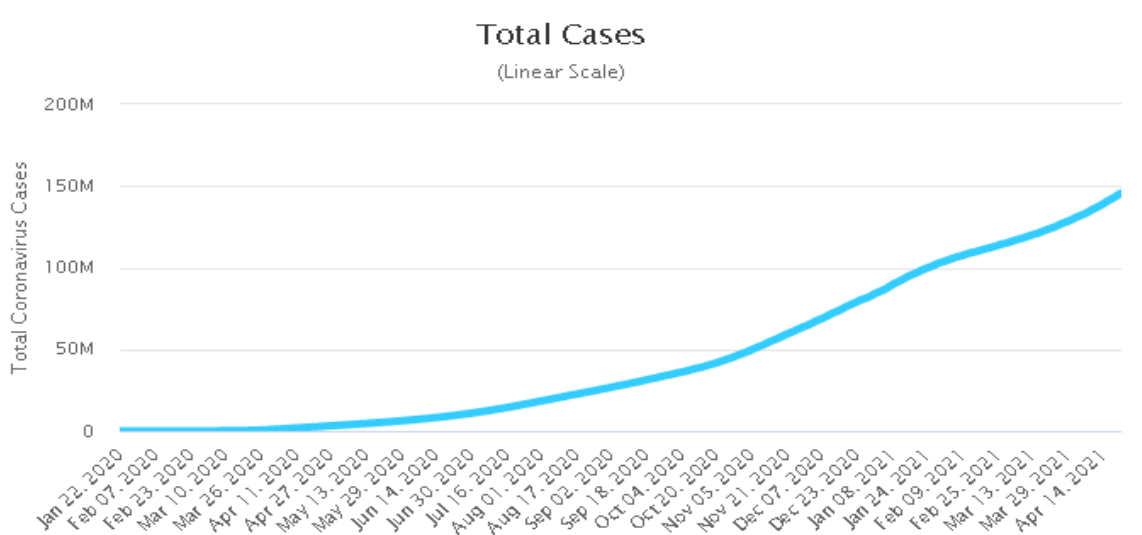
Source: Open- WORLDOMETER - www.worldometers.info -The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 219 countries and territories

These two figures indicate that, the COVID-19 is spreading in exponential rate, even though the world is executing massive vaccination. When we observe the incremental scenario of virus- it seems that the world is not being able to cope with the spreading speed of the virus. For example, most of the countries with the weak health infrastructures and high population are

facing alarming spread (like India, Brazil, etc.) and even countries with strong system (USA, Western Europe) are not being able to cope with the situation. As per the FAO report (2020) almost 690 million people in the world (8.9 percent of the world population) are estimated to have been undernourished in 2019, even before the COVID-19. Considering the total affected by moderate or severe levels of

food insecurity, an estimated two billion people in the world did not have regular access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food in 2019. The largest number of undernourished people (more than 381 million) live in Asia, mostly in southern Asian countries.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL CASES (WORLDWIDE)



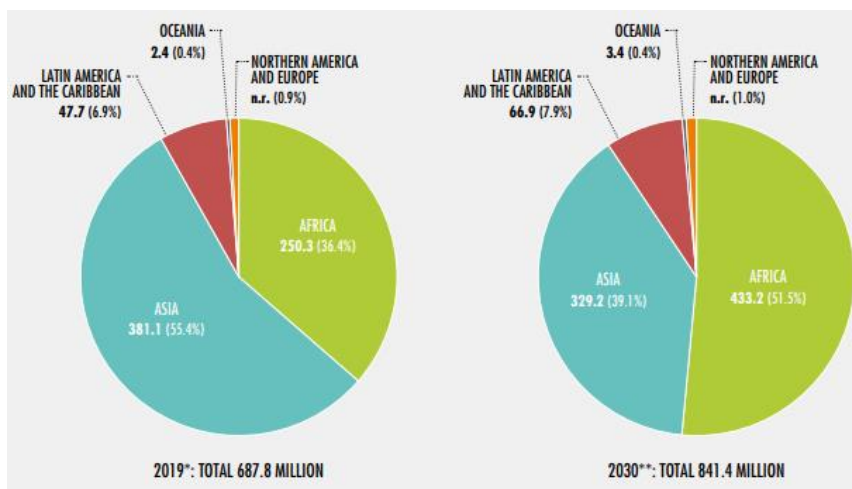
Source: Open- WORLDOMETER - www.worldometers.info -"

The number of people affected by hunger in the world continues to increase slowly as the trend started in 2014 and extends to 2019. The reasons for the observed increase of the last few years are multiple. Much of the recent increase in food insecurity can be attributed to the greater number of conflicts, weather extremes, locust invasion and economic shocks as shown in figure 3. Even in some peaceful settings, food security has deteriorated because of economic slowdowns threatening access to food for the poor.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is a health and human crisis threatening the food security and nutrition of millions of people

around the world. Hundreds of millions of people were already suffering from hunger and malnutrition before the virus hit and, unless immediate action is taken, we could see a global food emergency. In the longer term, the combined effects of COVID-19 itself, as well as corresponding mitigation measures and the emerging global recession could, without large-scale coordinated action, disrupt the functioning of food systems. Such disruption can result in consequences for health and nutrition of a severity and scale unseen for more than half a century” (United Nations 2020:2).

FIGURE 2. REGIONAL DIVIDE OF FOOD INSECURITY



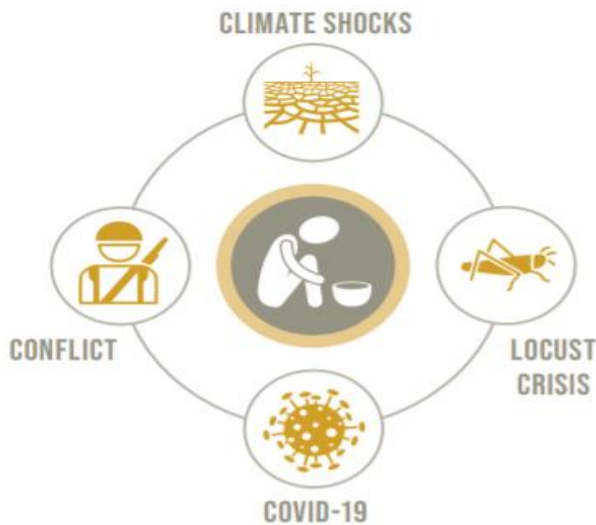
Source: Open- WORLDOMETER - www.worldometers.info

“If Recent Trends Persist, The Distribution of Hunger in The World Will Change Substantially, Making Africa The Region with The Highest Number of Undernourished In 2030-NOTES:

Number of undernourished people in millions. * Projected values. ** Projections to 2030 do not consider the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. n.r. = not reported, as the

prevalence is less than 2.5 percent”. Graph Open- Source: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO 2020:16.

FIGURE-3: THE PANDEMIC IS AN ADDITIONAL THREAT TO FOOD SYSTEM



Source: Open- (United Nations 2020)
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

As shown in the figure, wars, conflicts, locust, climate change impacts had been major threats on food security system, the Covid -19 appears more severe threats among others. *COVID-19 poses a great threat to nations suffering from pervasive poverty and poor healthcare infrastructure; poses a great threat to nations lacking robust social safety nets; may prove especially deadly for people suffering from chronic or acute hunger or malnourishment; may cause breaks in food supply chains, food shortages and food price spikes; may cause the global economy to slow or fall into recession, exacerbating extreme poverty and hunger” (WFP-Sova, Chase 2020).*

The Global Report on Food Crisis, 2020 (Global Network against Food Crisis and FSIN 2020), which measures acute situation of food insecurity revealed that more than 135 million people across 50 countries experienced acute hunger in 2019 requiring urgent food, nutrition, and livelihoods assistance. Among them more than half of the affected population were in Africa. Globally, 6.9 percent (47 million) children under five years of age are wasted in 2019 (FAO 2020), two-thirds of whom live in Asia. Likewise, the prevalence of child stunting is 21.3 percent, or 144 million children. The global prevalence of overweight among children under 5 years of age has not improved, going from 5.3 percent in 2012 to 5.6 percent, or 38.3 million children, in 2019 (table 2). WFP estimates (2016) that 66 million schoolchildren go to school hungry (Drake 2016). There are, even today, about 40 per cent of the world’s population without access to water and sanitation (United Nations 2020).

After an estimated contraction of –3.3 percent in 2020, the global economy is projected to grow at 6 percent in 2021, moderating to 4.4 percent in 2022. The contraction for 2020 is 1.1 percentage points smaller than projected

in the October 2020 WEO, reflecting the higher-than-expected growth outturns in the second half of 2020 for most regions after lockdowns were eased. The projections for 2021 and 2022 are 0.8 percentage point and 0.2 percentage point stronger than in the previous forecast, reflecting additional fiscal support in a few large economies and the anticipated vaccine-powered recovery in the second half of the year. This pace reflects continued adaptation of all sectors of the economy to the challenging health situation (IMF 2021:9-10).

III. THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pandemic is really three crises in one (Alzajjira 2021). First, the economic crisis has led to job loss, income loss and a reduction in the global gross domestic product (GDP). Second, a food system crisis has disrupted food supplies and limited the availability of food in markets, especially nutritious foods, while the price of food has also increased due to the shrink in supply. Third, the health crisis and the related lockdowns have led to reduced access to health and nutrition services. So, this triple threat has certainly pushed up the number of undernourished people. It is projected that for any one percentage point slowdown of the global economy, the number of poor-and with it the number of food insecure people-would increase by 2 percent, that is, by 14 million people (UN (2020)). The IMF has projected the global economy to contract sharply by –4.4 percent in 2020, from 2.8 percent in 2019. The cumulative output loss to the global economy across 2020 and 2021 from the pandemic crisis would be over \$ 12 trillion (IMF 2020). That would push around hundred millions of people immediately to food insecure zone. A preliminary assessment suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic could add up to 130 million people globally to the risk of acute hunger making the total number 265 million in 2020 (United Nations 2021). However, the global economy is suffering from prolonged ‘slow down’. So, it is obvious that more people than estimated might have been already pushed to hunger. The WB estimates close to 90 million people expected to fall into extreme deprivation for 2020 (MF 2021). It forecasts that the largest share of the “new poor” will be in South Asia, with Sub-Saharan Africa close behind (World Bank 2021). The IMF has forecasted a recovery of global growth with 5.2 percent in 2021 ((IMF 2020). However, these recoveries are not only uneven but also unachievable since the revival of the economy in such a speed is impossible until and unless there are very focused fast-track interventions. The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still expanding daily with second wave. Between present disruptions and future threats to the food supply chain, the pandemic has generated extreme vulnerability, among others, in the agriculture sector which is more sensitive to social life. According to UN estimates, more than half a billion children worldwide have lost their access to education as a result of coronavirus lockdowns. According to UN estimates, more than half a billion children worldwide have lost their access to education as a result of

coronavirus lockdowns

Many won't return to the classrooms after the pandemic, with girls more likely than boys to drop out (United Nations 2020). The WFP estimates that more than 320 million primary schoolchildren in 120 countries are now missing out on school meals (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO2020; FAO 2020). A recent estimates (aljazeera.com 2021), revealed that

based on their precrisis social, economic, and political situations as shown in figure 4. Even though fewer women than men, in total, test positive, women may face other health challenges due to the virus: (i) women's large engagement in care work exposes them to infection; and (ii) lockdowns hamper access to both health care and food, creating challenges for pregnant women and mothers with young children who have



Source: ADB Brief no 157

by 2022 this nutrition crisis could result in an additional 9.3 million wasted and 2.6 million stunted children. The pandemic will affect maternal nutrition as well, with 2.1 million additional maternal anemia cases, and 2.1 million children born to mothers with a low body-mass index, putting these children at a disadvantage from the very start. Figure 4. Gender Equality and Covid -19.

The above text box by ADB is self-explanatory. In addition, domestic violence and abuse, job loss, increase in unpaid care work, increased health risks are in increase due to Covid 19 (Asian Development Bank 2020).

There are several dimensions of social impact of COVID-19 pandemic including widening digital divide and reversing equality. The crisis threatens to reverse hard-won gains in gender equality, further exposing women's vulnerabilities

special needs for nutritious foods particularly rich in micronutrients (Asian Development Bank 2020).

The supply chain disruptions halting the food supply further compound the severity of the pandemic. The latest dire assessment reflects the full or partial lockdown measures affecting almost 2.7 billion workers – four in five of the world's workforce (United Nations 2020). Losing job is further losing affordability for the food stuffs. The cost of a healthy diet exceeds the international poverty line, making it unaffordable for the poor: around 57 percent or more of the population cannot afford a healthy diet throughout sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia (FAO 2020). The reduced access to nutritious food will have negative impacts on the health and cognitive development of COVID-era children for years to come.

FIGURE 5. WORKING-HOUR LOSSES, WORLD AND BY INCOME GROUP, 2020 TOTAL AND QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (%)

	2020	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4
World	8.8	5.2	18.2	7.2	4.6
Low-income countries	6.7	2.5	13.4	7.6	3.3
Lower-middle-income countries	11.3	2.5	29.0	9.3	4.5
Upper-middle-income countries	7.3	8.4	11.5	5.6	3.9
High-income countries	8.3	3.0	15.8	7.3	7.0

Source: Open- (ILO Monitor: COVID-19-2021:6)

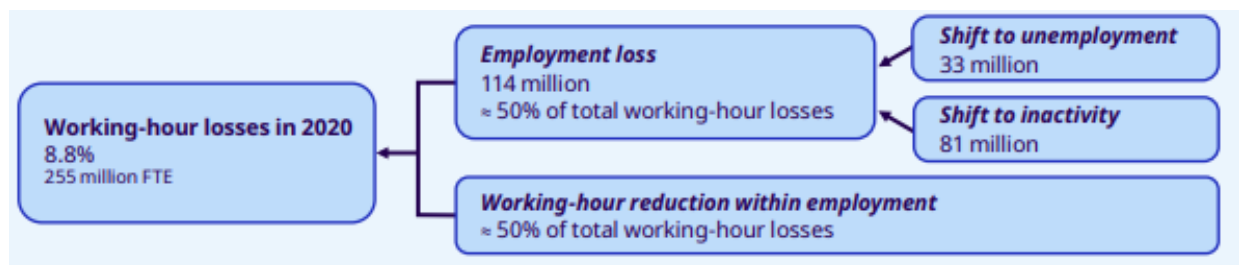
ILO labor market data on the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 reveals an 8.8 per cent unprecedented drop-

in working hour, equivalent to a loss of 255 million full-time jobs (assuming a 48-hour working week) due to massive

disruption in the world of work (ILO 2021). Half of the total loss of working hours in 2020 occurred during the second quarter of the year (18.2 percent, equivalent to 525 million full-time jobs). There is the devastating effect on workers in the informal economy and on hundreds of millions of enterprises worldwide. Among the most vulnerable in the labor market, almost 1.6 billion informal economy workers (out of a worldwide total of two billion and a global workforce of 3.3 billion) have suffered massive damage to their capacity to earn a living (ILO 2021). The first month of the crisis is estimated to have resulted in a drop of 60 per cent in the income of informal workers globally. This translates into a drop of 81 per cent in Africa and the Americas, 21.6 per cent in Asia and the Pacific, and 70 per cent in Europe and Central Asia. Workers in four sectors that have experienced the most “drastic” effects of the disease and falling production are food and accommodation (144 million workers), retail and wholesale (482 million), business services and administration (152 million) and

manufacturing 463 million) (Lal 2020). Due to the job losses global labor income is estimated to have declined by 8.3 per cent in 2020 relative to 2019 with a large disparity within the country income groups and inequality between workers (ILO 2020). In monetary terms, global labor income fell by an estimated US\$3.7 trillion (using 2019 market exchange rates) in 2020 relative to 2019. This corresponds to 4.4 per cent of global GDP in 2019. Moreover, Automation, in tandem with the COVID-19 recession, is creating a “double-disruption” scenario for workers. The workforce is automating faster than expected, displacing 85 million jobs in the next five years (Zahidi 2020). Massive job loss will also be hard-hit to the labor-sending countries since there would be heavy fall in remittances. Those labor income losses could push households into poverty and cause them to reduce their food consumption once savings have been used up (Bk and Bhandari 2021).

FIGURE 6. ESTIMATES OF THE WORKING HOURS AND EMPLOYMENT LOST IN 2020

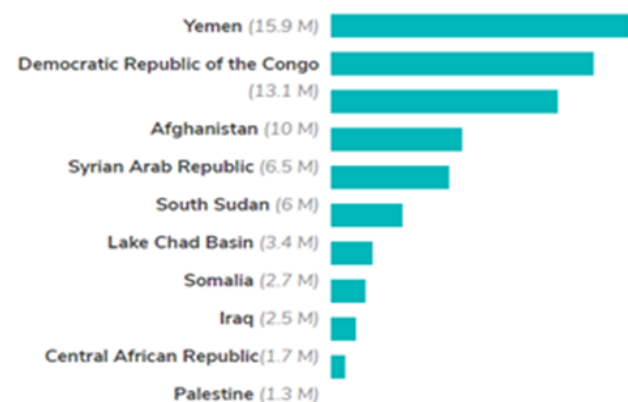


Source: Open- (ILO Monitor: COVID-19-2021:7)-“ Employment loss and changes to unemployment and inactivity are relative to 2019. The shift to inactivity represents the decline in the labor force. Employment losses are transformed into working hours using the actual number of hours worked, while the FTE estimates use 48-hour working weeks” (ILO2021:7).

The COVID-19 pandemic is hitting hard an already weak and fragile world economy. However, it does not exempt the developed ones as well since cases are more prevalence in those countries. Thus, the pandemic has firsthand impact on availability and access of food stuff around the globe. The consequence of this crisis is particularly severe on vulnerable groups, especially to women and young adults, and those working in the informal sector who have no access to social protection and unemployment insurance (United Nations 2020). It has hard-hit even harder to the hardcore poor like daily wage-earner, slum-dwellers, disables, refugees and migrant workers. “Acute food insecurity is any manifestation of food insecurity at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives, livelihoods or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. These acute states are highly susceptible to change and can manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity and malnutrition (IPC, 2019). Transitory food insecurity is a short-term or temporary inability to meet food consumption requirements related to sporadic crises, indicating a capacity to recover” (WFP 2021:11) <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000114546/download/>.

The expansion of the “gig economy” (United Nations 2020)

Figure-7: Number of people facing acute hunger due to conflict or insecurity



Source: Global Report on Food Crises, 2019

will further increase youth vulnerabilities in employment. Nevertheless, there are some protracted conflicts also going on simultaneously such as Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Libya, Iran, Israel, and the Persian Gulf (Crisisgroup 2020). Millions are on the brink of starvation due to the conflict. Some 74 million people, more than two thirds of those facing

acute hunger are affected by conflict or insecurity (FSIN 2019). WFP has recently announced a public appeal for donation to feed as many as 14 million Yemenis (World Food Program 2021). One and half billion people still live-in fragile states who are about twice as likely to be malnourished or to die during infancy compared to people in other developing countries (Bk 2018). The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly deepened the severity of hunger in those countries. There is also a chance of evolving conflicts due to this tremor as the crisis is a source of conflicts.

IV. LOSING INNATE IMMUNE SYSTEM

The immune system protects against viruses and diseases and produces antibodies to kill pathogens (e.g., viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoan, and worms). It is naturally built with the food intake to deal with the external attack in human body, which is called innate immunity. The body contains the organs of the immune system, which protects against diseases. The key player in the immune system is the white blood cells, which can travel throughout the body through the blood vessels (Chawdhary *et. el* 2020). The immune system is the best defense because it supports the body's natural ability to defend against pathogens and resists infections.

The fact is that the human races or genes have evolved in course of human civilization and grown up with the herbivorous food around their shelter that made immense immune to disease (Academic Edu 2021). However, the climate change, use of pesticides, food insecurity, consumption of genetically modified products and processed (junked) foods contribute to lose the innate competence of immunity system. Moreover, the neoliberal economic policy through globalization damaged the local food system (Academic Edu 2021) and made ubiquitous food that loses immunity. As a result, whatever the disease, the disease can be worldwide.

Recent experience has shown that, in countries with less liberal economy, such competence is not lost immensely. Rob Wallace tracks the ways influenza and other pathogens emerge from an agriculture controlled by multinational corporations in his book "*Big Farms Make Big Flu*" (NYUPRESS 2021). Highly capitalized agriculture may be farming pathogens as much as chickens or corn. He writes, "it pays to produce a pathogen that could kill a billion people." Likewise, Laura Spinney, a science journalist, describes how the big companies pushed out the small farmers closer to viruses that infect them lurk (the Gardian 2021). Starting in the 1990s, as part of its economic transformation, China ramped up its food production systems to industrial scale. With this smallholding farmers were undercut and pushed out of the livestock industry. Searching for a new way to earn a living, some of them turned to farming "wild" species- closer to uncultivable zones-the edge of the forest where bats and the viruses infect them lurk. hence, so did the risk of a spillover. It has contributed to the increasing number of zoonoses. In this way neoliberalism promoted the

big firms which not only make big flues but also damage the human immune system. In fact, this is a kind of "neoliberal atrocity"(Bk 2018).

SARS-CoV-2 is new to the human immune system. So, there was no underlying existing natural immunity against it. It is noticed that countries with high levels of overweight people, such as the UK and the US, have the highest death rates from COVID-19 (Bosleley 2021; Bhandari 2020). Thus, overweight and obesity can be associated with a loss of immune competence-the obese have increased susceptibility to a range of bacterial, viral and fungal infections. Ageing can be associated with a loss of immune competence, a process called immunosenescence [(Immunosenescence refers to the gradual deterioration of our immune system as we get older. It involves our capacity to respond to infections and maintain our long-term immune memory that was acquired (usually in our early life) either by infection or vaccination (Lewis and Trempe 2017)].- reduced capacity to respond to new antigens (Calder 2020). People who are elderly and have many comorbidities are the most vulnerable to COVID-19. According to the World Health Organization, healthy foods and hydration are vital. Individuals consuming a well-balanced diet are healthier with a strong immune system and have a reduced risk of chronic illness, infectious diseases (Chawdhary *et al* 2020).

V. WAY OUT TO RESPOND COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) PANDEMIC

The impact on food security generates multiple chain effects in families, society, state and globe as a whole. To some extent it becomes viciously generational. Economic turbulence continued to erode livelihoods and destroy lives. Low- and middle-income countries are exposed to external vulnerabilities. So, the impact goes long-lasting cyclically creating brake on economic recovery even after the viral pandemic is over. The economic fallout from the pandemic could push even more people into poverty unless urgent action is taken. Economic shocks are the primary driver of acute hunger. Therefore, the pandemic is much more than a health crisis. It is a human crisis (United Nations 2020). Nevertheless, the state and the society have to respond these issues, protecting people from COVID-19 and hunger, in an appropriate way. There should be immediate humanitarian response since the people facing acute hunger are in the most dangerous zone. So, the World Bank calls on world leaders to agree an 'Economic Rescue Package for all' to keep poor countries and poor communities afloat (World Bank 2020). Several nation-states have announced relief packages for such vulnerable groups. Some effective measures practiced in different places are community food banks, food aid, cash or kind transfer, food vouchers, ration-cards, etc. To revive the distribution chain and price volatility the state has to be proactive to strengthen its

THE CYCLE OF HUNGER

There are many ways hunger can trap people in a cycle of poverty and need. Here is how it can burden someone for a lifetime, and pass it on to the next generation.



Source: Open- Mercy Corps, 2018 as in <https://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/>

regulatory and operational mechanism.

To reduce the impact of shocks of pandemic in the long term, we must build more resilient and inclusive food systems. Inclusive food systems can help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition (Fan and Swinnen 2020). A value chain framework is key to designing inclusive food systems—from improving farmers’ access to resources and information to creating off-farm jobs and enterprises in the midstream of the chain. It is also essential to recognize the contributions that excluded people already make to food systems with their time and labor through policies that empower them to secure more equal benefits.

In the meantime, approaches to ensure that individuals’ immune systems are well supported should be taken. Nutrition should be at the forefront of these approaches (Calder 2020). Enhancing food security for nutrition to boost the immune system should be explored and recommended. Building local food regime that is peasants command over food system that *La Via Campesina*—the peasants’ movement has been campaigning since 1996, (Bk 2018) would be an appropriate measure to enhance the innate immunity.

Revival of household income will usher the global economy back to life. To keep the employment intact, the ILO assessment report calls for urgent, large-scale, and coordinated measures across three pillars: protecting workers in the workplace, stimulating the economy and employment, and supporting jobs and incomes as the COVID-19 outbreaks continues (Kathmandu post 2020; Bhandari 2020). These measures include extending social protection, supporting employment retention and financial and tax relief to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Protective measures are essential to address the economic

shock of the pandemic that stimulates vulnerable people to grow up for the economic revival. Countries must commit to do their utmost to protect the labor force, including workers who depend entirely on daily earnings and those in the informal sector and support their employment and income. The nation-states are recommended for narrowing down gender gaps through skills development and job creation through gender-responsive and inclusive labor market policies.

Direct support to enterprises, particularly to SMEs and mobilize large injections of concessional finance even from the private lending agencies may support to ensure livelihood security. In new- normal context, there should be change in diversification and reskilling in livelihood strategy which is compatible with the gig economy. These need to be complemented with coordinated monetary and fiscal policy measures.

Hunger defines a short-term physical discomfort as a result of chronic food shortage, or in severe cases, a life-threatening lack of food. (National Research Council, 2006); World hunger refers to hunger aggregated to the global level. Related terms include food insecurity and malnutrition. Food insecurity refers to limited or unreliable access to foods that are safe and nutritionally adequate (National Research Council, 2006). Malnutrition is a condition resulting from insufficient intake of biologically necessary nutrients (*National Research Council, 2006*)” as in (<https://www.worldhunger.org/world-hunger-and-poverty-facts-and-statistics/> 2021).

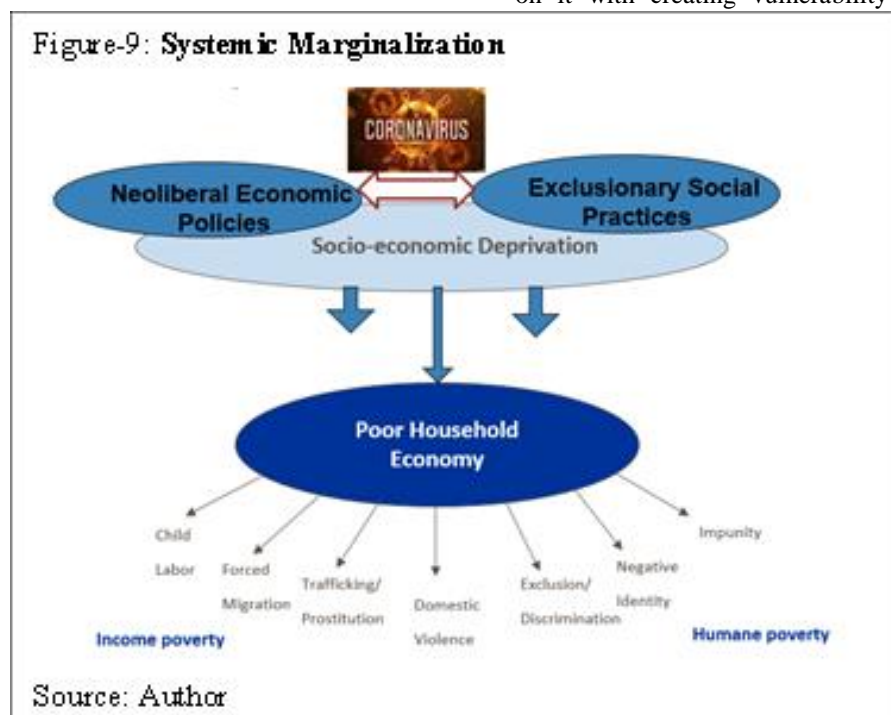
Reducing food loss and wastage can be instrumental to feed the people facing acute hunger. Food wastage occurs in different stages of ‘farm to flush’ process. The most often quoted estimate is that ‘as much as half of all food grown’ is lost or wasted before and after it reaches to consumer

(Academic Edu 2020). It would preserve enough food to feed two billion people- more than twice the number of undernourished people across the globe. It would also increase household income, improve food availability, reduce food imports, and improve the balance of trade. However, it needs to keep the distribution chain intact, otherwise, the lockdown may further increase the food wastage as the farmers being not able to bring production to the market.

Safety-nets are important safe-guards for food security. Civic actions are the crucial safety-nets that build capacity to break through the glass ceiling and bring the emancipatory shift (Academic Edu 2020). Likewise, an energetic media may be the best early warning system for famine that country can devise as watchdog.

urgent action to cushion the pandemic's health and economic consequences, protect vulnerable populations, and set the stage for a lasting recovery. ...The crisis highlights the need for urgent action to cushion the pandemic's health and economic consequences, protect vulnerable populations, and set the stage for a lasting recovery." (World Bank 2021).

Prime concern is to reset the economy with a new dimension. The global production, trade, governance, and power structure under corporate regime in neoliberal economy have not been able to eliminate hunger, rather it upheld and reinforced inequalities (Academic Edu 2020). The neoliberal economic policy embedded with exclusionary social practices has been the systemic marginalization which damaged the local food systems, among others. The COVID-19 pandemic put pressure on it with creating vulnerability to informal workers and



"The current COVID-19 pandemic has put the spotlight on deep rooted systemic inequalities. As COVID-19 continues to have wide-reaching impacts across the globe, it is important to understand the differentiated and intensified impact the pandemic has on the most marginalized, including persons with disabilities, women, unemployed youth, sexual and gender minorities, the elderly, Indigenous Peoples, and ethnic and racial minorities.....many persons with disabilities have underlying health conditions that may make them particularly vulnerable to severe symptoms of COVID-19, if they contract it. Women and children are affected by increasing rates of domestic violence as a result of lockdowns. Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people struggle more than ever to access health services and are overrepresented among those without access to social security (World Bank 2021).

"Covid-19 pandemic has spread with alarming speed, infecting millions, and bringing economic activity to a near-standstill as countries imposed tight restrictions on movement to halt the spread of the virus. The crisis highlights the need for

widened digital- divide among them. In this regards building protective measures would an effective policy instrument to restore such local systems.

The Committee on World Food Security, an intergovernmental body to serve as a forum in the United Nations System, has insisted country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger. The Zero Hunger Challenge, an international commitment envisioned for "world without hunger", has reemphasized ending hunger by 2025 sustainably (United Nations 2020). Likewise, the United Nation's SDGs call on all countries to end hunger in all its forms by 2030. But the present pandemic made it harder to achieve these goals in accredited time. It needs to have focused interventions in state level (United Nations 2020).

VI. CONCLUSION

Countries need a rebalancing of agricultural policies and

incentives towards more nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive investment and policy actions all along the food supply chain to reduce food losses and enhance efficiencies at all stages. The research estimates an additional \$1.2bn in nutrition funding is needed per year for the next three years, over and above the Investment Framework for Nutrition 2017 estimate of \$7bn needed annually to achieve the World Health Assembly 2025 nutrition targets (Alzajirra 2021). However, the continuation of neoliberal economic policy is not supportive to achieve this target. It needs protective intervention from the state focusing on building local food regime. It strengthens the community resilience on food security and also reduces carbon emission. However, land reform, assuring cultivable land to farmers, and agrarian reform, focusing on value chain, are must in such interventions. The community financing, i.e., community-owned micro banking (Bk 2008), would be the essential part for accessing capital to the farmers.

The economic policy based on protectionism has been termed as ‘Protective Liberalism’ or politically as ‘Liberal Socialism’ (Bk 2008). Inclusive society from bottom to top is the basic part of protective liberalism whereas building inclusive and open governance from the bottom is the hardcore strategy of the liberal socialism. It would bring the emancipatory shift in the lives of the marginalized ones, i.e., transformative democracy.

Food is not only the commodity rather it is a human capability and righteous movement, i.e., right to food and food sovereignty. So, it has been essential to restructure the world economy that favors restoring the local food regime which regenerates the human immune system, protects the environment, respects cultural diversity and rewards human pluralism. The ‘Coronomics’ (Spotlight 2021) can be the foundation for greening the Human Economics which would be the ground rule to build the local food regime- homegrown approach to eradicate hunger (Bhandari and Shvindina 2021).

Despite of invention of anti-COVID-19, vaccine, as we all know that the world is still under the threat of COVID 19, second web; it is transmitting in alarming rate, as well as the death rate particularly in developing world is beyond control in some countries. Additionally, the world economy is again severely affected. The marginalized people have been facing double challenges of death and hunger. The world needs to be united to face the challenges and need to think and act in a way that, no body left behind (UN slogan), everyone’s live matters. This this the time to generate the philosophy of survival (Bhandari 2019, 2020), live and let us help other to live and Bashudhaiva Kutumbakam (the entire world is our home and all living beings are our relatives (Bhandari 2019)- in the case of human the threat of death and hunger- is problem of humanity so, together we have to face challenges and have to overcome from it, no matter of where they are living and whatever their condition is – rich poor, with disabilities, women, unemployed youth, sexual and gender minorities, the elderly, Indigenous Peoples, and ethnic and racial minorities.

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