

Global Food Security Index 2020

Virtual Media Briefing : South Africa

March 4, 2021

Welcome to the GFSI
2020 Media Briefing

GFSI knowledge check

The new GFSI methodology incorporates which category into the main index?

- **Affordability**
- **Availability**
- **Natural Resources and Resilience**
- **Quality and Safety**

Introduction to the GFSI 2020

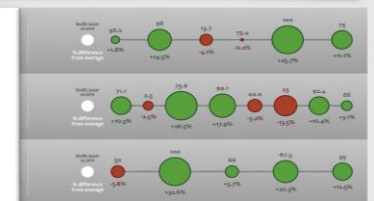
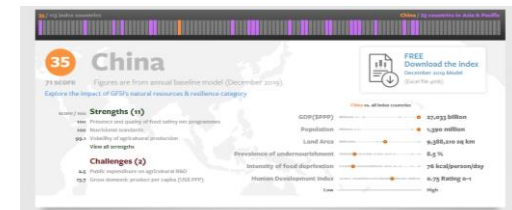
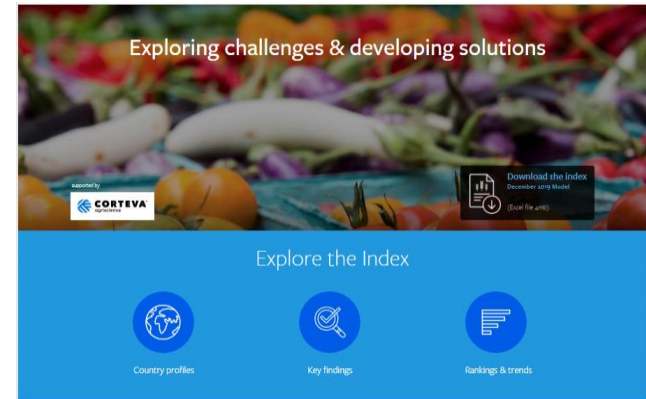
Background and context of the GFSI

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI), sponsored by Corteva Agriscience, assesses food security in the world.

In 2012, The EIU—in partnership with Corteva Agriscience—launched the inaugural GFSI, an annual benchmarking tool which assesses risk and identifies drivers of food security in 105 countries. The GFSI highlights Corteva's commitment to the world's farmers.

Since 2012, the index has grown to include 113 countries. The results of the GFSI are shared via an annual report, benchmarking model, data visualization tool, infographics and videos, all of which live on a dedicated digital hub (<https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>).

The GFSI has been a valuable tool for engaging with the media and policymakers on discussion on agriculture and food security. In 2013, the GFSI was recognized with the PRSA Silver Anvil's highest award.



Overview of the GFSI 2020

The **Global Food Security Index (GFSI)** is a benchmarking tool that assesses 113 countries across four key pillars. It is designed to evaluate the dynamics of food systems and the ability of countries to feed their populations. The GFSI is now in its ninth year.



Affordability



Availability



Quality & Safety



**Natural Resources
& Resilience**

The GFSI has helped shape the dialogue on food security by:

- Identifying factors that drive food security
- Determining country strengths, weaknesses and best practices
- Highlighting areas of action, policy needs and other food system gaps



Incorporating Natural Resources & Resilience



Affordability



Availability



Quality & Safety

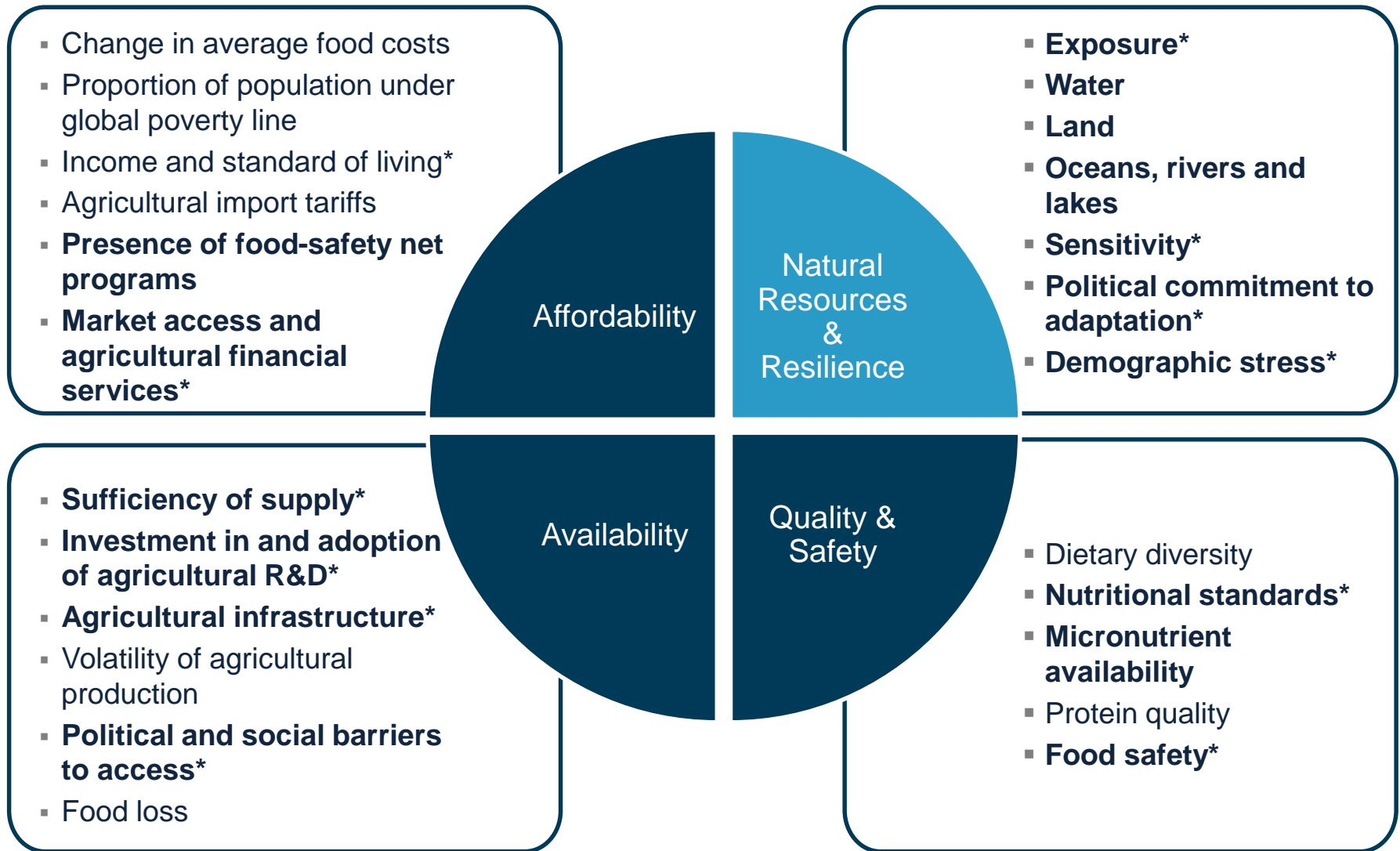


**Natural Resources
& Resilience**

Mainstreaming Category 4 – comprising exposure to climate shocks, water and land quality issues, population pressures and government commitments to addressing the impacts of climate change on agriculture – has strengthened the GFSI.

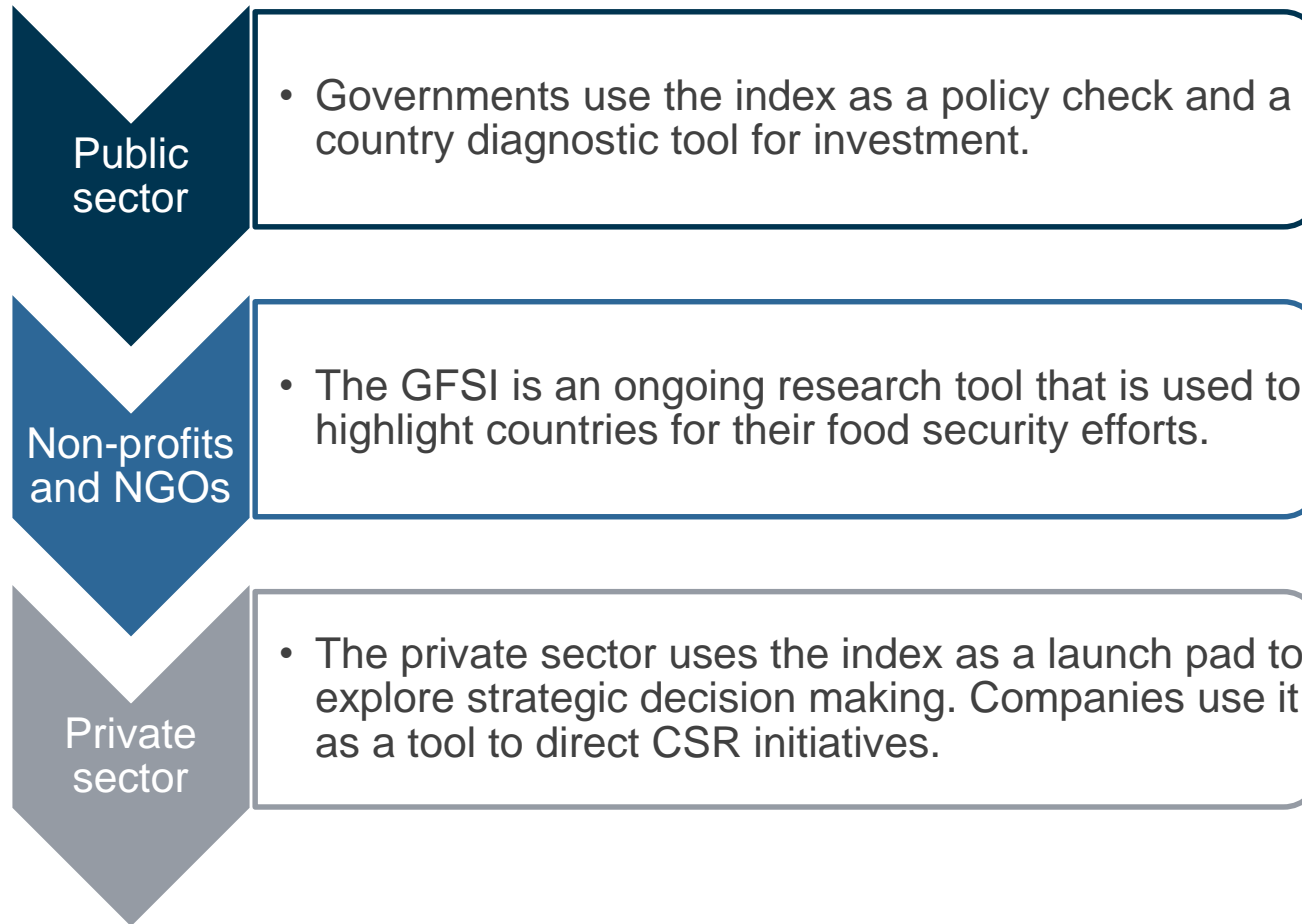
- The new methodology brings the natural resource perspective as a critical and central part of the conversation on food security. The inclusion of the fourth category into the main index addresses the perception that these are distinct issues and **connects the dialogue on climate change with one on food security** going forward.
- The category showcases how different countries are **adapting and building resilience to climate and resource-related risks**. Policymakers need to acknowledge the impact of climate-related factors on food systems and food security and take immediate action.
- Incorporating the category also helps **identify potential opportunities for innovation, R&D and capacity building**. Governments must implement policies to enhance the sustainable management of food systems to achieve food security now as early action and climate-smart practices need to be established to educate, train and build capacity in this sector.

The 2020 GFSI indicator framework



* Starred indicators have changed in 2020. Composite indicators are **bolded**.

A wide range of stakeholders use the GFSI

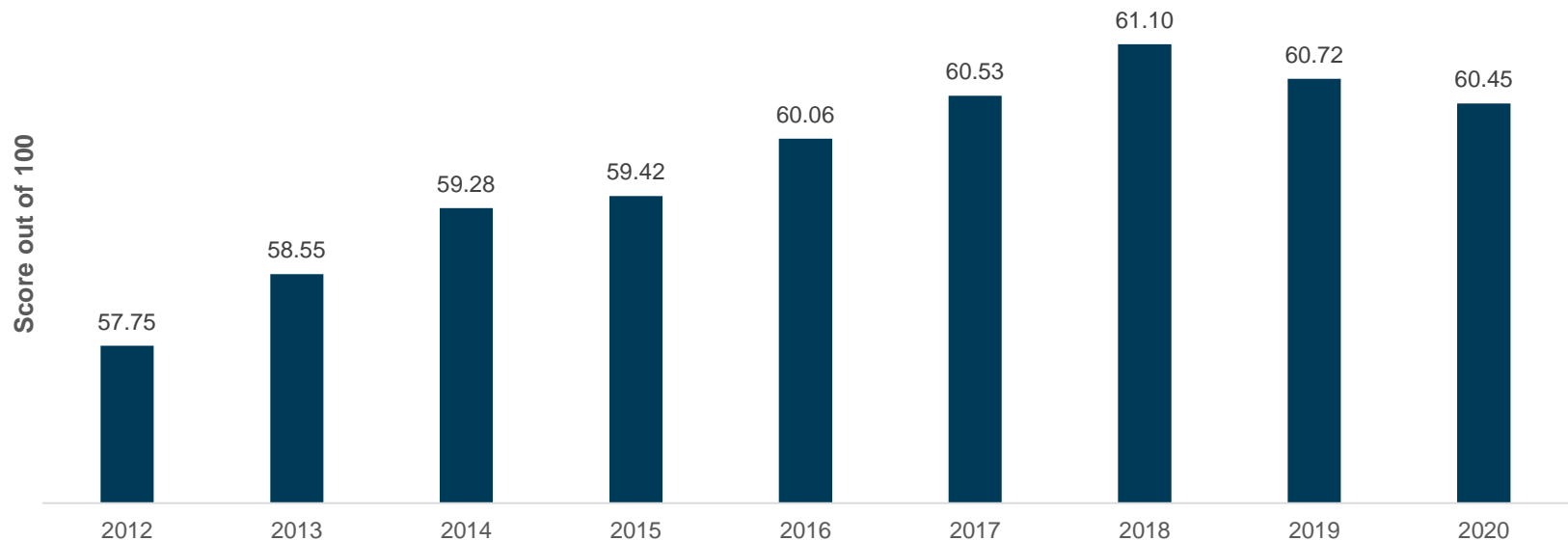


Key Highlights from GFSI 2020

Overall food security has declined in 2020

Overall Food Security score observed an upward trend from 2012 to 2018. However, there has been decline since 2018. It underscores the imminent threat from climate change and records the food security shock caused by the pandemic.

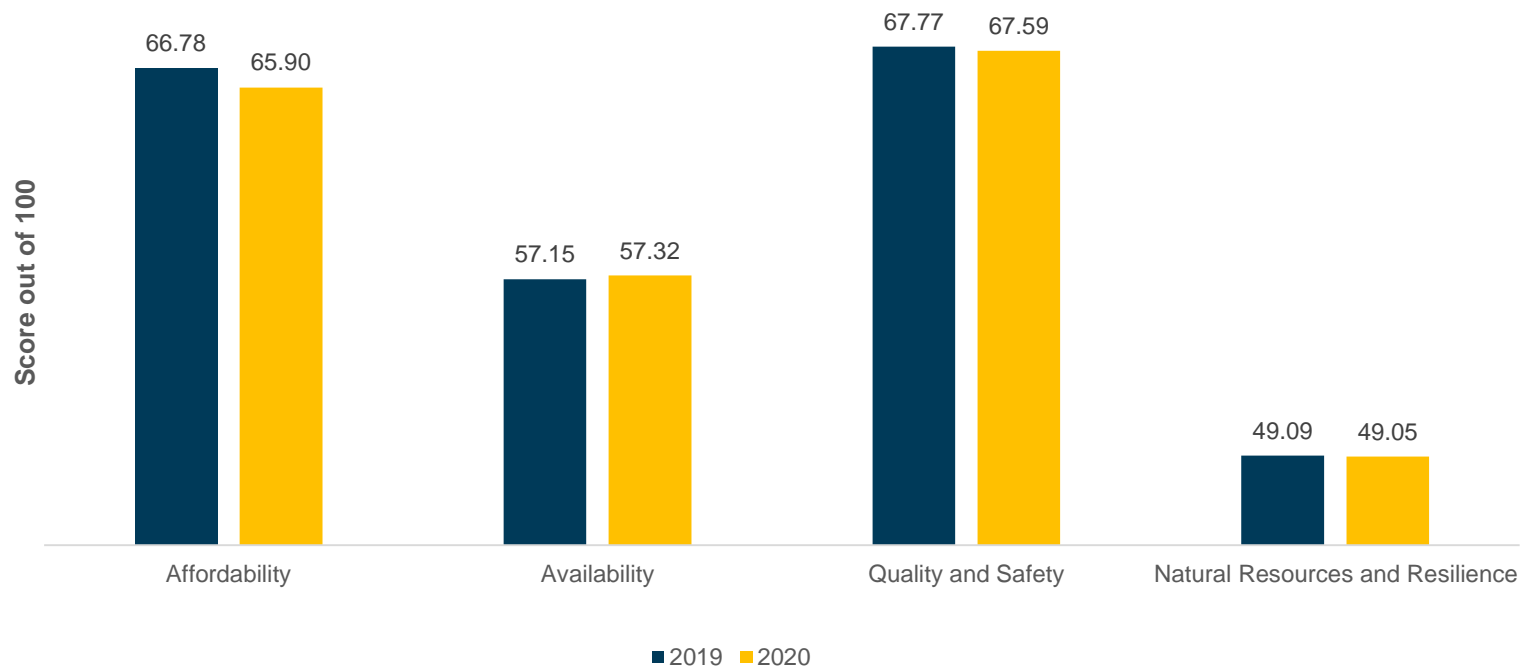
Overall food security score (average of 113 countries) over the years



Scores in three categories have deteriorated slightly

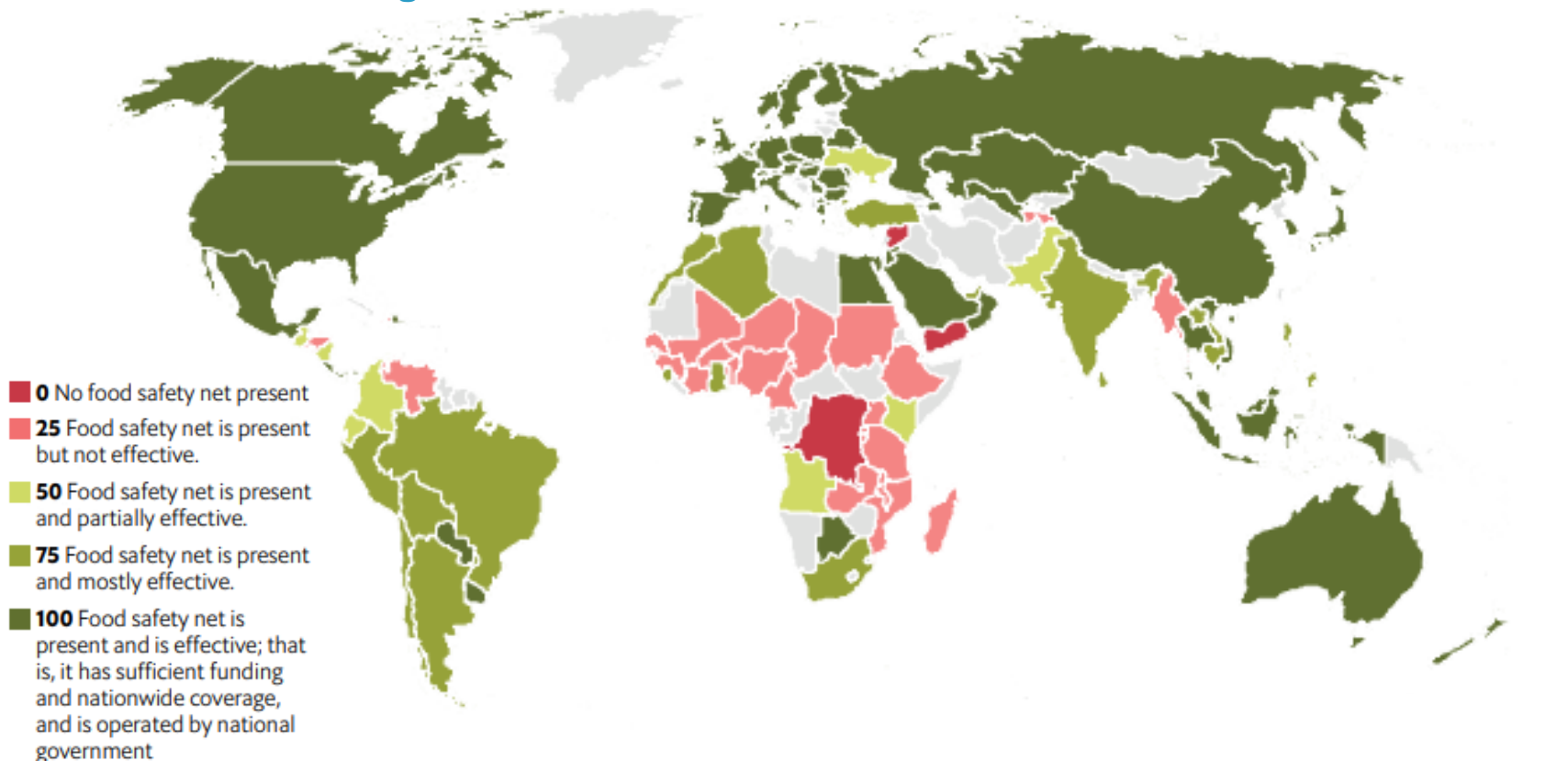
Overall scores have deteriorated in the three categories of Affordability, Quality & Safety and Natural Resources & Resilience. There is a slight improvement in the Availability category.

Category scores 2019 vs. 2020



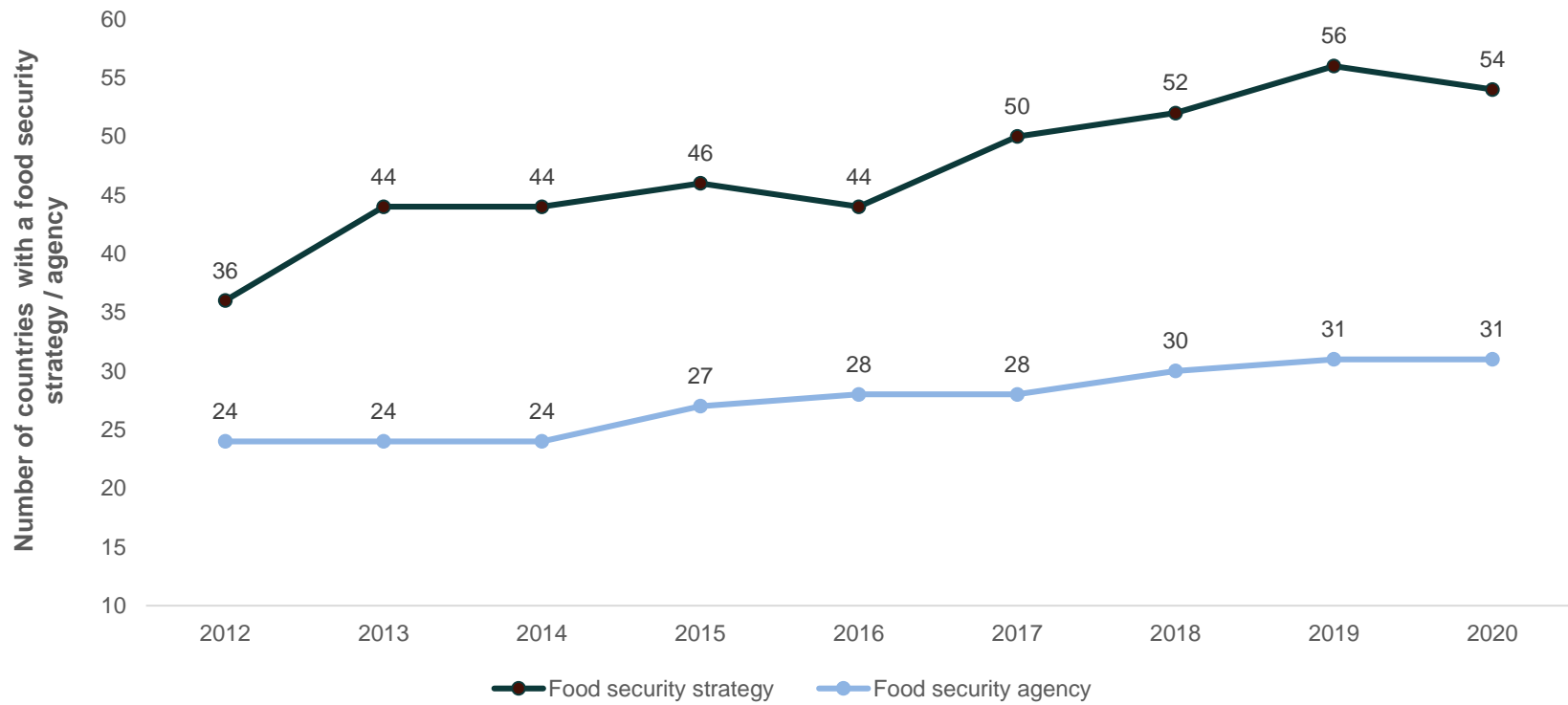
Food safety nets can protect vulnerable groups

GFSI finds that food safety nets programmes remain limited in coverage or are not sufficiently resourced to weather a pandemic in many countries. All but three countries in the index have some sort of food safety net in place, but funding for these programmes is currently insufficient in 47 countries, and 36 countries do not have national coverage.



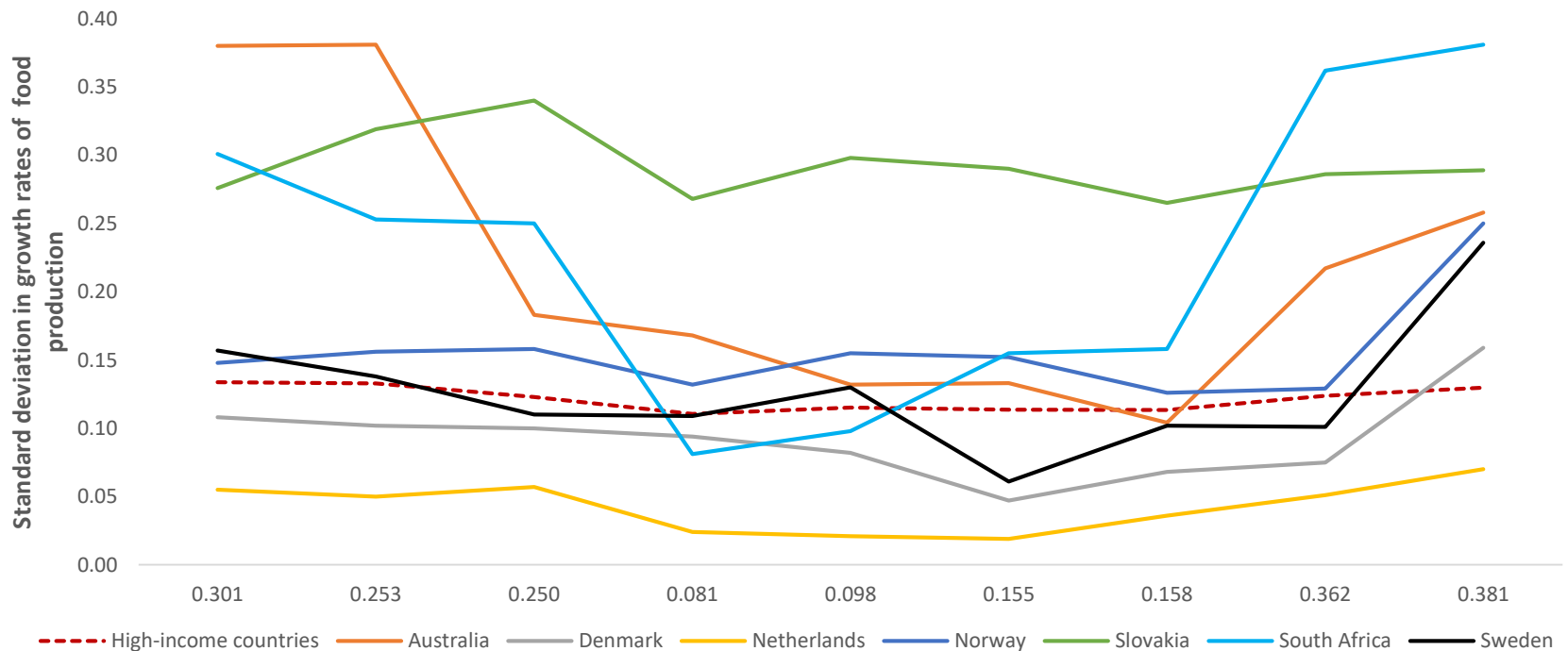
Food and nutritional strategies can be prioritized

The GFSI finds that currently only 54 countries have a national food security strategy in place, demonstrating that there is a lot of room for improvement. Policymakers should continue to prioritize food security on the national agenda. A majority of countries in the index also lack a dedicated food security agency to help design, prioritize and implement such strategies.



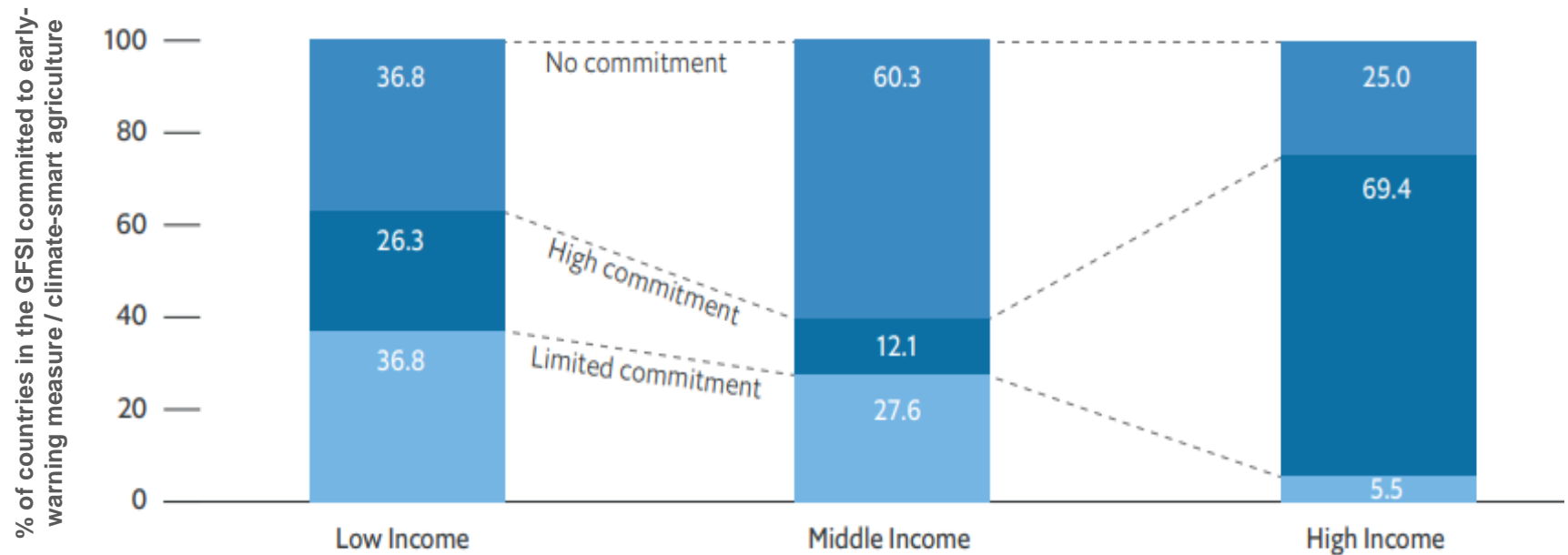
Volatility of agricultural production remains high

The GFSI finds that 49 countries experienced higher volatility in agricultural production between 2019 and 2020. This is due to climate-related factors like droughts and extreme weather. Agricultural production has been extremely volatile in high-income countries like Norway, Sweden and Australia, demonstrating the risks that climate change poses to agriculture and food production globally. Policy commitment to adaptation, technological innovation and agriculture R&D can help countries to prepare for environmental risks.



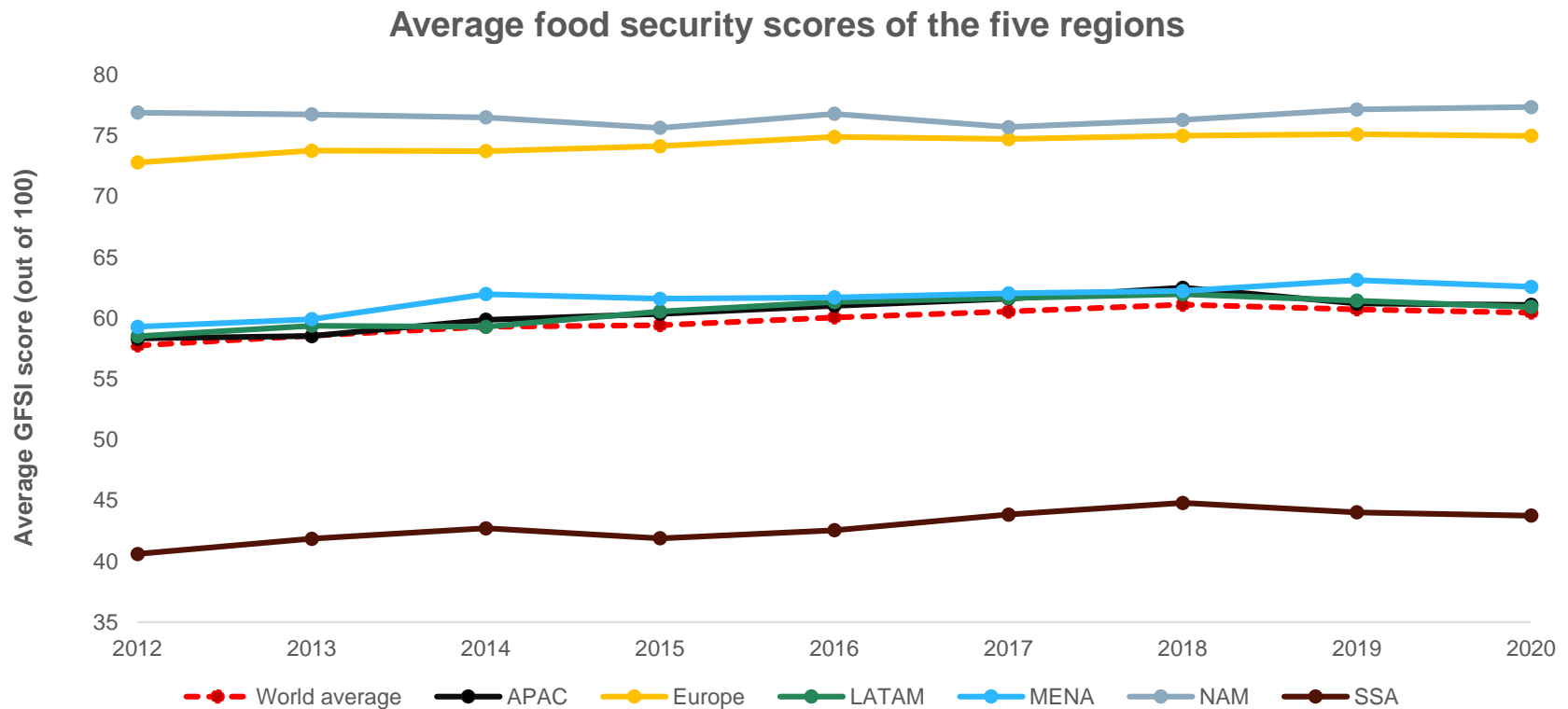
Climate-smart ag can help prepare for the future

Policy commitment to agricultural adaptation has been mixed, with 72 countries having a national climate change strategy that covers agricultural adaptation, and 34 lacking any such plan (or having an outdated plan), including countries at high risk of climate impacts. Increasing investment in agricultural research and development and climate-smart agriculture can help countries to prepare for the future.



North America has consistently topped as a region

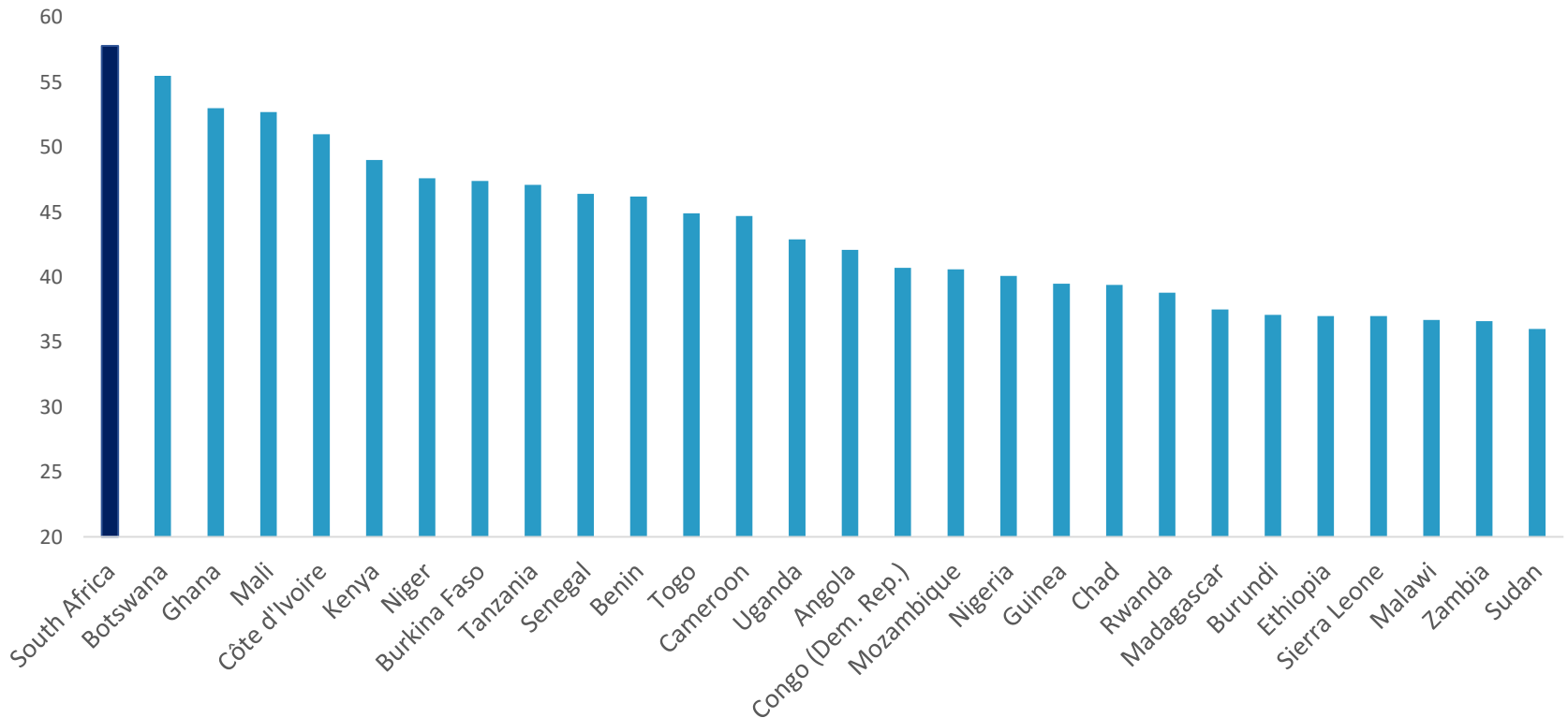
North America and Europe have maintained the lead as the top two regions over the years. While Asia, MENA and LATAM have performed very close to each other, MENA has outperformed Asia and LATAM in the past two years.



South Africa ranks and scores high in the region

South Africa ranks at the top in Sub-Saharan Africa (out of 28) and ranks 69th out of all the 113 countries in the index. In the SSA region, the country tops in the Quality and Safety category and ranks second in the Affordability category.

Overall food security scores in Sub-Saharan Africa



GFSI knowledge check

Using the new methodology, South Africa's global ranking, dropped from to

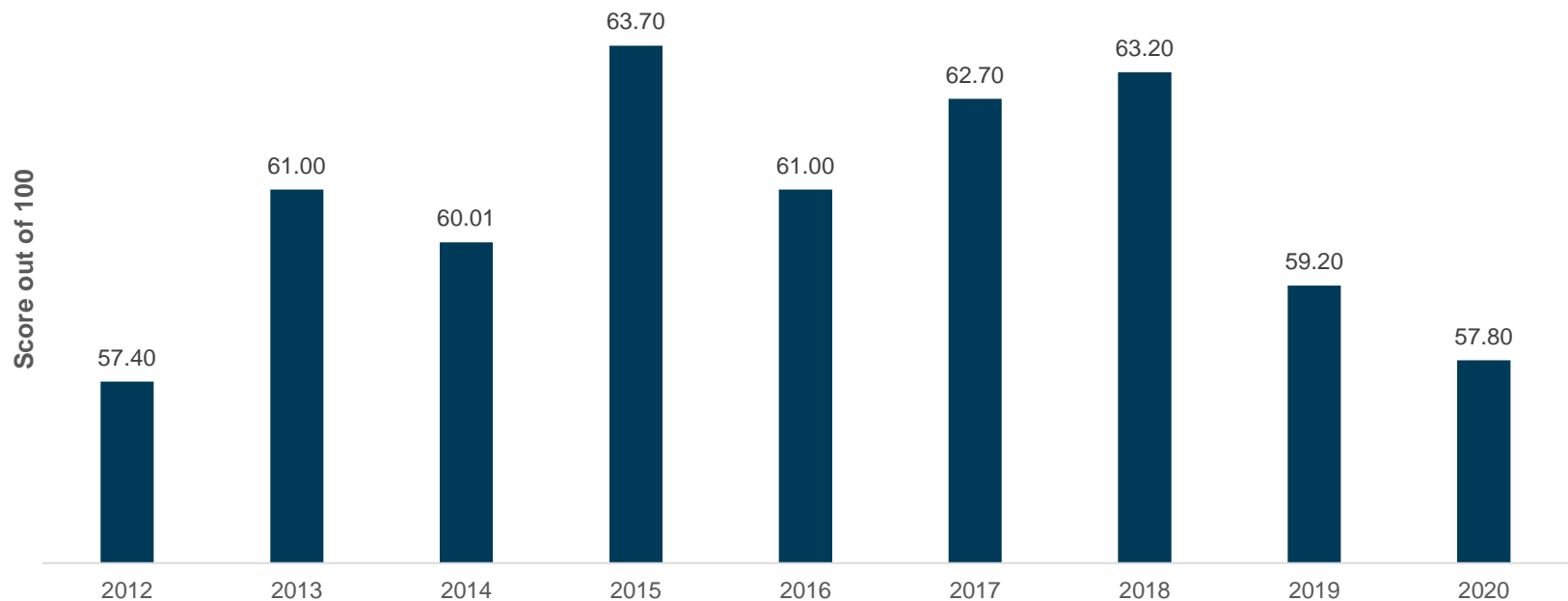
- **67th to 69th**
- **48th to 69th**
- **42nd to 69th**
- **No idea**

The South Africa Context

Overall food security in South Africa has declined

In line with global trends, overall food security in South Africa has deteriorated in the past few years. These declines are driven by a reduction in Availability and Affordability along with the heightened risks of climate change.

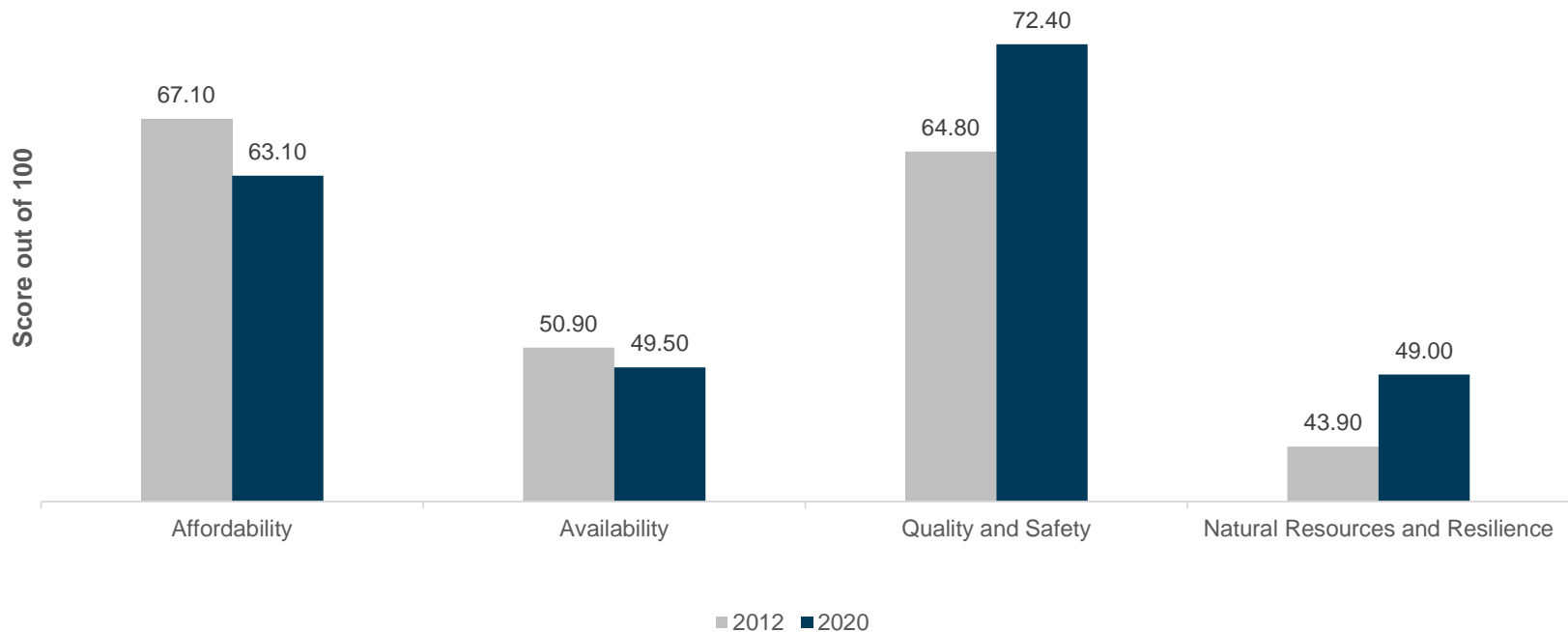
Overall food security score for South Africa over the years



Performance has been mixed across categories

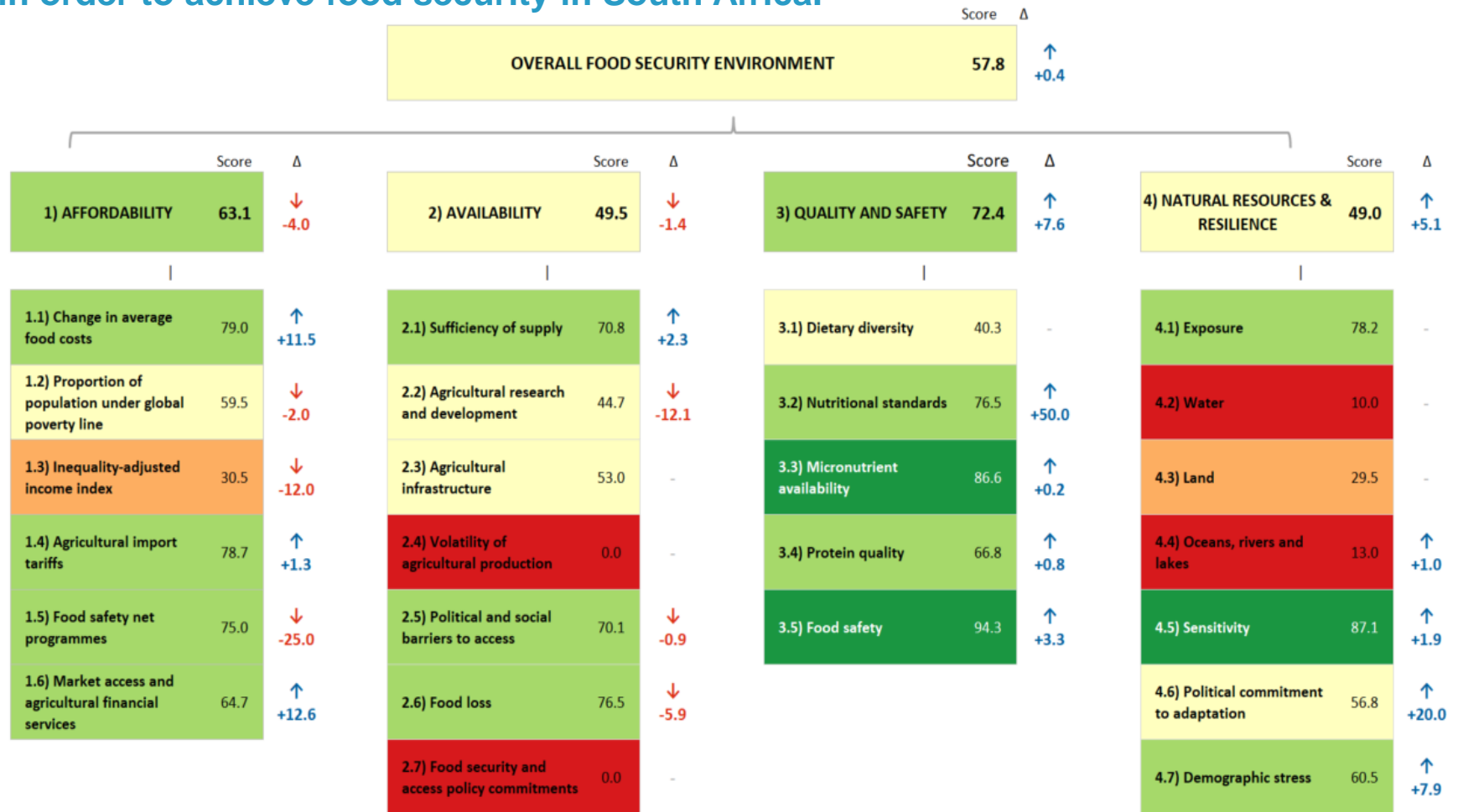
Since 2012, overall scores have deteriorated in the two categories of Affordability and Availability. However, scores have improved in Quality & Safety and Natural Resources & Resilience in the past nine years.

Category scores 2012 vs. 2020



Examining South Africa's food security drivers

Analyzing strengths and gaps can help determine areas of focus and investment in order to achieve food security in South Africa.



GFSI knowledge check

Which category is the most important to you?

- **Affordability**
- **Availability**
- **Quality and Safety**
- **Natural Resources and Resilience**

Questions?

Please post your questions in the Q&A function

To explore the results and read the full report from the latest Global Food Security Index, please use the following URL:

<https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>

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