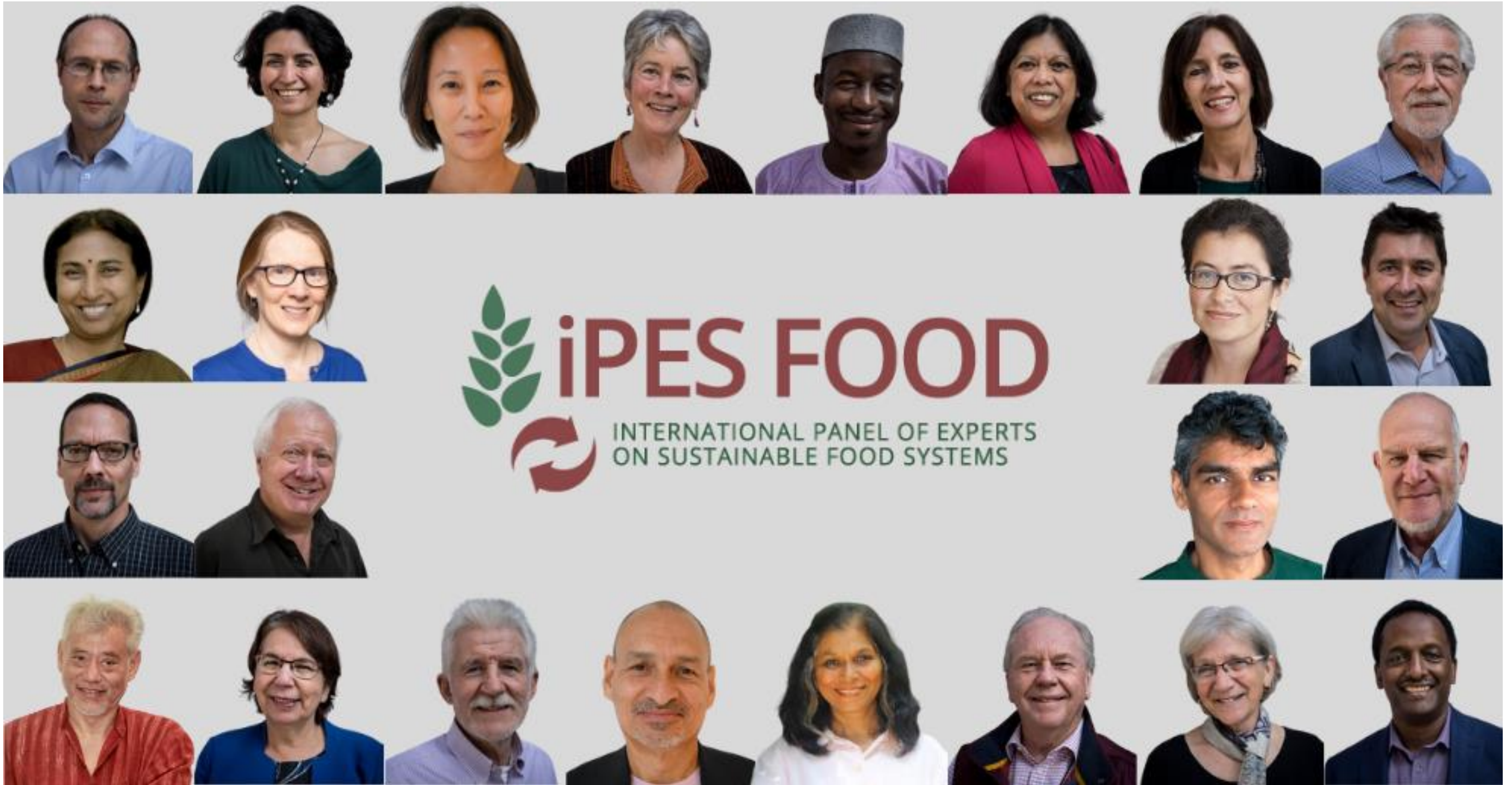


UNRAVELLING THE FOOD-HEALTH NEXUS:

ADDRESSING PRACTICES, POLITICAL
ECONOMY, AND POWER RELATIONS
TO BUILD HEALTHIER FOOD SYSTEMS

www.futureoffood.org #foodsystems4health







Our food systems are making people sick.

**HOW WE PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE, MARKET, PREPARE, EAT AND DISPOSE
OF FOOD HAS A SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING COST TO PUBLIC HEALTH**



5 CHANNELS OF IMPACT



Impact Channel 1: OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS



People get sick because they work under unhealthy conditions.

Pesticides are responsible for an estimated 200,000 acute poisoning deaths each year – 99% of those in developing countries.



Impact Channel 2: ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

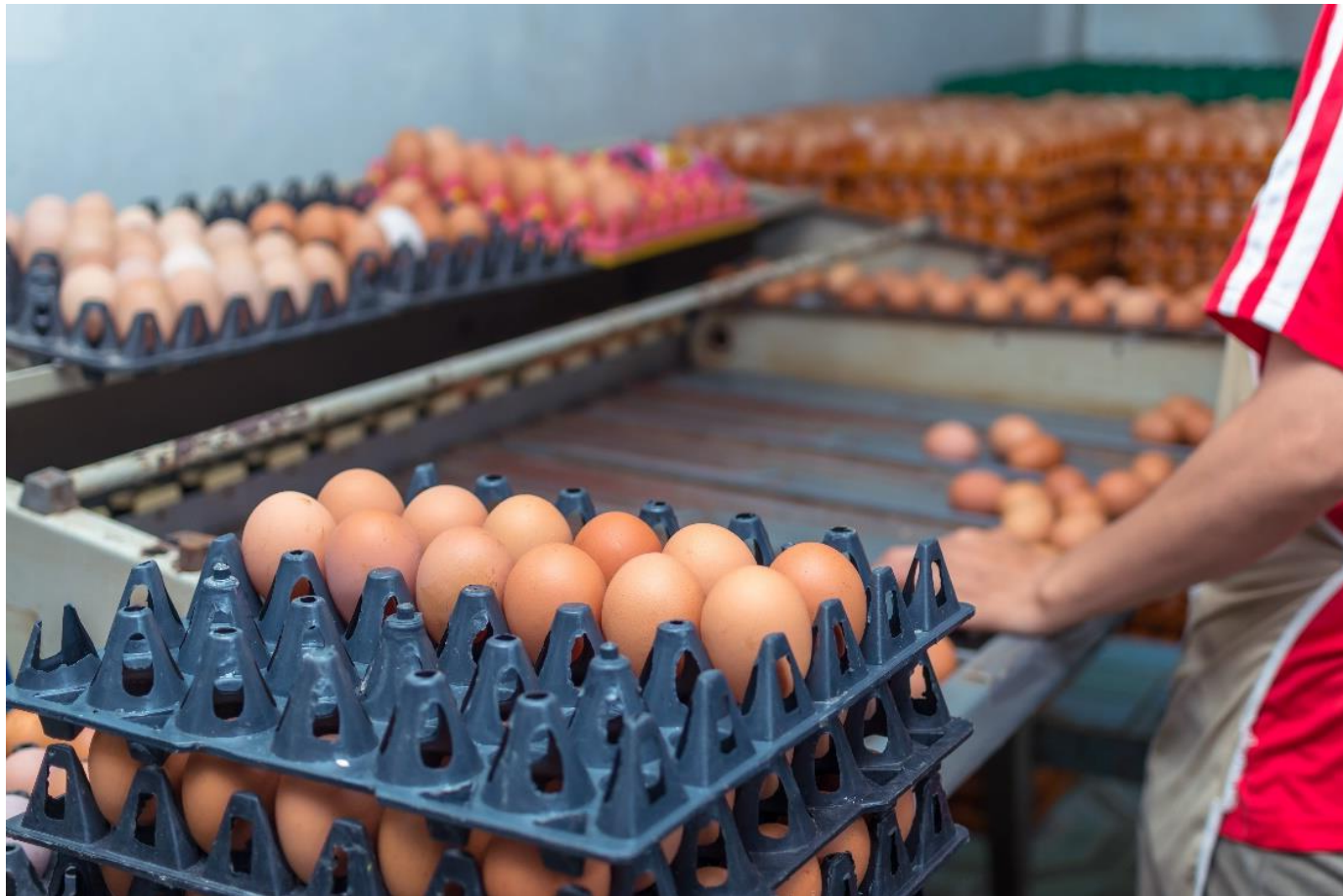


*People get sick because
of contaminants in the
water, soil or air*

Exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) causes annual health costs of \$217 billion in the EU (1.28% of GDP) and \$340 billion in the US (2.33% of GDP)



Impact Channel 3: CONTAMINATED, UNSAFE & ALTERED FOODS



People get sick because specific foods they eat are unsafe for consumption.

In 2010, there were an estimated 600 million cases of food-borne illnesses and 420,000 deaths.



Impact Channel 4: UNHEALTHY DIETARY PATTERNS



*People get sick because
they have unhealthy diets*

According to one study, obesity has roughly the same economic impact (\$2 trillion USD) as smoking or the combined costs of armed violence, wars and terrorism.



Impact Channel 5: FOOD INSECURITY

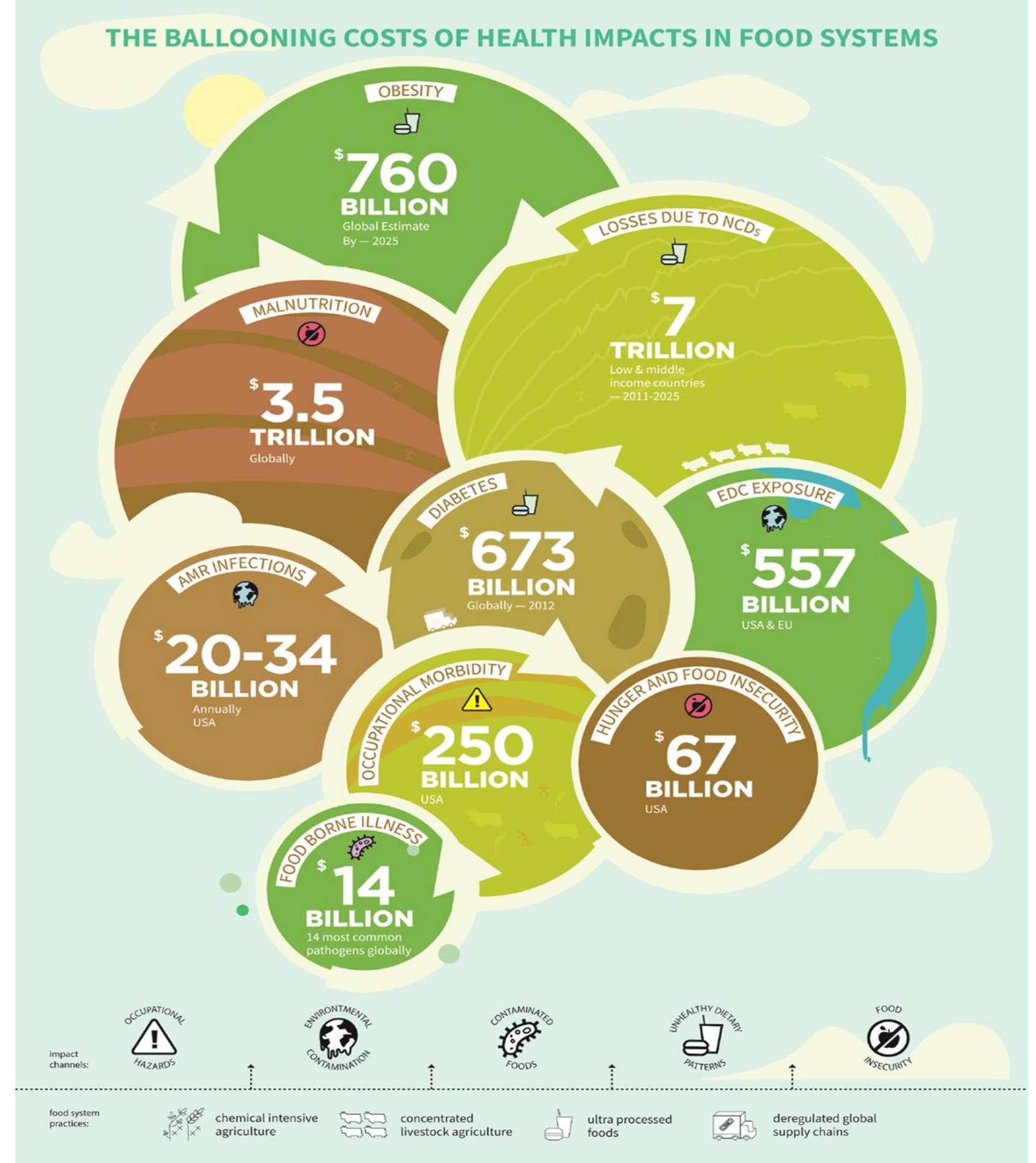


People get sick because they can't access adequate food at all times.

2 million people worldwide suffer from micronutrient deficiencies and nearly 800 million suffer from calorie deficiency.



THE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC COSTS ARE SEVERE AND GROWING



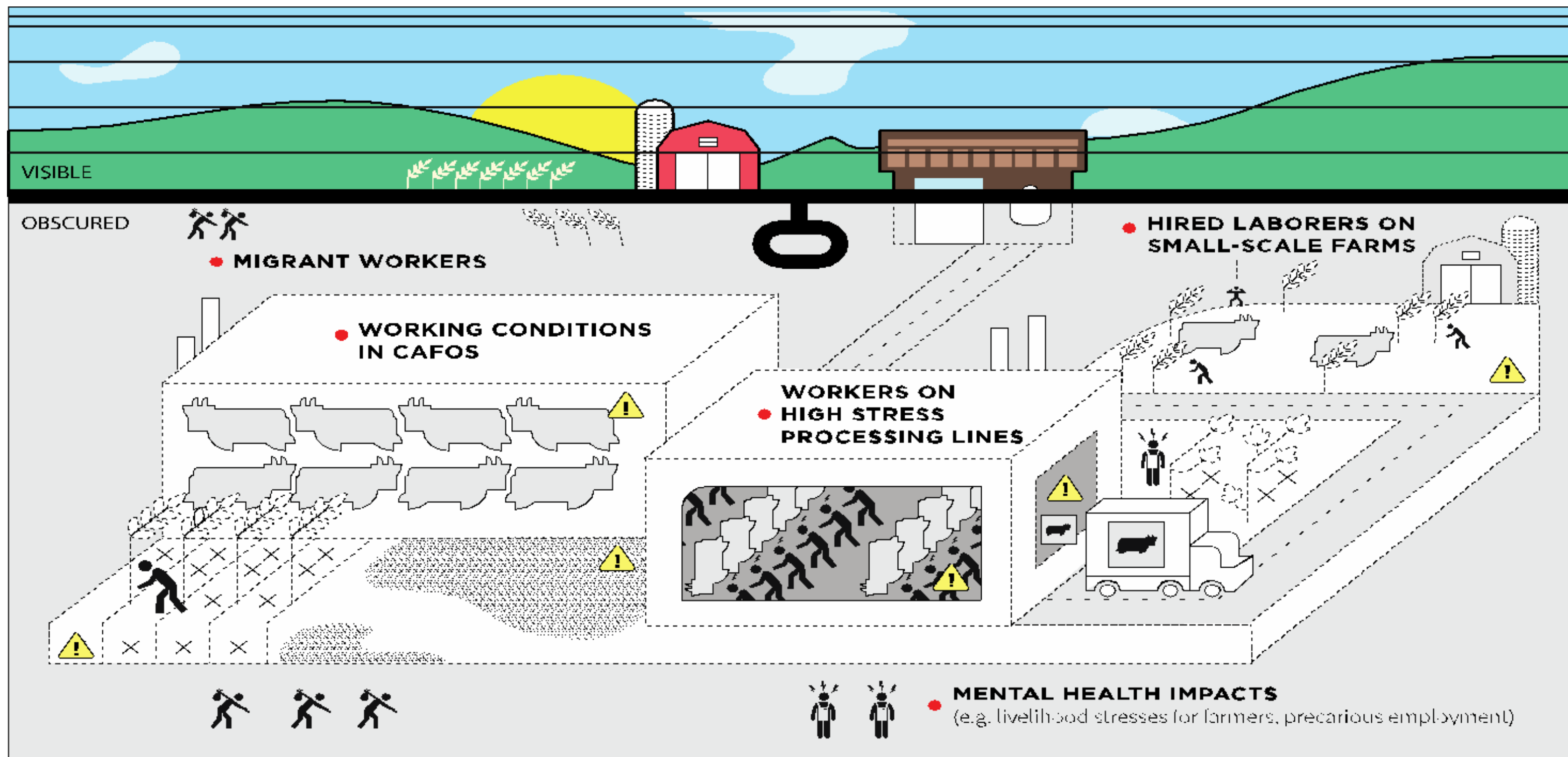
WE KNOW THE ROOT CAUSES OF THESE IMPACTS:

- Chemical-intensive monocropping
- Intensive livestock production
- Mass production and marketing of ultra-processed foods
- Development of deregulated and opaque supply chains

So why don't we take action?

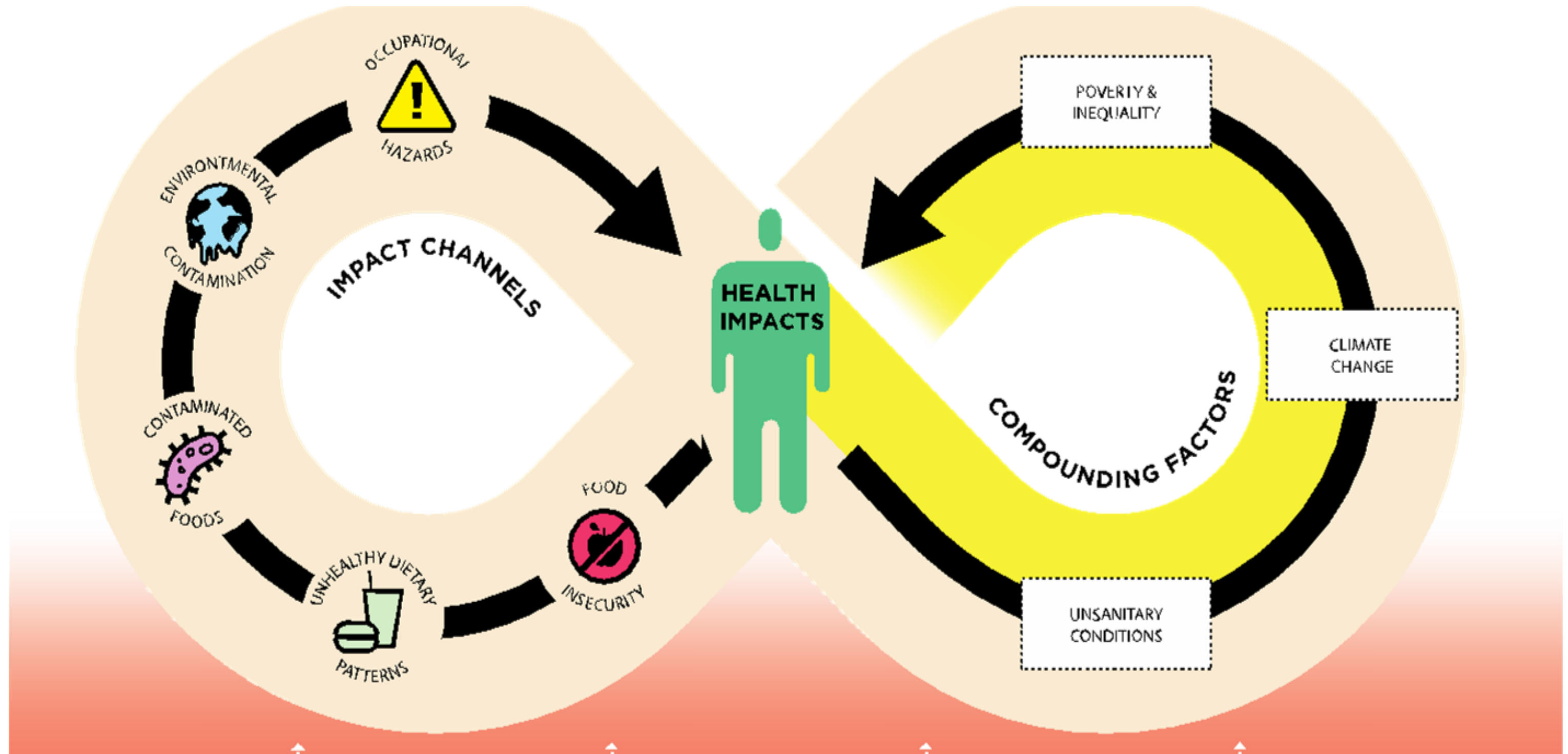


CHALLENGE 1. Some impacts are hidden



CHALLENGE 2.

Vicious cycles: the food-health-climate-poverty nexus



CHALLENGE 3. Overcoming biases and dealing with complexity


- Industry-sponsored science
- Simplification in media & public debate
- Silos in science & policy
- Misleading narratives ('feed the world', climate-smart agriculture, nutritionism)



LEVERAGE POINTS FOR CHANGE

- 1) Promoting food systems thinking
- 2) Reasserting scientific integrity and research as a public good
- 3) Adopting the precautionary principle
- 4) Building integrated food policies under participatory governance
- 5) Bringing alternative systems to light: the potential of agroecology





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ALLIANCE
FOR THE
FUTURE
OF FOOD