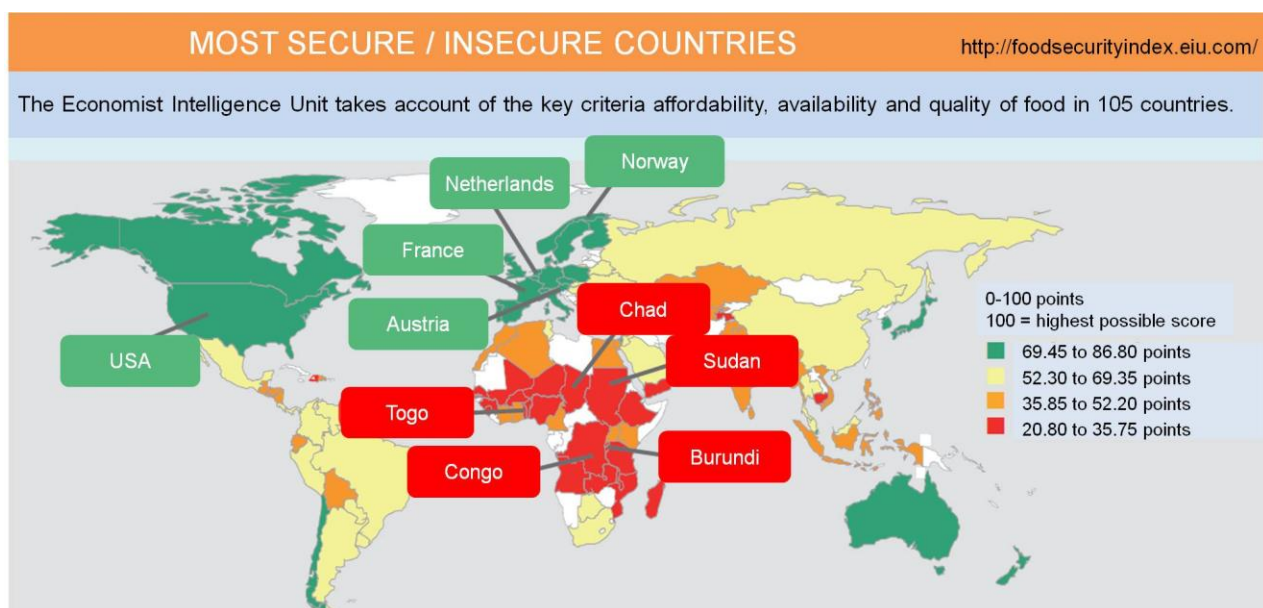


Global Food Security: Index reveals somewhat better balance for Austria than for Germany

870 million people are currently affected by hunger globally, and a further billion humans are affected by malnutrition. The causes for global hunger are of a highly complex social, political and economic nature and include the annual increase of the world population by 70 to 80 million people, changing consumption patterns in prospering regions, losses of produce during harvest, storage and transport, as well as political conditions. Due to a lack of background information and comparative parameters, key causes and region-specific factors for starvation often cannot be assessed properly.



One important data gap was closed with the presentation of Global Food Security Index in July 2012. The index was developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit and international experts; it measures more than 20 different indicators in the areas of affordability, price level, availability, quality, and food safety in 105 countries. Besides the Economist Intelligence Unit, the World Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are central data suppliers for the index as a new tool to analyse global food security. The index allows for an assessment of individual countries as well as direct comparisons of different subjects of investigation. Comparative values can be generated within very short periods of time, hence allowing for conclusions to be drawn with regard to latest and also short-term regional developments. On this basis, realistic perspectives for future development potentials as well as planning of regional-specific scenarios become possible.

The US, Norway and France are currently ranking first in the global analysis, whereas Chad, Congo, and Togo, being particularly affected by political instability and extreme weather conditions, show the worst values of all 105 countries. In absolute terms, Germany is one of the top-ranking countries and achieves optimum classifications with regard to affordability, availability, quality, and safety. When looking at details, however, Austria and the Netherlands are ranking slightly higher, leading to an overall 11th place for Germany in the global ranking. The Global Food Security Index is available free of charge in the internet following the link <http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com>.