Signature Impact Framework

Assessing impact with evidence

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PART II — THE FRAMEWORK

Signature Impact

A new unit of measurement for the real-world contribution a business makes to society

THE PROBLEM

Impact is typically measured in disclosures and ratings, rather than in real-world outcomes.

When checklists become the goal, companies optimize for perception over performance, and capital flows to those that conform rather than those that deliver real-world impact

THE SOLUTION

Signature Impact. The *unique*, *measurable* contribution a business makes to a *specific* societal outcome.

By measuring contribution to specific, evidence-based outcomes, Signature Impact replaces the optics of compliance with the substance of real-world change.

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PART II — THE FRAMEWORK

The Signature Impact Framework (SIF)

An evidence-based model to measure anticipated risk-adjusted impact

KEY FEATURES

01
Research-Based

Academic-leaning approach grounded in peer-reviewed literature, journals, and reports from internationally recognized institutions

02
Relative-Impact Oriented

Measures contribution against peer-country baselines — the same intervention carries different significance depending on need.

03
Scalable

One framework, broadly applicable across impact verticals while retaining vertical-specific nuance.

04
Impact-Risk Aware

Grounds expected impact in empirical success rates of comparable interventions — evidence is an explicit input.

PART II — THE FRAMEWORK

A novel approach in a crowded space

After reviewing 100+ impact frameworks, none offers the features of the SIF

IMPACT FRAMEWORKS & STANDARDS 21

GIIN IRIS+ · Impact Frontiers · Impact Management Platform · Operating Principles for Impact Management · SDG Impact · HIPSO · 2X Global · Impact Economy Foundation · IFVI International Foundation for Valuing Impacts · Value Balancing Alliance · Capitals Coalition · Social Value International · B Lab · GIIRS · Impact Institute · Impact Genome Registry · SDG Compass · CERISE+SPTF · ppi Poverty Probability Index

DATA PROVIDERS 8

60_decibels · Upright · impact cubed · Util · netpurpose. · Blue Mark · Tideline · sopact

ESG, CLIMATE & DISCLOSURE STANDARDS 34

EDCI · Equator Principles · UNEP FI Principles for Responsible Banking · PSI Principles for Sustainable Insurance · UN Women's Empowerment Principles · GRI · SASB · TCFD · TNFD Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures · CDP · AccountAbility · Greenhouse Gas Protocol · Science Based Targets · Science Based Targets Network · PCAF Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials · CRREM Carbon Risk Real Estate Monitor · GRESB · Climate Bonds · The Green Bond Principles · The Social Bond Principles · The Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles · TPI Global Climate Transition Centre · ACT Accelerate to Climate Transition · InfluenceMap · ENCORE · IBAT · Accountability Framework initiative · trase · Gold Standard · VERRA · IC The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market · VCMI Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative · PLAN VIVO · ISO

ESG RATINGS & DATA 23

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ISR · Fairtrade International · Rainforest Alliance · FSC · Marine Stewardship Council · ASC Aquaculture Stewardship Council · RSPO Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil · Bonsucro The global sugarcane platform · bci better cotton initiative · SAI Social Accountability International · Fair Labor · Living Wage Foundation Part of citizensUK · Sustainable Finance · Greenfin Label · Round Table on Responsible Soy · FNG · LUXFLAG Global Labelling Agency · Alliance for Water Stewardship · IRMA Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance · EITI

INDICES 14

World Benchmarking Alliance · access to medicine FOUNDATION · ATNi · FAIRR A COLLER INITIATIVE · Economist Enterprise · Global Hunger Index · ND-GAIN · Sustainable Development Solutions Network · UNDP · OPHI · World Bank Group · Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations · Mo Ibrahim Foundation · Transparency International

NETWORKS, INVESTORS & INSTITUTIONS 66

GIIN · UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative · ImpactHouse · Ilpa · Invest Europe · AVCA · CFA Institute · World Economic Forum · PRI Principles for Responsible Investment · United Nations Global Compact · IFC · United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner · OECD · ILO · One Planet SWF Network · European Bank for Reconstruction and Development · British International Investment · KfW DEG · FMO Entrepreneurial Development Bank · PROPARCO · European Investment Bank · IDB Invest · DFC U.S. International Development Finance Corporation · Norfund · finnfund · Swedfund · Impact Fund Denmark · EDFI · IFRS · EFRAG · European Commission · FCA Financial Conduct Authority · ISO International Organization for Standardization · UNDP · ICMA · LMA Loan Market Association · net-zero banking alliance · Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative · GFANZ Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero · Climate Action 100+ · IIGCC · Ceres · Global Canopy · World Business Council for Sustainable Development · CGAP · ESMAP Energy Sector Management Assistance Program · GOGLA · ipa Innovations for Poverty Action · J-PAL · International Initiative for Impact Evaluation · Campbell Collaboration · GiveWell · Copenhagen Consensus Center · Impact Europe · avpn · GSG Impact · tonic · impact investing institute · BRIDGES Fund Management · IMPACTASSETS · Global Sustainable Investment Alliance · Convergence Blending Global Finance · Eurosif · unicef for every child · Carbon Trust

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PART II — THE FRAMEWORK

Signature Impact Themes: Leveraging on IRIS+

Every investment is mapped to one or more IRIS+ themes. SIF expands theme coverage systematically.

IRIS+ THEMES COVERED

LIVE



Agriculture
Food Security
Smallholder Agriculture
Sustainable Agriculture

IN PROGRESS



Financial Services
Financial Inclusion



Education
Access to Quality Education



Real Estate
Affordable Quality Housing
Green Buildings



Climate
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Adaptation and Resilience

THREE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

01 Themes are the entry point

Every investment is mapped to one or more IRIS+ themes. This mapping determines which KPIs, benchmarks, and literature apply in the assessment process.

02 TIL builds one vertical at a time

Each vertical requires a dedicated literature database and analytical framework. SIF currently covers Food Security and is expanding systematically.

03 Multi-vertical assessments supported

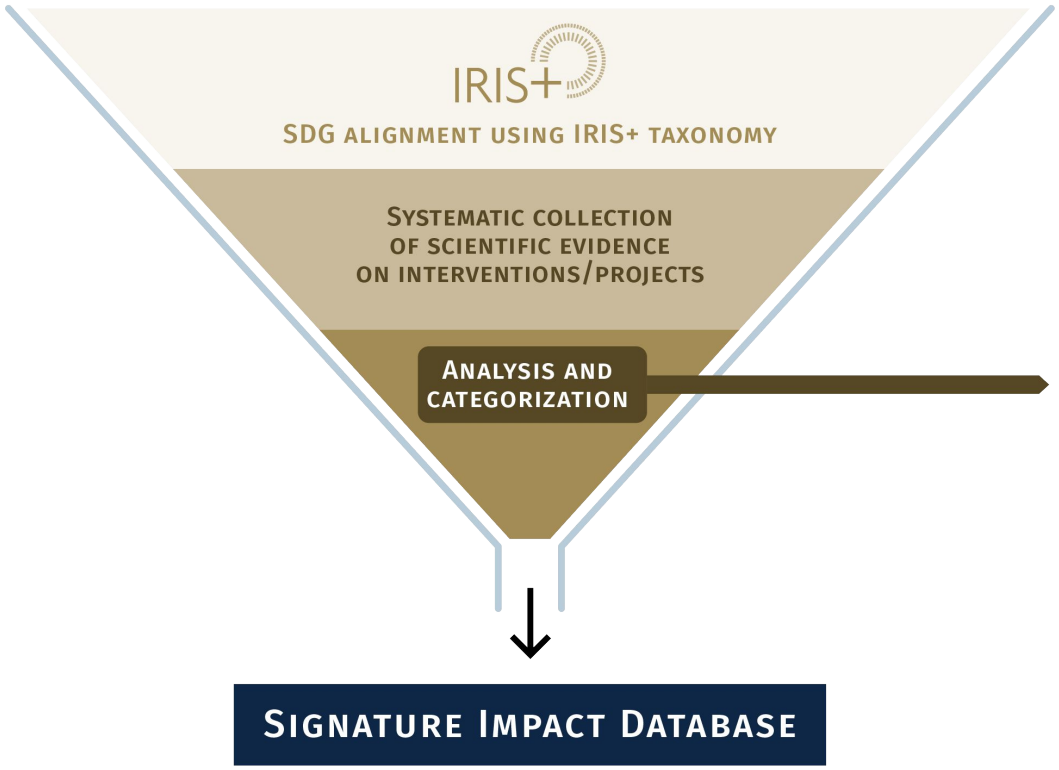
While verticals are built independently, SIF can assess a single investment against multiple themes simultaneously to yield a composite impact score.

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PART II — THE FRAMEWORK

The Signature Impact Database

The Signature Impact Database is a proprietary literature repository reviewed by TIL researchers for every IRIS+ vertical covered that translates peer-reviewed evidence on real-world interventions into structured, quantifiable inputs for the Signature Impact Framework.



ANALYSIS AND CATEGORIZATION

Impact Outcome – Did the intervention work?

Each study is coded with a binary impact flag (yes / no) and a written justification drawn from the paper's findings. This produces the empirical base rate of success for each type of intervention.

Intervention Characteristics – What, where, and for whom?

Each study is tagged across three dimensions that define the conditions of the intervention: **Geography**, **Intervention Type**, **Beneficiary**
These tags allow SIF to condition impact probability (impact risk) on the basis of project idiosyncratic factors - following the thesis of “Signature Impact”.

KPIs & Impact Dimensions – What was measured and where does it sit?

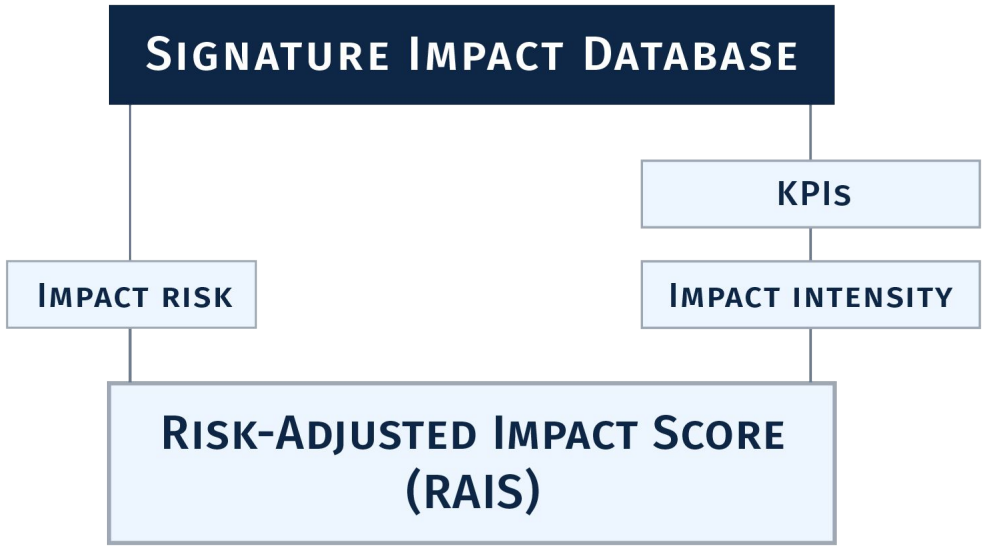
The dependent variables each paper used to measure impact intensity are extracted and catalogued as KPIs. TIL then conducts vertical-level research to map these KPIs into impact dimensions - the distinct pockets of societal change within each theme.

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PART II — THE FRAMEWORK

Quantifying Impact with the Signature Impact Database

The Signature Impact Database enables the assessment of probability of achieving the intended impact for any given intervention, while also identifying the appropriate KPIs to measure its expected country-level impact (impact intensity). Together, these two pillars generate a risk-adjusted impact score for each intervention, allowing for consistent comparison across projects and investment opportunities.



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PART III — METHODOLOGY

Estimating the Probability of Impact

The probability that an intervention generates positive, measurable impact — derived from the empirical record.

METHODOLOGY · THREE STEPS

Step **01**

Identify investment characteristics

Every investment is defined by where it operates, who it serves, and how it intervenes. These three pillars determine which studies in the database are relevant comparators.

Step **02**

Extract success rates from the database

For each pillar, filter the database to matching studies. The share of those studies coded as impactful becomes the probability for that pillar.

Step **03**

Multiply the three probabilities

The joint probability captures all three conditions simultaneously — an intervention needs to work in the right place, for the right people, using the right approach.*

Impact Risk (Probability of Impact)

* *The model assumes statistical independence across the three pillars, an approximation that sample size does not yet allow to validate empirically*

PART III — METHODOLOGY

Computing Impact Intensity

How much room for improvement exists in the target geography — peer-relative, on the relevant impact dimension.

DEFINITION

Impact Intensity = Percentile Rank

The share of MEASA countries that perform better than the target country on the relevant impact dimension.



Note the direction: a higher Impact Intensity score does ***not*** mean the country is doing well — it means more countries outperform it. A score of 80 means 80% of MEASA peers have a better baseline, leaving more room for an investment to make a difference.

Why this matters: *two investments with identical probability of impact carry different real-world significance depending on baseline conditions. Impact Intensity ensures investments in underserved geographies are recognised for their greater transformational potential.*

PART III — METHODOLOGY

The Risk-Adjusted Impact Score

A single, risk-adjusted measure combining the likelihood of success with the scope for improvement in the target country.

RAIS = **Probability of Impact** × **Impact Intensity**

Risk-Adjusted Impact Score

Score 0–100

A single, risk-adjusted measure of anticipated impact that combines the likelihood of success with the scope for improvement in the target country.

How to read it

Higher scores indicate investments more likely to generate impact where impact is needed most.

Probability of Impact

0–100%

Empirical likelihood that a similar intervention generates positive, measurable impact, derived from the Signature Impact Database.

How it is computed

P(country) × P(beneficiary) × P(intervention), using the share of comparable studies coded as impactful along each dimension.

Impact Intensity

Score 0–100

Relative magnitude of potential change, measured as the target country's percentile rank against MEASA peers on the relevant KPI.

How to read it

A score of 80 means 80% of MEASA peers outperform the country — i.e., more room for the investment to make a difference.

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PART III — METHODOLOGY

SIF Tier System — Translating Scores into Categories

Tier boundaries are calibrated against the empirical distribution of the estimated RAIS, anchoring every score to a different range of impact potential.

Tier	Percentile	Interpretation
A	*Top quartile (≥ 75th pctile)*	Strong evidence-based impact potential
B	*Above median (50th – 75th)*	Solid impact potential
C	*Below median (25th – 50th)*	Moderate impact potential
D	*Bottom quartile (< 25th)*	Limited evidence-based impact potential

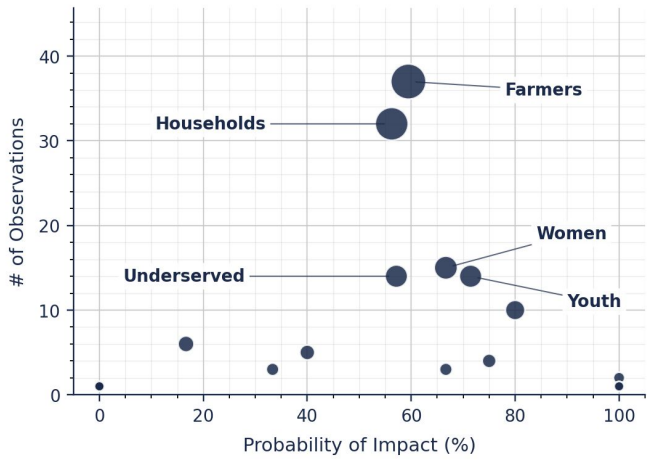
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PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

The Food Security Signature Impact Database

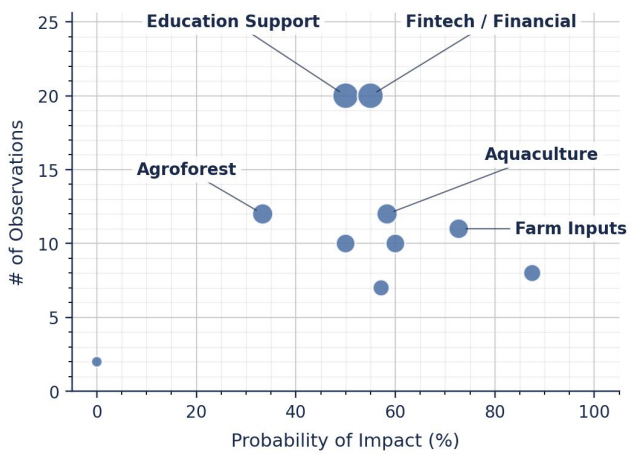
Database composition and impactful interventions by pillar — deliberately MEASA-weighted.

BENEFICIARY



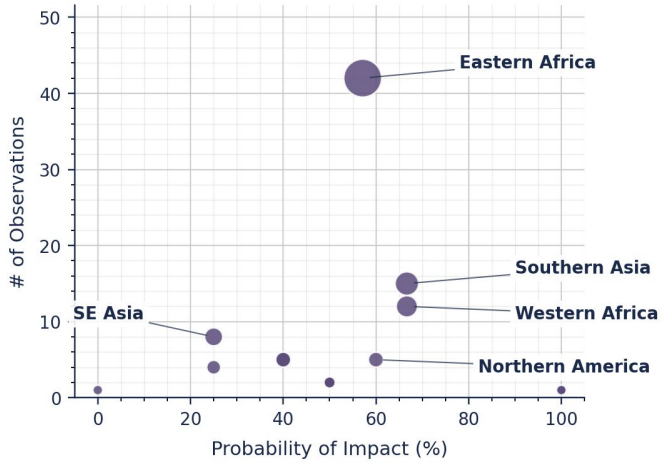
Top groups are among the most food-insecure globally — evidence is strongest where need is greatest.

INTERVENTION TYPE



Education and fintech dominate — a shift from direct food provision toward market-enabling approaches.

GEOGRAPHY



Database is deliberately MEASA-weighted, with countries grouped by homogeneity to preserve sample size.

PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

The Global Food Security Index (GSFI)

Four dimensions, twenty-five sub-indicators — the empirical baseline for Impact Intensity in the food security vertical.

Source: *Global Food Security Index, The Economist Impact*

01

Affordability

Consumers' ability to purchase food, vulnerability to price shocks, and programs that support individuals during shocks.

KEY INDICATORS

- Change in average food costs
- Population under poverty line
- Inequality-adjusted income index
- Agricultural trade
- Food safety net programs

02

Availability

Agricultural capabilities, supply disruption risks, food dissemination, and research efforts to expand output.

KEY INDICATORS

- Access to agricultural inputs
- Agricultural R&D
- Farm infrastructure
- Supply chain infrastructure
- Volatility & food loss

03

Quality & Safety

Variety, nutritional quality, and safety of the average diet across the population.

KEY INDICATORS

- Dietary diversity
- Nutritional standards
- Micronutrient availability
- Protein quality
- Food safety

04

Sustainability

Exposure to climate change impacts and natural resource risks, and how countries adapt to those risks.

KEY INDICATORS

- Climate exposure
- Water resource risks
- Land health
- Ocean/river health
- Disaster risk management

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PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

GFSI Dimension · Affordability

Consumers' ability to purchase food, vulnerability to price shocks, and the existence of programs that support individuals during shocks.

01 AFFORDABILITY

KEY INDICATORS

Change in average food costs · Population under poverty line · Inequality-adjusted income index · Agricultural trade · Food safety net programs

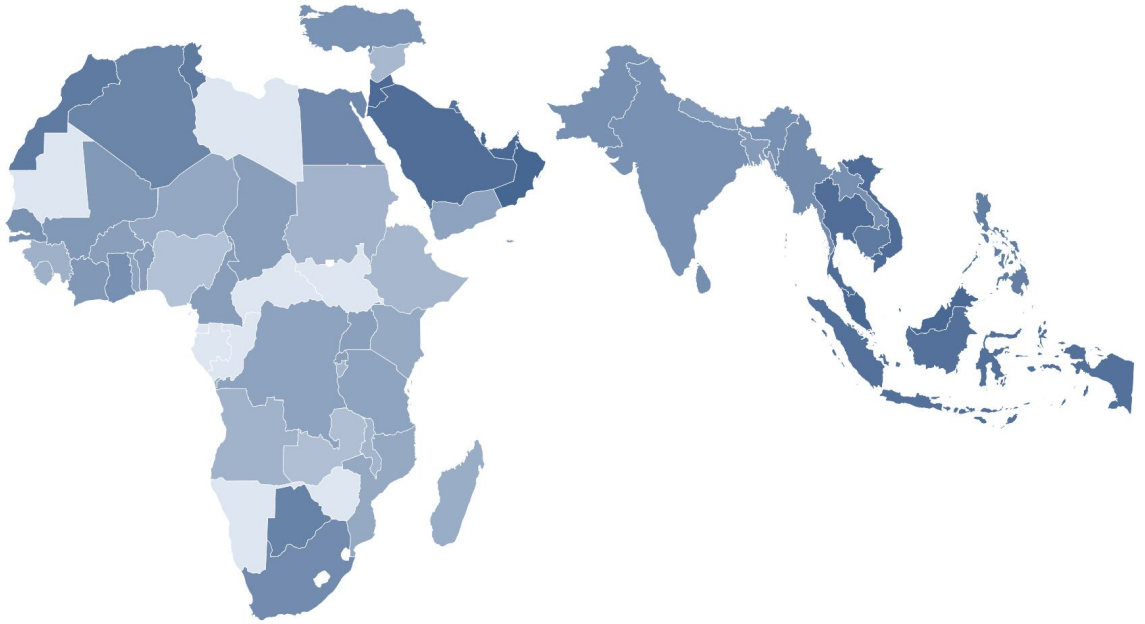
TOP 3 · HIGHEST PERCENTILE

1	Singapore	93.2
2	Bahrain	91.3
3	Oman & Qatar	88.6

BOTTOM 3 · LOWEST PERCENTILE

1	Nigeria	25.0
2	Zambia	26.8
3	Syria	32.0

FIGURE 1 · MEASA PERCENTILE RANK



INSIGHT

Top performers cluster in the Gulf, where high incomes and food subsidies drive affordability. The lowest-ranked countries combine high poverty rates with limited safety net coverage.

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PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

GFSI Dimension · Availability

Agricultural capabilities, supply disruption risks, food dissemination capabilities, and research efforts to expand agricultural output.

02 AVAILABILITY

KEY INDICATORS

Access to agricultural inputs · Agricultural R&D · Farm infrastructure · Supply chain infrastructure · Volatility & food loss

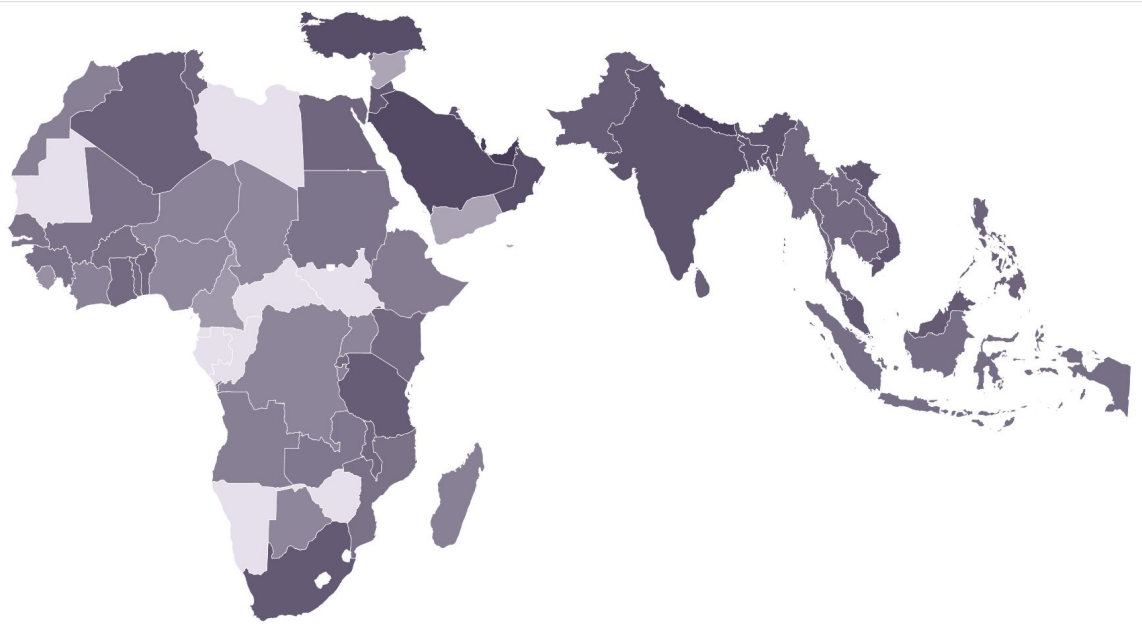
TOP 3 · HIGHEST PERCENTILE

1	Singapore	77.8
2	UAE	73.8
3	Qatar	72.9

BOTTOM 3 · LOWEST PERCENTILE

1	Syria	26.6
2	Yemen	26.9
3	Cameroon	31.9

FIGURE 2 · MEASA PERCENTILE RANK



INSIGHT

Conflict-affected economies dominate the bottom — supply chain fragility and disrupted agriculture pull down their availability scores even where domestic production exists.

PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

GFSI Dimension · Quality & Safety

Variety, nutritional quality, and safety of the average diet across the population.

03 QUALITY & SAFETY

KEY INDICATORS

Dietary diversity · Nutritional standards · Micronutrient availability · Protein quality · Food safety

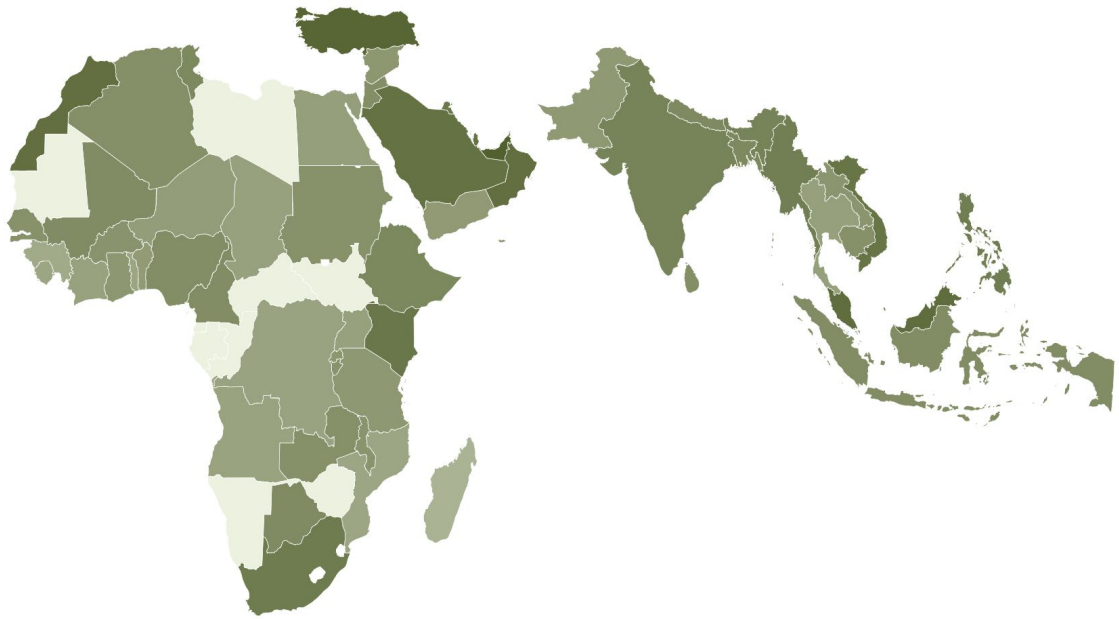
TOP 3 · HIGHEST PERCENTILE

1	UAE	81.3
2	Turkey	78.5
3	Bahrain	76.3

BOTTOM 3 · LOWEST PERCENTILE

1	Madagascar	34.9
2	Guinea	39.8
3	Mozambique	41.8

FIGURE 3 · MEASA PERCENTILE RANK



INSIGHT

The bottom of the table is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa — undernutrition and limited dietary diversity remain persistent. Investments here have the highest scope for impact.

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PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

GFSI Dimension · Sustainability & Adaptation

Exposure to climate change impacts and natural resource risks, and how countries adapt to those risks.

04 SUSTAINABILITY & ADAPTATION

KEY INDICATORS

Climate exposure · Water resource risks · Land health · Ocean & river health · Disaster risk management

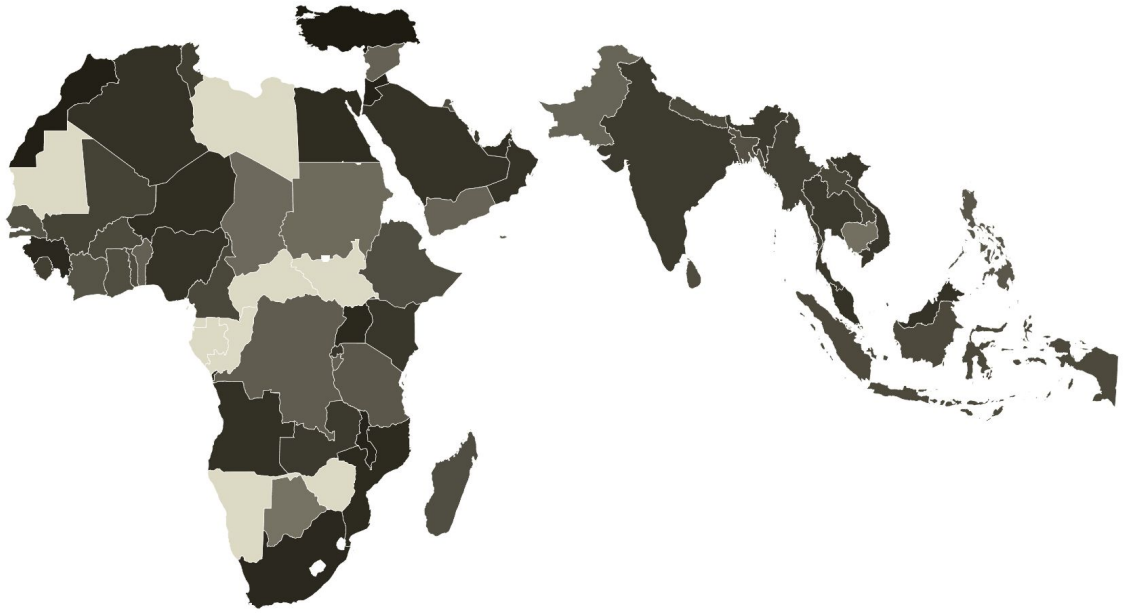
TOP 3 · HIGHEST PERCENTILE

1	Turkey	61.2
2	Morocco	60.0
3	Jordan	58.9

BOTTOM 3 · LOWEST PERCENTILE

1	Botswana	32.9
2	Cambodia	33.9
3	Sudan	35.7

FIGURE 4 · MEASA PERCENTILE RANK



INSIGHT

Even top performers score below 65 — sustainability is the dimension where MEASA as a whole faces the greatest collective challenge. Climate-resilience investments have broad applicability.

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PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

Worked Example · IQ Logistica

End-to-end RAIS calculation: a fintech investment serving Southern Africa farmers.

CASE FILE | **IQ Logistica · South Africa**

INTERVENTION Food Logistics · BENEFICIARY Farmers · DIMENSION Availability

01 PROBABILITY OF IMPACT

Geography	40.0%
Beneficiary	59.5%
Intervention	87.5%

0.40 × 0.595 × 0.875

20.8%

02 IMPACT INTENSITY

2.4	Volatility of agricultural production	47.6	Inv. Pctile: 83.6
2.5	Crop loss	79.7	Inv. Pctile: 29.5
2.6	Supply chain infrastructure	67.3	Inv. Pctile: 6.6

AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK

40.5

03 RISK-ADJUSTED IMPACT SCORE

TIER **C**

8.42

PERCENTILE RANK

36

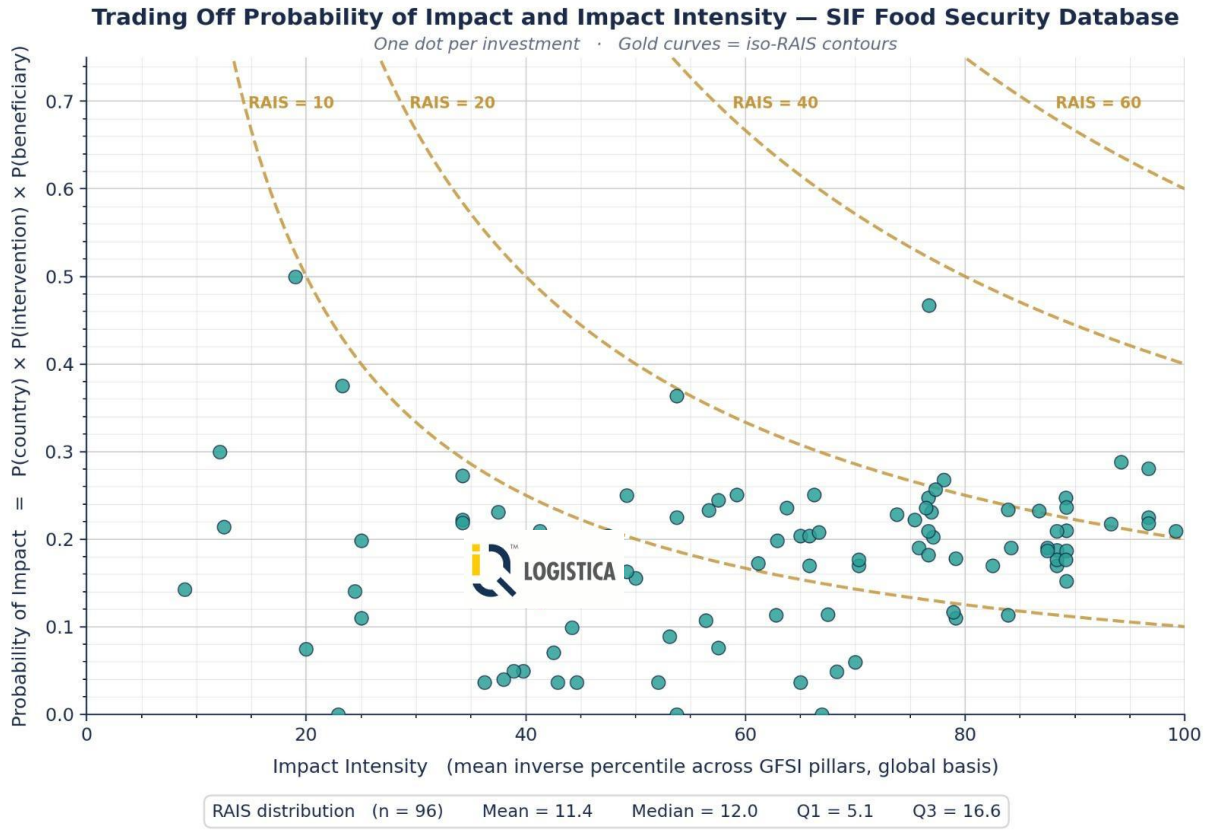
Reading the score: *a 20.8% probability of generating impact in a geography where food security infrastructure is outperformed by 40.5% of MEASA countries. A 8.42 RAIS places IQ Logistica in the 36th percentile and Tier C (second quartile group), suggesting a low-to-moderate overall impact score*

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PART IV — APPLICATION: FOOD SECURITY

Where Does Your SIF Score Sit?

This chart shows the SIF Food Security database in the Impact Risk/Impact Intensity space. Each point represents one study, plotted at its SIF-predicted Probability of Impact (from its country, beneficiary and intervention tags) against the country's Impact Intensity; gold curves show iso-RAIS contours — the lines along which different combinations of probability and intensity yield the same composite score.



- Probability of Impact and Impact Intensity show essentially no correlation across the database. The two SIF components are providing independent information, so RAIS as a composite combines two distinct, to some extent substitute signals.
- Investors seek to maximize RAIS, but they can tilt allocations according to their risk preference. An impact-risk-averse LP, for instance, may prefer a "safer" investment in a more food-secure country.
- At RAIS = 8.4, IQ Logistica sits below the median — a moderate-probability intervention in a country with moderate-to-low need.

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