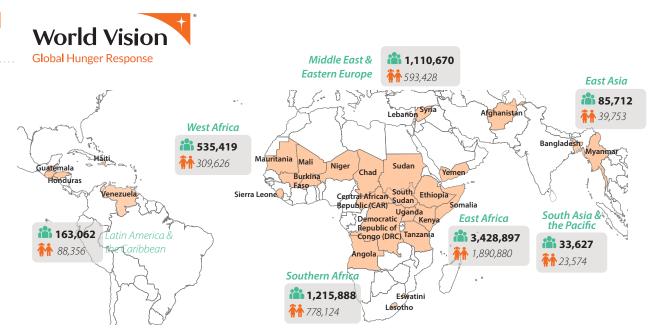
GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE - PHASE II

Situation report #2 | April 2024

The world is in a massive hunger crisis. Tens of millions of children and their families are currently confronted with the real-life impacts of acute hunger, including starvation and other long-term health issues. This is why, in 2021, World Vision launched a global hunger initiative combining regionally led responses addressing hunger, which led to the declaration of a Global Hunger Response (GHR) in May 2022 to respond to the staggering needs of 30 million of the most vulnerable people facing unprecedented hunger in 28 countries. World Vision responded to this global emergency by raising US\$2.27 billion and reaching more than 25.4 million people, including over 14 million children, in collaboration with our donors and partners.

Considering the persistent and growing need for assistance despite global efforts by the United Nations (UN) and agencies like World Vision, GHR announced Phase II of the Response alongside the organisation's global hunger and malnutrition campaign, ENOUGH, in October 2023. World Vision aims to reach 30 million of the most vulnerable people experiencing hunger and the threat of famine in 28 countries of highest alert* with a focus on providing integrated solutions across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus to sustainably address the drivers of food insecurity and acute malnutrition.





US\$198.7 million raised out of US\$2.5 billion

People reached

6,573,275

Men 1,167,141

** Children 3,723,741 Women 1,682,393 Boys 1,840,315 Girls 1,883,426

*Based on figures as of 23 April 2024

Situation overview

Conflict, weather extremes, and economic shocks remain the main drivers of hunger, pushing more people into high levels of acute food insecurity. The number of people living in acute food insecurity has increased by 9% since 2022 and currently stands at a record 281.6 million, which constitutes 21.5% of the analysed populations (59 countries).1 Acute malnutrition also remains at a rise with 36.4 million children under 5 years affected by wasting, out of which 9.8 million are severely wasted.² In fact, nearly half of children's deaths globally are related to malnutrition. Further, 9.3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are also deeply affected by malnutrition globally.3

Most of the affected countries experience the compounded impact of the multiple drivers of food insecurity, given the strong interlinkages and causality between the drivers and the pre-existing poverty, structural weaknesses, and uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴ Conflict remains a primary driver in many of the crises around the world, specifically in the ten largest food crises in the world.⁵ Among 59 countries analysed, it was the primary driver in 20 countries and territories where 134.5 million people face high acute food insecurity.6 Other than the immediate impact of conflict on communities - including deaths, injuries, destruction of households and major infrastructure, and displacement – it also leaves a lasting impact from which communities take years to recover. Conflict also affects income sources and markets and leads to increases in prices at a local and global level. This renders the communities even more vulnerable. In many cases, it also hinders access to humanitarian assistance.7 According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), Chad, Burkina Faso and Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, the Niger, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen are the main hunger hotspots that are mostly affected by conflict.8

^{*} Elsewhere World Vision continues to monitor the situation and is working to adapt programming and responses where cost-of-living price shocks are hurting the vulnerable

¹ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024). Global Report of Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions, p6

² <u>lbid</u>, p15

³ <u>lbid</u>, p15

⁴ Ibid, p9

⁵ Ibid, p12

⁶ lbid, p12

⁷ World Food Programme (WFP) (2024). A global food crisis

⁸ WFP and FAO (2023). Hunger Hotspots, FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023 to April 2024 Outlook, p3

Global Hunger Response: April 2024



Weather extremes due to climate change and the impacts of El Niño continue to be major drivers of acute food insecurity and manifest as heavy rains, tropical storms, cyclones, flooding, and drought depending on the location. Although it was the main driver of food insecurity for 28 countries (out of 59 analysed),⁹ the Southern Africa region is currently the most affected with high temperatures and dry conditions, which have deeply affected agricultural production and led to disease outbreaks. The central part of the region has witnessed the driest February in the past 100 years. 10 Furthermore, most of the Asia Pacific region is experiencing dry conditions while the East Africa region is experiencing heavy rainfall and flooding.¹¹ While the current El Niño episode is less severe than in 2015-2016, its impact is much greater as it occurs amidst high food inflation.

Although international prices of major cereals dropped in early 2024, low-income countries are still affected as they heavily rely on imported goods.¹² In addition, domestic staple food prices remained high due to extreme weather events and conflict.¹³ Rice prices are around 30% higher than last year due to the impact of El Niño and export restrictions by India.¹⁴ However, average food prices remain higher than pre-pandemic levels, 15 For wheat flour specifically, Argentina 16 and Pakistan¹⁷ have seen significantly higher prices. Additionally, Myanmar cites higher prices for rice while Nigeria, South Sudan, and Sudan have seen high prices for a variety of staple foods. 18 Despite some improvements, food inflation remains higher than 5% in 58% of low-income countries.¹⁹

Amidst these challenges, funding for humanitarian assistance is declining globally. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has revised its assistance target for 2024 to 184.1 million people.²⁰ Plus, humanitarian funding recorded in February 2024 is 35% less than what was recorded just a year ago.²¹ Specifically, nine responses are receiving less funding when compared to 2023 levels: Central African Republic, Colombia, El Salvador, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria, and Ukraine.²² This funding crisis is complex, driving humanitarian organizations to make tough choices that translate into cuts in assistance or prioritization of the most vulnerable.

Key concerns

Since 2022, conditions have worsened for several countries that sit within World Vision's GHR, including Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, and Lebanon.²³ The GHR continues to monitor the situation of Tier 1, Tier 2, and other countries that could potentially be included in the Response effort. The following are some countries with key concerns:

Middle East

April 2024 marks the sixth month since the escalation of violence in the **occupied Palestinian** territories (oPt) began, leading to the most severe food crisis ever recorded in IPC history.²⁴ The latest IPC analysis shows that the entire population of the Gaza strip (2.23 million) are living in IPC Phase 3 conditions or worse; 50% of which (1.1 million) are in IPC Phase 5 (catastrophe) and 38% are in Phase 4 (emergency).²⁵ Following the collapse of medical systems and a blockade on humanitarian assistance, children have died from starvation and disease.²⁶ As of end of December 2023, 80% of the population was internally displaced.²⁷ If the situation remains unchanged and humanitarian aid continues to be blocked, famine is projected to manifest by May 2024.²⁸ The **West Bank** continues to be affected by the ongoing conflict with 65% of villages assessed in February reported to be facing security incidents and 79% are struggling with access to healthcare.²⁹ Access to humanitarian assistance is also a concern. Compared to periods prior to the current crisis, World Vision is experiencing constraints in 65% of the locations in which they operate.³⁰ The conflict in southern **Lebanon** continues to exacerbate the impacts of the economic and financial crises, undermining the food security of Lebanese residents as well as Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Excluding the impact of the conflict, 21% of the population are facing high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October 2023 and March 2024.³¹ Due to the conflict, around 10,000 people have been internally displaced.³²

⁹ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024). Global Report of Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions, p6

¹⁰ WFP and FAO (2023). Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity; November 2023 to April 2024 Outlook, p2

¹¹ Ibid, p3

¹² International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024). Global Report of Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions, p6

¹³ FAO (12 March 2024). Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Bulletin #2, p1

¹⁴ World Bank (February 15, 2024). Food Security Update

¹⁵ Shahbandeh, M. (15 June 2023), Global food price index 2000-2023, FAO. Statista.

¹⁶ FAO (12 April 2024). Domestic Price Warnings - Argentina

¹⁷ WFP (19 February 2024). Market Monitor Report - January 2024

¹⁸ FAO (12 March 2024). Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Bulletin #2, p1

¹⁹ World Bank (15 February 2024). Food Security Update

²⁰ OCHA (11 March 2024). Global Humanitarian Overview 2024, February Update

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

²³ WFP and FAO (2023). Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023 to April 2024 Outlook, p3

²⁴ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024). Global Report of Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions, p5

²⁵ IPC (March 2024). Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 15 February - 15 March 2024 and Projection for 16 March -

²⁶ Save the Children (2 April 2024). "It's not fair to die of hunger"

²⁷ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024). Global Report of Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions, p6

²⁸ IPC (March 2024). Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 15 February - 15 March 2024 and Projection for 16 March -

²⁹ World Vision International (March 2024). Middle East Crisis Response, Situation Report #5, p2

³¹ IPC (October 2023). Lebanon: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for October 2023 - March 2024 and Projection for April 2024 - September 2024

³² World Vision International (March 2024). Middle East Crisis Response, Situation Report #5, p2





Sudan

Sudan's ongoing fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, which started in April 2023, led to unprecedented levels of acute food insecurity in the country.³³ Thirty-seven percent of the population (17.7 million) live in IPC Phase 3 or above,³⁴ an increase by 74% since 2022.³⁵ Sudan is also experiencing the world's largest internal displacement crisis whereby, as of April 2024, over 8.7 million people are forcibly displaced.³⁶ This includes over 1.8 million people have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries including Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, and Libya.³⁷ The conflict has also exacerbated the impacts of the erratic rainfalls and protracted economic crises on both the summer crop harvest and winter wheat harvest.³⁸ However, it's not just the challenges within Sudan's borders causing these issues. The war in Ukraine, the reduction of foreign currency reserves, and the depreciation of the local currency have severely impacted import and export activities. This is especially true as Sudan is one of six African countries that rely on Ukraine or Russia for over 70% of their wheat imports.³⁹ Because of these multiple drivers, which have also impeded access to humanitarian assistance, malnutrition has significantly risen. Nearly 3 million children are acutely malnourished and an additional 729,0000 children under the age of 5 are suffering from severe acute malnutrition.⁴⁰

³³ IPC (March 2024). <u>SUDAN - IPC Alert: A conflict surge threatens millions to slide into worst levels of acute food insecurity</u> and malnutrition

- 34 Ibid.
- ³⁵ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024) <u>Global Report of Food Crises</u> 2024; Joint Analysis for Better Decisions p61.
- ³⁶ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2024). <u>Sudan Situation (21 April 2024)</u>
- 37 Ibid.
- ³⁸ WFP and FAO (2023) <u>Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023 to April 2024</u> <u>Outlook</u>, p37.
- ³⁹ Y. Bychkovska (5 April 2024). Ukraine's grain exports are crucial to Africa's food security. Atlantic Council.
- ⁴⁰Save the Children (11 March 2024). <u>Sudan: Nearly 230,000 children and new mothers likely to die from hunger without critical action</u>

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the ten countries with the largest food crises, with 19.7 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.⁴¹ Weather extremes, conflict, and the recent surge of refugees are the primary drivers of food insecurity in Ethiopia, specifically in the northern parts of the country. The lingering effects of the three-year El-Nino drought, including severe water shortages, dried pastures, and reduced harvests, continue to push the country into higher levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.⁴² As a result, 4.6 million people continue to be internally displaced, which includes 51% that have been displaced for over five years.⁴³ Although gaps in data persist, a recent joint assessment by the government and humanitarian partners estimates that 15.8 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2024.⁴⁴ Moreover, Ethiopia faces several health concerns including 5.2 million malaria cases with a 25% increase in deaths; 42,000 cases of measles across the country with a 10% increase in deaths; and a cholera fatality rate of 1.41%.⁴⁵ Due to armed clashes and insecurity, the Amhara region is still in a state of emergency and the population continues to face access barriers to basic services and much-needed humanitarian aid.⁴⁶

Haiti

A spike of armed gang violence in February 2024 has led to further price increases and the internal displacement of 362,000 people.⁴⁷ Plus, less than half of health facilities are reported to be functional.⁴⁸ Due to security situation, the government and humanitarian organizations are only able to reach five percent of the population with humanitarian assistance.⁴⁹ As a result, the overall situation has further exacerbated the impact from the ongoing economic crisis. Coupled with drought conditions, this has pushed Haiti towards significantly high levels of acute food insecurity. Half of the population is currently considered to be food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above)⁵⁰ and around 277,000 children under the age of five are facing acute levels of malnutrition.⁵¹ Moreover, Haiti's future food security is at risk. Conflict continues, specifically around the country's breadbasket, the Artibonite department. In the past two years, the area has seen roughly 100 armed attacks – second only to Port-au-Prince.⁵² Combined with shrinking production where nearly 3,000 hectares of farmland was abandoned in 2023, Haitians risk not having enough food to meet their needs.⁵³

- ⁴¹ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024). <u>Global Report of Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions</u>, p9
- ⁴² UN News (2 February 2024). <u>World News in Brief: Drought in Ethiopia, peacekeepers wounded in DR Congo, deadly</u> strike on Ukraine aid workers
- ⁴³ OCHA (25 March 2024). Ethiopia Situation Report
- ⁴⁴ UN NEWS (6 February 2024). UN food agency ramps up deliveries amid worsening food security in Ethiopia
- ⁴⁵ OCHA (25 March 2024). Ethiopia Situation Report
- 46 Ibid
- ⁴⁷ IPC (22 March 2024). Haiti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation Projection Update for March-June 2024
- ⁴⁸ UN Population Fund (UNPF) (3 April 2024). Haiti Situation Report #2 3 April 2024
- ⁴⁹ IPC (22 March 2024). Haiti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation Projection Update for March-June 2024
- ⁵⁰ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2024) <u>Global Report of Food Crises</u>: <u>Joint Analysis for Better Decisions</u>, p118
- ⁵¹ IPC (8 March 2024). <u>Haiti: Acute Malnutrition Situation for December 2023 May 2024 and Projection for June-November 2024</u>
- ⁵² S. Rigaud (15 March 2024). <u>Abandoned fields, soaring hunger: Gang violence hits Haiti's countryside</u>. *World Food Programme*.
- 53 Ibid





To reduce acute food insecurity and improve the resilience of 30 million of the most vulnerable people in countries experiencing growing hunger and the threat of famine

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



Improve access to food for better nutrition of the affected households



1,396,104 People reached with cash and voucher assistance



US\$39,642,236 Cash and voucher assistance distributed



279,281 Children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding



3,725,984 People reached with (in-kind) food assistance



319.097 In-kind food assistance distributed (mt)



98%

Proportion of households reporting that they have been informed about expected behaviour of World Vision's staff, partners, and affiliates



Increase access to curative and preventive quality emergency health and nutrition services



356,321 People reached

through primary health-care support



144,696

Children reached through severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) management



14,798 Children recovered from SAM



137,404

Primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling



Enhance household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods related shocks



8.736

Households provided with (in-kind) livelihood physical agricultural assets



Households provided with conditional cash or vouchers to procure agricultural physical assets



62.595

People trained in sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, climatesmart, resilient farming practices



49%

Proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income



2.617

Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/ stresses

Improve access to clean water, sanitation support, and hygiene promotion services to mitigate waterborne diseases



594,096

People provided with access to clean, potable water



171,257

People who have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities



including faith leaders engaged on hygiene promotion activities



Reduce protection risks and vulnerabilities of affected children, women, and other vulnerable groups



49,305

People receiving psychosocial support



People receiving messages on positive coping strategies and preventing negative coping mechanisms



Including faith leaders engaged in promoting positive copina strateaies



Reduce/mitigate predictable humanitarian impacts from negatively affecting at-risk populations through anticipatory action



3,094

People supported through forecast-based actions



5.039

People provided direct access to information on climate and weather risks and crop management advisories



Including existing community structures used as platforms to engage on anticipatory actions





Advocacy highlights

In the second quarter of 2024, GHR team held two Engagement Response Group meetings that brought together internal stakeholders to deliberate on GHR communications priorities, including the release of the Price Shocks Report 3.0 and the upcoming release of a study on food ration cuts based on data from a handful of GHR countries. There was also notable progress covered by ENOUGH campaign team members after launches around the globe and deep dives into four GHR countries - Central African Republic, Myanmar, Sudan and Angola.

The latest meeting, held at the start of this month, detailed hunger-related social listening efforts from January to March 2024. It was encouraging to note the increase in World Vision's share of voice in the hunger space. From January to March 2024, it increased threefold from its baseline of 2.7% to a remarkable 8.8%. This change can be attributed to the ongoing thought leadership efforts within GHR and the ENOUGH campaign.



There were also a number of important View pieces published by leading voices across the organisation. Amanda Rives Argeñal, senior director for external engagement and resource development detailed how uneven inflation recovery rates means that the poorest of the poor continue to pay the most to feed their families. Paul Kinuthia, senior director for technical resources, focussed on school meals through his piece on

why NGOs must focus on school meals in humanitarian crises. Additionally, Elena Gaia, director of global campaigns, published a piece titled Enough Food for Every Child: a Human Right?. She also moderated a panel during ENOUGH's Geneva launch in March 2024 and highlighted the issues of hunger in GHR priority countries.

In East Africa, there was a Regional Advocacy Forum in Kampala, Uganda. This brought together teams from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The forum's activities included a field visit, an opportunity to review advocacy capacity statements and share impact stories with colleagues, as well as opportunities for multi-country funding and advocacy.

World Vision's delegation also participated in the European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) in Brussels in March 2024. The Forum gathered around 2,800 participants from EU Member States, NGOs, partners, donors, financial institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholders. World Vision made themselves visible in several ways, including:

- Through children/youth participation: one youth in person participation to a high-level panel with the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management; six pre-recorded messages from children from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan.
- Contributions to EHF/Education in Emergency (EiE) high-level panels: pre-recorded testimony from a child from South Sudan on a high-level panel discussing children and armed conflict (CAAC); two interventions from the floor; in-person participation of youth to the opening session of the EiE conference.
- Side-events: leading two humanitarian talks on children protection in hunger crises and CASH, organised together with peer organisations.
- External engagement: side meetings with donors and informal networking thanks to a large World Vision delegation (17 participants).







Resource highlights

Articles

Raising our hands for a healthier and greener tomorrow The seven things humanitarians want you to know about the hunger crisis

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration – climate action that's fit for fragile contexts

Credit coverage: Addressing the financial insecurity of families in Cabinda (Angola)

Burkina Faso: Water, a real source of resilience for communities The school meals programme in Central African Republic: A remarkable day and promising future perspectives

Water to wealth: A family's garden turned into income stream (Eswatini)

Transformative initiatives empower women amidst climate change challenges (Ethiopia)

More than just a food parcel: WFP and World Vision continue to address food insecurity in Lebanon

Mother to mother project transforming maternal and child health in Kilifi (Kenya)

Unlocking paths (Myanmar)

Mandela's journey: From childhood memories to facing hunger (South Sudan)

Transforming lives through improved agriculture (Sudan) We all know that enough is enough (Syria)

La Soledad: The church for migrants in Mexico City (Venezuela) Water day: Preventing conflicts over water resources (West Africa) Access to water brings new era of hope (Yemen)

Videos

Gul Ahmad dealing with the aftermath of conflict in that he cannot get enough to eat (Afghanistan) World Vision and World Food Programme respond to children's needs (Burkina Faso)

World Vision's MHNTs: a lifeline for many (Afghanistan)

Ornella, trapped in a conflict she had nothing to do with (DRC) Hope in action: World Vision and MEDAIR's lifeline in Yemen

Reports and publications

Feeding hope: A retrospective on World Vision's Global Hunger Response Phase I

Global Hunger Response phase II strategic plan

One year on: Global Hunger Response

Global Hunger Response: Capacity statement

Rising Storms: Climate impacts on conflict, community tensions. and hunger

Price Shocks: Economic gains masking a growing hunger and

We would like to thank the hundreds of thousands of generous child sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible, including:















We would also like to thank:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Irish Aid, Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), Institute Camões: Japan Foundation (JPF), Embassy of the Netherlands, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Vision

wvi.org/emergencies/hunger-crisis

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