

GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE

Situation report #9 | March 2023

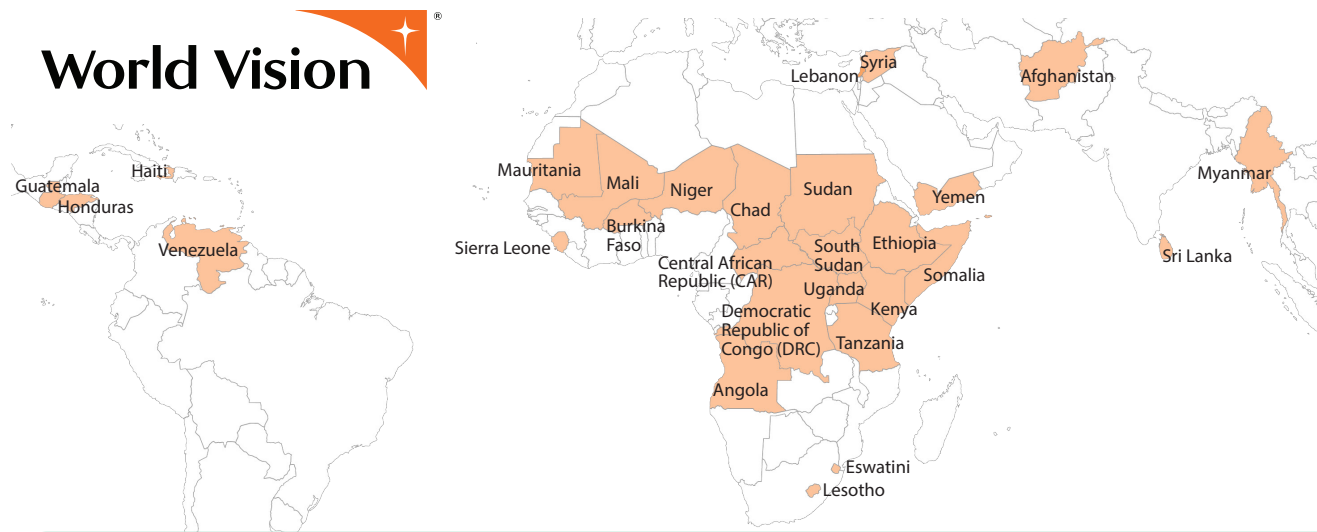
The world is facing a massive hunger crisis. **Tens of millions of children and their families are confronted with starvation.** Conflict; food, fuel, and fertiliser prices that have reached a 10-year high due to geopolitics; an uneven global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; climate change; as well as high inflation are all acting as drivers of this crisis

Nearly **45 million people** in 37 countries risk starvation. World Vision is responding to this global emergency with a **US\$2 billion** appeal – the largest in organisational history.

Food assistance and other life-saving support is immediately needed to prevent the deaths of thousands of people. Despite efforts from the United Nations (UN) and agencies like World Vision, needs continue to outpace international funding. The Response is targeting **30 million people² in 28 countries of highest concern.**^{*} 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.

** East Africa Emergency Hunger Response: Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda; West Africa Emergency Hunger Response: Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, CAR, Mauritania, Sierra Leone; in the Middle East and Eastern Europe: Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen; in Southern Africa: DRC, Angola, Lesotho, Eswatini; in Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti; in East Asia: Myanmar; in South Asia and the Pacific: Sri Lanka.*

World Vision



People reached

20,426,422



Men 4,059,142

Women 5,203,327



Children 11,163,953

Boys 5,258,887 Girls 5,905,066

**Based on figures as of 21 March 2023. People reached includes people supported in GHR's 26 countries of highest alert from 01 March 2021 through the current reporting period (February 2023).*

Situation overview

A number of converging factors are propelling people into heightened levels of hunger and malnutrition globally. Climate shocks and natural disasters in particular are contributing to accelerated food and nutrition insecurity, and, in some cases, exacerbating conflicts. Recent events in Türkiye and Syria; historic floods in Pakistan and southern Africa; heatwaves and failed rains in the Horn of Africa, Iraq, Syria, and Angola; and the increasing possibility of extreme climatic conditions due to rising global temperatures exemplify the need for more focussed disaster preparedness and humanitarian responses.¹

The confluence of these situations is also worsening people's ability to meet their basic needs and weakening their overall resilience. One in every 23 people are now in need of humanitarian assistance, a 20% increase since the beginning of 2022 and more than double those in need just four years ago.²

Furthermore, over 900,000 people worldwide are struggling to survive in famine-like situations – a 10-fold increase in the last five years³ – with WFP reporting concerns that the number of people suffering from 'catastrophic' (IPC 5) conditions will expand in 2023 to include people living in seven countries: Somalia, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen.⁴ In Somalia alone, 43,000 people (half of them children) died in

2022 drought. Between 18,000 to 34,000 people are likely to die due to the drought in the first six months of 2023, according to recent reports.⁵

The immediate and long-term effects of severe hunger put millions of children's health, lives, and futures at risk. The UN estimates that more than 30 million children, in the 15 countries hardest hit by the food and nutrition crisis,⁶ are suffering from wasting (acute malnutrition) and 8 million are severely wasted, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition.⁷

As the hunger crisis deepens, we are intensely aware that resources are not keeping pace with the escalating needs; thus, World Vision is continuously monitoring hunger levels, exacerbating factors, and levels of response to these needs in countries around the world. In early 2023, Lesotho and Eswatini were identified, per established criteria, as contexts whose situations had deteriorated to a point that they required a dedicated emergency response to provide the most vulnerable people at risk of starvation with immediate food access and address the crisis' accompanying direct and indirect impacts.



In Mali, Ramata brings her daughter, Aissata, for her periodic health check-up where she receives nutritional supplements as part of her treatment for acute malnutrition.

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¹ WFP (24 February 2023) [WFP global operational response plan](#)

² Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (1 December 2022) [Global humanitarian overview 2023](#)

³ WFP 'A global food crisis' [Accessed as of 17 March 2023]

⁴ WFP (24 February 2023) p6

⁵ Dahir, A.L. (20 March 2023) 'First official estimate of Somalia's drought shows 43,000 dead', New York Times.

⁶ Of the 15, 13 countries namely; Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, the DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen are included in World Vision's Global Hunger Response, as World Vision does not currently operate in Madagascar and Nigeria.

⁷ WHO (12 January 2023) [Urgent action needed as acute malnutrition threatens the lives of millions of vulnerable children](#). Also see: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) et al. (12 January 2023) [Call to action: Priority actions for immediate acceleration in response to the global food and nutrition crisis – UN global action plan on child wasting](#).

Key concerns

More than 55 million people are facing food insecurity across most of the countries in the **southern Africa** region. The situation has been compounded by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 lockdowns as well as price hikes for vegetable oil, petroleum oil, grains, and fertilisers. This regional financial downturn has also affected the amount of remittance payments coming in, especially from South Africa. However, the hunger situation in two countries in the region – Eswatini and Lesotho – drastically grew in scale from ‘serious’ to ‘critical’, as per World Vision’s established criteria, since the beginning of 2023.

Due to an above-average rainfall during the 2021 and 2022 agricultural seasons, which led to localised flash floods and water logging, **Lesotho** farmers saw extensive crop damage, resulting in harvest yields lower than the five-year average and poor conditions for livestock. Subsequently, food inflation has reached up to 7.4% and work opportunities for casual farm labourers have reduced.⁸ Estimates show that 43% of the population does not consume enough food and one in every three children under age 5 are chronically malnourished.⁹

Eswatini, is highly dependent on imports to feed its people as national production has been constrained by erratic rainfall followed by prolonged dry spells in recent years.¹⁰ For a country mainly dependent on smallholder agriculture, further impediments, including high levels of livestock disease, relatively low economic performance, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19

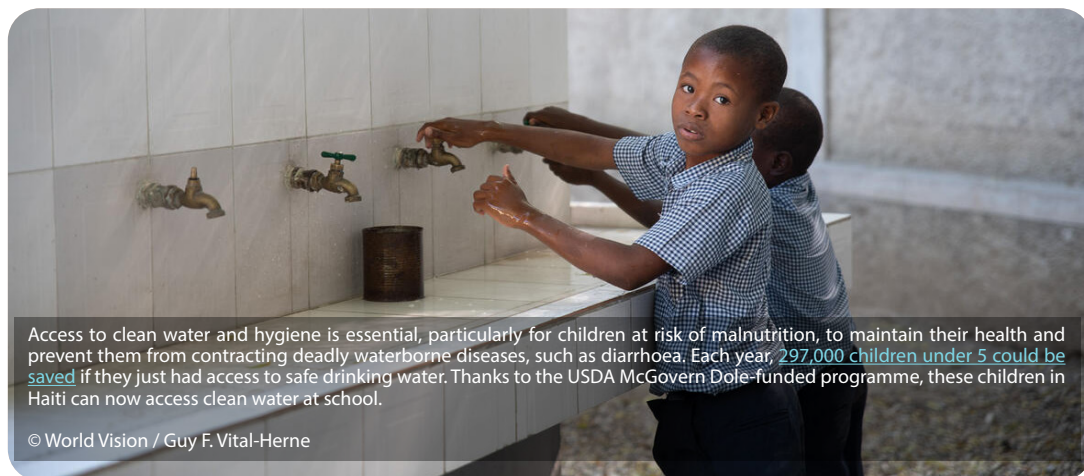
and the Ukraine-Russia conflict, have further compounded these issues, worsened food insecurity, and propelled the already affected population into poverty.¹¹ Nearly one-quarter of the population (258,801) are experiencing ‘crisis’ levels of hunger (IPC 3) or worse, with an estimated 37,000 people facing starvation in IPC 4 (emergency)¹² and one out of every four children under 5 chronically malnourished.¹³

Nine million people in **Mali** will be in need of humanitarian assistance during 2023 – a 17% increase compared to 2022.¹⁴ Approximately 2% (~15,000) of acutely food insecure people are facing ‘emergency’ (IPC 4) conditions,¹⁵ with a projected 1.5 million children suffering from severe malnutrition.¹⁶ Furthermore, the announcement by the government of restrictive administrative rules, heightened control measures, and suspension of French government-funded activities for all non-governmental organisations is expected to put greater strains on humanitarian interventions.¹⁷

Haiti is struggling from a multifaceted crisis where gang violence and crime are resulting in an increase of gender-based violence that largely targets women and children, blighting the nation and its attempted recovery from natural disasters, political turmoil, cholera outbreaks, profound poverty, and skyrocketing inflation.¹⁸ Today, children and their families face restricted access to essential health, nutrition, water, hygiene, and education services and

the country has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world with 48% of its population (4.7 million people) acutely food insecure,¹⁹ and 20% of assessed children ages 6 to 59 months are suffering from wasting.²⁰

The humanitarian crisis in **Syria** continues to deteriorate – the country still has the highest number of internally displaced persons (6.8 million people) and the number of people in need of assistance in order to survive is the largest it has been since the beginning of the crisis,²¹ while funding continues to dwindle each year the conflict endures.²² The recent earthquakes affecting northwest Syria have only added to the complex layers of suffering, making girls and boys more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.²³ Many Syrian children have known nothing but war as the protracted conflict reached its 12th year on 15 March 2023 and they now risk once again being forgotten by the international community.²⁴ Hunger is at a 12-year high with 12 million Syrians unsure where they will find their next meal.²⁵ Attacks on health infrastructure, schools, and internal displacement camps, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity, and more recent cholera outbreak, have all devastated the prospects for child survival and development in Syria.²⁶



Access to clean water and hygiene is essential, particularly for children at risk of malnutrition, to maintain their health and prevent them from contracting deadly waterborne diseases, such as diarrhoea. Each year, **297,000 children under 5 could be saved** if they just had access to safe drinking water. Thanks to the USDA McGovern Doile-funded programme, these children in Haiti can now access clean water at school.

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⁸ Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2022) [Synthesis report on the state of food security and nutrition in Southern Africa 2022/2023](#). pp30-31

⁹ WFP [‘Hunger map’](#) [accessed as of 20 March 2023]

¹⁰ WFP [‘Eswatini’](#) [accessed as of 21 March 2023]

¹¹ [SADC \(2022\)](#). p30

¹² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) [‘Population tracking tool’](#) [accessed as of 20 March 2023]

¹³ WFP [‘Hunger map’](#)

¹⁴ [OCHA \(1 December 2022\)](#)

¹⁵ IPC [‘IPC/CH dashboard’](#) [accessed as of 20 March 2023]

¹⁶ [IPC Mali projections Jan-May 2023](#) (accessed as of March 21)

¹⁷ Rédaction Africanews with AFP (22 November 2022) [Mali bans NGOs funded or supported by France](#)

¹⁸ Janetsky M. and Pesce F. (13 February 2023) [War for control of Haiti’s capital target women’s bodies](#)

¹⁹ UNICEF (8 February 2023) [2022 End-year situation report p2](#)

²⁰ [Ibid.](#)

²¹ OCHA [Syria Humanitarian Overview \(December 2022\)](#)

²² Financial tracking service (15 March 2023) [‘Syrian Arab Republic 2022’](#) [accessed as of 21 March 2023]

²³ World Vision International (WVI) (8 February 2023) [‘Children in Syria at risk of abuse and separation as earthquake leaves hundreds of thousands stranded’](#)

²⁴ WVI (15 March 2023) [‘Humanitarian needs in Syria still soaring, after earthquakes and 12 years of war’](#)

²⁵ WFP (27 January 2023) [‘Hunger soars to 12-year high in Syria, WFP chief calls for urgent action’](#)

²⁶ WVI (12 March 2023) [Dire consequences: 12 years of suffering in Syria](#)

RESPONSE GOAL: 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 affected households

- 6,244,332** People reached with cash and voucher assistance
- US\$232,121,448** Cash and voucher assistance distributed
- 858,801** Children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding
- 8,228,961** People reached with (in-kind) food assistance

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

- 1,172,715** People reached through primary health-care support
- 507,918** Children reached through management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)
- 39,137** Children recovered from SAM
- 162,936** Primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling

Improve access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services to mitigate water-borne diseases

- 1,927,798** People with access to clean, potable water
- 599,422** People that have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities with appropriate supplies
- 2,329** Faith leaders engaged on hygiene promotion activities

Ensure protection for children, women, and vulnerable groups including psychosocial support and provision of dignity kits for reproductive age girls and women

- 252,796** People receiving prevention messages on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and/or positive coping strategies
- 141,644** People receiving psychosocial support
- including 10,389** Faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention messages on PSEA and/or positive coping mechanisms

Household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks

- 3,392** Households provided with conditional cash or vouchers to procure agricultural physical assets
- 44,020** Households provided with livelihood physical agricultural assets
- 15,045** Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses
- 51** Households with alternative and diversified sources of income
- 11,686** People trained in climate change resilient farming practices

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

- [Dire consequences: 12 years of suffering in Syria](#)
- [Why children go hungry from a lack of clean water](#)
- [Food parcels to support caregivers with their children's school needs \(Lebanon\)](#)
- [Water: Life of the livings \(Myanmar\)](#)
- [Children speak up about the hunger crisis](#)
- [How we're chasing away the shadow of the pandemic and getting set for the future](#)
- [Reform of UN famine taskforce needed to save lives, NGOs say](#)
- [Her story: becoming a humanitarian in South Sudan](#)
- [Anood mobilises her peers to experience good hygiene practices \(Yemen\)](#)
- [Mbaidéné Patricia: "I don't leave the classroom to drink water at home" \(Chad\)](#)
- [Relief to the adversely affected by flash floods in Lesotho](#)
- [South Sudanese mothers equipped to beat hunger and impacts of climate change](#)
- [USA First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visits World Vision nutrition outreach programme in Kajiado, Kenya](#)
- [Sierra Leone Hunger Response cash transfer](#)
- [Five ways the humanitarian sector can defy the system to save lives](#)
- [Improving access to health and nutrition services for vulnerable populations in East Darfur \(Sudan\)](#)
- [Leaving no one behind to avert starvation in DRC](#)
- [No child should be left behind \(Lebanon\)](#)
- [Cash transfer enables resiliency in N'sele \(DRC\)](#)
- [Food and nutrition crisis in Burkina Faso act through prevention of malnutrition](#)
- [Can you imagine standing in line for a sip of water \(Kenya\)](#)
- [Youth training in livelihood capacities for crisis-affected communities \(Burkina Faso\)](#)



World Vision works through our partner Medair to respond to the extensive needs of those living in remote areas in Yemen to provide an integrated health, nutrition, water, and sanitation response, in addition to other critical lifesaving services. Maria, a community health volunteer, visits a health facility with her child. She is happy to report that due to a growing awareness about health and hygiene in her community, 'I can see the number of children getting sick decreasing. [Women] now have the knowledge to educate their own families which is our goal as community health volunteers.'

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



World Food Programme



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Other donors include:

AFD, BMZ, DFAT, DRA, FCDO, GAC, GFFO, GPE, Institute Camões, Dutch Relief Alliance, Embassy of the Netherlands, UNHCR, Visser Relief Fund, World Bank

World Vision

World Vision is focussed on helping the most vulnerable children to overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places. Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

wvi.org/emergencies/hunger-crisis

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