

# GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE

Situation report #8 | February 2023



The world is facing a massive hunger crisis. **Tens of millions of children and their families are confronted with starvation.** Conflict, COVID-19, climate change, and rising costs are acting as drivers of this crisis.

Nearly **45 million people<sup>a</sup>** 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 **22 million people<sup>z</sup> in 26 countries of highest concern.<sup>\*</sup>** 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.

<sup>a</sup> World Vision will revise the target upwards to reflect growing needs and the addition of new countries to the Response, per established criteria.

<sup>\*</sup> 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; in Latin America and the Caribbean: Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti; in East Asia: Myanmar; in South Asia and the Pacific: Sri Lanka.



## People reached

 **19,736,760**



**Men 3,951,119**

**Women 5,061,483**



**Children 10,724,158**

**Boys 5,047,104 Girls 5,677,054**

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

## Situation overview

2023 is anticipated to be even tougher for tens of millions of people around the world as the largest hunger crisis in modern history is putting people who are struggling to feed their families in extreme jeopardy.

Conflict continues to be the biggest driver of hunger, with at least 60% of the world's hungry living in areas afflicted by war.<sup>1</sup> Unprecedented floods in Chad, prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa, the recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, amongst other emergencies and natural disasters brought on by climate change, are compounding hunger in countries already steeped in poverty. The ripple effects from the ongoing war in Ukraine are also propelling this emergency forward at a staggering rate. Food prices are at a 10 year high<sup>2</sup> and higher natural gas prices have further disrupted global fertiliser production and exports – reducing supplies, raising prices, and threatening to reduce harvests. This could in turn shift the food affordability crisis into a food availability crisis, as the production of maize, rice, soybean and wheat all fell in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**More than 900,000 people worldwide are currently fighting to survive in famine-like conditions.<sup>4</sup>** This is 10 times more than five years ago, an alarmingly rapid increase.<sup>5</sup> The humanitarian system is being pushed to its limits, with funding increasing but still failing to keep pace with growing response requirements, and UNICEF projects that one in four children will be living below

the poverty line in 2023.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, the number of children affected by this food and nutrition crisis continues to increase.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 30 million children in the 15 worst-affected countries suffer from wasting,<sup>7</sup> with 8 million of them severely wasted, the deadliest form of undernutrition.<sup>8</sup> This level of severe hunger has life-long impacts on children's development and all aspects of their lives, jeopardising their immediate and long-term health, development, overall well-being, and potential, as well as that of future generations. This calls for urgent humanitarian assistance and the strengthening of nutrition resilience within populations facing food crises to prevent the devastating inter-generational impacts of malnutrition.

<sup>1</sup>WFP (January 2023) '[A global food crisis](#)' [Accessed as of 14/02/2023].

<sup>2</sup>WFP (January 2023)

<sup>3</sup>WFP (January 2023)

<sup>4</sup>WFP (January 2023)

<sup>5</sup>WFP (January 2023)

<sup>6</sup>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (January 2023) [Prospects for children outlook in the polycrisis: A 2023 global outlook](#)

<sup>7</sup>Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height and is a lethal form of malnutrition.

<sup>8</sup>WHO (12 January 2023) '[Urgent action needed as acute malnutrition threatens the lives of millions of vulnerable children](#)'



As cold winter temperatures compound the devastation brought on by the 6 February earthquake and displaced people struggle to meet their basic needs, World Vision delivers heaters to displaced Syrians living in collective shelters. Warmth is a massive need and World Vision is providing it in spaces where people feel safe, together with fuel, ready-to-eat meals, and health-care assistance, among other measures to help keep people warm and healthy.

© World Vision / Rand Ishagat

## Key concerns

- The economy in **Sudan** continues to struggle due to persistently low foreign currency reserves, increasing production costs, as well as rising food and non-food item prices.<sup>9</sup> This is reflected in a disproportionately high cost of living for the Sudanese, leaving many unable to meet their basic needs, which is increasingly pushing some households to engage in negative coping strategies such as skipping meals or engaging in child labour to supplement the family's income in order to minimise the gap between income and purchasing power.<sup>10</sup> Unsurprisingly, the need for humanitarian assistance is at a 10-year high in Sudan with estimates suggesting as many as 15.8 million people – about a third of the population – will be in need during 2023.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, 1.5 million of these girls, boys, women, and men are also experiencing 'emergency' levels of food insecurity (IPC 4), putting them at high risk of malnutrition and other hunger-related diseases.
- On 6 February 2023 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit **Türkiye** and **Northwest Syria**. Beyond the spiralling death toll, this earthquake is unique because 4 million people in Northwest Syria were already completely dependent on humanitarian aid prior to this disaster and access to this area was, and is, extremely constrained due to conflict dynamics.<sup>12</sup> While international aid continues to be delivered across borders into Syria, families affected by this disaster are struggling to find shelter in the cold winter weather and are very much reliant on humanitarian aid to meet their food, water, and shelter needs. Johan Mooij, World Vision Syria Response Director, reports: "Entire streets and villages have been reduced to rubble, whole families killed, and millions left homeless. People already living in extreme poverty have

lost what little they had. ...Prior to the quakes, six or seven people were sharing tents due to the scale of displacement from the conflict. Now it's 16 or 17 people in each tent... This is a humanitarian emergency that is catastrophic in historic terms, that requires an aid response that is historic in its generosity. We urge all governments to provide adequate funding in order to meet the chronic needs of the people in Syria and Türkiye and to be more flexible than ever when it comes to granting access."<sup>13</sup>

- The humanitarian situation in Goma, Rutshuru, and Masisi territories in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has steadily worsened, resulting in unending suffering as the security situation remains unpredictable and families continue to flee relentless fighting between government and rebel forces.<sup>14</sup> In addition to posing safety concerns, children's mental health is also at risk as they are witnessing extreme violence likely to affect them long after the conflict ends. Over half a million people have been displaced since March 2022, many of whom are living in crowded, often squalid living conditions in displacement camps<sup>15</sup> where there is little fresh water, few adequate latrines, increasing their vulnerability to waterborne diseases, including cholera breakouts, and many report that there is not enough food to go around, leading to fighting.<sup>16</sup>
- People in **Guatemala** are experiencing fluctuating levels of acute food insecurity. Between March and May 2022, more than 3.9 million people were living in 'crisis' level or above (IPC 3+) food insecurity, with more than 400,000 suffering from 'emergency' (IPC 4) levels of

hunger. During the country's recent lean season, this past June to September, this increased to 4.6 million people with more than 552,000 facing emergency levels.<sup>17</sup> This situation is further exacerbated by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which has led to a sustained increase in the prices of food and fuel.<sup>18</sup> There is hope, however, that the food insecurity situation will improve across a good number of the country's departments by this month, as analysts predict an increase in employment sources derived from coffee and sugarcane crops and the potential for greater marketing opportunities, which have the potential to reduce the number of people suffering from 'emergency' food insecurity to less than a quarter of the heights seen in September 2022.<sup>19</sup>

- The drought in **Kenya** – now entering its third year – continues to worsen in the arid and semi-arid counties after yet another failed rainy season ended in December 2022. This has led to widespread livelihood losses and a projected 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance – an estimated 1.2 million of whom are living in 'emergency' (IPC 4) conditions.<sup>20</sup> Increasing hunger led to deterioration of the nutrition status of children compared to same time last year. Most affected are children under five years and lactating mothers. There is a rise in maternal deaths mainly attributed to diminished diets due to the lack of food availability in combination with reduced access to maternal health care.<sup>21</sup>



Children in Doolow, Somalia drive a donkey cart filled with items for selling and trading. Children are the hardest hit by the drought's effects as they and their families are forced to leave their homes, farms, and livelihoods to seek aid in displacement camps just to survive. Many have been forced to work to help provide for their families. © World Vision / Gwayi Patrick

<sup>9</sup> FEWSNET (November 2022) [The start of the harvest improves food access, but atypical high food needs remain present.](#)

<sup>10</sup> FEWSNET (November 2022)

<sup>11</sup> FEWSNET (November 2022)

<sup>12</sup> World Vision International (WVI) (11 February 2023) ['Worst needs from earthquake in over a decade, will take over a generation to recover'](#)

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> OCHA (20 January 2023) [DRC: Humanitarian situation in Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Lubero territories – Situation report #14](#)

<sup>15</sup> OCHA (January 2023) ['DRC humanitarian situation report'](#) [Accessed as of 15/02/2023]

<sup>16</sup> Africa News (7 December 2022) ['East DRC: Hunger and cholera threaten displaced people in camps'](#)

<sup>17</sup> IPC (n.d.) ['Guatemala acute food insecurity situation March to May 2022 and projections for June – September 2022 and October 2022 – February 2023'](#) [Accessed as of 15/02/2023]

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Estimates anticipate a drop to 127,928 people living in IPC 4 from 552,453. *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> IPC (September 2022) [Kenya: IPC food insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis](#)

<sup>21</sup> UN News (27 December 2022) ['Kenya: Severe drought fuels malnutrition, reduces hospital-delivery births in Turkana County'](#)



**RESPONSE GOAL:** To reduce acute food insecurity and improve the resilience of 22 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



**6,113,198**

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



**US\$226,274,710**

Cash and voucher assistance distributed



**868,722**

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



**7,805,928**

People reached with (in-kind) food assistance



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



**1,137,026**

People reached through primary health-care support



**470,995**

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



**38,740**

Children recovered from SAM



**153,460**

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



**1,905,522**

People with access to clean, potable water



**549,639**

People that have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities with appropriate supplies



**including 2,061**

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



**232,774**

People receiving prevention messages on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and/or positive coping strategies



**including 6,794**

Faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention messages on PSEA and/or positive coping mechanisms



**132,995**

People receiving psychosocial support



#### Household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks



**3,359**

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



**40,850**

Households provided with livelihood physical agricultural assets



**14,909**

Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses



**51**

Proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income



**11,636**

People trained in climate change resilient farming practices



## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

- [What is famine?](#)
- [East Africa Hunger Emergency Response situation report #20](#)
- [A new BFF & the cooking game](#) (DRC)
- [Worst needs from earthquake in over a decade, will take over a generation to recover](#) (Syria)
- [El País newspaper: El clima extremo y la guerra matan de hambre a Somalia](#)
- [The reality of Kenya's hunger crisis: Choosing between saving your dying livestock and your children's education](#)
- [Surviving malnutrition may not be enough for Somalia's children](#)
- [Groundwater monitoring in Somalia – Time data to make an invisible resource more visible](#)
- [Improving maternal and newborn health in Sudan through community referral networks](#)
- [Planting seeds of peace through community consultations, dialogues, and empowerment](#) (South Sudan)
- [Hungry no more! Sweet potatoes boost children's nutrition, farmers' income](#) (South Sudan)
- [Families in Afghanistan struggle to make ends meet](#)
- [Mobile medical team brings health and nutrition services directly to people's home](#) (Yemen)
- [Sight Magazine: Responding to catastrophe](#) (Northwest Syria and Türkiye)
- [Children at sea](#) (Lebanon)
- [Reaching the final straw: shedding light on suicide trends in Northwest Syria](#)
- [Young children in crisis settings: Nourish the body nourish the bond; integrating early care and nutrition in emergencies](#) (joint resource kit released by Moving Minds Alliance with WVI support)



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



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 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](http://wvi.org/emergencies/hunger-crisis)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**Mary Njeri**  
Response Director  
Global Hunger Response  
[mary\\_njeri@wvi.org](mailto:mary_njeri@wvi.org)

**Micah Branaman**  
Communications Technical Director  
Global Hunger Response  
[micah\\_branaman@wvi.org](mailto:micah_branaman@wvi.org)

### OR THE REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY DIRECTOR:

**Kunal Shah**  
Asia Pacific  
[kunal\\_shah@wvi.org](mailto:kunal_shah@wvi.org)

**Jose Nelson Chavez Rosales**  
Latin America and Caribbean  
[jose\\_chavez@wvi.org](mailto:jose_chavez@wvi.org)

**Julian Srodecki**  
Middle East and Eastern Europe  
[julian\\_srodecki@wvi.org](mailto:julian_srodecki@wvi.org)

**Joseph Kamara**  
East Africa  
[joseph\\_kamara@wvi.org](mailto:joseph_kamara@wvi.org)

**Maxwell Sibhensana**  
Southern Africa  
[maxwell\\_sibhensana@wvi.org](mailto:maxwell_sibhensana@wvi.org)

**Isaac Massaga**  
West Africa  
[isaac\\_massaga@wvi.org](mailto:isaac_massaga@wvi.org)