



# Weekend of Prayer & Action Against Hunger

## Hunger Facts

### What should you know about the hunger crisis?

Conflict; an uneven global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; the effects of climate change; high inflation; as well as the rising cost of food, fuel, and fertiliser are driving a polycrisis that is pushing tens of millions of girls, boys, and their families into extreme hunger.

- The world is experiencing increasing average temperatures, increases in severe storms and higher levels of and more sustained drought as a result of **climate change**
  - o Weather-related crises have triggered more than twice as much displacement as conflict and violence in the last decade.<sup>1</sup>
  - o Without concerted action, up to 216 million people could be displaced due to climate change impacts by 2050<sup>2</sup>
  - o 90% of refugees come from countries that are the least able to adapt to impacts of climate change<sup>3</sup>

### Conflict, violence, and rising costs are exacerbating other existing crises.

- In 2021, conflict was the primary driver of acute hunger crisis for 139 million people in 24 countries/territories up from 99.1 million people in 23 countries in 2020.<sup>4</sup>
- 60% of the world's acutely hungry live in conflict areas<sup>5</sup>
- 8 out of 10 major food crises are driven by conflict<sup>6</sup>

### The COVID-19 pandemic has had several impacts on hunger which will persist for many years.

- It increased hunger
- It made it harder to measure hunger
- It increased the gender gap in all regions of the world.
- It increased child malnutrition:
  - o *"The devastation caused by COVID[-19] is unbearable. Thousands and thousands of people died, and many children became orphans. Companies closed their operations, and millions of employees were fired. So, no*

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations (UN) (22 April 2021) 'Climate change link to displacement of most vulnerable is clear: UNHCR' Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1090432> [Accessed as of 5 June 2023].

<sup>2</sup> Clement, V. et al. (2021) Groundswell part 2: Acting on internal climate migration, World Bank, Available from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2c9150df-52c3-58ed-9075-d78ea56c3267>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations (UN) (22 April 2021) 'Climate change link to displacement of most vulnerable is clear: UNHCR' Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1090432> [Accessed as of 5 June 2023].

<sup>4</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-report-food-crises-acute-food-insecurity-hits-new-highs-enarruzh>

<sup>5</sup> WFP (n.d.) "Food assistance: A step to peace and stability," <https://www.wfp.org/conflict-and-hunger> [Accessed 13 May 2022]

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

*jobs, no money, no food. People, especially children, were hungry, and they are still hungry. Many of them asking food on the streets. The situation is dramatic.” – Carlos, age 17, Brazil*<sup>7</sup>

- 3.1 billion people couldn't afford a nutritious diet in 2021 compared to 134 million unable to afford a healthy diet pre-pandemic, in 2019.<sup>8</sup>

#### **This is a children's crisis. Millions of children are one step away from starvation and facing the threat of famine.**

- If we stand by and do nothing, children will not just starve, families will also be forced to make terrible survival choices that will put children in harm's way and leave lasting consequences.
- Food insecurity is a leading cause of wasting in children, and malnutrition is the main underlying cause of 45% of all preventable deaths of children under five. Children who suffer from wasting are 11 times more likely to die than well-nourished children.

#### **Time is running out.**

- Today more than 35 million people are one step away from starvation. More than 29 nations around the world are facing a hunger emergency or worse. The last time the world faced a catastrophe of this scale – the 2011 Somalia famine – 260,000 people died. Half of them were children. **But now, the hunger crisis has gone global.**
- The number of people affected by acute food insecurity has nearly doubled over the past three years, from 135 million people across 55 countries and territories in 2019 to a record 258 million in 58 countries in 2022 – even more than last year's mid-year projection that, without urgent action, 222 million across 53 countries and territories could face 'crisis' (IPC 3) conditions or worse.<sup>9</sup>

#### **Famine has no place in the 21st century and is entirely preventable.**

- While a world free from hunger is possible, achieving that goal by 2023 is drifting further out of reach as year-on-year, increasing numbers of people suffer acute food insecurity.
- By the end of 2022, 376,400 people across seven countries had experienced famine-like conditions (IPC 5) at some point during the year, despite the full employment of coping strategies. More than half (214,100) of the people enduring this life-threatening situation were in Somalia, but 87,000 people in South Sudan, 31,000 in Yemen, 20,300 in Afghanistan, 19,200 in Haiti, 3,000 in Nigeria, and 1,800 in Burkina Faso also lived in these extreme conditions.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Additional Facts**

- 148.1 million children under-5 affected by stunting in 2022.
- Out of the 45 million children who were suffering from wasting in 2022, 13.6 million children were severely wasted.
- 37 million children were overweight.
- 122 million more people faced hunger in 2022 than in 2019 nearly double the number before the global pandemic.

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<sup>7</sup> WVI (2023) Invisible and forgotten: Displaced children hungrier and more at risk than ever

<sup>8</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) (2022), <https://www.wfp.org/publications/hunger-hotspots-fao-wfp-early-warnings-acute-food-insecurity-october-2022-january-2023> "Hunger hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, October 2022 to January 2023

<sup>9</sup> WVI (2023) Global Hunger Response: One year on

<sup>10</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) (2022) Hunger hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, October 2022 to January 2023 outlook, Available from: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/hunger-hotspots-fao-wfp-early-warnings-acute-food-insecurity-october-2022-january-2023>

## Hunger Facts

### Weekend of Prayer & Action - 2023

- 3.1 billion people couldn't afford a nutritious diet in 2021 compared to 134 million unable to afford a healthy diet pre-pandemic, in 2019.
- Globally, 2 out of 3 children under age 2 aren't eating a minimum diverse diet.
- Over half of infants under 6 months old aren't receiving the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding.