

# GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE

## Situation report #12 | August 2023

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.** Driving this is a polycrisis made up of interconnected components including: conflict; an uneven global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; climate change; high inflation; as well as the rising cost of food, fuel, and fertiliser – prices of which have reached a 10-year high due to geopolitics.<sup>1</sup>

By the end of last year, nearly **35 million people** across 39 countries or territories were enduring extremely severe, acute food insecurity (IPC 4+),<sup>2</sup> at risk of starvation, and after year-on-year increases, over a quarter of a billion people – 258 million – were estimated to be suffering acute food insecurity (IPC 3+).<sup>3</sup> 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 needed immediately 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. World Vision's Global Hunger Response is targeting **30 million people in 28 countries of highest concern** experiencing acute hunger and the threat of famine.\* 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; other national responses include: Eastern Europe, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, DRC, Angola, Lesotho, Eswatini, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Myanmar, Sri Lanka.

## Situation overview

A complex interplay of factors, including economic stressors, climate shocks, displacement, and natural disasters are all converging to heighten levels of food and nutrition insecurity, and in some cases, even exacerbate conflicts.

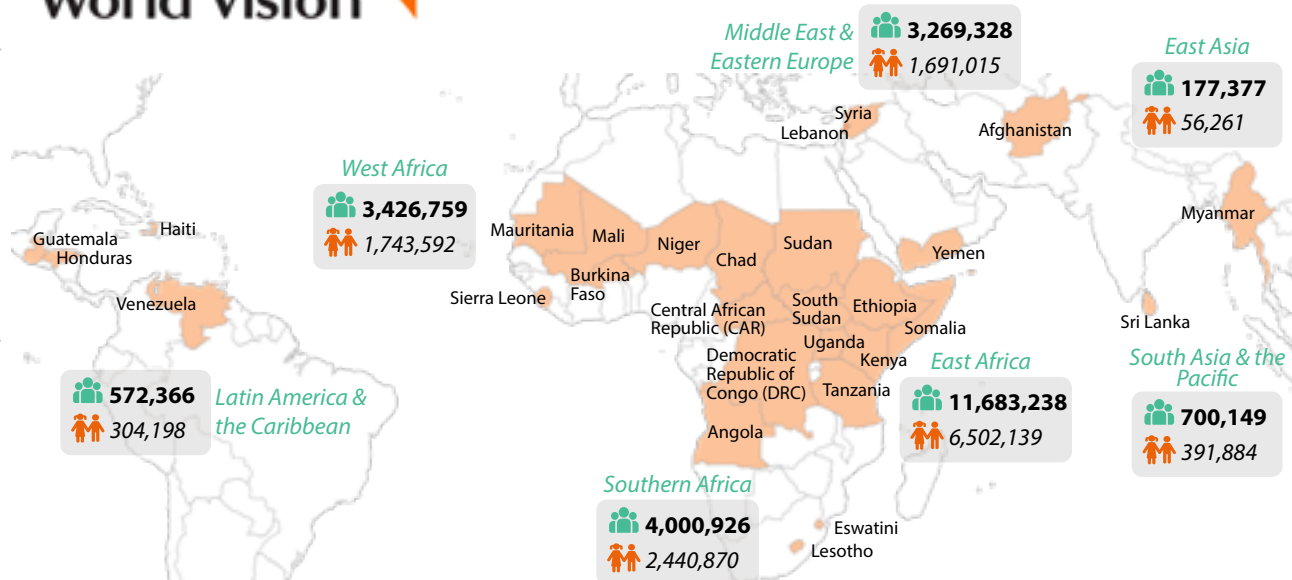
Conflict continues to constitute a key driver of food insecurity globally, while weather extremes, including heavy rains, tropical storms, cyclones, flooding, drought, and increased climate variability, have been on the rise and major contributors to the worsening food insecurity situation. El Niño conditions are developing in the tropical Pacific, increasing the likelihood of a surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns in many parts of the world.<sup>1</sup> Extreme weather events associated with El Niño have already been observed with the conditions expected to persist through early 2024.<sup>2</sup> Early warning and anticipatory action to potential crises is vital to save lives and livelihoods.

As a result, people's ability to meet their basic needs has been severely compromised, and their overall resilience weakened. Despite a modest drop in the number of people experiencing

'emergency' and 'catastrophic' hunger in 2022 – from its high of 50 million to 35 million, thanks to critical action taken – the number of overall people affected by acute food insecurity continues to grow, and 3.1 billion people cannot access an affordable, healthy diet, particularly in Africa, Western Asia, and the Caribbean.<sup>3</sup> Without urgent intervention, nine countries<sup>4</sup> (up from seven in May and five in January 2023) either already have populations in IPC 5 or are at risk of their contexts deteriorating into this condition by November 2023.

Children are particularly affected by food insecurity. Tens of millions of children under age 5 are already suffering from the physical impacts of malnutrition, including stunting (148 million), wasting (45 million), and overweight (37 million).<sup>5</sup> Despite some progress in reducing child undernutrition, the world is not on track to achieve the associated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 targets across all regions.

World Vision



### People reached

**23,830,143**



**Men 4,716,060**

**Women 5,984,124**



**Children 13,129,959**

**Boys 6,238,154 Girls 6,891,805**

\*Based on figures as of 22 August 2023. People reached includes people supported in the responses GHR's, 28 countries of highest alert from 01 March 2021 through the current reporting period (31 July 2023).



<sup>1</sup> World Meteorological Organization and World Health Organization (WHO) (2023) Health and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO): June 2023 update.

<sup>2</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (August 2023) [ENSO: Recent evolution, current status, and predictions](#).

<sup>3</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO (2023) [The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2023: Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum](#), Rome: FAO, p.xvi.

<sup>4</sup> i.e. Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen. See: WFP and FAO (2023) Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, June 2023 to November 2023 outlook, p.7.

<sup>5</sup> Joint child malnutrition estimates (JME) (2023) [Levels and trends in child malnutrition](#) p1.

## Key concerns

- **Sudan** is experiencing widespread destruction to critical infrastructure, health care, electricity and water supply, banking, etc. and has seen nearly 3.4 million people displaced since April,<sup>6</sup> which has led to a significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation, with 42% of the population – more than 20 million people – experiencing ‘crisis’ levels of food insecurity or worse (IPC 3+).<sup>7</sup> Over 6.2 million are in ‘emergency’ (IPC 4) conditions, with this number projected to grow in the coming months. It is likely that there are households at risk of famine (IPC 5) in Khartoum and Greater Darfur. This food insecurity is being driven by the conflict, coupled with the ongoing lean season, disruption of markets, and serious barriers to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- As political disruption shakes **Niger**, short and long-term responses to the worsening hunger crisis in the country remain essential. Even before the July 2023 coup, the country counted at least 3.3 million people (13% of the population) as acutely food insecure (IPC 3+).<sup>8</sup> Sanctions and border closures are greatly affecting the supply of vital foods and medical supplies into Niger, raising concern about knock-on effects, particularly the risk that rising prices will place staple foods further out of the reach of people in already dire circumstances.<sup>9</sup>
- Humanitarian needs in **Afghanistan** are at an all-time high due to the third consecutive year of drought-like conditions, worsening poverty, and heightened vulnerabilities, following 40 years of conflict. 40% of the population (17.2 million) is experiencing high levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+), including 3.4 million people living in IPC 4 ‘emergency’ hunger.<sup>10</sup> To avoid the loss of life, the delivery of assistance and supplies is vital ahead of the lean season and winter. Yet, despite these increasing needs, Afghanistan’s 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan currently has a substantial funding gap of US\$1.3 billion.<sup>11</sup> Severe underfunding has already led to a massive reduction in the number of people targeted for food assistance each month, while some 262 static and mobile health facilities have had to discontinue health service provision.<sup>12</sup>
- A spike in conflict and displacement in the eastern **DRC** is pushing children into the worst cholera crisis since 2017.<sup>13</sup> Already this year, tens of thousands of people have suffered from cholera with 230 people succumbing to the disease. North Kivu is the most affected province with more than 21,400 cases confirmed or suspected, with more than 8,000 of those cases affecting children under 5 years old, a six times as many as were reported in all of 2022.<sup>14</sup> In a country where 25.8 million people are suffering from acute food insecurity,<sup>15</sup> there is mounting concern that if urgent action is not taken to combat this cholera outbreak, it will spread across the country as well as to locations hosting displaced persons where systems are already overwhelmed and the population is highly vulnerable to illness.
- **Uganda** currently hosts more than 1.5 million refugees from neighbouring countries due to the desperate situations in the DRC and South Sudan, with 71,000 new arrivals, mostly women and children, registered in Uganda since the beginning of 2023.<sup>16</sup> However, Uganda is also grappling with severe food insecurity in the Karamoja region due to continued localised insecurity that has led to loss of livestock, limited access to farmland, and low household purchasing power. Nearly half a million people (480,000) are estimated to be experiencing ‘crisis’ (IPC 3+) conditions, including 102,000 in ‘emergency’ (IPC 4).<sup>17</sup>
- Several countries, including **Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mozambique, Somalia, and Sudan**, who were already experiencing severe vulnerability and increasing levels of hunger, are amongst those at the highest risk of experiencing severe humanitarian disasters caused by or worsened by the El Niño phenomenon between July and December 2023.<sup>18</sup>



A staff member distributes a hot meal to children and families in Darfur, Sudan as part of World Vision's Food for Education programme to improve children's nutrition and access to education through daily meals and take-home rations.  
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<sup>6</sup> International Organization of Migration (IOM) (n.d.) [“Displacement tracking matrix: Sudan”](#)

<sup>7</sup> IPC (2 August 2023) [Sudan: IPC acute food insecurity analysis, June 2023 – February 2024](#)

<sup>8</sup> WFP (16 August 2023) [“As political crisis rocks Niger, WFP stands firm with hunger and nutrition support”](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Ibid](#)

<sup>10</sup> IPC (May 2023) [Afghanistan: Acute food insecurity situation for April 2023 and projection for May - October 2023](#)

<sup>11</sup> OCHA (July 2023) [Afghanistan: Humanitarian update](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Ibid](#)

<sup>13</sup> UNICEF (August 2023) [“Children in DR Congo facing worst cholera outbreak in six years”](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Ibid](#)

<sup>15</sup> IPC (19 May 2023) [“Democratic Republic of Congo: Acute food insecurity situation projection update for January – June 2023”](#)

<sup>16</sup> Government of Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR (July 2023) [“Uganda comprehensive refugee response portal”](#)

<sup>17</sup> IPC (15 June 2023) [“Uganda: Acute food insecurity situation April – August 2023 and projection for September – February 2024”](#)

<sup>18</sup> ACAPS (25 July 2023) [Thematic report: El Niño overview – anticipated humanitarian impact](#)



**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



**6,761,971**

People reached with cash and voucher assistance



**US\$293,707,247**

Cash and voucher assistance distributed



**954,384**

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



**10,530,446**

People reached with (in-kind) food assistance



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



**1,431,826**

People reached through primary health-care support



**595,213**

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



**56,871**

Children recovered from SAM



**238,200**

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 waterborne diseases



**2,105,942**

People with access to clean, potable water



**998,127**

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



**including 2,839**

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



**278,192**

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



**including 8,510**

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



**159,282**

People receiving psychosocial support



### Enhance household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks



**7,781**

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



**63,118**

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



**31,108**

Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses



**51%**

Proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income



**24,717**

People trained in climate change resilient farming practices



## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

- [World Vision is present in the Darien jungle, combatting hunger](#) (Panama/Venezuela)
- [World Vision brings water to Welcome Primary School, improving education and health](#) (Eswatini)
- [Climate crisis: a new threat on the rise](#) (Lebanon)
- [School feeding programme tackles hunger and malnutrition among children in Kilifi County, Kenya](#)
- ['How I overcame poverty and became economically empowered'](#) (Kenya)
- [Financial savings groups boost household food security and income](#) (Kenya)
- [Six months mark on Syria's earthquake video](#)
- World Humanitarian Day
  - [Mary Njeri, World Vision Global Hunger Response Director, sharing insights into her career](#)
  - [Why humanitarians must push for more by Mary Njeri](#)
  - [Five ways to improve responses to global crises by Micah Branaman](#)
  - [Everlin Lenaikoi's efforts at World Vision Kenya continue making a powerful impact #NoMatterWhat](#)
  - [Martin Muluka, Emergency Communication Specialist for World Vision Kenya, finds hope in humanitarian crises #NoMatterWhat](#)
  - [Tejan, a young leader and humanitarian with World Vision Sierra Leone, says leaders must tackle climate change #NoMatterWhat – for the world's children and a better future](#)
  - [#WorldHumanitarianDay 2023, #NoMatterWhat, website](#)
- [World Vision hosted a regional grant acquisition management and humanitarian & emergency affairs skills share forum in Rwanda to enhance collaboration and optimise limited humanitarian resources](#)
- [Savvy women use cash aid to propel families out of Baidoa IDP camps and chronic hunger](#) (Somalia)
- World Breastfeeding Week
  - [Making breastfeeding work in a hunger crisis by Colleen Emery](#)
  - [GAIN Interview Cruncher – Nourishing our future: addressing malnutrition through breastfeeding by Mary Njeri](#)
- [Partnering with Medair to bring WASH support to Yemen communities](#)
- [Cash assistance helps survivors of armed conflict survive the hunger crisis](#) (CAR)
- [Nutritious meals: A journey of hope](#) (Myanmar)
- [Syria's starving children. Anyone taking notice?](#)
- Food System Summit Stocktaking
  - [The way towards equitable food systems and enough for children by Dana Buzducea](#)
  - [Faithful food systems demand focus on people and planet over profit by Andrea Kaufmann](#)
- [Invisible and forgotten: Displaced children hungrier and at more risk than ever](#)
- [One year on: Global Hunger Response](#)
- [Global Hunger Response: Capacity statement](#)

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

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