



PREVENT A GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS

Congressional Action Needed Now

Introduction

Across the globe, 45 million people—half of them children—are facing emergency or catastrophic levels of food insecurity.¹ The worsening climate crisis, aftershocks from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing conflict around the world have led to a looming hunger crisis in East Africa, Afghanistan, and Central America. And now, the crisis in Ukraine has created ripple effects across the global food system, compounding these conditions. The U.S. has long been a leader in providing humanitarian assistance to those who need it most, reaching tens of millions of people around the world each year with life-saving aid.² In the face of unprecedented need, now is the time for the U.S. to steward its leadership and address needs globally.

Why it matters

Climate, COVID-19, conflict and the current crisis in Ukraine have exacerbated hunger needs and food insecurity around the world.

Climate. The number of climate-related disasters (such as droughts and floods) has tripled in the last 50 years.⁴ Weather extremes³ were the primary cause of hunger in 15 countries and drove around 16 million people to crisis levels of food insecurity.

COVID-19. COVID-19 has disrupted almost every aspect of the food system—hindering food transportation, slowing harvests, and reducing food affordability. Food prices were driven to their highest price point in a decade.

Conflict. Of the 155 million people around the world experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity or worse, nearly 100 million¹ live in environments where conflict was the main driver of food crises. Conflict disrupts livelihoods, markets, trade, and crop production.

Current crisis in Ukraine. Ukraine and Russia provide about one third of the global wheat supply.⁵ The world is already feeling the effects of supply chain interruptions—for example, in Somalia, the price of wheat and oil has risen by 300%.⁶ The rising costs of fertilizer will have a devastating impact on small-scale farmers.⁷

ASK

Additional funding is necessary to address this looming humanitarian crisis, prevent the needless death of hundreds of thousands of children, and avoid negative coping mechanisms as families struggle to survive, such as early marriage and child labor. Please support at least \$5 billion in funding for international food assistance accounts.

How It Works

World Vision is a global network of pre-positioned equipment, relief supplies, and stand-by agreements with suppliers so we can respond within 24 to 72 hours of a disaster. We are a trusted partner of the U.S. government and the largest implementing partner of the World Food Program.⁸ World Vision, along with our humanitarian partners, recommends that Congress make funding available for international food assistance accounts that have a proven track record and can act urgently to address the looming hunger crisis.

The International Disaster Assistance account, for example, provides critical humanitarian assistance in response to natural disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies around the world. Funding provides people in need with emergency food—in addition to other essentials like water, shelter, health care, and psychosocial support. IDA funds allow NGOs to address hunger and malnutrition and support the early recovery of people affected by conflict, including refugees.



< A SILENT, BUT DEADLY HUNGER CRISIS

World Vision is working in communities in "hunger hotspots" around the globe, providing life-saving assistance, tackling malnutrition, providing clean water, and protecting children from harm. In northern Kenya, good rain has not fallen in the area for two years. All the grazing land is gone, thousands of livestock have died, and what remains are attempts to keep both children and livestock alive. Mary heartbreakingly shares, "I have to feel the pulse of my children every night as they go to bed on empty stomachs...to check if they are still alive." Read more here.⁹

References

- ¹<https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-global-operational-response-plan-update-3-november-2021>
- ²<https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance>
- ³<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000127343/download/>
- ⁴<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1087702>
- ⁵<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/ukraine-crisis-facts-faqs-and-how-to-help>
- ⁶<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/ukraine-conflict-soaring-food-and-fuel-prices-threaten-wellbeing-millions-east>
- ⁷<https://www.devex.com/news/ukraine-crisis-expected-to-deepen-horn-of-africa-s-drought-devastation-102911>
- ⁸<https://www.wvi.org/our-partners/world-food-programme-partnership>
- ⁹<https://www.wvi.org/stories/hunger-crisis/feeling-pulse-my-children-signs-life-heartbreaking-reality-east-africas>

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