



GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

WFP Update: 15 September 2022



WFP EMERGENCY RESPONSE PHASE: CORPORATE SCALE-UP

WFP has activated a **Global Corporate Scale-Up to:**

1. Enable urgent, coordinated efforts to prevent mortality today, and
2. Support public and private systems to mitigate a wider food crisis ahead.

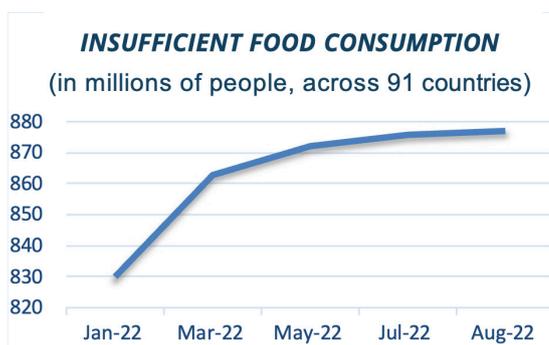
Responding to and mitigating a global crisis requires a coordinated and consolidated effort. To this end, WFP's contribution focuses on **the organization's demonstrated capacities in:**

- Vulnerability monitoring and forecasting;
- Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance at scale;
- Technical assistance and services in support of national social protection systems; and
- Partnerships, services, and programmes to strengthen food systems.

Vulnerabilities are Rising

WFP is expanding its real time food security monitoring from 36 to 60 countries complemented by predictive modelling, to provide a weekly tracking of 90+ countries [[HungerMapLive](#)]. Food security data is overlain with economic data and security trends to create a comprehensive monthly surveillance tool, to find:

- **The number of people with insufficient food consumption has risen each month in 2022.**



- Food prices are at a 10 year high. Despite some recent reduction in global price trends, at the country level **the cost of a food basket is increasingly out of reach:** 53 countries report >15% increase in domestic food prices compared to 40 countries in April.
- As costs increase, socio-political unrest rises: **87% of countries where WFP operates saw riots or protests last month.** In Central America, WFP estimates 3.2 million people could migrate due to severe hunger.

WFP Scale-Up in Numbers:

- **88 countries of operation**, including new operations in Moldova and Ukraine
- **153 million:** WFP's direct beneficiary target for 2022, up from 135 million targeted at the outset of the year
- **US\$ 28.3 million:** the increased cost per month to deliver WFP assistance compared the outset of 2022
- **US\$ 7.9 billion:** WFP's net funding requirements for the coming 6 months (September-February).

- The Global Crisis compounds a **deteriorating climate context.** Seven countries, many of whom are facing conflict, are coping with multi-year drought and resulting crop failures; in Somalia, populations are displaced by a fourth consecutive failed rainy season. Elevated risk of floods has 13 countries on watch, with Pakistan as the most striking example.
- **Governments are taking action to mitigate the Crisis, but capacity to respond, alone, is strained:** 37 countries face significant currency depreciation; 60% of low-income countries are at high risk of debt distress; sanctioned countries face additional strain.

PRIORITIZING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Approximately 345 million people are acutely food insecure across 82 analyzed countries. 60 million children under 5 are expected to be acutely malnourished by the end of 2022. For the first time in history, more than 100 million people are displaced. Every minute, one more child is pushed into severe malnutrition. **Protecting these groups from falling into more severe situations is essential.**

Within these extremely vulnerable populations, are people already on the brink, who desperately require humanitarian assistance to survive:

- **50 million people in 45 countries are in emergency levels of hunger;**
- **Nearly 1 million people in five countries are already in famine-like conditions**, with high mortality already expected; and
- **8 million children in 15 countries are at risk of dying** from acute malnutrition.

Food and Nutrition Assistance: A Lifeline

In the first half of 2022, WFP provided support to 112 million people. Today, more than 2/3 of WFP programmes are being reviewed to respond to, and mitigate, the global crisis. At the global level, WFP is maximizing its internal systems, resources, and processes to enable the global response.

- **Reaching more people:** In response to dramatic changes in context, Governments in more than one-quarter of the countries where WFP operates have formally requested WFP to scale-up direct assistance to vulnerable groups. In Sri Lanka, where shortages of essential items, rapid currency depreciation, booming inflation, and expected low harvests are pushing millions of people into hunger, WFP is expanding its programme of work for 2022, six-fold.
- **Revising transfer values:** In the first half of 2022, WFP disbursed more than US\$ 1.55 billion across 70 countries. As inflation drives prices out of reach, WFP, governments, and partners are reviewing cash-based transfer values. In Haiti, the household food assistance transfer has been revised from US\$ 100 to US\$ 120, so rapidly rising prices do not mean reduced access to food for the most vulnerable.
- **Mitigating supply chain challenges:** To mitigate rising costs and longer lead times (1-2 months), WFP is diversifying its supplier base, revising its commodity basket, and leveraging its internal Global Commodity Management Facility to procure food at better prices and position it closer to operations. In parallel, WFP has increased its local and regional procurement to account for 65% of the total tonnage WFP procures globally; this translates to a value of US\$ 1.2 billion being sourced locally and regionally, supporting in turn the commercial sector. And in June, WFP secured through the World Trade Organization, a Ministerial decision for exemption from export restrictions.

On 16 August, WFP secured a **first shipment of grain from Ukraine since the conflict began**. The 23,000 mt of grain will support vital food assistance programmes in Ethiopia. A second shipment departed Ukraine on 30 August with 37,000 mt of grains that will be critical to support famine prevention in Yemen.

- **Expanding nutrition coverage:** In 2022, WFP aims to reach 15.8 million women and children with treatment of acute malnutrition – and 19.2 million through prevention programmes. While the global production capacity of specialized nutritious foods remains a challenge, WFP is onboarding new suppliers and adapting its contracting modalities to catalyze investments for increased production, coordinating demand planning with UNICEF, and providing logistics support (including storage and transport) to suppliers to enable production. This is part of a joint effort with UNICEF and BHA to support increase production of acute malnutrition treatment products.

PREVENTING INCREASED MORTALITY

50 million people depend on humanitarian assistance for survival across 45 countries. In pockets of Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen people are already on the brink of famine. **The immediate priority is to ensure that populations have access to predictable, sustained, and sufficient nutritious food to prevent increased mortality.** This requires:

- **Right assistance:** Across the countries with famine-like conditions, populations receive between 30-75% of their daily kilocalorie requirements and millions have been cut off from life-saving food and nutrition programmes. In Yemen, from June to August 8 million people received less than one-third of the standard food basket used by WFP in Yemen; another 5 million of the most vulnerable received less than half; and since June, two million mothers and children have not been receiving full nutrition assistance due to funding shortfalls and supply disruptions. **In nearby Somalia, there is a very narrow window of opportunity to act to prevent a full-fledged famine in Bay region, and this requires that resources match the level of needs.**
- **Timely assistance:** In South Sudan, pre-positioning ahead of the rains requires US\$ 600 million. After, roads become impassable and the only option to prevent increased mortality is airdrops at 10 times the cost. Timely assistance saves lives: last winter, when access to parts of Afghanistan was severely impeded, the country saw pockets of famine for the first time in its history.
- **Unhindered access:** The projection of famine in areas of Bay region of Somalia is the tipping point. Urgent resources are required across sectors, to prevent rising hunger for populations in urgent situations across the country. This includes, more than 700,000 people in need of urgent assistance who are currently inaccessible, and an additional 1 million people are in hard-to-reach areas of Somalia. Thanks to additional resources, WFP has been able to double its coverage since April, and is strengthening its access networks and advancing new rapid response mechanisms to ensure that assistance reaches those most in need, wherever they are.

Global actors can support access efforts in all countries by: emphasizing respect for humanitarian principles, the criticality of unimpeded humanitarian access, and encouraging donor acceptance for the delivery of principled humanitarian action where de-facto and/or sanctioned groups operate.

- **Multi-sector response:** Preventing increased mortality requires essential health, water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition needs to be met, and a **special focus on young children and pregnant and lactating women, who face the greatest risk.** In Afghanistan, where WFP is targeting 1.6 million women and children with malnutrition treatment and 4.9 million with prevention, WFP partners with 444 mobile health and nutrition teams (up from 72 units this same time last year) to ensure that nutrition supplementation is complemented by basic health services even in the most remote areas.

Mitigating a More Severe Crisis in 2023

As food, fuel and fertilizer prices rise and planting seasons approach without access to the agricultural inputs they rely on, there is real concern that both a food access and food availability crisis is looming.

A coordinated effort across governments, financial institutions, private sector and partners is the only way to mitigate an even a more severe crisis in 2023. This includes: the reinforcement of national economies, social protection systems, and regional and domestic food systems – at scale.

To support this concerted effort, WFP has doubled its service delivery portfolio from last year and grown its capacity strengthening programme of work. Today, more than half of WFP Country Offices are engaging with governments and international and regional financial institutions to support national systems including [but not limited to]:

- monitor and mitigate the impacts of the global crisis,
- support social protection transfer solutions and analysis of transfer values,
- complement or top-up national programmes, and
- support national strategic food reserves through supply chain services.

In Malawi for example, WFP is supporting the Government to mobilize resources for the horizontal expansion of the Social Cash Transfer Programme ahead of the lean season to reach an additional 2 million people.

WFP's support to national systems is done in partnership with governments, sectoral partners, regional and international financial institutions (IFIs). Through IFIs, in partnership with governments, WFP has secured US\$ 655 million to date in 2022 in contributions and service provision agreements. Similar efforts are underway to expand innovative climate financing partnerships.

Enabling availability of food through support to the upcoming cropping seasons, is essential to mitigating the impacts of the global crisis and manage climate change. WFP is leveraging its:

1. Strategic partnerships to promote and stabilize commercial supply chains for food and fertilizers alongside FAO and IFAD and the private sector;

2. Procurement capacities including food procurement services for national strategic reserves (eg Guatemala) and government-led disaster management (eg Ethiopia); and
3. Community-level resilience portfolio to reduce post-harvest losses, support increased production of domestic crops, and promote local production of fertilizer and compost.

In the Sahel, WFP resilience programmes have contributed to the generation of more than 110,000 mt of compost in the last three years, supporting improved yields and moisture conservation. Today, as fertilizer prices near the peak reached in the 2008 food price crisis, WFP will expand the programme to more countries, and more farmlands – with a target of 1.5 million mt by end 2023, a cost of US\$ 165M.

At the global level, WFP has revised its contracting to ensure that, where needed, it is able to leverage its logistics backbone to support procurement, transport and/or storage of agricultural inputs. In Ethiopia, WFP has transported over 10,000 mt of fertilizers since July, with an additional 9,000 mt to be delivered this month. This includes transport to conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia, where securing future harvests will be essential for famine prevention.

To maximize collective impact, WFP is engaging with innovative public-private sector initiatives (eg FARM) to leverage private sector supply chain solutions and agricultural inputs at favorable costs.

WFP is grateful for the support of its donors. To date, in 2022 WFP has received nearly US\$ 9 billion in confirmed contributions (43% higher compared to the same period last year). Thanks to funds, in Niger, WFP was able to increase rations from 65% to cover the full needs of a household during the peak hunger season. While in Syria, contributions enabled WFP to temporarily avert a reduction in beneficiaries; but come November, gaps will once again threaten cuts.

With a net funding requirement of US\$ 7.9 billion for the coming 6 months (September-February), funds received have been critical to averting more severe situations, but remain vastly under the level of need. In famine risk countries WFP will be forced to prioritize between feeding more people, or providing less assistance – neither option sufficient to prevent famine. Refugees and IDPs – reliant on aid – will be left without any assistance in parts of the Sahel and Southern Africa. In DRC, the largest food security crisis in the world, WFP must further reduce its beneficiary reach in the absence of sufficient resources. As rising costs push more people into hunger, ensuring the right assistance reaches the most in need – is paramount.

Meanwhile, the ability of WFP to contribute to mitigating a more severe crisis next year is limited: resilience activities are less than 47% funded.