

PRICE SHOCKS

High prices
lead to
hunger
pandemic



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FOREWORD

In this interconnected world, conflict, climate volatility and economic shocks reinforce each other; instability in one sphere reverberates beyond the confines of a particular society or sector. As the number of complex multi-dimensional crises increases, the economic fallout of these crises poses a severe threat to the food security of the world's most vulnerable people. In 2024, seven out of 10 people living in lower income countries could not afford a nutritious diet, and the vast majority of the nearly 282 million people currently experiencing acute hunger inhabit conflict zones. According to the latest Global Report on Food Crises, children and women are at the forefront of these hunger crises, with over 36 million children under five years of age acutely malnourished across 32 countries.¹

This report presents the number of labour hours required to buy a basket of 10 basic food items in 77 different countries, revealing extreme disparities between wealthy countries and fragile contexts. The items included in the basket represent the foundation of a basic, healthy diet: 1 kg sweet bananas, 1 kg rice, 1 kg wheat flour, 1 kg raw sugar, 1 kg maize corn, a dozen eggs, 1 L cooking oil, 1 raw chicken, 1 kg tomatoes and 1 L fresh milk. As the findings demonstrate, these fundamental items remain decidedly out of reach for millions of households in crisis across the globe. In 16 countries, it would take over a week of work to earn the money for World Vision's standard food basket. In 11 of these countries, large swaths of the population face severe acute food insecurity and are at imminent risk of famine. Countries with high levels of instability face the highest food costs, while experiencing heightened vulnerability to global economic forces and food system failures.

High food prices are a core driver of hunger. However, these prices stem from a combination of other compounding factors such as inequitable trade deals and exploitative financial systems, currency fluctuations, conflict, climate shocks, damage to local agricultural production, humanitarian access constraints and funding cuts for food assistance and development programming. Households in contexts experiencing high levels of inflation not only endure exorbitant prices now, but look forward to further

increases in the cost of staple commodities in the months ahead. In contexts dealing with conflict, climate change and displacement—where food is not only expensive but scarce—the price surges are most pronounced. A comparison of last year's prices and this year's shows steep inflation (up to 30 to 50%) in several countries navigating recurring conflict and climate shocks.

At the same time, humanitarian funding for food security programming is expected to fall far short of the target for addressing predicted needs in 2025. For families in Burundi—the country with the highest food prices—and other people facing prohibitive costs, the deficit of political will and resources will be devastating.

This report is released in turbulent and uncertain times. The findings emphasise the need for action to sustain food systems, correct global imbalances and prevent the agonising impacts of hunger. This includes addressing root causes and investing in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, especially at regional and local levels. The report also highlights the interconnected and far-reaching risks of inaction for children, families and societies facing persistent and wide-ranging shocks and experiencing the resulting human suffering. Food insecurity is not only an indicator of wider instability, but also contributes to political unrest, conflict, economic stagnation and delays in development. To address skyrocketing prices and the blend of associated challenges, there is an urgent need for broad engagement in transformation. The current political and economic climate threatens to undermine collaborative efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and humanitarian needs. Despite the grim outlook, however, stakeholders across sectors and geography have the opportunity to respond by deepening partnerships, exploring creative solutions, renewing commitments and joint advocacy for bold action, and remaining persistent in hope for an end to hunger.

World Vision remains fervent in our mission to walk alongside and empower children and families, enduring the most severe effects of global volatility, in their journey towards fullness of life. Through

food and cash assistance, agricultural livelihoods and nexus programming, school meals and a range of other interventions across sectors, World Vision continues to reach children and families with life-saving assistance and tools for building resilience. We invite you to join us in advocacy and action, alongside people and communities around the

world, to promote peace and wellbeing, expand available resources, scale-up services and ensure everyone has access to affordable food.

Amanda Rives, Senior Director,
Disaster Management
World Vision International



In Turkana, Kenya, Blue, 9, gathers some wild fruit with his family. His 4-year-old brother, is too weak to walk for long periods of time because of his Severe Acute Malnutrition, Blue has to carry him when he needs to move from place to place.

INTRODUCTION

We are experiencing a hunger pandemic across the globe. Food prices spiked after the financial crisis spurred by COVID-19 and the knock-on effects of the invasion of Ukraine. Although overall prices have now levelled out globally, they remain much higher than they were pre-pandemic, and families who are the least able to absorb the shocks continue to face high food price inflation in countries hit hardest by climate and conflict like DRC, Haiti, Laos and Lebanon.

For some families, the shocks of the past five years means their ability to raid savings and adjust to higher food prices has been exhausted; **almost one in 10 people worldwide are currently going hungry.**² Rates of hunger globally had slowly but surely been decreasing until 2019, but for the past few years the world has failed to sustain progress

to end hunger and malnutrition.³ Levels of moderate or severe food insecurity have plateaued for three consecutive years,⁴ leaving 27 million people at risk of famine.⁵

In response to the global hunger crisis, World Vision has been conducting an annual food price survey since 2021, monitoring both year on year fluctuations in food prices, as well as comparing the cost of a standard food basket in terms of hours worked between countries. This report is the fourth iteration of our annual survey and includes data from almost 80 countries where World Vision works.

According to World Vision Research, it takes the following time to earn enough money to buy a food basket of 10 common items:⁶

1.5 hours in Germany compared to 21 days in Sudan
2 hours in Australia compared to 10 days in Malawi
3.5 hours in the UK compared to 8 days in Myanmar
4 hours in Türkiye compared to 30 days in Central African Republic
3 hours in Brazil compared to 9 days in Mali
1 hour in the US compared to 15 days in Chad
1 hour in Ireland compared to 6 days in Papua New Guinea
4 hours in South Korea compared to 15 days in Somalia
5.5 hours in Mexico compared to 10 days in Burkina Faso
2 hours in Canada compared to 8 days in Haiti

In 16 countries⁷ in this year's study, it would take over one week of work to earn the money for World Vision's standard food basket. Of these 16, all but two are countries in sub-Saharan Africa experiencing climate and environmental extremes, and the mutually reinforcing impacts of armed conflict, political instability and displacement. High food prices are creating a poisonous quagmire of hunger and food insecurity; 11 of the 16 countries are already experiencing famine or are at risk of famine, and globally the numbers of people living in acute food insecurity are expected to increase through May 2025.⁸





Some of the worst affected countries are also still experiencing price rises. **Four of the five countries with the highest prices in this year's study have experienced a spike** in prices compared to last year.⁹ They are Burundi, CAR, Niger and Sudan.

Contrarily, of the **10 countries with the lowest priced food basket** from this year's research, more than half of them either had **unchanged or improved prices from last year**. These were all high or middle income countries: Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand and the United States.

These shifts highlight growing disparities between countries as prices stabilise in wealthier areas and continue to rise for families already coping with the turmoil of conflict, climate change and displacement. **In 2024; a whopping 71% of people living in lower income countries were not able to afford a nutritious diet.**¹⁰ Projections estimate that 582 million people will be undernourished by 2030 and over half of them will be in Africa.¹¹

Humanitarian aid has not managed to keep pace with the hunger pandemic, as uneven economic

progress has led wealthier countries to refocus spending on high inflation at home and domestic priorities.¹² In 2024, humanitarian efforts to address food insecurity received just 47% of the funding required,¹³ leaving some of the most vulnerable children in the world eating less than one meal a day.¹⁴

There is no reason for children to be going hungry in the 21st century. Politicians must find peaceful resolutions to conflict and fund climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in order to stem growing humanitarian needs. Improving basic nutrition efforts, including child and maternal health, vaccinations and vitamin supplements, and basic hygiene and sanitation could collectively do wonders to reduce child mortality and stunting.¹⁵ Strong safety nets can also make a big difference; they are credited with reducing food insecurity and malnutrition in Latin America, in contrast to many other regions of the world.¹⁶ And humanitarian aid must be increased and disbursed in order to prevent almost 30 million people from slipping into famine in a world with plenty of food.¹⁷

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on food price data, collected by World Vision staff and volunteers. They collected local prices for a food basket of 10 common food items, twice a year in May and September 2024. Each round of data collection took place in a range of locations across the country, including rural and urban locations and formal and informal markets.

To compare prices across countries, the total cost of the food baskets were converted to U.S. dollars using current currency exchange rates, then converted to Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) exchange rates. These prices were then compared to each country's Gross National Income (GNI) PPP per capita to calculate the amount of time required to earn the common food basket in each country. However, four countries - Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria and Venezuela - had to be excluded from the hours of work to buy a food basket analysis due to missing GNI. However we were still able to compare prices year-on-year within their local currencies.

This year, a total of **77 countries were included** in this study. Previously, countries with missing food items were not included in the final results. To optimise the use of data this year, if food items were missing in some batches of data, but existed in other batches from the same country, the average price of the items across batches was taken. If items were missing across all batches from a given country, that country could not be included in the final results. Japan did not include corn in any of its data and therefore could not be included in the results. Bangladesh had several missing items in its data collection and therefore also could not be included. **Ultimately, 71 countries have outcomes** for the price of the food basket measured in hours worked.

Limitations

The interaction between government-mandated food prices and informal sectors can create distortions in food price research. Informal sectors and black markets that include remittances, unregulated and untaxed activities often operate on unofficial exchange rates that are challenging to measure.¹⁸ Informal markets can be a response to monetary policies such as mandated food prices

that could have caused distortions in the price survey analysis, which uses official exchange rates (sourced from Xe.com). This means that this research might underestimate food costs in some countries with robust informal markets, or conversely, informal markets might have much lower prices due to vendors circumventing taxes, supply chain inefficiencies or labour costs associated with regulated supermarkets.

Because World Vision data is collected from a range of sources, including local vendors and supermarkets, with both government-issued prices and informal market prices, these distortions are mitigated. In addition, the use of PPP adjusted GNI further mitigates these distortions.

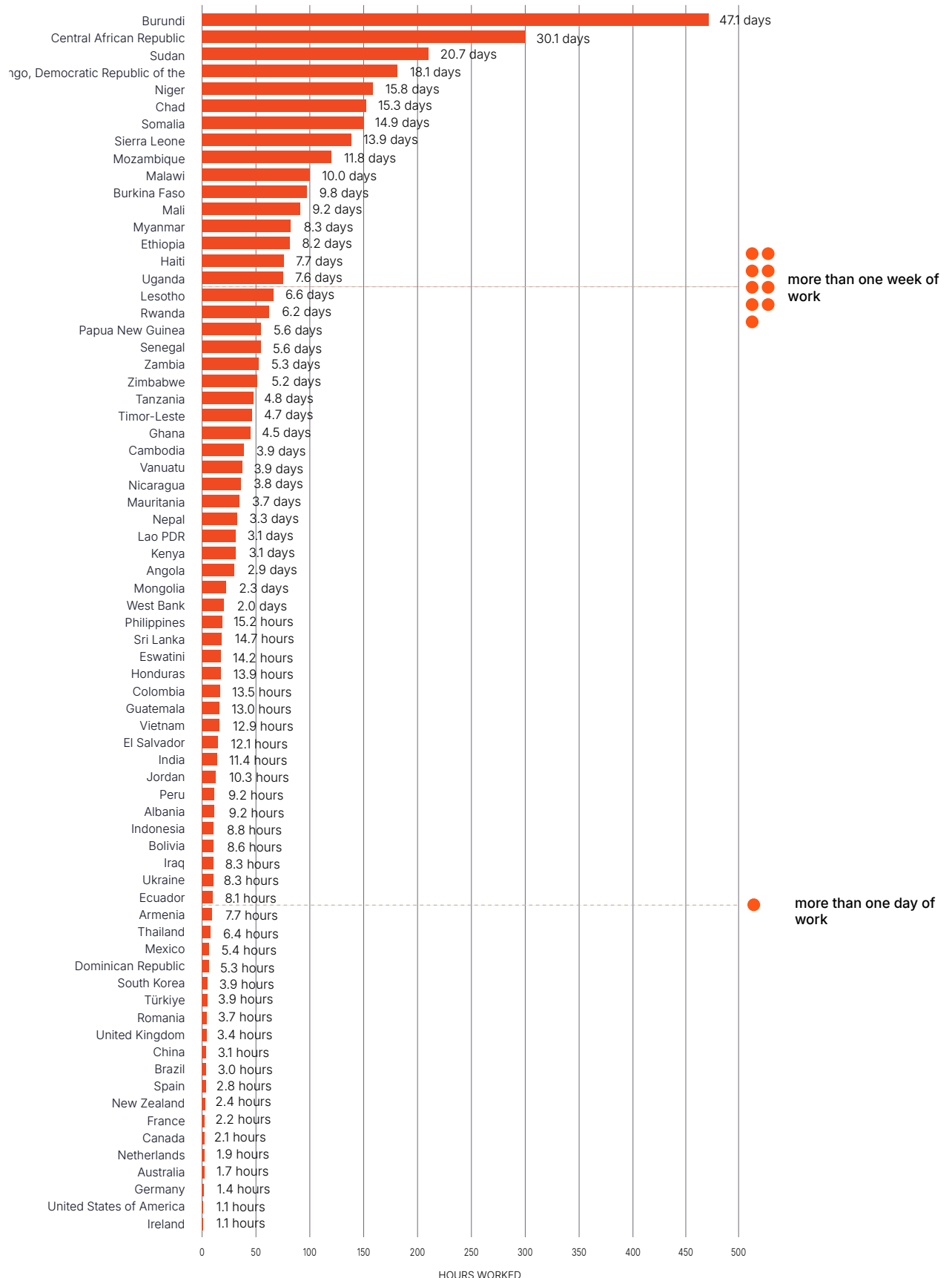
Measuring commodities presents natural challenges due to variations in product quality, production levels, availability and consumption patterns across different populations. Additionally, gathering comprehensive data from conflict-affected regions and remote areas is inherently difficult, often resulting in incomplete measurements.

Because it is not possible to compare consistent products from consistent locations collected by the same people year-on-year, measurement errors and biases are possible, although trends in our annual Price Shocks survey broadly track with secondary sources.

The implicit assumption in this survey is that high food prices are one of the drivers of hunger. However, the lack of food availability presents a bias: prices cannot be measured where food is not available. Especially in conflict zones like Sudan or Yemen, the lack of data could be because food is unobtainable and the level of food insecurity is life-threatening. According to the World Bank, more than 50% of food insecure populations in the world live in countries that do not have reliable data. In particular, fragile countries are more likely to face gaps in data.¹⁹ This survey strives to offer some insight into the prices some of the children and families facing hunger around the world face every day and offer comparisons across the breadth of countries where World Vision works.

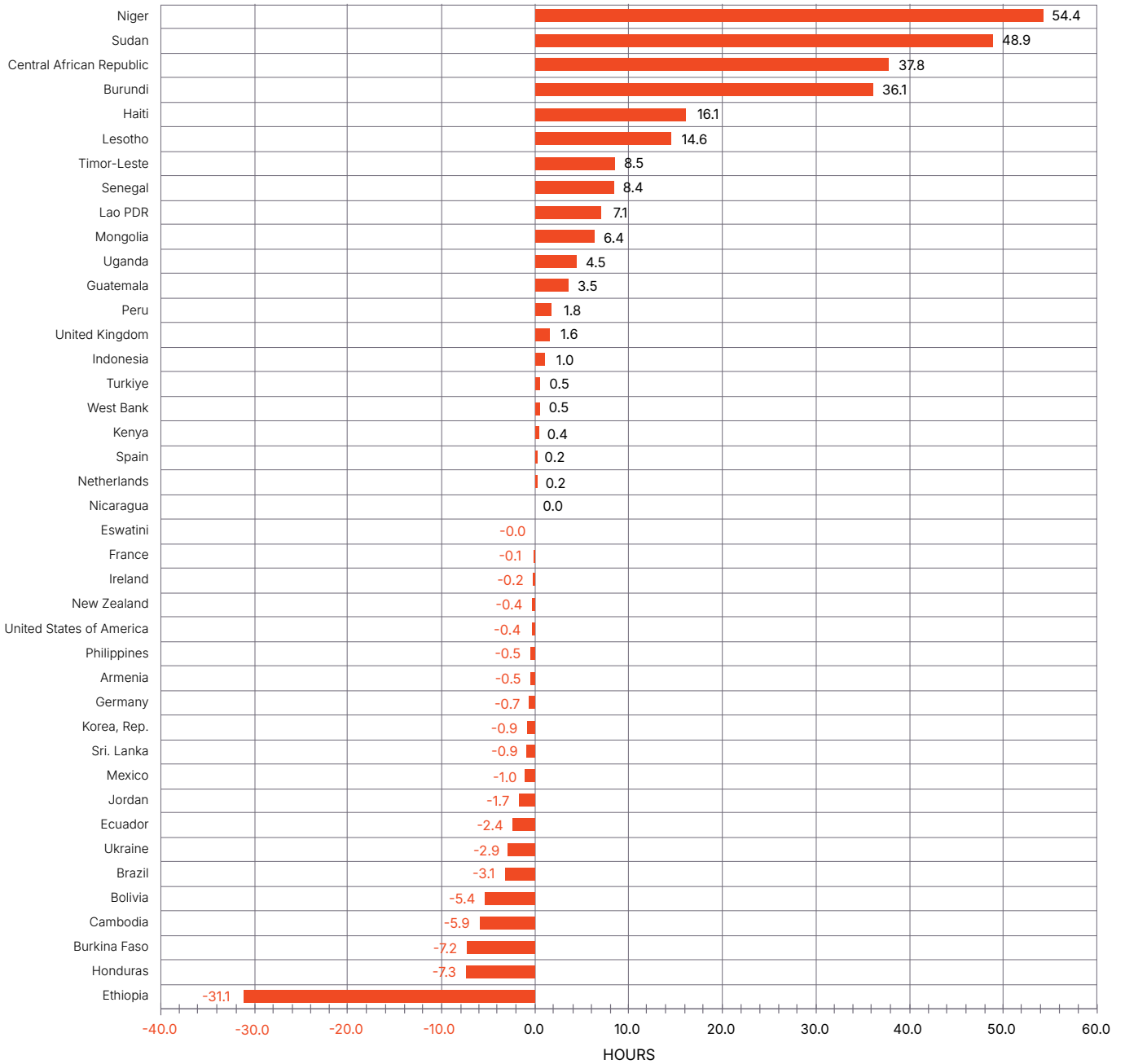
COST OF FOOD BASKET PER COUNTRY

Items include: 1 kilogramme sweet bananas, 1 kilogramme rice, 1 kilogramme wheat flour, 1 kilogramme raw sugar, 1 kilogramme maize corn, a dozen eggs, 1 litre cooking oil, 1 raw chicken, 1 kilogramme tomatoes, 1 litre fresh milk. Results assume an eight-hour workday.



FOOD PRICE INFLATION YEAR ON YEAR

Change in hours worked to buy basket, 2023-2024



A comparison of countries with results from both 2023 and 2024 shows an even divide between the number of countries with a rise in food prices (20), and those that saw improvements or no change in food prices (21).



Hungry children wait for the meal to be served. Sudanese refugee children at a World Vision school feeding program in Farchana Refugee Camp, Chad. © World Vision/Jon Warren

Countries with the most intense price shocks are those where the drivers of food insecurity are most pronounced: climate vulnerability, economic challenges and political tensions/conflict.

Eight countries had an increase of over an entire day's work in the number of hours an average person would have to work to afford the standard food basket this year (Burundi, Central African Republic, Haiti, Lesotho, Niger, Senegal, Sudan and Timor-Leste).

Sudan saw a rise of about six days and Niger had a rise of one week. There is a strong presence of African nations among these countries, with a few Southeast Asian, European and Middle Eastern countries. Their agriculturally based economies make them more vulnerable to disruptions of food production and distribution due to climate extremes, conflict and poor infrastructure. This is especially true of those who have experienced the most severe price shocks. Many of the countries showing the highest rise are heavily reliant on humanitarian aid for essential services.

More moderate rises in food prices were seen in Guatemala (3.5 hours), Uganda (4.5 hours) and Mongolia (6.4 hours). Laos (7.1 hours) experienced a rise of almost an entire day's worth of labour.

While varying in economic development, political systems and geographic locations, the countries

that experienced price reductions or little/no change in 2024 are composed of a mix of high, middle and lower-income countries, including some of the largest economies (France, South Korea, USA and Germany). Compared to those that have experienced price increases, these countries (with the exception perhaps of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Ukraine) have relatively stable politics and effective governance, and are some of the world's major agricultural exporters and producers (Brazil, France, New Zealand, Ukraine and USA).

Notably, findings from Ethiopia showed an improvement of almost four days (31.1 hours), about a 32% decrease from the previous year. However, it is still one of the costliest food baskets; it would take more than eight days of work on average to purchase our standard food basket. Findings from secondary sources reflect a mixture of gains and struggles in Ethiopia's economy and context in 2024. Macroeconomic reforms coupled with tightened monetary policy kept year-on-year inflation at 16%, the lowest in several years.²⁰ However, Ethiopia faces tremendous humanitarian challenges: in 2024 3.3 million people received assistance to meet their water and sanitation needs, and 5.1 million people received cash and/or food assistance. Protracted conflict has resulted in the second largest displacement crisis in the region; nearly 4.5 million displaced people are experiencing disease and hunger in Ethiopia and more than one in five Ethiopians are now in need of humanitarian assistance.²¹

THE COSTS OF CONFLICT AND CLIMATE

The countries with persistently high food prices and the largest increases in the cost of a basket are those facing the twin manmade crises of conflict and climate change. Conflict now affects one in five children globally.²² The impacts of armed conflict on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, livestock grazing areas, and fishing grounds or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets. The impacts can also be indirect, such as disruptions to food systems and markets, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or limited access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel.

The numbers of children and families who have had to flee their homes increased in 2024 for the twelfth year in a row, including more than 26 million who fled due to natural disasters.²³ Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events are **reducing agricultural yields and driving up food prices**, making it harder for vulnerable communities to access nutritious food.

The chaos and disruption of violent conflict and climate emergency disrupt markets, make it difficult for families to farm or work and difficult to afford the food that is available.



In Myunzi, Tanzania, a school child holds a plate of food. Because of a prolonged drought causing intense water and food insecurity, feeding programmes are necessary in the area. © World Vision

LAOS

Food basket costs in Laos remained relatively consistent throughout 2024. However, Laos experienced one of the largest year on year increases in food prices; purchasing the same items would require more than seven additional hours of work in 2024, compared to 2023. This **20% increase in the price of the food basket** offers a glimpse of the gravity of Laos' economic and humanitarian crisis.²⁴

The Lao Kip has fallen in value by 68% since 2022, and inflation surged by nearly 37%.²⁵ The significant depreciation of the currency has increased import costs, contributing to high food prices.²⁶ The agricultural sector is severely impacted by the economic instability; a significant portion of farmers reported decreased earnings due to a loss of crops and livestock. Furthermore, an unprecedented dry spell in early 2025 has put an additional strain on the agricultural sector, which will make it more difficult for families to recover from the shocks.

Climate change is another key challenge for the rural population in Laos due to low levels of adaptation and high dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources. In September 2024, Typhoon Yagi displaced 1.6 million people in Laos and neighbouring countries and caused widespread damage.²⁷ Poor access to both markets and diverse livelihoods combined with changing climate patterns, further worsen the situation in remote upland areas, where over 20% of households are food insecure.²⁸

Between January 2023 and a stabilisation effort in late 2024, a large portion of the population faced high levels of acute food insecurity.²⁹ Following the stabilisation effort, significant improvements in market functionality were noted in early 2025. Markets in affected areas showed better stock coverage, decreased access restraints, better supplier reliability, more availability, and improved overall resilience. However, Laos remains a country of concern with 'deteriorating conditions,' according to the FAO and World Food Programme (WFP). Around 500,000 people are displaced and the number of people facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity is expected to rise dramatically by mid-2025.³⁰



SOMALIA

In Somalia prices haven't changed significantly year on year, but they are still consistently high. According to World Vision data from 2022 and 2024, it takes two weeks to earn a food basket, which is the seventh highest cost this year. Somalia has some of the world's highest levels of hunger indicators: child wasting, undernourishment and child mortality. Climate extremes, economic hardship, prolonged conflict and little governmental capacity to meet these challenges are deepening the hunger crisis in Somalia.³¹

Food price samples from Somalia include collections from Somaliland.³² Data submissions between the two territories showed a wide range of prices, with alarmingly high prices in Dollow (259 hours) and Baidoa (275 hours), cities in the south of Somalia. These results are outliers; the overall average for Somalia is 126 hours. In contrast, the average cost of a basket from Somaliland is 81 hours. The difference between these averages seems to reflect the noted contrast in governance and relative stability between the two territories.³³

In addition to the highest prices, the most severe humanitarian needs in Somalia can be found in the south of the country, a region that experienced severe floods and cholera outbreaks in 2024. Between April and May 2024, 81,000 people were displaced due to flooding.³⁴

Baidoa has some of the costliest food baskets in this year's research: 98 hours and 275 hours. The city of Baidoa experienced extreme weather conditions in 2023, including its worst drought in 40 years, and floods related to El Nino. The city's sanitation services and water resources are experiencing immense strain.³⁵

In general throughout the country, droughts have reduced arable and grazing lands, which in turn fuels inter-clan fighting especially in regions dependent on small-scale farming and pastoralism. Somalia is expected to experience an increase in climate-driven challenges, as erratic weather patterns (dramatic rainfall and prolonged dry spells) impact more than half a million people in 2025.³⁶

SYRIA

Political turmoil has rocked Syria this year, with a sudden change of government in December 2024 that was reportedly accompanied by a **900% increase in the price of bread**,³⁷ once more highlighting the link between food prices and conflict. Our data did not capture the sharp price spike after the change in government, but it does show an 8% change in prices between May and September, as well as a slight decrease in prices in January, which matches reported falls in food prices after the December spike.³⁸

Collection time	Food basket price
May 2024	409 TRY
September 2024	442 TRY
January 2025	425 TRY

Without GNI, we're not able to compare the cost of a food basket in hours worked in Syria, but we are able to track and compare prices within the country. Areas experiencing conflict and resource strains had prices well above average, including Damascus in

May (averaging 589 TRY), Damascus in September (averaging 650 TRY), and Tel Abiad on 11 September (averaging 637 TRY).

Years of conflict have left many families in Syria struggling to feed themselves, even before the changes. A staggering 69% of the population lives below the poverty line,³⁹ with 100,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Over half of the population, 12.9 million, faces food insecurity, and 3.1 million are severely food insecure.⁴⁰ Shortages of humanitarian aid means many are not receiving help. In 2024, World Food Programme reduced assistance in response to funding shortages, reaching just one third of severely food insecure families.

The cost of living has tripled in the last three years, and despite the regime change, insecurity and criminal activity remain an issue. Humanitarian needs remain high, but the sudden spike of prices in December 2024 has been followed by a substantial fall in food prices overall. Shop owners reported a reduction in transport costs after thousands of costly checkpoints across the country were removed by the new regime. A decrease in the exchange rate in the Syrian Lira has made food less expensive, as well as a simultaneous increase in supply of food in the market.⁴¹ However some areas are still struggling. As of February 2025, areas around Aleppo city and western Aleppo were still struggling with low bread availability. Some bakeries in other cities are still out of service, requiring urgent repairs and essential inputs like flour to restore full production capacity.

Both Syria and neighbouring Lebanon have seen massive displacements this year, with spikes in conflict in either country leading to a flow in the other's direction. After the September 2024 escalation of conflict across Lebanon, over [540,000 people, both Lebanese and Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, fled into northern Syria](#). As of 5 February, UNHCR estimates that some [270,000](#) Syrians have returned to Syria since 8 December 2024. Already devastated by years of civil war, the spillover of the conflict in Lebanon puts additional strains on Syria's ability to cope.⁴²



Um Muhammad * checking the basket provided by World Vision Syria Response with her children. © World Vision

Samia's story: A mother's struggle against hunger in Lebanon

By Tim Swanston, Hicham Najem, Karla Harvey

In a modest community kitchen in the heart of Beirut, Samia stirs a large pot of Mujaddara—lentils, rice, and caramelised onions. In a few hours it will be lunch for the hungry children who gather in the kindergarten below.

Samia, like many others here, calls the Shatila camp home. The camp, originally built in 1949 for Palestinian refugees, has long been a place of resilience. Yet today, survival feels harder than ever. Economic collapse and spiralling food prices have left families struggling to put even the most basic meals on the table.

The kitchen was once a source of regular nourishment, but rising prices and reductions in funding mean they are now only able to offer one meal a week. "It affects children's health a lot," Samia says, her voice edged with concern. "Meat and chicken are not always available, and fish is out of the question."

The recent conflict in Lebanon has only worsened the situation, pushing inflation higher and disrupting supply chains, turning once-affordable staples into luxuries. As food prices continue to soar, many parents—already faced with impossible choices—are now forced to ration meals to make supplies last. "We live day by day because cooking has become very expensive," Samia explains. "If a dish contains meat, I used to use half a kilogramme. Now, I stretch that same amount across three dishes just to make it last."



Samia prepares the Mujaddara. © World Vision



Samia shopping in the local Souk. She says she and other mothers in the community are buying less meat, as prices have soared. © World Vision

The impact on children is profound. They go to bed with empty stomachs, their growth and health at risk. When Samia and the other women serve Mujaddara, the children's eyes light up. Four-year-old Rana clutches her plate with delight. "My mother makes this for me," she says with a smile. "It's my favourite."

For many of the children, this simple meal is the most nutritious food they will have all week.

As Lebanon grapples with an escalating crisis, World Vision and Ahlam Lajea, a local organisation, are working together to provide a crucial lifeline. When displaced families found it nearly impossible to source food, World Vision stepped in, delivering food parcels and hot meals to those in greatest need.

But for Samia and countless mothers like her, the fear remains—how long can they hold on? "You have to make do with what you have because the situation affects everyone," she says.

And yet, in that small kitchen, amid the rising cost of survival, there is something no crisis can take away: the unwavering love of a mother and the determination of a community to feed its children, even in the darkest of times.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for Lebanon, conducted by FAO, WFP, and the Ministry of Agriculture, reveals that 1.65 million people are experiencing crisis or emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), up from 1.26 million prior to the crisis. Of these, 201,000 face emergency levels (IPC Phase 4), double the previous figure. Refugees are particularly vulnerable, with 594,000 Syrian refugees (40%) and 89,000 Palestinian refugees (40%) in crisis, alongside 970,000 Lebanese residents (25%).

LEBANON

In addition to the normal data collection in May and September 2024, we also collected a third round of data right after the cessation of hostilities was declared in Lebanon in November 2024. The November results show a sharp 11% increase in prices after two months of escalating conflict and displacement.

Lebanon 2024

Collection time	Food basket in Lebanese pounds ⁴³
May	1,613,295 LBP
September	1,614,900 LBP
November	1,788,111 LBP

These samples may not represent the full range of price variation considering market volatility during a year of protracted conflict that may have induced rapid price fluctuations. The conflict of the past year has been concentrated in the South, historically the agricultural heartland, and has had a disproportionate impact on food supplies. Insecurity meant we were not able to collect food price data in the South in November 2024, meaning the overall country average for the time is probably an underestimate. Extreme spikes and drops due to economic crisis, high inflation and currency instability may cause food prices to fluctuate dramatically, sometimes within weeks or days.

A year-long economic crisis in Lebanon coincided with a simmering conflict that began in October 2023 and escalated sharply in September 2024.⁴⁴ Unprecedented levels of civilian casualties, mass displacement and the destruction of homes and critical infrastructure from September to November 2024 have created a significant spike in humanitarian needs. Between October 2023 and the cessation of hostilities in November 2024, 1.6 million Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugees faced high levels of acute food insecurity.⁴⁵

A comparison of data from the last time Lebanon participated in World Vision's food price research shows a significant increase in the price of a food basket: from 184,000 Lebanese pounds (LBP) in 2021 to over 1.5 million in 2024. This **801% increase in the price of the food basket offers a glimpse of the gravity of Lebanon's economic and humanitarian crisis.**



This family had 10 children, all girls. Most of the older girls worked in agriculture in the potato fields and were also studying. © World Vision

Over the past five years, children and families in Lebanon went through the subsequent crises of COVID-19, the Beirut blast, economic collapse and the massive escalation in violence in September 2024. Since 2019, the Lebanese pound fell in value by 98% and inflation surged by nearly 269%. The agricultural sector is severely impacted by the conflict; 72% of farmers in the south reported loss of income due to loss of crops and livestock.⁴⁶ Furthermore, an unprecedented dry spell in January 2025 has put an additional strain on the agricultural sector, which will make it harder for farmers to recover.

Following the cessation of hostilities, there have been significant improvements in markets in December 2024. Markets in conflict-affected areas showed better stock coverage, decreased access restraints, better supplier reliability, more availability and improved overall resilience.⁴⁷ However, a recent extension of the cessation of hostilities means some communities in the South are still inaccessible, and even once families are allowed to return home, they may not be able to stay there. Almost 100,000 houses were destroyed during the past 13 months of conflict, and over 400,000 lost access to clean water.⁴⁸

Lebanon remains a country of very high concern with 'deteriorating critical conditions,' according to the FAO and WFP. Around 1 million people are displaced and the number of people facing Emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) is expected to rise dramatically by May 2025.⁴⁹ Food security, already a concern for tens of thousands of families prior to the escalation, is acute and rising, with one out of every four people not having enough to eat.

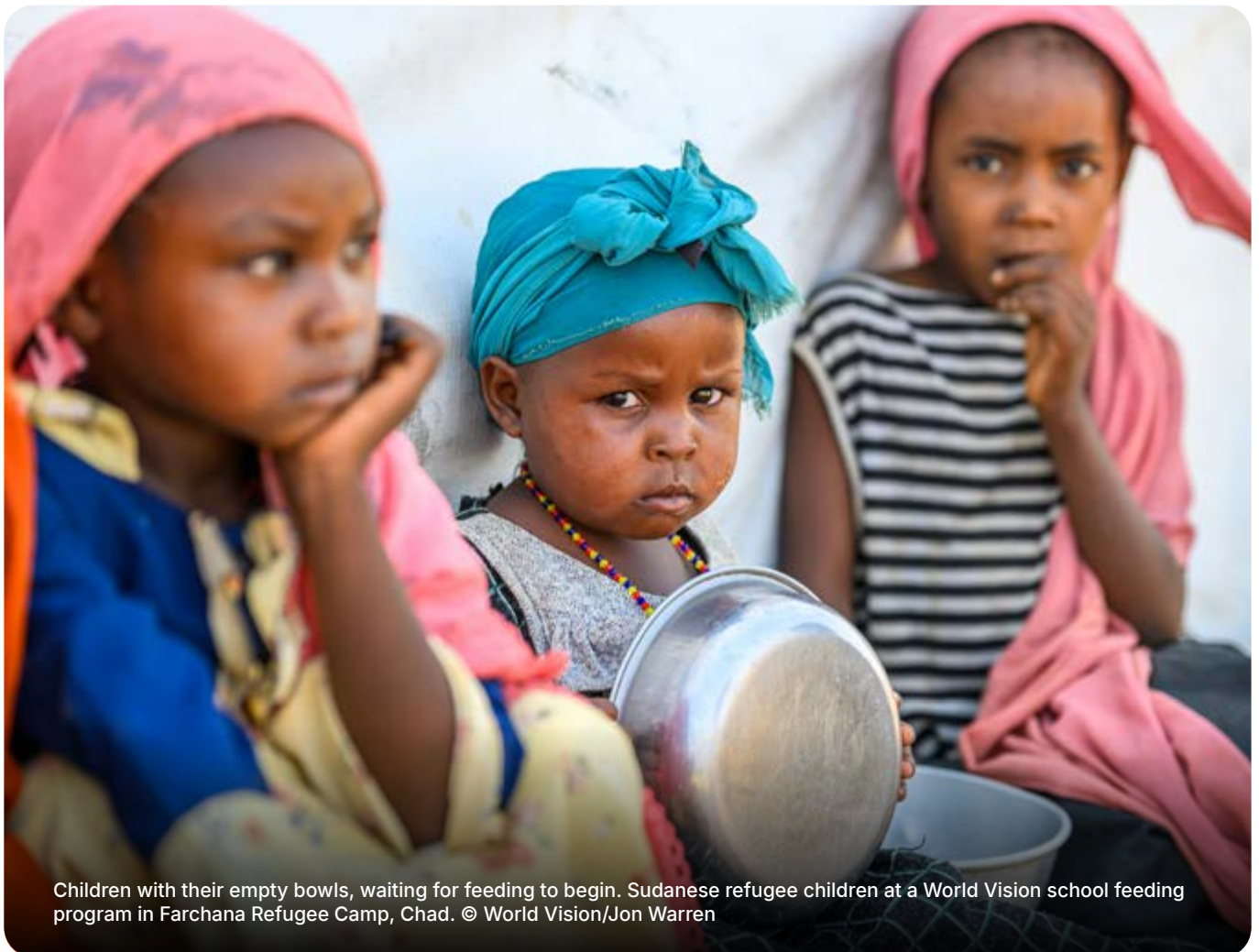
SUDAN

Sudan is experiencing unprecedented levels of hunger.⁵⁰ This year's data revealed that it would take **over 20 days to earn a food basket in Sudan, about 166 hours. This presents a startling 42% increase from last year (117 hours).** While these figures are stunning, they were collected in May 2024, months before famine was declared in August. Since then, famine-like conditions have been declared in five additional areas, with half the country's population in urgent need of food.⁵¹

This means that 20 days is likely an underestimation of how much time it would truly take to earn a common food basket in Sudan today. According to IPC projections, 6.4 million people are expected to be one step away from famine in February 2025.⁵²

Violent conflict in Sudan erupted in 2023 and has induced one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world. The turmoil renders arable farmland unable to yield crops in a context already devastated by preexisting poverty and weather extremes. As humanitarian access continues to be obstructed by violent conflict, bureaucratic and administrative impediments and infrastructure damage are hindering operations and blocking aid deliveries. **Furthermore,** Sudan is experiencing the largest child-displacement crisis in the world, with 4.6 million children internally displaced, and 1 million people who crossed borders into other countries in 2024.⁵³ By August 2024, 13 million people were displaced, of which half were women and children.⁵⁴

Famine levels are likely to sustain through May 2025, with the number of people in catastrophic conditions likely to grow. Intensification of violence is expected, with likely spill-over and destabilising effects in the entire region.⁵⁵



Children with their empty bowls, waiting for feeding to begin. Sudanese refugee children at a World Vision school feeding program in Farchana Refugee Camp, Chad. © World Vision/Jon Warren



Ihsan and her 1 year old son at the malnutrition clinic in Farchana. © World Vision/Jon Warren

No End in Sight: Hunger and Desperation on the Chad-Sudan Border

In a small nutrition clinic near the border between Chad and Sudan, Zaneb sits on a hospital bed, cradling her daughter. She has been here before, but had hoped she wouldn't return.

"My daughter and son were born 13 months ago," she says softly. "I came to this clinic in May. After two days, my son died from lack of food."

Now, four months later, her daughter fights for survival in the same clinic.

Sudan is facing an unprecedented hunger crisis. A sprawling conflict has left over 25 million people—half the population—struggling to find enough to eat, and famine conditions have already been declared in parts of the country, including a displacement camp in Darfur. For those still in Sudan, food is either scarce or completely unaffordable—it now takes 20 days of work to afford a basic meal.

Hunger and conflict have forced millions to flee. Over 2.3 million Sudanese have crossed into Chad, arriving at overwhelmed centres like Farchana, hoping for food, medical care and safety. But Chad is also in crisis. Here, it takes more than 15 days of work to afford a basic food basket, and hunger is widespread.

In another bed in the clinic, Ihsan watches over her one-year-old son, struggling to eat.

"My child has a high fever that prevents him from eating," she explains. "The doctors sent us here to the malnutrition ward."

Many mothers are forced to improvise—but their options are running out.

"There isn't enough milk," Zaneb says. "We tried giving them goat's milk, but the goat died."

Hospitals and nutrition clinics are overwhelmed, facing severe shortages of medical supplies and food. World Vision provides electricity and clean water for the nutrition clinic in Farchana, where over 80 children are screened for malnutrition every week. More than 1 in 10 of the children screened are declared severely malnourished.

Without peace, the youngest and most vulnerable will continue to pay the highest price. The number of children dying from hunger is rising, and without urgent action, the outlook for the coming months is catastrophic.

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS: Bridging disparities in global food prices to safeguard the futures of the most vulnerable children

World Vision has been addressing the issue of hunger in fragile and emergency contexts for decades, including in some of the world's most complex contexts. In response to the nearly 35 million people across 39 countries facing emergency hunger conditions, **in 2023, World Vision provided over 20 million people in 46 countries with food and cash assistance.** This includes distributing essential food supplies and offering nutrition support to children and families in crisis and more than 16 million people in 29 countries reached in partnership with the United Nations (UN) WFP.⁵⁶



We are improving access to food

Emergency food aid saves lives in conflict, humanitarian and disaster situations where market access is not available, but this is not the only way that we can improve children's access to food. One of these ways is through cash-based transfers, a proven, flexible and efficient approach to humanitarian assistance. They empower beneficiaries by providing them with the means to meet their immediate needs while preserving dignity and promoting local market resilience. In addition, cash transfers are a quick way to ensure timely and direct support to the most vulnerable families amidst operational and logistical constraints, promoting cost effectiveness and community ownership.

Beyond immediate relief, World Vision is committed to building long-term resilience against food insecurity. The organisation partners with communities to enhance agricultural productivity by providing improved seeds, promoting sustainable farming practices, and facilitating better access to markets. By empowering families with the tools and knowledge to produce their own food sustainably, World Vision aims to reduce dependence on external aid and strengthen food security at the grassroots level.⁵⁷

School meals programming has numerous benefits to child well-being, and **World Vision is currently reaching over 1.3 million vulnerable children with school meals** across the humanitarian, development and peace contexts. This model of food assistance programming has been proven to be the most effective approach to supporting the most vulnerable children, integrating all sectors, including: education; nutrition; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; livelihoods; gender; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; and child protection. It is the world's largest safety net for children whose families struggle to provide the nutrition they need. The impact on education outcomes also outpaces other interventions, which makes it a wise investment both for food security and for education.



We are providing clean water

Water, sanitation and hygiene interventions play a crucial role in combating global hunger. In agriculture, clean water is essential for growing crops and sustaining poultry/livestock. Clean water also helps in ensuring good nutrition and health as it prevents the transmission of waterborne diseases – a leading cause of death in children who suffer from malnutrition. Drinking unclean water and a lack of good hygiene practices around handwashing and waste management can lead to illnesses, such as diarrhoea, giardiasis, dysentery, typhoid and E. coli, which block the absorption of vital nutrients, even if the child is eating adequate food.

Water scarcity can also increase the risk of tensions within families, communities and rival groups. The collection of water from communal water points can result in conflict over queuing and distribution, while women and children can face personal security risks when having to travel far to access water. Water demand also creates conflict between farmers and pastoralists, and between small-scale producers and industrial agricultural and livestock operations.⁵⁸



We are ensuring access to nutrition and health services

Globally, children in the poorest households are twice as likely as those in wealthier households to die before their fifth birthday, and the most vulnerable continue to face a similar burden of health challenges as they did decades ago. Almost half of under-five deaths occur during the newborn period, and vulnerable children are still exposed to preventable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria, which together are responsible for almost half of under-five mortality. At World Vision, we confront these realities head-on. Our health interventions are designed to address the leading causes of illness and mortality among children under five. Through family- and community-centered approaches, we focus on behaviour change, community and health systems strengthening, and advocacy at various levels to break the cycle of vulnerability.

As World Vision, we have helped severely malnourished children make a full recovery in more than 30 countries and used local food-based approaches to rehabilitate underweight children in over 40. We have equipped parents to detect undernutrition in their children to prevent malnutrition-related child deaths. We have supported the establishment of Women, Adolescent and Young Child-friendly Spaces to support breastfeeding in emergency contexts.



We are prioritising activities that reach across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus

Our work reaches children no matter their background or the dangerous places they live. World Vision responds in refugee camps, remote areas, where there is conflict, fragility, extreme weather conditions and post-disaster scenarios and where people are facing famine-like or severe hunger conditions. Such durable commitments before, during and after crises allows for deeper, transformative positive change, often in close partnership with local and national authorities. By placing communities front and centre, we ensure lasting, more accountable change, which in turn allows for greater access and acceptance.

In the face of the growing humanitarian needs and funding challenges, as well as increasingly interconnected conditions, we recognise that the HDP nexus offers a more coherent approach by meeting the immediate needs while also addressing the root cause of vulnerability through sustainable and long-term solutions.

In line with the nexus' framework, World Vision developed a fragile contexts programme approach to expand and deepen the impact of interventions by tackling both the causes and effects of fragility. To help fragile communities build resilience in the long term, this method focuses on transformative change by implementing unified HDP efforts. It builds strength from collaborations with a wide range of partners at the local, regional and international levels – including the private sector, civil society, international organisations, governments, faith communities, and community leaders, amongst others.



We are advocating for children

Advocacy is an essential part of World Vision's work at the local, national, regional and global levels. Through advocacy, World Vision aims to empower children, communities and individual supporters, channeling their voices through social mobilisation that shifts attitudes and behaviours and gives decision-makers a public mandate to address child rights. We work with our offices to deliver evidence-based advocacy by drawing upon our local-global footprint, voices and experiences of those we serve (communities, faith leaders, children, donors) and our local-level expertise and evidence. Such insights inform World Vision's advocacy efforts, urging the international community to prioritise interventions that address both immediate hunger needs and the underlying causes of food insecurity.

Strengthening civil society collaboration on the topic of conflict and hunger and coordinating initiatives and activities at the global and regional levels are one of our key priorities. As part of the Global Coalition against Conflict and Hunger, we work on joint advocacy statements and public and private country-specific advocacy, driven by the most urgent crises across the world. Furthermore, we are committed to advocate for the prohibition of starvation as a weapon of war, the protection of civilians and the humanitarian space in conflict contexts.

World Vision's humanitarian advocacy efforts also focus on addressing forgotten crises and improving humanitarian access as priorities for transformation. We recognise that access challenges are usually heightened during humanitarian crises and encompass a range of administrative, operational, legal, financial, and logistical barriers that affect humanitarian agencies' ability to fulfil their mandates and reach the most vulnerable children and families with life-saving assistance. Advocacy initiatives will be critical to ensure the most vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas across the globe receive the assistance they need in the face of increasing numbers of severe, complex emergencies and access constraints.

Global advocacy efforts and humanitarian response to end hunger

In September 2023, World Vision launched ENOUGH, a global three-year advocacy campaign working to end child hunger and malnutrition. The campaign aims to mobilise citizens and power-holders to create a world where every girl and boy

enjoys enough nourishing food and thrives. The focus is on reducing hunger and improving nutrition for 125 million children in 67 countries; the campaign prioritises empowering children and ensuring that they are visible and heard in hunger, nutrition and food security-related policies at all levels.

World Vision and its various country offices are working to strengthen health systems, improve smallholder farming with sustainable agriculture practices, water and sanitation, child protection, education, peacebuilding, microfinance, and faith engagement provides the foundation and the enabling environment to achieve the vision of this global campaign.

World Vision has also expanded its Global Hunger Response, the organisation's largest ever appeal responding to the staggering needs of 30 million vulnerable people facing unprecedented hunger in 31 countries. The Global Hunger Response is focused on the most vulnerable children and families experiencing acute hunger and the threat of famine, as well as providing integrated solutions across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus.



Children hold up their bowls, eager for porridge handed out during supplemental feeding at the Child Friendly Space that Marie Ngalula, 14, and her siblings attend. © World Vision/Jon Warren

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In the face of mounting food insecurity globally and the continued rise of food prices in some of the places least able to cope, we urge the following actions to address food price inflation and food insecurity, ensuring that both immediate and long-term needs are met:

Scale up emergency food assistance and nutrition programmes. Donor countries and humanitarian organisations must expand funding for emergency food aid programmes, ensuring that malnourished children and at-risk families receive essential nutrition support.

- Aid that provides the right nutrition for children, on time, must be part of every emergency response.
- Prevention of future hunger crises must be well funded and include social safety nets that meet children's specific needs.
- Interventions to build communities' resilience and prevent future hunger crises must be incorporated into funding for all emergency responses.

Ensure comprehensive and quality nutrition services and food for children. Government health and social systems need to deliver on nutrition policies and services and ensure that every child, no matter where they live, has enough nutritious food.

- Increase coverage of essential nutrition actions - lifesaving 'basics' like vaccinations, hygiene and maternal health - to reduce childhood stunting and mortality. This involves strengthening health systems, investing in nutrition training, and rapidly scaling up community health worker programs to ensure comprehensive coverage and effective interventions.
- Help caregivers understand how best to nourish their children through awareness raising and education using affordable, locally grown and accessible products
- Governments should expand cash transfer programmes, food vouchers, and school feeding initiatives to protect vulnerable populations from rising food costs. Social protection measures must be inclusive and adapted to inflation rates to maintain their purchasing power.
- Provide school meals to every child. Good quality school meals give all children a chance at balanced nutrition, especially those facing acute food insecurity. They encourage girls to stay in

school, keeping them safe from early marriage and prevent children from being forced into labour.

Take immediate measures to end conflicts and sustain peace through diplomatic and political solutions. All parties to conflict must:

- Adhere to international human rights and humanitarian law (e.g. by ceasing attacks on civilians, especially children, aid workers and civilian infrastructure).
- Stop the use of starvation as a method of war in alignment with UN Security Council Resolution 2417.
- Facilitate the safe and timely provision of principled humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

Governments and international donors must prioritise increased investment in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the growing impact of climate change on food security. A rapidly warming globe is increasing the risk of devastating storms and natural disasters, thereby decreasing food security, spurring increased population mobility and contributing to conflicts.

- Governments and donors should fund climate-smart agricultural practices, such as drought-resistant crops, improved irrigation systems, and soil conservation techniques, to help smallholder farmers adapt to climate change and maintain stable food production.
- Policies should prioritise direct financial and technical assistance to smallholder farmers, ensuring they have access to affordable seeds, fertilisers, and sustainable farming methods.
- v strengthen early warning systems to help communities prepare for climate shocks and invest in disaster-resilient infrastructure to reduce food losses.
- Increase mitigation efforts by strengthening commitments to the Paris climate accords, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Every country has a responsibility to ensure they are doing their part to limit emissions and keep temperatures below 1.5°C if possible.
- Urgently follow through on the establishment and financing of a loss and damage fund, to provide lower-income countries with the means to cope with the effects of climate change – including increased conflict

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