

The World Vision logo, featuring the text "World Vision" in white, with a small orange star icon to the right.

UNPRECEDENTED HUNGER: A Call for Congressional Action

Introduction

Across the globe, 45 million people in 43 countries are at risk of starvation with 584,000 already living in famine-like conditions (IPC5), and the remaining 44 million at grave risk of falling into famine¹ (IPC4). Children and their families are victims of the triple threat: Conflict, climate change, and COVID-19,² which has exacerbated food insecurity globally.

Why it matters

The crisis in Ukraine is creating ripple effects across the global food system. Russia and Ukraine account for 29% of the world's wheat, that's one third of the global market's wheat supply³. Various regions across Africa and the Middle East are already feeling the effects of supply chain interruptions⁴ as the cost of food, fuel, and fertilizer continues to climb. In Somalia, the price of wheat and oil has already risen by 300% and in Kenya, cooking oil has increased by 33%.⁵ Long term consequences are expected as rising cost in fertilizer will have a devastating impact on small-scale farmers⁶ who are already facing drought and poor rainfall. As costs for food, fuel, and transportation rise, humanitarian organizations will be forced to cut food rations or significantly shrink programming in order to feed those with the greatest need.

Immediate action is needed to prevent the needless death of hundreds of thousands of children and avoid negative coping mechanism as families struggle to survive, such as early marriage and child labor. Unfortunately, the world has already seen the devastating consequences of unmet need. In the 2011 Somalia famine, 258,000 people are estimated to have died⁷ with half of those death occurring before a famine declaration was made. Without urgent resources, children and their families will face devastating hunger and the world will face the long-term consequences of unrest, fragility, and displacement.

ASK

As a Christian humanitarian organization, World Vision believes in the value of every life. Together with our humanitarian partners, we are asking Congress to continue its global leadership and provide at least **\$5 billion in supplemental funding** for international food assistance accounts to address these immediate hunger needs before it is too late.



Regional Snapshot

The conflict in Ukraine is a clear example of how conflict drives hunger, pushing people from their homes, leaving crops and livestock unattended, and forcing children out of school. Some of the most urgent hunger needs are being forgotten yet will be greatly impacted by this compounding crisis:

- **East Africa:** More than 500,000 people are facing catastrophic (IPC5)⁸ levels of food insecurity. Poor rainy seasons and below average rainfall for three consecutive seasons in many areas has resulted in low crop production and loss of livestock. Every country where World Vision works in East Africa is either in conflict or neighboring a country in conflict. This fragility drives displacement and threatens development gains.
- **Afghanistan:** Half of the children under 5 in Afghanistan are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition.⁹ Conflict has exacerbated a fragile food context as drought has led to crop failure and a 60% loss of livestock. 22.8 million people – half of the population – are projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022¹⁰.
- **Central America:** In addition to the violence and poverty that plague Central America, the region has also been hit hard by natural disasters in recent years, including drought and severe hurricanes. This has destroyed already fragile livelihoods and has tripled food insecurity¹¹ in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

References

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/22/un-world-food-programme-says-41-million-on-verge-of-famine>

² https://www.worldvisionadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Three-C_s-Policy-Paper.pdf

³ <https://www.reuters.com/business/russia-ukraine-conflict-highlights-wheat-supply-vulnerability-2022-03-03/>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/ukraine-conflict-soaring-food-and-fuel-prices-threaten-wellbeing-millions-east>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/ukraine-conflict-soaring-food-and-fuel-prices-threaten-wellbeing-millions-east>

⁶ <https://www.devex.com/news/ukraine-crisis-expected-to-deepen-horn-of-africa-s-drought-devastation-102911>

⁷ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22380352>

⁸ <https://www.wvi.org/stories/hunger-crisis/feeling-pulse-my-children-signs-life-heartbreaking-reality-east-africas>

⁹ <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/afghanistan-hunger>

¹⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/wfp-afghanistan-situation-report-08-april-2022>

¹¹ <https://www.worldvisionadvocacy.org/2021/08/03/central-america-development/>

QUICK FACTS



Almost **6,400** children die every day from nutrition-related causes.



Nearly **1 in 10** people will go to bed on an empty stomach tonight. That's up to **811 million** globally.



An additional **83 to 123 million** people are chronically hungry due to the pandemic.

