

GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE: Phase II

Situation report #1 | January 2024

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. This is why, in 2021, World Vision launched a global hunger initiative combining regionally-led responses addressing hunger, which led to the declaration of a Global Hunger Response (GHR) and the organisation's largest ever appeal – US\$2 billion – in May 2022 to respond to the staggering needs of 2.27 million of the most vulnerable people facing unprecedented hunger in 28 countries.

World Vision, in collaboration with our donors and partners, responded by:

Phase I
(May 2022–September 2023)

raised US\$2.27 billion

to reach 25.4 million people including **14,014,810 children**

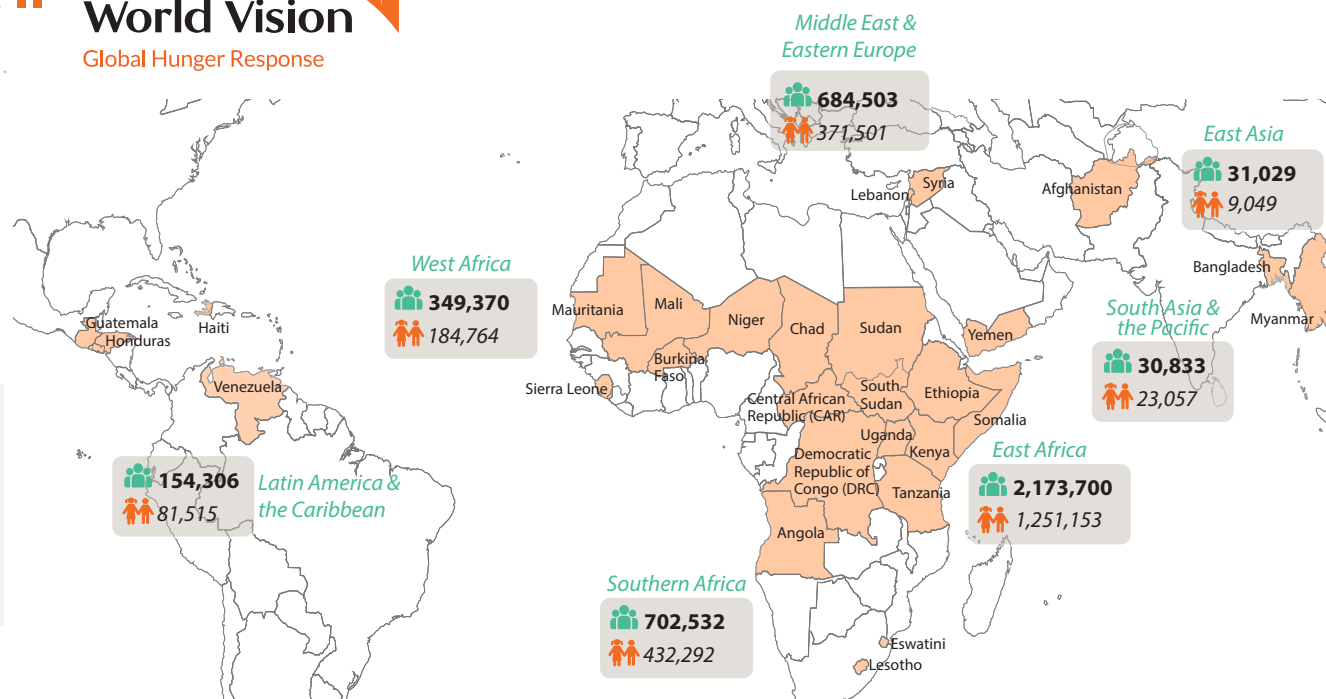
*People reached includes people supported in GHR's 28 countries of highest alert from 01 March 2021 through 30 September 2023 during Phase I of the Global Hunger Response.

In light of the persistent and growing need, despite global efforts by the United Nations (UN) and agencies like World Vision, GHR announced Phase II of the Response alongside the organisation's global hunger and malnutrition campaign, ENOUGH, in October 2023. **During Phase II, which runs through September 2025, World Vision aims to reach 30 million of the most vulnerable people experiencing hunger and the threat of famine in 28 countries of highest alert*** with a focus on providing integrated solutions across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus to sustainably address the drivers of food insecurity and acute malnutrition.

* 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.



Global Hunger Response



Phase II
(October 2023–September 2025)

raised US\$32.2 million of US\$2.5 billion target

People reached 4,126,273 including **Men 699,838** **Women 1,073,104** **Boys 1,158,030** **Girls 1,195,301**

*Based on figures as of 30 January 2024. People reached includes people supported in GHR's 28 countries of highest alert from 01 October 2023 through the current reporting period (31 December 2023).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Global acute food insecurity continues to be driven by the effects of multiple issues, including conflict and organised violence, rising cost of living, climate change, all of which are further exacerbated by the uneven socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, protracted armed conflict and violence continues to affect the largest amount of people experiencing acute hunger (70%).¹ Although humanitarian efforts have helped avoid 'catastrophic' situations (IPC² 5) and alleviate 'emergency' conditions (IPC 4), reducing the number of people affected by the most extreme hunger conditions in certain locations, the number of countries experiencing the most severe levels of food insecurity (IPC 4+) has grown to 58 countries in 2023, up from 53 in 2021.³

¹ WFP (2023) [A global food crisis](#).

² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a system allowing governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and other relevant actors to work together to determine the severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity, and acute malnutrition situations in a country, according to internationally-recognised scientific standards.

³ International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2023) [Global Report of Food Crisis – Mid-year review, September 2023](#) p6.

While the number and scale of crises are increasing, humanitarian agencies are simultaneously facing a major funding crisis. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that as of September 2023, only one-third (32%) of their overall US\$55.5 billion appeal has been secured,⁴ the lowest percentage recorded since 2016. This limited funding environment is subsequently driving humanitarian and development agencies and organisations to make tough choices about where funding is redirected, leaving many people's need unmet.

⁴ OCHA (30 September 2023) [Global Humanitarian Overview 2023, September Update](#).

Overall, an analysis of acute food insecurity shows a 10% increase in the number of food insecure people (IPC 3+) in 48 countries as of September 2023.⁵ According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), acute food insecurity is likely to further deteriorate in 18 hunger hotspots between November 2023 and April 2024.⁶ Since 2022, conditions have worsened for several countries that sit within World Vision's Global Hunger Response, including Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, and Lebanon.⁷ Food insecurity is compounded by the interlinkages between hunger drivers. For instance, most countries that are currently affected by conflict were already suffering from underlying poverty, structural weaknesses, and, in some cases, climatic shocks (such as Afghanistan). Similarly, climatic shocks and weather extremes can also lead to intensification of conflict.⁸ For instance, conflict increases between pastoralist herders and farmers over access to water and grazing and droughts contribute to aggravating existing civil conflicts.⁹

Global inflation is also aggravating the effects of this multifaceted crisis as average food prices remain significantly higher than before the pandemic despite a decline to 5% in 2023.¹⁰ Prices of maize, rice, beans, and cereal remain remarkably high while mixed trends are seen in some commodities like wheat.¹¹ The uneven food prices coupled with improved livelihoods and economic gains in some parts of the world depict a deceptive outlook of the global hunger crisis improving. Yet, situations are far worsening for hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable children, particularly those living in the poorest countries.

Weather extremes, such as heavy rains, tropical storms, cyclones, flooding, drought, and increased climate variability, remain significant drivers of acute food insecurity. El Niño conditions that started developing in the tropical Pacific in July 2023, reached a peak in September 2023, increasing the likelihood of a rise in global temperatures and more intense weather extremes in 2024.¹² Forecasts suggest that El Niño will continue adversely affecting weather patterns until weakening and going 'neutral' in April–June 2024.¹³ The impact of El Niño is felt differently, depending on location, and could manifest as above-average rainfall and flooding in central Asia and the Horn of Africa or droughts in Central America, south and southeast Asia, southern Africa, and the Sahel.¹⁴ These conditions are expected to negatively affect agricultural production and lead to loss of livelihoods and assets, which could lead to further increase in global food prices.¹⁵

⁵ [FSIN and GNAFC \(2023\)](#) p6.

⁶ WFP and FAO (2023) [Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023 to April 2024 Outlook](#) p7.

⁷ [Ibid](#) p7.

⁸ WVI (2023) [Rising Storms: Climate Impacts on Conflict, Community Tensions, and Hunger](#).

⁹ [FSIN and GNAFC \(2023\)](#) p51.

¹⁰ Shahbandeh, M. (15 June 2023). [Global food price index 2000-2023](#), FAO. Statista.

¹¹ FAO 'Food price monitoring and analysis' [Accessed 8/12/2023].

¹² [OCHA \(30 September 2023\)](#).

¹³ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (11 January 2024) [El Niño/Southern Oscillation \(ENSO\) Diagnostic Discussion](#) p1.

¹⁴ [FSIN and GNAFC \(2023\)](#) p18.

¹⁵ [Ibid](#) p18.



In World Vision's Bamba area programme, outside of Mombasa, Kenya, World Vision launched a school feeding programme that provides maize, beans, and cooking oil to make school meals for students in 12 schools. © World Vision / Ben Adams.

Key concerns

The last three months have witnessed a severe escalation of violence in the Middle East, particularly in the **occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)**. Since October, the situation has been worsening rapidly and is being described by the United Nations (UN) as a 'humanitarian catastrophe' in light of the rising deaths, displacement, collapse of the medical system, and the very limited aid reaching the most vulnerable.¹⁶ The **West Bank** and **Lebanon** have also been affected by this conflict, further exacerbating food security in these countries already struggling with multiple crises. In October 2023, World Vision launched the Middle East Crisis Response to respond to the immediate needs, including the West Bank and Lebanon, and are monitoring the needs within the wider context to scale up as needed.

Yemen is experiencing one of the world's largest humanitarian crises due to eight years of conflict, compounded by economic collapse, natural disasters, and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁷ It has most recently also been affected by the conflict, straining the fragile truce process that had been gradually reducing violence under UN-led negotiations between the parties of conflict since April 2022. In 2023, 21.6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance.¹⁸ With Yemen's health system collapse, women and girls are the most affected, with one woman dying during pregnancy/childbirth every two hours¹⁹ in addition to an estimated 456,000 children under age 5 suffering from acute malnutrition in southern Yemen in 2023.

Niger currently ranks second in terms of the highest proportion of its population (82%) experiencing insufficient food consumption due to a recent surge (23%).²⁰ During 2023, 1.9 million children under 5 were expected to be acutely malnourished; however, this may not accurately capture the reality of the current situation due to the lack of recent assessments. Although humanitarian assistance is reaching some areas, it has become increasingly challenging to access the most vulnerable. Political instability following the coup is likely to further affect livelihoods and food insecurity in the country, and Niger was designated as a 'hotspot' by FAO and WFP due to their high food prices and the potential escalation of conflict.²¹

Since conflict broke out in **Sudan** in April 2023, acute food insecurity has strongly increased (74%) with an additional 8.6 million people facing extreme hunger.²² Conflict in Al Jazirah State in December 2023 has also exacerbated the already dire situation, causing an additional half a million people to be displaced. Disease outbreaks, like cholera, are also on the rise. The latest IPC projections show that 17.7 million people (37%) are estimated to be experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3+).²³

Bangladesh is one of the top 10 largest populations facing acute food insecurity with 11.9 million people (31%) estimated to be facing extreme hunger conditions due to high inflation, coupled with reduced incomes and repeated climatic shocks (e.g. floods, cyclones) due to El Niño.²⁴ An increase of an additional 3 million people (8%) living in acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) since April 2023 has been attributed to these extreme weather phenomena, with 239,500 forcibly displaced Burmese living in IPC 4+ conditions in Bangladesh²⁵ as the current political situation in **Myanmar** prevents their safe repatriation.²⁶

Despite some improvements in the country's overall humanitarian situation, an estimated 4.3 million people across **Somalia** experienced acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) between October and December 2023 – an increase of 500,000, with 1 million of these people facing the more severe 'emergency' levels of hunger (IPC 4).²⁷ Contributing factors include the lingering impact of the recent severe drought, extreme weather due to El Niño, above-average prices, ongoing conflict and violence around Burhakaba and Baidoa, and the decline in humanitarian assistance due funding constraints.²⁸ Additionally, since 2022, Somalia has faced uninterrupted cholera transmission in 29 drought-affected districts (four of which are currently affected by floods) due to poor access to water and sanitation services.²⁹



Dedicated community health workers are helping displaced mothers, like Solafa, care for their children and access essential health and nutrition services through mobile clinics in Sudan's Blue Nile State. © World Vision / Kevin Kagiri

¹⁶ UN News (November 2023) ['World must not look away from humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, UN chief tells Security Council'](#)

¹⁷ UN Population Fund (December 2023) ['Yemen'](#) [Accessed 18/01/2024].

¹⁸ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁹ [Ibid.](#)

²⁰ WVI (unpublished) 'Global Hunger Crisis Analysis'

²¹ [WFP and FAO \(2023\)](#) p27.

²² [FSIN and GNAFC \(2023\)](#) p26.

²³ IPC (October 2023) ['Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Projection Update for October 2023 - February 2024'](#)

²⁴ [FSIN \(2023\)](#).

²⁵ IPC (1 June 2023) [Bangladesh: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for March - April 2023 and Projection for May - September 2023](#).

²⁶ [Ibid.](#)

²⁷ IPC (18 September 2023) [Somalia: Acute Malnutrition Situation for August - September 2023 and Projection for October - December 2023](#).

²⁸ [Ibid.](#)

²⁹ World Health Organization (November 2023) [Weekly Cholera/AWD Situation Report - Somalia, Epidemiological Week 45 \(6-12 November 2023\)](#).

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 better nutrition of the affected households

- 1,254,251** People reached with cash and voucher assistance
- US\$32,839,635** Cash and voucher assistance distributed
- 130,110** Children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding
- 2,202,220** People reached with (in-kind) food assistance
- 256,801** In-kind food assistance distributed (mt)
- 69%** Proportion of households reporting that they have been informed about expected behaviour of World Vision's staff, partners, and affiliates



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

- 186,963** People reached through primary health-care support
- 54,832** Children reached through severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) management
- 5,872** Children recovered from SAM
- 83,623** Primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling

Enhance household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods related shocks

- 5,296** Households provided with (in-kind) livelihood physical agricultural assets
- 1** Households provided with conditional cash or vouchers to procure agricultural physical assets
- 21,438** People trained in sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart, resilient farming practices
- 17.5%** Proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income
- 1,380** Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses



Improve access to clean water, sanitation support, and hygiene promotion services to mitigate waterborne diseases

- 292,346** People provided with access to clean, potable water
- 129,146** People who have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities



58

including faith leaders engaged on hygiene promotion activities



Reduce protection risks and vulnerabilities of affected children, women, and other vulnerable groups

- 27,530** People receiving psychosocial support
- 53,024** People receiving messages on positive coping strategies and preventing negative coping mechanisms



99

including faith leaders engaged in promoting positive coping strategies



Reduce/mitigate predictable humanitarian impacts from negatively affecting at-risk populations through anticipatory action

- 979** People supported through forecast-based actions
- 2,580** People provided direct access to information on climate and weather risks and crop management advisories



50

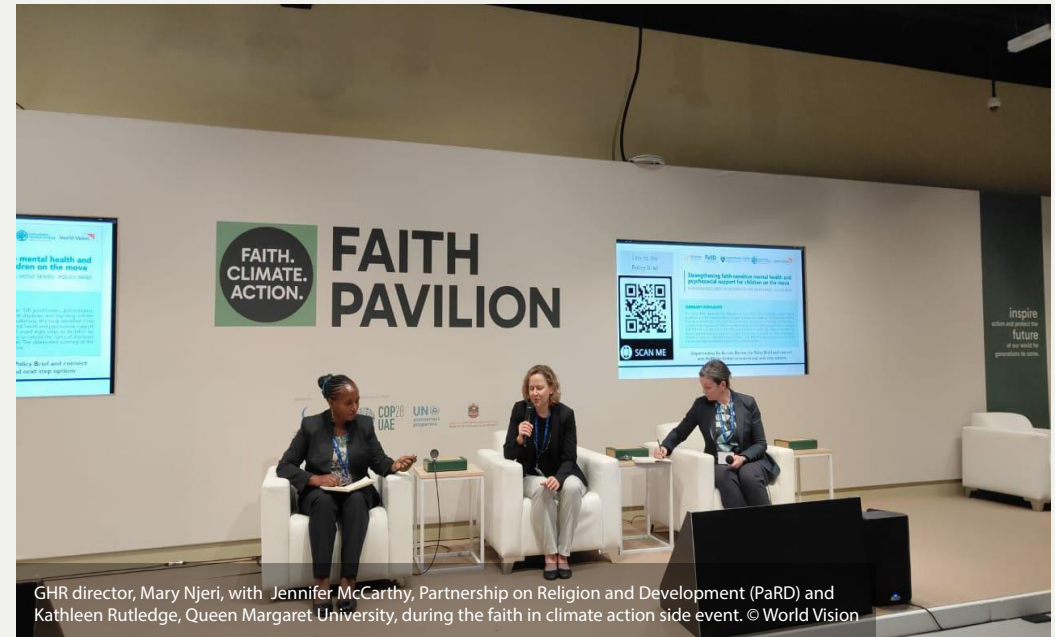
including existing community structures used as platforms to engage on anticipatory actions

Advocacy highlights

Mary Njeri, Global Hunger Response Director, represented World Vision at COP28 (the Conference of the Parties meeting) held in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023. COP is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) whose ultimate aim is preventing 'dangerous' human interference with the climate system. Alongside World Vision colleagues, Mary positioned World Vision's efforts to abate the hunger crisis with donors, stakeholders, and peer agencies working on climate action, highlighting the role of faith leaders in providing mental health and psychosocial support to most vulnerable children and women affected by the hunger crisis, and informing the public on COP28 deliberations, declarations, and commitments. Additionally, Mary took the opportunity to amplify the voices and experiences of children and families affected by the hunger crisis by launching World Vision's report, [Rising storms: Climate impacts on conflict, community tensions, and hunger](#), at the event. This research used field data from a survey of almost 3,000 people in nine countries to hear from them how climate hazards are fuelling conflict, displacement, and food insecurity, in a wider range of contexts than commonly thought. Also in attendance at the event was Hella, an Iraqi youth advocate, who Mary was able to interview, amplifying the voice of a child whose family



GHR director, Mary Njeri, engaging with Hella, a youth advocate from Iraq, during the launch of World Vision's *Rising storms* report. © World Vision



GHR director, Mary Njeri, with Jennifer McCarthy, Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD) and Kathleen Rutledge, Queen Margaret University, during the faith in climate action side event. © World Vision

and their livelihood have been directly affected by climate change. Hella provided insights around the harmful impacts of climate change in her country as well as thoughts on possible solutions to the challenges facing many children and families. This real-life connection between the case study findings in the *Rising storms* report provided a face and voice to the reality of the consequences of climate change that children and young people who are suffering the most.

Mary also represented World Vision at a side event discussing faith-sensitive mental health and psychosocial support for children on the move, alongside Jennifer McCarthy, Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD), and Kathleen Rutledge, Queen Margaret University. During the event they raised awareness of the plight of children on the move, presenting the recently released joint policy brief, [Strengthening faith-sensitive mental health and psychosocial support for children on the move](#), as part of the 'fostering resilience in children on the move series'. Mary also shared briefly on World Vision's work partnering with faith leaders during [Phase I of our Global Hunger Response](#), which included providing psychosocial support to women and children on the move, amongst other vulnerable groups.



Suldana, a 15-year-old climate refugee from Somalia stands in a temporary settlement in Doolow. She moved there with her father and siblings to get help after losing all of their livestock to the ongoing drought. Each day, she travels to town to wash dishes and help provide enough money to buy meals for her family. © World Vision / Gwayi Patrick

Resource highlights

- [To fight hunger, balance the scales for women](#)
- [Priceless losses: A call to help children affected by climate-induced loss and damage](#)
- [Schools out until national governments prioritise school meals](#)
- [An optional climate loss and damage fund for rich countries simply isn't cricket](#)
- [Faith, action & hope unite for climate justice](#)
- [Mapping the many-headed monster threatening the world's children](#)
- [A corridor of hope](#)
- [After a historic drought, Somalia now braces for El Niño rains: At least a million people at high risk of flooding](#)
- [The worst hunger crisis in decades is forcing children from their homes](#)
- [For millions of children, school is the only place they can eat for the day](#)
- [Feeding hope: A retrospective on World Vision's Global Hunger Response Phase I](#)
- [Global Hunger Response phase II strategic plan](#)
- [Invisible and forgotten: Displaced children hungrier and at more risk than ever](#)
- [One year on: Global Hunger Response](#)
- [Global Hunger Response: Capacity statement](#)
- [Rising storms: Climate impacts on conflict, community tensions, and hunger](#)

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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

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