



Food Insecurity

What is food insecurity?

A person is food insecure when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This may be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resources to obtain food. Food insecurity can be experienced at different levels of severity.

Source: <https://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>

UN Entities

• Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance

<https://news.un.org/pages/global-crisis-response-group/>

The war in Ukraine, in all its dimensions, is producing alarming cascading effects to a world economy already battered by COVID-19 and climate change, with particularly dramatic impacts on developing countries. The world's most vulnerable people can not become collateral damage.

- Global Impact of war in Ukraine on food, energy and finance systems - Brief No.1, 13 April 2022: <https://news.un.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/UN-GCRG-Brief-1.pdf>
- Global impact of war in Ukraine: Billions of people face the greatest cost-of-living crisis in a generation, Brief No.2, 8 June 2022: https://news.un.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GCRG_2nd-Brief_Jun8_2022_FINAL.pdf
- Global impact of war in Ukraine: Energy crisis, Brief No.3, 3 August 2022: https://news.un.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GCRG_3rd-Brief_Aug3_2022_FINAL.pdf

• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Achieving food security and nutrition both today and tomorrow - See our global roadmap to achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5C threshold: <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/cop28-fao-launches-global-roadmap-process-to-eradicate-hunger/en>
<https://www.fao.org/interactive/sdg2-roadmap/en/>
- A global food crisis: 2022: a year of unprecedented hunger: <https://www.wfp.org/hunger-catastrophe>
- Hunger and food insecurity: <https://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>
- Food Systems: <https://www.fao.org/food-systems/en/>
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World: <https://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>
- World Food Situation: <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/en/>
- Right to Food: <https://www.fao.org/right-to-food/en/>

• International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Nutrition: <https://www.ifad.org/en/nutrition>

• World Food Programme (WFP)

- Ending Hunger: <https://www.wfp.org/ending-hunger>
- Food Systems: <https://www.wfp.org/food-systems>
- Food Safety and Quality: <https://www.wfp.org/food-safety-and-quality>
- Food Security Cluster: <https://www.wfp.org/food-security-cluster>
- Food Security Analysis: <https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/>

- Nutrition: <https://www.wfp.org/nutrition>
- Global Report on Food Crises - 2022: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2022>
- WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057685>
- The 5 steps from food security to famine (18 March 2024): <https://www.wfp.org/stories/5-steps-food-security-famine>
- **UN Nutrition**
<https://www.unnnutrition.org/>
UN Nutrition is the UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanism for nutrition at the global and country levels.
- **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**
 - OHCHR and the right to food: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/food>
- **Special Rapporteur on the right to food**
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-food>
- **World Bank**
 - Food Security: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/food-security>
 - Nutrition: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition>
 - Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard: <https://www.gafs.info/>
- **World Trade Organization (WTO)**
 - Food Security: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/food_security_e.htm
 - Committee adopts recommendations to support vulnerable members in tackling food insecurity (17 April 2024): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news24_e/agri_17apr24_e.htm

Further information

- United Nations – Global issues: Food
<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food>
- Explainer: What is famine? (UN News, 18 March 2024):
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147661>
- Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>
- Global Network Against Food Crises
<http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/>
The Global Network Against Food Crises is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors united by the commitment to tackle the root causes of food crises and promote sustainable solutions through shared analysis and knowledge, strengthened coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) nexus. [European Union](#), [FAO](#) and [WFP](#) launched the Global Network Against Food Crises at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to respond to the WHS’s call for new approaches to tackle protracted crises and recurrent disasters, reduce vulnerability, and manage risk, by bridging the divide between development and humanitarian partners.
- Global Action Plan on Child Wasting
<https://www.childwasting.org/>
This is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - Call to Action: Priority Actions for Immediate Acceleration in Response to the Global Food and Nutrition Crisis - UN Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (12 January 2022):
<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-01-2023-urgent-action-needed-as-acute-malnutrition-threatens-the-lives-of-millions-of-vulnerable-children>
 - Global food crisis putting millions of young lives at risk (UN News, 12 January 2023):
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132407>

Research & Documentation

- Dag Hammerskjöld Library Research Guide: Food Security and Nutrition - A Global Issue: <https://research.un.org/en/foodsecurity>
- Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) LibGuide: The Cost of Hunger in Africa: <https://libguides.uneca.org/Costofhunger>
- UNRIC Library Backgrounder: Food Waste: <https://unric.org/en/unric-library-backgrounder-food-waste/>
- The World Bank/IMF Library Network: Health, Nutrition and Population Research Guide with COVID-19 Updates: <https://researchguides.worldbankimflib.org/c.php?g=1016495>
- UN Documents on "Food insecurity": <https://bit.ly/3O60ula>
- UN Documents on "Food security": <https://bit.ly/3rW1LC2>
- UN documents on "Food shortage": <https://bit.ly/3vMJPLn>
- UN documents on "Hunger": <https://bit.ly/3OBbI1L>
- UN documents on "Right to Food": <https://bit.ly/38rRuGW>

UN Events & Conferences

- World Food Safety Day, 7 June:
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/food-safety-day>
<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/WFSD/en/>
- International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, 29 September:
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day/>
<https://www.fao.org/international-day-awareness-food-loss-waste/en/>
- World Food Day, 16 October: <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>
- Security Council Meeting, 13 and 14 February 2024:
The impact of climate change and food insecurity
 - Concept Note: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/146>
 - Secretary-General Statement: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22133.doc.htm>
 - Summary Press Releases: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15589.doc.htm> and <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15591.doc.htm>
 - Webcasts: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k18/k184wrle66> and <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k12/k12ruquzea>
 - Rising hunger: UN chief identifies wars, climate chaos as aggravating factors (UN News, 13 February 2024): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146492>
- Security Council Meeting, 3 August 2023:
Famine and conflict-induced global food insecurity
 - Concept Note: <https://undocs.org/S/2023/560>
 - Summary Press Release: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15377.doc.htm>
 - Presidential Statement: <https://undocs.org/S/PRST/2023/4>
 - Webcast: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1p1gep7z6>
 - The eerie silence of starvation 'is deafening, it never leaves you': UN official (UN News, 3 August 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1139407>
- UN Food Systems Summit+2 - Stocktaking Moment (24 – 26 July 2023, Rome, Italy):
<https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/>
- ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2023: "Strengthening humanitarian assistance at a time of unprecedented global humanitarian needs: driving transformation and solutions to address the urgent challenges of rising food insecurity and the risk of famine, protection risks and climate change" (21-32 June 2023): <https://www.unocha.org/ecosoc-2023>
- Security Council Meeting, 15 September 2022:
Protection of civilians in armed conflict – Briefing on Conflict and Food Security
 - Summary Press Release: <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15032.doc.htm>
 - Webcast: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wf6kkt9>

- 'Tsunami of hunger' could trigger multiple famines, Security Council warned (UN News, 15 September 2022): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126771>
- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths Remarks at Security Council briefing on conflict-induced food insecurity and the risk of famine (15 September 2022): <https://reliefweb.int/node/3886967>
- High-Level Special Event "Time To Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses To The Global Food Security Crisis", 18 July 2022, UN Headquarters, New York
 - Summary: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/09/01/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-special-event-on-food-security-summary/>
- Security Council meeting, 18 May 2022 - Maintenance of international peace and security - Conflict and food security <https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/meetings/2022>
 - Concept Note: <https://undocs.org/S/2022/391>
 - Summary Press Release: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14894.doc.htm>
 - Webcast: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10mjp1u3>
 - Forty-nine million people in 43 countries one step away from famine, Secretary-General warns in Briefing to Security Council on conflict, food security (SG/SM/21288, 19 May 2022): <https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sqsm21288.doc.htm>
 - UN Security Council meeting: Agriculture is key to lasting peace and security, FAO says: Director-General QU Dongyu notes that conflict remains the main driver of global hunger (19 May 2022): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/un-security-council-meeting-agriculture-is-key-to-lasting-peace-and-security-fao-says/en>
 - Failing to open Ukrainian ports means declaring war on global food security, WFP Chief warns UN Security Council (19 May 2022): <https://www.wfp.org/news/failing-open-ukrainian-ports-means-declaring-war-global-food-security-wfp-chief-warns-un>
- The Food Systems Summit, 23 September 2021, New York <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>

Impacts of the war in Ukraine on food security worldwide – related news items

- Ukrainian grain donation bolsters WFP's response in northeast Nigeria amidst inflation and food price spikes (29 February 2024): <https://www.wfp.org/news/ukrainian-grain-donation-bolsters-wfps-response-northeast-nigeria-amidst-inflation-and-food>
- Despite multiple challenges, food insecurity is decreasing in Europe and Central Asia / From the FAO Office for Europe and Central Asia (13 December 2023): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/despite-multiple-challenges--food-insecurity-is-decreasing-in-europe-and-central-asia/en>
- FAO / UNICEF / WFP - Food insecurity and malnutrition reach new highs in West and Central Africa as funding to address acute needs dwindles (12 December 2023): <https://www.wfp.org/news/food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-reach-new-highs-west-and-central-africa-funding-address-acute>
- World Bank and World Food Programme Deepen Partnership to Scale Up Impact on Food Security (11 December 2023): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/statement/2023/12/11/world-bank-and-world-food-programme-deepen-partnership-to-scale-up-impact-on-food-security>
- Facing a future of growing food insecurity and climate challenges, world leaders commit to increased funding for small-scale farmers and rural people, Media advisory: Press conference - IFAD's Member State consultation and pledging session (8 December 2023): <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/facing-a-future-of-growing-food-insecurity-and-climate-challenges-world-leaders-commit-to-increased-funding-for-small-scale-farmers-and-rural-people>
- New WFP analysis shows every 1% cut in food assistance pushes 400,000 people into emergency hunger (12 September 2023): <https://www.wfp.org/news/new-wfp-analysis-shows-every-1-cut-food-assistance-pushes-400000-people-emergency-hunger>
- WTO - DDG Paugam: Trade can help us respond to food security, sustainable development challenges (4 September 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/ddqjp_04sep23_e.htm

- World Bank - Tackling Food Insecurity (31 August 2023): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2023/08/31/tackling-food-insecurity>
- WFP - Impacts of The Suspension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative in Eastern Africa (14 August 2023): <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000151887/download/>
- Transforming food systems, key to get SDGs back on track: Mohammed (UN News, 26 July 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1139147>
- Global food systems 'broken', says UN chief, urging transformation in how we produce, consume food (UN News, 24 July 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1139037>
- UNEP - How this week's UN summit could help mend world's broken food systems (24 July 2023): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-weeks-un-summit-could-help-mend-worlds-broken-food-systems>
- UNEP Infographic: The Journey of Food (24 July 2023): <https://www.unep.org/resources/infographic/journey-food>
- UNEP Video - Transforming our food systems: Feeding the world while nourishing the planet (24 July 2023): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/video/transforming-our-food-systems-feeding-world-while-nourishing-planet>
- Hunger afflicts one in ten globally, UN report finds (UN News, 12 July 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138612>
- UNEP --- Why restoring nature is good for farmers, fisheries and food security (11 July 2023): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/why-restoring-nature-good-farmers-fisheries-and-food-security>
- UN-brokered grain and fertilizer deals 'indispensable' to global food security (UN News, 7 July 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138457>
- High Commissioner for Human Rights: the Environment is Dying and the Right to Food is Comprehensively Threatened by Climate Change - the World Demands Action Now (3 July 2023): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/07/high-commissioner-human-rights-environment-dying-and-right-food-comprehensively>
- Remarks at ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2023 High-Level Panel on food security and the risk of famine - Reena Ghelani, UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator (20 June 2023): <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/remarks-ecosoc-humanitarian-affairs-segment-2023-high-level-panel-food-security-and-risk-famine-reena-ghelani-un-famine-prevention-and-response-coordinator-20-june-2023>
- FAO - Sudan: acute food insecurity sparked by the ongoing crisis is set to escalate in coming months (19 June 2023): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/sudan--acute-food-insecurity-sparked-by-the-ongoing-crisis-is-set-to-escalate-in-coming-months/en>
- UNEP / FAO / UNDP - Rethinking our Food Systems: A Guide for Multi-stakeholder Collaboration (12 June 2023): <https://www.undp.org/publications/rethinking-our-food-systems-guide-multi-stakeholder-collaboration>
- WTO - DDG Paugam: Cooperation and agricultural reform are needed to tackle food security crisis (12 June 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/ddgjp_12jun23_e.htm
- UNESCWA - 2nd Arab Forum for Equality: "One voice... Equality in Food Security" (29 May 2023): <https://www.unescwa.org/news/2nd-arab-forum-equality-%E2%80%9Cone-voice%E2%80%A6-equality-food-security%E2%80%9D>
- Increasing risk of hunger set to spread in hotspot areas as the Sudan crisis spills over into subregion and el Niño looms - warns new UN report: Joint FAO-WFP News Release (29 May 2023): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/increasing-risk-of-hunger-set-to-spread-in-hotspot-areas/en>
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- Deputy Secretary-General urges transformative action to end hunger, inequality, briefing Member States on First United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment (DSG/SM/1850, 10 May 2023): <https://press.un.org/en/2023/dsgsm1850.doc.htm>
- FAO --- Ground-breaking data platform plays key role in tackling acute food insecurity in food crises (9 May 2023): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/FAO-DIEM-data-platform-acute-food-insecurity-crises-2023/en>

- UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell's remarks at the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises launch event (3 May 2023): <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-executive-director-catherine-russells-remarks-2023-global-report-food-crises>
- GNAFC - Global Report on Food Crises: Number of people facing acute food insecurity rose to 258 million in 58 countries in 2022; Economic shocks grew as driver of food crises; war in Ukraine contributed to acute food and nutrition insecurity (3 May 2023): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/global-report-on-food-crises-GRFC-2023-GNAFC-fao-wfp-unicef-ifpri/en>
- Urgent investment in rural areas is needed to safeguard global food security says UN's IFAD (25 April 2023): <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/urgent-investment-in-rural-areas-is-needed-to-safeguard-global-food-security-says-ifad>
- FAO/OCHA/UNICEF/WFP - Food insecurity and malnutrition in West and Central Africa at 10-year high as crisis spreads to coastal countries (18 April 2023): <https://www.wfp.org/news/food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-west-and-central-africa-10-year-high-crisis-spreads-coastal>
- WTO - Working group on food security discusses building resilience, financing challenges (17 April 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/fsec_12apr23_e.htm
- WTO - New report calls for G20 coordination to address causes of food insecurity (13 April 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/agri_13apr23_e.htm
- Global Food Crisis Update: Recent Developments, Outlook, and IMF Engagement (12 April 2023): <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/IMF-Notes/Issues/2023/04/12/Global-Food-Crisis-Update-Recent-Developments-Outlook-and-IMF-Engagement-531948>
- UN report warns of accelerating food insecurity in the Arab region due to global crises (29 March 2023): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/un-report-warns-of-accelerating-food-insecurity-in-the-arab-region-due-to-global-crises/en>
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- IFAD - "There is no food security without water security," says IFAD executive in plea to increase investments in water solutions for small-scale farmers (21 March 2023): <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/there-is-no-food-security-without-water-security>
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- WTO - DDG Paugam: Trade is crucial to ensure sustainable food supplies in times of crisis (21 January 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/ddgjp_21jan23_e.htm
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- UNCTAD - Weekly Tradecast: A hungry future: The climate change risks to food security (5 January 2023): <https://unctad.org/podcast/hungry-future-climate-change-risks-food-security>
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