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**
  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.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

- **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
  - WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057685
• **UN Nutrition**
  https://www.unnutrition.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)**
  o 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**
  o Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard: https://www.gafs.info/

• **World Trade Organization (WTO)**
  o Food Security: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/food_security_e.htm

**Further information**

• United Nations – Global issues: Food

• 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.fightfoodcrices.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).
  o Global food crisis putting millions of young lives at risk (UN News, 12 January 2023):

**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://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:

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, 29 September:


Security Council Meeting, 3 August 2023:
Famine and conflict-induced global food insecurity
  o Concept Note: https://undocs.org/S/2023/560
  o Presidential Statement: https://undocs.org/S/PRST/2023/4
  o Webcam: https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1p1gep7z6

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
  o Webcam: https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wf6kket9
  o 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

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
  o Concept Note: https://undocs.org/S/2022/391
  o Webcam: https://media.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10mjpiv1u3
  o 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


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


• 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-crisis-GRFC-2023-GNAFC-fao-wfp-unicef-ifpri/en


• 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


• WTO - Insights into Global Trade, by Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General / Food security: The key to unlocking agriculture negotiations at the WTO? (Blog, 28 March 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/blogs_e/ddg_jean_marie_paugam_e/blog_jp_28mar23_e.htm


• 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


• WTO - New working group on food security discusses financing challenges, questionnaire results (1 March 2023): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/wdfs_01mar23_e.htm


Addressing a group of ministers on 21 January at the Agriculture Ministers’ Conference 2023, Deputy Director-General Jean-Marie Paugam highlighted the importance of leveraging trade to achieve sustainable and resilient food systems at a time when the world is facing the challenges of food insecurity and climate change. The conference was part of the 15th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin.


• UNCTAD - A Double Burden: The effects of food price increases and currency depreciations on food import bills (16 December 2022): https://unctad.org/a-double-burden


• WTO - DDG González: Multilateral trading system must do more to avert food security crisis (8 December 2022): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/ddgag_08dec22_e.htm

• WTO - Agriculture Committee’s new working group on food security launches a needs questionnaire (7 December 2022): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/agri_07dec22_e.htm

• IFAD - No biodiversity, no farmers, no food security: IFAD calls for a robust and ambitious agreement at biodiversity COP to protect the future of rural communities and food security around the world (6 December 2022): https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/no-biodiversity-no-farmers-no-food-security


• ECLAC / FAO / WFP --- Towards sustainable food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean in response to the global food crisis: https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/48532

• 'Intense diplomatic efforts' continue to ensure food and fertilizers reach those in need (UN News, 29 November 2022): https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1131127


• WTO, FAO study calls for global action to improve access to fertilizers, avert food crisis (14 November 2022): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/igo_14nov22_e.htm


• General Assembly - Fifth Committee approves draft authorizing $3.52 Million to mitigate global food insecurity, welcoming Secretary-General’s efforts for comprehensive response (GA/AB/4396, 21 October 2022): https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaab4396.doc.htm


• World Food Day: Soaring prices, soaring hunger; "What was a wave of hunger is now a tsunami of hunger" — WFP chief David Beasley (14 October 2022): https://www.wfp.org/stories/world-food-day-soaring-prices-soaring-hunger

• A partnership to ensure food security for vulnerable communities: UNV partnering with FAO (14 October 2022): https://www.unv.org/Success-stories/partnership-ensure-food-security-vulnerable-communities

• President of the General Assembly - Address to 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 10 October 2022: https://www.un.org/pga/77/2022/10/10/virtual-pga-address-to-50th-session-of-the-committee-on-world-food-security-cfs/

• General Assembly - Concerned by growing food insecurity, speakers in Fifth Committee support funding to help implement Black Sea Grain, Russian foodstuff, fertilizer trade deals (GA/AB/4392, 10 October 2022): https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaab4392.doc.htm

• WTO - Count on WTO in coordinated action to fight food security crisis, says DDG Paugam (10 October 2022): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/ddgp_10oct22_e.htm

• IMF Executive Board Approves a new Food Shock Window and an Enhanced Staff-Monitored Program with Board Involvement (5 October 2022): https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/10/05/pr22335-imf-approves-a-new-food-shock-window-and-an-enhanced-staff-monitored-program

• WFP - Implications of the Conflict in Ukraine on Food Access and Availability in the East Africa Region update #6 (September 2022): https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000143258/download/


• FAO - G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting: Stop a food access crisis from turning into a food availability crisis, FAO says; Director-General QU Dongyu urges peace, warns of devastating implications of soaring food and fertilizer prices (28 September 2022): https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/g20-agriculture-ministers-s-meeting-stop-a-food-access-crisis-from-turning-into-a-food-availability-crisis-fao-says/en


• WTO - Agriculture meeting highlights food security, urgency of implementing MC12 outcomes (15 September 2022): https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/agri_14sep22_e.htm


• OCHA - Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths remarks for The Road to UN General Assembly: Preventing Famine and Fighting Food Insecurity (12 September 2022): https://reliefweb.int/node/3885671


• WFP - Bulk carrier sets off from Ukraine with grain for WFP in first since start of war (16 August 2022): https://www.wfp.org/stories/bulk-carrier-sets-ukraine-grain-wfp-first-start-war


• IFAD - How the war in Ukraine is affecting the most vulnerable countries in the world (20 July 2022): https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/how-the-war-in-ukraine-is-affecting-the-most-vulnerable-countries-in-the-world


• 50 million will be severely hungry this year, says Deputy Secretary-General, in remarks to General Assembly Event on Global Food Crisis (DSG/SM/1766, 18 July 2022): https://press.un.org/en/2022/dsgsm1766.doc.htm


• WFP scales up to support the most vulnerable in Global Food Crisis (14 July 2022): https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-scales-support-most-vulnerable-global-food-crisis


• UN News - UN needs $68.4 million to help Central African Republic where 2.2 million are acutely food insecure (5 July 2022): https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121952


• Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs remarks at International Conference "Uniting for Global Food Security," 24 June 2022, Berlin: [https://reliefweb.int/node/3860112](https://reliefweb.int/node/3860112)


• WFP urges G7: 'Act now or record hunger will continue to rise and millions more will face starvation' (21 June 2022): [https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-urges-g7-act-now-or-record-hunger-will-continue-rise-and-millions-more-will-face](https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-urges-g7-act-now-or-record-hunger-will-continue-rise-and-millions-more-will-face)


• FAO - New UN Food Outlook report: World’s most vulnerable are paying more for less food: FAO flags risks to food security from high food and agricultural input prices (9 June 2022): [https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/new-un-food-outlook-report-world-s-most-vulnerable-are-paying-more-for-less-food/en](https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/new-un-food-outlook-report-world-s-most-vulnerable-are-paying-more-for-less-food/en)


• IMF Blog - Response to High Food, Energy Prices Should Focus on Most Vulnerable (7 June 2022): [https://blogs.imf.org/2022/06/07/response-to-high-food-energy-prices-should-focus-on-most-vulnerable/](https://blogs.imf.org/2022/06/07/response-to-high-food-energy-prices-should-focus-on-most-vulnerable/)


• WTO - DDG Paugam: WTO is actively participating in efforts to preserve global food security (24 May 2022): [https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/ddgjp_25may22_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/ddgjp_25may22_e.htm)


• WFP - The day the UN barred using hunger and starvation as weapons of war - Four years after the Security Council passed the landmark resolution 2417, World Food Programme head of emergencies Margot van der Velden explains why in a year of unprecedented hunger marking the anniversary is so important (24 May 2022): [https://www.wfp.org/stories/day-un-barred-using-hunger-and-starvation-weapons-war](https://www.wfp.org/stories/day-un-barred-using-hunger-and-starvation-weapons-war)


• WFP - War in Ukraine: How can I sell my harvest if there’s no market? (23 May 2022): [https://www.wfp.org/stories/war-ukraine-how-can-i-sell-my-harvest-if-theres-no-market](https://www.wfp.org/stories/war-ukraine-how-can-i-sell-my-harvest-if-theres-no-market)


• IMF- Statement by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the publication of the Joint International Financial Institutions Plan to Address Food Insecurity (18 May 2022): [https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/05/17/pr22158-statement-md-on-joint-plan-to-address-food-insecurity](https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/05/17/pr22158-statement-md-on-joint-plan-to-address-food-insecurity)


• UNICEF - World a ‘virtual tinderbox’ for catastrophic levels of severe malnutrition in children: Soaring food prices driven by the war in Ukraine and pandemic-fuelled budget cuts set to drive up both need for, and cost of life-saving therapeutic food treatment, the latter by up to 16 per cent (16 May 2022): https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/world-virtual-tinderbox-catastrophic-levels-severe-malnutrition-children


• UN News - Ukraine war squeezes food supplies, drives up prices, threatens vulnerable nations (13 May 2022): https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118172


• WFP - Needs at all-time high even before the war in Ukraine, food crises report says: Multi-agency study calls for a shift towards better prevention, anticipation, and targeting to address the root causes of food crises (4 May 2022): https://www.wfp.org/stories/needs-all-time-high-even-war-ukraine-food-crises-report-says


• FAO - Two Months after the Start of the War, Food Insecurity Continues to Grow / Op-ed by Mario Lubetkin, Assistant Director-General of FAO (Inter Press Service, 27 April 2022): https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/two-months-start-war-food-insecurity-continues-grow/


• FAO - Surging food prices: FAO calls for import financing facility for poorer nations at G20 meeting; Director-General QU Dongyu addresses finance ministers and central bank governors in Washington (20 April 2022): https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/surging-food-prices-fao-calls-for-import-financing-facility-for-poorer-nations-at-g20-meeting/en


UNESCWA - War in Ukraine will lead to a record of about 126 million poor in the Arab region (14 April 2022): https://www.unescwa.org/news/war-ukraine-will-lead-record-about-126-million-poor-arab-region


FAO - Ukraine crisis: the world can still contain the impact on global food security with the right policies, FAO Director-General says; QU Dongyu addresses FAO Members as they convene to discuss the impact of the conflict on global food supply (8 April 2022): https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/ukraine-crisis-the-world-can-still-contain-the-impact-on-global-food-security-with-the-right-policies-fao-director-general-says/en


WFP - Projected increase in acute food insecurity due to war in Ukraine (6 April 2022): https://www.wfp.org/publications/projected-increase-acute-food-insecurity-due-war-ukraine


• IMF Chart of the Week: War-fueled surge in food prices to hit poorer nations hardest (16 March 2022): https://blogs.imf.org/2022/03/16/war-fueled-surge-in-food-prices-to-hit-poorer-nations-hardest/


• WFP - Yemen: Millions at risk as Ukraine war effect rocks region (14 March 2022): https://www.wfp.org/stories/yemen-millions-risk-ukraine-war-effect-rocks-region

• WFP - Ukraine war: More countries will ‘feel the burn’ as food and energy price rises fuel hunger, warns WFP (11 March 2022): https://www.wfp.org/stories/ukraine-war-more-countries-will-feel-burn-food-and-energy-price-rises-fuel-hunger-warns-wfp


