



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/interactive/state-of-food-security-nutrition/2023/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)**

- Understanding Food Insecurity: <https://www.fao.org/interactive/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>
- Measuring hunger, food security and food consumption: <https://www.fao.org/measuring-hunger/en>
- Mapping undernourishment and food insecurity worldwide: <https://www.fao.org/interactive/hunger-map/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/>
- Investments that dare to solve the crisis of food insecurity (30 June 2025): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/fao-blog/detail/fao-blog/2025/06/26/investments-that-dare-to-solve-the-crisis-of-food-insecurity/en>
- Realizing the right to food in a changing world: The Right to Food Guidelines: 20 years on and beyond (2024): <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3573en>

- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

- Nutrition: <https://www.ifad.org/en/nutrition>
- Explainer - Where do we stand in feeding the world? (25 July 2025): <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/explainers/where-do-we-stand-in-feeding-the-world->

- **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>
 - Impact of Global Warming on Food Security: How does a 1°C increase in temperature affect levels of food insecurity? (WFP, November 2025): <https://tinyurl.com/2ztkhz9f>
 - Explainer: Food security – what it means and why it matters (20 March 2025): <https://www.wfp.org/stories/food-security-what-it-means-and-why-it-matters>
 - The 5 steps from food security to famine (18 March 2024): <https://www.wfp.org/stories/5-steps-food-security-famine>
 - WFP joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty as founding member (8 November 2024): <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-joins-global-alliance-against-hunger-and-poverty-founding-member>
- **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.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**
 - How do Economic Growth and Food Inflation Affect Food Insecurity? (Working Paper No. 2024/188, 6 September 2024): <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2024/09/06/How-do-Economic-Growth-and-Food-Inflation-Affect-Food-Insecurity-554563>
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
 - AI for Food Systems: <https://aiforgood.itu.int/ai-for-food-systems/>
- **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>
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**
 - Ending hunger: <https://www.unido.org/our-priorities/ending-hunger>
 - Launch of the Group of Friends of Food Security in Vienna (17 October 2024): <https://www.unido.org/news/launch-group-friends-food-security-vienna>
- **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 (GNAFC)
<http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/>
The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) is a multistakeholder initiative of humanitarian and development actors, united by a commitment to tackle the root causes of food crises and to promote sustainable solutions. We share analyses and knowledge, and strengthen the coordination of evidence-based responses across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. We bring together existing initiatives, platforms and mechanisms, to enhance synergies and avoid duplication. We operate at national, regional, and global levels.
 - Global Reports on Food Crisis: <https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/global-report-food-crises>
 - Hunger Hotspots Reports: <https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/hunger-hotspots>
- 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>
- Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)
<https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/>

Research & Documentation

- 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/>
- World Bank Group Libguides
 - Global Food Crises, Shortages, World Hunger:
<https://libguides.worldbank.org/foodcrises>
 - Health, Nutrition and Population: <https://libguides.worldbank.org/hnp>
- 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>
- UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake (UNFSS+4) (27-29 July 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
<https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/un-food-systems-summit-4-stocktake/>

- Security Council Meeting, 17 November 2025:
Framing the global dialogue: addressing food insecurity as a driver of conflict and ensuring food security
 - Concept Note: <https://docs.un.org/S/2025/688>
 - Meeting Records: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10045>,
[https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10045\(Resumption1\)](https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10045(Resumption1)),
[https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10045\(Resumption2\)](https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10045(Resumption2))
 - Deputy Secretary-General Statement: <https://press.un.org/en/2025/dsgsm2020.doc.htm>
 - Press release: <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16224.doc.htm>
 - Webcast: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1iysgm309>,
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1q0suwr2a>,
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k11/k119jw0g5c>
 - Ms. Joyce Msuya, ASG for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy ERC, on behalf of Mr. Tom Fletcher, USG for Humanitarian Affairs and ERC - Briefing to the UN Security Council Open Debate on Conflict-Related Food Insecurity (17 November 2025):
<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/ms-joyce-msuya-asg-humanitarian-affairs-and-deputy-erc-behalf-mr-tom-fletcher-usg-humanitarian-affairs-and-erc-briefing-un-security-council-open-debate-conflict-related-food-insecurity>
- Security Council Meeting, 13 and 14 February 2024:
The impact of climate change and food insecurity
 - Summary & Report: <https://docs.un.org/S/2024/725>
 - Concept Note: <https://docs.un.org/S/2024/146>
 - Meeting Records: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9547>,
[https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9547\(Resumption1\)](https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9547(Resumption1)),
[https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9547\(Resumption2\)](https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9547(Resumption2))
 - Secretary-General Statement: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sqsm22133.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>,
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1m/k1my74zeii>,
<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://docs.un.org/S/2023/560>
 - Meeting Records: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9392>,
[https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9392\(Resumption1\)](https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9392(Resumption1))
 - Summary Press Release: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15377.doc.htm>
 - Presidential Statement: <https://docs.un.org/S/PRST/2023/4>
 - Webcast: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1p1gep7z6>,
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1n5az8q91>
 - 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
 - Meeting Record: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9133>
 - Summary Press Release: <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15032.doc.htm>
 - Webcast: <https://webtv.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/pqa/76/2022/09/01/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-special-event-on-food-security-summary/>
- Security Council meeting, 19 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://docs.un.org/S/2022/391>
 - Meeting Records: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9036>, [https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9036\(Resumption1\)](https://docs.un.org/S/PV.9036(Resumption1))
 - Summary Press Release: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14894.doc.htm>
 - Webcast: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10mjpv1u3>, <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1s/k1stomvihh>
 - 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>

Selected Statements & Speeches

- Deputy High Commissioner: how to tackle food insecurity / delivered by Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights at Human Rights Council 56th session Side event - "The Right to Adequate Food – Contributions from the UN Committee on World Food Security" (27 June 2024): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/06/deputy-high-commissioner-how-tackle-food-insecurity>
- To address food insecurity, we must step up investments in data and new technologies / By Magan Naidoo, Chief Data Officer, United Nations World Food Programme (13 May 2024): <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/address-food-insecurity-we-must-step-investments-data-and-new-technologies>

Strait of Hormuz Disruptions

- FAO - Strait of Hormuz: Time running out to avert global food security crisis, FAO warns; FAO Director-General QU Dongyu addresses event on Middle East conflict with Spain Prime Minister (26 May 2026): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/strait-of-hormuz--time-running-out-to-avert-global-food-security-crisis--fao-warns/en>
- FAO - Strait of Hormuz conflict threatens global food prices as FAO warns time is running out: FAO outlines urgent measures and policy recommendations to avert severe crisis within six to 12 months (20 May 2026): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/strait-of-hormuz-conflict-threatens-global-food-prices-as-fao-warns-time-is-running-out/en>
- FAO - Strait of Hormuz crisis: Fertilizer scarcity will affect next harvests and food supplies, FAO warns (7 May 2026): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/strait-of-hormuz-crisis--fertilizer-scarcity-will-affect-next-harvests-and-food-supplies--fao-warns/en>

- FAO - Strait of Hormuz crisis: FAO Director-General outlines risks, actions and policy responses (28 April 2026): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/strait-of-hormuz-crisis--fao-director-general-outlines-risks--actions-and-policy-responses/en>
- UN News - Strait of Hormuz: With hunger looming, life-saving fertiliser shipments cannot wait, head of UN task force says (21 April 2026): <https://news.un.org/en/interview/2026/04/1167351>
- FAO - Protracted Strait of Hormuz crisis could turn into global agrifood catastrophe: Chief Economist urges anticipatory policy actions to mitigate price and supply crunch for key agrifood inputs (13 April 2026): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao--protracted-strait-of-hormuz-crisis-could-turn-into-global-agrifood-catastrophe/en>
- Joint Statement by the Heads of the International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank Group (13 April 2026): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/statement/2026/04/13/joint-statement-by-the-heads-of-the-international-energy-agency-international-monetary-fund-and-world-bank-group>
- ESCAP - When a strait shakes a region: How the Western Asia crisis is rippling across the Asia-Pacific region (31 March 2026): <https://www.unescap.org/blog/when-strait-shakes-region-how-western-asia-crisis-rippling-across-asia-pacific-region>
- WFP - Global disruptions to supply chains are driving tomorrow's hunger crisis (31 March 2026): <https://www.wfp.org/news/global-disruptions-supply-chains-are-driving-tomorrows-hunger-crisis>
- UNCTAD - From gas to grain: Fertilizer disruptions raise risks for food security and trade (30 March 2026): <https://unctad.org/news/gas-grain-fertilizer-disruptions-raise-risks-food-security-and-trade>
- IMF - How the War in the Middle East Is Affecting Energy, Trade, and Finance (30 March 2026): <https://www.imf.org/en/blogs/articles/2026/03/30/how-the-war-in-the-middle-east-is-affecting-energy-trade-and-finance>
- IFAD - Conflict in the Middle East threatens global food systems (Media statement, 27 March 2026): <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/news/conflict-in-the-middle-east-threatens-global-food-systems>
- FAO Chief Economist warns of severe global food security risks from disruption to Strait of Hormuz trade corridor (26 March 2026): <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-chief-economist-warns-of-severe-global-food-security-risks-from-disruption-to-strait-of-hormuz-trade-corridor/en>
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- FAO - Global Agrifood Implications of the 2026 Conflict in the Middle East: Impacts on energy and fertilizer trade, and food security (Information Note, 15 March 2026): <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd8875en>
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- 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>
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