



## Joint communiqué and commitments of the Global Network Against Food Crises' partners on

### 2022 Global Food Insecurity: Alarming Situation, Worsening Trend

The **2023 edition of the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC)** presents an alarming picture of the current state of global acute food insecurity. In 2022, 258 million people in 58 countries or territories, for which consensus-based evidence exists, faced crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above, or equivalent<sup>1</sup>.) Furthermore, in 2022, seven countries<sup>2</sup> – Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Haiti, and Burkina Faso had people facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 5), which indicates the threat of famine and extremely critical levels of malnutrition in several areas of these countries. This is the highest number of countries facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity in the history of the GRFC.

The GRFC shows that the number of people facing acute food insecurity at crisis levels or worse has increased from 193 million people in 2021 to 258 million people in 2022. Much of this increase reflects an increase in the population analyzed, but the severity of acute food insecurity increased from 21.3 percent to 22.7 percent in 2022 and remains unacceptably high. Moreover, it also highlights that there is a concerning trend of a deterioration in global food security, with the prevalence of populations facing food insecurity at crisis levels or worse increasing for the fourth consecutive year – from 14 percent of people in 53 countries or territories in 2018, to 22.7 percent of people in 58 countries or territories in 2022.

The increase in both the number of countries covered, and the number of people covered within countries or territories by the 2023 GRFC, is an important step in enhancing our collective understanding of food crises and reflects a welcome engagement from additional countries to better understand the prevalence of food insecurity within their respective context.

#### **Acute food insecurity results from a complex set of conflict, climate, and economic drivers – with economic shocks increasingly contributing to acute food insecurity and hunger**

While conflict and insecurity remain the major drivers of acute food insecurity, the 2023 Report reaffirms that the root causes of food crises are complex and interlinked: conflicts, national and global economic shocks and weather extremes represent cascading, inter-related and mutually reinforcing risks that drive acute food insecurity and hunger. For instance, the Report indicates that by the end of 2022, there were an estimated 53.2 million internally displaced people (IDPs), mainly displaced due to conflict, in 25 food-crisis countries. This is a significant increase from 2021 levels, where there were 45 million IDPs in 24 food-crisis countries.

The 2023 Report also highlights that global economic risks and shocks are having an increasing impact on food insecurity, due to pre-existing economic vulnerabilities that have been compounded and exacerbated by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the production of, and trade in, fuel, fertilizers, and essential food commodities. The conflict also disrupted agricultural production and trade in the Black Sea region, contributing to high and volatile international food prices. The conflict's impact on international food prices has been partially mitigated by the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)<sup>3</sup> and the EU Solidarity Lanes initiative. For example, Ukraine has been able to export more than 58 million metric tonnes of grain, oilseeds and related goods between May 2022 and end of March 2023; which has helped to push down historically high global food prices.

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<sup>1</sup> The IPC Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) classification provides strategically relevant information to decision makers that focuses on short-term objectives to prevent, mitigate or decrease severe food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods. In particular, the IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification provides differentiation between different levels of severity of acute food insecurity, classifying units of analysis in five distinct phases: (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine. [www.ipcinfo.org](http://www.ipcinfo.org)

Similarly, to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), the CH relies on the existing food security and nutrition information systems already in place in most Sahel countries since 1985, and in other coastal countries of West Africa. [Cadre Harmonisé | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(ipcinfo.org\)](http://www.ipcinfo.org)

<sup>2</sup> 2022 figures for IPC 5 do not include Ethiopia, as no breakdown by IPC phase was available to assess the acute food insecurity situation in the Tigray region or across the drought-affected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in southern and eastern Ethiopia.

<sup>3</sup> In July 2022 two agreements were endorsed: one is [The Black Sea Grain Initiative](http://www.bsgi.org) to allow the safe export of grain, fertilizers and other foodstuff from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea. The second one is the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Russian Federation to facilitate the unimpeded access for their food and fertilizers exports to global markets.



The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) Food Price Index indicates a decrease for 12 consecutive months since reaching record high levels in March 2022. Nevertheless, food prices remain well above pre-war and pre-pandemic levels<sup>4</sup>. A recent UNCTAD report also underlined that developing countries have benefited the most from the initiative, supporting food security among the most vulnerable.<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, there are on-going concerns regarding the stability of future food prices, which may be undermined by climatic factors, risk of market disruptions, export restrictions, high energy costs, weakening global demand for food and the impact of on-going, developing, or emerging conflicts, such as Ethiopia, Sudan and elsewhere. Moreover, there has been a depreciation of the currencies of many developing countries in 2022 – many of them considered food crises – reducing or offsetting the benefits of food price decreases. Additionally, the sovereign credit crunch following a global increase in interest rates in 2022, along with macroeconomic imbalances experienced by several countries, has limited the budget space to address pre-existing vulnerabilities and prevent a further deterioration in food security. Since these underlying drivers of food crises have not been resolved, strengthening the resilience of populations will be a vital element in preventing future crises.

### **The Global Network Against Food Crises – a unique partnership to tackle worsening food security**

The [Global Network Against Food Crises](#) brings together the European Union, the United States of America, FAO, WFP, and the World Bank in a unique partnership to improve analysis, evidence and consensus on the prevalence and severity of food crises; improve collective efforts to prevent and respond to these crises; and improve understanding of the underlying causes and interlinkages between food crises and other shocks beyond food. In light of the findings of the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises, the Global Network will build on current actions and scale up efforts to tackle the on-going global food crisis, including:

- 1. *Strengthen analysis, evidence, and consensus on food and nutrition security to enhance the effectiveness of programming to better prevent and respond to food and nutrition crises***

The Global Network plays a crucial role in providing consensus-based data and analysis as a global reference for governments, the multilateral system, civil society, and others. The global public goods produced by the Global Network, including the *Global Report on Food Crises*, the *Financing Flows and Food Crises Report*, and the *Hunger Hotspots* report are essential elements in better understanding the current, and worsening, global food and nutrition crisis. Global Network partners will build on the successful cooperation in 2022 in enhancing the attention of the international community to food and nutrition crises, to further improve the quality of coverage and communication, and to strengthen consensus to better collectively prevent and tackle food and nutrition crises, including through contributions to the GAFS<sup>6</sup> *Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard*. This includes further expanding the coverage of the Global Report and enhancing our support for data and analysis – including the capacity of countries to improve national information systems to provide reliable and timely data for analysis.

- 2. *Consolidate efforts to address knowledge gaps for improved policy making***

The Global Network provides a vital platform to consolidate and build evidence-based knowledge on the drivers of food crises. This draws on the expertise and capacities of Global Network partners and technical teams, to strengthen our shared understanding of food crises and to inform strategic discussion and dialogue on tackling the root causes of hunger. Building on our contribution to global policy discussions throughout 2022, Global Network partners will reinforce coordination around knowledge sharing and evidence generation to inform policies and programming to better address food crises.

<sup>4</sup> The FAO Food price index in 2020 (pre-pandemic) was 98.1; in March 2022 it reached a high point of 159.7; in March 2023 it is 126.9 [FAO Food Price Index | World Food Situation | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

<sup>5</sup> UNCTAD, “A Trade Hope: The impact of the Black Sea Grain Initiative”, 9 March 2023.

<sup>6</sup> The [Global Alliance for Food Security \(GAFS\)](#) was launched in Berlin, Germany, on May 19, 2022 during the Group of Seven (G7) Development Ministers Meeting as a way to address the emerging global food security and nutrition crisis. The objective of GAFS is to catalyse an agile, immediate, and coordinated response to the unfolding global food and nutrition security crisis.



This includes consolidating existing evidence and knowledge to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities associated with food crises, and to provide solutions that can advance more resilient food systems and that tackle extreme hunger. In 2023, the Global Network will focus on improving analytical tools; invest in research and evidence on famine prevention; support the scale up of assessments of resilient food systems; improve understanding of the importance of value chains in fragile contexts; and improve understanding of the impact analyses of macro-economic shocks on food security. Enhanced knowledge generation will inform dialogue and policy making between and beyond Global Network partners.

3. ***Support ongoing and new initiatives at country and regional level to tackle food crises***

In 2022, the Global Network made important progress in supporting national and regional actors to translate evidence and knowledge into improved efforts to tackle food crises. This included enhanced collaboration with inter-governmental organisations and networks in East and West Africa to support improved capacities to address food crises. In West Africa, Global Network partners, working closely with regional institutions, committed resources for immediate and longer-term actions to address worsening food insecurity in the region. This was complemented by support for strategic policy dialogue in the region, which convened food crisis countries to identify priority actions – including the implementation of a regional food reserve mechanism, and improvements in agricultural development.

In East Africa, the Global Network has been collaborating with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) – including support for a high-level political dialogue to identify priorities for food systems strengthening in the region. In 2023, the Global Network will work closely with IGAD to ensure that these commitments are downscaled to country level, with a focus on supporting national food systems strengthening in line with follow-up actions to the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). These efforts will be reflected in the UNFSS ‘stock take,’ in July 2023, which will provide an opportunity for Global Network members and regional partners to highlight the impact and value of regional approaches to addressing food crises.

4. ***Promote actions that address the multidimensional drivers of food crises and complementary humanitarian and development approaches that address food crises and also contribute to peace***

The Global Network promotes the need for more complimentary humanitarian and development responses to food and nutrition crises that also contribute to peace, as a critical approach to tackle the multidimensional drivers of food crises, and as an essential means to meet immediate needs, prevent crises and reduce hunger and malnutrition over time. In 2022, Global Network partners made considerable efforts to advance this approach, including promoting a ‘humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus’ approach within the Food Systems Summit, as well as supporting high-level dialogue in the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee, the European Humanitarian Forum and elsewhere. The Global Network also hosts the *Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Coalition* which made an important contribution to the dialogue around adaptation to climate change by exploring interconnections between climate-resilient food systems and peace in the framework of the COP 27 in Egypt in 2022.

In 2023, Global Network partners will scale up efforts to operationalize an HDP approach to food and nutrition crises including strategic dialogues, improved coordination and joint analysis and planning – including new and emerging as well as complementary initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Food Security’s [Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plans](#). The Global Network will also step-up support for more coherent and complementary humanitarian and development programming, and will promote more efficient aid approaches, such as cash assistance, anticipatory action, and shock-responsive safety nets. It will also accelerate support for longer-term efforts to address food crises with advisory services that promote sustainable food production, the reduction of post-harvest losses and the strengthened resilience of food systems. Central to these efforts will be support for improved conflict and nutrition sensitive programming; and for nature-based solutions and agroecological approaches that tackle soil degradation, water management and agricultural practices – including improved access to, and efficient use of, fertilizers.



## 5. Reinforce global coordination and partnerships

The Global Network has played a significant role in 2022 in promoting coherence between initiatives to tackle the global food and nutrition crisis and providing evidence and consensus-based data to inform such efforts. This includes support for the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Famine Prevention – resulting in the largest-ever release of funds from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund to tackle famine prevention; and the development of [the GAFS Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard](#) to provide data on food crisis severity, financing, and research; alongside efforts to complement the [World Bank's commitment](#) to scale up development work in food and nutrition security, including in 2022. The Global Network also contributed key analysis to the monitoring and implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2417, which highlights the linkages between hunger and conflict to hold states to account.

In 2023, the Global Network will continue these efforts and work to ensure that the actions are sustained beyond the limited timeframes of many of these initiatives. This includes translating global dialogue to regional level collaborations and to country-focused actions to address food and nutrition crises. In this regard, Global Network partners support the effective implementation and call for the extension – as long as necessary – of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The Global Network will also work to identify and highlight additional opportunities to strengthen diplomatic efforts to address food and nutrition crises – recognizing that 'food and nutrition diplomacy' can be a useful entry point for broader strategic dialogue with countries and governments.

### About the Global Network Against Food Crises

The Global Network Against Food Crises brings together the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United States of America, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) in a unique partnership to improve analysis, evidence and consensus on the prevalence and severity of food crises; improve collective efforts to prevent and respond to these crises; and improve understanding of the underlying causes and interlinkages between food crises and other shocks beyond food. The Global Network supports efforts under the collective outcome related to SDG 2 "Ending Hunger", which pledges to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities associated with acute hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) is the flagship publication of the Global Network and its major achievement in terms of a global public good on food security and nutrition analysis. Since 2016, the Global Report on Food Crises has been providing a comprehensive global picture of the scale and magnitude of food crises by compiling the main global and regional food security analyses through a transparent and consensus-based process involving 16 partners facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN). This is aimed at promoting timely, independent and consensus-based information on food crises.