



## Letter on Global Hunger Crisis to G7 Member States

March 29, 2023

Honourable Leaders of G7 Member States,

We are writing to you with grave concern about the rapidly escalating global hunger crisis and urging you to take decisive action to save lives at the upcoming G7 Leaders' Summit and related ministerial meetings in Japan.

Almost two years since you signed the [G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact](#) in London, hunger is still rampant around the world and the prospect of [Zero Hunger](#) by 2030 is slipping further and further away. Today, the global hunger crisis continues to be fuelled by conflict, economic inequality and pressures, and climate shocks. At least 349 million people across 82 countries – a record-breaking number – are facing acute food insecurity, with 50 million people on the brink of starvation. For them, the promise of sufficient, safe and nutritious food remains alarmingly out of reach.

While hunger affects everyone, children and women continue to face the brunt of this crisis. Malnutrition is particularly dangerous for children under five and adolescent girls and young women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Adolescent girls and young women are at increased risks of miscarriage, maternal mortality and giving birth to low birthweight babies, thus passing on the intergenerational effects of malnutrition to their children. This at a time when over [30 million children](#) in the 15 worst-affected countries suffer from acute malnutrition, threatening their survival.

As our new global report shows, girls and women continue to be [disproportionately impacted](#) in this global crisis, exacerbating gender inequalities. Not only do they eat last and least, and consume the least nutritious food, but they also face heightened risks of gender-based violence in their homes and in their efforts outside to earn an income and secure food, water and essential supplies. We also know that families, under pressure from increasing workloads and stress, are often forced into negative coping mechanisms that risk generational setbacks in gender equality: more and more girls are losing their access to education and are increasingly at risk of child, early or forced marriage to reduce growing financial burdens on families.

We acknowledge and thank you for the steps you have taken so far in response to this crisis, notably through the commitments and efforts outlined in the [2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact](#) and the work of the Global Alliance on Food Security. Unfortunately, however, global action has thus far fallen significantly short of what is required to pull millions back from the brink of famine and ensure hard-won development and gender equality gains are not reversed.

To save millions of lives and prevent devastating reversals in gender equality, we are therefore calling on G7 Members to take collective action to:

- Urgently pledge and disburse new additional funds towards the USD \$23 billion that are needed (according to the latest figure from the WFP) to meet the most urgent

humanitarian needs in the world's worst hunger hotspots and pull 50 million people from the brink of famine. Funds need to be readily available, flexible and unearmarked and help advance locally led responses, especially by youth-led, women-led, and women's rights organisations.

- Prioritise gender and age sensitive responses to address the gendered impacts of hunger, including funding specific programmes that address child protection, gender-based violence, girls' access to education and sexual and reproductive health services, child, early or forced marriage and sexual abuse and exploitation in food insecure contexts. This also includes support for efforts to strengthen disaggregation of food security data by sex, age, disability and diversity.
- Advance humanitarian diplomacy efforts to facilitate humanitarian access and enhance prospects of peace in conflict-affected hunger hotspots, with conflict being the main driver of hunger.
- Help build the resilience of communities living in fragile contexts by:
  - Strengthening early warning systems and anticipatory action ahead of predictable shocks like droughts or floods.
  - Investing at scale in gender-responsive social protection to address hunger's knock-on impacts on the rights of girls to education, protection and health, including through school meal programmes.
  - Bolstering support for livelihood programs like agricultural support, pasture and livestock management, and skills training to increase economic opportunities.
- Publicly report on their efforts to implement the commitments outlined in the 2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



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