



Zero Hunger

Eliminating hunger, malnutrition, and undernutrition is one of the major focus of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. When people are hungry, they become less productive and vulnerable to sickness and their overall wellbeing is adversely affected. This becomes an impediment to achieving the sustainable development goals. An annual study by the United Nations has revealed that more people are going hungry. Millions have joined the ranks of the chronically undernourished over the past five years, and countries around the world continue to face multiple forms of malnutrition. Nearly 690 million people live in hunger and more than 25 million people are potentially on the brink of starvation. Women and girls account for 60% of people living in hunger globally. Currently, Asia has the greatest number of undernourished people. This figure stands at about 381 million globally. This is followed by Africa with 250 million, then Latin America and the Caribbean with 48 million people. Over the last five years, global hunger has grown with increasing global population. The World Food Programme also estimates that 135 million people suffer from acute hunger as a result of man-made conflicts, climate change, and economic crisis. If recent trends continue, the United Nation forecasts that the number of people affected by hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030. These projections are an indication that the world is not on track to achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

Why is global hunger rising?

- Food shortages and global hunger will likely rise as the global population expands. The UN estimates that the global population will be about 9.8 billion people by 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100.
- High cost of nutritious foods coupled with poverty makes it impossible for the poor to afford a healthy diet. The cost of a healthy diet is more than US\$1.90 per day which is higher than the international poverty threshold. Latest estimates show that more than 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.
- Conflict has been identified as another cause of the increasing number of the hungry across the globe. Where there is violence, civil unrest, and global instability, people are deprived of their source of livelihood. Nearly half of the 77 million faced with food insecurity are in the Middle East and Asia.
- The growing intensity and severity of extreme weather events due to climate change contributes to the global hunger. Extreme weather conditions led to acute food insecurity affecting almost 34 million people in 25 countries in 2019.
- In the poorest countries, harvesting techniques are often not as sophisticated as those in developed countries so food gets spoilt. Around one third of the food produced annually on a global scale gets wasted each year.

A call to fight global hunger

- How the United Nations World Food programme is using tech-based solutions to end world hunger by 2030. ([Watch now](#))
- The effort of an NGO - The Hunger project in fighting global hunger. ([Learn more](#))
- How the World Economic Forum and Hewlett Packard Enterprise is using tech to solve world hunger ([Watch now](#))
- Food assistance: Cash and in kind, the effort of the World Food Programme towards eradicating global hunger. ([Learn more](#))