

The Global Food Crisis



FAQs

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY.



Overview

FOR EXTERNAL MESSAGING, PLEASE SEE FURTHER DOWN.

Our global neighbours are experiencing the devastating impacts of an unprecedented global food crisis. Supply chain issues, conflict, inflation, extreme weather and the prolonged effects of COVID-19 are all contributing to severe global food insecurity. The UN has warned that the world is now going backwards in its fight against poverty and hunger.

Before COVID-19, 135 million people were acutely food insecure. Today, that number has more than doubled to 345 million. The crisis is expected to increase in severity and Compassion's global ministry is now prioritising our response to this need over the next 12-24 months. For Compassion Australia, this means we will be integrating awareness and fundraising for the cause across ministry activities.

From early December 2022, we will be asking supporters to donate towards the fight against hunger. The appeal tagline is **Answer Hunger With Hope**. A landing page will be developed and the primary call to action will be to donate \$50 to provide a family with enough food for one month. We will be informing new and prospective supporters of this campaign through multiple channels including email, digital ads, direct mail, website banners and social media.

If you have further questions about this campaign, please contact the project lead Andrew Parker.



Internal FAQs

HOW CAN SUPPORTERS MAKE A DONATION TO THE ANSWER HUNGER WITH HOPE APPEAL?

Donations to the Answer Hunger With Hope appeal can be made through the campaign landing page: compassion.com.au/globalfoodcrisis or by calling Compassion Australia on 1300 22 44 53. Suggested giving options start with a \$50 donation that will provide a family with food for one month.

The pre-selected options displayed on the landing page are:

- \$50 provides one family with food for a month
- \$200 provides four families with food for a month
- \$1,500 provides 30 families with food for a month
- \$10,000 provides 200 families with food for a month
- The option to customise the giving amount is also available.

All donations over \$2 to the Answer Hunger With Hope appeal are tax deductible.

CAN SUPPORTERS GIVE LESS THAN \$50 TO THE ANSWER HUNGER WITH HOPE APPEAL?

Yes, supporters can give any amount to the Answer Hunger With Hope appeal. Our suggested donation is for \$50 as it can provide one family with food for a month. You can scale this amount up or down. For example, \$25 can provide one family with food for two weeks, and \$350 can provide seven families with food for one month. Importantly, every donation will make a difference in ensuring that families in poverty have food to eat during the global food crisis.



External FAQs

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS?

Conflict, extreme weather and COVID-19 have created a global food crisis that is having a devastating impact on children in poverty. According to the UN, the world is now moving backwards in its efforts to fight food insecurity and malnutrition. Because of the crisis, the number of people around the world with insufficient food has doubled. 345 million people—more than ten times Australia's population—are now experiencing acute food insecurity. Hunger upends the lives of children in poverty and undermines holistic development.

The global food crisis is affecting many of Compassion's partner countries, including Haiti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana, Colombia and Sri Lanka. The cost for Compassion's church partners to provide meals for participants as part of normal programming will increase—and families will be even more reliant on those meals. Children living in poverty are likely to be at an increasingly severe risk of malnourishment or undernourishment and we must act now to bring urgent relief.

WHAT CAUSED THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS?

The global food crisis has been caused by multiple factors: conflict, COVID-19, climate events and increasing costs.

Climate

Weather extremes pushed over 23 million people into acute food insecurity in 2021 alone. Drought is disrupting vital agriculture production, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia where they're approaching a fourth growing season without rain.

Conflict

The war in Ukraine is intensifying the food crisis because Russia and Ukraine are responsible for supplying almost 30 per cent of the world's wheat and a significant amount of global fertiliser. Conflict pushed 139 million people in 24 countries into acute food insecurity in 2021.

Costs

There is not a shortage of food in the world but rather how much food costs and how it's being distributed. With households in emerging economies spending an average 25 per cent of their budgets on food—up to 40 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and 60 per cent in Haiti—rising inflation will place families in desperate situations.

COVID-19

The pandemic has drastically increased the number of families living with severe food insecurity. Loss of work, isolation rules and other restrictions have all contributed to this new crisis. In many nations, the pandemic continues to have a devastating effect on livelihoods.



WHAT IS FOOD INSECURITY?

Food insecurity occurs when a person doesn't have regular access to enough nutritious food. It's caused when food simply isn't available or when a person doesn't have enough resources to obtain it, as is often the case for families living in poverty. At its worst, severe food insecurity means a person has had nothing to eat for a day or more.

Among the countries where Compassion works, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Uganda, Togo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Columbia and Ghana have been identified as experiencing increased food insecurity, though this list continues to change and grow. To identify countries most heavily impacted, we use external data sources such as Trading Economics data, Famine Early Warning Systems data and World Food Program Hunger maps.

HOW IS THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS AFFECTING CHILDREN IN POVERTY?

As food prices climb, so do hunger and malnutrition in young children. The impact of childhood malnutrition is catastrophic and has both short and long-term effects.

The increased risks caused by malnutrition include:

- Diabetes, cardiovascular problems and cancer later in life
- Growth stunting and wasting
- Poor academic performance and intellectual development
- Increased prevalence of attention deficit disorders
- Child marriage, as girls are offered in marriage arrangements for dowries that will feed their families
- Child labour, as children leave school early to support their families
- Premature death

HOW IS COMPASSION HELPING CHILDREN FACING HUNGER DURING THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS?

Compassion's 8,500 local church partners across over 25 countries are already responding to the global food crisis. They are equipped to provide routine health screenings for children so they can respond immediately to new or developing nutritional needs. In most cases, participants receive health support before wasting, stunting or severe malnutrition occur.

To meet the changing needs of children and families facing increased food insecurity, our local church partners will respond in two ways:

- 01** Provide immediate food packages and/or unconditional cash transfers to households deemed vulnerable to food insecurity. This includes children and families in Compassion's program, local church partner staff, pastors and community members.
- 02** Provide long-term food security through distributing seeds, fertiliser, livestock and training on how to build and maintain home gardens and small-scale farms.

Despite the global food crisis, programming will continue as normally as possible at Compassion centres, aligned with local COVID-19 guidelines. If there is violence or political unrest, each country's national office will modify the delivery of the program to best serve the participants.



HOW DO UNCONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS WORK?

Some countries Compassion works in, such as Kenya, do not allow food distribution by aid organisations. Cash transfers enable local partners to continue meeting children's urgent needs, empowering caregivers to decide where to direct the transfer to best support their family.

In circumstances where cash transfers are required, our local church partners use mobile phone-based money transfers to send cash directly to families. It's a secure, discrete, cost effective and dignified way to get tangible support to those who need it, fast.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Compassion's research found 95 per cent of Kenyan families who received cash transfers used the transfer to purchase food.

"Having families decide how to spend the money dignifies them," says Joel, Compassion Kenya's National Director. "The mobile money platform has a business-to-customer setup that guarantees security and has several levels of approvals for our leadership and strong internal controls for tracking and validation."

HOW IS COMPASSION UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO RESPOND TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS?

Compassion works through more than 8,500 local church partners all over the globe. The local church is best positioned to assist in this crisis because it has established decades of trust and relationships within the community—it has been there before, will be there during and will remain long after the crisis.

Local churches can deliver relief supplies including food, which is purchased locally to sustain local economies. If local markets are not feasible, national offices work to find the best and closest source for necessary relief. The goal is to promote local economies whenever possible.

Routine health screenings are also offered through Compassion's programs, enabling staff to monitor children's health so that when a crisis hits, a strategic and targeted response is already in place. Local church partners are trained to identify malnutrition and hunger and take immediate action.

CAN I GIVE A FOOD PACKAGE DIRECTLY TO MY SPONSORED CHILD?

We really appreciate your desire to help your sponsored child through the provision of a food package. The funds raised through this campaign can't be directed to an individual child. Instead, they are pooled together to provide food packages for the Compassion assisted families most in need of nutrition support across over 25 program countries.

Please be assured that our local staff understand your sponsored child's unique needs, including their nutrition, and they are trained to identify malnutrition and provide immediate support.

However, you can choose to give an additional financial gift to your sponsored child or their family anytime and they will receive 100 per cent of your gift. Local workers will help your sponsored child and their family to purchase a gift that assists with their greatest needs.

You can give a child or family gift online in [My Account](#) or by contacting us on 1300 22 44 53 or at compassion@compassion.com.au



DOESN'T MY SPONSORSHIP HELP PROVIDE FOOD FOR MY SPONSORED CHILD?

Yes, it does! Your sponsorship contributions help provide supplements to fight against malnutrition, which may include a meal or snack at the child's local child development centre, depending on the local context and the child's individual needs. Because our Child Sponsorship Program provides for a child's holistic needs, your sponsorship giving also covers education support, healthcare, tutoring and mentoring, skills training and Christ-centred guidance.

The global food crisis is increasing the cost for Compassion's church partners to provide meals for children as part of normal programming—and many families are now even more reliant on those meals. The cost of providing this urgent support exceeds what sponsorship giving alone can provide, which is why additional funding is needed to cover the shortfall.

DOES DISTRIBUTING FOOD PACKAGES OR SENDING CASH TRANSFERS CREATE DEPENDENCY?

Compassion's National Offices and local church partners work to set appropriate expectations with families so they understand the short-term nature of aid. The primary goal of Compassion's response is to reduce the impact of the global food crisis on families in poverty, and short-term aid is a critical part of this strategy.

In the transition out of short-term relief and toward long-term development work, families are empowered with ways to be self-sufficient through strategies like income generation activities, vocational training and financial management workshops.

WHY IS COMPASSION NOT ADDRESSING THE FOOD CRISIS MANY ARE EXPERIENCING HERE IN AUSTRALIA?

As a holistic child development organisation focused on helping children living in extreme poverty, Compassion's ministry is primarily aimed at supporting vulnerable children living in some of the world's poorest communities. Our work is focused in over 25 field countries across Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

However, we know that current global events, including inflation, the global food crisis and the lingering effects of COVID-19, are also affecting many children and families in Australia. There are many wonderful Christian organisations who serve people right here in Australia, such as Mission Australia, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and Common Grace, and we encourage you to find out more about their work if this interests you.



IS MY DONATION TO THE ANSWER HUNGER WITH HOPE APPEAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

Yes. All donations of \$2 and over to the Answer Hunger With Hope appeal are tax deductible. If you donate to Compassion through the Raisely platform, you will receive a tax receipt directly from Raisely and it will not appear on your Compassion Australia tax receipt at the end of the financial year.

Compassion Australia has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for its Overseas Aid and Development Fund, as listed on the Australian Business Register under our ABN 67 001 692 566.

HOW CAN I BE PRAYING FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS?

Thank you for joining us in prayer for those affected by food insecurity.

- Pray for the provision of nutritious food for the children and families we serve.
- Pray for protection and relief from extreme weather events.
- Pray for peace and stability for those experiencing violence, unrest, war and displacement.
- Pray for a globally productive growing season.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for staff and local partners as they respond to the needs around them.