Cost of Inaction on Food Security & Food Systems in the Eastern Africa Region

October 2023
# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN EAST AFRICA 2023

## KEY FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecure</td>
<td>62.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasted Children</td>
<td>7.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>17 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS

- **4 out of 9 countries** among the most severe global food crises (Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan)
- Despite the decrease compared to the lean season in 2022, **extremely high humanitarian needs persist**
THE COST OF INACTION IN EAST AFRICA 2023

COST PER BENEFICIARY
CpB/day for full ration: USD 0.66
Actual CpB/day: USD 0.43

DAILY COST FOR A FULL RATION FOR A FULL YEAR
Daily cost to provide a full ration at USD 0.81 (up 22.7% vs. 2021)

COST OF INACTION
People receive just 54% of the minimum daily intake

Additional prioritization: WFP to cut down the number of beneficiaries and the amount of food assistance per beneficiary
**THE COST OF INACTION CYCLE**

**WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENS ON-GROUND WHEN WFP IS FORCED TO DO LESS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of assistance</th>
<th>3 months 90 days</th>
<th>6 months 180 days</th>
<th>9 months 270 days</th>
<th>12 months 365 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% 2,100 Kcal</td>
<td>34M beneficiaries</td>
<td>17M beneficiaries</td>
<td>11M beneficiaries</td>
<td>8M beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% 1,575 Kcal</td>
<td>45M beneficiaries</td>
<td>22M beneficiaries</td>
<td>15M beneficiaries</td>
<td>11M beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% 1,050 Kcal</td>
<td>67M beneficiaries</td>
<td>34M beneficiaries</td>
<td>22M beneficiaries</td>
<td>17M beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% 525 Kcal</td>
<td>135M beneficiaries</td>
<td>67M beneficiaries</td>
<td>45M beneficiaries</td>
<td>33M beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Daily needs coverage**

- **INSUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE**
- **FUNDING SHORTFALL**
- **COMPOUND SHOCKS**
- **INCREASED FOOD INSECURITY**
- **WFP BENEFICIARY CASELOAD**

*BY COUNTRY*
Households that receive no assistance tend to implement more severe coping mechanisms more often (sell animals, reduce expenditure on agricultural inputs, sell productive assets, livestock, and land).

Beneficiaries of WFP assistance spend more on non-food needs.

WFP assistance acts as a sort of insurance, helping to keep households from falling deeper into a "poverty trap" from which it is difficult to escape.

It is more cost-effective to keep households from falling into a poverty trap than to get them out of the trap once they are in it.
CONCLUSIONS

• Humanitarian needs are escalating but financing does not keep pace. Funding expected to decline despite global food crisis.

• We need to maximize every dollar. But due to global price spikes, a humanitarian dollar does not go as far as it did before.

• “Cost of Inaction” is already severe: in 2022, 24.5 million people in Eastern Africa did not receive the assistance they need - up from 9.3 million in 2021.

• We simply cannot let people down now – the alternative is catastrophic i.e., loss of life, eroding systems, social unrest, outward migration, long-term impact on nutrition and human capital.

• Previous investments in resilience and development are at stake – the hard work of years could be in vain.
THANK YOU

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