



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Cost of Inaction on Food Security & Food Systems

in the Eastern Africa Region

October 2023



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN EAST AFRICA 2023

KEY FIGURES



62.5
MILLION **FOOD INSECURE**



7.7
MILLION **WASTED CHILDREN BELOW 5**
(before outbreak of conflict in Sudan)



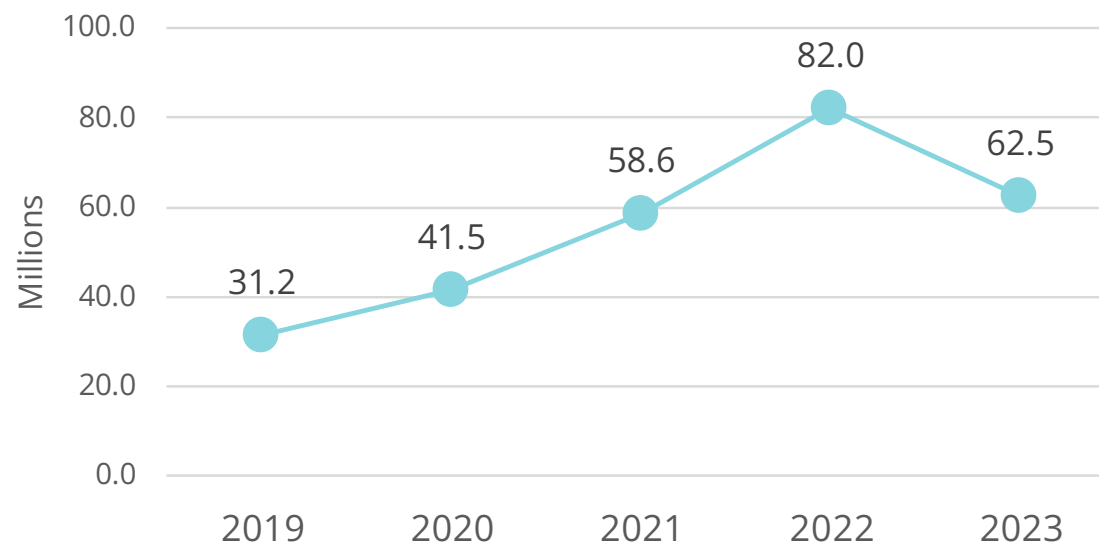
17
MILLION **IDPs**



5
MILLION **REFUGEES**



FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS



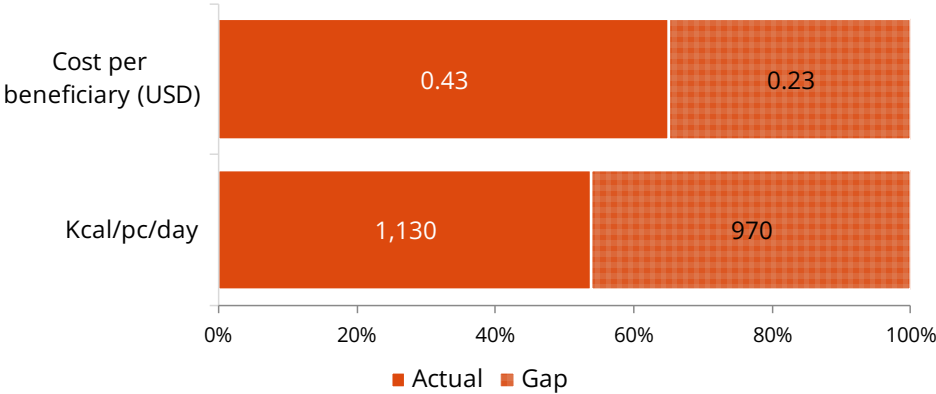
- **4 out of 9 countries** among the most severe global food crises (**Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan**)
- Despite the decrease compared to the lean season in 2022 **extremely high humanitarian needs persist**

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

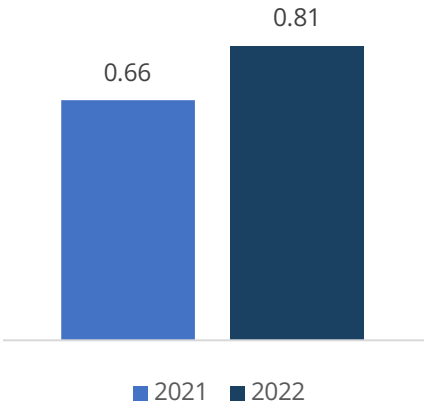


COST OF INACTION

People receive just **54%** of the minimum daily intake

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)



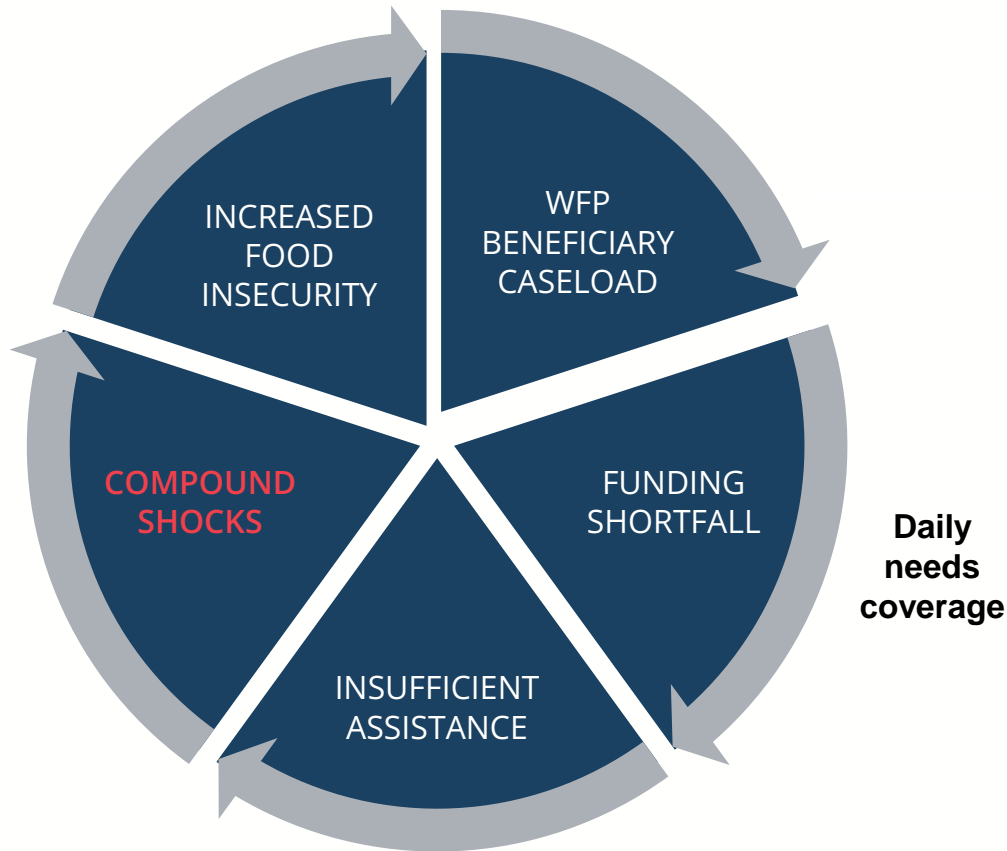
COST OF INACTION

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?



| | Duration of assistance | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 3 months 90 days | 6 months 180 days | 9 months 270 days | 12 months 365 days |
| 100% 2,100 Kcal | 34M beneficiaries | 17M beneficiaries | 11M beneficiaries | 8M beneficiaries |
| 75% 1,575 Kcal | 45M beneficiaries | 22M beneficiaries | 15M beneficiaries | 11M beneficiaries |
| 50% 1,050 Kcal | 67M beneficiaries | 34M beneficiaries | 22M beneficiaries | 17M beneficiaries |
| 25% 525 Kcal | 135M beneficiaries | 67M beneficiaries | 45M beneficiaries | 33M beneficiaries |

THE COST OF INACTION - SOMALIA

- 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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vam
food security analysis