

# PRESS RELEASE



## Welthungerhilfe Presents the 2020 Global Hunger Index **Coronavirus, War, and Climate Change: The World Is Not on Track to End Hunger by 2030**

Bonn/Berlin, 12 October 2020. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, hunger and undernutrition were plaguing people in more than 50 countries. Due to inequality, conflict, displacement, and climate change, progress in the global fight against hunger has been too slow to achieve the legally binding goal of Zero Hunger by 2030. This state of affairs is clearly reflected in the latest edition of the Global Hunger Index, which assesses the nutrition situation in 107 countries. Since 2012, hunger rates have increased in 14 countries, including Kenya, Madagascar, Venezuela, and Mozambique. As Welthungerhilfe points out, the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects are exacerbating this trend, causing additional food insecurity for millions of people. The number of people going hungry has now risen to 690 million worldwide. Against this background, Welthungerhilfe is pleased to see the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the World Food Programme, as this acknowledges the key challenge that global hunger poses to the international community.

“Even before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger rates were alarming, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. People were already suffering from a multitude of crises caused by wars, droughts, flooding, and locust plagues. Now, COVID-19 is throwing fuel on the fire, with all projections foreseeing a sharp increase in hunger and poverty. This situation is being further compounded by climate change. To prevent hunger and poverty from growing even worse, social security systems must be expanded in the affected countries, and we need to make our food systems fairer and more resilient. At the present rate of progress in the fight against hunger, 37 countries will not be able to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030. Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the World Food Programme bolsters the fight to end hunger and to give a voice to the people it affects”, underlines Marlehn Thieme, president of Welthungerhilfe.

Along with additional information, diagrams, and photos, the report is available at: <https://www.welthungerhilfe.org/hunger/global-hunger-index/>

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*Welthungerhilfe is one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany and enjoys both political and religious independence. It is fighting for “Zero Hunger by 2030”. Since being founded in 1962, it has provided funding of EUR 3.95 billion for more than 9,830 overseas projects in 70 countries. Welthungerhilfe bases its efforts on the principle of help for self-help, which it implements with measures ranging from rapid disaster relief to rehabilitation to long-term development cooperation projects with national and international partner organisations.*

### **Issued by:**

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V.

Contact person:  
Simone Pott  
Media Spokesperson  
Telephone: 0228 / 22 88 – 132  
Mobile: 0172 / 2525962  
[simone.pott@welthungerhilfe.de](mailto:simone.pott@welthungerhilfe.de)

Assistance:  
Catherine Briones  
Telephone: 0228 / 22 88 – 640

[presse@welthungerhilfe.de](mailto:presse@welthungerhilfe.de)

[www.welthungerhilfe.de](http://www.welthungerhilfe.de)

