

# PRESS RELEASE



## Global hunger grows after six months of war in Ukraine, making long-term funding for food security more important than ever

**Bonn/Berlin, 2022-08-22.** The Russian war of aggression in Ukraine is having a devastating effect on the global nutrition situation. Hunger rates are rising even further especially due to climbing prices for food, energy, and transportation. In response, Welthungerhilfe is warning against the intended reduction of funding for development co-operation and humanitarian aid outlined in the German federal budget proposed for 2023 and in the German government's medium-term planning.

“It is good that the German government is responding to the immediate effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and now of the Ukraine war as well, by providing funds to assist people in need. However, a short-term crisis response alone is not enough; long-term support for fighting hunger and poverty is also necessary. The number of people who need humanitarian assistance throughout the world is rising year after year. We need stable, proactive funding that also provides for long-term food security programmes. However, this is not reflected in current budget planning, where medium-term plans project a reduction of the BMZ budget by nearly 16 percent over the next four years and of the German Federal Foreign Office's budget by almost 27 percent by 2026. In light of the rising hunger rates, this is absolutely the wrong approach. If the government is serious about fighting hunger, the budgets need to be increased, not reduced. Now is also the time to create the conditions for a sustainable and fair food system,” urges Mathias Mogge, the secretary general of Welthungerhilfe.

The United Nations reports that up to 828 million people currently suffer from chronic malnutrition. After years of major progress in the fight against hunger, the number of people going hungry began rising again in 2015 and continues to climb steadily. The primary causes for this upward trend are wars, conflicts, climate change, and the coronavirus pandemic. People at the Horn of Africa are experiencing the worst drought in four decades, with up to 18.6 million people currently suffering from acute hunger.

Mathias Mogge, the secretary general of Welthungerhilfe, is available for interview.

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Welthungerhilfe is working with its partners from the European network Alliance 2015 to provide humanitarian aid in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Welthungerhilfe has already invested EUR 9 million in assisting people affected by the war. Together with CESVI and Concern Worldwide, it is providing food, hygiene supplies, blankets, mattresses, washing machines, and dryers for reception centres serving displaced people in the districts of Ternopil and Khmelnytskyi in western Ukraine. Supplies delivered so far include around 50 tonnes of food. With support from the German Federal Foreign Office, this aid programme is now being expanded to the districts of Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kropyvnytskyi, and Zaporizhzhia in eastern Ukraine.

Additional projects conducted together with the Alliance 2015 partners ACTED, PIN, and Helvetas take other approaches, for example providing cash assistance to refugees and to families hosting refugees in the Republic of Moldova.

Additional information is available at [www.welthungerhilfe.org/news](http://www.welthungerhilfe.org/news)

*Welthungerhilfe turns 60 this year. It is one of the largest private aid organizations in Germany and has no political or religious affiliations. With courage and determination, Welthungerhilfe has been working towards a world without hunger since its inception on 14 December 1962, during which time it has provided funding of EUR 4.46 billion for more than 10,895 overseas projects in around 70 countries. Welthungerhilfe operates on the basic principle of help for self-help, which it implements with measures ranging from rapid disaster relief to rehabilitation to long-term development co-operation projects with national and international partner organisations.*

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