

## Special Meeting of G7 Agriculture Ministers on 2022-03-11

### Welthungerhilfe: The War in Ukraine Exacerbates World Hunger

**Bonn/Berlin, 2022-03-09.** Welthungerhilfe welcomes the special meeting called by the German federal minister of food and agriculture, Cem Özdemir. The G7 agriculture ministers will meet this coming Friday to analyse how the war in Ukraine is affecting global food security and to discuss ways of stabilising agriculture markets. Global food prices were already pushing record highs before the war began. In 2021, the United Nations' FAO Food Price Index, which tracks prices for the world's most traded food items, recorded the highest figures seen since 2011. Russia and Ukraine are among the world's largest grain exporters; they account for around 30 percent of Africa's wheat imports.

"It is encouraging to see the G7 working together to search for solutions to instability in the agricultural markets and to the dramatic exacerbation of global hunger. We are monitoring the situation in Ukraine with great concern. We fear that the war will lead to human rights violations, not only in Ukraine but in other parts of the world as well. The human right to adequate food is being recklessly endangered for millions of people. The poorest of the poor in many countries in the Global South will be hit especially hard by severe shortages in the world market and exploding food prices. With the coronavirus pandemic interrupting income sources and supply chains, and with the climate crisis causing extreme weather events and crop failures, the number of people going hungry worldwide has risen up to 811 million. Additional price increases caused by the war in Europe's breadbasket will significantly worsen hunger for millions of people. Germany must immediately expand its support for the fight against hunger and increase its financial commitment to food aid. At the same time, it must invest in rural development and avoid export bans on agricultural products. In the affected countries, national food stocks must be built up through imports from other countries like Australia, and food must be subsidised and distributed as necessary," underlines Mathias Mogge, the secretary general of Welthungerhilfe.

Welthungerhilfe is working with its European Alliance2015 partners to provide emergency aid in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, in part by delivering urgently needed items like food and hygiene supplies.

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

*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 4.2 billion for more than 10,369 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.*

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