WorldHunger.fund

WORLD HUNGER 101

Of the world's 8.2 billion people

Source: UN, World Population Prospects 2024



2.1 billion people (25.8%) did not have regular access to enough safe, nutritious food in 2025.

74.2% were food secure.

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026

645 million

people faced **chronic hunger** in 2025, about **1 in 13** people on Earth (7.8%).

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026

2.7 billion

people, **1 in 3** (32.7%), cannot afford a healthy diet.

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026

MEANWHILE...

940 million

adults live with **obesity** (16% of adults), a reminder that the problem is not too little food in the world, but who can reach it.

Source: WHO, Obesity & overweight fact sheet, 2026 (2024 data)

Every year, undernutrition takes more young lives than

CRIME

DISTASTERS

WARS

kill people of all ages

COMBINED

Deaths of children under 5 linked to undernutrition

≈ **2.2 million**

Source: WHO (45% of under-5 deaths linked to undernutrition) + UN IGME 2025 (4.9 million under-5 deaths in 2024)

Crime, wars and natural disasters, combined

≈ **720,000**

- Homicide = 458,000 Source: UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2023 (2021 data)
- Wars and political violence = 245,000 Source: PRIO Conflict Trends 2026, UCDP data (2025)
- Natural disasters 16,607 Source: CRED / EM-DAT, 2025 Disasters in Numbers

That is about **3 times** as many. Disaster deaths vary a lot from year to year, but even in heavy years the combined total stays far below 2.2 million.

45%

Nearly **half of all deaths of children under five** are linked to undernutrition, a cause we know how to **prevent**.

Source: WHO, Malnutrition

ABOUT 6,000 YOUNG CHILDREN DIE FROM HUNGER-RELATED CAUSES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
≈ 6,000	≈ 6,000	≈ 6,000	≈ 6,000	≈ 6,000	≈ 6,000	≈ 6,000

...EVERY SINGLE **DAY**.

Source: About 2.2 million under-5 deaths a year linked to undernutrition ÷ 365 days (WHO, UN IGME 2025)

To end world hunger...

$33 billion

a year

That's the extra public spending researchers estimate could lift **490 million people** out of hunger by 2030.

Source: Cornell2018 (Cornell University, IFPRI, IISD). $33 billion a year from donors + $33 billion from low- and middle-income countries

Ironically,

$33 billion is about **one quarter** of what Americans spent on **weight loss** in 2025.

To help end hunger, per year: **$33B**

U.S. weight-loss market, 2025: **$135B**

Source: Marketdata Enterprises via MarketResearch.com, March 2026 (includes diet programs, weight-loss drugs and health clubs).

Who goes hungry



1 in 5

people in **Africa** face hunger, 309 million people. Africa now has more hungry people than Asia.

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026



93%

of the world's hungry people live in **Africa or Asia** (60% of the 645 million).

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026 (309M Africa + 292M Asia)



150 million

children under 5 (23.2%) are stunted, too short for their age from long-term undernutrition.

Source: UNICEF, WHO & World Bank, Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2025 (2024 data)

42.8 million children under 5 are **wasted**, dangerously thin for their height, and 12.2 million of them severely so.

Source: Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2025

Women remain more likely than men to be food insecure, though the gap narrowed slightly in 2025.

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026

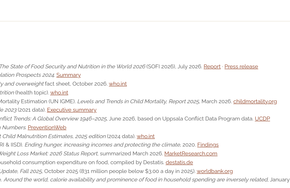
Hunger is falling slowly: 14 million fewer people faced hunger in 2025 than in 2024, but about 510 to 520 million are still projected to be hungry in 2030.

Source: FAO et al., SOFI 2026



How much of a family's budget goes to food

In poorer countries, food takes a far bigger share of every dollar, so a price spike or a failed harvest hits hardest there. In Nigeria, nearly **60%** of household spending goes to food eaten at home; in the U.S., **less than 10%**. Source: USDA Economic Research Service, 2025 (2023 data)



Source: Share of household consumption spent on food and non-alcoholic drinks, latest year available (2020–2023). UN Statistics Division (UNdata), compiled by Destatis.

A large portion of the world lives on less than **$2** of food a day



831 million people, 1 in 10, live on **less than $3 a day** for everything they need.

Source: World Bank, Poverty & Inequality Update, October 2025

In the poorest countries, more than half of every household budget goes to food, leaving most of them **under $2 a day to eat**, less than half the **$4.28 a day** a healthy diet costs.

Source: USDA ERS 2025; FAO et al., SOFI 2026 (2025 cost, PPP dollars)

Sources

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Figures last checked: November 2026. Calculations (1-2 million, >5,000 a day, >720,000, 33%, one quarter, under $2 a day for food) are World Hunger Fund's, from the sources above.