



WFP Statement to The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly May 2023

Chair, Honourable Delegates, Director-General,

The World Food Programme (WFP) would like to thank the World Health Organization (WHO) for tirelessly working to support vulnerable communities and countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crises around the globe.

The world is facing an unprecedented global health and humanitarian emergency. Climate shocks, conflict, disease outbreaks and spiralling costs of food and fuel are driving millions closer to starvation, creating a band of instability, malnutrition and ill-health that wraps right around the globe.

According to the most up to date figures from April 2023, 43 million people across 53 countries are in Emergency or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 4+ or equivalent). Out of these, at least 343,000 people in 5 countries are expected to experience Catastrophic famine-like conditions (IPC/CH Phase 5) in Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. On top of this, new waves of conflict and violence in nations including Sudan and Haiti are compounding what is already a year of catastrophic hunger and malnutrition.

In order to meet these needs, we need flexible funds at scale. We also need parties to conflicts to open essential corridors and trade routes so that food and life-saving vaccines and medicines can be transported to where they are needed most. We call on all Member States to support the humanitarian response in 2023 in order to mitigate the impacts of the wave of suffering and instability which is bearing down upon all of us.

WFP has a long history of working with WHO to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and we remain steadfast in our commitment to support partners and governments respond to emergencies, prepare for future pandemics and drive progress towards the SDGs. Building on our extraordinary operational partnership during COVID-19, WFP is committed to continuing to further augment cooperation to save lives via our bilateral corporate Memorandum of Understanding, through our commitment to The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (GAP) and via mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the United Nations Crisis Management Team.

Thank you.