



WFP Statement to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly May 2024

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 health emergencies and humanitarian crises around the globe.

The world is facing an unprecedented global health and humanitarian emergency. Climate shocks, conflicts, disease outbreaks, and the underfunding of humanitarian agencies are pushing millions closer to starvation. This crisis is creating a belt of instability, malnutrition, and ill-health that spans the entire globe.

According to the most up to date figures, 41.2 million people are in Emergency or worse levels of acute¹ food insecurity. On top of this, at the end of 2023, over 45 million children under the age of five were suffering from acute malnutrition. New and more intense waves of conflict and violence in geographies including Sudan, Gaza, the Sahel 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 urge all Member States to support the humanitarian response in 2024 to mitigate the impacts of the wave of suffering and instability affecting those most at risk.

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. We are encouraged by the strong links between health, food, and nutrition in WHO's proposed updated General Programme of Work. We eagerly anticipate future collaboration to create a world that is healthier, better nourished, and free from hunger.

Thank you.

¹ IPC/CH Phase 4+ or equivalent