



WFP Statement to the 79th World Health Assembly May 2026

Chair, Honourable Delegates, Director-General,

On behalf of the World Food Programme, we wish to recognize the leadership of World Health Organization in supporting vulnerable communities and countries through health emergencies and humanitarian crises.

Conflict, climate shocks, disease outbreaks, and chronic underfunding are driving millions closer to hunger. The result is growing instability, worsening malnutrition, and deeper health risks across regions.

Today, 318 million people face acute food insecurity. WFP analysis shows that nearly 45 million more could be pushed into crisis if the conflict in the Middle East continues and oil prices remain high.

Escalating violence, including in Sudan, is exacerbating already life-threatening levels hunger and malnutrition. Meeting these needs will require flexible, predictable funding at scale.

We also need safe humanitarian access. Parties to conflict must open corridors and trade routes so food, vaccines, and medicines can reach people in need. We urge Member States to fully support the 2026 humanitarian response and help prevent further suffering and instability.

WFP stands ready to support countries responding to Ebola and other health emergencies, in close coordination with partners.

WFP and WHO have a strong record of working together for people most in need. Building on that partnership, we remain committed to helping governments respond to emergencies, strengthen preparedness, and advance health, food, and nutrition together. We welcome the links reflected in WHO's updated General Programme of Work and look forward to deepening our cooperation to save lives.

Thank you.