



World Food
Program USA

STATEMENT OF IMPACT

SPRING 2023 | JANUARY - MAY

Nigist Mengesha works as a cook at the Alduba Primary School in Jinka, South Omo region of Ethiopia. Students at the school are provided with locally-produced school meals as part of the Homegrown School Meals Program.

Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde



WFP's school meals program distributes high-energy biscuits (HEBs) to students in Marib, Yemen focusing on schools in areas that host large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. WFP/Jihad Al-Nahari

THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS CONTINUES TO UNRAVEL

This year, an estimated 345 million people are projected to experience hunger.

This number is up by 200 million when compared to before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this group, 43.3 million people across 51 countries are on the brink of famine and nearly 343,000 people are experiencing famine-like conditions Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

While global food prices have come down somewhat in recent months, they are still at a 10-year high. The deterioration of global food security is caused by multiple factors with the impact of the Ukraine crisis, as well as the impact on fuel and fertilizer prices, adding further pressure. Overall, food prices are up by at least 15% in 72 countries and inflation is running into triple digits in countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

It takes more than food to solve global hunger. In addition to emergency food assistance, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) also distributes cash, provides learners with school meals and invests in climate solutions that enhance communities' ability to recover from unexpected shocks.

We hope our Spring 2023 Impact Report brings you closer to the people we support. Know that your partnership is essential to building a world without hunger.



Abdo (right) with his 8-year-old brother Hassan in Aleppo, Syria. Their family received hot meals in response to the earthquake in February 2023. Photo: WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

LIFE FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA

On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake impacted southern Türkiye near the border of Syria. The earthquakes impacted 15 million people in Türkiye and northwest Syria. Within hours of the disaster, the U.N. World Food Programme was on the scene delivering emergency food assistance. Since the beginning of the response, the U.N. World Food Programme has **reached 2.7 million people in both countries through hot meals, emergency ready-to-eat meals and family food kits.**

SYRIA

The earthquake devastated what was already a fragile context. Syrians have borne the impacts of 12 years of conflict, the effects of the climate crisis and economic downturn.

Prior to the earthquake, food prices were soaring, and a fuel shortage had paralyzed nearly all aspects of life. The complex humanitarian crisis has resulted in high levels of food insecurity: 12 million people do not know where their next meal may come from.

At least 6 million people have been affected by the quakes in Syria. With the help from partners on the ground, WFP has reached close to 1.7 million people directly affected by the disaster with emergency food, hot meals and ready-to-eat food. These ready-to-eat meals do not require cooking equipment and provide immediate relief to families. WFP has maintained a long-term presence in the country and already **provides assistance to over 5.5 million people every month.**

TÜRKIYE

The U.N. World Food Programme has worked in Türkiye since 2012. The country hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, mostly from Syria. In Türkiye, the U.N. World Food Programme works closely with government and partners to provide food assistance and livelihood support to refugees.

More than 9 million people have been directly impacted by the earthquake, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without access to shelter, food, water and medical care. To date, the U.N. World Food Programme has **reached nearly 1 million people across 12 provinces and set up mobile kitchens to ensure the availability of food for those living in camps.**

Şeyma, 28, lives in Kahramanmaraş, the city where the earthquakes hit hardest, with her husband and two small children. After the quakes, her home was severely damaged and the family needed to move into a tent city where the U.N. World Food Programme's mobile kitchen was near. One of her biggest concerns is to be forgotten by the world.

She shared, "There are many who continue to help us. But there are also many who don't hear our plea. I would like them to try and show empathy towards us. I would like them to place themselves in our shoes. And I would like them to understand what we are going through and do their best to help us. We are here waiting."

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BUT THERE ARE ALSO
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— Şeyma, 28, lives in Kahramanmaraş, the city where the earthquakes hit hardest, with her husband and two small children.

Photo: WFP/Giulio d'Adamo



UKRAINE

February 24 marked one year since the onset of war in Ukraine. The conflict has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, the destruction of critical infrastructure and food insecurity. Approximately 18 million Ukrainians require humanitarian assistance, and one in three households is food insecure.

At the request of the government of Ukraine, the U.N. World Food Programme established a presence inside the country in March 2022. Today, the U.N. World Food Programme **reaches nearly 3 million people each month**. From working with local bakeries to distributing food at refugee centers in neighboring Moldova, the U.N. World Food Programme has provided food to Ukrainians when they needed it most.

On March 18, the Black Sea Grain initiative was extended for 60 days. The initiative allows for the safe transportation of grain and fertilizers from designated Ukrainian ports. To date, U.N. World Food Programme-chartered vessels have transported **over 511,000 metric tons of wheat through various Black Sea ports supporting programs in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and Kenya**. Continuing food exports from Ukraine remains important to the U.N. World Food Programme. Without it, severe challenges are expected to supply affordable grain to communities in countries facing severe hunger.

Nadiia is a school chef in the Hostomel Lyceum, located in the Kyiv Oblast. Her secret to making meals nutritious is cooking with lots of love and a positive attitude.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the U.N. World Food Programme launched an emergency school meals program for more than 12,000 students in 58 schools in the Kyiv Oblast.

Photo: WFP/Anastasiia Honcharuk





AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of severe hunger in the world. Nine out of ten Afghan families cannot afford food.

Hunger in Afghanistan is primarily driven by the country's severe political and economic crisis and recurring climate shocks. The U.N. World Food Programme scaled its assistance across Afghanistan and reached nearly **23 million people with food and nutrition assistance**, school meals and livelihoods support.

Women are an important part of humanitarian programs in Afghanistan. Despite a recent the ban on women's participation in humanitarian response, the U.N. World Food Programme and its partners have been able to reach nearly 12 million people in Afghanistan – half of them are women and girls.

Photo: WFP/Sadeq Naseri



*Hachta Radia plays with her son Abdul at their home in Doholo camp in Chad's Logone Oriental Province.
Photo: WFP/Cynthia Matonhodze*

A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

In March, we commemorated International Women's Day. Women and girls remain disproportionately affected by hunger: They represent 60% of the 345 million people worldwide facing severe hunger. The U.N. World Food Programme works to ensure women and girls have access to nutritious food and economic opportunities. Each year, more than half of the people reached by the U.N. World Food Programme are women and girls.

MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION

The U.N. World Food Programme works in communities across the globe to ensure that mothers and infants have the right nutrition to survive. Preventing malnutrition is not just about providing food. It is about delivering the right kind of nutrients at the right time.

Hachta Radia fled the Central African Republic due to fighting between armed groups. They live in the Doholo refugee camp. The U.N. World Food Programme provided Abdul with SuperCereal Plus, a supplement that prevents acute malnutrition in children under the age of 5. It's made from corn or wheat flour and contains milk powder, oil, vitamins and minerals.

Chad hosts the highest number of refugees in West and Central Africa – mainly people who fled instability and insecurity in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Sudan. 19% of refugees in Chad are acutely malnourished. The U.N. World Food Programme's malnutrition prevention and treatment services are a vital intervention for these communities experiencing severe hunger.



Rosario Navia makes quinoa bars out of native crops in Ucumasi, Oruro, Bolivia. Photo: WFP/Marco Frattini

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BOLIVIA

In Bolivia, indigenous women face structural barriers to education and employment which limits their access to stable income. They are also more likely to experience poverty, malnutrition and higher rates of maternal mortality than non-indigenous women.

When Rosario was 17, she moved to Cochabamba to work in a restaurant washing dishes and cleaning floors. However, Rosario soon realized she could not support herself on this salary. She decided to return to her community in Oruro and launched her own business.

Along with other young women, she started the Asociación de Mujeres Productoras de Ucumasi, a small agricultural cooperative. With support from the U.N. World Food Programme, the cooperative received training and equipment that they use to transform quinoa into fortified cookies and bars. The bars are sold in local markets and are integrated into the community's school meals programs.



CASH

Cash is central to changing lives. It can be a starting point for women to obtain access to bank accounts and financial services. It helps unleash their economic potential and helps entire economies grow. The money provided by the U.N. World Food Programme gives women control and flexibility to make choices and prioritize resources.

The U.N. World Food Programme goes one step further to help women open their own banking, mobile money or other digital accounts by providing digital and financial literacy trainings. This education empowers women with knowledge and skills as they learn how to use digital tools and manage their finances.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the U.N. World Food Programme delivered cash and financial skills training to women like Henriette (pictured here). After receiving money from the U.N. World Food Programme, she was able to purchase livestock which helped boost her household's income.

Photo: WFP/Vincent Tremeau



Yaslim harvests his wheat crop in Al Qaten district in Hadramawt, Yemen. Photo: WFP/Fuad Balajam

CLIMATE

The climate crisis is one of the leading causes of the rise in global hunger. It affects every region of the world and often overlaps with conflict, economic shocks and poverty. Today, more than 80% of the world's most food insecure people live in disaster-prone countries.

Record-breaking temperatures, droughts, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and cause widespread hunger. Each extreme weather event destroys crops and kills livestock, damages roads and other critical infrastructure and displace people from their homes. The U.N. World Food Programme has the expertise and is working to support communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate shocks and stresses.

YEMEN

The U.N. World Food Programme works in some of the most fragile environments to support communities on their path to self-reliance. As Yemen enters its eighth year of conflict, the food security situation is bleak: an estimated 17 million are food insecure.

The cost of the minimum food basket has risen by over 50% in the space of a single year. The impacts of more frequent and intense climate events in Yemen are felt deeply by agricultural communities. The country endures two extremes: severe drought and flooding.

This spring, U.N. World Food Programme **reached approximately 12 million people in Yemen through food, nutrition, school meals and resilience activities including the Food Assistance for Assets program.** Through the FFA program, participants receive food or cash in exchange for working to restore degraded land, build roads and even repair schools.



Yaslim is a small-scale farmer in Al Qaten district, Hadramawt, Yemen.

Farming is the main and only source of income for his four-member family. In the past years, almost half of Yaslim's farm was damaged by torrential rains and floods, which negatively affected his main source of income. Through the FFA project, Yaslim restored his agricultural land and is now better prepared to harvest wheat.

Photo: WFP/Fuad Balajam

BANGLADESH

Over the past 25 years, Amina Begum lost her home five times due to floods. Amina shared that there are many difficulties for people like her family that live on the sandbanks.

Access to basic services like education and healthcare is physically challenging because families must travel from sandbank to sandbank to reach schools and hospitals. Amina and her family used to have their own land, but it was washed away by floods. She shared, “I am already worried about the coming flood. If my house could be raised, I could stay here. I am not asking you to do it for me, but I need support to do it myself.”

Amina takes part in a U.N. World Food Programme livelihoods program and grows pumpkins, a saline tolerant crop that can grow in waters with high salt concentrations. Communities can turn sandbars into pumpkin fields and those that lost land or crops are able to harvest in spite of flooding. In the last year, the U.N. World Food Programme **helped 45,000 women in Bangladesh to start their own agricultural-based businesses and access local markets.**

**“MY HOUSE WAS JUST
HERE, BUT IT WAS
WASHED AWAY. I HAD TO
MOVE TO THIS SANDBANK,
BUT I AM STILL IN A VERY
VULNERABLE SITUATION.”**

— Amina Begum, Bangladesh
*Amina and her family used to have their own
land, but it was washed away by floods.*

Photo: WFP/Lena von Zabern



SCHOOL MEALS

Education offers children a route out of poverty and malnutrition. School meals are an incentive for families to enroll and keep children in school. By relieving parents from having to budget for lunches, they boost household incomes and help to alleviate poverty.

School meals programs are one of the largest and most widespread social safety nets in the world. Even though almost all school meals programs closed during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the number of children reached by school meals now exceeds pre-pandemic levels. Data from 176 countries suggests that approximately 418 million children receive a school meal, supported by national governments and the U.N. World Food Programme.

In 2021 (the latest year for which data is available), **the U.N. World Food Programme provided school meals to 15.5 million students in 57 countries**, the majority of whom were in Sub-Saharan African and the Middle East. As a humanitarian leader for school meals, the U.N. World Food Programme continue its work to provide school meals to students and support national governments with their school meals programs.

Hana Turecha (left) and Nigist Mengesha prepare meals for students at the Alduba Primary School in Ethiopia.
Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde



ETHIOPIA

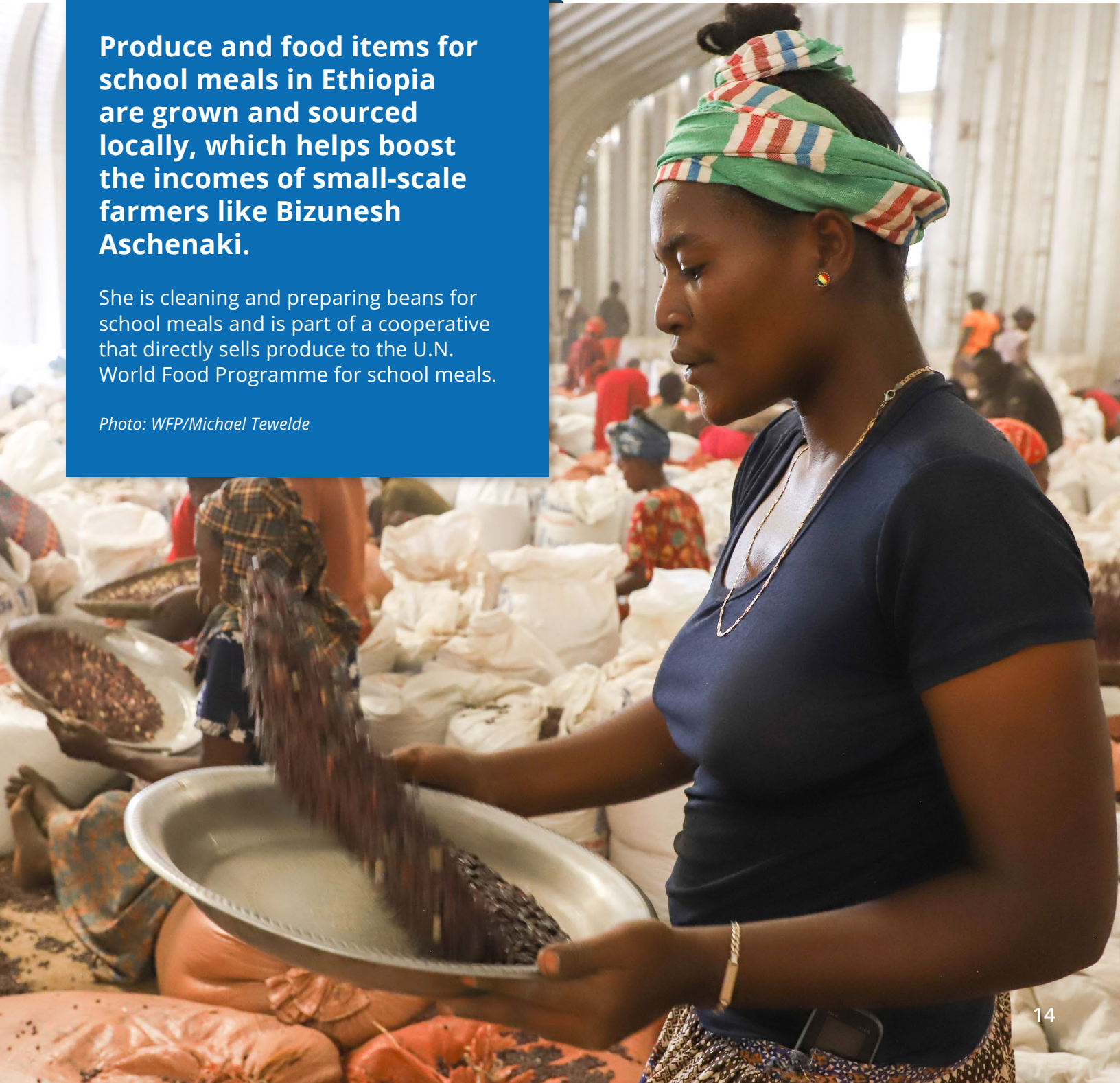
In Ethiopia, a homegrown school meals program helps boost the local economy. Since 2012, the U.N. World Food Programme supports the government to reach students with school meals that are grown by local farmers.

Linking local farmers to school meals programs can help provide a stable market for farmers' crops and improve their income. It also helps to reduce transportation costs of food commodities and helps strengthen the nexus among nutrition, agriculture and social protection. **This year, school meals programs will reach thousands of children in Ethiopia.**

Produce and food items for school meals in Ethiopia are grown and sourced locally, which helps boost the incomes of small-scale farmers like Bizunesh Aschenaki.

She is cleaning and preparing beans for school meals and is part of a cooperative that directly sells produce to the U.N. World Food Programme for school meals.

Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde



SOUTH SUDAN

Millions of people in South Sudan continue to grapple with severe hunger. Hunger is driven by conflict, a fourth consecutive year of flooding, and the global food crisis which has caused food and fuel prices to skyrocket. A staggering 8 million people (almost 65% of the population) are affected.

South Sudan also has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world and nearly 2.8 million children (70%) are out of school. The largest group of out of schoolchildren are girls. The U.N. World Food Programme's school meals help to ensure that children eat at least one nutritious meal a day. Better health and nutrition allow children to learn and perform better, broadening their educational opportunities. In 2023, WFP plans to reach **nearly 440,000 students in South Sudan with school meals.**

**"MY FAVORITE SUBJECTS
ARE SCIENCE AND ENGLISH.
I WANT TO BECOME A
DOCTOR. PEOPLE IN MY
FAMILY ARE SICK AND I
WANT TO HELP THEM."**

— Stella Mporrago enjoys a hot lunch at Straight Link Nursery, Primary and Secondary School in Juba, South Sudan.

Photo: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga



MEET THE U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cindy McCain was appointed as the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme and began her term in April 2023.

Prior to her appointment, Cindy McCain served as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Agencies in Rome: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the U.N. World Food Programme.

She is the former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University. She served on the Board of Directors of Project C.U.R.E., CARE, Operation Smile, the Halo Trust and the advisory boards of Too Small to Fail and Warriors and Quiet Waters.

McCain holds an undergraduate degree in Education and a Master's in Special Education from the University of Southern California. She is the wife of the late U.S. Senator John McCain.



**"MY PRIORITIES ARE CLEAR:
INCREASE RESOURCES,
IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS AND
SCALE UP PARTNERSHIPS AND
INNOVATION SO EVERY DOLLAR
FEEDS MORE PEOPLE."**

— Cindy McCain, *WFP Executive Director*

Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud

CONTRIBUTING TO THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Dangerously Hungry Report

While we have long known that conflict drives hunger, the *Dangerously Hungry* report shows that the inverse is also true: hunger drives conflict. This food-related instability arises when a group of people is motivated to participate in violent or non-violent conflict because they lack access to safe and nutritious food.

To end this cycle, we must work to solve hunger before it leads to instability.

[Click to view report.](#)



THANK YOU

Thank you for joining us in our mission to end global hunger. Together, we can work to ensure that everyone has access to food.

In Niger, WFP coordinates a malnutrition prevention program for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under the age of 2. Photo: WFP/Richard Mbouet



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