

## Document 1

### The Guardian view on the global food crisis: no time to lose

Thu 7 Jul 2022

**Hunger is stalking** the world. Seven years ago, the United Nations **vowed** to eradicate it by 2030. Yet the number of people affected globally reached 828 million last year, and an unprecedented number – 345 million – are currently experiencing acute food insecurity, the UN has warned.

Covid-19 and **the climate emergency** had seen that tally rise from 135 million people before **the pandemic** to 276 million by early this year, reflecting a 55% increase in the Food and Agriculture Organization's food price index since May 2020. "We thought it couldn't get any worse," said David Beasley, head of the World Food Programme.

But the war in Ukraine has exacerbated **increases in freight and fertiliser** costs due to rising fuel prices, and has blocked ports; Ukraine and Russia previously **accounted for** almost a third of global **wheat** exports – though the US alleges that Moscow is trying to sell stolen grain in Africa. And many **middle-income** countries have already spent large parts of their reserves due to the pandemic.

Even in **wealthier** countries, the cost of living crisis is seeing more parents **going hungry to feed** their children. In **low-income** countries, where people already spend two-fifths of their income on food, rising prices are truly deadly. Around 2.3 billion people face moderate or severe difficulty obtaining enough to eat, and in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Afghanistan, sections of the population are enduring catastrophic levels of hunger. The repercussions – in social **unrest** and political violence – are already being seen in some countries.

Though G7 leaders pledged an extra \$4.5bn **to tackle** the food crisis last month, that was just a fraction of the \$28.5bn that experts say is needed (and the UK, of course, has cut aid spending overall). Food aid can bring a wealth of problems; the UN Development Programme has recommended cash transfers in many cases. Beyond that, a substantive **shift** in global **agricultural policies** is needed. Countries should redirect domestic support towards **sustainable** farming and nutritious foods, reducing their **reliance** on imports. Others, notably the US, should prioritise grain for human consumption over **biofuels**. Above all, action must be taken urgently. It may already be too late to save some lives. We must prevent more being lost.

*The Guardian*

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## Document 2 :

### The Global Benefits of Reducing Food Loss and Waste, and How to Do It

April 20, 2023 By Liz Goodwin

One-third of all food produced globally by **weight** is lost or **wasted** between farm and fork — that's more than 1 billion tonnes. Converted into calories, this equates to 24% of the world's food **supply** going uneaten. At the same time, 1 in 10 people globally remain **malnourished**.

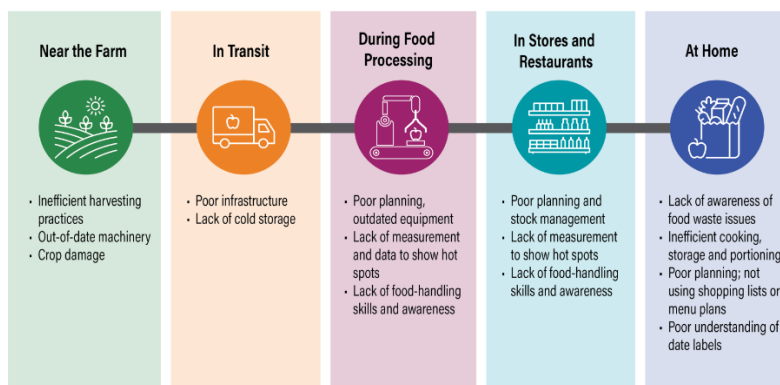
This scale of food loss and waste harms not only human health and nutrition but also economies and the environment. [...] And if current **trends** persist, food loss and waste will double by 2050. [...]

## What Causes Food Loss and Waste?

While food loss and food waste are often talked about together, these terms **encompass** different issues throughout **the food system**. **Food loss** refers to loss at or near the farm and in **the supply chain**, for example, during **harvesting, storage** or transport. **Food waste** occurs at the **retail** level, in **hospitality** and in **households**.

Food loss and waste are caused by a **wide range of** issues, from technological challenges to consumer behaviors. Some common **drivers** of food loss include:

Main drivers of food loss and waste throughout the supply chain



Source: WRI.  
23.04.19

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

[...]

## The Global Benefits of Reducing Food Loss and Waste

[...] Reducing food loss and waste generates benefits for economies, for businesses and **consumers**, for human health and for the environment.

### *Improved global nutrition and food security*

Reducing food loss and waste can play a big role in **providing** a healthy, nutritious **diet** to a growing global population. Not only does one third of all food produced by volume go uneaten, but **perishable foods** with higher nutritional value, such as fruit and vegetables, are particularly prone to loss and waste: More than 40% of produce by weight is lost or wasted **worldwide** each year. [...]

### *Reduced greenhouse gas emissions*

Project Drawdown has listed reducing food loss and waste as the single-best strategy for reducing emissions and fighting **the climate crisis**. Because up to 10% of global emissions result from food loss and waste, it's simply not possible to achieve the Paris Agreement's goal to stay within 1.5-2 degrees C (2.7-3.6 degrees F) of warming without tackling this issue. [...]

### *Financial savings for businesses and consumers and increased financial security for farmers*

Reducing consumer food waste by even 20%-25% by 2030 could save the world an estimated \$120-\$300 billion per year. These **savings** play out on an individual level as well as a systemic one; by consuming more of what they purchase, households can reduce their **overall** spending on food. Eliminating avoidable food waste would save the average family in the United Kingdom more than £700 (\$870) each year [...].

Reducing food losses — especially post-harvest losses, including food that's grown but never makes it to market — will also improve farmers' incomes. [...]

## **How to Reduce Food Loss and Waste at a Systemic Level**

[...]

### *Households*

Households can reduce food waste by focusing on smart shopping and food storage. [...]

### *Restaurants*

Restaurants can reduce food waste by **monitoring** and **managing** food usage and ordering. [...]

### *Retailers*

**Retailers** can reduce food waste by improving stocking and food **handling practices**. Strategies include measuring the amounts and types of food being wasted to identify hotspots that can be reduced; training staff in temperature management, product handling and stock rotation; accepting less-than-perfect looking produce; and educating customers about better food management [...].

### *Food producers*

Farmers, ranchers and fishers can reduce food losses by improving farming practices; for example, by ensuring produce is harvested at the right maturity and using appropriate harvesting equipment to maximize yield while minimizing **crop** damage. [...]

### *Food distributors*

**Packing**, storage and distribution **facilities** can reduce food loss and waste by re-examining handling, storage and transportation to ensure adoption of best practices and reduce damage. [...]

### *Processors and manufacturers*

Processors and manufacturers can reduce food loss and waste by **implementing** technical solutions in the supply chain. Strategies include improving training to reduce technical malfunctions and errors during processing, reengineering production processes and product design to reduce waste, using product sizes and **packaging** that reduce waste by consumers and standardizing date **labels** to reduce confusion.

### *Governments and policymakers*

Governments and policymakers can reduce food loss and waste through educational programs, **policies** and financial **incentives** that support more **efficient** food production and distribution. [...]

Governments can also promote policies to prevent unfair trading practices [...]; remove barriers to food redistribution via policies such as liability limitations and **tax breaks**, which make it easier for food suppliers to donate safe but unsold food to **charities** or those in need; and support policies to standardize food date labelling practices to reduce confusion about product safety and quality and improve consumer understanding of the meaning of date labels. Finally, governments can make measurement and reporting of food loss and waste by large companies **mandatory** to facilitate **benchmarking**, transparency and learning.

<https://www.wri.org>

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## **Document 3**

Right now, there is a hunger crisis in nearly 90 countries. Food shortages and the skyrocketing price of fuel and fertilizer mean tens of millions of families are facing starvation and poor farmers cannot plant their crops. Women and girls, who often eat last and least, are simply not getting enough food. Pregnant women experience miscarriages and mothers struggle to nurse while babies and young girls don't get the nutrients they need for proper development.

The causes of hunger are many and complicated but we can stop it. Let's look at how we got here why this hunger crisis is so urgent and why it is so widespread.

In the past decade many regions of the world faced extreme drought and the effects of climate change but severe famines were not as devastating as before. Then, in 2020, the world was dealt a massive blow. Within months as many as 161 million more people were facing hunger, many of them women and girls. This number equates to half the current population of the United States. As if that wasn't enough, in February 2022, war broke out between two of the most important suppliers of food to the world. With Russian and Ukrainian farming and food production disrupted, nearly 30 percent of the world's grain supply was cut off. The resulting disruption of trade on Russian exports like fertilizer and fuel has caused the cost of food to soar, creating shock waves felt thousands of miles away. For many countries, this has been the breaking point; prolonged drought, conflict, the economic impact of covid-19 and now escalating costs have made growing or accessing nutritious food nearly impossible for millions of people already living in poverty.

Today, 345 million people are considered high risk for severe malnutrition. To put it in perspective, that's the entire population of the United States. And 200 million more people than before the outbreak of covid-19.

Responding to those facing extreme hunger is critical. So is helping people on the cusp of malnutrition grow more food now to feed their families and communities. Even if the war in Ukraine ends today it could take at least three years for food supplies to return to normal levels and prices. CARE is fighting the hunger crisis in every way possible from immediate food and nutritional assistance for people who could starve to helping poor farmers grow more food right away. Humanitarian assistance of food rations, cash assistance and treatment for malnutrition is saving lives. Through climate smart agriculture, efficient use of fertilizers, and renewable energy

sources for irrigation and food storage, CARE is helping farmers make sure there *is* a harvest. Combating this crisis will take everyone. CARE is making sure that governments are doing *their* part to prevent extreme hunger and grow more food for the future because without food, there is no future. As you sit down to dinner tonight, or pack a lunch for your child, please think about the millions of people who don't know where their next meal will come from, or when they had their last. You have the power to support a well-fed future for all. Food equals future.

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