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FOOD SECURITY IMPACT OF REDUCTION IN WFP FUNDING

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Official development assistance fell for the first time in 2024 after five years of consecutive growth. To the 7% drop in 2024, another 13% is expected to be added in 2025. WFP's funding outlook in 2025 shows a reduction by 34%, decreasing from 9.8 billion last year to 6.4 billion this year. Large donors reviewing their contribution to WFP is the reason for this expected drop in funding forecasts.

As a result, country offices are forced to prioritize assistance by choosing one or a mix of approaches: reducing rations, reducing duration of assistance, or reducing caseload.

OBJECTIVE

To understand the food security impacts of the cuts, we posed the following questions:



Compared to 2024, how many people will be **cut from WFP's emergency assistance** in 2025?



Will people in IPC phase 4 '**Emergency**' be affected?



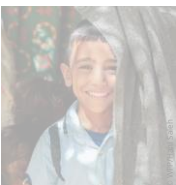
How many people will be pushed **from IPC phase 3 'Crisis' to IPC phase 4 'Emergency'** level of food insecurity?

KEY RESULTS

WFP might reach 21% less people with emergency assistance in 2025 compared to the 80 million assisted in 2024: up to 16.7 million people risk losing their food assistance. 11 countries could drop over 500 thousand people from assistance, with Yemen seeing the biggest impact.

The extent of the cut will also impact population in IPC 4 'Emergency' level of food insecurity: up to 3 million people could be removed from assistance.

Cuts of assistance increase the severity of food insecurity. The number of people in IPC 4+ 'Emergency or worse' level of acute food insecurity may rise by 31%, from 44.4 million to 58.1 million people.



KEY FINDINGS



Compared to 2024, how many people will be cut from WFP’s emergency assistance in 2025?

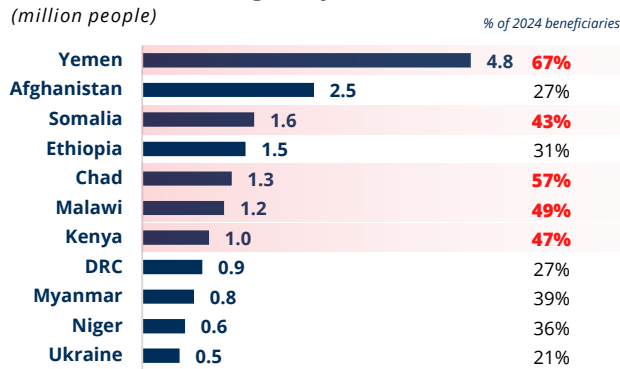
16.7 million people could be cut off from emergency food assistance in 2025 due to the reduction in funding. This would be a 21% drop from the 79.9 million people who WFP reached with unconditional resource transfers in 2024. Assistance in 2024 was already low, leaving WFP with only limited options for responding to the current funding reduction. Country Offices may directly cut the caseload (scenario 1) or may first reduce the rations to a minimum level and then cut the caseload (scenario 2).

16.7M PEOPLE COULD BE CUT OFF FROM FOOD ASSISTANCE IN 2025. CUTS ARE OFF ALREADY LOW ASSISTANCE IN 2024 AND CASELOAD CUTS OFTEN THE ONLY OPTION.

To ensure that more people are reached, assisting 21.1 million people with a minimum ration would still leave 13.2 million people without emergency assistance which would address the rest of the funding shortfall.

Among WFP’s operations, Yemen could see by far the deepest impact. Estimates indicate that funding cuts would require leaving 4.8 million people in Yemen without live-saving assistance – a reduction by 67% compared with 2024. More than ten operations could face caseload cuts of at least 500,000 people.

Estimated emergency caseload cut



Will people in IPC phase 4 ‘Emergency’ be affected?

We estimate that WFP reached 31.5 million people in Emergency-level food insecurity in 2024, based on the assumption that the most vulnerable are prioritized but that we would only be able to reach 80% of them before supporting people in Crisis-level food insecurity or IPC phase 3.

This number could fall by 3 million people in 2025 due to funding shortfalls. This increases the risk of rising numbers of people in Catastrophic food insecurity – IPC phase 5. Whether we base our estimate on a caseload-reduction scenario or the ration-reduction scenario, it only changes marginally.

Expected reach, baseline and prioritization scenarios (million people)

	BASELINE – 2024 emergency assistance	SCENARIO 1 – Caseload reduction	SCENARIO 2 – Ration reduction
Expected reach	79.9	63.2	66.7
... of which with reduced rations	-	-	21.1
Expected reach of people in IPC phase 4+	31.5	28.5	28.8
... of which with reduced rations	-	-	4.1

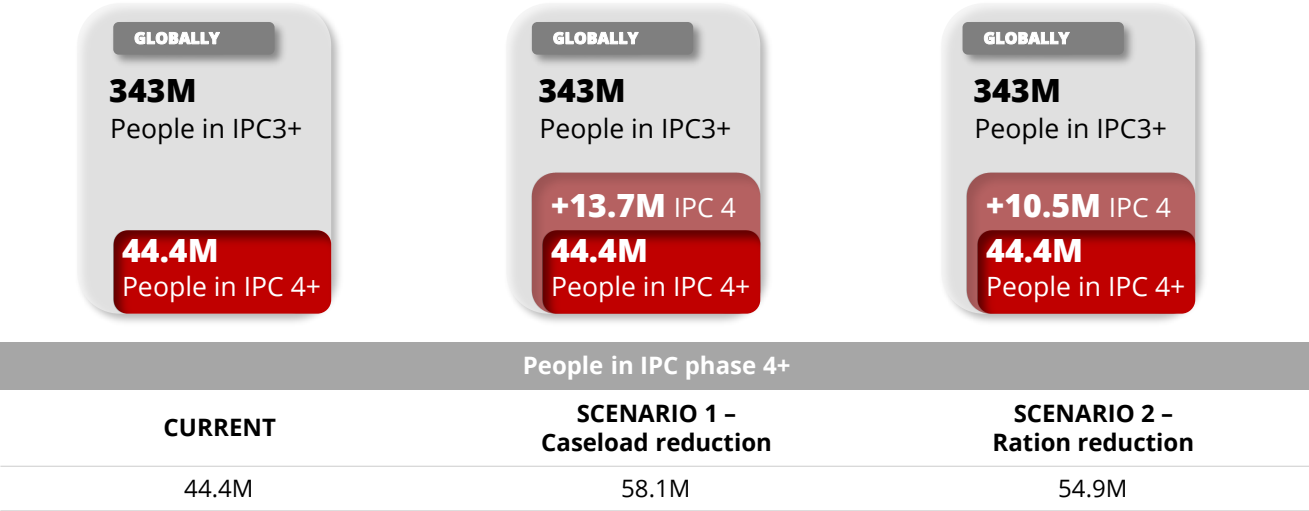


How many people will be pushed **from IPC phase 3 ‘Crisis’ to IPC phase 4 ‘Emergency’** level of food insecurity?

Acute hunger affects 343 million people in 74 countries where WFP works and data is available, with 44.4 million people estimated to be in Emergency-level food insecurity. Shortfalls in humanitarian funding and ensuing caseload cuts could push an estimated 10.5 million to

13.7 million people currently in IPC 3 and reliant on assistance into IPC 4. This means that the number of people in Emergency or worse level of acute food insecurity may rise by 31%, from 44.4 million to 58.1 million people.

Potential impact of cuts on number of people in Emergency or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 4+)



APPROACH

The approach taken relies on the following assumptions and data. Cuts are implemented either through reducing caseload (scenario 1) or reducing rations (scenario 2). Rations cannot be cut further than what is necessary to reach 1,500 kcal/day, also considering people’s own ability to meet some of their food needs. We only focus on emergency assistance and use 2024 as the baseline.

The underlying data relies on 2025 funding forecasts of USD 6.4 billion and carry-overs of USD 1.6 billion in combination with the actual expenditure cuts in implementation plans carried out by country offices.

LOOKING AHEAD

This is the first part in a series of studies that aims to understand the impacts of cuts. In the second phase, country specific analysis of the most impacted countries will be undertaken by analyzing monitoring data and documenting the impacts of the cuts qualitatively.



For questions or more information, please contact:

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