

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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**Canada Must Act on the Global Hunger Crisis at the G7 Summit**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

April 14, 2023

As leading Canadian humanitarian and development organizations who are gravely concerned about the escalating global hunger crisis, we are writing to urge you to take action to help save lives and build resilience for millions on the brink of starvation.

The global hunger crisis is being fueled by a combination of conflict, climate and economic shocks causing almost [350 million people](#) to be acutely food insecure in 2023 in 79 countries, more than double the pre-pandemic number. Of most urgent concern is the five-fold increase since early 2021 in the number of people - almost 900,000 - living in famine-like conditions (IPC-5) with a large proportion of these living in Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, and Afghanistan.

While concerted efforts in the last two years - including through funding by Canada and other donor states - have managed to hold multiple famine declarations at bay in 2022, the prospects for 2023 are grim. Women and children continue to be disproportionately impacted in this crisis, with girls not only eating last and least, but also suffering from the knock-on impacts to their rights in the form of gender-based violence, child marriage and increased barriers to education. Malnutrition is also particularly dangerous for children under 5 and adolescent girls who are pregnant or breastfeeding, at a time when at least [30 million children](#) suffer from acute malnutrition.

The cyclical nature of hunger crises is a result of the inability to address the underlying drivers in contexts which have been hunger hotspots for years, such as Somalia, Yemen, northeast Nigeria, and Haiti. The default global response to severe hunger remains largely through emergency response once a crisis has already taken hold. The international community should invest more in longer-term solutions and break down silos to ensure coordination, coherence and complementarity between development, humanitarian, and peace initiatives.

We are therefore calling on the Government of Canada to:

- 1. Ensure that famine prevention and response is a core part of the 2023 G7 agenda and in other global fora and meetings.**
  - a. Support a refreshed 2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact and update it with concrete actions and an accountability framework.

- b. Publicly report on efforts to implement the commitments outlined in the 2021 G7 Famine Compact and call on G7 allies to do the same.
- 2. Urgently pledge and disburse new additional funding to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and build resilience in the world's worst hunger hotspots.**
- a. Prioritize age and gender sensitive responses to address the differential impacts of hunger on women and children, including through targeted nutrition programs. Funds should be flexible, unearmarked and accessible to locally-led women and youth organizations.
  - b. Anticipatory action - support communities' ability to respond to crises by increasing funding for early response to mitigate the devastating impacts of predictable shocks such as floods or droughts.
  - c. Resilience - invest in social protection and support livelihood programs to increase economic opportunities in food insecure contexts. Scale up investment in climate-resilient local food systems to ensure availability and access of enough nutritious food for all.
- 3. Advance humanitarian diplomacy efforts to ensure humanitarian access for the delivery of food and nutrition assistance in conflict-affected contexts.** Leverage Canada's diplomatic influence at the UN and bilaterally with states facing conflict, as part of Canada's commitment to UN resolution 2417.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We would be pleased to meet with you or your staff to discuss in more detail how Canada can play a global leadership role in ending food insecurity and preventing future hunger crises.

Yours sincerely,





CC: The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada  
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
David Morrison, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for the G7 Summit

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