

# GET THE FACTS

## PUTTING A GENDER LENS ON GLOBAL FOOD INSECURITY

### NUTRITION FACTS

Globally, number of people who are  
**UNDERNOURISHED** 821 MILLION

Of the persons who are food insecure

**WOMEN AND GIRLS** 60%

**MEN AND BOYS** 40%

Globally, number of people who are  
moderately or severely food insecure 2 BILLION

**% OF WOMEN** who are food insecure 25.4%

**% OF MEN** who are food insecure 24%

Burden of anaemia on women and girls

**WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE** 33%  
with anaemia

**PREGNANT WOMEN IN LOW- AND  
MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES** 56%  
with anaemia

Access to agricultural land % globally

**WOMEN WHO OWN LAND** 13%

**YIELDS FOR WOMEN FARMERS** 20-30%  
lower than for men

Women and girls in need of life-saving food assistance in  
countries affected by humanitarian emergencies

**NORTH EAST NIGERIA** 1.4 MILLION

**SOUTH SUDAN** 3.1 MILLION

**SYRIA** 4.7 MILLION

**YEMEN** 9.9 MILLION

\*Data from OCHA, the Maternal and Child Nutrition Study Group, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Women, USAID, and the World Food Programme.



Even when controlling for area of residence, poverty status, and education level, **the odds of being food insecure are still approximately 10% higher for women** than for men.

In every continent, **the prevalence of food insecurity is higher for women** than it is for men.

Women and girls are at a higher risk of undernourishment than men and boys, **and adolescent girls and women of reproductive age are most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.**

**Unequal access to money and resources** — such as land, improved seeds, fertilizers, equipment, and credit — lead to lower yields for women, than men, farmers.

In humanitarian emergencies, **women are more likely than men to suffer from food insecurity.**

### What makes women and girls at greater risk of food insecurity, than men and boys?

- Deep-rooted gender inequalities
- Greater risk of gender-based violence while obtaining food
- Restricted access to assets like land and money
- Limited access to sexual and reproductive health services
- Unpaid care and domestic work

# TAKE ACTION:

INVEST IN WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY

## NUTRITION FACTS

Action:

Potential return on investment:

Ensure equal access to productive resources

WOMEN'S **FARM YIELDS** COULD INCREASE BY 20-30% ↑

TOTAL **AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT** COULD INCREASE BY 2.5-4% ↑

**PEOPLE LIVING IN HUNGER** COULD DECREASE BY 100-150 MILLION ↓

Scale-up nutrition interventions for pregnant women and girls, and their children

**FOR EVERY US\$1 INVESTED**

US\$16 RETURN

Ensure adequate nutrition for pregnant women and girls, as well as their children, in the first 1,000 days of life, because it:

**IMPROVES HEALTH OUTCOMES** ↑

**IMPROVES LEARNING OUTCOMES** ↑

**EXTENDS SCHOOL COMPLETION** ↑

**IMPROVES CHANCES OF DECENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES** ↑

\*Data from the Global Nutrition Report, Save the Children, and the World Bank.

Investing in gender-transformative programmes — that tackle the causes and consequences of malnutrition and food insecurity — powers progress for girls, women, their families and their communities

### OUR ADVOCACY ASKS:

- Invest in gender equality and the health and rights of women and girls in all food security and nutrition interventions, including those in humanitarian settings.
- Strengthen cross-sector collaboration to address all barriers to women's and girls' food security and meet their holistic needs, including their financial independence and self-sufficiency, freedom from violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and decision-making power.
- Meaningfully engage women and girls from diverse backgrounds in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of food security and nutrition interventions as context experts.
- Provide sustainable and long-term funding for food assistance programmes in all contexts to tackle systemic gender inequalities that take time to change.

### ABOUT US:

The **World Food Programme** assists 91.4 million people in around 83 countries each year. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

**Women Deliver** is a global advocate for gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women. Our humanitarian advocacy elevates the voices of women, and the organizations they lead, to help ensure they have a seat at the decision-making table.

[www.womendeliver.org/humanitarian](http://www.womendeliver.org/humanitarian)



World Food Programme



#HUMANITARIAN4HER