

Week 4 – November 14, 2022

Conflict

Ending Hunger Isn't Just About Food

Until recently, the world has made great progress against hunger and poverty, almost cutting in half the number of hungry people around the world, from almost a billion in 1990 to only 600 million in 2014. However, the past 3 years have been particularly hard, with hungry people growing by 150 million since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN estimates that there were 828 million hungry people in the world in 2021.

That reality has been the inspiration for the theme of our 2022 Hunger Appeal 'Ending Hunger isn't Just about Food'. The intent of the Monday Messages for the 4 weeks of the Hunger Appeal is to provide a bit of education on four of the drivers of hunger - Climate Change, Homelessness, Gender Identity and **Conflict** - and what is happening locally to attempt to address those drivers.

Conflict anywhere increases the risk of displaced persons and hunger. Specifically, the current war in the Ukraine is having an even higher impact on hunger elsewhere around the world for 3 reasons:

Disrupting global grain exports:

Ukraine is often called 'the bread basket of Europe' and is one of the top 3 grain exporters in the world. Countries already facing severe levels of hunger will see the situation drastically worsen as the war in Ukraine diminishes global grain supplies. Among them are countries across East Africa, including Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, which source 90 percent of their imported wheat from Russia and Ukraine. These three countries are already facing the worst drought seen in decades.

Increasing Fuel and Food Prices:

The ongoing conflict is driving up the cost of fuel, which in turn increases the cost to transport food to markets. Such increases are passed on to consumers, who may already have difficulty buying enough food for their families.

Diverting Attention from other humanitarian crisis:

With almost 10 million people displaced within Ukraine and across borders, the international attention and funding directed toward the crisis is warranted and needed, but it is simultaneously highlighting where attention and funding has been waning elsewhere.

One of the goals of the 2022 LCR Hunger Appeal is to do our part in addressing the increased hunger need locally and globally due to the conflict in the Ukraine.