CREDOMUN III

UNICEF

STUDY GUIDE

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF PROLONGED CRISES ON CHILD PROTECTION, NUTRITION, AND EDUCATION IN THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

Secretary General's Letter

It is my team's and my utmost pleasure and honour to host you at the 3rd edition of CREDOMUN as the Secretary-General.

A few days from now, all of you will be walking through the doors of your committees, and while it may seem daunting now, trust me when I say this: it will be one of the most fulfilling experiences of your life.

The three days of the conference are not just about debate, drafting resolutions, or winning awards, but about experiencing something larger than yourself.

This edition of CREDOMUN gives you the platform to explore a wide range of cultures and engage with diverse schools of thought from across the city.

After being honoured with the role of DDG at last edition's conference, I am gratefully excited to host all of you amazing delegates this year as the Secretary-General. This places the utmost responsibility on my team to ensure that you leave this conference having gained something meaningful from it.

While I do not intend to bore you right now whilst you read this note, I must warn you about the time when I will have to give a speech in front of you. At that time, I will take no action to stop myself from being boring and annoying.

Till then, you have everything you could ever need in these study guides and all the time in the world before the eve of the 23rd. I look forward to seeing the ideas you challenge, the solutions you develop, and the memories you create throughout the conference.

With warm regards,
Fazl Abbas
Secretary-General

President's Letter

Dear Delegates,
It is my humble privilege to welcome you all to the 3rd edition of CredoMUN

CredoMUN has been the focal point of my debating journey, from being a delegate in its 1st edition, then an ACD in its 2nd edition and now the President of the 3rd edition, CredoMUN has truly given me a platform to learn and lead

I have always skipped through the notes in a study guide because why spent time reading the note from someone i dont even know, so please do skip along if I am eating into your limited research time.

The reality is CredoaMUN is truly special because here, delegates can feel at home, debate and have fun, make memories without having to process 5 Bashes at the same time, because at CredoMUN every delegate gets a chance to express themselves, learn how to improve and make unforgettable memories along the way.

As the President of this conference, I promise you all one thing, excellence. Whether it is across exceptional debate, incredible committee topics, or the wonderful people you meet along the way, my team and i ensure that you will be part of the best CredoMUN to date

And if you ever feel overwhelmed by the spectacle, you can always find me practicing a long range volley in our futsal court

Warm Regards,

Saif Khan,
President,
Credo Model United Nations III

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COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), originally known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers in countries that had been devastated by World War II. In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was extended to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere. In 1953, it became a permanent part of the United Nations System.

UNICEF is governed by the Executive Board elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for three-year terms. UNICEF reports annually through the Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council, which in turn reports to the General Assembly. The Executive Board provides intergovernmental support to UNICEF programs and oversight to the organization, in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Its mandate is grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is implemented through the UNICEF Strategic Plan, national country programs, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action aligned with national priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

UNICEF carries out its operations across 190 countries and territories through cooperation with national governments, local authorities, UN agencies, schools, health facilities, civil-society organizations, community workers, and affected communities to take necessary measures to help children survive, thrive and fulfil their potential. UNICEF advocates for education, health and nutrition services, protects children from violence and abuse, brings clean water and sanitation to those in need and keeps them safe from climate change and disease. Its humanitarian work is guided by humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, accountability, non-discrimination, and the best interests of the child.

GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

The Greater Horn of Africa primarily comprises countries in the Horn of Africa, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, while extending to East African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and South Sudan.

HISTORICAL AND HUMANITARIAN BACKGROUND

The Greater Horn of Africa faces a convergence of increasingly recurring and intensifying climate crises, mainly droughts and floods, conflicts, disease outbreaks, and economic shocks. Many communities depend on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism, making them especially vulnerable to irregular rainfall, crop failure, livestock losses, and rising food prices.

These pressures often occur simultaneously. Drought can destroy livelihoods and force families to move, while conflict can prevent them from accessing markets, healthcare, schools, and humanitarian assistance. Flooding can then damage homes, roads, clinics, and schools in communities that have not yet recovered from drought.

The consequences include displacement, acute food insecurity, malnutrition, disease outbreaks, school closures, and increased risks of child labour, exploitation, family separation, and early marriage. In February 2024, OCHA reported that nearly 64 million people in the region required humanitarian and protection assistance, representing close to 22 percent of the global humanitarian caseload.

REGIONAL TIMELINE

2021–2022: Drought and Food Insecurity
Between 2021 and 2022, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya experienced repeated failed rainy seasons. The resulting drought caused crop failures, livestock deaths, water shortages, loss of income, and displacement among pastoralist communities.

Children were particularly affected because food shortages and disease increased the risk of acute malnutrition. Families also withdrew children from school as they moved in search of water, food, and grazing areas. In December 2022, UNICEF Canada reported that around 20.2 million children were facing the threat of severe hunger, thirst, and disease as climate change, conflict, global inflation, and grain shortages devastated the region.

2023: Funding and Climate Emergency

The Associated Press reported in May 2023 that the UN appealed for $7 billion to provide food and other humanitarian assistance for Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, and had only received $1.6 billion. After pledges were tallied, the UN humanitarian office said the total funding for 2023 stood at $2.4 billion.

In December 2023, OCHA reported that at least 479 people had been killed and more than 5.2 million people had been affected by heavy rains and flooding between September and mid-December 2023, with nearly two million people displaced.

In December 2023, WHO indicated that the affected areas were reporting an increase in vector-borne diseases, including malaria and dengue, as well as waterborne diseases, including cholera. Damage to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities meant that there was an increased risk of further disease spread to more geographical areas unless timely action was taken.

2024: Food Insecurity and Displacement

In February 2024, OCHA reported that an estimated 58.4 million people in the region were highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+).

A UNHCR report published in February 2025, referring to the end of 2024, stated that the East and Horn of Africa region hosted approximately 5.6 million refugees and asylum seekers and 20.71 million internally displaced people, totalling approximately 26.3 million displaced people.
2025: Conflict and Protection Crisis
In January 2025, the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, supported by IGAD's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, estimated that 53.1 million people in seven of the eight IGAD member states (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South

2025: Conflict and Protection Crisis

In January 2025, the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, supported by IGAD's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, estimated that 53.1 million people in seven of the eight IGAD member states (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda) were highly food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
The European Commission's March 2025 humanitarian implementation plan indicated that around 25 million people remained forcibly displaced, of whom 5 million were refugees and asylum seekers and over 20 million were internally displaced in the Greater Horn of Africa.
In April 2025, the European Commission stated that aid would be boosted and €107.5 million would be used to support close to 70 million people in the Greater Horn of Africa urgently needing humanitarian aid, constituting over a fifth of people in need worldwide.

2026: Food Insecurity, Nutrition Emergency, and Service Closures

The IGAD Regional Focus of the 2026 Global Report on Food Crises, released in September 2026, surveyed six states, including Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, and stated that more than 40.3 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This represented 34 percent of the population analysed in the six countries.

The IGAD Regional Focus of the 2026 Global Report estimated that 19 million people, consisting of more than 14.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, were living in forced displacement.
The same report stated that about 9 million children aged 6–59 months were in need of treatment for acute malnutrition, including 2.3 million suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
In August 2026, UNICEF reported that funding cuts contributed to a 30 per cent reduction in health and nutrition service coverage, with the closure of 205 health and nutrition facilities, while 618 health facilities could be shut down.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

WHO's Strategic Response Plan forGreater Hornof Africa Food Insecurity and Health Crisis in August 2026 reported that the region faces a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and public health crisis driven by the combined effects of conflict, displacement, recurrent climate shocks, including the evolving El Niño phenomenon, disease outbreaks, economic instability, and severe food insecurity.

The report clarified that these interacting shocks contribute to increasing humanitarian needs, disrupting livelihoods and health services, and placing millions of people at heightened risk of acute malnutrition, epidemic-prone diseases, and preventable mortality.

The humanitarian emergency in the Greater Horn of Africa reflects the needs of tens of millions of people, but the burden falls disproportionately on children, displaced populations, and communities that depend on basic services disrupted by successive crises.

Displaced families lose access to land, livestock, income, identity documents, school records, and local support networks. Their arrival also places additional strain on host-community schools, clinics, water points, housing, and local markets.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Children in the Greater Horn of Africa are among the most vulnerable to humanitarian crises, as these emergencies disrupt the systems that protect, feed, and educate them. In March 2025, UNICEF indicated that at least 14 million children were expected to face disruptions to nutrition support and services because of recent and anticipated global funding cuts, leaving them at heightened risk of severe malnutrition and death.
In August 2025, Save the Children reported that millions of malnourished children in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and other countries would also be affected.

CHILD PROTECTION

Conflict, displacement, and weakened institutions increase children's exposure to violence, exploitation, recruitment by armed groups, trafficking, family separation, child labour, gender-based violence, and early marriage.

A Voice of America report in 2011 confirmed that drought, famine, and warfare have profound physical and psychological impacts on children, especially those aged three years and under. Children who witness or experience killing, maiming, sexual violence, or the destruction of their homes and schools are at high risk of long-term psychological trauma, anxiety, and depression.

A UNICEF article in August 2022 on the water crisis in the Horn of Africa examined how water scarcity forces women and children to spend more time and effort meeting household water needs. This often means travelling long distances from home, exposing them to an increased risk of violence and abuse.

UNICEF Türkiye highlighted in December 2024 that only 41 per cent of children in East Africa were registered and had a legal identity. Children without birth registration or identity documents struggle to access education, healthcare, family tracing, and legal protection.

According to an Associated Press report in June 2025, the UN reported 2,568 violations against 1,992 children in Somalia. In a statement in February 2026, Vanessa Frazier, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said that grave violations against children in Sudan had remained alarmingly high in 2025, with more than 1,850 verified cases. Over 1,300 children were killed or maimed, while more than 190 children were victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

EDUCATION

A UN report on the academic impact of humanitarian crises in November 2017 described education as the only way for children in Africa to escape poverty. The report further highlighted the potential of education not only to make children aware of their rights but also to help guarantee the enjoyment of those rights and transform their social, cultural, and economic circumstances.

A UNICEF report in August 2022 examined how water scarcity forces children to spend more time fetching water from greater distances, reducing their opportunities to attend school. Household coping strategies also include withdrawing children from school to save money on fees and sending them to work.

A report by The Guardian in September 2022 reported that approximately 15 million children were out of school in the Horn of Africa, with an additional estimated 3.6 million children at risk of dropping out because of drought.

In April 2026, a UNICEF report quoting UN spokesperson Eva Hinds stated that one in three schools in Sudan had been damaged or destroyed and that around half of all school buildings were no longer functioning as classrooms, with many having been repurposed as shelters for displaced people.

In September 2026, UNESCO highlighted the barriers faced by displaced children, including the lack of documents, school records, uniforms, transportation, and access to the curriculum used in their new locations. Prolonged absence from education increases the risk of child labour, recruitment, early marriage, and permanent learning loss.

NUTRITION

A Reuters report in April 2026 stated that shortages of therapeutic food forced clinics to ration supplies or turn away severely malnourished children, while admissions to some treatment centres increased by 35 percent during the first quarter of 2026 compared with the same period in 2025.

In May 2026, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) warned that children with severe acute malnutrition were 12 times more likely to die than well-nourished children.

WHO reported in July 2026 that over 4.9 million children were projected to suffer from acute malnutrition, including more than 1.5 million children requiring treatment for severe acute malnutrition in the Greater Horn of Africa.

In August 2026, Doctors Without Borders, referring to a malnutrition survey conducted in July 2026, stated that half of the young children screened in displacement sites in Baidoa, Somalia, were acutely malnourished, and one in every four was severely malnourished.

Reuters reported in August 2026 that 205 health and nutrition facilities had closed and that 618 health facilities were expected to shut down following unprecedented funding cuts in Somalia.

CASE STUDIES

SUDAN

ReliefWeb, the leading digital humanitarian information service provided by OCHA, reported in February 2026 that 33.7 million people, including 17.3 million children, required urgent humanitarian assistance. Displacement had reached 9.1 million people, one of the highest figures globally.

ReliefWeb reported that UNICEF and its partners ensured that 386,700 people received primary healthcare, 29,870 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition, and 3.9 million people gained access to safe water. Education support reached 10,400 children, while 311,400 children and caregivers accessed critical child protection services.

In April 2026, Eva Hinds, UNICEF's Chief of Communication in Sudan, reported that nearly half of school buildings in Sudan were no longer functioning as classrooms, with many closed, repurposed as shelters, or occupied by armed actors. As a result, at least eight million children were out of school. Hinds also stated that UNICEF needed US$962.9 million in 2026 to reach 7.9 million children across Sudan with life-saving assistance. However, as of March 2026, only 16 per cent of that funding had been received.

A WHO report in July 2026 projected that approximately 19.1 million people, representing 41 per cent of the population examined, would face IPC Phase 3 or worse acute food insecurity between February and May 2026. More than 8.4 million people required nutrition assistance, including more than 824,000 children under five expected to experience severe acute malnutrition and approximately 122,700 children requiring treatment for severe malnutrition with medical complications.

WHO further reported that the emergency was being exacerbated by damaged hospitals, high staff turnover, supply-chain interruptions, reporting constraints, and restricted humanitarian access. Cholera, measles, malaria, and other communicable diseases spread more easily where displacement, unsafe water, and weak health services occur together.

SOMALIA

A WHO report in July 2026 assessed that approximately 6.6 million people were experiencing IPC Phase 3 or worse acute food insecurity. Thirty districts were affected, while more than 500,000 people had been displaced by drought. Approximately 1.88 million children aged 6–59 months were projected to experience acute malnutrition, including 493,000 likely to suffer from severe acute malnutrition. Burh Akaba, a town in Somalia, was identified as being at risk of famine and IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 5.

WHO further indicated that the health situation was complicated by cholera, diarrhoea, measles, diphtheria, polio, dengue, malaria, and flood-related disease risks. Limited health-system functionality, funding cuts, shipment delays, and shortages of trained personnel reduced the ability to identify and treat children before their conditions became life-threatening.

On 11 August 2026, Reuters, referring to information from Doctors Without Borders, reported that funding to tackle acute malnutrition in parts of Somalia had dropped by more than 80 per cent, from $2.2 billion in 2022 to approximately $300 million.

On 21 August 2026, UNICEF spokesperson James Elder reported that more than 1.6 million people needed access to safe water, while more than 800,000 risked losing essential hygiene supplies.

Elder stated that the education sector had lost US$30 million in 2025 and that more than 78,000 students had already dropped out, with another 660,000 girls and boys at risk. Amid unprecedented cuts in humanitarian aid, 205 health and nutrition facilities had closed. During the first six months of 2026, Somalia experienced a 32 per cent increase in admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition and complications to stabilisation centres.

Referring to UNICEF's actions, Elder stated that between 2021 and 2025, UNICEF had supported more than 2.25 million admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition in Somalia, with a cure rate of 97.6 per cent in 2025.

SOUTH SUDAN

A UNICEF report on education in South Sudan, published on ReliefWeb in April 2025, assessed that floods in 2024 had led to the closure of an estimated 522 schools, disrupting the education of approximately 184,178 children, including 77,872 girls. Undamaged schools were also unable to operate because they were occupied by displaced people using them as temporary shelters. In April 2025, 12,870 classrooms were operating under trees or in the open, while 1,281 schools were non-operational, mainly because of conflict.

A UNICEF analysis in December 2025 estimated that 2.81 million children, nearly 65 per cent of all school-aged children, remained out of school in South Sudan. This increased their vulnerability to recruitment by armed groups, sexual exploitation, child labour, and other forms of abuse.

An ACAPS country analysis on South Sudan, updated through March 2026, reported that more than 280,000 people had been displaced since December 2025, while more than 98,000 cases of cholera had been reported since October 2024, further straining an already fragile health system.

A WHO report on the Greater Horn of Africa Food Insecurity and Health Crisis, published in July 2026, projected that approximately 7.8 million people, or 55 per cent of the population, would face IPC Phase 3 or worse food insecurity between April and July 2026, with some areas reaching IPC Phase 5. Approximately 2.2 million children aged 6–59 months were expected to experience acute malnutrition, including nearly 697,000 children at risk of severe acute malnutrition.

According to an OCHA article published in January 2026, the UN and its partners sought more than US$1.4 billion to assist four million people in South Sudan. However, financial tracking data from OCHA, updated through October 2026, showed that only $533.9 million had been received, representing 36.5 per cent of the required amount.

KENYA

A UNHCR report in December 2024 stated that in Garissa County, an administrative region of Kenya where approximately 413,595 predominantly Somali refugees lived, more than 87 per cent of host-community members and 84 per cent of refugees had never attended school. In refugee camps such as Kakuma and Dadaab, women were disproportionately affected, with 66 per cent of female refugees aged 25–64 having no formal schooling, compared with 33 per cent of male refugees.

A Reuters article in December 2025 recalled that, in November 2025, the US State Department had notified Mercy Corps that it would halt all remaining funding for a programme aimed at reducing malnutrition among 600,000 households in northern Kenya.

The article highlighted that global funding for the World Food Programme (WFP) had declined by 40 per cent, from $9.8 billion in 2024 to a projected $6.4 billion in 2025. Reuters also reported that, in Kenya, a 30 per cent drop in anticipated contributions had forced WFP to reduce food rations and suspend cash-based transfers to more than 700,000 refugees during the summer.

In February 2026, Sarah Ayodi, head of WFP's field office in Turkana, told Reuters that 333,000 people in the county required food aid but that the agency would not be able to support them beyond the following month. Reuters also reported that, in 2025, Save the Children announced that at least four African countries, including Kenya, risked running out of specialised life-saving food for severely malnourished children because of shortages caused by aid cuts. UNHCR data as of 31 July 2026 showed that the total funding appeal stood at $166 million, of which only 23 per cent had been received, leaving a funding gap of $128,305,839.

According to a WHO report in July 2026, approximately 4.1 million people were projected to face IPC Phase 3 or worse food insecurity, including 545,000 people in IPC Phase 4. Approximately 429,000 refugees were also experiencing IPC Phase 3 or worse food insecurity, including 186,000 in emergency conditions. Around 810,871 children aged 6–59 months required treatment for wasting, including 202,230 children with severe acute malnutrition. IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 5 was reported in Mandera, Turkana East, Turkana South, and North Horr.

UNHCR data updated through 31 August 2026 showed that Kenya hosted 871,568 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority of whom came from Somalia (54 per cent), followed by South Sudan (24.5 per cent). A UNHCR Kenya report updated in October 2026 assessed that an estimated 50 per cent of school-aged refugees remained out of school, while only 3 per cent of refugees were able to attend university.

ETHIOPIA

The UNICEF Ethiopia Annual Report 2024, published in June 2025, identified nine million children as being out of school, with 13.5 per cent of primary school students at risk of dropping out and nearly 9,000 schools damaged.

In its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2026 Appeal for Ethiopia, published on 10 December 2025, UNICEF appealed for $401.5 million to address the most critical humanitarian needs of children, women, and men affected by multiple and overlapping shocks in Ethiopia. This funding was intended to support urgent humanitarian assistance for 8.9 million people, including 6.3 million children.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in its Ethiopia Network Plan released on 31 December 2025, reported 60,299 cholera cases and 778 deaths over the preceding four years, resulting in a case fatality rate of 1.29 per cent. More than 10 million malaria cases had also been reported, while measles had accounted for over 30,000 cases and 240 deaths since early 2024. The emergence of mpox, with 24 cases and one infant death since May 2025, added to the disease burden. Climate change, conflict, and economic challenges contributed to an increase of up to 13 per cent in admissions for severe acute malnutrition.

UNICEF's Ethiopia Nutrition Programme reported that 45 per cent of child deaths were associated with undernutrition, 40 per cent of children under five were stunted, 87 per cent of children under five experienced child food poverty, 18 per cent of children under five were underweight, and 5 per cent of children under five suffered from wasting.

A WFP finding in April 2026 reported that malnutrition was alarmingly high, affecting 4.4 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

A WHO report on the Greater Horn of Africa Food Insecurity and Health Crisis, published in July 2026, indicated that approximately 3.9 million internally displaced people and pastoral populations faced particularly high risks, while humanitarian needs were expected to increase during the lean season.

DJIBOUTI

A UNESCO finding in March 2026 estimated that 50.9 per cent of children were out of school, including 53.8 per cent of girls and 48.1 per cent of boys, amounting to 138,900 children.

A WHO report on the Greater Horn of Africa Food Insecurity and Health Crisis, published in July 2026, reported that approximately 230,000 people, or 22 per cent of the population analysed, were projected to face IPC Phase 3 or worse food insecurity. More than 34,000 people were affected by acute malnutrition, including 7,700 children requiring urgent treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

UNICEF's Djibouti Nutrition Programme noted that nearly one in three children suffered from stunting (29.2 per cent), while the global acute malnutrition rate stood at 14.7 per cent, above the WHO alert threshold. This included 4.8 per cent of children experiencing severe acute malnutrition.
Genocide Watch reported in September 2026 that UNICEF required US$3 million to respond to the needs of up to 10,000 people over six months.

On 22 September 2026, UNHCR reported that its Djibouti operation for Yemeni refugees was only 15 per cent funded. UNHCR and its humanitarian partners urgently appealed for $13.5 million to ensure that new arrivals could access registration, reception, protection, and other essential services.

On 2 October 2026, the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General reported that UNHCR had indicated that 3,800 people had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen, nearly half of whom were children, including 523 children aged five and under.

UGANDA

The WFP Uganda Strategic Plan, published in October 2025, indicated that 37 per cent of the population was undernourished, while anaemia affected 44 per cent of children and 26 per cent of women. Around one in four children under five was found to be stunted, rising to 41 per cent in Karamoja, a region of Uganda. In Karamoja, acute malnutrition was driven by low dietary diversity, inadequate food consumption, poor water and sanitation conditions, disease, and sociocultural norms that hindered access to healthy diets.

In March 2026, WFP highlighted Uganda as the host of Africa's largest refugee population, with more than two million refugees and asylum seekers. The 2025 Human Development Report ranked Uganda 157th out of 193 countries, while the 2025 Global Hunger Index classified the country's level of food insecurity as serious.

A UNHCR factsheet covering the 2025 reporting period, released in March 2026, estimated that anticipated funding cuts could threaten the continued operation of 41 per cent (135) of government grant-aided schools serving 284,830 learners, including 197,180 refugees. Additionally, 28 per cent (92) of community schools, which depend entirely on humanitarian support, could face closure in 2026, potentially denying 126,961 learners, including 107,411 refugees, access to education.

In March 2026, WFP reported that it had reduced both coverage and food rations for Uganda's refugees as humanitarian funding dwindled. Having assisted 1.6 million people in early 2025, WFP's support had declined to just 663,000 refugees, contributing to a sharp rise in hunger and malnutrition.

WFP also cited a UN report revealing that 65 per cent of refugees lacked sufficient food, more than seven in ten households had reduced their daily meals, and one in four households had withdrawn their children from school. Acute malnutrition among children under five had increased by nearly 50 per cent in a single year, with four in ten children experiencing emergency levels of anaemia.

A UNHCR factsheet published in May 2026 noted that 87,254 children were believed to be out of school, disproportionately affecting girls, who accounted for 50,852 children compared with 36,402 boys. It also reported that, as of December 2025, 8,031 children had been reported to be engaged in child labour, while 23 child suicide cases had been recorded.

A UNHCR factsheet published in June 2026 reported that, as of 31 March 2026, only 14 per cent ($49.9 million) of UNHCR's 2026 funding requirement of $361 million had been met.
According to statistics released by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in September 2026, approximately 311,600 children aged 6–59 months were suffering from or were expected to suffer from acute malnutrition between April 2026 and March 2027. This included 58,200 refugee children, 97,100 children in host communities, and 156,300 children in other districts.

PRINCIPAL STAKEHOLDERS

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The United Nations Secretary-General provides political leadership during humanitarian crises and calls on governments and armed groups to protect civilians, humanitarian workers, and civilian infrastructure. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly urged countries to increase funding for the Greater Horn of Africa to provide assistance to more than 43 million people across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya as the region experiences one of the worst droughts in generations.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a Regional Economic Community in the Horn of Africa dedicated to promoting peace, prosperity, and regional integration. Officially established in 1996 as the successor to its 1986 predecessor, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), IGAD works to strengthen member states' efforts to achieve a sustainable and stable future.

Its long-term vision is to build a resilient, peaceful, prosperous, and integrated region in which citizens enjoy a high quality of life. To achieve this, IGAD actively promotes cooperation across key areas, including agriculture, economic integration, climate resilience, and security.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

The World Food Programme (WFP) operates in more than 120 countries and territories to fulfil its mission. It provides life-saving food assistance to people displaced by conflict and affected by disasters, while helping individuals and communities find sustainable solutions to the challenges they face in building better futures.

WFP works to improve nutrition among women and children, support smallholder farmers in increasing productivity and reducing losses, help countries and communities prepare for and respond to climate-related shocks, and strengthen human capital through school-feeding programmes. In conflict situations, WFP provides relief to affected populations and uses food assistance to support pathways towards peace and stability. In recognition of its work against hunger and its contributions to peace, WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency dedicated to strengthening international cooperation in education, science, culture, and information. It develops international standards, produces tools, and advances knowledge to address major global challenges while promoting equality and peace.

UNESCO works across several key areas, including protecting biodiversity, addressing the challenges associated with artificial intelligence, advancing quality education, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, and promoting access to reliable information.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) alerts and informs humanitarian organizations during crises. It collects, analyses, and shares data to help aid organizations understand and respond to the complex challenges they face when assisting affected populations.

OCHA coordinates the development of policies that help the humanitarian system evolve to meet the needs of people affected by crises. It also supports efforts to mobilize the funding and resources required for emergency responses, advocates for the rights of crisis-affected populations, amplifies their voices, and promotes accountability throughout the humanitarian system.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, works to save lives and build better futures for millions of people forced to flee their homes. It seeks to ensure that people fleeing violence, persecution, and conflict can exercise their right to seek asylum and find safety. UNHCR also provides protection and supports solutions for refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) brings together thousands of professionals, including public health experts, doctors, epidemiologists, scientists, and managers. Together, they coordinate international responses to health emergencies, promote well-being, prevent disease, and expand access to healthcare.

By connecting countries, communities, and partners with reliable scientific evidence, WHO works to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to live a safe and healthy life.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral and independent humanitarian organization that provides protection and assistance to people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. It works to alleviate human suffering, protect the lives and dignity of affected populations, and promote respect for international humanitarian law.

KEY TERMINOLOGIES

PASTORALIST

A person or community whose livelihood depends primarily on raising and caring for livestock. Pastoralism is common in parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, where communities often depend on livestock for food, income, and survival.

GRADE 2 EMERGENCY

Under the World Health Organization's emergency response framework, a Grade 2 emergency is an event that requires a moderate level of organizational support and a coordinated response. The precise classification depends on the WHO framework in use; it should not automatically be defined as a crisis that exceeds the capacity of a single country or region.

EL NIÑO

El Niño is a climate phenomenon characterized by the abnormal warming of surface waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It can influence weather patterns in the Greater Horn of Africa, contributing to periods of unusually heavy rainfall and flooding in some areas and drought or reduced rainfall in others. Its effects vary by location, season, and event.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

A condition resulting from inadequate nutrient intake or illness that causes recent and significant weight loss or low weight relative to height. Acute malnutrition can become life-threatening, particularly among young children, and includes moderate and severe forms of wasting.

IPC PHASE 3: CRISIS

A level of food insecurity in which households either have food-consumption gaps that result in acute malnutrition or can meet their minimum food needs only by using crisis-coping strategies. These may include selling essential livelihood assets, reducing essential expenses, or adopting other unsustainable measures.

IPC PHASE 5: CATASTROPHE

The highest household-level phase of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). It indicates an extreme lack of food and other essential needs, associated with starvation, destitution, and extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality. The term Famine is used for an area-level classification when specific thresholds are met; it is not interchangeable with IPC Phase 5 at the household level.

WASTING

A form of acute malnutrition in which a child has a low weight relative to their height. It is commonly associated with recent weight loss or failure to gain weight and can increase the risk of illness and death, especially when severe.

LEAN SEASON

The period between planting and harvesting when food availability is often at its lowest. During this time, households may rely on remaining food stocks while waiting for new crops to mature. The timing and duration of the lean season vary by location, climate, and agricultural calendar; in some areas, it occurs between May and September.

STUNTING

Impaired growth and development in children, generally indicated by low height for their age. Stunting is associated with chronic or recurrent undernutrition, repeated infections, and inadequate care and living conditions during critical stages of development.

ANAEMIA

A condition in which the number of red blood cells or the concentration of haemoglobin is lower than normal, reducing the blood's capacity to carry oxygen. Anaemia can affect children's energy levels, growth, learning, and overall health.

FOOD INSECURITY

A situation in which people lack reliable access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and maintain an active, healthy life.

RUTF

Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) is an energy-dense, nutrient-rich food, usually provided as a paste, used primarily to treat children with severe acute malnutrition. It can often be administered at home under the guidance of trained health workers when the child is clinically stable and eligible for outpatient treatment.

IPC

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized system used to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity and acute malnutrition. Its food-insecurity scale ranges from Phase 1 (Minimal) to Phase 5 (Catastrophe at the household level; Famine at the area level when the required criteria are met).

ASYLUM SEEKER

A person who has applied for international protection in another country and whose claim has not yet been finally decided.

REFUGEE

A person who has crossed an internationally recognized border and meets the applicable legal criteria for refugee status, generally because they face persecution or other qualifying threats and require international protection.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDP)

A person who has been forced to leave their home because of conflict, violence, human-rights violations, disasters, or other threats but has not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) refers to services and practices that support access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, waste management, handwashing facilities, and essential hygiene supplies.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMA)

1. What policy measures should be introduced to transition national health systems from reactive emergency-feeding programmes towards sustainable, climate-resilient nutrition budgets?
2. What technological and institutional solutions should be implemented to support family tracing and reunification and address family separation across borders?
3. What practical mechanisms should be established to protect educational continuity, reduce dropout rates, and increase school enrolment among children in the Greater Horn of Africa?
4. How can humanitarian frameworks strengthen local and municipal infrastructure while ensuring that refugees and host communities benefit equitably from essential services?
5. What operational protocols should be implemented to establish accessible birth-registration services and ensure the timely issuance of birth certificates, helping prevent statelessness and reducing children's vulnerability to trafficking?
6. What financial accountability mechanisms could support a multi-year, UN-coordinated funding framework that provides predictable, flexible, and uninterrupted assistance to crisis-affected communities?
7. How can legal aid and protection services for refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons be coordinated to improve access to documentation, legal support, and essential services while respecting their distinct legal statuses?
8. What measures could provide families with direct financial assistance alongside social-work support to reduce child labour and address the economic pressures that drive children into work?
9. How can mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) be integrated into primary healthcare services to address the psychological trauma experienced by children affected by conflict, displacement, and prolonged crises?
10. What sustainable water infrastructure and maintenance systems should be developed to ensure reliable access to clean water across the region?
11. What anticipatory and long-term measures should be adopted to mitigate the effects of El Niño, drought, and other climate-related hazards, thereby reducing food shortages, displacement, and damage to essential infrastructure?

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