

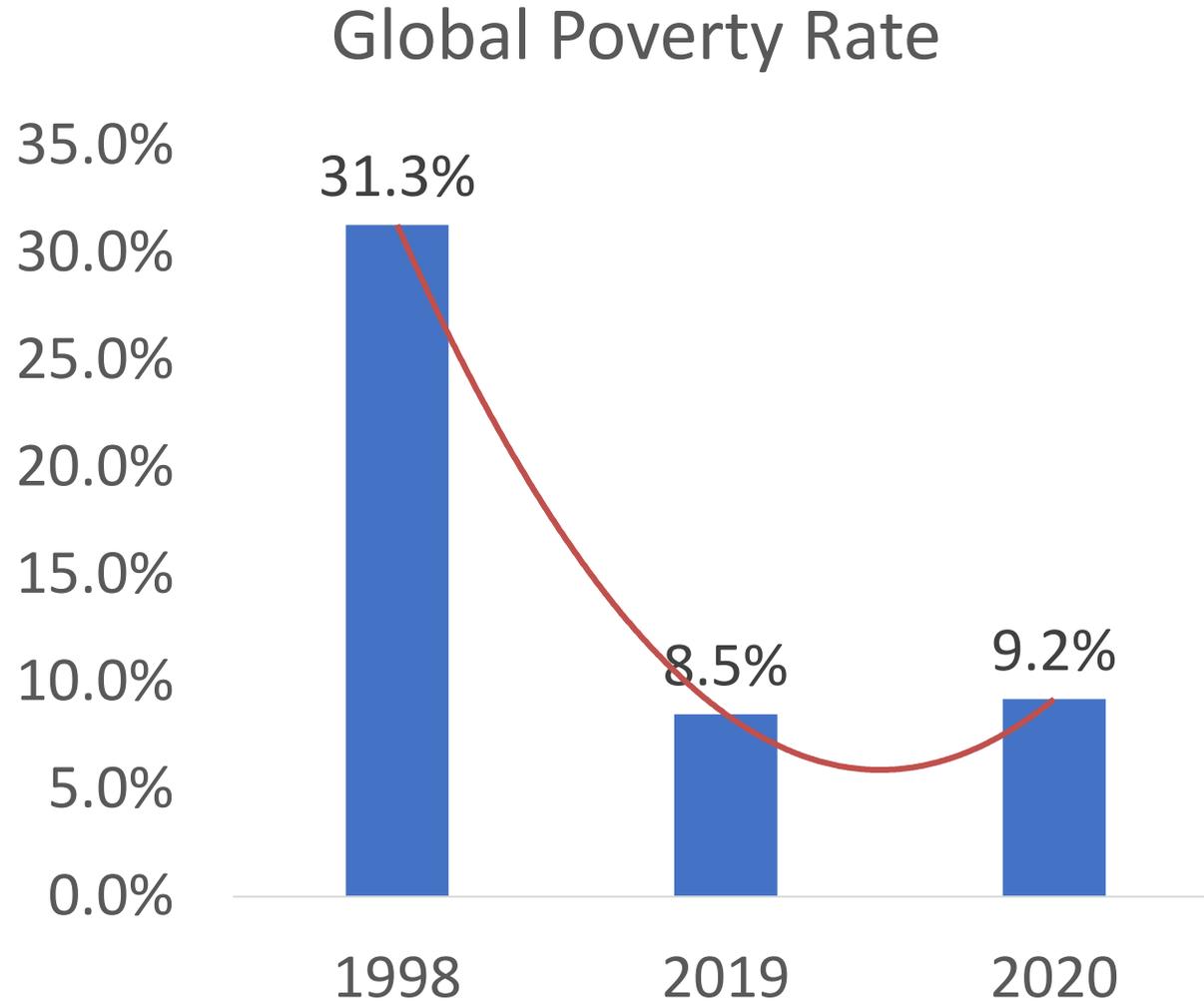


Progress, Gaps and Challenges in Eradicating Poverty and Building Resilience in Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts

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After two decades of significant achievements since 1998, the world has seen limited progress in reducing extreme poverty since 2019



- Between 1998 and 2019, the number of people below the poverty line (\$2.15 per day in 2017 PPP) declined from 1.872 billion to 659.23 million.
- It stands at 659 million by March 2023, roughly the same as where it was in 2019.
- Poverty failed to decline in Sub-Saharan Africa (+27.5 million (7% increase)) and the Middle East and North Africa (+25.5 million (69% increase)).
- These two regions together host nine of the ten most fragile and conflict affected countries in the world.

The multifaceted causes of poverty can be seen through many dimensions which include food security, economic context, conflict, and climate

Food Insecurity

- 345 million people (up to 200 million people higher than before the pandemic) are acutely food insecure across 79 countries with WFP operational presence and where data is available.
- Up to 43.3 million people across 53 countries face severe hunger emergencies as of April 2023 and are one step away from falling into famine.

Economic context

- Global food prices remain 26% higher than before the pandemic; and in April 2023, 66 countries registered food inflation rates of 15% or more.
- 24 currencies have lost 15% or more of their value against USD over the past year.
- Global growth continues to slow down.
- 60% of low-income countries are in debt distress.

Conflict

- Conflict remains the main driver of hunger in most of the world's food crises.
- Between 2010 and 2020, the number of state-based armed conflicts almost doubled.
- Seven out of ten acutely food insecure people live in fragile or conflict-affected situations.

Climate Extremes

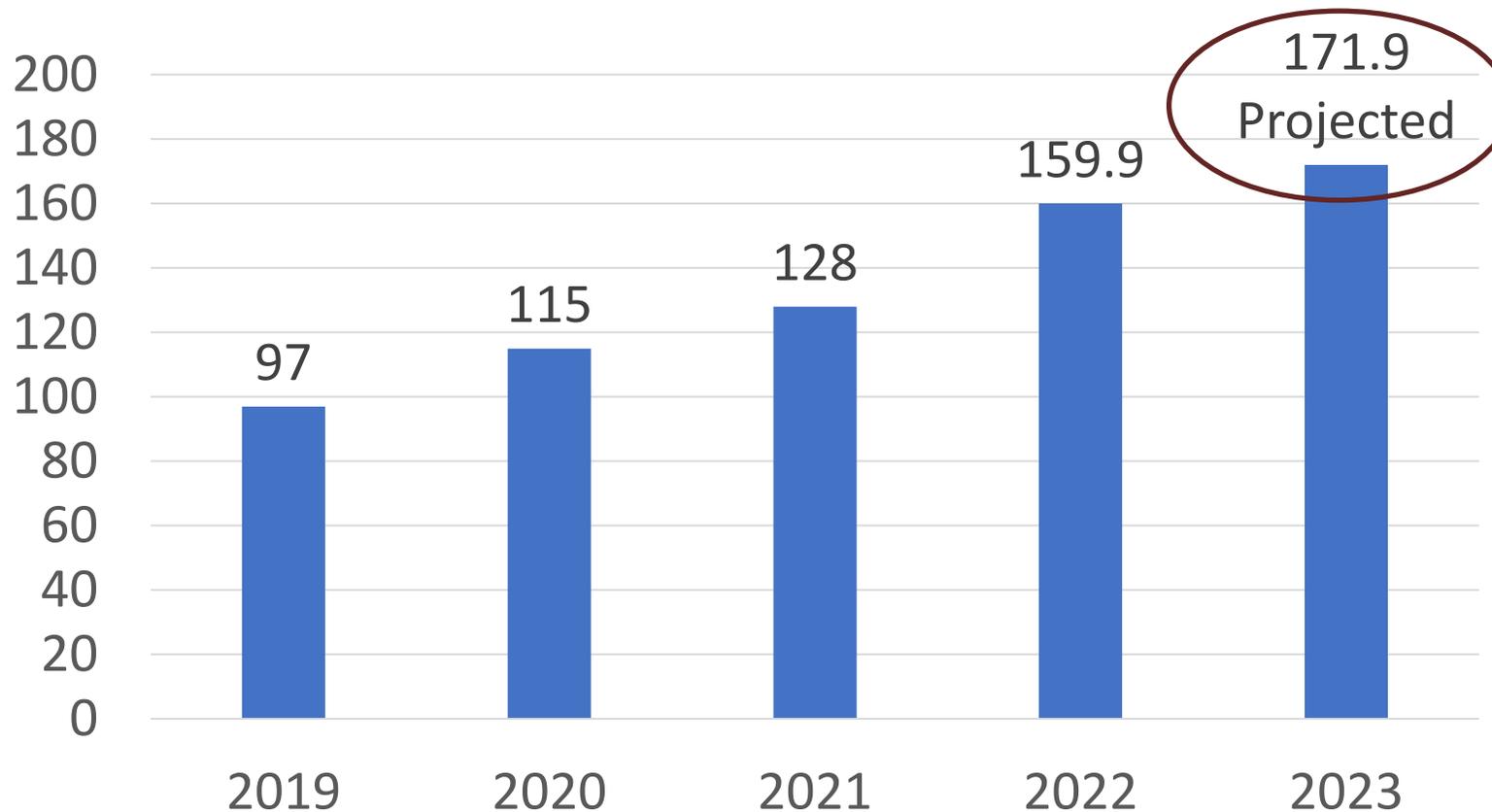
- In Southern Africa, areas of Madagascar, Mozambique, and Malawi are still dealing with the impacts of Cyclone Freddy, while persistent dryness has affected Angola, Namibia, Botswana, and parts of Zimbabwe.
- Somalia, NE Kenya, and SE Ethiopia have been affected by an unprecedented five-season drought since 2020.

The challenges of eradicating poverty and building resilience in fragile and humanitarian contexts continue to be more complex

- a. Fragile situations present a higher risk environment than non-fragile situations for the people who live there, their governments, and for neighbouring countries.
- b. Managing engagements and transitions in these complex environments presents challenges for all stakeholders, including for those seeking to provide assistance.
- c. Fragility knows no borders; as scale of response and magnitude of the required resources for eradicating poverty and building resilience are high, support remains fragmented and siloed.
- d. Funding remain a challenge

While the need has been growing, financing gap for programmes and initiatives in fragile and humanitarian contexts has continued to widen

Total Number of WFP Beneficiaries (million)



WFP's Funding Requirements

- **Projected operational requirement for 2023 = USD 23.6 billion**
- **Global funding forecast for 2023 = USD 11 billion**
- **Resulting in 53.4% funding gap**

WFP's actions in fragile and humanitarian contexts (recent...)

- The Black Sea Grain Initiative which helped sustain humanitarian operations
- Cash-based assistance to people in crisis to help break the vicious cycle of poverty and boost local economies while increasing resilience
- School feeding to improve food security, nutrition, protection, and education outcomes where only in Yemen WFP assists about 2.3 million children
- Working with governments on shock responsive systems including in the Sahel countries of Mali, Niger, and Mauritania
- Multi-layered Corporate Alert System for early warning and early action through real-time monitoring system and the Advanced Disaster Analysis and Mapping
- Scaling up Moderate Acute Malnutrition management in fragile contexts including in Kenya, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Somalia in response to severe drought

The Sudan Crisis

A potential global food basket in need of humanitarian assistance

- Sudan's arable land of 170 million acres was viewed by development experts as the one true hidden gem that holds the potential of becoming the bread-basket for Africa and the Middle East- capable of meeting 40 per cent of the world's food needs.
- Today and with the ongoing conflict, over **15 million people were facing severe food insecurity** before the onset of the crisis. Nearly **4 million young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished** – these numbers are bound to increase as the fighting continues.
- Food and fuel prices have skyrocketed as cash and basic supplies are running out in the country. Early reports indicate that food prices have already doubled since the start of the conflict.
- The fighting in Sudan has triggered **displacement** within and outside the country with people fleeing to neighboring countries seeking safety and basics like shelter, food and water. WFP is concerned about the food security situation in neighboring countries, many of which are already dealing with multiple crises of their own (Chad, South Sudan, Egypt)

WFP is implementing the saving lives and changing lives agenda to fight poverty and build resilience in fragile and humanitarian contexts

- Over the past six decades, WFP has grown to become the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger in fragile and humanitarian contexts, earning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.
- In 2016, WFP together with partners started advocating for the recognition of the link between hunger and insecurity, leading to the birth of UNSC Resolution 2417 which reiterates the prohibition on the use of hunger and starvation as a method of war.
- Video on Sahel links

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/8b00266bc4e8dfcd89e139b380e9dc1920230509121142/746e15c00dbfae86f2ddd3c54ea0740720230509121154/0403d8>

Recommendations Going Forward

- a. We need an all-hands-on deck approach through coordinated joint programming – fighting poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts cannot be done alone.
- b. Scale up the changing lives agenda as a more inclusive way to tackle the root causes of poverty, build resilient and sustainable livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to shocks using social protection and resilience programs e.g., investing in smallholder agriculture to improve productivity, income and food security
- c. Create an enabling policy environment and food systems approach to ensure sustainable and resilient food systems by improving infrastructure, promoting sustainable agriculture, and supporting local markets
- d. Empower women and girls to break the cycle of poverty through targeted interventions in education, healthcare, and economic opportunities
- e. Strengthen partnerships with and support to governments, partners and local actors