

OUR FOOD SYSTEMS TODAY ARE FACING A PERFECT STORM.

Before the war in Ukraine, food systems were already under extreme stress – with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and extreme weather shocks. One shock compounds another – especially for the poorest people with the least ability to cope.

Now, the war has pushed global food, fuel and fertilizer prices to unprecedented levels. Food supplies in many of the most fragile countries are threatened, especially those that rely on the Black Sea region for much of their food and energy.

AS ALWAYS, IT IS THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE WHO ARE MOST VULNERABLE.

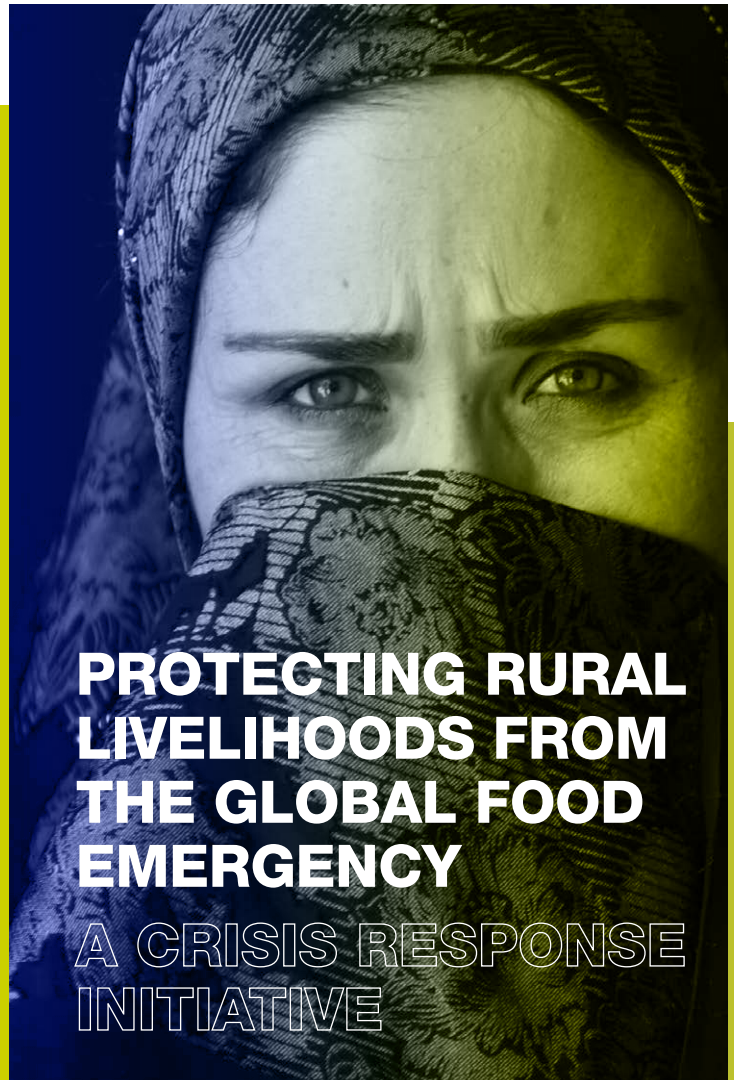
For example: small-scale farmers who can no longer get their goods to market, and who can't get essential inputs like fertilizer and seeds. This also hurts other poor rural people and urban populations who rely on these farmers for food.

This is why IFAD has launched a new initiative – the **Crisis Response Initiative (CRI)**. The need is urgent, and the CRI will provide:

- Essential inputs, finance and household credit so farmers can keep growing food
- Small-scale infrastructure for production and marketing
- Critical information on markets, especially through digital platforms.

The CRI will help to prevent hunger and food insecurity, and it will mitigate the worst impacts of the food crisis on poor rural communities. It will prioritize a list of the 22 most vulnerable countries, in order of priority need: Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Mozambique, Haiti, Ethiopia, Burundi, Eritrea, Madagascar, Central African Republic, Malawi, Chad, Niger, Mali, Uganda, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Comoros, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Benin.

The CRI is aligned with IFAD's focus on "recovery, rebuilding and resilience". Emergency aid is essential but we must not forget that action to strengthen resilience not just for today but for tomorrow is key to a sustainable future.



PROTECTING RURAL LIVELIHOODS FROM THE GLOBAL FOOD EMERGENCY

A CRISIS RESPONSE INITIATIVE

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Building the resilience of the most vulnerable people is central to everything IFAD does. Impact assessments have shown that our work has improved the resilience of the rural communities where we work by over 20 per cent.

And our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the Rural Poverty Stimulus Facility, has had a significant impact in protecting livelihoods.

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE STEPPING UP TO PLEDGE TO THE CRI. WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE BETWEEN WAR AND HUNGER.

Find out more about the CRI:
www.ifad.org/en/crisis-response-initiative

IFAD CRISIS RESPONSE INITIATIVE (CRI)

FOUR PRIORITY NEEDS



ENSURE ACCESS TO INPUTS

such as breeding stock, seeds, fodder, fuel, fertilizer and technology



INVEST IN SMALL-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE

to improve productive capacity and reduce post-harvest losses



SUPPORT ACCESS TO FINANCE

for immediate needs of small-scale producers, enterprises and rural households



FACILITATE ACCESS TO MARKETS

and market-related information

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“The disruption to global markets is shaking food systems to the core. IFAD’s new initiative will help protect livelihoods and markets so that the most vulnerable people can continue to feed their families and communities, and thrive – for a better future.”

Gilbert F. Houngbo, President of IFAD

“IFAD’s role is critical to mitigate any shocks to food systems and in doing so protect long-term development progress. The international community must anticipate the far-reaching and worryingly destabilizing consequences of this war in Europe by supporting the most vulnerable.”

Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kenya, as the Netherlands became the first country to contribute to the CRI



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