

## Food Bank Situation Report:

# How Aid Cuts are Affecting Communities Around the Globe



**The global community continues to confront overlapping economic shocks: uneven recovery from COVID-19, reductions in official development assistance (ODA), the uncertainty and capriciousness of U.S. tariffs, inflation, and rising food costs — all layered atop ongoing conflict and political instability.**

FAO and WFP declare that acute food insecurity will rise across 16 countries and territories, known as [Hunger Hotspots](#), which include network countries Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Nigeria. According to [U.N. Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD), as global trade and investment face financial instability and geopolitical uncertainty and destabilization, economic growth is projected to slow to 2.6% through 2026, down from 2.9% in 2024.

The closure of USAID represents one of the most consequential shifts in humanitarian financing in decades, reshaping how food and relief systems are funded and delivered. Prior to 2025, the U.S. was the largest contributor to global aid, contributing approximately 35% to 40% of all humanitarian assistance. The E.U. and several member states, including the U.K., France and Germany, [reduced their ODA](#) by 9% in 2024 and a further 9% to 17% in 2025. Seventy countries were impacted by stop-work orders, canceled contracts and inconsistent exemptions. According to Atul Gawande, head of USAID's global health efforts during the Biden Administration, this led to more than 600,000 deaths, two-thirds of which were children.

Food banks are already experiencing the immediate consequences of these trends and will continue to face long-term challenges. The Global FoodBanking Network (GFN) remains in close contact with its members, tracking donation flows, demand trends and preparedness, while seeking opportunities to provide targeted resources and guidance. Much remains uncertain as tariffs shift and multilateral institutions weigh difficult choices about program and staffing cuts. In this volatile environment, GFN is committed to monitoring developments and delivering critical support to food banks worldwide. Below is a summary of the challenges currently facing our members.



## Africa

Africa is on the front line of a worsening global hunger crisis. According to the [2025 Global Report on Food Crises](#), Africa is one of the hardest hit regions, with [southern, eastern and parts of West Africa facing severe hunger due to conflict, climate extremes and economic shocks](#). Projections show that while the prevalence of undernourishment will decrease between 2025 and 2030, [60% of people affected will be in Africa](#). USAID cuts are especially felt: In 2023, 40% of USAID's budget was directed to sub-Saharan Africa for programs like Feed the Future and PEPFAR.

### *Mapendo Banque Alimentaire (DRC)*

One of the youngest food banks on the continent, Mapendo distributed 7,380 kilograms of food and grocery product to 852 individuals in 2024. In the DRC, severe levels of acute food insecurity are expected to continue, driven by escalating conflict in the eastern region. The violence has forced widespread displacement, affecting nearly 5.8 million people, and [has disrupted agricultural production and restricted access to humanitarian assistance](#). The U.S. was the largest donor to the DRC, providing over \$1 billion in humanitarian aid annually. Funds have been used for health, education, and agricultural and economic development.

### *Food Forward South Africa (FFSA)*

South Africa's operating environment remains challenging, despite some signs of improvement. Economic growth is projected at [1.2% in 2025](#) — well below the threshold needed to meaningfully reduce unemployment. The economy is experiencing a mixed outlook as of 2025. While there are signs of recovery and growth, [challenges such as high inflation, healthcare costs and economic instability remain significant](#). Although the unemployment rate has eased slightly [to 31.9%](#), it remains unsustainably high.

South Africa's weak economy and struggling businesses have made fundraising extremely challenging, compounded by significant USAID funding cuts. FFSA states that this has intensified competition among NPOs for a shrinking pool of resources. The first 6 to 9 months of 2026 are expected to remain challenging.



## Asia Pacific

Asia continues to be home to more than [half of the population facing hunger](#). Cuts to ODA will impact the region, particularly in southeast Asia, including GFN countries Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia, as the U.S. and the U.K. collectively cut more than \$1.2 billion in aid. [Overall economic growth is projected to slow in 2026](#) as Asian economies have had to adapt to new trade realities. With external funding becoming less predictable, local organizations now need to step up in building their own financial and operational resilience. Strengthening local capacity is critical for maintaining stable food assistance and meeting growing demand.

### *FoodCycle Indonesia and Scholars of Sustenance*

Experts warn that without USAID funding, Indonesia may face setbacks in healthcare, governance reforms and disaster response capabilities, threatening progress in public sector accountability and its ability to respond effectively to crises. Indonesia ranks 77th out of 127 countries in the [Global Hunger Index](#), or a moderate level of hunger. Food banks FoodCycle Indonesia (FCI) and Scholars of Sustenance (SOS) are planning to seek alternative channels to build their own financial and operational resilience. FCI is expanding their operations into new regions to unlock recurring food loss at the farm and early supply-chain level, working directly with smallholder farmers to recover surplus fresh produce before it goes to waste. Their successful pivot to agricultural recovery in 2024 has resulted in a significant increase in kilograms distributed, and they are actively expanding that program with GFN's support. Additionally, Indonesia is susceptible to natural disasters. Recently, flooding and landslides in Sumatra have killed more than 900 people. FCI has received donations specifically for deployment to flood-affected communities.

### *Rise Against Hunger Philippines (RAHP)*

USAID supported maternal and child health programs in the Philippines; These programs have now shut down leaving agencies to source alternative channels for resources and support. With finite resources, Rise Against Hunger (U.S.) diverted its funding from less-urgent regions to Africa, which means a 50% reduction of funding and meal packs for RAHP in 2025 compared to 2024.

### **Latin America**

The 2025 Global Report on Food Crises identified six countries in Latin America and the Caribbean facing food crises, including five network countries: Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Twenty percent of the population – 19.7 million people – of all six countries faced high levels of acute food insecurity, including large numbers of refugees and migrants in Colombia and Ecuador. In total, [11.8 million people in the six countries with food crises are displaced.](#)

USAID's closure has severely impacted the region: [In FY25, more than \\$2.2 billion dollars in USAID funds](#) were slated for Latin America and the Caribbean for programs that would address education and skills training, employment, gender-based violence, migration, and humanitarian aid.

### *Banco de Alimentos El Salvador (BAES)*

Banco de Alimentos El Salvador distributes 657,000 kilograms of food and grocery product to more than 45,000 people annually. Today, 35% of the food banks' partner agencies are affected by funding cuts from the United States, making it difficult for them to cover their solidarity contribution (shared maintenance, or a small fee to cover food recovery, transportation, and storage) for the food received as well as the costs to transport food from the food bank. As a result, the food bank has been covering the transportation costs of the products distributed to two of the most affected organizations.





### *Banco de Alimentos Honduras (BAH)*

BAH and its network serve nearly 28,000 people annually with 1.2 million kilograms of food and grocery product. Twenty percent of member agencies have not been able to afford their solidarity contribution (also known as shared maintenance in the United States, or fees which offset sourcing, storage and distribution costs) and transportation. In response, BAH is distributing fruits and vegetables free of charge to organizations that face funding cuts to prevent them from closing their operations. BAH's director has said that the funding environment is more challenging than ever, particularly in applying for and obtaining capital from foundations and international organizations.

### **Europe**

Food security in Europe is impacted by geopolitics, climate change and economic disparities. War in Ukraine has affected the region's access to wheat and maize, major exports, and prices of fuel and fertilizer. Approximately 7.4% of people in Europe experience moderate to severe food insecurity, which can mean reducing the size or frequency of meals all the way to going a whole day without food. [In Eastern Europe, the number rises to 9.1% while in Ukraine, it's 32.5%.](#)

GFN's partner, the European Food Banks Federation (FEBA), is a network of 352 food banks in 30 countries that provides service to 12.8 million people in vulnerable situations across Europe. In addition to product sourcing, food loss and waste reduction, and promoting knowledge sharing among member food banks, FEBA also advocates on behalf of policies that address the root causes of hunger and poverty. At a recent meeting of the European Parliament, FEBA took center stage to raise awareness of the urgency of rising food insecurity rates and food banks' role in promoting a right to food.



## The United States

In addition to cuts to existing food and nutrition safety net programs, the current administration has also announced that it will no longer measure and publish data on food insecurity trends in the United States. Eliminating the barometer of food and nutrition security during a time when food banks are reporting increasing demand for services, a government shutdown and disruptions in SNAP service is a striking blow to tracking progress and economic trends, organizations' ability to measure and plan for need, and mapping where need is highest. The data has been collected and analyzed since the 1990s via the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census, and it will now be incumbent upon independent institutions and researchers to pick up the slack.

Purdue University's Center for Food Demand and Sustainability found that [food insecurity and food inflation have edged up in 2025](#). Through November, the national food insecurity rate has averaged 14.2%, but November saw a jump from 13.3% in October to 16%. Among SNAP recipients, the jump was even higher: up from the typical 36% to 46% in November 2025.

Layoffs have increased in the U.S. with over 1.17 million job cuts [this year as of November 2025](#), marking the first time in over 30 years that layoffs have exceeded 1.1 million. Experts predict that job loss will continue to rise.

Feeding America, GFN partner and the nation's largest hunger-relief charity, represents 200 food banks across the country. Feeding America has been on the front lines advocating for SNAP and other federal nutrition programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provide support to farmers and ranchers as well as Americans facing hunger.

## Meeting the Moment

GFN's member food banks, which are embedded in local communities, are prepared to meet the moment, providing ongoing support and humanitarian relief to people and communities in need around the globe.

**These aid cuts are disrupting supply chains, increasing food insecurity and putting local food banks at risk. Together, we can respond swiftly and strategically to fill critical gaps and demonstrate our shared commitment to global food security and community resilience.**