

Food Bank Situation Report:

How Aid Cuts are Affecting Communities Around the Globe



Conflict in the Middle East has introduced new pressures that are shaping the social, humanitarian and environmental landscape.

While the world is already facing the impacts of cuts to official development assistance (ODA), rising rates of hunger and natural disasters, now the conflict brings with it loss of life, extensive damage to property and the emergence of a new refugee crisis. People are being [pushed out of their homes](#) as a result of violence, property loss or failed power grids in Iran, which is already home to [millions of Afghan migrants](#), many without legal status. GFN network country Türkiye, already one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world and still recovering from a crushing earthquake in 2023, will be under increased strain as migrants flee to the Iran-Türkiye border. The [EU Agency for Asylum](#) states that even partial destabilization in Iran could create a refugee crisis of an “unprecedented magnitude.”

Meanwhile, the Iran conflict is already disrupting supply chains. According to the [Global Cold Chain Alliance](#), approximately 10% of the global container fleet has been disrupted, so some products in layover may be stuck at ports and some exporters face challenges transporting products to their final destinations. While this may provide an immediate opportunity for food banks to recover product stuck in ports, it brings long-term [threats to global food security](#) via shipping delays, increased freight, food, oil and fertilizer prices, as well as smaller margins for food producers and longer-term consequences on planting schedules. While the Middle East is affected immediately, the impacts will be felt in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

WFP estimates that [45 million more people globally](#) could fall into acute food insecurity or worse. Agriculture production, food security, and global markets are at risk, according to [FAO Chief Economist Máximo Torero](#). These compounding conditions have made 2025 widely regarded as the most severe humanitarian year on record and [catastrophic effects will be felt for years](#) to come.

Through regular contact with member food banks, GFN is tracking closely how current events are shaping operations and programming, ensuring that resources and support are directed where needed most. Food banks are always on the frontline, meeting immediate need for food as people experience displacement, job loss or food price spikes, but they also absorb the cascading shocks moving through communities and food systems. Food banks and their member agencies are often the first to feel the pressure of mounting catastrophes, but as the locally led, community-rooted organizations that they are, they are also the last to retreat.



Africa

The food and nutrition crisis in West Africa in particular is worsening, putting households and food banks under strain. The latest [Cadre Harmonisé data](#) estimates that 41.8 million people are already experiencing acute food insecurity, and this figure is expected to climb to 52.8 million during the June-August 2026 lean season. More than 1.4 million people are already in emergency conditions in Nigeria and Ghana.

Another emerging risk stems from the severe [disruption in global fertilizer markets](#) just as sub-Saharan Africa enters a critical planting season. Roughly one-quarter of the world's fertilizer supply moves through the Strait of Hormuz, a corridor that is now effectively incapacitated, sharply constraining access for import-dependent countries. GFN countries are dealing with the fuel crisis in multiple different ways: Ghana has raised the price of fuel and South Africa is cutting fuel taxes.

Banque Alimentaire de Cote d'Ivoire (BACI)

ODA funding in the country amounted to the equivalent of 3% of Cote d'Ivoire gross national income. Since its founding in 2019, BACI has reached more than 300,000 people in Abidjan and surrounding communities. In a context where food banking is still emerging, BACI is expanding rapidly in part to support and guidance from GFN. BACI joined the second cohort of GFN's *Accelerator* in 2024, and within a year nearly doubled distribution and almost tripled the number of people served. GFN has provided technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning and training in addition to new funding from PIMCO-targeted to countries hardest hit by ODA cuts, which enabled the purchase of a refrigerated truck and the addition of a new driver, expanding both its operational reach and its long term sustainability. Future monies will support the hiring of a fundraiser and an additional new vehicle.

Food Forward South Africa (FFSA)

Like many other countries, South Africa is facing an economic downturn. The unemployment rate is high, especially youth unemployment at 60%. FFSA receives approximately 60% of its revenue from corporate donors, but local and national corporates are struggling because the economy is struggling and consumer spending is down. The grants landscape has become even more competitive with more nonprofits needing funding.



The loss of PEPFAR funding has endangered health services, so FFSA has stepped up by supporting health clinics that are currently inundated with applications. Foodshare, FFSA's digital platform, is responsible for the procurement of 22,000 metric tons of food, which accounts for 70% of total annual tonnage distributed. Four of South Africa's five top retailers are using Foodshare to manage their virtual donations. With a grant from GFN in November 2025, FFSA was able to keep mobile routes that serve remote and rural populations open, a critical component to reaching underserved populations.

Asia-Pacific

[Asia and sub-Saharan Africa](#) are most vulnerable to war impacts because of their reliance on food and fuel imports. [Asia is feeling the shock most acutely](#), given that nearly every country in the region depends heavily on Middle Eastern oil. GFN countries are coping with rising fuel costs and shortages in multiple ways: Japan is introducing fuel subsidies and releasing strategic reserves; South Korea is imposing price controls; and India is expanding its energy import partners to reduce dependence on Gulf flows. It is also the region most exposed to disruptions in oil and gas flows through the Strait of Hormuz, making price spikes and supply uncertainty especially destabilizing. As [India's large supply of fertilizer](#) is endangered as plants close or reduce output due to high prices of natural gas, the country's ability to continue as a notable global food producer is in question. According to [WFP's assessment](#), current projections point to a 24% rise in food-insecure populations across Asia.

Scholars of Sustenance Thailand (SOS)

USAID cuts have severely impacted refugee and migrant worker groups mainly located along the Thailand-Myanmar border. As a result, SOS has received an increasing number of direct requests from individuals. In 2026, SOS plans to establish and train representatives in all 27 provinces of Thailand to conduct food recovery with the support of national and provincial government, ultimately expanding the SOS food recovery program to areas serving the migrant and refugee populations.



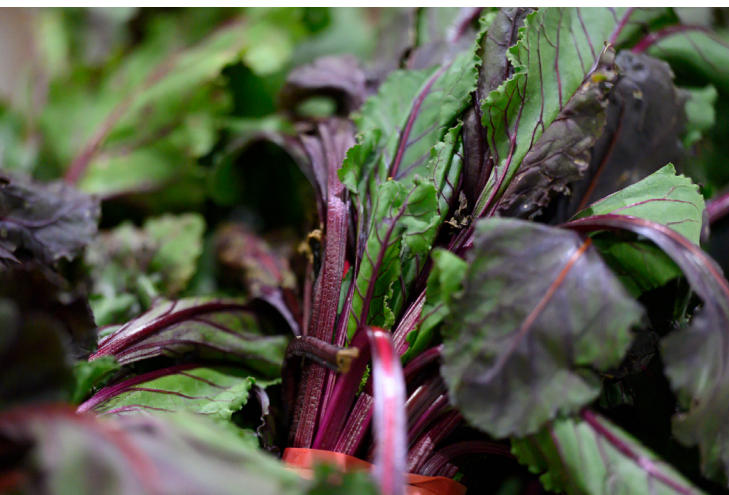
The Thai government is closely monitoring the fuel shortage situation and has [proposed multiple contingency plans](#), including prioritizing emergency needs (like hospitals), rations and limited operating hours for petrol stations.

Latin America

[According to FAO](#), undernourishment in Latin America and the Caribbean has declined for four consecutive years, reaching 5.1% of the population in 2024, down from 6.1% in 2020. In 2024, 33.6 million people were affected by hunger, a decrease of 1.5 million people from 2023 and a decrease of 3.5 million from 2022. Despite this progress, regional disparities remain: South America has the lowest hunger prevalence at 3.8%, compared with 5% in Mesoamerica and a much higher 17.5% in the Caribbean. [OECD paints a picture](#) of decelerated economic growth in Latin America in 2026 due to a variety of factors, including inflation, climate-related events and geopolitical tensions.

Banco de Alimentos de Bolivia

To help mitigate current challenges with commercial donors, the food bank is one of six food banks receiving intensive agricultural recovery technical assistance in CY25 through GFN. Expansion into the area of Santa Cruz is in progress and enabling more agricultural volumes to be recovered. With GFN's support, the food bank set a goal to recover 150 tons from the agricultural sector across the locations of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba. GFN technical assistance is helping streamline the design and implementation of a new logistics and staffing model to manage farmer relationships and collect product.



Banco de Alimentos Diakonía (Ecuador)

Twenty-three (18%) of the food bank's partner organizations have been affected by funding cuts from the U.S., making it difficult for them to cover their solidarity contribution for food received from and transported by the food bank. The food bank has continued to distribute products to the most-affected NGOs at no charge, which causes a financial sustainability issue. In an effort to reduce the food bank's reliance on solidarity contributions/fees from agencies, GFN has provided in-depth technical assistance designed to help the food bank diversify its funding sources.

Ecuador has continued implementation of Eatcloud Virtual Food Banking, which has provided momentum into expansion within the retail sector.

Banco de Alimentos El Salvador (BAES)

In El Salvador, 2025 was a year unlike any other: There's uncertainty and upheaval due not only to USAID cuts but also the country's political and economic landscape. One year ago, within a week of the shuttering of USAID, there were massive layoffs at nonprofit organizations. Although BAES does not receive USAID funds, 35% of their network organizations did receive significant funding, especially organizations working with children, adolescents and young people. As a result, many of them have canceled programs or reduced their budgets.

In the past year, BAES achieved GFN certification after many years of diligent preparation, which has strengthened the food bank's standing and brand recognition and enhanced trust among partners. GFN certification is a high standard that serves as a letter of introduction and testimonial, especially within the private sector. In 2025, BAES recovered 706,000 kilograms of food and served 46,000 people across 12 of the country's 14 departments.

Europe

Poverty has far-reaching consequences that go beyond even access adequate food and nutrition. Across Europe, [higher poverty levels significantly heighten vulnerability to air pollution](#). Even when pollution levels are similar, communities facing greater poverty, limited healthcare access or other structural disadvantages experience far more severe health impacts.

Like many other countries, the U.K. is feeling the pressure of rising food prices and reduced access to fuel and fertilizer. GFN and FEBA member The Felix Project/FareShare says that even before the war, [demand was outpacing supply](#) and today they are now “bracing for a food crisis.”

GFN partner The European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) comprises a network of food banks in 30 countries that provide service to more than 12 million people in vulnerable situations across Europe. FEBA is heavily involved in anti-poverty advocacy, most recently highlighted by participation in the European Commission’s [“Implementation Dialogue on Measures to Combat Hunger”](#) in February in Brussels. The meeting convened a small group of key stakeholders from member states, industry and civil society, alongside Executive Vice President Roxana Minzatu and Director-General Mario Nava, for a high-level discussion on challenges, gaps and emerging developments in the implementation of minimum income schemes and the European Child Guarantee.

The United States

GFN partner Feeding America represents 200 food banks across the U.S. Collectively, the food bank network provided more than 6 billion meals to 47 million food insecure people in 2024. Feeding America is currently working on advocating for a bipartisan Farm Bill, a comprehensive law passed by Congress roughly every five years that sets national policy on agriculture, nutrition, conservation and forestry. Federal nutrition programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), both critical components of a strong nutrition safety net, are funded through the Farm Bill.

While the 2026 Iran conflict is straining the global food system, the U.S. is also experiencing elevated public debt, inflationary pressures and sustained military expenditures. America’s food supply is threatened by fertilizer shortages, disrupted shipping routes and high fuel costs, which can increase production costs for producers, reduce crop yields and eventually result in higher grocery prices for American consumers. Future challenges notwithstanding, America’s farmers have seen [climbing bankruptcy rates](#) in the last two years.



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.