



WHO Chair Report

Promoting Good Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems for children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Chair: Theodore Hellauer
Deputy Chair: Joseph Whitener



Personal Statements



Chair – Theodor Hellauer

Most Esteemed Delegates of the World Health Organization, my name is Theodor Hellauer, and I will be serving as one of the Chairs of this Committee at MUNISS 2024. I am currently in ninth grade at Frankfurt International School, and I am 14 years old. MUNISS will be my twelfth conference, and my second time as a chair. Over the years, I have had the honor of serving in multiple committees and positions, such as being an Advocate in the International Court of Justice or being a panelist at THIMUN. I am certain that all of you can recall the COVID-19 pandemic, or formally SARS-CoV-2, and how halted society immediately. As delegates of this committee, you will have the possibility to come up with solutions that will have a clear goal to create a partnership between nations and to be better prepared if there is another outbreak of such a pandemic. You will consider how to limit casualties and efficiently delivering much-needed aid. Furthermore, on our planet, there are countless examples of diseases like Cancer, Diabetes, or heart disorders, and this committee allows you to explore solutions with a goal to prevent suffering on a global scale. Finally, in so-called More Economically Developed Countries, (MEDC'S), we tend to take food for granted, whilst there were millions of deaths in LEDCs which can be traced back to malnutrition. In this committee, we urge you to find sustainable solutions to all these varied and vital issue. To our first-time delegates, don't hesitate to speak up! Your contributions are invaluable and we're here to support you every step of the way.

Thank You!

Deputy Chair – Joseph Whitener

Hello everyone, I am Joseph Whitener. This upcoming is my second MUN conference, first time as a chair, and I look forward to chairing you all. I am also 15 years old, and my hobbies mainly consist of football. I currently attend ISS and look forward to welcoming you all to our school through MUNISS I think you'll enjoy it here. This committee focuses on addressing critical global health issues under the purview of the World Health Organization (WHO). Delegates will delve into three primary topics: Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and Nutrition and Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. For all of our first-time delegates we want you to know we are here for you. We understand what its like to be a first time delegate, everyone does, please be sure to speak up and enjoy yourself!



Introduction

The issue regarding Promoting Good Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems for children in Sub-Saharan Africa can be defined simply as an in-depth search into plausible solutions regarding the issue of Nutritional and sustainable food systems for children in sub-Saharan Africa. These children need a solution to this problem due to the climate in sub-Saharan Africa that allows for a struggle in growing produce along with a somewhat poor economic state leads everyone in this area desperate for a solution. This search for a plausible solution would allow for there to be less malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa especially with children (Onyeaka et al.).

Sub-Saharan Africa is the term used to describe the area of the African continent which lies south of the Sahara Desert. This gives you some proportions as to how large this issue is. Our committee will look into this issue in its entirety and try to come together to form an overall consensus on how we can solve the issue at hand.

This issue as a large is mainly propelled due to the astronomical amount of non-nutritious food being exported into the sub-Saharan region of Africa and due to their turbulent history full of wars and economic struggle, they've resorted to importing unhealthy and cheap foods which has led to a crisis in itself.

Within our committee we will be researching the ways to counteract this issue along with what this issue is. We will investigate how this overall issue corresponds to the issue to poverty and the effects such a struggle can have on the population as a whole. Due to the lack of adequate food and nutrition the people living in Sub-Saharan Africa are more susceptible to other issues such as disease (Kyere et al.), ("Nutrition").

Glossary

Sub-Saharan Africa - Sub-Saharan Africa refers to the region of the African continent that lies south of the Sahara Desert. This includes 48 countries and territories, excluding those situated in North Africa, which are part of the Arab world. Sub-Saharan Africa is known for its rich biodiversity, including tropical rainforests, savannas, deserts, and coastlines. It is home to numerous ethnic groups and has a varied history influenced by colonization, independence movements, and cultural exchanges. The region faces various challenges, including poverty, political instability, and health issues such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, but it also possesses significant potential for economic development and growth. (New World Encyclopedia)

Sustainable Food Systems – A sustainable food system is essentially a system of delivering food that ensures everyone gets a secure food supply and a nutritional food supply. (Yinuo)

Poverty – Poverty is the condition in which individuals do not possess the typical or culturally expected level of financial resources or material belongings, resulting in an inability to fulfill their fundamental necessities. (Britannica)

Food Security – Food Security is the cheap and nutritious supply of food to the population at a constant rate.



Issue Explanation

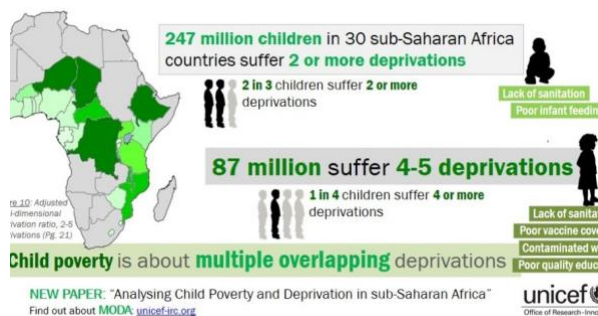
The issue at hand, Promoting Good Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems for children in Sub-Saharan Africa, is a topic of vast importance to the development of the world. With the Sub-Saharan region of Africa encompassing such a large portion of Africa and holding millions of inhabitants its vital to ensure the survival of them and to ensure that they can continue to develop and not fall more into what is considered poverty.

Food security has been an issue in Sub-Saharan Africa for quite some time and has drawn its sources from many separate issues. These such including climate change, European colonization, COVID-19, and the Russo-Ukrainian war. All of these factors have lead to the overall sentiment that Sub-Saharan Africa is the most food insecure region of the entire world.

With the large population rise in Africa over the past 50 years the issue of food security to children in Sub-Saharan Africa has only got harder. This issue is also directly linked to poverty as the inability to get nutritious and a constant supply food typically is. With poverty being a main cause a raise in the inequality and income disparity in Africa could lead to a viable solution.

This is a major humanitarian disaster, over 30 Million people in Sub-Saharan Africa suffer from malnutrition which has resulted in the death around 3.5 million children under the year of 5 (Owolade et al.).

Sub-Saharan Africa's child population is projected to reach 1 billion by 2055 (UNICEF) and from 2017 onwards they have also counted for the largest number of births which is supposed to continue as a trend for the rest of this century. This establishes how large of an importance this issue holds, due to the fact that so many children could be venerable to food insecurity in this region. If it is not solved now the amount of deaths and people suffering will only increase.



History of the Topic

Food Security was “food security” was introduced in 1974 following famines in the Sahel and Darfur however there have been a range of African famines not from the inability to obtain sufficient food.

This topic is a complex and historical one, the strings for this issue has been set for centuries. Overall it can be traced down into 5 main roots and that’s where you can derive the problem.

European colonization is a major historical issue for the world, but it has laid the seeds for the food insecurity found in Sub-Saharan Africa today European colonization of Africa, which began in the 19th century, significantly disrupted traditional agricultural practices and food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. Colonizers imposed cash crop farming and export-oriented agriculture, often at the expense of local food production. This exploitation led to the depletion of natural resources and the disruption of indigenous food systems, exacerbating food insecurity. (Ogega et al.)

Sub-Saharan Africa is vulnerable to impacts caused by climate change, including droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall patterns. These climatic challenges have heavily affected agricultural productivity, making it difficult for communities to grow enough food to sustain themselves. Climate-related disasters have further exacerbated food insecurity in the region. (UNFCC)

Economic instability in many countries within Sub-Saharan Africa has contributed to food insecurity. Factors such as political conflicts, corruption, and ineffective governance have hindered efforts to address poverty and improve food access. Economic downturns and currency fluctuations have also made it difficult for households to afford nutritious food, leading to malnutrition and hunger.

Global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and regional conflicts have worsened food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pandemic-related lockdowns disrupted supply chains and hindered access to food, particularly for vulnerable populations. Additionally, conflicts in countries like South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have displaced millions of people, disrupting agricultural activities and exacerbating food shortages.

Finally rapid population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has put immense pressure on food resources. With the population projected to reach 1 billion by 2055, the demand for food is expected to increase significantly. This demographic trend exacerbates existing food security challenges, making it imperative to develop sustainable food systems to meet the needs of future generations. (Onyeaka et al.)

Overall, the problem of promoting good nutrition and sustainable food systems for children in Sub-Saharan Africa has persisted due to a combination of historical injustices, environmental challenges, economic instability, and global crises. Despite efforts to address food insecurity, the problem remains complex and multifaceted, requiring coordinated action at local, regional, and international levels.



Involved Parties

USA

The United States donated \$2.5 billion in emergency aid and medium to long-term food security assistance to develop African food systems and supply markets, which builds upon over \$11 billion in U.S. humanitarian and food security assistance for this year alone. They also have partnerships with the African union in order to develop food security. Additionally, the USA has played a leading role in advocating for evidence-based policies and strategies to address malnutrition, collaborating with governments, international organizations, and civil society groups. Furthermore, the USA supports research and innovation in nutrition, investing in projects aimed at improving agricultural productivity, enhancing access to nutritious foods, and promoting sustainable farming practices. Through humanitarian assistance, the USA provides critical aid during food crises and emergencies in Sub-Saharan Africa, ensuring access to food, nutrition screening, and treatment services for vulnerable populations. Overall, the USA's multifaceted efforts underscore its commitment to improving nutrition outcomes and advancing sustainable food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. ("Food Security and Covid-19: Averting a Crisis of 'Biblical Proportions'"), (FAO), (House), (The World Bank), (Thelwell), (World Food Programme)

UK

The United Kingdom (UK) has been actively engaged in promoting good nutrition and sustainable food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, they give significant financial aid towards this. For instance, in 2020 alone, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) invested approximately £197 million in nutrition-specific interventions across Africa. This funding has supported various initiatives, including supplementary feeding programs, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition education efforts, aiming to combat malnutrition and food insecurity. Additionally, the UK advocates for evidence-based policies and strategies to improve nutrition outcomes, collaborating with governments, international organizations, and NGOs. Its support extends to research and innovation, with investments in research institutions and partnerships focused on addressing the root causes of malnutrition and scaling up successful approaches. The British red cross also works actively with local communities in Sub-Saharan Africa donating them food and other resources. These multifaceted efforts underscore the UK's commitment to international development and improving health outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa. ("Africa Food Crisis: The Red Cross Response"), (FAO), ("G7 Food Security Working Group Financial Report on Food Security and Nutrition for 2021"), (The World Bank) (World Food Programme)

Germany

Germany has been involved in promoting good nutrition and sustainable food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa through various initiatives and programs. Germany has allocated substantial financial resources towards these endeavors. For example, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) invested over €800 million in food security and nutrition-related projects worldwide in 2020, with a significant portion directed towards Sub-Saharan Africa. This funding has supported a range of initiatives, including agricultural development programs, nutrition education campaigns, and capacity-building efforts aimed at enhancing food security and improving nutritional outcomes in the region. Additionally, Germany has played a leading role in advocating for evidence-based policies and strategies to address malnutrition, collaborating with governments, international organizations, and civil society groups. Overall, Germany leverages its expertise and resources to contribute to global efforts to combat malnutrition and food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. (FAO) (The World Bank) (World Food Programme) (Wudil et al.)

Ghana



Ghana has made significant strides in addressing malnutrition and promoting sustainable food systems within its borders. The government's initiatives have yielded tangible results, with notable impacts on nutrition outcomes. For instance, Ghana's School Feeding Program has provided nutritious meals to over 2.5 million children in more than 9,000 public schools across the country, contributing to improved school attendance and academic performance. Additionally, community-based nutrition programs have reached millions of mothers and children, resulting in increased breastfeeding rates and improved access to essential nutrients. Furthermore, agricultural development efforts have led to a significant increase in food production, with agricultural output growing by an average of 5.7% annually over the past decade. These achievements reflect Ghana's commitment to addressing malnutrition and food security setting an example for other countries around them. (FAO), ("Ghana - 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) - Ghana"), (The World Bank) (World Food Programme)

South Africa

South Africa tried to promote good nutrition and sustainable food systems within its borders. The government's efforts have led to impacts on nutrition outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations. For instance, South Africa's National School Nutrition Program provides daily meals to over 9 million schoolchildren, significantly contributing to improved nutrition and learning outcomes, especially among those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Additionally, community-based nutrition programs have reached millions of individuals, focusing on maternal and child health, breastfeeding promotion, and micronutrient supplementation. Moreover, South Africa's agricultural development initiatives have resulted in notable progress, with agricultural output growing by an average of 3% annually over the past decade, enhancing food production and access to nutritious foods. These achievements underscore South Africa's commitment to addressing malnutrition and food insecurity and serve as a model for other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. (FAO), (Ouko and Odiwuor), (The World Bank) (World Food Programme)

Russia

Russia has been involved in various initiatives aimed at promoting good nutrition and sustainable food systems, both domestically and through international collaborations. Domestically, Russia war with Ukraine has led to some issues with Grain transport and has implemented the crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. Internationally, Russia has engaged in partnerships with organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to address global food security challenges. While specific statistics regarding Russia's contributions to Sub-Saharan Africa in this regard are not readily available, its involvement in global initiatives underscores its commitment to combating hunger and malnutrition on a broader scale. (FAO), (The World Bank) (World Food Programme)

Previous Attempts

Various international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), World Bank, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have implemented aid and development programs aimed at addressing food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa.



These initiatives often focus on providing food aid, improving agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable farming practices, and enhancing access to clean water and sanitation.

Several initiatives have been launched to improve agricultural development and increase food production in Sub-Saharan Africa. These projects often involve providing farmers with access to improved seeds, fertilizers, and farming techniques. Additionally, efforts have been made to promote agroforestry, crop diversification, and small-scale irrigation systems to enhance resilience to climate change and attempts to improve food security.

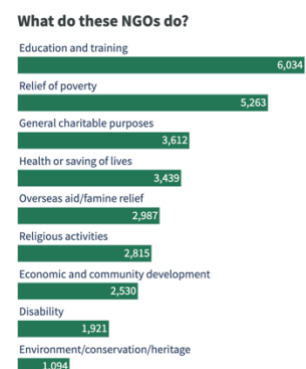
Nutrition-specific interventions, such as feeding programs, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition education, have been implemented to address malnutrition and improve the nutritional status of children in Sub-Saharan Africa. These programs aim to prevent stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies, particularly among vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and young children. (“Climate Change and Chronic Food Insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa”)

Some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have implemented policy reforms aimed at addressing food insecurity and promoting sustainable food systems. These reforms may include investment in rural infrastructure, land tenure reform, market liberalization, and social protection programs targeting the most vulnerable populations. However, the effectiveness of these policies varies depending on the political context and implementation capacity.

The United Nations has been actively involved in addressing food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa through various initiatives. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and other UN agencies provide technical assistance, funding, and coordination support to national governments and local partners. These efforts aim to strengthen agricultural resilience, improve food distribution systems, and enhance nutritional outcomes. (Ogega et al.)

Numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operate in Sub-Saharan Africa, implementing projects and programs to address food insecurity and malnutrition. These organizations work at the grassroots level, providing humanitarian assistance, supporting community-based agriculture initiatives, and advocating for policy change. NGOs play a crucial role in complementing government efforts and filling gaps in service delivery. (“Sub-Saharan Africa | NGO Explorer”)

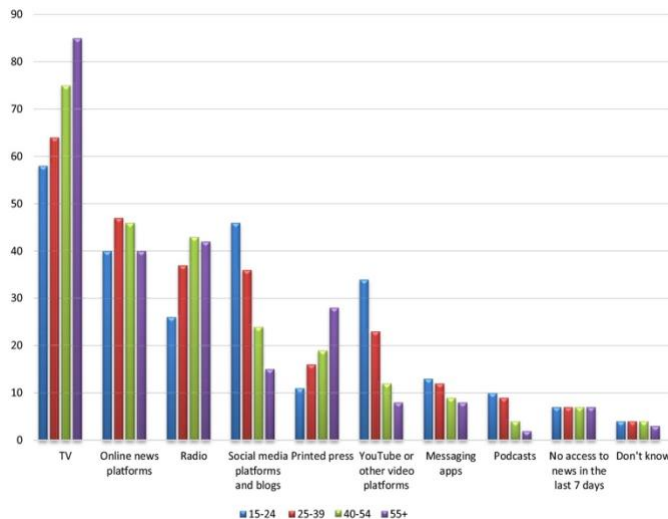
Despite these previous attempts, significant challenges persist in addressing food insecurity and promoting sustainable food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. The complex interplay of environmental, economic, social, and political factors requires sustained and coordinated efforts from governments, international organizations, civil society, and local communities to achieve lasting solutions.



Media Contribution

Media has played a critical role in developing the public's image of the food crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the root start of it public media such as news channels can report on the topic in which people can learn about it awareness spreads. However the information can be misconstrued depending on the outlet that it is found on.

The graph below is the most recent Eurobarometer survey (2022) which states the media habits of most Europeans. (Fotopoulos)



With this the importance and overall usage of Television as a media source can be derived. Due to this it can be likely to assume that most people gain the information to issues such as the food nutrition crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa from places such as television or online news platforms.

Media has played a large part in bringing NGO's together to help solve this issue as it is a common ground for them to communicate on and to gain motivation to want to go and help. ("Sub-Saharan Africa | NGO Explorer")

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube serve as channels for advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns related to food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Non-profit organizations, activists, and individuals use social media to share information, raise funds, and mobilize support for initiatives addressing hunger and malnutrition. Social media campaigns have the potential to reach a wide audience and engage people in discussions about the crisis.

Overall, media plays a crucial role in shaping people's understanding of the crisis of promoting good nutrition and sustainable food systems for children in Sub-Saharan Africa. By providing information, raising awareness, and fostering dialogue, media coverage can contribute to efforts to alleviate hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity in the region. However, it is essential for media organizations to adhere to principles of accuracy, fairness, and sensitivity in their reporting on this complex and multifaceted issue.

Bibliography

Britannica. "Poverty | Definition, Causes, Types, & Facts." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 16

Nov. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/poverty.

"Climate Change and Chronic Food Insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa." *IMF*,

[www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-](http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/09/13/Climate-Change-and-Chronic-Food-Insecurity-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa-522211#:~:text=Key%20findings%20include%20%281%29%20Fiscal%20policies%20focused%20on)

[Papers/Issues/2022/09/13/Climate-Change-and-Chronic-Food-Insecurity-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa-](http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Papers/Issues/2022/09/13/Climate-Change-and-Chronic-Food-Insecurity-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa-522211#:~:text=Key%20findings%20include%20%281%29%20Fiscal%20policies%20focused%20on)

[522211#:~:text=Key%20findings%20include%20%281%29%20Fiscal%20policies%20focused%20on](http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Papers/Issues/2022/09/13/Climate-Change-and-Chronic-Food-Insecurity-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa-522211#:~:text=Key%20findings%20include%20%281%29%20Fiscal%20policies%20focused%20on). Accessed 3 Apr. 2024.

Fotopoulos, S. "Traditional Media versus New Media: Between Trust and Use." *European*

View, vol. 22, no. 2, SAGE Publishing, Oct. 2023, pp. 277–86,

<https://doi.org/10.1177/17816858231204738>. Accessed 8 Jan. 2024.

Kyere, Paul, et al. "Effectiveness of School-Based Nutrition Interventions in Sub-Saharan

Africa: A Systematic Review." *Public Health Nutrition*, vol. 23, no. 14, July 2020,

pp. 1–11, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1368980020000506>.

New World Encyclopedia. "Sub-Saharan Africa - New World Encyclopedia."

Newworldencyclopedia.org, 2019, www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sub-Saharan_Africa.

"Nutrition." *WHO | Regional Office for Africa*, 2018, [www.afro.who.int/health-](http://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/nutrition)

[topics/nutrition](http://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/nutrition).

Ogega, Obed M., et al. "How to Transform Africa's Food System." *Communications Earth &*

Environment, vol. 5, no. 1, Feb. 2024, pp. 1–3, [https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-](https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01250-9)

[01250-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01250-9).



- Onyeaka, Helen, et al. "Beyond Hunger: Unveiling the Rights to Food in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Food and Energy Security*, vol. 13, no. 1, Wiley-Blackwell, Jan. 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1002/fes3.530>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2024.
- Owolade, Adedoyin John-Joy, et al. "Malnutrition: An Underlying Health Condition Faced in Sub Saharan Africa: Challenges and Recommendations." *Annals of Medicine & Surgery*, vol. 82, Oct. 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amsu.2022.104769>. Accessed 3 Apr. 2024.
- "Sub-Saharan Africa | NGO Explorer." *Ngoexplorer.org*, ngoexplorer.org/region/undp/sub-saharan-africa.
- UNFCCC. "Climate Change Is an Increasing Threat to Africa." *Unfccc.int*, 27 Oct. 2020, unfccc.int/news/climate-change-is-an-increasing-threat-to-africa.
- Yinuo. "Fast Facts – What Are Sustainable Food Systems?" *United Nations Sustainable Development*, www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fast-facts-what-are-sustainable-food-systems/.
- "Africa Food Crisis: The Red Cross Response." *British Red Cross*, www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/africa-resilience-programmes.
- FAO. "Home." *PRD-FAO Home*, 2021, www.fao.org/home/en.
- "Food Security and Covid-19: Averting a Crisis of 'Biblical Proportions.'" *Investec*, www.investec.com/en_za/focus/beyond-wealth/food-security-and-covid-19.html.
- "G7 Food Security Working Group Financial Report on Food Security and Nutrition for 2021." *GOV.UK*, www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-food-security-working-group-financial-report-on-food-security-and-nutrition-2021/g7-food-security-working-group-financial-report-on-food-security-and-nutrition-for-2021. Accessed 3 Apr. 2024.



“Ghana - 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) - Ghana.”

ReliefWeb, reliefweb.int/report/ghana/ghana-2020-comprehensive-food-security-and-vulnerability-analysis-cfsva.

House, The White. “FACT SHEET: U.S.- Africa Partnership to Promote Food Security and Resilient Food Systems.” *The White House*, 15 Dec. 2022,

www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/15/fact-sheet-u-s-africa-partnership-to-promote-food-security-and-resilient-food-systems/#:~:text=President%20Biden%20announced%20an%20additional.

Ouko, Kevin Okoth, and Modock Oketch Odiwuor. “Contributing Factors to the Looming Food Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities for Policy Insight.” *Cogent Social Sciences*, vol. 9, no. 1, Feb. 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2173716>.

The World Bank. “World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty, & Sustainability.” *World Bank*, 2023, www.worldbank.org/en/home.

Thelwell, Kim. “US to Provide Food Security Assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *The Borgen Project*, 13 Sept. 2022, borgenproject.org/food-security-assistance-in-sub-saharan-africa/. Accessed 3 Apr. 2024.

World Food Programme. “World Food Programme.” *Wfp.org*, 2023, www.wfp.org/.

Wudil, Abdulazeez Hudu, et al. “Reversing Years for Global Food Security: A Review of the Food Security Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 19, no. 22, Jan. 2022, p. 14836, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192214836>.

