

On the frontline of the food crisis

Tackling extreme hunger in conflict-affected communities



With the support of Christian Aid, Zaina Bunyemu has begun a business selling cassava flour to provide for her family.

Every £1 donation results in an additional £20



World Food Programme

Hunger + conflict: a complex global crisis

Hunger and conflict are complex and interrelated. Today more than 811 million people globally are food insecure and more than 54 million people are on the brink of famine. More than 60% of people living in hunger are in areas wrought with war, violence or long-term conflict.

While there are many causes of hunger, including climate shocks and the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict is one of the greatest contributors to the world's hunger crises. And these crises are cyclical. Food insecurity drives conflict, while conflict drives further food insecurity, pushing more people deeper into hunger.

War tears lives apart and forces people to flee their homes. Families lose their land and have no way to grow food or earn money for their most basic needs. They face extreme hunger, and children and mothers are disproportionately affected.

Together with the World Food Programme, Christian Aid is working to support vulnerable people in these dangerous situations – first to get the food they need to survive, and then to support them as they restore their livelihoods so that they can support themselves for the long term.

811m food insecure people in the world

60% of the world's hungry live in conflict areas

44% increase in costs to provide aid, compared to 2019



‘People, displaced by conflict, are not where they should be. What I see in the communities is that people would prefer if they were providing for themselves. At Christian Aid, we don’t just provide food or cash, or meet the immediate need and then leave. We work with the communities to ensure that we can equip them to provide for themselves’

Sophie Kaonongera,
Humanitarian Response Manager
the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Christian Aid and the World Food Programme working in partnership

Sophia in the DRC, has been able to hire help to farm her land and buy clothes for her grandchildren with the support she received from the programme.



Our programmes aim to break the cycle of food insecurity and support people to re-establish their self-reliance

Emergency cash assistance – empowering people with vouchers and cash to enable them to make their own choices on what they need while supporting the local markets

Cash for work – restoring ways to earn an income for displaced people living in refugee camps

Livelihoods support – supporting people with new income generating skills to set up small businesses, rebuild their livelihoods and improve the infrastructure in their communities

Since 2019, Christian Aid has been working together with the World Food Programme as an implementing partner to tackle food insecurity in conflict-affected areas of Bangladesh, the DRC and Nigeria.

Though many families have been positively impacted through this partnership and the generosity of Christian Aid supporters, food insecurity and conflict are on the rise. The need to reach people facing hunger today is more urgent than ever.

Working in partnership, WFP provides the operational ability, scale and resources to deliver assistance to those in greatest need, while Christian Aid brings its deep connections with local communities to direct aid where it is needed the most.

Standing together, we are providing a lifeline for families who urgently need this support.

In the following pages, you will hear from Christian Aid staff who are delivering this work, as well as from those whose lives have been impacted.

Bangladesh: empowering Rohingya refugees

More than 900,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar since 2017 and are living in crowded camps near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where they are at high risk of natural disaster and dependent on humanitarian aid.

With your help, Christian Aid is giving vulnerable families in camps and host communities an opportunity to earn money and build resilience while improving hygiene facilities and infrastructure with cash-for-work programmes.



Shuvo Roy

Monitoring, Evaluation
and Learning Officer

'The communities have huge challenges regarding their shelter, their education and treatment'

'Most of the camps are in the hills, and due to heavy rainfall there are sometimes landslides. For the people we work with, one of the main challenges is overpopulation.'

'Our programme focuses on disaster risk reduction in the camps. Participants from the community are engaged with us for a 15-day work cycle each month. We provide 50% cash and 50% vouchers as payment of cash-for-work. Community members can use these vouchers to purchase things that are necessary – mostly food related – in the shops.'

'We must also continue to work with them with livelihood activities. This is the solution. Income-generating activities are more sustainable.'

926,500

Rohingya refugees
in Bangladesh

86%

of Rohingya refugees
are food insecure



Cox's Bazar

Shomshu's story

Shomshu Alam is a 31-year-old Rohingya man living with his family in a camp in Cox's Bazar since fleeing atrocities in Myanmar in 2017. In his early days at the camp, Shomshu was totally dependent on the basic support offered by humanitarian organisations to feed his family.

When Shomshu was recruited into Christian Aid's Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project, his life found new purpose. This project engages the community to bring positive changes to the camps, such as constructing pathways and drainage systems, and fortifying bridges and slopes to improve the disaster preparedness of the community. These projects allow camp members to earn cash for their work, and intentionally provide work opportunities for vulnerable and excluded groups, such as women and people with disabilities.

Shomshu is now able to buy the food and medicine his family needs. He has even saved enough for his wife to begin her own small business growing vegetables and rearing poultry.



Shomshu and his wife have begun a new business with money saved from cash-for-work support.

The Democratic Republic of Congo: reaching the hungry with emergency assistance

The DRC is home to one of the largest hunger crises in the world, fueled by more than 25 years of armed conflict and widespread displacement.

Most families traditionally rely on farming to grow their own food, but armed groups have made access to their crops almost impossible. These families now rely on aid and the kindness of host communities to meet their needs and feed their children.

With your support, Christian Aid is aiming to reach 150,000 people with emergency cash assistance, primarily vulnerable groups like internally displaced people, pregnant and nursing women and children under five.



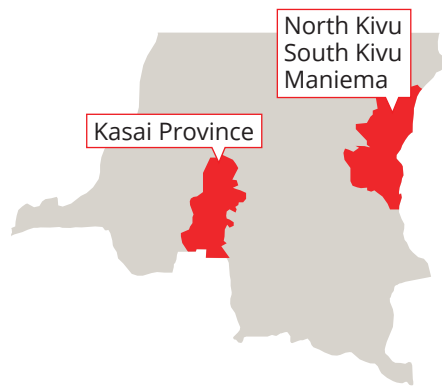
Jackson Sungapay

Emergency Project Officer in Bukavu, South Kivu

'For me, the best part of my work is when we deliver assistance. We have to help save people's lives'

"The challenges in the DRC are great. There are so many people who are vulnerable, but we cannot provide everyone with assistance. Many families have also taken in additional children when their own families cannot support them. Because of the bad roads, security challenges and areas controlled by different groups, a two-day distribution trip may take more than four days. But despite the challenges and the danger, we know we must continue this work."

Naba cooks to feed the 20 people taking refuge in her home.



27 million people in the DRC are food insecure

3.4 million children are malnourished

Naba's story

Naba Makiambi, a single mother and cassava farmer, lives in a small village in South Kivu, which has become a host community to many displaced families who have fled their homes because of violence.

In 2021, Naba welcomed two displaced families into her home. The hardest thing, she said, was to find food for more than 20 people because the harvest was insufficient. 'We only ate once per day, and despite the insecurity, I was forced to take all the adults to the field with the hope of returning with more food,' Naba said. 'It was hard to live in this situation.'

Through financial support provided through Christian Aid, Naba was able to buy rice, semolina and oil to feed her own family and those she had taken in.



Northeast Nigeria

Nigeria: meeting urgent needs in prolonged conflict

Ongoing violence in northeast Nigeria for more than a decade has displaced millions – and this number continues to grow.

When Christian Aid began its partnership work with WFP in Nigeria in 2019, the number of people facing food insecurity was approximately 2.89 million. Today, this number has reached more than 9.2 million people and is predicted to continue to rise.

In northeast Nigeria, Christian Aid supplies cash relief for vulnerable families in severe need, together with nutritional support, hygiene programmes and skills training to help people to rebuild their lives.



Mukhtar Kura
Senior Programme
Coordinator Food
Security and Nutrition

‘During the onset of the crisis in northeast Nigeria, my family members were affected by the insurgency. They had to leave their ancestral home and seek shelter in a different community. That’s when I developed the passion to help people. With the coming of aid organisations to this area, I saw the need to provide support on a very large scale. The crisis affected me on a personal level. I try as much as possible to provide relief for our project participants to the best of my ability.’

‘What gives me great pleasure is to see the smiles on the faces of project participants when they’re engaged in the activities. When people become more empowered, they have greater say within their families.’

9.2 million people in Nigeria are food insecure
300% increase in food insecurity since 2019

Zainab’s story

Zainab Abor and her husband used to own a business that allowed them to provide for their children and have a comfortable life. When war destroyed their village, Zainab and her family were forced to flee. They risked their lives, walking for a week to find a new place to settle.

In her new home in Malakyariri, Zainab joined Christian Aid’s Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Programme, where she chose to learn food processing as a way to earn income. Beginning with making and selling noodles, Zainab saved the money she earned, then expanded her business to selling peanuts, then chin-chin – a local Nigerian snack.

With this income, Zainab has begun to rebuild her life. She sends her children to school tells us that her family can eat, sleep and live better again.

‘I was traumatised from the terrible experience during the insurgency, but now I’m overwhelmed because Christian Aid stopped me from crying. I wish there will be more people like me that are able to live sustainably.’



Zainab learns to make noodles to rebuild her income.

Stand with your global neighbours facing conflict and hunger

Will you join us to support conflict-affected families in Bangladesh, the DRC and Nigeria who are facing the devastating dual impacts of conflict and extreme hunger?

By supporting this work today, every £1 you give results in an additional £20 toward this urgent need through our partnership with the World Food Programme.

Project name:

Addressing extreme hunger in conflict-affected communities

Project partner:

World Food Programme (WFP)

Project location:

Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria

Target numbers:

296,676 household members directly
Up to 883,380 people indirectly

Cost per person:

£3.30 per person



Christian Aid staff deliver life-saving support to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

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