

SE22: The Cost of Humanitarian Inaction. Unpacking the effects of reduced funding on food security – Experiences from Somalia and Uganda

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Organized by: WFP - World Food Programme; University of California, Davis; Kagin's Consulting

Description

Resources are failing to keep pace with ever-growing humanitarian needs in the face of shocks, resulting in widening unmet requirements. The inability to meet the increasing demand for humanitarian needs raises a critical question: What are the costs of inaction for both potential beneficiaries of assistance and non-beneficiaries, in both the short and long run? These adverse consequences analysed include short-term “costs”, such as increased malnutrition, poor health outcomes, and heightened vulnerability to food insecurity. Over time, these short-term impacts can compound, especially if shortfalls in humanitarian assistance persist. Long-term costs include stunted growth in children, reduced educational attainment, and diminished economic opportunities, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. The study also looks at economic instability and social tensions rise, impacting broader community development and national stability. This study, a follow-up to a previous regional study that focused on the macro effect of reduced funding, will focus specifically on two countries: Somalia and Uganda.

