

# ANNUAL REPORT <sup>2023</sup>



**ACTION  
AGAINST  
HUNGER**



**ACTION  
CONTRE  
LA FAIM**

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# LAND RECOGNITION

We recognize that our work takes place on Indigenous territories across Turtle Island and pay tribute to their legacy and the legacy of all First Peoples of Canada.

Today, the traditional meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the communities that have grown in the treaty lands of the Mississaugas.

We acknowledge that we are all treaty people and accept our responsibility to honour all our relations.

# A MESSAGE FROM ONOME AKO, CEO

Throughout 2023, we have witnessed families and communities face some of the most unprecedented challenges of our time.

East Africa was ravaged by catastrophic drought. Türkiye and Syria suffered devastating earthquakes. Violent conflict escalated throughout Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan.

Around the world, conflict, climate change and the increased cost of food are pushing over 733 million people into food insecurity. Now more than ever, the world needs united action to prevent catastrophic hunger from taking hold.

In the following pages, you'll discover how Action Against Hunger teams are working tirelessly to build a future where no one goes to bed hungry.

With the support of our donors and partners, in 2023, our teams intensified efforts in the fight against hunger, reaching over 21 million people worldwide. From Türkiye and Syria to Gaza and Sudan, we were on the ground, providing crucial support to those most in need.

Every day, I am in awe of my colleagues' remarkable resilience. In 2023, the world saw the deadliest year on record for humanitarian workers, including the tragic loss of one of our own staff members who gave their life in service to others.

In places like Gaza and Sudan, where delivering vital humanitarian aid has been both dangerous and limited, our local teams have stepped up to provide essential nutrition, healthcare, clean water, and shelter to those affected.

Their resilience is reflected in the communities they serve, who continue to demonstrate incredible strength despite unimaginable hardships. While ending hunger is Action Against Hunger's mission, it is the extraordinary determination of the people we serve that brings our vision to life.

As we look ahead, we anticipate that conflict and climate change will continue to drive global hunger, requiring a robust and coordinated response.

These realities can make hope seem out of sight. But our hope comes from the resilience of our dedicated donors, the communities we partner with, and the dedication of our staff.

We can respond. We can help. We can do great things, together.

With Gratitude,



**ONOME AKO**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Action Against Hunger Canada

## OUR VISION

A world free from hunger.

## OUR MISSION

We take action to end hunger and its root causes worldwide. We respond to crises and partner with local communities to prevent, detect and treat malnutrition. We promote change to policies, practices and inequalities that perpetuate hunger.

## OUR PRINCIPLES

### INDEPENDENCE

Action Against Hunger acts according to its own principles in order to maintain its moral and financial independence. Action Against Hunger's actions are not defined in terms of domestic or foreign policies, nor does the organization act in the interest of any government.

### NEUTRALITY

Action Against Hunger maintains a strict political and religious neutrality. Nevertheless, Action Against Hunger can denounce human rights violations it witnesses as well as obstacles put in the way of its humanitarian activities.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION

A victim is a victim. Action Against Hunger rejects all discrimination based on ethnicity, nationality, opinion, race, religion, sex, or social class.

### PROFESSIONALISM

To maximize its efficiency and use of resources, Action Against Hunger bases the assessment, conception, management, and realization of its programs on the highest professional standards and its years of experience.

### FREE AND DIRECT ACCESS

Action Against Hunger demands free access to victims and direct control of its programs. Action Against Hunger uses all means available to achieve this goal and will denounce and act against obstacles that prevent the organization from doing so.

Action Against Hunger also verifies the allocation of its resources to ensure that they reach those individuals for whom they are destined. Under no circumstances can partners working together with or alongside Action Against Hunger become the ultimate beneficiaries of Action Against Hunger's aid programs.

### TRANSPARENCY

Action Against Hunger is committed to respecting a policy of transparency and disclosure for its beneficiaries, donors, and partners by making available all information on the allocation and management of its funds, and by providing independent verification of its good management.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2023

Our mission is to save, improve and protect lives by eliminating hunger through the prevention, detection, and treatment of undernutrition, especially during and after emergency crises caused by situations of conflict, displacement, poverty, discrimination, inequality, or natural disaster.

From crisis to sustainability, we tackle the immediate, underlying and root causes of undernutrition and its effects through a multi-sectoral approach.

By designing our programs with local communities, integrating them into national systems, and working with partners, we ensure that short-term interventions are translated into long-term solutions.

In 2023, we supported 21 million people, delivering meaningful impact for them and their communities.

Our work is delivered through several different sectoral focuses. These consist of nutrition & health, food

security and livelihoods (FSL), water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

Our most common activities relate to nutrition and health, with the majority (52 percent) of the people we support receiving such assistance.

In many of the areas in which we work, people receive more than one intervention as our programs often integrate multiple sectors.



**21M**

**People assisted**

**People assisted by our programs**

**10,977,857**



**Health & Nutrition**

**6,821,120**



**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene**

**2,334,771**



**Food Security & Livelihood**

**268,083**



**Disaster Risk Reduction**

**655,423**

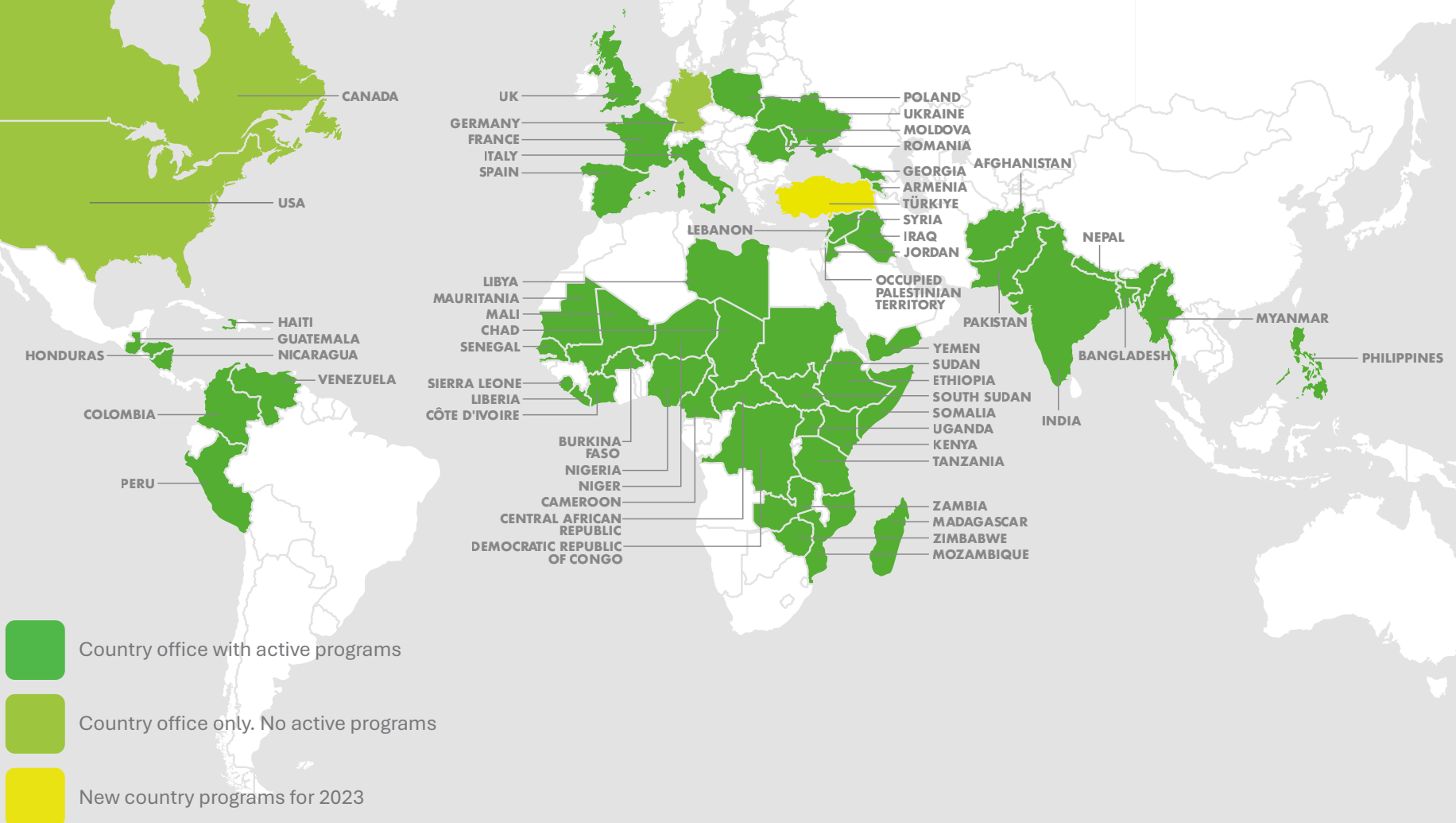


**Psychosocial Support**



## WHERE WE WORKED IN 2023

In 2023, we ran programs in 56 countries.



# SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATION'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals are set by the United Nations (UN) to bring peace and prosperity to people and the planet. Our work at Action Against Hunger helps achieve the following SDGs:

## ZERO HUNGER

At Action Against Hunger, we work with communities to address the root causes of hunger, which impacts nearly 1 in 3 people worldwide. Our technical expertise detects, treats, and prevents malnutrition, ensuring communities receive immediate support during crises.

## GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Through our local partnerships, we train health workers and strengthen the capacity of communities. Our projects in health, nutrition, food security, and psychosocial support, help the most vulnerable to achieve good health and wellbeing.

## GENDER EQUALITY

We recognize that gender inequality and gender-based violence are drivers of hunger — and that emergencies heighten risks for women and girls. Action Against Hunger is committed to empowering women and girls, and transforming gender and power relations in all that we do. We are committed to upholding the rights of all women, men, girls and boys and people of diverse abilities, genders and identities both within our organization and in the communities we work with.

## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Our programs ensure communities have access to water through water storage tanks, new and rehabilitated wells, hand pumps, and piped water connections. We promote sanitation and hygiene practices, which are crucial to health and well-being.

## CLIMATE ACTION

We work with communities to combat climate change by implementing sustainable agricultural practices. These include crops that survive extreme weather conditions, vegetable gardens that use less water, and information systems that help livestock herders find grazing lands.



Photo: © Francois Lenoir





**OUR WORK IN 2023**

Photo: © Lys Arango



## HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

When emergencies strike, Action Against Hunger is there to provide life-saving aid. We collaborate closely with local government agencies, non-governmental organization partners, and community leaders to deliver efficient and effective relief to communities devastated by disasters.

Our reach extends across Africa, South Asia, the Middle East, and South America, often operating in areas inaccessible to many other organizations. Whether people are fleeing from conflict or facing the effects of the climate crisis, our mission remains steadfast: to offer essential nutrition, health, water, shelter, and psychosocial support.

In the past year, violent conflicts and extreme weather events have led to major humanitarian crises, pushing 733 million people into hunger.

Throughout 2023, our response efforts were extensive, spanning 47 emergencies across 34 countries worldwide. From the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria to the conflict in Gaza and the hunger crisis in East Africa, we swiftly assessed emergency needs and provided essential care.

### OUR RESPONSE IN 2023

**47 EMERGENCIES**

**34 COUNTRIES**

**19 DEPLOYMENTS**

## EMERGENCY NUTRITION SUPPORT

Action Against Hunger Canada co-hosts the GNC's Operations Team, which provides programming assistance to minimize gaps and strengthen action in humanitarian crises.

The GNC Operations Team helps strengthen emergency response efforts by connecting practitioners to relevant resources, offering remote and in-country support, coordinating global working groups, managing a roster of vetted nutrition consultants, and hosting global educational webinars.

In 2023, the GNC Operations Team provided support to 51 countries experiencing or preparing for emergencies.

This support covered diverse contexts, including protracted crises like the drought in Somalia, rapid-onset crises such as the earthquake in Syria and Türkiye, and regional crises like the migrant crisis in Latin America.



## Türkiye & Syria Earthquakes: Rebuilding Hope

The Türkiye and Syria earthquakes on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, had devastating consequences killing thousands and leaving more than three million people without shelter.

Our teams mobilized in the early hours after the earthquake to provide urgent support.

Over the past year, our programs have reached more than 400,000 people with health, nutrition, livelihood, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support.

For people like Lama, a teacher from Aleppo, these programs have restored some sense of

normalcy after the earthquakes turned their lives upside down.

Until the end of 2023, Lama and her four children lived in a school converted into a shelter with over 200 other families.

After our teams witnessed these families' living conditions, they quickly got to work installing new water taps, showers, toilets, and solar panels to generate electricity for heat and light.

*"Now, with the solar panel system, we have light and hot water, and life has returned to be somewhat normal, as if we were in our homes,"* said Lama.



**"Initially, there were no services, not enough toilets, showers, or lighting.**

**There were over 200 families using only 5 toilets.**

**We went the first 15 days without showering," explained Lama**

*Photo: © Özge Sebzeci*

member of the  
**HUMANITARIAN  
COALITION** 

Action Against Hunger is proud to be part of the Humanitarian Coalition, partnering with 11 other leading aid organizations to provide rapid support during times of crisis.

In 2023, we worked with our partners to raise funds and respond to the drought in East Africa, the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes, and the conflict in Gaza. Together, we raised more than \$65 million and reached nearly 3 million people with vital support.

# NUTRITION

Malnutrition is one of the greatest threats to child survival worldwide and the underlying cause of nearly half of all child deaths. Action Against Hunger’s expertise in saving malnourished children’s lives is internationally renowned, thanks to our more than four decades of experience working where hunger is most severe and entrenched.

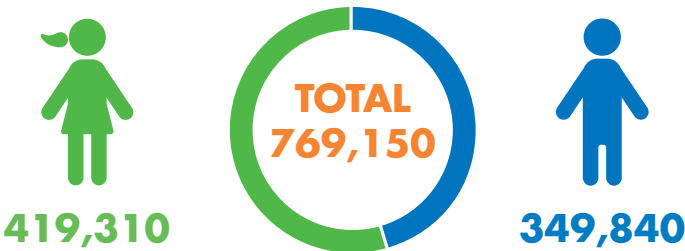
From isolated rural communities to overcrowded urban slums to refugee camps, we prevent and treat malnutrition in more than 56 countries around the world.

We work in humanitarian emergencies and in more stable contexts to improve the health and survival of the most vulnerable children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

At the core of our nutrition work is screening children under five to detect malnutrition early in life so that it can be more easily cured.

This screening happens at several levels in hospitals, health centres, and communities but also in households, as we are training parents and caregivers to identify malnutrition in their own children.

## NEW OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE



# HEALTH

Everyone deserves access to the essential healthcare they need to live healthy, nourished lives. That’s why we lend our support and technical expertise to strengthen health systems and nutrition services around the world.

Central to our approach is collaborating with local health organizations and community health workers to better understand their needs and build local capacity.

Through our partnerships, we work to ensure equitable, effective, and efficient health services can reach the most vulnerable, particularly women and children.

In times of crisis, we strengthen and rebuild critical health infrastructure that may have been damaged or destroyed.

As stability returns, we work with our local partners to adapt our programs to existing public health systems and train community health workers and volunteers. That way, when Action Against Hunger departs, local staff are empowered to sustain health and nutrition services for long-term impact.



Photo: © ACF Canada



## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA

Action Against Hunger Canada partners with Global Affairs Canada to provide vital humanitarian assistance during crises.

Whether responding to major international emergencies or smaller disasters, we deliver crucial nutrition, healthcare, clean water, and mental health support to those in need.

This year, Global Affairs Canada provided support to our humanitarian response in 15 countries, including Ethiopia, South Sudan and Gaza.

Together, we worked to improve and save the lives of women, children, and newborns during times of crisis. By focusing on these vulnerable groups, we help build stronger families and communities, giving children the best chance to survive and thrive.

In addition to our humanitarian work, we partner with the Global Affairs Canada to implement multiple long-

term development projects throughout Africa and Latin America that promote gender equality and empower women and girls with the resources they need to thrive.

Because we know that when crises strike, gender inequalities are often exacerbated, leaving women and girls particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, gender-based violence, and poverty.

Together, we work to improve the health and wellness of the most vulnerable women and children by expanding equitable access to quality healthcare, water, and nutrition services.

Our programs foster new ways to empower women, change power dynamics, and improve systems to ensure everyone has enough food, nutrition, and water. With a focus on gender equality, we work to stop gender-based violence, and give women a voice.

### People assisted by Global Affairs Canada



**2,292,599**

Health & Nutrition Services



**395,256**

Sexual & Reproductive Health Services



**114,899**

Food Security and Livelihoods



**1,098,699**

Psychosocial Support



**660,562**

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



**10,483**

Emergency Cash Transfers

## From Risk to Recovery in Somalia

Safiyo Haji Abdi, her husband, and their eight children were among the millions of people in Somalia who faced a long-term drought that led to extreme hunger, displacement, and inequity throughout the country.

The drought killed their 15 goats—their primary source of income—and forced the family to leave their home for the city of Baidoa, 40 kilometers away, which is home to a camp for internally displaced people.

Added to their challenges was that Ali, Safiyo's eight-month-old child, became ill with fever, cough and loss of appetite.

Concerned about her son's deteriorating condition, Safiyo sought help from an Action Against Hunger medical centre in the camp supported by Global Affairs Canada. At the centre, Safiyo learned that Ali was severely malnourished and had a respiratory infection.

After receiving treatment from our teams, Ali's condition improved significantly. He continued to recover under close monitoring, gradually regaining his health.

Thanks to the support of Global Affairs Canada, Ali and nearly 180 other children were treated by the centre, helping them restore their health and a brighter future.



Photo: © Ahmed Issack

## SMART INITIATIVE

In many regions facing severe malnutrition, a lack of timely and dependable data on nutrition and mortality rates prevents governments and humanitarian workers from creating an effective emergency response.

Action Against Hunger Canada leads the global SMART Initiative, a leader in nutrition information systems, who leverage the power of data to predict and respond to hunger crises through a network of organizations and humanitarian practitioners.

Using the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey methodology, we gather

nutrition and other public health information that predicts and detects malnutrition, providing decision-makers with quality data to better understand nutritional needs and effectively develop a humanitarian response.

In 2023, the Global SMART Initiative conducted 52 surveys across seven countries. To deepen their impact, the SMART Initiative also trained 89 professionals from the United Nations, international NGOs, academia, and independent consulting, empowering them to lead future survey efforts and build critical capacity in the field.

The SMART Initiative has had a significant impact in countries like Nigeria, where child malnutrition is on the rise. Nigeria ranks second globally among the countries with highest cases of children with malnutrition. Since 2016, the SMART Initiative has been working in the Northwest and Northeast regions to understand better and address this growing crisis. As a result of their efforts to train additional data collectors and implement more surveys, 748,000 children with severe acute malnutrition were identified and treated in 2023, saving countless lives.



This year marked the exciting launch of SMART+, a new digital infrastructure designed to revolutionize how we collect, analyze, and share data to pinpoint malnutrition hotspots and deliver targeted humanitarian responses using SMART Methodology.

SMART+ consists of four interlinked tools that encompass the entire data collection and reporting chain: a mobile application, a centralized survey management platform, a data aggregator, and a live visualization dashboard.

For its rollout, Ethiopia and Nigeria were chosen as focal points, with 27 surveys conducted across seven organizations. In Nigeria, SMART+ empowered teams to uncover the root causes of rising malnutrition rates and craft a more informed emergency response. Through this initial SMART+ roll-out alone, 17,225 children under five years of age were assessed for malnutrition, with 2,289 children identified as acutely malnourished and referred for treatment.



## WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

We can't fight life-threatening hunger without tackling the waterborne diseases that contribute to it. Safe, clean, and accessible drinking water and proper sanitation are crucial to human health and well-being. However, the effects of climate change and conflict are creating a global water and sanitation crisis.

Unsafe water sources, poor sanitation and hygiene expose billions of people, particularly children and the vulnerable, to a wide range of preventable diseases that are major contributors to global malnutrition and mortality rates.

Action Against Hunger has developed its water and sanitation expertise over three decades, advancing solutions for populations at risk from water insecurity. Our ability to deliver clean water is central to our comprehensive solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

This year, we helped over 6.8 million people through our various water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs. We responded as droughts became more frequent and severe, floods contaminated water sources, and conflicts destroyed WASH-related infrastructure.



**6,821,120**

People were helped with Water, Sanitation & Hygiene programs

## Improving School Sanitation & Empowering Students In Tanzania

Until last year at the Lupeta Primary School in the Mpwapwa District in Tanzania, there were just seven toilet holes for 1,100 students. The toilets were frequently full of waste, smelled, and lacked cleaning supplies.

These poor sanitation and hygiene facilities caused health issues, like urinary tract infections, stomach problems, and diarrhea, and forced children to frequently miss school due to illness.

Many students, particularly the girls, would wait in long lines or go home in the middle of the day to use the bathroom – losing even more valuable learning time in the classroom.

Having access to clean, safe toilets means that students can spend more time in class. That's why our teams partnered with the school to build 20 new toilets for the students to use. Now, students can safely and quickly use the bathrooms without missing out on any learning.

They've also learned about basic hygiene practices. The students now wash their hands after using the bathroom, and both the girls and the boys have broken down stigmas around menstruation, allowing girls to better manage their periods at school with dignity.



Photo: © Toby Madden

## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

While Action Against Hunger works to treat malnutrition and provide support in humanitarian disasters and conflicts, we also look to find sustainable ways to build strength and resilience in communities so that they can support themselves indefinitely. It is this motivation and this philosophy that means we focus on supporting livelihoods to tackle life-threatening hunger.

Even though the world produces enough food to feed the entire population, three out of eight people across the globe could not access a healthy diet last year. Conflict and violence prevented millions of people from accessing food, while climate change and natural disasters reduced the availability and increased the cost of many food supplies.

Having ‘access’ to a healthy diet means more than just having nutritious food available; it also means having enough money to buy that food and safely get to the food supply – be that in a market or on your own land.

That is why Action Against Hunger’s food security and livelihood programs create tailor-made solutions for communities struggling to meet their basic needs.

Throughout the year, we implemented hundreds of programs designed to boost families’ income so they can make money, live well, and buy what they need to survive and thrive.



Photo: © Ben Stevens

### The Integrated Fight Against Chronic Malnutrition

**Project**, funded by Global Affairs Canada, aims to empower women in Mali through agriculture. By learning to sell their crops and enhance their economic opportunities, women can improve food security and reduce chronic malnutrition in their communities.

## OUR WORK IN 2023



2,334,771 people received Food Security & Livelihood Assistance



497,000 people were enrolled in supplementary feeding programs



241,000 people were trained in food security and livelihoods



## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Hunger, conflict, and natural disasters can have a significant impact on someone's mental health. The constant danger and the daily battle for food and water can cause immense psychological stress and emotional suffering that can undermine people's ability to eat a nutritious diet.

That's why we run programs that improve the psychosocial well-being of women, men, and children during and after crises.

Our outreach teams provide group and individual therapy sessions, organize awareness campaigns in the community, and train teachers and community leaders on psychological first aid and mental health awareness.

In 2023, our psychosocial support programs reached over 655,423 people, a significant increase from 192,912 in 2022.

## GENDER EQUALITY

Gender inequality is a major cause and consequence of hunger and poverty. Women and girls are over-represented among people who are food insecure, because they are often denied basic human rights – such as the right to own land, and access to decent work, education, and health services.

Our vision of a world without hunger is only possible if we put the rights of women, girls, and people of all identities and abilities at the heart of all we do, alongside the right to gender equality, and the safety and dignity of people affected by crisis.

Addressing gender inequality across all aspects of our work is essential to ensure food security for all, tackling poverty and social injustice, and achieving sustainable outcomes from our programs across all sectors.





# FINANCIAL REPORT

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Assets - Current</b>		
Cash	9,405,814	1,216,697
Short-term investment	429,732	621,100
Grants and other receivables	969,157	1,106,045
Sales taxes recoverable	300,059	166,532
Prepaid expenses and deposits	44,778	164,601
Receivables, grant advances - other Action Against Hunger agencies	–	4,757,685
	11,149,540	8,032,660
Tangible capital assets	40,865	41,878
Intangible assets	1,838,694	1,331,331
	13,029,097	9,405,869

# Statement Of Financial Position As At December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Liabilities – Current</b>		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	1,101,647	627,562
Deferred grants	6,234,982	6,834,261
Accounts payable - other Action Against Hunger agencies	3,427,232	
	10,763,861	7,461,823
Loans and other payables - other Action Against Hunger agencies	292,422	538,485
Deferred contributions related to intangible asset	840,336	737,333
	11,896,619	8,737,641
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Invested in capital assets	1,039,220	635,876
Unrestricted	-516,817	-577,723
Internally restricted	610,075	610,075
	1,132,478	668,228
	13,029,097	9,405,869

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Program revenue	37,996,458	39,207,323
Professional services	1,161,990	1,436,946
Donations	647,033	665,778
Revenue from Action Against Hunger International	363,497	596,529
Management fees and other	734,729	495,627
Government assistance		-
	40,873,703	42,402,203

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs	35,889,179	38,317,656
Salaries and benefits	3,489,340	3,356,437
Fundraising	306,240	398,148
General and administration	309,301	220,993
Rent	59,700	64,888
Travel	46,043	63,408
Telecommunications and information technology	35,243	34,222
Interest and bank charges	6,749	13,296
Advertising	3,985	7,141
Amortization	211,362	26,360
	40,357,142	42,502,549
<b>Excess Of Expenses Over Revenue Before Other Items</b>	516,561	-100,346
Other items		
Foreign exchange gain	-52,311	67,272
<b>Excess of expenses over revenue</b>	464,250	-33,074

# THANK YOU

We've reached the end of another year, with 21 million people helped across 56 countries. It's all thanks to you—our donors, partners and colleagues.

In the most complex emergencies, you provide the resources, the pathways and the know-how to make a real difference on the ground. From East Africa to Sudan and Gaza, the arrival of an Action Against Hunger team could mean the difference between life and death in 2023.

Your generosity is all the more remarkable at a time when life is getting so much more expensive, and budgets are tight. We appreciate you trusting Action Against Hunger to ensure your dollars have the biggest possible impact. We value every dollar because the cost of our operations is rising, too. Fuel is up 50 per cent, and essential supports like seeds and fertilizer cost more, too.



**LESLIE CARTER**  
Board Chair

The journey toward achieving Zero Hunger is difficult, but it is so rewarding. We see success every day. In 2023, Action Against Hunger treated 750,000 children who were suffering from severe or moderate malnutrition. Imagine the relief of their families and loved ones, that our organization was there to support them in their most desperate hours. We're there because of you.

With deepest thanks,

Leslie



Photo: © Toby Madden





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