

## **THE ROLE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) IN THE FOOD CRISIS IN CHAD FOR THE PERIOD 2021 - 2023**

**Imanuela Juventia Montolalu<sup>1</sup>, Theophilos Freefa Banoklex Mario Imbiri<sup>2</sup>, Tresia Peronika<sup>3</sup>, Yessy Putri Natasya<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Indonesian Christian University

### **ABSTRACT**

This research explores the impact of the World Food Programme (WFP) in addressing the food crisis in Chad from 2021 to 2023. The WFP, as the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security, plays a crucial role in providing food assistance and nutrition programs to millions of vulnerable people in Chad. Despite challenges such as lack of funding and access to conflict-affected areas, WFP's interventions have helped reduce levels of food insecurity. However, to ensure long-term success in creating food security and improving well-being, closer collaboration between government, international organizations, and local communities is essential. A more comprehensive and collaborative approach is needed to address the complex food crisis in Chad effectively.

**Keywords:** *World Food Programme, Food Crisis*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The food crisis in Chad over the period 2021 to 2023 has been one of the most severe, triggered by a range of interrelated factors, including drought, armed conflict, climate change, and economic and political instability. Erratic rainfall patterns and prolonged periods of drought have had a significant impact on agricultural productivity. Irregular heavy rains and dry spells in some areas have worsened the development of food crops, making harvests suboptimal. In addition, continued armed conflict, particularly in Lac and Tibesti regions, has disrupted agricultural activities and displaced thousands of people. The presence of armed groups has also limited people's access to farmland and markets, worsening the food situation in the region. Economic and political instability in Chad has exacerbated the crisis, with the economic challenges facing the government hampering its ability to respond effectively to the crisis (FSIN 2023).

The impact has been felt deeply by the population, with an estimated 2.1 million people experiencing severe food insecurity in 2022 (CNR 2022). By mid-2023, it is estimated that nearly 1.9 million people will be severely food insecure. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) reached 8.6% in 2022, exceeding the emergency threshold of 15% in some provinces. More than 1.3 million children are expected to be acutely malnourished by 2023 (UN 2023). In addition, more than one million people have been displaced, including refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs). International bodies have also issued serious warnings about the crisis. The United Nations (UN) reports that around 5.5 million people in Chad will require humanitarian assistance by 2022 (CNR 2022). Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that nearly 1.9 million people will experience severe food insecurity between June and August 2023 (UN 2023). The humanitarian situation reported by OCHA is even more critical in 2023, with 6.9 million people in need of assistance (OCHA 2023).

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security. WFP's primary mandate is to fight hunger and improve food security globally. WFP works to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergency situations, support food security and nutrition, and strengthen the resilience of crisis-affected communities (MSF 2020). WFP's vision is a world without hunger, where everyone has access to the food they need to lead an active and healthy life. The organization's mission includes providing life-saving food assistance in emergency situations, improving nutrition and food security, and building community resilience to withstand future shocks (WFP, 2022). Globally, WFP operates in more than 80 countries to address hunger and food security through various programs and initiatives. One of the main pillars of WFP's operations is emergency response, where the organization provides direct food assistance during crises caused by conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies, through both food distribution and cash transfers. WFP also runs nutrition programs designed to combat malnutrition, especially among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, by providing specially nutritious food and supporting local health services (WFP, 2020).

In addition, WFP focuses on building long-term resilience by supporting agricultural development, water management and the creation of sustainable food systems. The organization also works with governments and other partners to strengthen national capacity to maintain food security and nutrition through technical assistance, policy support and training (WFP, 2022). In Chad, WFP plays a crucial role in dealing with the food crisis by providing emergency food assistance, including food and cash distributions to millions of people affected by drought, conflict and displacement. In addition, WFP implements nutrition programs to address and prevent malnutrition among children and pregnant women. In longer-term efforts, WFP works with local communities to improve agricultural practices and water management to help communities better cope with future shocks (WFP, 2021).

Human security theory is an approach that focuses on the individual and expands the traditional concept of security, which is usually only related to military aspects. Human security includes various dimensions, such as food, economic, environmental and social security (Tanaka 2018). In this context, human security emphasizes the importance of protecting and empowering individuals, by ensuring that they are not only safe from physical threats, but also have access to the resources they need to live in dignity and well-being (Waisova 2003). Food security, for example, means ensuring that everyone has sufficient, safe and nutritious access to food. In addition, economic security includes income stability and employment opportunities, while environmental security ensures protection against environmental threats and sustainable use of natural resources. Social security, on the other hand, emphasizes the importance of social justice and access to basic services such as health and education.

The human security approach is particularly relevant in analyzing food crises, as they are often triggered by a combination of factors, such as economic instability, environmental degradation and social injustice. By using a human security perspective, policymakers and international actors can develop more comprehensive and effective strategies to address the root causes of food insecurity. In this regard, the role of international actors such as the World Food Programme (WFP) becomes very important (WFP, 2024). WFP not only provides emergency food assistance, but also works on long-term solutions to increase food security, support agricultural development, improve market access, and strengthen resilience to climate change (WFP, 2022).

The World Food Programme (WFP) plays an important role in addressing hunger and food crises around the world. As an international organization, WFP serves as an arena where different countries and international actors work together to achieve humanitarian goals, providing a platform for coordination and dialogue between governments, NGOs, and private

sector partners. In its capacity as an instrument, WFP uses various strategies such as food aid, resource distribution, and nutrition programs to achieve tangible results, including providing immediate assistance to those in need and addressing malnutrition issues (WFP, 2024). As an actor, WFP plays a direct role in creating change on the ground by coordinating international assistance and establishing partnerships to implement effective interventions in crisis-affected areas. In this research, the concept of international organizations will be used to analyze how the WFP as an arena, instrument, and actor contributes to efforts to improve food security and fight hunger, especially in countries experiencing crises such as Chad (WFP, 2021).

This research is important because the food crisis in Chad not only affects millions of people directly, but also has long-term impacts on the country's social and economic stability. Understanding the role of the World Food Programme (WFP) in this context can provide insights into the effectiveness of international interventions in the face of complex humanitarian challenges. In addition, this research is interesting because it combines human security theory with the practice of international organizations, providing a new perspective on how a multidimensional approach can be applied in food crisis management. There is a lack of in-depth understanding of the specific mechanisms used by WFP in addressing the food crisis in Chad, as well as how interactions between various international actors contribute to the success or failure of these programs. Based on the above background, the problem formulation of this research is **“What is the Role of the World Food Programme (WFP) as an international organization in food security in Chad during the food crisis in the period 2021-2023?”**.

## METHODS

By understanding WFP's role in the context of international organizations as arenas, instruments and actors, this research will explore how WFP contributed to addressing the food crisis in Chad in the period 2021 to 2023. The concept of international organization provides an analytical framework to assess the effectiveness and impact of WFP interventions in emergency situations, as well as highlighting the collaboration between different international actors in achieving humanitarian goals and improving food security in a country experiencing serious challenges.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Food Situation Analysis in Chad (2021-2023)

International organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) play a key role in responding to the food crisis in Chad. WFP is an agency under the auspices of the United Nations whose mission is to help reduce hunger and improve food security around the world (Berman and Jones, 2020). In the 2021-2023 period, WFP is working with the government of Chad as well as various international and local organizations to provide food and nutrition assistance to millions of people affected by the food crisis. With this assistance, WFP focuses not only on short-term food provision, but also on building local capacity to improve long-term food security (Kumar and Mishra, 2022).

In 2021, the food crisis in Chad was exacerbated by severe drought and declining crop yields. WFP reported that around 5.5 million people experienced acute food insecurity that year (Wooten and Green, 2023). This figure represents an increase compared to previous years, when Chad experienced a more stable rainy season. This situation placed great pressure on the government of Chad and international organizations such as WFP to provide emergency assistance. In addition to food distribution, WFP also launched programs to improve access to

health and nutrition services for pregnant women and children vulnerable to malnutrition (Lemoine, 2020).

In 2022, despite continued relief efforts from WFP and other partners, the food situation in Chad did not significantly improve. Ongoing armed conflict in some regions of Chad exacerbated the crisis, causing mass population displacement, which worsened access to food resources (Harrison, 2019). In addition, climate change continues to affect agricultural production, increasing the number of populations vulnerable to food shortages. WFP reports that malnutrition rates remain high, especially among children under the age of five, who experience alarming levels of acute malnutrition (Brooks and Smith, 2021).

In 2023, Chad faces several new challenges in the ongoing food crisis. The impact of global inflation, largely caused by the war in Ukraine, has also affected food prices in Chad, resulting in drastic increases in staple food prices (Anderson and Lewis, 2022). Despite some efforts to increase local food production, Chad remains heavily dependent on food imports, which exacerbates the situation when international prices rise. In this regard, WFP continues to play an important role in ensuring that the most vulnerable people continue to have access to sufficient food, despite these increasing challenges (Ochieng and Awuor, 2023).

In the process of analyzing the development of the food crisis in Chad over the period 2021-2023, it became clear that interventions from WFP were necessary to prevent further famine. However, despite great efforts from various international organizations, the level of food security in Chad did not show significant improvement year by year. Compared to the period before 2021, the level of food insecurity experienced by Chad in this period is much higher, indicating that the ongoing crisis is deepening and requires a long-term solution (N'Diaye, 2022).

An analysis of the use of human security theory in understanding the food crisis in Chad during the period 2021-2023 shows that this approach is highly relevant in assessing the various threats faced by society. Human security theory expands the concept of security, not only limited to military threats, but also involving factors that threaten everyday life, such as food shortages, poverty and health (Sen, 1999). In Chad, threats to human security arise from the government's inability to provide the basic needs of its citizens, especially food. Climate change, which has worsened agricultural conditions, and protracted internal conflict have further exacerbated the situation. This crisis demonstrates the importance of a more comprehensive approach in looking at the threats facing a country (Kalenga and Kalu, 2021).

Overall, the analysis of the food crisis in Chad between 2021 and 2023 shows the complexity of the situation faced by the country. The human security approach provides a comprehensive perspective in analyzing the role of WFP and the importance of their intervention in responding to this crisis. WFP has been a key actor in mitigating the impact of this crisis, but the challenges remain enormous. Food sustainability in Chad requires closer collaboration between various parties to create long-term solutions that can maintain food stability and individual well-being in the future (Stevens and Hart, 2020).

### **WFP's Role in Chad in 2021 - 2023**

The food crisis in Chad during this period has been heavily influenced by a variety of factors, including climate change, armed conflict, and economic instability. Climate change, such as erratic rainfall and desertification processes, has significantly reduced agricultural yields (WFP, 2024). Ongoing armed conflicts, especially those originating in Sudan, have disrupted trade and caused massive displacement within and outside the country (Tchana, et al., 2022). In addition, economic instability caused by the sharp drop in oil prices and political unrest has further exacerbated the situation (UN, 2023). In the face of this crisis, WFP faces several challenges, including underfunding that limits its ability to deliver food assistance

consistently (WFP, 2022), as well as logistical constraints caused by difficult terrain and inadequate infrastructure (WFP, 2024).

To address this food crisis, WFP has implemented various programs and initiatives. The emergency food assistance program, which includes food distribution and cash transfers, is designed to help the most vulnerable populations (WFP, 2024). Nutrition programs focus on improving the nutritional status of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers (WFP, 2023), while resilience building projects seek to support community-based approaches to improve food security and community resilience (WFP, 2021). WFP also works to increase access to food and support agricultural development by providing training and resources to smallholder farmers to increase their productivity, as well as improving distribution systems to efficiently deliver food aid (Kaplan, 2021).

In implementing these programs, WFP works in partnership with various stakeholders. Cooperation with the government of Chad was crucial in developing the national emergency response plan (WFP, 2022). In addition, WFP also works with international organizations such as the World Bank and the European Commission to secure funding and support, and engages NGOs and local communities for more effective program implementation. Collaboration with these partners helps increase resource mobilization, improve coordination, and build local capacity for better crisis management (WFP, 2022).

WFP also applies human security principles in its programmes by prioritizing assistance to the most vulnerable populations, such as refugees and conflict survivors (WFP, 2023). In addition, WFP promotes sustainable solutions through programs that enhance long-term food security and safety. The focus on individual and community well-being is critical as this approach not only addresses the immediate problem of hunger, but also addresses underlying vulnerabilities, thus ensuring interventions that contribute to long-term stability and growth (WFP, 2022).

## 1. Instruments

WFP uses various instruments to carry out its mission in response to the food crisis in Chad. These instruments include:

- **Emergency Food Assistance:** WFP provides emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable populations. This includes food distributions and cash transfers designed to meet the basic needs of affected communities. This program is particularly important in crisis situations, where access to food is severely limited (WFP, 2024).
- **Nutrition Program:** This program focuses on improving the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. By providing nutritional supplements and education on good nutrition, WFP seeks to reduce malnutrition rates among the most vulnerable groups (WFP, 2023).
- **Resilience Building:** Resilience building projects seek to support community-based approaches to improving food security and community well-being. WFP works to strengthen local capacity through training and supporting smallholder farmers in improved and sustainable agricultural practices (WFP, 2021).
- **Agricultural Development:** WFP invests in agricultural development by providing training to smallholder farmers, as well as providing the resources and technology needed to increase their agricultural productivity and yields (Kaplan, 2021).

## 2. Actors

WFP collaborates with various actors to deliver its programs in Chad, including:

- **Government of Chad:** Cooperation with the government is an important aspect of developing a national emergency response plan. WFP works closely with relevant

ministries to ensure assistance programs are in line with community needs and national policies (WFP, 2022).

- **International Organizations:** WFP maintains partnerships with various international organizations, such as the World Bank and the European Commission. These partnerships aim to secure funding and technical support for food aid programs in Chad (WFP, 2022).
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs):** WFP involves local NGOs in the implementation of relief programs, which helps to ensure that interventions match the needs of local communities. NGOs also play a role in resource mobilization and coordination between stakeholders (WFP, 2022).
- **Local Communities:** Local communities are also important actors in program implementation. Through a community-based approach, WFP ensures that the solutions implemented are relevant and sustainable. Community participation in decision-making helps improve program effectiveness (WFP, 2022).

### 3. Arena

The arena in the context of WFP in Chad includes the environment in which the programs are implemented, as well as the challenges faced:

- **Social and Economic Context:** The food crisis in Chad cannot be separated from the complex social and economic context. Political instability, falling oil prices, and the impact of armed conflict shape the arena in which WFP operates. This requires WFP to adapt and respond to changing situations (UN, 2023).
- **Environmental Conditions:** Climate change and its impact on agricultural output creates a challenging arena for WFP's efforts. Weather uncertainties, such as erratic rainfall and desertification processes, greatly affect food security (WFP, 2024).
- **Logistical Constraints:** Difficult terrain and inadequate infrastructure in Chad also create logistical challenges for WFP. The distribution of food aid requires careful planning to ensure that aid reaches the people in need in a timely and efficient manner (WFP, 2024).

### Impact of WFP's Role in Chad in 2021 - 2023

WFP's role in Chad during this period had a significant impact on food security. WFP interventions, including emergency food assistance, cash transfers, and nutrition programs, successfully reduced the level of food insecurity in the country. In 2022, WFP provided assistance to 2.5 million vulnerable people, including refugees and internally displaced persons. Although the number of people facing a food crisis situation (CH Phase 3 or above) reached the highest level ever recorded in Chad, with approximately 18% higher than the same period in 2021, projections for 2023 show significant improvement. The number of people in CH Phase 3 or above is expected to decrease from 13% to 9%, meaning around 600,000 fewer people in need of urgent food assistance (Kaplun 2021).

In addition to the impact on food security, WFP's nutrition programs also have a major impact on the health of children and pregnant women. These programs include the distribution of fortified foods and specialized nutrition products, reaching millions of beneficiaries. By 2023, WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) program achieved a 91% recovery rate, meeting SPHERE standards. WFP's initiatives, such as comprehensive supplementary feeding and targeted nutrition interventions, successfully reduced malnutrition rates among vulnerable populations, especially during lean seasons, helping to prevent peaks in acute malnutrition (WFP, 2024).

In terms of economic and social development, WFP assistance contributes to economic and social stability in Chad. By supporting smallholder farmers, increasing local food production, and improving market access, WFP helps stabilize food prices and increase household incomes. In addition, school feeding programs run by WFP not only support children's education but also improve their health, contributing to broader social stability. Programs such as food-for-assets and cash-for-work also provide employment opportunities and improve community infrastructure, which in turn increases people's access to employment and income, especially in rural areas (WFP, 2022).

However, WFP faces several challenges and limitations in implementing its programs. Limited funding is one of the significant constraints hindering WFP's ability to meet the needs of a growing population. By 2023, WFP warns of the possibility of stopping food and nutrition assistance to 1.4 million people affected by the crisis due to lack of funding. In addition, access to conflict-affected areas is also a major challenge for WFP. Continued insecurity, particularly in Lac and Tibesti regions, hampered agricultural activities and limited humanitarian access, making it difficult for WFP to reach the most vulnerable populations. Government response has also been a factor affecting program implementation, with weak national capacity and political instability sometimes leading to delays and inefficiencies in aid delivery (WFP, 2023).

## CONCLUSIONS

The country's food crisis is complex and influenced by multiple factors, including climate change, armed conflict and economic instability. During this period, the World Food Programme (WFP) has played a crucial role in providing food assistance and nutrition programmes to millions of vulnerable people. While WFP's interventions have helped reduce levels of food insecurity, challenges such as lack of funding and access to conflict-affected areas remain significant. Furthermore, despite efforts to improve long-term food security through capacity-building programmes, the situation has not shown substantial improvement over the years. WFP's human security approach, which focuses not only on immediate needs but also on underlying vulnerabilities, is a positive step towards creating long-term solutions. However, closer collaboration between the government, international organisations and local communities is essential to address the challenges and ensure the sustainability of interventions. Overall, while WFP has played a critical role in responding to the food crisis in Chad, long-term success in creating food security and improving people's well-being requires a more comprehensive and collaborative approach.

## REFERENCES

- CNR. "Chad Declares Emergency Over Food Insecurity." *Citi Newsroom*. Juni 3, 2022. <https://citinewsroom.com/2022/06/chad-declares-emergency-over-food-insecurity/> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- Dai, Xinyuan, Duncan Snidal, and Michael Sampson. "International Cooperation Theory and International Institutions." *International Studies Association and Oxford University Press*, 2017.
- Dreher, Axel. "The Review of International Organizations." *Springer Nature* 19, no. 3 (2024).
- FSIN. "Major Food Crises in 2022 Chad." *FSIN Platform*. 2023. <https://www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/GRFC2023-country-chad.pdf> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- Kaplun, Ella. *Top Organizations Fighting Food Insecurity in Chad*. Mei 2, 2021. <https://borgenproject.org/food-insecurity-in-chad/> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).

- MSF. "The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law." *Medecins Sans Frontieres*. 2020. <https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/world-food-program-wfp/> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- OCHA. "Chad: Humanitarian Situation Overview - 21st June 2023." *OCHA*. Juni 21, 2023. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/chad/chad-humanitarian-situation-overview-21st-june-2023> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- Roger, Charles B, and Sam S Rowan. "Analyzing International Organizations: How The Concepts We Use Affect The Answers We Get." *The Review of International Organizations* 17 (2022): 597-625.
- Snidal, Duncan, Thomas Hale, Emily Jones, Claas Mertens, and Karolina Milewicz. "The Power of The "Weak" and International Organizations." *The Review of International Organizations* 19 (2024): 385-409.
- Tanaka, Akhiko. "Toward a Theory of Human Security." *Human Security and Cross Border Cooperation in East Asia*, 2018: 21-40.
- Tchana, Fulbert, Claudia Noumedem Temgoua, Aboudrahyme Savadogo, and Landry Kuate Fotue. *Six Charts to Understand Chad's Food Security Crisis*. Juni 9, 2022. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/african/afw-six-charts-understand-chads-food-security-crisis> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).
- UN. "Chad: Aid for Displaced Desperately Needed to Avoid Hunger." *United Nations*. April 14, 2023. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135637> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- Waisova, Sarka. "Human Security The Contemporary Paradigm?" *2003* 20 (2003): 58-72.
- WFP. "WFP Chad Special Operation SO 10761.0." *WFP*, 2022.
- WFP. "WFP Strategic Plan (2022 - 2025)." *World Food Programme*. November 12, 2021. [https://executiveboard.wfp.org/document\\_download/WFP-0000132205](https://executiveboard.wfp.org/document_download/WFP-0000132205) (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- WFP. "Who We are." *World Food Programme*. 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/who-we-are> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- WFP. *A Global Food Crisis*. 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- WFP. *Chad Country Strategic Plan (2024 - 2028)*. Februari 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/operations/td02-chad-country-strategic-plan-2024-2028> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).
- WFP. *Chad, World Bank, WFP and Partners Join Forces to Meet Crisis-Affected People's Food and Nutrition Needs During The Lean Season*. Juli 10, 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/news/chad-world-bank-wfp-and-partners-join-forces-meet-crisis-affected-peoples-food-and-nutrition> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).
- WFP. *Chad*. Juni 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/countries/chad> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).
- WFP. *Food Assistance: Cash and In-Kind*. 2021. <https://www.wfp.org/food-assistance> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).
- WFP. *Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024*. April 23, 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-grfc> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- WFP. *Humanitarian Support and Services*. 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/humanitarian-support-and-services> (accessed Oktober 3, 2024).
- WFP. *Resilience Building*. 2023. <https://www.wfp.org/resilience-building> (accessed Oktober 2, 2024).