

# #GameChangers2030

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With the power of the pen, we can change the capital that is available to multilateral development banks that will remove the barriers that currently exist for us to fight poverty.

- Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados
- [source](#)

With an intensifying climate crisis, all-too-frequent natural disasters, unparalleled supply chain disruptions, surging global inflation, and rising interest rates, low-income countries are being pushed to the brink by multiple global crises they did not cause – and the heaviest burden is falling on those who can afford it least.

## a global malnutrition and hunger crisis

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- The scale of the current global hunger and malnutrition crisis is enormous, with an expected 345.2 million people projected to be food insecure – more than double the number prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More than 900,000 people worldwide are fighting to survive in famine-like conditions. This is ten times more than five years ago, an alarmingly rapid increase.
- The ongoing global food crisis comes on top of already dire global child malnutrition statistics, with 22% of children under 5 stunted\*, and 7.3% wasted\*\*

\* *Stunting refers to a child who is too short for their age. These children can suffer severe irreversible physical and cognitive damage that accompanies stunted growth. The devastating effects of stunting can last a lifetime and even affect the next generation.*

\*\* *Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for their height. Wasting is the result of recent rapid weight loss or the failure to gain weight. A child who is moderately or severely wasted has an increased risk of death, but treatment is possible.*

Even before these crises, 59.6% of people in low-income countries were moderately or severely food insecure in 2019. The ongoing overlapping crises have only exacerbated already fragile nutrition and food security situations worldwide, with people living in low-income countries bearing the brunt. These same countries are the ones with the least domestic resources to prevent and respond to food and nutrition insecurity.

Furthermore, unsustainable debt levels and highly uncertain foreign aid budgets – such as Canada’s 15% cut to international aid in Budget 2023 – are further squeezing low-income countries’ public spending and undermining their ability to provide life-saving assistance to their citizens. This means that many low-income countries need to find an external source of assistance to protect their communities placed most at risk.

## **climate change and malnutrition**

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- Climate change is a major threat to food security and good nutrition. It is eroding gains made and disproportionately impacting low-income countries.
- Floods, air pollution, earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires are destroying staple food crops, heavily affecting food and nutrition security.
- Climate change is threatening whole ecosystems that support food systems for hundreds of millions. Degrading soils diminish the nutritional value of the food we grow and disrupted water and sanitation environments.

The good news is that this is what multilateral development banks, like the World Bank, are for. As the number one funding source for nutrition in the world, the World Bank has committed to investing in early childhood development and to supporting people affected by extreme poverty to reach their full potential. In response to the ongoing hunger and malnutrition crisis, the Bank announced in May 2022 that it would build up its portfolio up to a significant \$30 billion in existing and new agriculture, social assistance and water supply projects through June 2023 to address global food and nutrition insecurity.

## **The World Bank: the world’s largest development institution**

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- The Bank funds poverty eradication work in two different ways. For middle-income countries, the Bank provides loans at the best rates available on the market, rates otherwise reserved for rich countries. For the 75 poorest and most vulnerable countries, the Bank uses a special arm, the International Development Association (IDA), which provides more favourable terms. In the 59 poorest countries, it provides non-repayable grants and for countries with acceptable credit ratings, it provides low interest (or no interest) long -term loans as well as very long grace periods before the first reimbursement installment is due.
- To pay for the grants and the interest subsidies, IDA seeks funding from donor countries every three years. The 21st cycle of financial replenishment (IDA 21) is due to be completed in 2024.
- Canada, a founding member of the World Bank and is represented on the Board of Governors that sets the course for the Bank’s work. Canada is also the eleventh largest shareholder to the World Bank and is currently the sixth largest donor to IDA, which gives us further leverage.

The problem is that an ongoing reform initiative at the World Bank is threatening to divert funding from the world's lowest income countries (IDA-eligible countries, see dropdown above).

As part of its [Evolution Roadmap](#), the World Bank is considering asking donor countries to subsidize World Bank loans to middle-income countries to make those loans more attractive to prospective borrowers. The Bank is rationalizing this shift by suggesting that this might provide middle income countries with additional resources to fight climate change and prepare for pandemics.

While this is a worthy objective, with donor funds already in short supply, there is a real threat that the trade-off will mean less future funding for low-income countries that are the least able to address current threats, like hunger and malnutrition.

**The ask:** Canada must ensure that aid funding by donors to the World Bank is not diverted away from the lowest income (IDA) countries who need it most. Canada must use its influence at the Bank to ensure that any new funding pledged towards middle-income countries is additional and does not result in reduced funding for IDA countries in future years.

## latest campaign news

### #GameChangers2030 (April 2023 - December 2023)

According to a new UNICEF report on the [State of the World's Children 2023](#), nearly 67 million children around the world missed out entirely or partially on the routine vaccines that keep them safe from deadly disease between 2019 and 2021. 48 million of them have not received a single dose. Find out how you can take action [here](#).

## story

### The World Bank in Senegal

In Senegal, the World Bank is addressing the multiple barriers that women face in accessing nutrition and finances for their families by supporting the national Nutrition Enhancement Program in areas with high prevalence of food insecurity and acute malnutrition in children under the age of five. Read more about the project [here](#).



*Women leaders (in blue) speaking to their peers.*

*Photo credit: ©Albert Yéra Boubane, CNDN.*

## **resources**

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- [Data dive: unlocking a million dollars for development](#)
- [A ten-point plan for the World Bank's president's first 100 days](#)
- [The World Bank's Evolution Roadmap](#)

**Watch the 2023 World Bank Spring Meetings Opening Press Conference:**



Watch Video At: [https://youtu.be/MWwmcCs9\\_Ys](https://youtu.be/MWwmcCs9_Ys)

## key dates

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May 5 - International Day of the Midwife  
May 8 - Mothers' Day  
May 15 - International Day of Families  
May 23 - International Day to End Obstetric Fistula  
May 21-30 - 75th World Health Assembly (WHA75)  
May 28 - Menstrual Hygiene Day

Check out our full [key dates calendar](#)

## key words

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World Bank  
Development financing  
Multilateral Development Banks  
Malnutrition  
Food security

## hashtags

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#GameChangers2030  
#GameChangers  
#WorldBank  
#DevelopmentFinancing  
#FoodSecurity  
#InvestInNutrition  
#Canada4Results

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