

UN Food Chief Warns Against Famine of “Biblical Proportions” Due to COVID-19

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David Beasley, Executive Director of the UN World Food Program (WFP), said that the number of people experiencing malnutrition will grow by 80% by the end of the year due to disruption in food growth and logistics worldwide cause by COVID-19. He stated, “Obviously social tensions will grow, migration will increase, conflicts will escalate and hunger will likely affect those who didn’t experience it before.” He said that the WFP feeds 138 million people and the UN organization needs \$4.9 billion over the next six months to keep its humanitarian programs running.

The Covid-19 pandemic may lead to a calamity of epic scale, with millions facing starvation worldwide, the head of the UN’s hunger-fighting body has warned.

“All the data we have, including WFP forecast that the number of people experiencing malnutrition will grow by 80 percent by the end of the year, ... points to a real disaster,” David Beasley, Executive Director of the UN World Food Program (WFP), said.

We are risking a famine of biblical proportions

The rapid increase in the number of people who can’t feed themselves will be just an immediate outcome of the pandemic, which caused a disruption of food growth and logistics worldwide. More long-term damage is bound to materialize in the years to come.

“Obviously social tensions will grow, migration will increase, conflicts will escalate

and hunger will likely affect those who didn't experience it before," the official **told** the Russian news agency TASS.

WFP projections say Latin American nations face the most dramatic change in their situation, with the number of malnourished people increasing by as much as 269 percent, Beasley said. The same metric for countries in Eastern and Central Asia stands at 135 percent. Sub-Saharan Africa may see the number of their hungry almost double.

Global hunger is already high, Beasley warned. Unless bold action is taken now, *"many will die, children will suffer from the consequences of malnutrition for many years, and the world will lose all the progress made in fighting hunger over the past decade,"* he said.

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