



World Vision responds: U.S. Crop forecast figures show little relief for people around the world facing high food prices

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Background

The latest crop forecast figures from the United States Department of Agriculture indicate American farmers will harvest dramatically less grain and soybeans than expected this year, signaling high prices and low global supplies will stretch into next year.

World Vision Canada's Director of Policy and Advocacy Integration, Wendy Therrien, had this response to the latest numbers:

"The latest crop forecast figures from the United States show there's little relief in sight for people around the world facing high food prices. While these higher prices may add to the headaches facing consumers in Canada, they could mean the difference between life or death for hundreds of thousands of people in Eastern Africa, where drought, famine and disease are claiming the lives of children every day. In Africa and in developing countries around the world, World Vision is concerned that people might not be able to afford the food that their families need to survive ."

"High food prices force people in developing countries to make difficult choices. Often, they spend as much as 80 percent of their income on food, meaning that there's less money for things such as school expenses, medical fees and new clothing. As we saw in the 2008 food crisis, children are often taken out of school to go out and find work to help feed their families. This means a new generation of lost opportunities to break the cycle of poverty."

"In the Horn of Africa, World Vision is engaged in providing emergency food relief, but also to work with small scale farmers to help them plant new drought-resistant crops, improve their harvests, and to provide better care for their livestock. These small steps can make a big difference in helping to reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid and provide a sustainable future for themselves and their families."

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