

GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS HURTS COMPASSION FAMILIES

THE NEED

Each night more than 300 million children go to bed hungry. Still, an emerging global food crisis threatens to widen this tragedy, forcing an additional 100 million people to go hungry. A perfect storm of natural disasters, rising oil prices, and reduction in food staples like rice and wheat has converged to make food unaffordable for millions already living in poverty. Families in developing countries can no longer afford either imported goods or the supplies to grow their own food. This crisis is predicted to be prolonged and painful. Sadly, children are bearing the brunt of it.

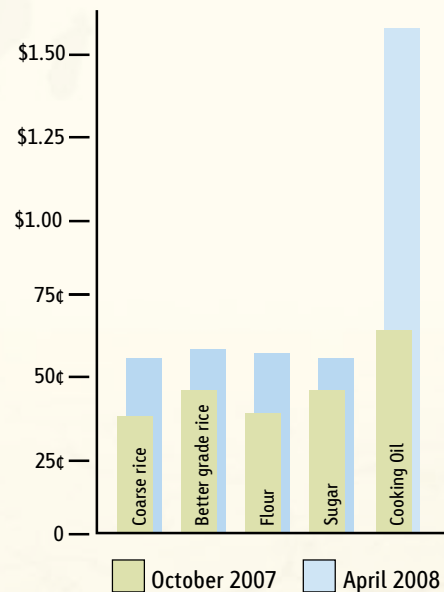
In Haiti, riots and violence have followed protests over high food prices. In Bangladesh, one kilo of rice cost just 31 cents three months ago. Now the cost is 56 cents — nearly double! When you make less than \$2 a day — the wages for more than 2 billion people around the world — higher food prices mean children must survive without even one meal a day.

COMPASSION-ASSISTED CHILDREN

Every region where Compassion works is affected by the crisis. Food shortages or rising inflation or both are crippling families. Compassion-assisted centers are paying more to provide meals for children, and other center activities are suffering because of the increase in food costs.

- **In Bangladesh**, 95 percent of the 11,782 children in 82 Compassion-assisted centers are affected. Many children are eating only one meal a day — the meal they receive at the Compassion-assisted center. **The country has requested hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide immediate food relief to children in need.**
- **In Haiti**, inflation rates have risen 40 percent, pushing up food prices. With eight out of 10 Haitians unemployed, buying food is nearly impossible for most families. All 60,000 children Compassion serves in Haiti have been affected. **Estimates project Compassion Haiti will need at least \$2 million and up to \$6 million to feed registered children and their families over the next few months.**

EXAMPLE OF SOARING FOOD PRICES IN RWANDA (PER KILOGRAM, OR 2.2 POUNDS)



Colorado Springs, CO 80997
 (800) 336-7676
compassion.com/gfc



Food for Today

Rice	
Beans	.91
Flour	\$ 1.25
Sugar	.95
Cooking Oil	.74
	\$1.96
	\$5.81
Today's Income	\$2.00
	- \$3.81

Phanius Jean-Baptiste, a Haitian farmer, earns about U.S.\$2 a day. Here is his grocery list detailing the food he needs to buy to feed his family of four for a day. As you can see, the cost significantly outweighs his income.

And this is just the beginning. Experts predict the combination of a weakening dollar, soaring oil prices, and reduction in food production will not dissipate. They are predicting this long-term crisis will tighten its grip on poor countries, causing more children and families to suffer.

OUR RESPONSE

Compassion is committed to ensuring each one of our children affected by the crisis receives relief. In the areas hardest hit by the crisis, such as Bangladesh and Haiti, Compassion is already offering immediate relief. Specific objectives include:

- Ensuring Compassion-assisted centers can operate normally, offering the same level of nutritional services
- Providing basic food supplies to Compassion-assisted children and their families for the immediate future
- Distributing seeds and agricultural tools so that families can grow their own food as well as have an opportunity to earn extra income

Total funding needed: To address this ongoing food crisis it is estimated that every country where Compassion works will need some type of food relief. Based on initial requests for assistance from our country offices, the current anticipated need is \$10 million. We expect this amount to increase as the crisis continues to unfold and additional countries request assistance.

PLEASE JOIN US

As a Christian child development organization, Compassion is committed to supporting the children entrusted to our care when a crisis strikes. We pray you will join us in restoring the lives of Compassion-assisted children affected by this crisis. **Please consider a contribution to our Global Food Crisis Fund by visiting compassion.com/gfc or calling us at (800) 336-7676, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT.** We also ask you to share this need with your network of friends and family, encouraging them to give to this cause as well.

Sources: Partners in Health; United Nations

My Dear Compassion Family,

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Thank you in advance for your willingness to give generously during this devastating emergency. My heart is heavy with the sad news emanating from our Compassion countries worldwide. This global food crisis is affecting our children and their families and even some of our workers.

While each of us may be feeling a pinch in our wallets at the grocery store, thousands of children are waking up wondering, "Will I get to eat today?" Families in poverty simply cannot cut back on spending. They were barely surviving before food prices soared. Now they have no other option than to go hungry.

Thank God for Compassion and our staff around the world. Already we are coming to the aid of thousands of children whose parents can no longer afford to buy food. Our international program staff is working furiously to come up with a global plan that will help each Compassion child adversely affected by this deepening crisis.

We are still trying to determine where the greatest needs are and how best to meet those needs. **We desperately need your help.** Isaiah 58 (NIV) tells us that if we help the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed then our "light will rise in the darkness."

Be a light to children struggling during this crisis. Please help us with this urgent need. I know you will do all you can.



What a privilege it is to be part of this family with you.

Sincerely in Him,

Wess Stafford

