

## UNFSS+4 UPDATES: Uganda and the Global Food Crisis: Key Findings from SOFI 2025



The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Session at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Food Systems Summit +4 in Addis Ababa on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Source (CSBAG)

**“In Uganda, some progress has been made, notably in reducing under-5 stunting, which declined from 2.1 million children in 2012 to 1.9 million in 2024. However, the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet has risen sharply, from 29.9 million in 2017 to over 35.6 million in 2024.”**

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report is an annual flagship publication jointly produced by five United Nations agencies: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and the World Health Organization. Since its launch in 1999, SOFI has served as the global reference point for tracking hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. It plays a critical role in monitoring progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), offering robust, evidence-based data and analysis to inform national and international policy decisions through assessing key indicators, including the prevalence of undernourishment, food insecurity, child stunting and wasting, overweight and obesity, and access to healthy diets.

The SOFI 2025 edition, launched during the UNFSS+4 Stocktake moment on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together high-level leaders from the UN, national governments, and development agencies marking a significant milestone, as it is the first to be officially launched on the African continent, underscoring a renewed commitment to inclusivity, regional engagement, and urgent action in addressing food and nutrition challenges globally.

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This year's report highlighted both notable progress and ongoing challenges. While global hunger saw a slight decline, the world remains significantly off track to meet SDG targets. Key findings include a reduction in child stunting from 26.4% in 2012 to 23.2% in 2024 and an encouraging increase in exclusive breastfeeding rates, from 37% to 47.8% over the same period. However, child wasting and overweight levels have remained largely unchanged. Alarming, between 638 and 720 million people, equivalent to 7.8% to 8.8% of the global population, faced hunger in 2024. Food price inflation was highlighted as a pressurizing factor on food security and nutrition, particularly in low-income countries. Nutritional gaps among young children are also a growing concern, with one-third of children aged 6–23 months lacking adequate nutrients, and 181 million children under 5 consume fewer than three food groups daily, putting their health and development at risk.

In Uganda, some progress has been made, notably in reducing under-5 stunting, which declined from 2.1 million children in 2012 to 1.9 million in 2024. However, the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet has risen sharply, from 29.9 million in 2017 to over 35.6 million in 2024. Of particular concern is the dramatic rise in overweight children under five, increasing from 5.2 million in 2012 to 10.7 million in 2024, signaling the growing double burden of malnutrition. In line with this, CSBAG continues to champion efforts to influence government financing strategies aimed at ending child malnutrition. By advocating for stronger policies and increased budget allocations, CSBAG seeks to ensure that food security and nutrition remain national priorities.

### **Recommended Action Points for Uganda.**

1. Enhance policy coherence and governance for food security and nutrition, especially in upcoming frameworks like UNAP III.
2. Enhance investment in demand-driven research and development, storage, and transport infrastructure to reduce food loss and improve value chains as a way of mitigating food price shocks.
3. Invest in climate adaptation, especially funding for climate-resilient agriculture, particularly in regions vulnerable to drought, shocks, and high food insecurity.
4. Invest in rural resilience by ensuring financial inclusion for smallholder farmers and the youth.
5. Address rising food costs through fiscal reforms, trade, policy adjustments, and deepening regional market integration.

### **Looking Ahead**

CSBAG remains committed to influencing Uganda's policy and budget decisions to ensure sustainable financing for food and nutrition security. The next steps will include leveraging SOFI 2025 data to inform Uganda's national strategies, particularly the forthcoming Uganda Nutrition Action Plan III, and empowering local CSOs to advocate effectively for inclusive and sustainable food systems. By ensuring effective financing and accountability, Uganda can take bold steps toward ending hunger and malnutrition for all.