



**ACTION  
AGAINST  
HUNGER**



**FEEDING THE  
CONVERSATION**

**Action Against Hunger's  
2025 Hunger Perception Poll**

## KEY FINDINGS

The majority of Americans see extreme hunger in poor countries as a threat to U.S. security. Americans also worry that changing weather patterns could jeopardize food security at home and abroad – although the impact of tariffs also is a concern.

To deal with these issues, the American public wants greater government action on hunger globally, including action to create a better global food system, increase in international aid to at least 1%, as well as support for low-income countries to pay for the costs of adapting to climate change. We continue to find bipartisan support for addressing global hunger, with the strongest support from younger generations, which could signal a long-term shift in the way global hunger and climate adaptation are prioritized.



**72%**  
OF AMERICANS BACK  
SPENDING AT LEAST



**1%**  
OF FEDERAL BUDGET  
on international aid,  
helping to End Hunger



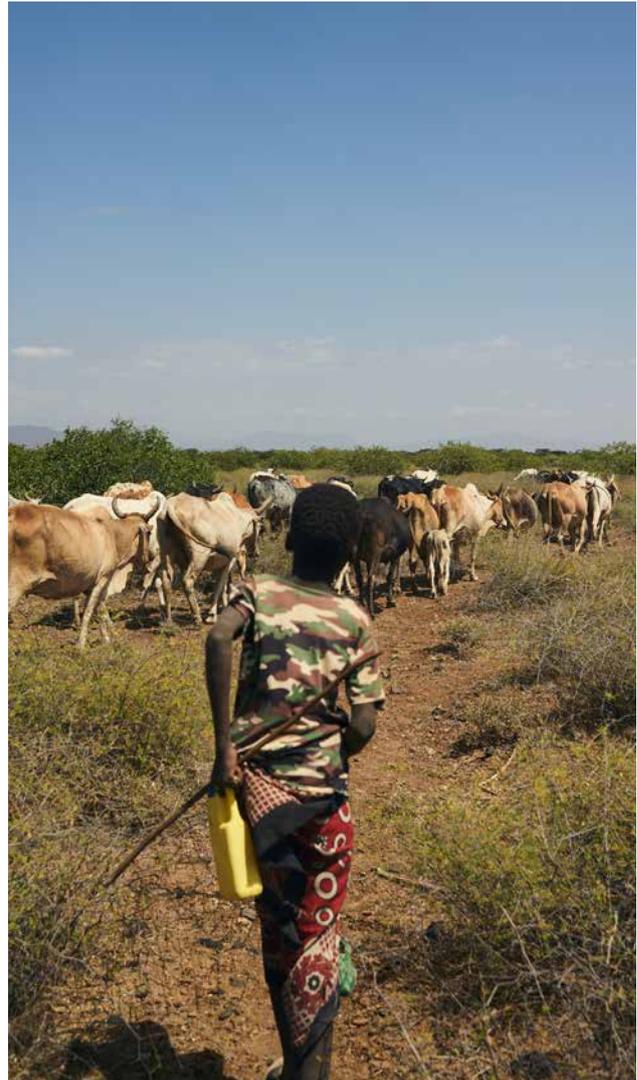
## 2025 ANALYSIS

### MOST AMERICANS SEE EXTREME HUNGER IN POOR COUNTRIES AS A THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY

Hunger and instability are deeply linked. Globally, armed conflict causes more than 70% of acute food insecurity and too often, hunger is used as a weapon of war. It can be a vicious cycle; in climate hotspots and conflict zones, productive land and water become scarce and precious resources that prolong or intensify dangerous disputes.

Americans see that problems don't always stop at national borders. In fact, **59% of Americans say extreme hunger in poor countries is a risk to U.S. security.**

- Republicans (52%), who are often portrayed as being more security-minded, are less likely to view this as a potential threat than are Democrats (69%), with Independents (56%) falling between the two.
- Men (62%) are more likely than women (56%) to see extreme hunger in poor countries as a threat to U.S. security, one of the only marked gender differences in this year's poll.
- Parents with children under the age of 18 (63%) are more likely than their counterparts without children under age 18 (56%) to agree that extreme hunger abroad is a risk to U.S. security.
- Compared to those with an annual household income (HHI) below \$75k, more affluent Americans (HHI of \$100k or more) are more likely to see a link between U.S. security and extreme hunger in poor countries (54% vs. 62%, respectively). They are also more likely than the least affluent Americans (those with HHI of less than \$50k) to agree that richer countries like the U.S. should help low-income countries pay for the costs of adapting to climate change (62% vs. 55%).



American support for addressing global hunger extends across party lines:

**61%** OF REPUBLICANS

**70%** OF INDEPENDENTS

**87%** OF DEMOCRATS

**AGREE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS MINIMUM 1% SPENDING THRESHOLD**

## TARIFFS, CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS A THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY AT HOME AND ABROAD

Changing weather patterns and more frequent natural disasters are making food production increasingly difficult for farmers around the world. Of the 35 countries at greatest risk from climate change, 27 are already experiencing extreme food insecurity. Americans also have felt the pinch, according to past polling, with 72% of Americans saying climate change is already contributing to rising domestic food prices.

This year's poll found similarly strong concerns. Americans don't just see the connection between food security and the climate crisis, many are worried:

**Nearly 7 in 10 Americans (69%) worry that changing weather patterns could create global food shortages.**

- Millennials (ages 29-44) (74%) are more likely to express concern about this issue than Boomers (ages 61-79) (65%), while Gen Z (ages 18-28) (72%) and Gen X (ages 45-60) (68%) fall in between.
- While a majority of Republicans (55%) express concern about this issue, Independents (69%) and Democrats (85%) are even more likely to say they worry that changing weather patterns could create global food shortages.
- Hispanic Americans (75%) are more likely than non-Hispanic White Americans (67%) to express concern about this issue.
- Concern about this issue, also is higher among Americans who are employed than those who aren't (72% vs. 64%).



**Just over half of Americans (51%) believe climate change is having a greater impact on U.S. food prices than tariffs are.**

- There is a generational divide on this issue, with Gen Z (65%) and Millennials (63%) more likely than Gen X (46%) or Boomers (35%) to say that climate change has a greater impact on U.S. food prices than tariffs.
- More than half of Americans living in the South (51%), West (52%) and Northeast (57%) attribute food prices to climate change more than tariffs – a sharp contrast to the Midwest, where only 43% believe climate change impacts food prices more than tariffs.
- Hispanic (64%) and Black (63%) Americans are far more likely than their non-Hispanic White counterparts (44%) to attribute food prices to climate change more than tariffs.

## AMERICANS WANT GREATER GOVERNMENT ACTION ON GLOBAL HUNGER AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The world currently produces more than enough food for everyone, and it is possible to make progress on hunger. In fact, over the past 45 years, there has been a 60% drop in the number of children dying from hunger's deadly effects.

Today, hunger is driven by an inadequate response to challenges like climate change and conflict, as well as inefficient food systems and woefully inadequate funding. Among the solutions Americans support are:

### Focus on food systems

More than three in four Americans (77%) agree the U.S. government should do more to create a better global food system. Even though better global food systems could benefit everyone not all Americans feel the same:

- Support for greater government action to strengthen global food systems is significantly higher among Democrats (91%) and Independents (77%) than Republicans (63%).
- Millennials (84%) are the most likely to support government action on this issue, compared to Gen X (77%), Gen Z (76%) and Boomers (70%).
- Support is consistent across the U.S. regions (78% in the Northeast, 76% in the South, 75% in the Midwest and 78% in the West).
- Despite the U.S. administration's America First policies, only 23% of Americans do not agree that the U.S. should do more to create a better global food system.

### Increase international aid

Nearly three in four Americans (72%) believe the U.S. should spend at least 1% of the federal budget on international aid, helping to end hunger. One percent is well below historic spending levels, which have fallen further in 2025 as the U.S. shuttered USAID.

- Notably, a solid majority of Republicans (61%) believe the U.S. should spend at least 1% of

the budget on international aid, growing to 70% of Independents and 87% of Democrats.

- A full 80% of Millennials and 74% of Gen Z support a minimum of 1% federal spending on international aid. That compares to just 66% of Boomers.
- Americans across income levels, including those with an annual household income less than \$50k (72%), show similar levels of support for a 1% baseline for international aid, helping to end hunger (75% with HHI \$50k-\$74.9k, 74% HHI \$75k-\$99.9k and 70% with HHI \$100k+).
- About 1 in 3 Americans (32%) strongly agree that the U.S. should achieve a minimum of 1% spending on international aid, while only 11% strongly disagree.

### Fund climate adaptation

Three in five Americans (60%) believe richer countries, like the U.S., should help low-income countries pay for the costs of adapting to climate change — which is also known as “loss and damages” — a significant increase from 55% in 2024.

- American support for loss-and-damages has increased 9% from just last year, when 55% of Americans said the same. This year saw the highest level of agreement on the issue since Action Against Hunger began polling in 2021.
- There is a notable generational difference, with 68% of Millennials and 67% of Gen Z agreeing that rich countries, like the U.S. should help low-income countries pay for climate adaptation. While more than half of Gen X (54%) and Boomers (51%) agree, older generations are less likely to agree.
- Support for loss and damages is stronger among Black (68%) and Hispanic (66%) Americans, although a slight majority of non-Hispanic White Americans (56%) are also in favor of U.S. support to help low-income countries pay for the costs of adapting to climate change.

## LOOKING AHEAD: A GENERATIONAL DIVIDE AND REPUBLICAN SUPPORT MAY SIGNAL CHANGE

Interestingly, this year's survey surfaced a notable generational divide, with younger generations often notably more likely to worry about this issue and express support for U.S. government action.

	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers
I worry that changing weather patterns could create global food shortages.	72%	74%	68%	65%
Richer countries, like the U.S., should help low-income countries pay for the costs of adapting to climate change	67%	68%	54%	51%
The U.S. government should do more to create a better global food system.	76%	84%	77%	70%
Extreme hunger in poor countries is a risk to U.S. security	63%	65%	51%	57%
Climate change is having a greater impact on U.S. food prices than tariffs are.	65%	63%	46%	35%
The U.S. should spend at least 1% of the federal budget on international aid, helping to end hunger.	74%	80%	67%	66%

Additionally, when it comes to U.S. funding for climate-related loss-and-damages, the percentage of Americans who strongly agree (23%) that richer countries like the U.S. should help low-income countries pay for the costs of adaptation rose five percentage points from 18% in 2024. The percentage who strongly disagree (18%) dropped four percentage points during the same timeframe (22% in 2024), which could potentially be an early signal of a shift in thinking on the issue.

### A bipartisan issue

Action Against Hunger's 2024 polling confirmed that global hunger is an issue that receives support across the aisle. In 2024, 71% of Americans said they would be more likely to vote for a U.S. presidential candidate who takes a stand on reducing global hunger, which included a majority of Americans across every demographic category reflected in the survey: race, income, gender, region, educational attainment, home ownership status, marital status, parental status and political party – and 59% of Republicans.

This year, a majority of Republicans agree that:

# 63%

**The U.S. government should do more to create a better global food system.**

(77% of Independents and 91% of Democrats agree)

# 61%

**The U.S. should spend at least 1% of the federal budget on international aid, helping to end hunger.**

(70% of Independents and 87% of Democrats agree)

# 55%

**They worry that changing weather patterns could create global food shortages.**

(69% of Independents and 85% of Democrats agree)

# 52%

**Extreme hunger in poor countries is a risk to U.S. security.**

(56% of Independents and 69% of Democrats agree)

U.S. politicians and even corporations might do well to take note of what could be a sign of change in the way global hunger is viewed, and the level of action Americans expect from their leaders.



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## About This Survey

This survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Action Against Hunger from October 2-6, 2025, among 2,052 adults ages 18 and older. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within +/- 2.5 percentage points using a 95% confidence level. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables and subgroup sample sizes, please contact Meredith Whitefield, 917-771-0519 | [mwhitefield@actionagainsthunger.org](mailto:mwhitefield@actionagainsthunger.org).

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## About The Harris Poll

The Harris Poll is a global consulting and market research firm that strives to reveal the authentic values of modern society to inspire leaders to create a better tomorrow. It works with clients in three primary areas: building twenty-first-century corporate reputation, crafting brand strategy and performance tracking, and earning organic media through public relations research. One of the longest-running surveys in the U.S., The Harris Poll has tracked public opinion, motivations and social sentiment since 1963, and is now part of Stagwell, the challenger holding company built to transform marketing.

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## About Action Against Hunger



Action Against Hunger is a global nonprofit leader creating a future where every life is well nourished. We innovate to prevent malnutrition and respond to hunger hotspots, working in 59 countries and reaching more than 26 million people each year. Together, we are promoting resilience and working to end hunger for everyone, for good.

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