

# PRESS RELEASE



**HUNGER RELIEF  
AFRICA**

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## **Key Stakeholders Convene to Address Food Insecurity and Hunger Crisis in African Communities.**

On March 15, 2023, a meeting of key stakeholders was held to address food insecurity and hunger crisis in African vulnerable communities. This occurred during the launch of the flagship Hunger Relief Africa program (HRA). Hon. Victoria Sekitoleko, former Minister of Agriculture in Uganda, and Dr. Abubakar Muhammad Moki, Commissioner of Policy Development and Capacity Building at the Office of the President in Uganda, attended the launch. The event was attended by 42 participants virtually.

In the Horn of Africa, 22 million people are vulnerable to food insecurity, and 5.1 million children are malnourished, particularly in drought-stricken Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. According to current data, 18 million Ugandans are food insecure, with orphanage children, young single mothers, people with disabilities, and people over the age of 60 years being the most vulnerable.

Dr. Florence Opondo one of the speakers from Lakiapia University in Kenya emphasized the importance of ensuring efficiency along the agricultural value chain. She called for prioritization and crucial partnership engagement to facilitate knowledge sharing and empower consumers to make the right and relevant decisions to minimize food wastage. During her presentation, Ms. Harriet Achen, the Ag. CEO-Hunger Relief Africa emphasized the importance of investing in Agri-innovations that decrease food wastage and strategic partnerships that improve food distribution.

Dr. Walter Odongo, Board Chair of Directors for Hunger Relief Africa, highlighted recurring challenges in the food value chain, such as transportation across different regions, which contributes to food wastage during harvest and consumption, as well as logistical challenges during food supply from food-rich regions to food-insecure regions.

H.E. Dr. Grace Kabayo, in her keynote address, called for patriotism and the development of strong personal commitment, discipline, mindset change, and communal inclusion of the masses to address food security. "Africa is a wealthy continent that should be able to support itself," she noted.

Hunger Relief Africa is eager to form new strategic alliances to ensure that food reaches Africa's most vulnerable communities while addressing malnutrition issues. Mr. Robine Okello, Co-founder of Hunger Relief Africa and Policy Analyst at the African Union Commission (AUC), moderated the event. A [recording of the launch](#) is available online.

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**Notes to Editor:**

1. In the Horn of Africa, 22 million people are acutely food insecure and 5.1 million children are acutely malnourished, especially in the drought-affected areas of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.
2. In Uganda, current data indicates that 18 million Ugandans are food insecure with orphanage children, young single mothers, people living with disabilities, and older persons above 60 years mostly affected.
3. According to a Ugandan media report, 900 people have died of hunger or hunger-related diseases in Karamoja since February 2022, and 8 out of 10 households had limited or no food.
4. This program is Inspired by the African Development Bank (AfDB) strategy “Feed Africa”, a strategy for Agricultural Transformation in Africa 2016-2025, with the specific goals to contribute to eliminating extreme poverty, ending hunger and malnutrition, making Africa a net food exporter by 2025.

**Hunger Relief Africa (HRA)**

Hunger Relief Africa is a non-profit hunger relief organization whose mission is to build hope and nourish lives in African communities by providing a well-coordinated response to hunger, eliminating food insecurity, and ending hunger in the food recovery sector. Hunger Relief Africa addresses the underlying causes of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, as well as their effects on orphanage children, young and pregnant mothers, and older Africans over the age of 60, through feeding, strengthening, leading, and empowering, particularly in food insecure vulnerable households in communities and in emergency situations and natural disasters. With its African headquarters in Kampala, Uganda, the organization works directly with food-insecure communities in collaboration with governments, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, UN bodies, International Civil Society Organizations, National and Local Community-Based Organizations, Research Institutions, and national and international Policymakers. Hunger Relief Africa operates through an extensive designed supply chain distribution network system of food manufacturers, grocery stores, retailers, supermarkets, restaurants, and farmers in food assistance programs to help families facing hunger meet their basic nutritional needs while emphasizing advocacy for local and national programs on issues with a significant impact on hunger in Africa.

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**Hunger Relief Africa (HRA) - “Feeding Vulnerable Communities”**

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