

# UN Estimates World Wastes 19 Percent of Its Food

食事のあと、まだ食べられそうなのに残してしまったことはありませんか。何気ない行動に思えても、こうした積み重ねがある問題につながっていると考えられています。身近な食べ残しは、どこまで広がる影響を持つのでしょうか。私たちは日々の食事とどのように向き合う必要があると言えるのでしょうか。



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

A United Nations report says that even with hunger being a problem, the world **wastes** about 19 percent of the food it produces.

The report said the waste adds up to more than 1 billion metric tons of food. The writers of the report believe that the food waste could have helped the estimated hundreds of millions of people living with hunger each day.

The estimate appears in the U.N. Environment Program's (UNEP's) latest Food Waste **Index** Report. It aims to follow **progress** on a 2021 U.N. goal to cut worldwide food waste in half by 2030.

The U.N. said the number of countries taking part in the report nearly doubled from the first one released in 2021. The report is co-produced by the UNEP and an international charity called the Waste and the Resources Action Program.

The new report found that the biggest share of wasted food – about 60 percent – came from households. An estimated 28 percent came from food service operations, such as restaurants.

The researchers **estimated** each person wastes about 79 kilograms of food yearly. They said that is equal to at least 1 billion meals wasted daily across the world.

Clementine O'Connor is a food waste expert at the UNEP and a co-writer of the report. She described the results to The Associated Press as a “travesty.” O'Connor said that while the problem is widespread and very complex, she believes it can be helped through effective “collaboration and **systemic** action.”

The report comes at a time when the U.N. estimates 783 million people around the world face long-term hunger. The Israel-Hamas war and ongoing violence in Haiti have added to the problem. Experts say those conflicts have caused people in Gaza and Haiti to near a severe lack of food, called famine.

Food waste is also a global concern because of environmental pressures linked to production. These include the land and water required to raise crops and animals as well as pollution caused by food waste.

Experts estimate food loss and waste currently produces eight to 10 percent of worldwide greenhouse gases. The report says, if food waste were a country, it would rank third after China and the United States.

The report's writers said there was notable growth in efforts to reduce food waste in low- and middle-income countries. But they said wealthier nations may have to lead international cooperation and policy development.

The report said food redistribution – including donations of leftover food to food banks and aid groups – will be an important part in fighting food waste among food sellers.

One group involved in such a program is the nonprofit Food Banking Kenya. The nonprofit group gets leftover food from farms, markets and other places and “redistributes” it to schoolchildren and people who want food. Food waste is an increasing concern in Kenya, where an estimated 4.45 million metric tons of food is wasted each year.

The Associated Press reported this story. Bryan Lynn adapted the report for VOA Learning English.

## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. waste (v.) to use something carelessly so that it is lost or not used well**

Akira hates to waste time waiting in long lines, so he usually reads an e-book.

**2. index (n.) a system that measures and shows changes or levels**

The price index shows how costs have changed over time.

**3. progress (n.) movement forward or improvement**

Sayaka made a lot of progress last summer in learning French.

**4. estimate (v.) to guess the amount or number of something**

Economists estimate that the cost of oil will be very high for the near future.

**5. systemic (adj.) relating to a whole system, not just one part**

The automobile company is trying to fix systemic problems in its car factories.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. According to the UN Food Waste Index Report, how much food is wasted each year, and what are its sources?
2. What are the effects of food waste on the world's population?
3. What is food redistribution, and what example of it is mentioned in the article?
4. What can individuals and businesses do to reduce food waste?
5. Do you think governments or individuals are more responsible for solving food waste? Why?