

HUNGRY FOR A BETTER FUTURE: POLITICAL WILLINGNESS CAN CHANGE CLIMATE-INDUCED HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

THE ISSUE

FIGHTING AGAINST HUNGER: A HUMANITARIAN LENS



South Sudan. © Peter Caton for Action Against Hunger

Around 828 million people worldwide do not have enough to eat, and the number is rising. Climate change, together with growing global inequalities and increasing violent conflicts, is one of the main causes of the rising levels of hunger and malnutrition. Today, 27 of the 35 countries most affected by climate change suffer from extreme food insecurity. An increase of 2 degrees in global warming could result in up to 80 million additional people being affected by hunger in 2050, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Central America. The world is currently on track for 2.8 degrees. A scandalous scenario that not even the best-funded humanitarian system could alleviate. Action Against Hunger Germany supported the global COP27 [position paper](#) and several side-events around food and nutrition security on-site in Egypt together with other AAH colleagues.

To help those most at risk of hunger, the EU member states and other industrialised countries, which are the most responsible for a heating planet, must drastically reduce their emissions to keep climate change from escalating. At the same time, they need to make honest

To help those most at risk of hunger, the EU member states and other industrialised countries, which are the most responsible for a heating planet, must drastically reduce their emissions to keep climate change from escalating.

commitments to support affected communities adapt to the new reality and bounce back from increasing shocks. Expectations were high at this year's climate conference COP27 in Egypt and the hope was that world leaders would take bold action to stamp out climate-induced hunger. During the conference, the EC's Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans announced \$1 billion to help countries in Africa adapt to climate change. However, what sounded like a grand gesture was, in reality, part of a broken promise: the \$1 billion is part of \$100 billion in annual climate finance, which industrialised countries



Dead livestock in Qaranri. ©Photo: Yusuf Ibrahim Ali/Lifeline Gedo International/Concern Worldwide

had already committed to providing to developing countries by 2020. A deadline that had to be extended to 2025 since in 2020 the number only reached \$83.3 billion. If efforts are not significantly stepped up, the most food-insecure people on the planet are left to fend for themselves. However, there are a set of actions that could be done:

BETTER EQUIPPING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The global humanitarian system is already struggling to meet the needs of crisis-affected communities. In a worsening climate emergency, the situation will only get more stretched.

“With our emergency aid, we support people around the world who are losing their livelihoods due to the climate crisis and are acutely threatened by hunger and poverty. But to address the scale of future climate impacts, we humanitarian organisations urgently need additional funding. Governments and donors must pledge binding investments now to save lives,” demands Mamadou Diop, Action Against Hunger’s regional representative in West and Central Africa. And beyond more funding, humanitarian agencies also need a paradigm shift to more preventative measures: humanitarian donors should follow the German donor priority - strengthening early warning and anticipatory humanitarian action to save lives.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL AUTONOMY

“Smallholder farmers produce a third of the world’s food but receive only 1.7 per cent of global climate finance. Yet they are among the people most affected by climate change! It is imperative that funding for climate change adaptation is provided directly to local communities and civil society organisations,” says John Otieno, Advocacy Officer for Action Against Hunger in East Africa. Context-specific solutions and adaptation measures must be developed and implemented by the affected population groups themselves. The involvement of girls and women is also central, as they are at higher risk of suffering the negative consequences of climate change and food insecurity, and at the same time play a key role in the fight against hunger. Further, often multi-faceted vulnerabilities challenge communities’ resilience in times of hardship: climate change and conflict. We ask for a multi-sectoral humanitarian response in fragile settings.

NEXUS: PROMOTING AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Already today, the global food system, despite its large ecological footprint, leaves many people hungry. Safe access to healthy and affordable food is not possible without a sustainable and local transformation of agriculture. At the same time, food systems are not solely a topic for development actors: access to food is often hindered by conflict and violence in affected areas. For governments and international donors, therefore, large-scale investments in agroecology are imperative. Such investments not only make agriculture more climate-friendly, but also strengthen the long-term food and nutrition security and climate resilience of communities. Disadvantaged groups such as smallholder farmers and women benefit particularly in the long run.

Lisa Jörke, Project officer Advocacy
Action Against Hunger Germany