



**ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER**

**TOO HOT TO EAT:
ACTION AGAINST HUNGER'S CALL FOR ACTION
ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

**OUR ASKS OF GOVERNMENTS AT COP28
NOVEMBER 2023**

INTRODUCTION

Created in 1979, our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) – Action Against Hunger – is fighting against hunger in the world, in almost 50 countries. Its mission is to save lives eradicating hunger through the prevention, detection, and treatment of malnutrition, in particular during and after emergency situations caused by conflicts and natural disasters. Action Against Hunger advocates to tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition: conflicts, the climate crisis, and inequalities.

A hotter and less predictable climate means less food on the table for as many as 80 million more people by 2050¹ - especially in places where conflict, economic instability and recurring extreme weather events make adaptation capacity challenging.

COP28 presents a critical moment for polluters to commit to decisive climate action, to a fast and fair phase-out of all fossil fuels and absolute emissions reductions across all sectors. Safeguarding human rights and environmental integrity requires keeping global warming below 1.5 °C to prevent catastrophic results for the food and nutrition security of current and future generations.

The climate crisis disproportionately affects communities that have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions. It is often the poorest and most marginalized communities that are the most vulnerable to the lethal impacts of climate change that already occur today. Their calls for support in adapting to save their lives and livelihoods have largely gone unheard, as the promise to provide climate finance amounting to USD 100 billion per year has been broken again and again by the Global North. Climate finance has failed to reach the most vulnerable communities directly, especially in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. It is the responsibility of the Global North to restore faith in the multilateral process by fulfilling its financial commitments in order to advance mitigation globally, including through sustainable systems transformation.

As a humanitarian and development organisation working to address both the causes and effects of hunger and malnutrition, we are deeply concerned by the current and future impacts of the climate crisis on food and nutrition security. We therefore call on governments to act urgently and address the devastating impacts on humanitarian needs and the rights to food, nutrition, water, health and a healthy environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAIN ASKS:

- ✿ Increase adaptation funding to reach 50% of climate finance, increase the share of grants instead of loans, and make finance accessible to local communities.
- ✿ Operationalise the Loss & Damage fund, making sure it is entrenched in human rights principles and includes arrangements for front-line communities to access it.
- ✿ Ensure that agroecology is discussed as a standalone and priority approach in the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security.
- ✿ Include water in the COP28 cover decision, and enhance efforts to tackle the intertwined climate and water crises.
- ✿ Champion policy options such as universal health coverage, including for nutrition and mental health services, and consider One Sustainable Health approaches, during the first ever thematic day dedicated to health at COP.

INCREASE ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

- The UNFCCC agreed US\$100 billion per year target for international climate finance has been missed repeatedly, delaying vital action on mitigation and adaptation and reducing trust between parties. The most vulnerable communities already bear the brunt of the loss and damage resulting from climate breakdown, often without any assistance from multilateral climate funds that are challenging to access, especially in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS).
- Countries with high levels of humanitarian needs including those categorised as FCAS are amongst the most underserved by climate finance. Within FCAS, populations in areas outside government reach or control are at high risk of being left behind by resilience and adaptation interventions. Donors have the responsibility to ensure climate finance **also reaches the most vulnerable communities in FCAS**, through both multilateral and bilateral channels.
- The Global North—as the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions—must listen to the voices of impacted people and pay their fair share through **climate finance that is additional to humanitarian and development funding and that directly reaches vulnerable communities**, including via a new fund and funding arrangements for climate-driven loss and damage.
- For all climate financial flows, **stronger monitoring and accountability frameworks** must be put in place, to track progress against the obligation of solidarity with the Global South under the Paris Agreement (common but differentiated responsibilities). Industrialized countries must at least double their contributions to the Green Climate Fund, especially at the replenishment conference in the lead up to COP. A global effort should be made to provide quality climate finance, with special efforts to **increase adaptation funding, and by increasing the share of grants instead of loans**, in order to avoid worsening the debt crisis for the Global South.
- In addition to fulfilling obligations to provide adequate, predictable, new, and additional needs-based public finance that is not debt-inducing, Parties must also explore ways to channel new, **innovative sources of finance, such as taxation based on the ‘polluters pay’ principle**. They must also look at possible shifts in subsidies from the polluting sectors to fund a just transition, or ways in which special drawing rights can be allocated to the Global South.

ANTICIPATE AND ADDRESS RISING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Extreme weather events exacerbate humanitarian crises and create complex situations of acute food insecurity, especially in combination with conflict and economic instability. The already under-resourced humanitarian system is being pushed to its limits. **Humanitarian funding must therefore be scaled up separately from climate finance commitments**, including loss and damage finance. Funding mechanisms must pivot to flexible, multi-year and forecast-based finance to enhance anticipatory action.
- **Reliable forecasts of extreme weather events that enable early action can mitigate climate-induced humanitarian needs**. Accessible early warning systems (EWS) must be scaled up in cooperation with affected communities; information must be made available and widely disseminated in a timely manner and linked to anticipatory actions, including trigger-based disbursement of humanitarian funding for locally and nationally driven early action.

When making the UNSG's Early Warning for All initiative a reality, special attention must be paid to the quality of these systems, in particular by prioritising participatory and gender-responsive and transformative approaches for EWS.

REALISE THE RIGHT TO FOOD FOR ALL THROUGH AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

- Even though they fail to ensure access to food for millions of people, our food systems currently cause one-third of greenhouse gas emissions and lead to devastating environmental destruction.² At the same time, the food system plays a critical part in mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis - but only if a switch to sustainable and holistic approaches to production and consumption are supported in a timely manner.
- **Agroecology offers a pathway to reconcile resilience with, health, sustainability and social justice,** through diversified, local production with ecosystems benefits. Agroecology is the only approach that was built from the ground up by grassroots movements, as opposed to other approaches that over-rely on expensive external inputs and new proprietary technologies. Governments should implement policies and provide funding for agroecological approaches while ensuring the rights and empowerment of smallholder farmers and workers, especially women.
- Approaches that draw on local and Indigenous knowledge and that empower smallholder farmers, including agroecology and food sovereignty, have to be reflected in the orientations agreed for the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work (SSJW) on implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security. **Parties should ensure that agroecology is discussed as a standalone and priority approach in a workshop of the Joint Work.** Discussions should open the way for an agroecological transformation, including actionable recommendations that **cover arrangements for implementation and finance.** The SSJW's roadmap must better liaise with other conventions and UN bodies, in particular the Committee on World Food Security, the foremost inclusive and legitimate platform to discuss food security and nutrition.
- A disproportionate focus on technological solutions promoted by the agricultural industry to reduce and offset agricultural emissions will only exacerbate dependencies on external inputs, leading to increased poverty for smallholder farmers. Too many partnerships involving the private sector over rely on technological approaches, the benefits of which remain unproven for smallholder farmers. COP28 must be a chance for a people-centred transformation of food systems and that has to be reflected in the leader-level declaration on food and agriculture planned by the COP presidency.

ENABLE LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION THROUGH ACCESSIBLE FINANCE

- Communities affected by climate change should be supported as leaders in adaptation, drawing on contextual and indigenous knowledge to identify suitable locally-owned solutions and innovations. For marginalised populations, the right to land and their food and nutrition security must be taken into account in adaptation measures to avoid maladaptation and short-term solutions that adversely affect communities.
- **Despite their knowledge and potential leadership in mitigation and adaptation, climate finance barely reaches those most affected in crises.** Fragile and conflict-affected states only receive 12% of finance disbursed by major climate funds.³ International climate finance mechanisms, including the new loss and damage fund, have to enable direct access at scale for local civil society in all its diversity and grassroots organisations, empowering affected people as agents of change. To ensure the localization of action, the proportion of funds directly disbursed should be systematically monitored to **ensure accountability and a steady increase in the share going directly to local and national CSOs.** Administrative procedures should be minimized to improve accessibility.

SAFEGUARD THE RIGHT TO WATER, HEALTH AND ADEQUATE NUTRITION

- Water security, sanitation and hygiene are vital for disease prevention and food safety. They are therefore critical to good nutrition. Global warming increases the likelihood of droughts and water scarcity. Already **half of the world's population experiences severe water scarcity for at least part of the year.**⁴
- Water security has to be at the forefront of the COP's agenda. Parties must renew last year's progress by including **water in the COP28** decision, and go further by taking water security into account both in mitigation and adaptation. Parties must also better include wetlands in their climate priorities, given their crucial role and fragility with regards to the climate crisis. Finally, COP28 should be paving the road for further diplomatic efforts to tackle the intertwined climate and water crises, for example by pushing more signatories to endorse the Call to Action for survival and resilient WASH⁵, or by discussing the inclusion of a freshwater segment at the 2025 Oceans summit.
- Investments in climate-resilient WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) infrastructure are urgently needed to mitigate climate crisis impacts on health and nutrition. Health facilities must be able to withstand extreme weather events to protect affected communities in the aftermath of disasters, and respond to emerging climate-related health risks, including in areas such as mental health and nutrition. **Resilient health services as well as clean water provision and access to social protection are human rights and state obligations,** so policy support and finance must be made available to create fiscal space and ease debt burdens.

- On the thematic day dedicated to health at COP, **One Sustainable Health approaches have to inspire policy options**, notably at the first ever high level round-table on Health. Accurately addressing health challenges requires considering the continuum between environment, animal and human health⁶, without borders.

RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

- The effects of climate change impact gender groups differently. Women, adolescents and girls are disproportionately impacted, largely due to pre-existing intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalisation. They are more exposed to the impacts of climate change given the distribution of gender roles and limited access to resources and decision-making power, reducing their adaptive capacity.⁷ Women also have fewer safety nets, such as land, property, and other assets, while their livelihoods often rely on local food systems⁸, which are very sensitive to climate impacts.
- **Women also hold many of the solutions.** In many contexts they are custodians of biodiversity, local seeds and peasant seeds systems; they are the backbone of agroecological and adaptation practices.⁹ Women's experiences, expertise, and Indigenous knowledge on the climate and environment and the challenges they face resulting from a changing climate need to be at the forefront of adaptation responses and solutions.
- **A gender lens has to be applied to climate action at all levels, including to foster women and girls' resilience in humanitarian settings.** UNFCCC Parties must increase efforts to implement gender action plans. Feminist voices from diverse backgrounds must be listened to and included in negotiations, as the transformative approaches they promote are key pathways to change the social and economic structures responsible for the multiple climate, biodiversity and hunger crises.

BANGLADESH: Land and Water-based Adaptive Practices To Cope With Waterlogging

Bangladesh has been identified as one of the most climate change-affected countries in the world.¹⁰ One of the impacts is 'waterlogging', it refers to the inundation of an area every year with long-term flooding (up to six months) after heavy rainfall. The major causes of waterlogging in this region include extreme rainfall, riverbeds rising due to siltation, sea-level rises, unplanned urbanization, and blocking of drainage systems through different infrastructural developments.

Waterlogging affects people directly or indirectly in many ways: it damages their livelihood assets such as houses, roads, homestead gardens, plants, domestic animals, and birds; it inundates ponds and damages fish production; it damages and shrinks valuable cultivated croplands; it disrupts transportation; and it destroys many other valuable assets.

BANGLADESH:

Land and Water-based Adaptive Practices To Cope With Waterlogging

In two regions particularly affected by waterlogging: Satkhira and Jessore, Action Against Hunger supported small-scale farmers' adaptation through innovative practices. Farmers were guided and economically supported in converting their homestead by digging out the soil for a pond and raising the pond dikes along with other parts of the homestead. After their homesteads were reconstructed, they were supported in alternative and adaptive agricultural production techniques:

- Vegetable production using both horizontal and vertical spaces through different resilient techniques using locally available materials (tower/bag/pit/hanging, etc.)
- Fruit and vegetable cultivation using the top and slopes of pond banks
- Fish polyculture in ponds
- Use of pond surfaces for vegetables through trellis on ponds
- Poultry rearing in improved and raised poultry sheds;
- Livestock rearing in improved and raised sheds.



After the pilot phase intervention was made in 2017, the total income from all crops for the research farmers boomed. [Our research¹¹](#) clearly shows that the overall income of farmers increased significantly during the rainy and winter seasons, which were not as productive before the implementation of this project. One of the major contributions of this project was to create jobs, and especially to empower women to earn money to cover their family expenses.

[Visit this link¹²](#)



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12. To watch one of the major contributions of this project in creating jobs and empower women to earn money and cover their family expenses, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGZF2wU216w>

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CLEAN WATER
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FOR GOOD**