



Fighting Food Crises along the HDP Nexus Coalition

From the Africa Climate Week to COP28 and beyond, people on the frontline of climate change, conflict and hunger must not be left behind.

The world is facing a polycrisis. Communities on the frontline of climate change are innovating and adapting. They need coordinated support to help them build resilience.

“When I grew up, we didn’t have wells, but plenty of water all year round in our community. Now we have wells, but they’re dry, and our cattle are dying.” This is the reality of Samwel Lentoror, an agro-pastoralist from northern Kenya. His people, the Samburu, were particularly affected by the drought that hit the region these past two years. As the climate emergency makes weather extremes more frequent and severe, Samwel is leading change in his community and advocating for support to invest in sustainable solutions.

At the Africa Climate Week last September, Samwel shared the perspectives of pastoralist communities and the progress achieved

through his organization, PACIDA, supported by WeltHungerHilfe. At the Africa Climate Summit, African governments, activists and local organizations demonstrated the extraordinary potential of the continent in leading climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

During the 28th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Dubai (COP28), climate adaptation for people living in conflict affected and fragile contexts featured high on the agenda for the first time. The [Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace](#) endorsed by 80 member states during COP28 is a welcomed step in the right direction and provides concrete opportunities to mobilize commitments for transformative actions.

However, inspiring initiatives are as strong as their implementation. Without sustained momentum, communities impacted by climate change, hunger and conflict – or so-called “fragile contexts” risk being left behind.





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Hunger, climate change and conflict feed off each other

Countries bearing the brunt of the effects of climate change on lives, livelihoods and economies are often among the lowest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. For example, seventeen of the 20 countries worst-hit by climate change are in Africa, yet the continent accounts for less than 4% of global emissions.

In contexts where climate change, conflict and economic shocks are reinforcing each other, food security, fragility and conflict must be fully integrated into climate change solutions. Conflict, economic shocks and weather extremes are the main drivers of acute hunger for **over 200 million people in 2022**. Climate disasters not only intensify food crises and destroy food systems but also aggravate social tensions and conflict. Despite the weight of emissions generated by global food-related activities, food systems issues have been routinely ignored in climate change discussions.

Addressing climate change in all our actions

The imperative to develop and implement programmes that effectively mainstream climate cannot be overstated. Especially in humanitarian crises. Climate change is at the core of the polycrisis, exacerbating food insecurity and displacement, essentially eroding people's ability to cope with inevitable shocks. Marginalized people are even more exposed. By bringing climate, humanitarian, development and peace programming together, we can build greater resilience for people most exposed to climate and other shocks. Doing so will help reduce hunger and build a more sustainable and secure future for all.

Strengthening financing mechanisms in conflict affected and fragile contexts

At a minimum, the international community must deliver on existing commitments, including the Loss and Damage Fund, and the hundred billion dollars of annual climate financing for developing countries. Bolder collective actions tailored to the specific needs of countries affected by conflict and fragility are urgently needed.

International financing mechanisms need to reconsider their risk tolerance, particularly climate financing instruments. They need to be better adapted to the most fragile contexts. Commitments such as the Islamic Development Bank's pledge of \$1 billion in climate finance for member countries affected by fragility and conflict are encouraging, but their operationalization will be critical.

Funding mechanisms are fragmented across climate change, food systems transformation, conflict prevention and economic development. Several initiatives are already proposed to address this issue - they need to be urgently implemented.

Ensuring financing goes where it is most needed

A person living in a fragile context will receive on average only US\$ 2.1 from multilateral climate funds. A stark contrast with the US\$ 161.7 per person in non-fragile states. Countries facing crises have received disproportionately lower shares of Official Development Assistance (ODA) dedicated to climate change adaptation compared to other nations facing similar climate risks. Faced with increasing risks, the most vulnerable countries are expected to navigate complex and siloed funding mechanisms. To date, they have been



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unable to access their fair share of financing resources, despite being at the frontline of the climate, hunger and conflict crises.

Projections for the additional funds required to effectively transition food systems towards climate-positive outcomes reach 350 billion dollars per year by 2030, less than the 611 billion dollars spent annually on farming subsidies, of which approximately 86 per cent could potentially lead to detrimental consequences for climate, biodiversity, and overall health.

Amplifying and supporting local solutions

National and international actors must build on and amplify existing local solutions to not only build resilience but have a real transformative impact.

Local solutions, like Samwel's initiative, exist. Local communities, women, youth, displaced persons, and minorities living in fragile contexts, are forging ahead and developing solutions right now. In Northern Kenya for example, pastoralists are turning to camels, more resistant to drought than cows. They sell their cows when market price is high, and reinvest in business, developing alternative livelihoods. The Kenyan Government is supporting those initiatives, by investing in drought resilience, land restoration and economic inclusion of the Arid and Semi-Arid lands of the country.

International actors should support and amplify these existing initiatives and facilitate their access to adequate finance and resources. This is fundamental to reducing and ending hunger and transforming the lives and prospects of the most vulnerable who simply cannot meet their basic needs under the status quo.

The time for action is now

None of this is new, but the urgency for action is unprecedented. Many international initiatives have sought to elevate this issue through global discussions. But concrete commitments and clear operationalization plans are needed. Building on the momentum generated by COP28, it is time to amplify the voices of local communities who need to be part of global climate discussions.

As the dust settles on COP28 and work starts on implementing commitments, Samwel urges for climate justice. "Those who have been causing climate change, and are responsible for our destroyed environment, should help us adapt. We need investment in infrastructure, and education, so that the young generation can lead the development of our region."

We know what to do: existing financing mechanisms and programmes must be less fragmented and better able to manage multiple risks to include the most conflict affected and fragile contexts such as the members of the group of Seven Plus (g7+) and truly leave no one behind.

Samwel and his community cannot afford for the world to continue having the same conversations over and over again. We may be facing huge challenges, but together we can also make a huge difference. From the Africa Climate Week to COP28 and beyond, President Ruto's words at the Africa Climate Summit ring truer than ever: "the time has come for us to break out of the shackles of low ambition."