



**MAKING THE 2024  
G7 AND G20 SUMMITS  
A MILESTONE TOWARDS  
ZERO HUNGER**



# ACTION AGAINST HUNGER'S ASKS TO G7 AND G20 MEMBER STATES

Hunger and malnutrition are on the rise in many regions of the world, and major food crises are multiplying. In 2022, between 691 and 783 million people suffered from hunger and 2.4 billion people, particularly women and girls, did not have access to sufficient and healthy food ([SOFI 2023](#)). Additionally, 45 million of children under five years of age were wasted, the deadliest form of malnutrition. In 2023, acute malnutrition remained the cause of almost half of all deaths among children under 5 years of age worldwide ([UNICEF](#)). Women, girls and children are the first to be affected: more than a billion adolescent girls and women suffer from malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and anaemia ([UNICEF](#)). Regarding the treatment, only 20% of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition have access to undernutrition care.

Despite entering the last decade of the 2030 Agenda, we are far from reaching the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) to end hunger and uphold the human right to adequate food. The root causes of global food and nutrition insecurity include the impact of armed conflicts and protracted crises - which often harm innocent civilians and their livelihoods -, the compounding effects of the climate crisis, rising poverty and gender injustices, dysfunctional food systems, and a lack of adequate social protection measures as well as access to basic services. However, conflict remains the key driver of global hunger. Fragile and conflict contexts have to be high on the political radar in 2024.

Given the multidimensional and complex causes of hunger and malnutrition, the right to adequate food can only be realised through a combination of short-term humanitarian action in emergencies - including in 'forgotten crises' that do not receive as much media attention such as DRC, Chad, the Sahel region and South Sudan - and a long-term transformation towards agroecological food systems to become more sustainable, resilient and fair.

In 2015, the G7 member States committed to lifting 500 million people out of hunger and poverty by 2030. The commitment to increase efforts to achieve the SDG2 and ensure access to food for all was reinforced in the 2023 Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security.<sup>1</sup> As progress towards a world without hunger is stalling, the 2024 G7 Summit and the parallel G20 process, with the launch of a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, represent a crucial opportunity to accelerate the progress towards SDG2 and the realisation of the right to food for all. These urgent efforts are in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation on the right to adequate food - celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, and in view of COP29 or the ambitious commitments needed at the next Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2025.

Action Against Hunger is an international humanitarian organisation leading the global movement to end hunger for more than 40 years. Our mission is to save lives and eradicate hunger, taking decisive action against its causes and effects. We predict, prevent and treat life-threatening hunger. We advocate to tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition: armed conflicts, climate change, poverty and inequalities. We work in 55 countries with almost 9 000 staff globally, where our programs assist more than 28 million people.

1. Previous commitments include the 2021 [G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact](#), the 2022 [G7 Statement on Global Food Security](#), and the 2022 [G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Strengthening Anticipatory Action in Humanitarian Assistance](#).



# 1 UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO FOOD IN ARMED CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

**Armed conflicts remain the main driver of hunger in the world.** Despite the adoption by the *UN Security Council of Resolution 2417 (2018)*, which recognizes the link between conflict and hunger and should prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of warfare, conflict-induced hunger has only risen since then. Over 85% of the 258 million people that faced crisis or worse level food insecurity in 58 countries in 2022 lived in countries affected by conflict and insecurity ([Hunger and Conflict Report 2023](#)). Conflicts can indirectly lead to hunger by destroying crops and foodstuff, disrupting livelihoods and food production, or preventing access to markets or health care. In other cases, however, the impact of conflict is direct, with the conduct of parties to the conflict aimed at obstructing access to food or essential services, in effect using hunger as a weapon of war - in clear violation of *International Humanitarian Law (IHL)*. However, such violation has never been brought to court and impunity hampers efforts of preventative measures.

**Given the extreme conditions of the civilian population in Gaza, Action Against Hunger calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, which is the only way to comply with Resolution 2417.** The risk of famine in the Gaza Strip is imminent for the whole population ([IPC March 2024](#)), and the delivery of food and other lifesaving assistance is made impossible by access barriers, lack of safety, and now overt violence at distribution sites. The prevention of sufficient food aid from reaching the population and the targeting of food production and distribution infrastructure and means of transportation can amount to a direct violation of *IHL* and *UNSC Resolution 2417*.

Next to such a massive and widely reported-on crisis, **many conflicts pass unnoticed - despite equally grave needs.** The beginning of 2024 has seen an eruption of violence in North Kivu in the DRC, on-going massive displacement in Myanmar, heightened tensions in Sudan. In these and numerous other crises large parts of the civilian population depend on humanitarian assistance. Sustainable solutions are needed to ensure their resilience to often multiple simultaneous crises for which no solutions are in sight.

The estimated cost of meeting humanitarian needs globally reached 56.7 billion USD in 2023 ([GHO 2023, December Update](#)), an increase of 19 billion since 2021. In 2023, the G7 pledged an additional 21 billion USD for humanitarian aid. Despite such commitments, needs were far from met. The same year, **of 17 countries with a hunger burden evaluated at crisis level or above, 65% of funding needs of humanitarian actors went unmet** ([Hunger Funding Gap Report 2024](#)).

This represents a growing trend, the gap being 23% wider than in 2022. **Only 12% of humanitarian appeals aimed at hunger-related programs received half or more of the requested funds** - a sharp drop compared to previous years, and none of the appeals were fully funded.

Humanitarian assistance and its funding serve purely humanitarian needs. They may not be used as leverage to achieve political goals and should not be wielded as a bargaining tool. **When lives are at stake, funding must be ensured and not conditioned by political considerations.** The depoliticisation of humanitarian assistance needs to be ensured, particularly by important donors.

All the while, the work of humanitarian organisations is further complicated by **sanctions regimes and counterterrorism measures.** The *UNSC Resolution 2664 (2022)* must be translated into national law by all countries, and the humanitarian exemption should also be mainstreamed in all international and regional sanction regimes. Lastly, bureaucratic and administrative impediments do hinder or slow down humanitarian organisation's response, and those barriers should be removed at national or donor level to support swift interventions.

## **WE CALL ON G7 AND G20 MEMBER STATES TO:**

- **Use humanitarian diplomacy to ensure respect for IHL and unhindered humanitarian access by parties** to the conflict and actively engage in *UNSC Resolution 2417 (2018)* implementation, promote it and hold to account those who violate it, in line with the 2021 G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact. This includes intervening for an **immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the latest context in which Resolution 2417 is at clear risk of being disregarded.**
- **Support better mainstreaming of Early Warning Systems and scale up anticipatory humanitarian action** to strengthen the evidence-base for interventions before emergencies occur to save more lives.
- **Provide increased funding for the needs of hunger-related programs.** Food and nutrition security are of the most essential needs for peoples' survival and resilience. While previous pledges have been important, needs are not declining and efforts to maintain and even scale up assistance remain necessary. In protracted crises, use of different streams for donors, including by development branch, to enable quicker reaction or adaptation is necessary.
- **Engage in active dialogue with humanitarian actors and third parties,** such as finance institutes, to ensure over-compliance and uncertainty don't erase the positive impact of humanitarian exemptions to sanctions regimes and counterterrorism measures.
- **Continue to support protracted and forgotten crises where needs remain extensive.** To ensure predictability of projects, donors should fund both immediate emergency relief where necessary but also provide flexible multi-year funding for projects aimed at strengthening longer-term resilience or humanitarian early recovery projects where possible.
- **Engage in diplomatic action in coordination with humanitarian organisations** to lift bureaucratic and administrative barriers in countries of intervention.
- **Enhance the protection of humanitarian actors,** including national actors, in G7 and G20 member States' diplomatic efforts in line with IHL.

# 2

## PROMOTE CLIMATE ACTION AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

The climate crisis represents a considerable threat to the *Zero Hunger* aim: an additional 80 million people are expected to be at risk of hunger due to the climate crisis by 2050 ([IPCC AR6](#)), as erratic weather and a lack of preparedness reduce harvests and food availability and accessibility. In combination with armed conflict and economic shocks, climate impacts are reversing past progress in fighting hunger and poverty.

The impacts are disproportionately felt by more vulnerable countries who contributed least to the climate crisis. In addition to upholding their own climate targets and decarbonising domestic economies, G7 countries have a historical responsibility to implement climate justice by supporting this transition as well as the adaptation efforts in vulnerable communities that are affected by a crisis they did not cause.

At the same time, the contributions of food systems to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss ([IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land](#), [Benton et al. 2021](#)) must be addressed through a sustainable transformation of food systems, taking into account the dual objective of reducing environmental impacts and achieving the right to food for all. **Agroecology offers a pathway to reconcile resilience with health, sustainability and social justice**, through diversified, local production with ecosystems benefits. The G7 and G20 should enhance their support for this approach, rooted in [FAO's 10 principles](#) and the [2015 Nyeleni Declaration](#), instead of perpetuating dependence on expensive external inputs such as pesticides and synthetic fertilisers and new proprietary technologies.

### WE CALL ON G7 AND G20 MEMBER STATES TO:

- **Jointly accelerate climate action to avoid catastrophic food and nutrition impacts**, including by committing to a fast, fair and funded phase-out of fossil fuels, building on the outcome of COP28.
- **Make climate finance available and accessible to the most affected communities**, including in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, to uphold food and nutrition security. These considerations must be taken into account for the *New Collective Quantified Goal on Finance* at COP29, where the G7 and G20 should play a constructive role to enable support for vulnerable communities.
- **Commit to providing quality climate finance** that avoids further debt crises, by increasing the share of grants instead of loans.
- **Promote resilient, localised and nutrition-sensitive food systems** that empower small-holder producers and food system workers, and that enable universal access to healthy and diversified diets, instead of perpetuating a harmful system that has failed to nourish vulnerable communities.
- **Enhance support for an agroecological approach**, in line with the commitments made in the *G7 2023 Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security*.
- Recognize and support affected communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples, as agents of change through the funding of **locally-led adaptation** in food systems.



# 3 TACKLE POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Poverty and socio-economic inequalities are significant drivers of hunger**, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as women, girls in all their diversities and children. **Gender inequalities are also a cause and consequence of hunger.** They shape food dynamics at the household and community level, rendering women, girls and other marginalised people significantly disadvantaged in their access to and control over food - from production to consumption - hampering their basic human rights.

**Social Protection Floors, including Universal Health Coverage and basic income, are human rights**, defined as a set of policies and programs (contributory and noncontributory) aimed at reducing and preventing poverty throughout the life course. While social protection includes regular cash benefits for basic income security, it also encompasses the right for all to access affordable and appropriate essential services such as healthcare, water, sanitation, hygiene, and education without any financial barrier, which are essential for preventing and reducing poverty and constitute a key mechanism to eradicate hunger. However, **currently only 47% of the global population are effectively covered by at least one of the guarantees.**

The lack of protection leaves people vulnerable, especially informal workers, migrants and forcibly displaced people, and particularly women within these groups, who are targets of intersectional discrimination. Moreover, Governments - including G7 member States in the [2023 Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security](#) - continue to rely on social assistance programs that are mainly means-tested or poverty-targeted (e.g. with eligibility based on income or assets), which are prone to high error rates, corruption, and social mistrust. Consequently, many health systems fail to effectively reach the poor and vulnerable and ensure equitable access to essential healthcare services. Furthermore, not all social protection systems have a shock responsive component and schemes are based on the assumption of static needs, not allowing an adequate in- and out-flow for beneficiaries even if they can be severely disrupted by shocks.

## WE CALL ON G7 AND G20 MEMBER STATES TO:

- Support the financing of social protection at a global level, through a **generalised contribution to the Global accelerator for social protection and jobs by G7 and G20 member States**, in order to close the current financing gap and enable the establishment of universal social protection floors.
- **Support shock-responsive social protection schemes in fragile settings** by supporting coordination with humanitarian actors to develop social protection systems that will lead to multi-risks analysis, surveillance system use, scenario planning, response triggers and pre-positioning to adapt national social protection systems to onset shocks.
- **Change the narrative of the G7 2023 Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security** that focuses on targeted and cost-effective approaches in humanitarian actions and social protection and safety net responses.
- **Support the financing of essential services and the public sector** as part of fairer and more rewarding development policies that enable the effective realisation of the economic and social rights of women and communities allocating 50% of ODA to essential services.
- **Strengthen health systems and the implementation of Universal Health Coverage by boosting public funding**, ensure they integrate essential nutrition services, mental health, and sexual/reproductive care and that they are based on universal access, free from any discrimination including gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, geographic location or administrative status and relying on effective access to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- **Finance the deployment of a basic income for the first 1,000 days of a child's life** - crucial period in nutrition -, and provide more information on indicator 5.4.1 of the SDGs to raise political awareness of the extent of unpaid care work assigned to women and its impact on poverty and hunger.
- **Reduce public and private debt levels** by extending debt relief, renegotiating debt and supporting debt swaps to avoid unsustainable debt that limits countries' ability to invest in social protection mechanisms and public essential services. Allocate more resources to the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) mechanism and consider reforms to the quota system that determines their allocation to ensure that the lowest income countries receive more resources.



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