

Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 50/9 on human rights and climate change

1. Please describe through concrete examples and stories how climate change is affecting the full realization of the right to adequate food in your country.

Every four seconds, someone dies from hungerⁱ. Most of these people are children, particularly under-fives, who are at greater risk of malnutrition and death, as their developing bodies are more prone to diseases. As many as 60 million children under five could be acutely malnourished by the end of 2022ⁱⁱ. Children who survive malnutrition are left with life-long effects, including impaired physical growth and cognitive development.

In 2022, Save the Children embarked on the biggest listening exercise that we have ever undertaken, hearing from over 54,500 children from 41 countries about their experiences and ideas to shape our own work on climate change and inequalityⁱⁱⁱ.

In Africa and the Middle East in particular, children drew links between climate change and increased hunger, particularly its effects on agriculture. Children in countries that have been hit particularly hard by the current global food and nutrition crisis are seeing, hearing about or experiencing its extreme impact first-hand, including malnutrition-related sickness and death, suicides, child labour and child marriage^{iv}. Children in all regions referred to rising food and living costs, with some connecting this to climate change.

“Due to climate change, parents are losing their only source of livelihood, which is livestock, and they are committing suicide. Children are left as orphans and they may die due to hunger.” 17-year-old girl, Kenya

“When I feel extremely hungry, I am afraid of dying mainly when I fall asleep, I am afraid that I may not wake up again because am too weak.” Girl, 17, Madagascar

“I never get up out of bed in the morning. I remain crying whenever we spend a night without food to eat.” Boy, 12–17, South Sudan

“Climate change has led to loss of soil fertility mostly as a result of the soil nutrients being washed away. For farmers to harvest more yield, they need to use fertilisers and this works for those who are rich. Poor farmers cannot afford to buy fertilisers hence less yields.” 17-year-old boy, Malawi

“Many children will starve to death because they will not find crops to feed on.” 13-year-old boy living on the street, Egypt

For many, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict have compounded pre-existing food insecurity caused by conflict, the climate emergency and other factors. Delayed rains and extreme temperatures have been hampering food production in China, India, Europe and North America. The Horn of Africa is seeing its worst drought in four decades and preliminary data suggest that Europe is experiencing its worst drought in 500 years^v. As a result of these compounding crises, 345 million people – 84% more than pre-pandemic – in 82 countries now face a severe lack of food, placing their lives and livelihoods in critical danger^{vi}. Children are at particular risk, with estimates suggesting that the number facing acute malnutrition could rise to 59 million by the end of 2022. Malnutrition is one of the biggest killers of children under five and impedes children’s mental and physical development.

2. Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how climate change adversely affects the full realization of the right to food, taking into account discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

The climate crisis is contributing to the global hunger crisis

The climate crisis, combined with conflict and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are reversing the progress made in abolishing hunger and starvation. Ten of the world's worst climate hotspots^{vii}, amongst which 7 are in Africa, have suffered a 123% rise in acute hunger^{viii} over just the past six years^{ix}. Experts are claiming that hunger cannot be solved unless the climate crisis is solved^x.

The climate crisis is expected to expose an additional 77 million people around the world to hunger risks by 2050. The projection for Africa south of the Sahara is that an additional 41 million people will be at risk of hunger in 2050 as a result of the climate crisis - 27 percent more than would be at risk in the absence of climate change^{xi}. Global demand for food is projected to increase by 50 percent and in the absence of ambitious climate action, yields may decline by up to 30 percent by 2050^{xii}.

Those least responsible for the climate crisis suffer the worst consequences

Recent research by Save the Children^{xiii}, 160 million children globally are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts. By 2040, it is estimated that one in four children will be living in areas with extreme water shortages. By 2050, a further 24 million children are projected to be undernourished as a result of the climate crisis^{xiv}.

Around 45% of deaths among children under 5 years of age are linked to malnutrition. Not only are children at particular risk for malnutrition, but the effects of hunger and malnutrition on children are devastating. Much of a child's future is determined by the quality of nutrition in the first 1,000 days. The period from the start of a mother's pregnancy through her child's second birthday is a critical window when a child's brain and body are developing rapidly, and good nutrition is essential to lay the foundation for a healthy and productive future. If children do not get the right nutrients during this period, the damage is often irreversible^{xv}.

When ranked by income, the top 50% of states are responsible for 86% of cumulative global CO2 emissions, while the lower half are responsible for just 14%. Despite this, it is the children of low- and middle-income countries that bear the brunt of losses and damage resulting from the climate crisis^{xvi}.

Inequality and discrimination based on gender or ability worsen the negative impacts of the climate crisis

The evidence is clear that the climate crisis is not gender neutral. Women, girls and people with non-binary gender identities are both disproportionately affected by and less resilient to the impacts of climate change, further increasing existing gender inequalities and creating grave risks for their health, safety, livelihoods, education, wellbeing and survival. Children who face inequality based on their gender or (dis)ability are often deprioritized for feeding, married off or forced into exploitive labor^{xvii}. Moreover, the climate crisis has worse effects for children closely connected to land such as indigenous children and children living in rural areas.

Across the Horn of Africa region^{xviii}, increasing numbers of girls are in danger of leaving school due to drought, putting them at higher risk of child marriage and FGM. The number of children at risk of dropping out of school in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia due to the impact of the drought has tripled in the space of three months, from 1.1 million to an estimated 3.3 million children.

Women across the world depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources. In many regions, women bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel. Agriculture is the most important employment sector for women in low- and lower-middle income countries. During periods of drought and floods, their role of agricultural workers and primary procurers means that women work even harder to secure income and resources for their families. This adds pressure on girls, who often are forced to leave school to help their mothers manage the increased burden^{xxix}. Droughts increase the burden of unpaid care and do-mestic work shouldered by women and girls. Women tend to bear the primary responsibility for the family's daily survival, even during natural disasters. In addition to standing in line and waiting for water, walking, and carrying water long distances, women often tend to eat less or reduce their portions of food.^{xx}

Addressing gender inequality is an important aspect of climate action. Ensuring girls' education, and sexual and reproductive health and rights are key to tackling the climate crisis and increasing children's resilience to cope with its negative impacts.

3. Please describe any specific measure, including public policies, legislation, practices or strategies that your government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage, that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the right to food. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.

Not applicable

4. Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food.

Not applicable

5. Please identify and share examples of promising practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full realization of the right to food in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.

Needs far exceed current levels of climate finance

There is a huge financing gap to some of the countries that are the most affected by both the climate and hunger crisis. Current levels of climate finance in Africa, for example, fall far short of projected needs. The African continent requires USD 2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Adaptation accounts for only 24% of finance needs, although they are likely underestimated due to the difficulty to accurately assess them^{xxi}. By 2050 the economic cost of loss and damage in developing countries is estimated to be between USD 1 to 1.8 trillion^{xxii}. Total annual climate finance flows in Africa for 2020, were only USD 30 billion, about 12% of the amount needed^{xxiii}.

Research suggests that not only have high-income countries failed to meet the \$100bn climate finance goal in 2020, but the actual value of climate finance provided was only a third of that reported (\$21–24.5bn rather than \$83.3bn). This gap is due to misleading accounting practices that originate in the lack of clarity and international consensus around how climate finance should be counted. The fact that loans make up 70% of climate finance is also problematic as this further contributes to a mounting debt in lower-income countries^{xxiv}.

Climate finance to food systems and agriculture is insufficient

Food systems are major causes and victims of the climate crisis. Solving the climate crisis will require a transformation of food systems. Even though food systems could be major levers in solving the climate crisis, they're not a top priority in climate action and financing is low. Cumulative climate finance for agriculture, forestry, and land use represents only 3% of the total tracked global climate finance^{xxv}.

Food security is dependent on robust finance of adaptation and loss and damage

Ambitious climate actions through increased investments in climate adaptation are becoming more and more important to support smallholder farmers, who run 84% of the world's 570 million farms^{xxvi}. Not only are they often the most exposed to climate impacts and have the least access to resources to adapt to the climate crisis, but food security depends on their resilience^{xxvii}. The marginalization of adaptation finance is bad news for children at the frontlines of the climate crisis. Our own analysis shows that the nine countries where children are most at risk of climate impacts receive an average of only \$2.30 in climate adaptation financing per person per year, compared with an estimated need of \$11.40^{xxviii}.

Furthermore, low- and middle-income countries are accruing disproportionate losses and damages as a result of climate change, and productivity in key sectors, such as agriculture, is being lost. By improving resilience and investing in child-centered adaptation (i.e., investing in social sectors that reach children and communities most at risk, including climate-resilient water and sanitation, health systems, education, food and nutrition and social protection), we can offset the losses from degradation of food systems, and of social services that households and communities would incur in the future as a result of the climate crisis. Additionally, in the situations where the effects of climate change can no longer be adapted to, finance for loss and damage is also crucial to rebuild food systems, and support children and their families who have lost their livelihoods and access to healthy and nutritious foods.

6. Please include examples and promising practices and challenges that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that promote the full realization of the right to food.

Save the Children believes that tackling the climate crisis and hunger requires a holistic and right-centred approach – recognising that inequality, chronic poverty, hunger and climate vulnerability are all linked. Globally far too many children continue to suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and multiple other forms of deprivation. Children are disproportionately likely to live in extreme poverty and are the most vulnerable to irreversible damage from deprivation, even if they endure it for a short period of time. One third of the global population are children, and as many as one in two children live in extreme poverty. Children also tend to experience poverty more extensively than adults due to higher rates of deprivation across multiple indicators.

In our consultations with over 50,000 children for our Generation Hope report^{xxix}, 83% of children we surveyed in 15 countries have noticed climate change or economic inequality affecting the world around them: *"Families that have wealth are not affected by either economic inequality nor can they feel the impact of climate change. They can afford to buy goods even when the price is high or they drive in four-wheel vehicles that will not get stuck in the muddy roads"* (15-year old girl in Somalia). The world's 2.4 billion children are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis—an emergency that is taking lives, eroding children's rights and threatening the future of the planet. This is not only a problem for the future. Tackling it must be an urgent priority today. Children are on average more affected by the climate crisis than adults because their bodies are more vulnerable to temperature extremes, disease or flooding, and they are at a critical stage in their development. Despite the catastrophic implications for children's rights

posed by the climate crisis, and children calling for ambitious climate action, children and their rights are largely absent from climate discussions, commitments and policies.

The climate emergency and global inequality are linked driving and amplifying other crises, including the global hunger crisis. They must be dealt with together now. Children affected by inequality and discrimination are being hit hardest by the climate and inequality crisis. They have the least protection and support, live in more climate-vulnerable areas, and have the least to spend on recovery from its impacts. Children at the frontlines of the climate and inequality crisis must receive more support –through child sensitive and shock-responsive social protection^{xxx} and child-centred adaptation measures to ensure that access to health, education, and protection are not disrupted. To address the global hunger crisis and save lives now, the international community must provide additional, flexible funding for urgent life-saving services, and invest in early warning and anticipatory action.

A purely responsive system will not be able to prepare or respond to challenges in the years to come. For the 2022 hunger crisis we have once again been largely too late for anticipatory action – communities are now in the teeth of the crisis and only urgent funding for humanitarian response can save lives – but for the next crisis we must do better. We recommend changes in both the systems around anticipatory action and how it is financed^{xxxi}. This includes more direct funding to local and national organizations, consultation with community leaders, increased coordination between climate, development, government and peace actors, and a significant expansion of shock-responsive social protection systems and anticipatory action. Crisis modifiers and contingency budgets must be increased, but also simplified so as to allow the rapid disbursement of funds. Flexible, reliable, multi-year funding remains key, as does the genuine inclusion of women in decision making on responses at local, national and international levels.

7. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full realization of the right to food.

Recommendations:

- Increase climate finance to go far beyond the unmet pledge to mobilise at least \$100 billion annually by 2020. This includes new and additional financial support, given as grants and based on principles of predictability, transparency, and embedding the principles for locally led adaptation. High-income countries and historical emitters must lead the way in contributing their fair share of climate finance flows.
- Climate finance should use specified metrics to ensure child-sensitive investment and including a focus on children’s rights (including the right to nutritious food), equity and inclusion of children’s voices in all relevant systems and processes.
- At least 50% of public finance should be channeled to adaptation, particularly projects that specifically benefit children most affected by inequality and discrimination.
- To support the development of new and additional climate finance to urgently address rapidly escalating loss and damage.
- Finance is needed to strengthen anticipatory action to prevent climate-induced shocks from precipitating full-blown crises and to improve the resilience of key services and systems such as food production and distribution, so that they continue in times of crisis.

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- ⁱ 238 Civil Society Organisations (2022), Open letter: Humanitarian organisations estimate one person dying of hunger every four seconds, (20th September 2022), <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/humanitarian-organisations-estimate-one-person-dying-hunger-every-four-seconds>
- ⁱⁱ World Food Programme (2022), War in Ukraine Drives Global Food Crisis, (30th September 2022), <https://www.wfp.org/publications/war-ukraine-drives-global-food-crisis-0>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Save the Children – Generation Hope: 2.4 billion reasons to end the global climate and inequality crisis: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Generation-Hope-Report-GLOBAL-online-version-25-10-22.pdf/>
- ^{iv} Also reflected in research, for example: F Charlson, S Ali, T Benmarhnia, M Pearl, A Massazza, J Augustinavicius and J G Scott. ‘Climate Change and Mental Health: A Scoping Review’. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 2021, 18, 4486. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18094486>
- ^v The Economist, ‘The coming food catastrophe’, 19 May 2022, <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/05/19/the-coming-foodcatastrophe>; J Henley, ‘Europe’s rivers run dry as scientists warn drought could be worst in 500 years’, The Guardian 13 August 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/13/europes-riversrun-dry-as-scientists-warn-drought-could-be-worst-in-500-years>
- ^{vi} World Food Programme, ‘Global food crisis’ (webpage) <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/global-food-crisis>
- ^{vii} 10 climate hotspots according to OXFAM: Somalia, Haiti, Djibouti, Kenya, Niger, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe
- ^{viii} Acute hunger refers to populations experiencing acute food insecurity at Phases 3-5 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system. See [IPC Technical Manual version 3.1](#) (Phase 3: Crisis; Phase 4: Emergency; and Phase 5: Catastrophe/Famine)
- ^{ix} Oxfam – Hunger in a heating world: How the climate crisis is fueling hunger in an already hungry world: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/hunger-heating-world>
- ^x IISD International Institute for Sustainable Development - Hunger Is On the Rise: Here are three ways to stop it: <https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/hunger-rise-here-are-three-ways-stop-it>; WFP World Food Program – Global Hunger Crisis: <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>
- ^{xi} IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute – 2019 Global Food Policy Report: <https://www.ifpri.org/publication/2019-global-food-policy-report>
- ^{xii} Global Commission on Adaptation, 2019. Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience. Available from https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GlobalCommission_Report_FINAL.pdf
- ^{xiii} Save the Children - Born into the Climate Crisis: https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/executive-summary_born-into-the-climate-crisis.pdf/
- ^{xiv} Save the Children – The Climate Crisis: <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/climate-change>
- ^{xv} Save the Children – Nutrition in the first 1000 days: https://savethechildren1.sharepoint.com/what/health/RCCentreDropOff/sowm_2012.pdf#search=1000%20days
- ^{xvi} Save the Children - Born into the Climate Crisis: https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/executive-summary_born-into-the-climate-crisis.pdf/
- ^{xvii} Relief Web - Policy Brief - A gendered impact of the hunger and drought crisis in the Horn of Africa: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/policy-brief-gendered-impact-hunger-and-drought-crisis-horn-africa>
- ^{xviii} UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-marriage-rise-horn-africa-drought-crisis-intensifies>
- ^{xix} UN Women: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected>
- ^{xx} United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/womens-rights-are-imperative-combat-desertification-land-degradation-and>
- ^{xxi} CPI Climate Policy Initiative – Climate Finance Needs of African countries: <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/climate-finance-needs-of-african-countries/>
- ^{xxii} Heinrich Boell Stiftung: <https://us.boell.org/en/unpacking-finance-loss-and-damage>
- ^{xxiii} CPI Climate Policy Initiative – Climate Finance Needs of African countries: <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/climate-finance-needs-of-african-countries/>
- ^{xxiv} Oxfam - Climate finance short-changed: The real value of the \$100 billion commitment in 2019–20: <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621426/bn-climate-finance-short-changed-191022-en.pdf;jsessionid=3B4C448733C8E1DD8E1163BC3AF53EA5?sequence=7>

^{xxv} CPI Climate Policy Initiative – Climate Finance can transform food systems:

<https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/climate-finance-can-transform-food-systems/>

^{xxvi} Lowder, S. K., Scoet, J., & Raney, T. (2016). The number, size, and distribution of farms, smallholder farms, and family farms worldwide. *World Development*, 87, 16-29.

^{xxvii} GCA Global Center on Adaptation - Food Security: <https://gca.org/programs/food-security/>

^{xxviii} Global Commission on Adaptation, 2019. *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*. Available from https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GlobalCommission_Report_FINAL.pdf

^{xxix} Save the Children – Generation Hope: 2.4 billion reasons to end the global climate and inequality crisis: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Generation-Hope-Report-GLOBAL-online-version-25-10-22.pdf/>

^{xxx} Save the Children - A Foundation to End Child Poverty: How universal child benefits can build a fairer, more inclusive and resilient future:

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/a_foundation_to_end_child_poverty_full_report_english.pdf/

^{xxxi} Save the Children & Oxfam – Dangerous Delay 2 The Cost of Inaction:

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Dangerous-Delay-2-the-Cost-of-Inaction_2022.pdf.pdf/