

## 1. Open Letter to UN Member States,

Dear United Nations' Member States,

*"No water, no food, a hopeless life. Above all, my children are starving. They are on the verge of death. Unless they get some food, I'm afraid they will die." Sumaya, 32, mother of four, IDP camp in the Somali Region, Ethiopia*

We, the undersigned 238 non-governmental organizations working with the most vulnerable communities and witnessing the catastrophic effects of the unprecedented global food crisis unfolding, urgently request that you act immediately to prevent more unnecessary suffering.

From Somalia to Haiti, South Sudan to Yemen, Afghanistan to Nigeria, people's lives in the most fragile contexts are being devastated by a global food crisis, fueled by a deadly mix of conflict, climate change, rising costs and economic crises, exacerbated by COVID-19 and the Ukraine conflict.

Fifty million people are now just one step away from starvation. Over 345 million more are bowing under the crushing weight of hunger, struggling to feed their families and at risk of death.

Behind these statistics are real people and lack of action has horrific, real life and death consequences. For the woman who fled her country to escape the violence of war and now has her food ration halved or suspended completely. For the hungry child forced to drop out of school to work so their family can eat. For the young girl forced into marriage, where she faces sexual exploitation and abuse. And for the caregiver who makes the long journey to seek treatment for a severely malnourished toddler only to find the health clinic is closed due to funding shortages.

The international community and national governments are failing to meet their duty and have prioritised political and economic interests over the wellbeing of the world's most vulnerable children, families and communities. While political leaders have made many promises, in the cities, towns, villages, and refugee and internal displacement camps where millions of lives hang in the balance, far too little has changed.

In a world of plenty, leaving people to starve is a policy choice. We call on you as world leaders to take urgent action to stem this crisis and prevent future ones. You must immediately deliver the funding needed to reach 50 million people on the edge of starvation to save lives NOW. You must also support vulnerable countries and communities to build resilience NOW.

And you must take action to anticipate, prevent and prepare for subsequent crises to secure the future, including by delivering much needed climate finance, reallocated Special Drawing Rights, and meaningful debt relief.

We repeatedly miss the opportunity to prevent hunger and hardship from happening in the first place by not responding quickly enough to early warnings to save lives, build resilience, and make the smart investments needed to sustainably address hunger crises in the long term. If the pandemic taught us anything it is that prevention is more humane and much less expensive than waiting to respond. The lack of political will and institutional failure to act quickly before the worst-case hits means people are being left to lurch from crisis to crisis. People are not starving; they are being starved.

Accompanying this letter, we outline a set of specific recommendations to help address the current hunger crisis and prevent future crises, endorsed by NGOs across the world.

We have already lost far too much time – the families we work with every day need action NOW. The lives of millions of girls, boys, women, and men depend on the bold and courageous actions you, the United Nations Member States, take - or fail to take – when you gather at the UN General Assembly in the coming weeks. We must not let people starve to death on our watch. There is no place for famine in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Signed,

"Constitution" Researches Foundation

Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

ACTED - Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development

African Forum for International Relations in Research & Development (AFIRRD)

Action Against Hunger

Afrihealth Optonet Association (CSOs Network)

Action in Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL)

Action Jeunesse pour le Développement

Aga Khan Foundation

ActionAid Senegal

Age International

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

Akad Cultural Institute

Afghanistan Youths Social and Educational Organization (AYSEO)

Al Itqan Orphanage Foundation

Alboan Foundation

Alliance Nationale de Lutte contre la Faim et la Malnutrition (ACFM Niger)

Alliance2015

Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT)

Andre Foods International (AFI)

Aquaculture Zimbabwe

Arava Insitute for Environmental Studies

Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (ACPP)

Assistance Mission for Africa

Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC)

Association for Promoting Sustainability in Campuses and Communities (APSCC)

Association For Promotion Sustainable Development

Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel (AMSS)

Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)

Banlieues du Monde Mauritanie

Basic Education and Employable Skill Training Pakistan (BEST-Pak)

Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief ( BCHR )

Bread for the World

Canadian Feed the Children

Carbone Guinée

CARE International

Caritas Africa

Caritas Burkina Faso (OCADES)

Caritas Internationalis

Caritas Zimbabwe

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

Catholic Relief Services

Center for Environmental Governance (CEGO)

Centre d'Actions Sociales pour le Développement Intégré (CASDI, asbl)

Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research

Centre Oecuménique pour la Promotion du Monde Rural

Centre Stratégique Pour La Promotion Du Développement Durable (CSPDD)

Centro de Incidencia Ambiental (Environmental Advocacy Center)

Centro de Investigaciones para la Equidad Política Pública y Desarrollo (CIPE)

Chefs' Manifesto

ChildFund Alliance

Children International Rep. Dominicana

Christian Aid

Christina Blind Mission Ireland

Civil Society Advocacy Network on Climate Change and the Environment Sierra Leone (CAN-SL)

Climate Change Africa Opportunities (CCAO)

Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF)

Coalition Tunisienne pour la Transparence des l'Énergies et le Mines

COAST Foundation

Comitato Internazionale per los Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)

Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)

Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan

Concern Worldwide

Congressional Hunger Center

Conseil Communal de la Jeunesse de Matete

Converge Global Youth Movement World Evang. Alliance

Cooperation Canada

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe

Development Initiative for Community Impact

Developpement International Desjardins

Dignity Now

Dochas

Don Bosco Aid

Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFOUND)

DRC INGO Forum

Earth Regenerative Project Sierra Leone

Ecological Restorations

Educo

Emony Yefwe International

Entreculturas

Environmental Green Cross Organization

Eritrea Focus

EuroMed Rights

Farm Africa

Fédération Mondiale des Organisations d'ingénieurs

Federation of Somali Trade Unions

Feeding San Diego

Food for the Hungry

ForAfrika (formerly JAM Int)

Foundation for Rural Development (FRD)

Galaxy Helping hands

Global Communities

GOAL USA

Good Neighbors Bangladesh

Grassroots Relief and Development Agency (GREDA)

Green Hill	Instituto Árvores Vivas para Conservação e Cultura Ambiental
Greenway International Foundation	
Hamraah Foundation	InterAction
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)	International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development (ICENECDEV)
Helen Keller International	
HelpAge Deutschland	International Centre for Ethnic Studies Sri Lanka
HelpAge International	International Helping for Young
Hope Worldwide Pakistan	International Medical Corps
Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre)	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)
Human Environmental and Leadership Prevalent Center (HELP Center)	International Rescue Committee
Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD)	International Youth Council Yemen (IYCY)
Human Rights First Rwanda Association	INTERSOS
Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC)	Interwaste R & D (EA) Trust
Humanity & Inclusion	Islamic Relief USA
humedica e.V Germany	Islamic Relief Worldwide
Ikot Ekpene Women Food & Cash crops MPCS	Jadir Taekwondo Association (AJTKD)
IMPACT Initiatives	Kasupe Ministries Malawi
info.nodes	Kenya Red Cross Society
Initiative for Educational Awareness and Economic Development	Kikandwa Environmental Association
Initiatives for Safe Migration and Social Justice	Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch
	Lifecare Foundation
	Light for the World

Maarif Organization for Humanitarian Aid and Development

Malnutrition Matters

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Medair

Media Centre Against Malnutrition (MeCAM)

Medicus Mundi

Mercy Corps

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

Micronutrient Forum

MIDMAR Organization

Misean Cara

Mouvement d'organisation des ruraux pour le développement (M.O.R.D)

Movimiento por la Paz (MPDL)

Muslim Aid

Muslim Hands

Naga City People's Council

National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal

National Council of Non Governmental Organisations Kenya

National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR)

New Apostolic Centre for Development (NCD)

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Somalia

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Nutrisan

OFIYA Coalition for Democracy and Electoral Integrity

OIREN (ONG Internationales représentées au Niger)

ONG Akarass

ONG Itodju

ONG MPLCI (Mouvement Pour la Lutte Contre l'Injustice)

ONG Vie Agréable

Organization of Rural Associations for Progress Zimbabwe (ORAP)

Outreach Social Care Project

Oxfam

Palestine Green Building Council

Peace Ambassadors Centre for Humanitarian Aid and Empowerment

People to People Volunteers

Perkumpulan Gemawan

Plan International

Plan International Australia

Plan International Canada

Plan International Germany

Plan International Italy	Somali Youth Development Foundation (SYDF)
Plan International Spain	Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium
Praja Abhilasha Network	Stichting Mission Lanka
Première Urgence Internationale	Support Activities for Poor Producers Nepal (SAPPROS)
Presbyterian Church (USA)	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
Radio Soleil Kar-Uba	Synergie des Ongs Nationales pour les Actions Humanitaires (SONAH)
Reacción Climática	Tamdeen Youth Foundation
Reachout Salone	Tearfund
RealFoodSystems.org	The Association for the Right to the Difference Promotion
Red uniendo manos Perú (Joining Hands Perú)	The Global FoodBanking Network
Réseau Professionnel des Jeunes ADEN	The Hunger Project
Resource Integration Centre (RIC)	The Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST)
Rising Out of the Ashes (ROOTA)	The Light
Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)	The ONE Campaign
Save the Children	The Oslo Center
SDG2 Advocacy Hub	The Power of Nutrition
SHARECITY	Transparency International Taiwan Chapter
Shifa Foundation	Trócaire
Sierra Agri Foods	UmminRashida Care Foundation
Smile Again Africa Development Organization	Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement (UNASCAD)
Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)	

Union of Rural Farmers Association (URFA)  
/ SUN Civil Society Alliance of Liberia

Women Access to Relief and Development  
Actions (WARDA)

United Mission for Relief and  
Development

Women Empowerment Against Poverty of  
Nepal (WEAPoN)

United Nations Association of San Diego

World Accord

Universal Versatile Society

World Vision International

University of Greenwich

Yemen Family Care Association

Voice and Accountability Platform

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

Wageningen University & Research

Youth Enlightenment Forum

War Child Canada

Youth Foundation of Bangladesh

West Support inc.

Youth Love Egypt Foundation

Zéro Pauvre Afrique

## 2. DRAFT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

We call on UN Member States to show political leadership on the global food crisis by translating promises into immediate action. Famine prevention and mitigation, now and in the future, must be a top priority at this year's UN General Assembly. This means providing enough, fast, flexible, multi-year funding to save lives now and a promise to work collectively to deliver on commitments to reach Zero Hunger and end hunger crises once and for all.

### Save Lives Now

- Immediately deliver the funding needed to save the lives of the 882,000 people experiencing catastrophic hunger now and to prevent 50 million more people slipping into catastrophic levels of hunger. Funding must be multi-year, flexible, and unearmarked, and additional so as to not divert funding from other urgent humanitarian responses.
- Prioritise support to local actors, including crisis-affected people-led organisations, who are often best placed to quickly anticipate and respond to emergencies.
- Ensure humanitarian access through increased humanitarian diplomacy and prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war



- Ensure support for gender- and age- sensitive multi-sector programming that addresses the compounding impacts of hunger on vulnerable people, such as increased protection, health, and sexual and gender-based violence risks.
- Prioritise efforts to prevent and treat wasting in children, with a focus on the first 1,000 days.

## **Build Resilience**

- Double down on efforts to strengthen food systems that deliver affordable, healthy nutritious food for everyone and improve the natural environment, including in the most fragile and conflict-affected places. This requires:
  - Supporting female and male smallholder farmers to increase local production of culturally appropriate, safe, nutritious food sustainably.
  - Strengthening the functioning of local, national, and regional agricultural market and trade systems to improve food security, smallholder livelihoods, and small and medium enterprises.
  - Ensuring policy responses to the global food crisis contribute to stabilising key food and commodity markets, and minimize negative impacts on global, regional, and national agriculture trade, food security, and commodity prices for the most vulnerable.
  - Adhering to international guidelines and principles developed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and other international commitments.
- Step up political efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and accelerate climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, including support to locally led initiatives on peacebuilding and climate action.
- Strengthen early warning systems, ensuring they include the most marginalized communities. Early warning systems must consistently trigger anticipatory action and early action, supported by ensuring dedicated pre-financing is available to these triggers.
- Support efforts to work across the nexus by ensuring development actions increase investments in addressing root causes and underlying drivers of hunger crises, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

## **Secure the Future**

- Double climate adaptation finance delivered in the form of grants, including support for smallholders, and meet the commitment of providing \$600 billion in climate finance 2020-2025, and support the establishment of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility.

- Reallocate at least \$100 billion in Special Drawing Rights to the International Monetary Fund and through Multilateral Development Banks, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Direct the World Bank to go beyond the additional commitment of \$12 billion over 15 months to respond to the global hunger crisis; and lead on debt relief.
- Fully fund evidence-based nutrition interventions, aligned to the Nutrition Investment Framework.