



Marsabit, Kenya. Victims of extreme weather: This shepherd lost all of his goats to a torrential rainstorm, during which they died of hypothermia.

FOCUS ON AFRICA:

Our Expectations of the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference

Extreme weather events in recent months – from heatwaves in Africa, Asia, and Europe to September’s catastrophic flooding in Pakistan – are a dramatic reminder of how urgent it has already become to find a solution to the climate crisis. At the 27th UN climate change conference this year in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, expectations of the member countries of the United Nations are high. Progress must be made on all relevant issues, from climate protection, adaptation, and funding to loss and damage. Next to armed conflicts, the effects of the climate crisis have now become the primary causes of global hunger and food insecurity. Because the climate crisis is striking African countries especially hard, the focus should be shifted towards them.

Energy Crisis Diverts Attention from Climate Policy

This year’s climate conference is confronted with difficult circumstances. Geopolitical tensions threaten to undo the little progress towards climate protection that has been made since last year’s climate conference in Glasgow (COP 26).¹ Russia’s war in Ukraine is resurrecting the East-West

conflict in Europe, and as a result, China, the USA, Europe, and Russia are all vying for influence in Africa.² This presents an obstacle to the urgently needed international co-operation to protect the climate.

Even the conflict between the USA and China, with China accusing the USA of violating the One-China principle, is having an impact. In response to the USA’s promise of military aid to Taiwan in the event of Chinese aggression, China took the drastic measure of severing climate-policy cooperation with the USA. Since India and China together generate half of the world’s emissions, these two countries play a key role in the negotiations. This does not bode well for Sharm El Sheikh.

Spurred on by the energy scarcity caused by the war, Europe is looking for new sources of energy while gas and oil are becoming significantly more expensive. It remains to be seen how these developments will affect the planned energy transformation in Germany or Europe. At the General Assembly of the United Nations in September, the president of Senegal and the chairperson of the African Union, Macky Sell, warned industrial countries that, without Western support with the energy transformation, African countries would resort to using fossil fuels as well, thereby plunging the world even deeper into the climate catastrophe.

¹ www.welthungerhilfe.org/news/latest-articles/2021/cop-26-the-climate-conference-that-failed-the-south

² The struggle for influence in Africa was visible during the Africa trips of the Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, in July and the US foreign minister, Antony Blinken, in August.

The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which country is responsible for only a fraction of global CO₂ emissions, already announced in July that it would begin employing the country's resources in its own service, in part by exploiting oil and gas sources. At Glasgow, the Congolese government had signed an agreement to protect the forests, for which purpose Germany and Great Britain intended to provide EUR 500 million; however, these funds have yet to be disbursed.³

Energy Security as Condition for Development

As a result, matters of energy security will play a key role at this year's climate conference. For many African countries, a reliable energy supply is a prerequisite for their own economic development and thus for the fight against hunger. Combined with the progression of climate change, this makes access to energy throughout the agricultural value chain even more important. For example, harvest and post-harvest losses should be reduced by adapting storage and logistics (e.g. by establishing cooling chains from the warehouse to the market). Secure access to energy also makes further processing steps possible, which can help to generate additional income.

Energy is just as important for households as for commercial production. 600 million people on the African continent are living outside of the power grid today, meaning that food is often cooked with wood or coal, which harms the climate, a family's pocketbook, and a person's health

– being especially true for women.

It is therefore a priority for many African countries to receive financial support from countries with the necessary resources in order to establish reliable and climate-friendly energy and food systems, in part by converting existing infrastructure. Many African countries already meet the conditions for transforming the energy systems because they have great quantities of renewable energy at their fingertips; this could make a major contribution to food and energy security as well as climate protection.

Climate Change Threatens Global Food Security...

The effects of climate change on the nutrition of especially vulnerable groups (including women and girls) are alarming, and projections are even worse than one year ago, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimating that 3.5 billion people throughout the world are under threat by climate change.⁴ More than half of the world's population already suffers severe water shortages at some point every year, and one in three people are exposed to potentially fatal heat stress.

Last but not least, rising temperatures and precipitation levels are accelerating the spread of diseases among people, livestock, wild animals, and cereal crops. Recent insights also show that 55 of the countries most vulnerable to climate change would be up to 20 percent wealthier today if they had not suffered climate-related losses and damages.⁵

Pakistan: 7.6 Million People Displaced by Flooding

Deadly and destructive extreme weather events are not limited to Africa. It is reported that more than triple the normal precipitation fell in the month of August in Pakistan, making it the country's wettest month since 1961.⁶ The Indus River, which traverses the entire country, spilled over its banks to cover thousands of square kilometres of land, with torrential rainfall resulting in flooding and landslides. More than 33 million people have been affected by this natural disaster; 1.7 million houses were destroyed, and nearly 1,500 people lost their lives. On the 25th of August, the government declared a national state of emergency. Damages are presumed to significantly exceed USD 30 billion, and a famine could strike in the coming months. Approximately 750,000 animals died, and around 18,000 square kilometres of farmland were destroyed, including some 45 percent of the cotton harvest, one of the country's most important export goods. Caused by the war in Ukraine and regional summer heatwaves, food losses totalling around USD 2.3 billion are additionally intensifying food shortages.

Ethiopia Suffers Worst Drought in Four Decades

The last four rainy seasons in Ethiopia were weak or failed entirely. The resulting drought is affecting 24.1 million people as dying livestock, poor harvests, and rising food prices cause people to go hungry. 20 million people throughout the country are forced to depend on humanitarian aid, including 12.4 million children. The protracted drought is endangering the nutrition of 9.9 million people, and 2.2 million children under five years of age in the drought-stricken region are acutely undernourished. The World Food Programme (WFP) sees a famine looming over 401,000 people throughout the country. Approximately 3.5 million livestock animals have already died, and 8.3 million people currently lack access to sufficient water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. Around 482,000 pupils are at risk of having to interrupt their schooling. More than 345,000 people in the drought-stricken region have already left their homes in search of water, pasture, and assistance. In addition to the drought, a variety of ethnic conflicts, including the ongoing conflict in the region of Tigray, are exacerbating hunger as well. As a result of the Ukraine war, food prices have risen by around 66 percent.

³ <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/wissen/kongo-erdoel-erdgas-regenwald-1.563627>

⁴ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

⁵ ODI Policy Brief: Contributions and challenges of Disaster Risk Financing as a response to climate change induced loss and damage, 2022-07, p. 2.

⁶ For more about the connection between climate change and extreme rainfall in Pakistan, see www.worldweatherattribution.org/climate-change-likely-increased-extreme-monsoon-rainfall-flooding-highly-vulnerable-communities-in-pakistan

Current Drought Strikes Somalia and Somaliland the Hardest

The drought is affecting over 90 percent of the land area in both countries as well as 7.8 million people. The most recent rains were too meagre, and projections for upcoming rainy seasons are poor. The food security of 6.7 million people is endangered, and more than 300,000 people are already facing a famine. 1.5 million children under five years of age are acutely undernourished, and this number could rise to 1.8 million by July 2023 (equalling around 54.5 percent of all children in Somalia). 3 million livestock have died due to the drought. Since January 2021, over one million people have left their homes to seek water, food, and pasture in other parts of the country. More than half a million others were displaced within their country due to sustained violence. Water prices have risen by more than 70 percent since November 2021, and 3.9 million people have no reliable access to water (for drinking, cooking, and hygiene). The drought is also impacting access to education as families can no longer afford the expense. Currently affected are 1.7 million children who have to interrupt their schooling; 720,000 of them, 47 percent of whom are girls, may have to end their school education entirely. As a result of the Ukraine war, food prices have risen by around 36 percent.

...and People in Africa

By the end of this decade, climate change is threatening to expose over 100 million of the most impoverished people in Africa to droughts, flooding, and extreme heat. Somalia is already in the grip of a famine. "In Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, we are on the brink of an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe," says Guleid Artan, Director of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC).⁷ 80 million people in this region have insufficient food security, and the number of people without reliable access to safe water due to the drought rose from 9.5 million in February 2022 to 16.2 million in July. Throughout the Sahel Zone, the availability of water has fallen by more than 40 percent in the last 20 years due to climate change and other factors.

Due to desertification, sensitive coasts, and residents' dependence on agriculture, Africa South of the Sahara is the world's most endangered region. The latest research shows that the number of potentially fatal heat days in West Africa will rise to between 100 and 250 days per year, with current projections seeing the temperature increase by 2.5 degrees Celsius by 2100.

According to the World Bank, around 86 million people in Africa South of the Sahara and 19 million people in North Africa could be displaced within their countries by the middle of the century due to devastating climate shocks.⁸ In Angola, the worst drought in 40 years forced thousands of people to flee to neighbouring Namibia after crop failures and rising food prices had exacerbated food shortages in Angola's south.

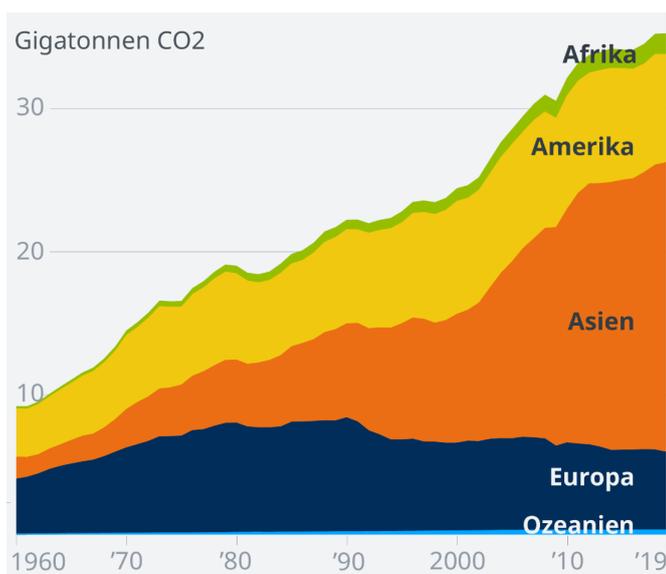
In contrast to these figures, Africa's share of global greenhouse gas emissions between 1960 and 2020 was only 3.3 percent. According to a report published by an African think tank, the ten countries worldwide most vulnerable to climate change are in Africa and account for one fifth of the continent's population.⁹

Shifting the Focus to Food Security

Due to the increase in extreme weather events and rising hunger rates as well as the precarious global nutrition situation, the special envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit at the time of the Glasgow climate change conference, Dr Agnes Kalibata, called for food and agriculture to receive greater priority in political negotiations. "Without urgent action on climate change, an additional 100 million people in Africa could be pulled into extreme poverty in the next eight seasons – that is more than 10 million people every year to 2030. Timely attention to the food systems¹⁰ will yield real-life solutions to avert further damage to the environment."¹¹

Africa produces 3.3% of CO₂-Emissions¹²

Global CO₂ Emissions



Source: Global Carbon Project, 2020

⁷ www.icpac.net/, https://www.news24.com/fin24/climate_future/news/five-things-to-know-for-africa-climate-week-20220829

⁸ openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/36248/Groundswell%20Part%20Ilov.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y

⁹ <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022-forum-report.pdf>

¹⁰ For more on the necessity of transforming food systems, see www.welthungerhilfe.org/news/publications/detail?tx_cart_product%5Bproduct%5D=1974&cHash=0dd528e0da6df66059283e44226305c0

¹¹ www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/news/un-special-envoy-calls-focus-food-next-climate-talks-limit-global-heating-and

¹² Source in German: www.dw.com/de/cop26-die-klimakrise-in-11-grafiken/a-59662624

Raising Funding for Adaptation

However, the required funding remains unavailable despite it being clear where the money should be coming from. In the 2015 Paris Climate Accords, signatory countries acknowledged that the current climate emergency can largely be traced back to the burning of fossil fuels on a massive scale by wealthy nations in Europe and North America since the Industrial Revolution. Since they are responsible, they should now also provide the funds for climate protection and adaptation, which they yet again pledged to do in Paris.

Climate financing based on the needs of the relevant countries is key to reaching the international community's goals of limiting global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius and providing assistance with adaptation to climate change, especially for the most impoverished and vulnerable countries. This agreement requires all countries to reconcile cash flows worldwide with a climate-friendly form of development that is resilient to climate change. To ensure that poorer countries also commit themselves to taking a climate-neutral path to development, the immediate priority should be to deliver the promised funding of USD 100 billion per year from 2020 to 2025. It was also decided in Paris to set a new financing target for 2025 onwards. The issue of international climate funding remains a key topic at the annual UN climate change conferences. However, the promised sums have not yet been delivered.

Adaptation as Africa's Priority

In combat with climate change, Africa's priority is clearly adaptation. However, the current discussion on climate change, which focusses on reducing emissions, channels the majority of available funding to middle-income countries and carbon-intensive industries, effectively excluding the less wealthy countries that contribute less to climate change. This is especially true of countries in fragile and conflict-heavy circumstances.¹³

This means that the majority of climate financing bypasses Africa. In 2019 and 2020, African countries received only between 12 and 15 percent of the total necessary investments in climate protection (significantly less than half of which was for adaptation).¹⁴ In fact, Africa South of the Sahara received only 5 percent of all climate financing.¹⁵ In this region, seven out of ten people work in food production, meaning that mitigating the effects of climate change is crucial to their survival .

For the continent as a whole to reach its climate protection goals and adapt to climate change, climate financing must be more rapidly mobilised and significantly expanded. The Africans' message is clear: Africa is not at fault for climate change, but it is suffering the most from its effects. The wealthy countries must pay to fix this.

Goal: Climate-Resilient and Transformational Food Systems

Ensuring food security through a more sustainable approach to agricultural production has thus long been a priority for many countries in Africa. In 2014, in the Malabo Declaration,¹⁶ the African Union already announced its intention of making Africa's food systems more resilient to climate change. This includes building up the resilience of households that farm crops, livestock, or fish and investing in social security for agricultural labourers and in maintaining and restoring functional ecosystems.

Significantly more financial resources must be made available for the success of a transformational adaptation that looks towards the future, that takes an integrative and cross-sectoral approach, and that also addresses structural inequities and the marginalisation of segments of the population. The key is to include stakeholders in the implementation of climate protection and adaptation measures. The platforms of local communities and indigenous population groups must be taken into consideration, not only during climate negotiations but also when planning and implementing transformational adaptation processes.

Regarding land use, it must be ensured that climate protection does not come at the cost of food security. Mitigation and adaptation avenues like reforestation or bioenergy production should therefore always be critically examined for their effect on food security. One adaptation approach that attempts to combine both aspects is nature- or ecosystem-based adaptation, which gives equal weight to food security, biodiversity, and local resilience building.

Strengthening Resilience

Together with its partners throughout the world, Welthungerhilfe is contributing to the adaptability and resilience of people in the Global South. In Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, damaged land is rehabilitated for production in order to counteract deforestation, soil erosion, and the loss of biodiversity and to support small-scale farmers with cultivation. This process involves new cultivation methods and adapted seeds as well as training in marketing and business management. When it comes to claiming governmental accountability, political dialogue plays an increasingly large role. In this regard, support for local civil society is just as crucial as co-operation with national authorities.

Welthungerhilfe is increasingly offering forecast-based humanitarian aid, thereby assisting local communities in adapting to extreme weather events, ideally before they strike. Ever more precise early-warning systems are used to support people in advance of impending extreme weather events. Timely interventions can save lives, enable evacuations, or ensure the survival of animals through additional feed rations or vaccinations, thereby protecting people's livelihoods.

¹³ www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf, CHAPTER 7

¹⁴ www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Landscape-of-Climate-Finance-in-Africa.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid. p. 79

¹⁶ www.nepad.org/caadp/publication/malabo-declaration-accelerated-agricultural-growth

Welthungerhilfe urges the German federal government to support the following issues at COP 27:

- 1. Disadvantaged and thus far underrepresented stakeholders must be actively involved in implementing measures for climate protection and adaptation**, especially if they are directly affected by these measures. Local communities must be incorporated into the planning and implementation processes, as must Indigenous and other population groups.
- Countries must continue to increase their efforts to **reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, in part by updating targets for greenhouse gas reduction and by accelerating the implementation of existing national climate protection measures**. This is crucial for successfully limiting the warming of the Earth's atmosphere to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, as agreed in Paris in 2015. Every not-emitted tonne of greenhouse gases protects the climate, reduces the necessity of adaptation, and thereby has a positive effect on food security in impoverished countries. The current geopolitical crisis must not be misused by UN member states to put a brake on measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Adequate financing for adaptation measures is crucial for the survival of countries severely affected by climate change. **Climate financing is key for achieving climate goals**. The promise to provide USD 100 billion annually between 2020 and 2025 for climate protection and adaptation was renewed in 2015 but has not yet been fulfilled. **Industrial and emerging countries must make new commitments and provide additional funds**, exceeding what is necessary to achieve the goal of 0.7 percent of public development assistance. Of these funds, **half must be made available and earmarked for adaptation measures to ensure that the adaptation funding reaches the most vulnerable groups**. At the G7 summit in Elmau, the German government agreed to increase public climate financing to EUR 6 billion per year by 2025. To ensure that Germany's contribution will continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable countries in the future, **the German government should increase its climate funding contribution to at least EUR 8 billion per year by 2025**.
- 4. A new funding target must be defined for 2025 onwards; it must address not only adaptation and mitigation but also loss and damage** in order to cover the financial needs of the most vulnerable countries, especially in cases where adaptation is no longer possible and damages and losses have already occurred at a major scale. For example, a global solidarity fund, like the **Loss and Damage Finance Facility** suggested in Glasgow by the 54 African countries and others, could be established to disburse funds to countries facing the effects of climate change and to make payments after natural disasters, whether they strike suddenly or gradually develop. Such a solidarity fund could complement humanitarian aid and also support **forecast-based measures**.
- 5. Food security** must receive more attention at climate conferences. In all events, it must be ensured by the right mix of climate **protection and adaptation measures, thus protecting biodiversity, the climate, and food security through a holistic approach**. This requires investments in climate-resilient, resource-efficient, and sustainable land, forest, and fishery management as well as in schooling and continuing education. Cross-sectoral adaptation measures must be developed and funded to focus on the interplay between the sectors of water, energy, land use, and nutrition and to incorporate support for renewable energy. Conflicting goals between agriculture, nutrition, and climate policies must be resolved through integrated approaches (e.g. ecosystem-based approaches).

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