



**ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER**

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**What will it take for
a Just Transition in food systems?**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION AT COP30

Our main asks to governments

1

COP30 must initiate a **Just Transition in agriculture and food systems** by including the sector in Just Transition negotiations, by scaling up public support for a transition towards **agroecological and climate-resilient** food systems, and by placing emphasis on the right to food and nutrition for all.

2

Negotiations on the **Global Goal on Adaptation** must conclude with fit for purpose **indicators on agriculture and means of implementation**, ensuring Parties, especially from the Global South, have adequate public support and clear adaptation pathways for agriculture and food systems.

3

COP30 has to bring progress regarding the **amount and accessibility of climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected areas** by lowering bureaucratic barriers and by enhancing conflict sensitivity.

4

COP30 should not become a space for greenwashing by the fossil fuel and agricultural industries. A clear **conflict of interest policy** should be established to ensure participation of actors contributes to a just transition that incorporates and recognizes the key role of agriculture and food systems transformation.



Mohamed Issa received a greenhouse and a 1kg seed kit. Afghanistan.

Introduction



Women farmers work in the fields to plant cassava. Sierra Leone.

As global warming surpassed 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels for the first time in 2024, the impacts of the climate crisis on food and nutrition security are becoming more and more visible: below-average rainfall has caused widespread heatwaves; drought and failed harvests on the Horn of Africa, in Southern Africa and in the Middle East; extreme rainfall caused flooding in the Sahel, Central Africa and in South Sudan. Overall, extreme weather drove food crises in 18 countries¹.

At the same time, the **industrialised food system** continues to cause over a third of global greenhouse gas emissions², while also contributing to damages to human health, environmental integrity, biodiversity and nutrition security. But transformation in this sector cannot focus only on eliminating greenhouse gas emissions: It must provide **real change and social justice for the billions of people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods**, and for all those who have so far been left behind on the path to the right to food and nutrition for all.

COP30 in Brazil provides a unique opportunity to **link the climate and Zero Hunger agendas**, as “Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems” forms one of the six pillars of the COP30 presidency’s action agenda, and as several agenda items relevant to food and agriculture will be debated. Given the already severe impacts of the climate crisis on nutrition security, COP30 must initiate a **Just Transition in agriculture and food systems**: by making food systems work for everyone, including marginalised groups; by enabling access to nutritious and diverse food for all; and by respecting the rights of peasants, landworkers, and Indigenous Peoples.

COP30 also takes place against a backdrop of **rising humanitarian needs**, frequently caused by climate-related extreme weather events that lead to a breakdown of local food systems. As the humanitarian system is faced with drastic funding cuts by donor governments, **affected communities are bearing the brunt of a crisis they did not cause**. COP30 has to deliver tangible results to support communities in need, including by increasing the accessibility of climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and by enabling meaningful participation of climate-affected communities.

1. FSIN and GNAFC, 2025: [Global Report on Food Crises \(GRFC\) 2025](#)

2. Nabuurs, G.-J., R. Mrabet, A. Abu Hatab, M. Bustamante, H. Clark, P. Havlik, J. House, C. Mbow, K.N. Ninan, A. Popp, S. Roe, B. Sohngen, S. Towprayoon, 2022: [Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses \(AFOLU\)](#). In IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Opportunities for action at COP30

I. ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION IN FOOD SYSTEMS

Belém needs to be the COP that sets a clear signal for food systems transformation and agroecology as central to achieving climate goals. It needs a strong emphasis on the right to food and its implementation, right to a clean and healthy environment, rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP), and rights of traditional and vulnerable communities. Agroecology and the Right to Food have to be centered in the agriculture negotiations of the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and food security, but also in other workstreams.

Elevate agriculture and food systems within the Just Transition

With 3.8 billion people living in households linked to food systems livelihoods³, agriculture cannot be ignored by the Just Transition conversation. Parties need to ensure it receives greater attention in the next round of dialogues of the **Just Transition Work Programme**, particularly in the context of adaptation. Support and strategies for farming communities and economies to **transition away from harmful and highly polluting industrialised agriculture systems** need to be scaled up. A Just Transition mechanism such as the **Belém Action Mechanism (BAM)**, that will cover agriculture, needs to guide climate action across the UNFCCC and beyond. Inclusive and participatory planning processes, social dialogue, training, reskilling, social protection and support for economic diversification are all essential elements for ensuring that transitions successfully support communities instead of exacerbating existing inequalities in agriculture and food systems.

The just transition of food systems needs to be embedded in **climate and biodiversity strategies** (including 2025 NDCs and NAPs, and NBSAPs) with a strong focus on adopting **healthy and sustainable diets and agroecology**, with diversified farming systems that support smallholder and family farmers. The Just Transition needs public finance and technology transfer towards **agroecology** and climate-resilient food systems, ensuring that financing aligns with a Just Transition approach. This approach rejects false solutions that threaten the right to food and nutrition, food sovereignty, and land rights, such as large scale biofuels. On the contrary it builds resilience, supports the diversification of production, integrates sustainable water resource management, reduces food waste, promotes fair trading practices, whilst addressing the indirect causes of food and nutrition insecurity, and encouraging local action and locally-led adaptation.

Align Adaptation with Agroecology

Negotiations on the **Global Goal on Adaptation** must conclude with **clear indicators on agriculture and means of implementation**, ensuring Parties, especially from the Global South, have adequate support and clear adaptation pathways for agriculture and food systems. The indicator selection for the food and agriculture adaptation target should reflect the need to **shift policies, practices and finance to agroecology**. Indicators also need to reflect coherence between climate action, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, while protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and small-scale food producers.

The Brazilian COP presidency has a historic opportunity to champion a just and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems, by sending a strong signal in favour of agroecology through a Just Transition that integrates the need of workforce and livelihoods dependent on agriculture and food systems, and the right to food and nutrition for all.

3. Davis, B., Mane, E., Gurbuzer, L.Y., Caivano, G., Piedrahita, N., Schneider, K., Azhar, N., Benali, M., Chaudhary, N., Rivera, R., Ambikapathi, R. and Winters, P., 2023: [Estimating global and country-level employment in agrifood systems](#)

II. TACKLING GROWING CLIMATE-RELATED HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The climate crisis directly drives hunger and malnutrition by reducing the quantity and quality of harvests through extreme weather events. It also fosters underlying causes of malnutrition such as contaminated water, disruptions of healthcare services, increased social tensions especially in areas of existing insecurity and displacement that causes resource scarcity and loss of access to basic services⁴. These threats intersect with other human-made causes of hunger, especially socioeconomic inequalities and armed conflict. In the most extreme cases, the combination of climate and conflict impacts leads to the breakdown of food systems, leaving affected communities dependent on humanitarian aid while destroyed infrastructure limits access to markets, healthcare, including nutrition services or mental health support and humanitarian assistance.

Prevent climate-related malnutrition

To prevent further escalation of hunger and malnutrition numbers - which are already rising again in certain regions of Africa⁵ - **humanitarian funding** must be upheld, including for **anticipatory action** and in combination with resilience-building activities as part of the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus**. Moreover, COP30 has to bring progress regarding the **amount and accessibility of climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected areas**, which is currently projected to amount to only half of climate finance needs of these states⁶. This funding is crucial to enable climate action and adaptation in fragile contexts, including in food systems, for instance by supporting a transition to climate-resilient and nutritious crops and by implementing agroecological methods that enhance resilience to future crises. Such climate funding must be disbursed in a **conflict-sensitive** way to prevent fuelling conflict.

Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is fundamental to preventing malnutrition. In 2024, 176.6 million people required humanitarian WASH assistance, yet only 48 million received access, with a critical funding gap of 93.4% for 2025. Eighty percent of diseases in crisis contexts are linked to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation, directly exacerbating malnutrition and compromising nutrient absorption. **Climate change directly threatens WASH infrastructure** through extreme weather events that contaminate water sources, destroy sanitation systems, and disrupt hygiene services.

Climate finance must systematically integrate the protection and rehabilitation of WASH services, recognizing their central role in preventing malnutrition and strengthening community resilience. WASH investments generate proven economic returns: every \$1 invested in basic drinking water yields a \$4.3 return, rising to \$5.5 for basic sanitation.

Enable meaningful participation for those affected by the climate crisis

Achieving a Just Transition is not only about the outcome of climate action, or access to climate finance for front-line communities: it is also a process that **centers the rights and livelihoods of people most affected by the climate crisis**, who have historically almost not contributed to greenhouse gas emissions compared to the Global North. However, many affected communities do not have adequate access to UNFCCC negotiations and cannot meaningfully participate in decisions about their future livelihoods and safety. Calls for more inclusive decision-making must be heard and implemented, while corporate influence must be curtailed⁷. COP30 should not become a space for greenwashing by the fossil fuel and agricultural industries. A clear **conflict of interest policy** should be established to ensure corporate participation is constructive and contributes to the ambition of having a just transition that incorporates and recognizes the key role of agriculture and food systems transformation, and enables participation by small and medium enterprises and cooperatives. This includes **transparency** in private sector engagement, safeguards against greenwashing, and prioritisation of solutions led by Indigenous Peoples, smallholders and family farmers, women, youth and civil society actors.

COP30 will also be the setting for the demonstration of lived experience and real solutions driven by the people on the frontlines of the climate crisis, who will gather during the **People's summit**⁸. This autonomous space is not only an event, but a process of political convergence by social movements and organisations who are making the Just Transition alive. This popular pressure of grassroots movements reclaiming climate action as theirs must call all governments to urgent action.

4. Global Nutrition Cluster, 2025: [Brief Overview of the Relationship between the Climate Crisis and Nutrition in Emergencies](#)

5. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2025: [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Addressing high food price inflation for food security and nutrition](#)

6. Cao, Y., 2025: [Small change? Our projections for the conflict blind spot in climate finance by 2030](#)

7. CAN, DCJ, YOUNGO, WGC and others: [Reclaiming Climate Justice: United Call for an Urgent Reform of the UN Climate Talks](#)

8. People's summit, <https://cupuladospovoscop30.org/en/home/>

Supporting farmers' climate resilience in Cameroon with social protection and farmers field schools

The **Logone Birni commune in the Far North region of Cameroon** is vulnerable to intersecting crises, including climate impacts such as flooding, inter- and intra-community conflicts, poverty and nutrition crises. In response to these challenges, Action contre la Faim and its local civil society partners (Tammounde and ASOL), are setting up a **nutritional protection and security programme** to strengthen the resilience of populations in vulnerable situations. This initiative provides food assistance through **cash transfers and support for income-generating activities** to help increase access to nutritious and diverse food.

Each of the 700 households supported by Action contre la Faim developed an income-generating activity: livestock farming (cattle, pigs, goats, poultry); agriculture (market gardening with rice, watermelon, onions, tomatoes, okra) and small businesses (food shop, sale of spare parts, catering, electronics kiosk, shops). Selected participants were able to attend **training courses** on management, accounting and financial education, and technical assistance was provided by the ministries of livestock, agriculture and employment and vocational training.

Ousmane Souina, a resident of Gaopata in the Logone Birni commune, received monetary support for three months and assistance in setting up an income-generating activity, which he says *"has profoundly changed my and my family's lives"*. He had previously moved to Maroua to escape inter-community conflicts. When he returned to his village, he faced challenges: *"This year is special because our locality has suffered a lot from heavy flooding. My house was destroyed during that period, and I was without hope. My children and I were homeless. I received assistance for three months to support my family. This enabled me to buy food, as well as medicine for the children. This project also gave me a glimmer of hope, because I was able to set up a tomato business. Today, I can sell my tomatoes in the field and also in Kousseri, which is 35km from my home, and this enables me to earn 50,000 CFA francs every fortnight."*

The project's success demonstrates the value of livelihoods support for communities trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict and climate impacts. By meeting both emergency needs and increasing the capacity for small-scale food production, the community's resilience to future shocks and access to nutritious food can be strengthened.

In the Eastern region of Cameroon, farmer field schools in Boubara bring together 1,200 people in 40 field schools. This program aims to empower populations in vulnerable situations, combat malnutrition in rural areas, increase agricultural production through the dissemination of agroecological techniques, diversify crops, and raise awareness of the importance of a balanced diet. By focusing on the cultivation of diverse and locally adapted nutrient-rich vegetables, legumes, and cereals, farmer field schools improve access to a varied and healthy diet. Surpluses are used for processing and sale, which helps to boost household incomes and meet basic needs.

Farmers received in-depth training in organic farming practices and adaptation techniques. Maïramou, a 50-year-old widow, was previously struggling to provide for her ten children, has benefited from this training: *"We were taught to produce our own fertilizers and to protect our crops at a low cost. This knowledge has been a real blessing for me because I don't have to buy expensive chemical products at the market anymore."* Bio-pesticides and organic fertilizers from local ingredients are both environmentally friendly and economical and reduce production costs while improving crop yields, leaving more income for the household.

Initiatives such as farmer field schools contribute to the sharing of local experience and knowledge that is necessary for a Just Transition, and offer concrete opportunities to overcome poverty, particularly in areas where access to resources is limited and food insecurity is a major challenge.

Holistic Management in rangelands in Senegal

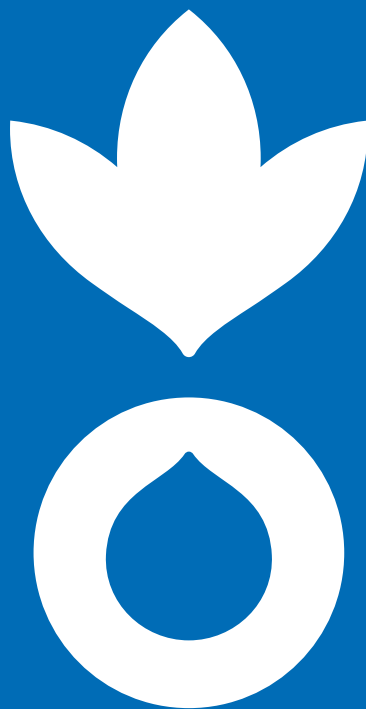
In the Sylvopastoral Reserve of Déaly, northern Senegal, communities face severe environmental degradation caused by overgrazing, recurrent bushfires, and climate change. With 70% of households relying on livestock for their livelihoods, poor rangeland management has led to soil erosion, declining water infiltration, loss of biodiversity, and reduced fodder availability. These dynamics directly threaten food security and the resilience of pastoral families.

To address this challenge, Action Against Hunger has introduced Holistic Management, a regenerative approach that restores degraded land by harnessing the natural impact of livestock. Rather than continuous grazing, animals are concentrated in small plots for short periods, where their trampling breaks soil crusts and their manure enhances fertility. After grazing, the land is rested to allow vegetation recovery. The initiative is highly participatory, involving local herders, transhumant families, civil society, and local authorities in planning, monitoring, and protecting the managed plots.

Since 2024, a demonstration pilot site in Déaly has applied Holistic Management tools, covering almost 130 hectares. Initial outcomes are promising: treated soils retain 60% more rainfall, and forage species absent for over 10 years have naturally reappeared. **These results demonstrate the potential of livestock-driven regeneration to restore ecosystems, strengthen food security, and inspire broader adoption of sustainable rangeland management across the Sahel.**



Breeders with their herds. Senegal.



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Created in 1979, our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) – Action Against Hunger – is fighting against hunger and malnutrition in the world, in more than 55 countries with over 8000 staff. Its aim is to save lives and eradicate hunger through the prevention, detection, and treatment of malnutrition, in particular during and after emergency situations caused by conflicts and natural disasters. Action Against Hunger advocates to tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition: conflicts, the climate crisis, and inequalities.