



C7 Statement on Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict ahead of the Leaders' Summit in Schloss Elmau

Seven years ago, the G7 met at Elmau and committed to lift 500 million people out of hunger and poverty. Today, food insecurity continues to rise globally, increasing by 25 percent between 2020 and 2021 alone.

One year ago, the G7 committed to step up its efforts to prevent famine through the 2021 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crisis Compact. Today, the number of people living in emergency and catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity has increased by 44 percent.

The number of people facing famine-like levels of hunger has increased by a shocking 550 percent since hundreds of NGOs issued an open letter with an urgent call for action to prevent famine in March 2021.

The consequences of the conflict in Ukraine are further driving up global prices of food, fuel, and critical agricultural inputs and deepening an already alarming situation.

We welcome the G7 statements regarding the need to scale up anticipatory action, recognising its links to climate, the commitments to improve work across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, and to strengthen social protection. We acknowledge the strong language on participation and inclusion, the role of local actors, and the recognition of gender, age, and ability barriers to inclusion. However, with more than 270 million men, women and children across the world in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, drastic action is required.

There are two areas for immediate action:

1. RESPONDING AT SCALE TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

To save lives now and build the foundations to end hunger crises for the last time, we ask the G7 to:

1. Reaffirm all its commitments made under the 2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact and redouble its efforts to prevent and respond adequately to the growing risk of famine in multiple countries. We also ask the G7 to increase transparency by reporting on progress against those commitments.
2. Reaffirm the G7 commitment made in 2015 to lift 500 million people out of hunger and poverty by 2030. The G7 must ensure that its investments to sustainably transform agriculture and food systems and support smallholders are targeted at building resilience and long-term solutions to recurrent food crises in the most fragile contexts.
3. Ensure the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS), launched at the G7 Development Ministers meeting, clearly outlines how it will directly meet the immediate hunger needs of 49 million people who are currently experiencing emergency and famine-like levels of hunger, as well as build their resilience in the longer-term.
4. The GAFS must also scale up proven interventions to mitigate the hunger fallout from the conflict in Ukraine, such as humanitarian cash, and malnutrition prevention and response. This should also include supporting efforts to increase global supply and delivery of specialised nutritious food to reduce wasting, and climate and conflict-sensitive food security programmes that empower women and girls.

2. STRENGTHENING THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM TO REDUCE NEED

More can and must be done to strengthen the commitments on anticipatory action, climate, and conflict. To achieve more impactful and meaningful action, G7 leaders should:

1. Commit new and additional funding for anticipatory action to ensure it does not lead to a reduction in humanitarian funding to meet existing and emerging humanitarian needs. This funding should be long-term and flexible, and include financing for local early warning systems, including those that support social structures and social innovation;
2. Uphold commitments made in the Grand Bargain to support local actors, including through direct and rapid financing, to strengthen communities' capacity to prevent, respond to, and absorb shocks through increased investments in shock-responsive social protection systems and cash programming that reach the most vulnerable communities, with a focus on women, girls, older persons, and persons with disabilities, including in conflict settings;
3. Increase investment in conflict prevention and resolution, including through support to locally led peacebuilding efforts, since conflict is the main driver of hunger and need, by developing a time-bound plan to integrate conflict prevention into anticipatory action within three months of the G7 Summit, ensuring NGOs are consulted in the development and implementation of the plan.

Above all, G7 members and all states must take action to prevent crises arising from conflict and mitigate the impacts of conflict on communities by strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, including ensuring humanitarian access. As States Parties to the Geneva Conventions, G7 leaders have the responsibility to respect and ensure respect by their partners for international humanitarian law.

The Civil7 Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict represents over 90 international and national humanitarian NGOs that are working directly with the most vulnerable communities in the most challenging locations worldwide.

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