UNHEARD WATER STORIES FROM ASIA, AFRICA AND MENA

Elevating local voices for water security in a climate insecure world

OXFAM

A growing global climate-induced water crisis exacerbates existing water security challenges, pushing communities in regions such as Asia, Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) beyond their historical coping mechanisms. The most affected groups in these regions include marginalized communities such as fishers, farmers and foresters living below the poverty line. They bear the brunt of the consequences of climate emissions from the largest polluting countries. As these communities grapple with climate impacts, factors such as location, identity, race and gender further compromise their water access. Yet these issues remain underrepresented in global climate decision-making platforms, which are largely dominated by elite groups.

Through this paper, Oxfam aims to amplify the concerns of marginalized communities, whose voices are often excluded from global decision-making processes, to support fairer, more inclusive climate action. For years, Oxfam has advocated for people's inclusion in local and national climate action. It promotes concepts like 'People's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),' which emphasize civil society involvement in planning and monitoring climate initiatives.[1] Oxfam's review of recent practices across 11 countries revealed that NDCs were often not adequately inclusive. These NDCs frequently overlooked civil societies and the communities most affected by climate change and climate transition plans.[2] 2024 is a crucial year in which countries will revise their climate plans, making it imperative to highlight the stories of those most affected.

For this paper, Oxfam spoke to people living in remote areas across six countries in these regions. According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index, these six countries rank lower in terms of vulnerability and are among the least prepared to combat climate change.[3]

Country Level Ranking according to ND-GAIN Index:

Country	ND-GAIN Index	Income Level
Bangladesh	163	Lower Middle
Nepal	125	Low
Syria	156	N/A
Iraq	126	Lower Middle
Kenya	150	Low
Somalia	178	Low

ASIA: VOICES FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

NEPAL

Springs are a vital water source for communities in Jwalamukhi Rural Municipality, Nepal. In the mountains and hills, it is estimated that almost 80% of the population depends on spring water sources. In the mid-hills, 73% of springs show a continuous decline in flow, with 2% already dried up. Drying springs impact water availability and accessibility for livelihood activities, exacerbating gendered vulnerability to climate change.[4]

'The spring source would decline during the dry months (March, April and May), and we would have to search for water elsewhere: communal taps from other villages, rivers and other spring sources,' Bhul Maya, a local villager said. *'Water has always been scarce during these months. However, as years go by, that time has been stretching. It is already July now, and the source is barely reviving. We are still carrying water from another village's communal tap.'*

She added, '*I wish I didn't have to pick up the doko and namlo (a traditional basket and the headstrap used to carry it) and carry water on my back at this age. Since our source is drying up, we need to add a new source to the water supply tank.'*

Women carry water on their backs as the spring source in their village hasn't revived even with the onset of monsoon. Photo: Susma Panta/Oxfam

When asked what she thought the reasons were for spring sources drying up, she said, '*There isn't as much rainfall these days. They also cut down a small patch of community forest above the road to build a communal building. The drought was severe last year, with no rain for almost eight months. I think the earthquake is also responsible. I only know this much.'*

Bhul Maya gets ready to carry water on a doko from a communal tap. Photo: Susma Panta/Oxfam

Bhul Maya collects rainwater for daily household uses. Photo: Susma Panta/Oxfam

The Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) conducted by the government identified no significant change in the amount of rainfall throughout the year but noted the intensity and frequency of rainfall had changed. In 2023, 12 climate stations recorded the highest daily maximum temperature. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology reports that the country received only 12.1mm of rainfall from 23 December 2023, which is concerning considering Nepal's average winter rainfall is 60.1mm. Eight of the past eighteen winters have witnessed drought in Nepal.[5] The government reports that the country experienced extreme drought (70% below normal precipitation) in January 2024.[6]

Communities have observed a shift in rainfall patterns, especially in winter rainfall, which now often occurs at the end of the season.

Lila Maan Bada Shakya, a farmer and a Village Maintenance Worker for the Hulak Bhanjyang Water Supply system, expressed his concerns.

'We are dependent on Jilim River for our water supply, but it has also started to completely dry up during the winter.'

'I have seen a steep decline in rainfall,' Shakya added, '*not just the amount but the duration as well. It has also started to rain outside the pattern we are familiar with. We also used to get rain during the winter months (December and January). Now, there's either too little water or too much water at once. I hear that the world is heating up. We feel it too. I think that is what climate change is.'*

The continuing push and pull with too little and too much water has plagued the communities in rural Nepal. Many community members recalled instances where villages migrated due to water sources drying up.

'When we built this system, 'Lila Maan said, '*the source was strong, we never imagined it drying up. Now, even the river dries up during the winter seasons. If we don't tap into a new water source soon, we will go back to carrying water from long distances.'*

BANGLADESH

Satkhira is one of Bangladesh's 19 coastal districts facing severe salinity due to rising sea levels induced by climate change.[7] Communities living there face both the threats of climate hazards and loss and damage beyond their adaptation capacities.[8] Oxfam spoke with the resource dependent communities from this region, mainly farmers and fishers whose lives and livelihoods are dependent on a water-based economy. Among them some are denied water access due to their religious identity. For them, their water crises are manifold.

A woman from Satkhira collecting water. Photo: Jahangir Alam/Oxfam in Bangladesh

Communities living there often lack formal ownership of land, making them extremely vulnerable. They have less protection, less resilience and therefore experience greater loss and damage, which accumulates over time.[9]

Bijoy Sarker, a landless farmer, shared his plight, *'I have no land of my own. I have been living by this river for the last 30 years. But due to climate change and natural disasters, it has become extremely difficult for us to live here. Since we don't own the land we live and cultivate on, I feel like we are always at risk. Our homes get destroyed, farmlands lose their richness, and we have no way to cope with all of this.'*

'The salinity in our soil keeps increasing,' Sarker added. *'This is why we cannot produce crops like before. Land fertility continues to decrease after each flooding event. Our farming*

communities keep getting poorer due to the rapid declining of land fertility in our farmlands.'

Land ownership plays a significant role in adapting to climatic hazards, as Bijoy and others noted.

'If one has land ownership, they can build houses adapted to climatic disasters. However, those who don't have their own land are at risk of eviction by the government, which creates an additional burden during a disaster,' said a local fisherman.

Amid high levels of salinity intrusion, farmers are attempting to cultivate saline-tolerant crops. However, their ability and assured success in doing so are limited. Without government support and technical training, continuing these trial practices will be challenging.

The situation is even more challenging for communities like the Kaiputra, who are considered 'untouchable' by most in the society.[10] Therefore, they fall victim to extreme marginalization, making their participation in climate discourse almost unimaginable. Rani and her community, considered 'untouchable' by the locals, face numerous challenges, with water rights a key concern. Their only drinking water source is a deep tube well, which draws mostly on ground water.[11] They have no access to other tube wells or sources, and those outside the community do not allow them access. Although surrounded by ponds, more than 200 people are permitted to use only one pond for bathing, washing and other water-related activities. Other Kaiputra communities in Satkhira even lack allocated ponds, highlighting their deprivation of rights due to low social status and caste.

The community in the coastal belt constantly faces disasters. However, in addition to facing disaster, getting fresh water is becoming an increasing challenge for the community. Photo: Jahangir Alam/Oxfam in Bangladesh

In addition to the freshwater crisis, salinity also compels people to migrate to cities like Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and even India. Instances of domestic violence rise in parallel during that time.

Climate-induced migration is a significant issue in rural Bangladesh, with disproportionately unequal impacts on women. As men migrate in search of livelihood opportunities, women are left to manage their households alone, taking up additional roles and responsibilities. This dual burden requires them to manage household tasks and take on extensive care work. The added challenge of fetching water from distant sources further strains their time and energy. In some cases, women and young girls also face harassment while collecting water.

'*During the time men move out of the village in search of work,*' Shamsun said, *'the level of care responsibilities on women increases even more. Women and girls walk long distances to collect water and are often subjected to violence and harassment in this process. It is common in my community for pressure on women to lead to domestic violence when a family's income is impacted or reduced.'*

AFRICA: VOICES FROM KENYA AND SOMALIA

KENYA

In Kenya, Oxfam heard from pastoralist communities in Lodwar for whom livestock is more important than feeding themselves. These communities mostly rely on groundwater for their drinking needs, but this resource is dwindling due to overuse and climate change. Prolonged drought has also limited water availability for their livestock.

'I would rather starve than eat our animals,' one pastoralist community member from Turkana County said.

This is a common scene in Lodwar, Kenya where community members walk for miles to collect water. Photo: Nuzhat Nueary @Oxfam International

The community highlighted the importance of addressing food and water security together, as both impact nutrition and productivity. Since it is a dry and drought-prone region, crops and vegetables are not produced in abundance. The communities primarily rely on meat, which is insufficient to meet their nutritional needs. Drought also impacts grazing lands, leading to livestock deaths due to lack of water. However, these animals hold great value for these communities. The impact on livestock has also been catastrophic, with over 10 million animals perishing, including 6.8 million in Ethiopia, 2.6 million in Kenya, and more than 3.8 million in Somalia. This has led to significant economic losses, particularly impacting the most impoverished households. [12]

Women and girls face disproportionate impacts from the water crisis. They are generally responsible for collecting water, walking on average two to four miles in search of water points. The time and effort that women and children spend collecting water could otherwise be used for schooling or other productive work.

'*Some of the pregnant women lost their babies while collecting water here in our village*,' said a local water secretary from Lodwar Village.

A local water committee member added, *'We need watershed management for sustainable livelihoods and food production.*'

'I was living a good life before the drought. The land had good rain and pasture for our animals. I would sell my livestock to provide for my family and pay for my children's education. After the drought, I was left stranded,' Ahmad said.

Drought-affected rural communities, like Ahmad's, represent the human face of the global climate emergency. Yet, assistance often reaches them too late, when they've already been forced to leave their homes and are exposed to physical, psychosocial and other health risks. In arid-zone areas, this short-term humanitarian aid is insufficient. These communities need sustained, long-term support to adapt to the unequal impacts of climate change. Meanwhile, rich, high-polluting nations continue to emit greenhouse gases, leaving impacted communities to bear the burden. These nations must therefore provide compensation for their historical and ongoing carbon emissions, ensuring longer-term financing that supports climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, helping to break the cycles of hunger and poverty.

SOMALIA

Somalia, despite minimal contributions of less than 0.03% to global greenhouse gas emissions, faces significant vulnerabilities due to its geographic location, sociopolitical complexities and economic constraints.[13] Oxfam heard from communities in Somalia who have been internally displaced by climate-induced floods or droughts.

Drought in Somalia. Photo: Ahmed Osman/Oxfam

Anisa Jama Hassan and her family, who are pastoralists, once lived in the countryside. Three years ago, they packed their belongings and walked to Dhudhub Dhiilo, a small settlement in the dry northeast of Somaliland. Initially, they planned to stay temporarily, but as the drought persisted, they remained.

Anisa Jama Hassan is carrying her child on her back while she fetches water from the nearby water reservoir. Photo: Ahmed Osman/ Oxfam

Anisa now lives with her husband and their eight children—four girls and four boys—in a small shelter made of sticks, tarps, scraps of cloth and grain bags. Her youngest child is seven months old. With the baby on her back, she fetches water from a nearby reservoir every two days. She carries 40 litres of water, which her family uses for washing, drinking, cooking, and watering their livestock.

Anisa Jama Hassan and her children, from Dhudhub Dhiilo in Sanaag region, standing in front of their hut. Photo: Ahmed Osman/ Oxfam

'*It's hard to carry the water by myself,*' said Anisa. Fortunately, the community shares a wheelbarrow, which makes transporting it easier.

'I would like to stay here because we have access to water, latrines and light at night. We also receive cash assistance, which helps us a lot,' she reflected on her new life. However, the fear of hunger still looms. *'I can only provide one meal a day*,' she added, explaining that the meal typically consists of rice or spaghetti.

The water crisis is also directly linked to hunger in Somalia as seen in the life of Shamso Isac Shamso who lives in the Burlhedi IDP camp in Baidoa, in the Southwest state of Somalia. As new arrivals, Shamso and her children have not been registered for food rations and must rely on the kindness of others until help reaches them.

Since 2017, Shamso has seen the collapse of her livelihood due to a lack of pasture. Scarce rainfall, failed crops and dried-up water sources have forced millions of people to flee their homes to survive.

'*Sometimes, if we have breakfast, we miss lunch. If we eat lunch, we skip dinner. And if we don't have anything to eat throughout the day, we go to bed hungry,*' said Shamso.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: VOICES FROM SYRIA AND IRAQ

The MENA region is one of the most water scarce regions in the world. This is an image of a local farmer, Khalida, from Tayha village in Iraq's Diyala province, whose land has gone dry over the past two years. Photo: Paula Gonzalez @Oxfam

SYRIA

The 2008 Syrian drought had major repercussions for agricultural areas like Deir Salman.[14] Many farmers had to leave their ancestral land to find new livelihoods after their crops and cattle died. Mass migration from rural to urban regions placed additional strain on already congested cities, worsening social and economic inequality, and damaging Syria's social and economic environment.

A local farmer from Syria. Photo: Dania Kareh/Oxfam

'The drought has forced me to sell my farming equipment and sheep,' said a local farmer from Syria. *'Currently, I'm working in farmwork for a neighbour who managed to deepen his well by 250 metres in search of water. Unfortunately, I lack the resources to do the same, and my well has been dry for four years.'*

'The persistent drought has impacted our town for five years,' he added, *'with this year seeing no rainfall at all. The lack of water has led to significant financial losses for me, amounting to 5-6 million SYP (approximately US$1,300) annually. Over the past four years, my cumulative losses have exceeded US$4,500.'*

Laila Bourq, a 62-year-old farmer from Deir Salman has also struggled with the lack of rainfall. *'The drought has taken a heavy toll on our crops and livelihoods,'* she said as she reflected on the issues her community faces.

After more than a decade of conflict, Syria's energy infrastructure remains severely damaged, with widespread power outages and inadequate access to electricity. Most of the population lacks reliable access to electricity and relies on alternative energy sources.

'Without reliable access to water and energy, our agricultural activities have been severely impacted, threatening our food security and economic stability,' Laila added.

Determined to address these challenges, Laila led efforts to develop renewable energy as a long-term solution for Deir Salman. She obtained money for solar-powered water pumping

systems via creative partnerships and community participation, giving farmers a sustainable and cost-effective way to irrigate their farms. The installation of solar panels enabled farmers like Laila to offset the effects of drought.

Laila Bourq, a local farmer from rural Damascus is opting for solar power for her farming. Photo: Dania Kareh/ Oxfam.

'*Renewable energy has been a lifesaver for our family,*' says Wael, Laila's son. '*With solar electricity, we don't have to worry about fuel shortages or increasing prices. Our farmlands thrive and our livelihoods are secure.*'

IRAQ

According to a report by Oxfam Iraq, small-scale farmers are among the groups most affected by climate-induced water scarcity.[15] Over the years, Qasaem and other members of his community have seen rainfall decrease dramatically in their village near Baghdad compared to the past.

Abu Hussain hopes that the climate change doesn't force him to sell his agricultural lands, stop farming and abandon his village in East Baghdad area. Photo: Murad Al-Qaranati/Oxfam

In Diyala, sandstorms are destroying the agricultural lands which are a source of living for the villagers, forcing people to leave their homes. Photo: Murad Al-Qaranati/Oxfam

'*Here in our region, we face sandstorms from time to time. The temperatures, which used to be lower 15 years ago, have also changed,*' Hatem said.

When asked about climate change, he said, '*We have heard about climate change, but we don't know how to deal with it or how to reduce its impact at the individual level. If things continue this way, I will not continue in farming.*'

Hatem, a farmer from Salah Al-Din Governorate, explained how their village depended on pastoralism and farming. However, due to water scarcity, they can no longer sustain these activities. He further described how many people from surrounding areas have migrated due to water scarcity and the inability to farm their land.

'*The government and different organisations need to take action. Otherwise, agriculture will disappear*,' Hatem added.

'When I was younger, the rainfall was better. Sometimes, farmers won't be able to farm their land due to the intensity and persistence of the rainfall,' said Husain from Kirkuk Governorate, who explained how last year's rain was reduced and the temperature was increasing. He said the people in his community tried to plant trees, but it didn't work because of water scarcity, especially with the high salinity level of the water extracted from water wells.

Another farmer, Khalaf, described how the weather has become drier, with sandstorms occasionally sweeping across their land. Khalaf noted that many families have left their land and migrated.

'I used to have a good number of livestock, all of which I had to sell,' he said. He further explained that he knows at least 25 families in his village who sold what they owned and migrated to the city because of water scarcity.

'*We didn't do any afforestation campaigns because of water scarcity. The water wells we have dug only provide saline water, unfit for agricultural use. I will prevent my children from pursuing agriculture in the village because it has no future.'*

WHY DECISION-MAKERS NEED TO PUT PEOPLE FIRST

Anisa Jama Hassan from Dhudhub Dhiilo in Somaliland, with her youngest child. Photo: @Ahmed Osman/Oxfam

This paper strongly recommends that national governments and policymakers adopt inclusive climate plans that reflect the diverse needs of communities in countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya, Somalia, Syria and Iraq. The case study done by Oxfam in Bangladesh on People's NDC found that gender considerations were notably absent in NDCs. On the other hand, Nepal's Water Resource Policy 2020 offers a promising model, emphasizing watershed-level planning and community involvement. In partnership with the federal government, Oxfam Nepal is piloting water management tools to address water allocation and distribution challenges in a changing climate. Similarly, Kenya's ongoing water crisis highlights the importance of proper watershed management and professionalizing water systems to build resilience.

The stories from Somalia emphasize the need for long-term humanitarian assistance integrated with climate action plans. Building climate resilience is critical in conflict-affected regions like Kenya and Syria, where water crises have been exacerbated due to conflicts. In the MENA region, water scarcity—driven by climate change, political tensions, and conflict—requires long-term contingency planning. This includes sustainable development projects that address interrelated issues of water shortages, energy insecurity, and environmental degradation through renewable energy, community participation, and uninterrupted humanitarian assistance.

To strengthen inclusive climate action, fostering open dialogue and creating space for communities and local civil society organization (CSO) leaders is essential. Additionally,

governments should initiate capacity-strengthening programs to enable more effective community participation. This will ensure that the climate policymaking process is more informed and effective.

Moreover, the responsibility for building climate resilience and adapting to climate change should not fall solely on affected communities. The Unfair Share Report by Oxfam Africa highlights how Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia from East Africa suffered US$15-30bn in losses from 2020-2022, while wealthy nations provided only US$2.4bn in climate finance to the region.[16] Through bringing forth these community testimonies, Oxfam calls on high-income countries and donors to increase humanitarian and climate financing and fulfil their commitments to compensate communities in these six countries for the loss and damage caused by climate change, which is beyond their adaptation capacities.

CONCLUSION

The stories from Asia, Africa, and the MENA are linked by shared challenges: limited access to water, the intensifying climate crisis, conflict, and the exclusion of women, marginalized groups and racialized communities from decision-making processes. The exclusionary decision-making processes make the climate strategies ineffective. These factors compound existing vulnerabilities, highlighting the urgent need for inclusive policies that prioritize water security and climate adaptation for all. To address this, Oxfam is calling on governments and policymakers to create platforms for communities and strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in policymaking process, bringing forth their ground level adaptation experiences.

In 2024, all countries will update and submit their NDCs and national plans, detailing their commitments to combat climate change. At the same time, the discussion of the restructuring of loss and damage funds is going on among global policymakers. These are the two key moments when these stories of communities should be highlighted to strengthen, scale up and implement the following recommendations for governments, big polluters, donors and policymakers:

Key global recommendations:[17]

- Policymakers should strongly address and include water-related loss and damage in their climate action plans, interventions and investments.
- Governments must allocate resources and capacity-strengthening initiatives to enable all stakeholders to participate effectively in the climate policymaking process.
- Governments should promote women's leadership in climate action by actively involving women at all stages and implementing strong accountability mechanisms.
- Governments and policymakers should make gender-disaggregated reporting mandatory in NDCs and in Loss and Damage, including an intersectional analysis of roles, benefits, jobs, and positions of men in polluting and green industries.
- Rich polluting nations must compensate for their historical and current carbon emissions and provide adequate climate finance to the impacted countries.
- UN agencies and donors must support governments, local civil society actors and women's rights organizations to effectively participate in climate actions and policymaking process, by providing access to flexible and transparent funding.

METHODOLOGY

The quotes and stories were collected from the Oxfam country offices of Bangladesh, Nepal, Iraq, Syria, Kenya and Somalia. Some of the pictures and quotes are sourced from Oxfam's existing knowledge repository.

Notes

[1] UNFCCC. (2023). *2023 NDC Synthesis Report*. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://unfccc.int/ndc-synthesis-report-2023

[2] Oxfam commissioned research in 11 countries, where Oxfam has not been actively engaged in NDC processes (mostly) but where it implements climate justice programs. The countries are Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe. D. Pruett and C. Hill. (2024). *Climate Plans for the People: Civil society and community participation in national action plans on climate change*. Oxfam International. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://doi.org/10.21201/2024.000019.

[3] The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience. It aims to help governments, businesses and communities better prioritize investments for a more efficient response to the immediate global challenges ahead. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/

[4] A. Pandit, O. Batelaan, V.P. Pandey and S. Adhikari. 2024. 'Depleting spring sources in the Himalayas: Environmental drivers or just perception?' Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies, 53, 101752

[5] R. Kumar. (17 January 2024). *Nepal suffers another winter drought*. Nepali Times. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://nepalitimes.com/news/nepal-suffers-another-winter-drought

[6] Government of Nepal. *Preliminary Precipitation and Temperature Summary*. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://www.dhm.gov.np/uploads/dhm/climateService/January_2024-Preliminary_precipitation_and_temperature_summary.pdf

[7] U. Rezoyana, Md. K. Tusar Md. A. Islam. (2023). 'Impact of Salinity: A Case Study in Saline Affected Satkhira District'. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 11(05), 288–305. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://doi.org/10.4236/jss.2023.115020.

[8] 'Loss and damage' is a general term used in UN climate negotiations to refer to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to. For example, the loss of coastal heritage sites due to rising sea levels or the loss of homes and lives during extreme floods. This also includes situations where adaptation options exist, but a community doesn't have the resources to access or utilize them. To date, there is no official definition of loss and damage under the UN. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://www.wri.org/insights/loss-damage-climate-change

[9] Loss and damage to land can include permanent loss of lands such as to landslides, lands completely washed away due to floods or lost to the sea due to rising sea levels. There could also be longer-term loss and damage due to salination, land degradation or changing land use over time, or shorter-term impacts causing temporary changes in land use or limiting access to lands and forests. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/10546/621531/1/ib-loss-and-damage-to-land-voices-from-Asia-290623-en.pdf

[10] The Kaiputra is a small pig rearing community concentrated in 41 villages in the south-western districts of Jashore, Satkhira and Khulna. Their guesstimated population is 12,000. The Kaiputras, basically Hindus, are generally despised in the society because they rear pigs, an animal 'filthy' to the Muslim majority. Many consider them 'untouchables'. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://sehd.org/kaiputra-a-pig-rearing-community/

[11] Different types of drinking water:
- Source water refers to bodies of water that provide water to public drinking water supplies and private
- wells. The bodies of water can include rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs and water under the ground.
- Ground water is located below the surface of the earth in spaces between rock and soil.
- Surface water collects on the ground or in a stream, river, lake, reservoir or ocean.

Accessed 7 November 2024. https://www.cdc.gov/drinking-water/about/drinking-water-sources-an-overview.html#:~:text=Source%20water%20refers%20to%20bodies,spaces%20between%20rock%20and%20soil

[12] Oxfam Africa. (2023). *Unfair Share: Unequal climate finance to East Africa's hunger crisis*. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://oi-files-d8-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-09/african-fairshare-report.v5.pdf

[13] The Federal Republic of Somalia. (2021). *Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)*. UNFCCC. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Final%20Updated%20NDC%20for%20Somalia%202021.pdf

[14] M. Shean. (2008). *Iran: 2008/09 wheat production declines due to drought*. United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2008/05/Iran_may2008.htm

[15] Oxfam. (2022). *Unfarmed Now. Uninhabited When?* Accessed 7 November 2024. https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/unfarmed-now-uninhabited-when-agriculture-and-climate-change-in-iraq-621360/

[16] Oxfam Africa. (2023). *Unfair Share: Unequal climate finance to East Africa's hunger crisis*. Accessed 7 November 2024. https://oi-files-d8-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-09/african-fairshare-report.v5.pdf

[17] The recommendation for this paper is not an exhaustive list and governments should engage with local stakeholders on their recommendations as a critical next step.

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Cover photo: Marwa, who fled from rural Deir Ez-Zor in Syria, fills her jerry can with water from a communal tank. Oxfam installed these tanks in Al-Mayadeen to provide water for the displaced families. Photo: Daniah Kareh/Oxfam

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