

HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND PEACE



This year, **305 million** people will need humanitarian assistance to survive, the kind of assistance that means the difference between shelter and exposure, nutrition and starvation, life and death. Yet, as needs reach record highs, funding is drying up, leaving life-saving aid out of reach for those who need it most.

G7 countries that 20 years ago pledged to make poverty history and, just four years ago, **pledged to combat famine**, are now retreating from their commitments, an abdication of responsibility that is already having dire consequences for vulnerable communities.

At a time of historic need, the G7 cannot look away. Without urgent action, millions will be left without the assistance they need to survive. This year, G7 leaders have the opportunity to demonstrate the political will to uphold commitments, invest in gender-transformative humanitarian action, and prioritize inclusive peace and security.

Rebuild and protect humanitarian funding

Humanitarian crises are protection crises, driven by violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation. Reducing these risks is essential to lowering humanitarian needs. With funding dwindling as crises escalate, humanitarian action must address both immediate needs and the risks that fuel suffering.

- Disburse sufficient funding to meet rising global humanitarian needs, reversing cuts and reaffirming past commitments, such as the **2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact** to ensure long-term, crisis-responsive investment.

- Ensure humanitarian funding allocations are guided by impartial assessments of the most urgent risks of violence that exacerbate crises and drive humanitarian needs, rather than by political interests or ideology.
- Amplify the agency and voices of local communities within the humanitarian funding ecosystem.
- Defend the fundamental right to aid, strengthening an effective global humanitarian system, and standing firm in its commitments to humanitarian principles.

“ In every crisis, it is civilians who bear the deepest scars. The G7 cannot look away. It must fund life-saving aid, prioritize peace over weapons, and stand with those risking everything to protect life, dignity, and hope.

— W. ANDY ROXANE OUÉDRAOGO

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Invest in making people safer

Humanitarian aid can keep people alive, but only investment in anticipatory action, resilience, recovery, and dignity can break the cycle of suffering. The G7 should invest in the protection of those most vulnerable without discrimination by sex, race, gender, and/or disability.

- Scale up anticipatory action and early warning systems so that, when crises loom, response efforts begin before lives are lost. This means committing new and additional long-term, flexible funding for anticipatory action.
- Adopt integrated programming in line with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus.
- Invest in local organizations and frontline responders, including Indigenous-led organizations, women’s rights and women-led organizations, LGBTQIA+ organizations, and refugee and migrant-led organizations, to ensure community-centered solutions.

Uphold International Humanitarian Law and protect civilians

In an age of growing impunity and repression, the G7 must redouble efforts to defend and uphold IHL. Violations, such as deliberate starvation, the targeting of civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, and attacks on humanitarian workers, must be met with strong condemnation and effective action on accountability.

- Ensure humanitarian and human rights organizations can operate freely and independently, without political interference, reprisal, or risk.
- Use diplomatic influence to push for ceasefires, humanitarian corridors, and safe zones as needed, with a commitment to sustained civilian protection.
- Uphold consistency in addressing all conflicts, with respect to IHL, and the protection of civilians, to resolve persistent and emerging crises and enable lasting peace without consideration of political or economic interests.

Invest in peacebuilding and conflict prevention

The path to peace must begin with proactive, sustainable investments in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Global military expenditures are rising and support for UN peacekeeping operations is on the decline, and yet global insecurity continues to grow.

- Rebalance military expenditure with investments in peace, diplomacy, and international assistance to mitigate global threats and address the root causes of instability.
- Support community-led rehabilitation programs and women’s peacebuilding initiatives, fostering pathways to disengagement, reconciliation, and meaningful societal participation.
- Deliver on commitments to the [Women, Peace, and Security \(WPS\) Agenda](#), renewing support with new resources and diplomatic efforts to ensure its robust implementation.
- Scale up investments in the [Youth, Peace, and Security \(YPS\) agenda](#), especially supporting young women in conflict-affected areas, enabling their leadership in peacebuilding and reintegration processes.

Protect and expand the role of multilateral development banks in fragile and conflict-affected states

MDBs provide vital financial resources, stability, and long-term development support, helping rebuild economies, strengthen institutions, and create pathways to sustainable peace.

- Reaffirm support for MDBs and encourage continued investments in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

- Honour pledges to the International Development Association, ensuring it can continue providing vital grants and highly concessional loans to vulnerable countries, building in particular on experience with the [Window for Host Communities and Refugees](#), and the [Crisis Response Window and the Global Concessional Financing Facility](#).
- Prioritize efforts to expand the World Bank's partnerships with humanitarian and civil society organizations that can support program design and delivery, including in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, and provide unique perspectives on the needs of populations, particularly marginalized groups.

Regulate emerging military technologies and reaffirm commitments to disarmament

The rapid development of military technologies requires swift regulation to ensure global security.

- Expand international treaties regulating emerging military technologies, establishing clear legal and ethical boundaries.
- Firmly oppose the development and deployment of autonomous weapons systems.
- Reaffirm that the use or threat of nuclear weapons is unacceptable, resuming nuclear arms reduction negotiations and working towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
- Support international treaties prohibiting indiscriminate weapons, such as landmines and cluster munitions.

“ It’s 20 years since the G7 committed to make poverty history and four years since they signed up to stop famine, yet now, with over 300 million people globally in dire humanitarian need, they are turning their backs and slashing aid budgets. We urgently need this Canadian Presidency to remind the G7 of their commitments and reverse the recent devastating trends.

— KATE MUNRO

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