



**CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM**
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING

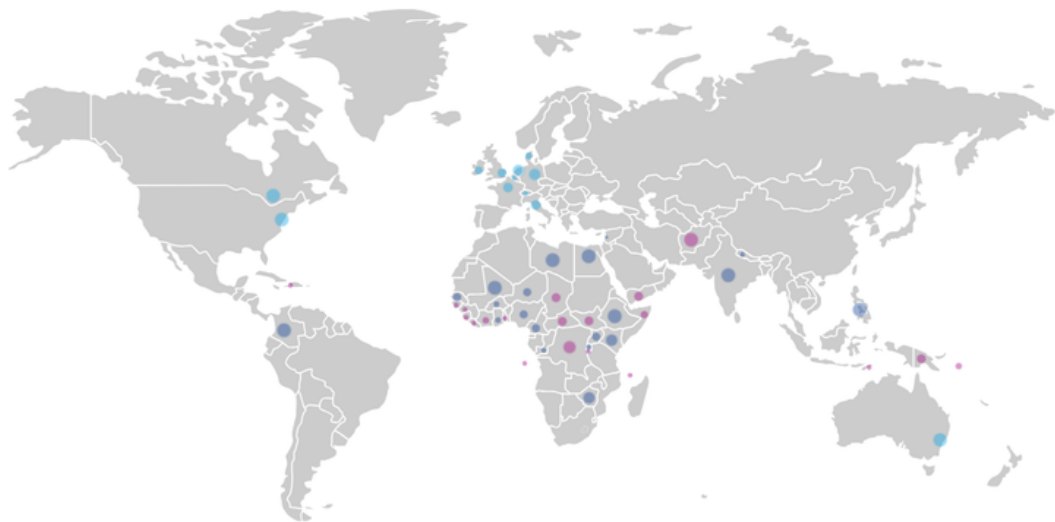
FOOD, PEACE AND SECURITY CSPPS BRIEFING PAPER

NOVEMBER 2025

ABOUT CSPPS

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a global network of civil society organisations supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. CSPPS brings together a diverse representation of civil society globally from countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, and international civil society organisations working on the issues of peacebuilding, statebuilding, conflict prevention and development. CSPPS supports in-country interventions to amplify the voice of civil society in political dialogues and relevant policy processes.

At the global level, CSPPS represents civil society in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS); a unique strategic tripartite partnership for political dialogue gathering civil society actors, governments from the g7+ group of countries, and donors represented by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).



ABOUT THE CSPPS BRIEFING PAPERS

As part of a grant from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), CSPPS is developing a series of briefing papers on various themes interlinked with peacebuilding and conflict prevention. These include Gender Equality, Climate Change, Migration and Forced Displacement, Digitalisation, Health and COVID-19, Food Security and Poverty, in addition to Youth, Peace & Security, Civic Space, and Inclusion. The briefing papers are written based on consultations led by the secretariat with the CSPPS membership, and remain close to the knowledge shared as a result.

On this basis, the briefing papers aim to give a general introduction to how peacebuilding and conflict prevention are interconnected and interlinked with the various themes aforementioned. Most importantly, they present, illustrate and highlight the multifaceted and diverse work of various CSPPS members, their expertise and insights on how these interlinkages play out in practice.

ABOUT THE FOOD, PEACE AND SECURITY BRIEFING PAPER

This briefing paper aims to explore the ways in which the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) interacts and engages with the issue of food security in its peacebuilding and conflict prevention work, through both the individual and collective activities of its member organisations.

Peacebuilding and conflict resolution must not be considered or implemented as isolated strategies, but rather as part of the Humanitarian, Peace and Development (HDP) or triple nexus approach, which interlinks humanitarian, peace and development action to tackle deep issues and develop long-term resilience in populations affected by crises or instability.¹ Combining and coordinating actions within these three sectors is the surest way to effective and sustainable peace.

The interconnections between food security and conflict are an important element of the HDP nexus and a key consideration for peacebuilding actors in their work.

Without peace, there cannot be food security, and without food security, peace and stability cannot be achieved.

A locally-led approach to the HDP approach which centres grassroots and civil society actors is critical, as the members of a community have the greatest expertise on the issues which affect them and are the best actors to resolve them. CSPPS's members are primarily national or local civil society organisations who use their insights and experience to tackle conflict and its underlying causes in their communities. Many members carry out coordinated peacebuilding and food security action as part of their activities.

With this in mind, this paper will explore the manifestations of the food security and conflict nexus and its interlinkages with other critical issues as well as key global actors, collectives and frameworks which address it. It will then move on to its core focus, the ways in which CSPPS and its members respond to these interconnected issues in their work, to produce key lessons and recommendations for present and future action on this nexus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I. THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN FOOD INSECURITY AND CONFLICT

1. The manifestations of the conflict and food insecurity nexus

In addressing the food insecurity-conflict nexus, it is important to study the multitude of ways in which these two issues interact with one another as well as with other significant issues. This section will first explore how conflict affects food security, before examining how food insecurity in turn drives conflict. Finally, it will provide an overview of the intersections between conflict, food security and issues such as climate, gender and migration.

Conflict is a significant driver of food insecurity and poverty,² with 70% of acutely food-insecure people living in insecure or conflict-affected settings.³

Conflict can affect food security in a variety of ways. Violent conflict may involve the destruction of farmland, affecting the ability of local farmers to produce food for themselves and others.⁴

Cercle Dev, Niger: Testimony from a farmer in the 'Three Borders' Zone

"His greatest desire today is to be able to go to the fields early in the morning, work there all day, and return home after 4pm without the fear of being killed by violent extremist groups who carry out atrocities in his community."

Actors to a conflict may block or carry out violent acts on transport routes, preventing people from accessing their sources of food or means of food production.⁵ Violence may be accompanied by forced displacement, which removes people from their sources of food or food production.

Conflict often causes economic shocks, which may drive poverty rates and increase the cost of food production and the price of food, thus affecting the accessibility and affordability of food. It can disrupt people's livelihoods, affecting their ability to support themselves and their families, as well as impacting social security systems which provide essential livelihood and nutritional services.⁶ It can interrupt trading activities, which harms the relationship between actors in the food value chain, leading to contract breaches and ultimately affecting the availability of food.⁷ It may also lead to the emergence of black markets, which do not have adequate safeguards to protect food consumers against high prices, low quality and stock shortages.⁸

1. "The Triple Nexus: Questions and Answers on Integrating Humanitarian, Development and Peace Actions in Protracted Crises - World | ReliefWeb," August 26, 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/triple-nexus-questions-and-answers-integrating-humanitarian-development-and-peace>.

2. *Food Security & Conflict* (Global Network against Food Crises, 2024), https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/sites/default/files/resource/file/GRFC_KM_Conflict.pdf.

3. "Conflict and Hunger | World Food Programme," April 20, 2022, <https://www.wfp.org/conflict-and-hunger>.

4. "Special Appeal 2025 - Strengthening Food Security in Conflict | ICRC," accessed October 27, 2025, <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/special-appeal-food-security-in-conflict>.

5. "Comment: Haiti Cannot Build Peace on an Empty Stomach | World Food Programme," February 7, 2024, <https://www.wfp.org/stories/comment-haiti-cannot-build-peace-empty-stomach>.

6. FAO-IFAD-WFP-Michael Tewe, *Nutrition, Food Systems & Conflict Information Note*, n.d., 2.

7. "How Conflict Drives Hunger: Six Channels through the Food System," *IFPRI*, January 24, 2025, <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/how-conflict-drives-hunger-six-channels-through-the-food-system/>.

8. *ibid.*

Violent conflict can pose dangers to those who deliver food, both traders and humanitarian actors, which can slow or even stop the flow of food into a conflict-affected area.⁹ Food insecurity can be an unintended consequence of conflict, yet it can also result from deliberate strategies of the parties in the conflict, in what have been termed ‘food wars’. This can include the deliberate targeting of food infrastructure and the use of starvation as a weapon of war.¹⁰

Food insecurity is a persistent issue in areas affected by conflict and instability, as without stable and peaceful governance, it is impossible to adequately tackle food security issues. Finally, there is a critical intersection between the impact of conflict on health services and the issue of food insecurity. Without access to healthcare in a crisis situation, malnutrition may go untreated.¹¹ In addition to health, more issues and their intersections with food insecurity and conflict will be discussed later in this section.

Likewise, food insecurity may act as a contributing factor to instability and conflict and a barrier to sustainable peace.

Food insecurity can worsen inequalities in a society and exacerbate grievances and political tensions within a community. It can lead to increased competition for limited food sources and struggles for control over food production. It can increase people’s level of dependence on maladaptive strategies or armed groups, and it can contribute to a risk of higher crime rates.¹² There is increasing evidence establishing causal links between rising food prices and violent conflict.¹³ Moreover, violence, discrimination and the exploitation of workers are pervasive issues in global food systems.¹⁴

A lack of food security may cause mass displacement in search of food sources. It acts as a significant obstacle to recovery and rebuilding efforts.¹⁵ It may negatively influence prospects for peace in the aftermath of a violent conflict, by contributing to the population’s sense of hopelessness and powerlessness.¹⁶

9. “How Conflict Drives Hunger: Six Channels through the Food System,” IFPRI, January 24, 2025, <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/how-conflict-drives-hunger-six-channels-through-the-food-system/>.

10. Marc Cohen and Ellen Messer, *Food Wars: Conflict, Hunger, and Globalization*, 2023, pg. 4

11. “Comment: Haiti Cannot Build Peace on an Empty Stomach | World Food Programme,” February 7, 2024, <https://www.wfp.org/stories/comment-haiti-cannot-build-peace-empty-stomach>.

12. Simone Bunse and Caroline Delgado, *Promoting Peace through Climate-Resilient Food Security Initiatives* (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.55163/NFAX5143>.

13. Charles Martin-Shields and Wolfgang Stojetz, *Food Security and Conflict: Empirical Challenges and Future Opportunities for Research and Policy Making on Food Security and Conflict*, FAO Agricultural Development Economics Working Paper 18, 04 (September 2018) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

14. “A/HRC/52/40: Conflict and the Right to Food - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri,” OHCHR, accessed November 11, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5240-conflict-and-right-food-report-special-rapporteur-right-food>.

15. “Special Appeal 2025 - Strengthening Food Security in Conflict | ICRC,” May 22, 2025, <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/special-appeal-food-security-in-conflict>.

16. *ibid.*

Interlinkages with other issues

Peacebuilding and conflict intersect with a multitude of issues, as envisaged by SDG 16+, which aligns the targets of SDG16 with those from other goals in the SDG framework.

The conflict-food insecurity nexus has significant interlinkages with many issues, including health, education, housing, and discrimination. Below, we will discuss how the nexus intersects with 3 issues in particular: **climate**, **gender**, and **migration**.

• Climate Change, Conflict and Food Security

There are many interlinkages between climate change, environmental destruction, food insecurity and conflict, with climate change a key driver of issues such as mass displacement, crop failure and increased competition for limited resources.¹⁷ In turn, conflict and food security issues can contribute to climate change and environmental degradation.

Ahmed Youssef of **Maison des Organisations de la Société Civile (MOSC)** in Comoros provides an overview of some of the complex intersections between food security, environmental damage and conflict:

“Climate issues can accelerate food insecurity, namely droughts, cyclones, soil degradation, and coastal erosion. In this regard, it is important to mention the overexploitation of resources in certain regions or countries and the under-exploitation of marine resources in others. Illegal exploitation is particularly prevalent in underdeveloped countries which lack the means to control their resources, whether due to fragile infrastructure, politics or a lack of expertise.”

• Gender, Conflict and Food Security

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by food insecurity in times of conflict.¹⁸ Women are key to the functioning of food systems, and in many contexts, they are responsible for the nutritional security of their household.¹⁹ When receiving aid, women often prioritise their family's nutrition over their own.²⁰ Crises may also lead women to take on increased responsibility in the household, increasing their task burden. Women-led households have been found in some conflict contexts to be significantly more at risk of food insecurity than male-led households.²¹

Conflict increases women and girls' vulnerability to danger, economic hardship, and food insecurity.²² The occurrence or threat of gender-based violence (GBV) can limit their ability to access food sources, and food insecurity may cause them to resort to strategies which increase their risk of experiencing GBV.²³

In considering and addressing this nexus, it is essential to apply a gender sensitivity lens, to recognise the ways in which conflict and food insecurity intersect with gender inequality and put in place specifically targeted actions to reduce their effects on women and girls. It is crucial that action on this issue involves the empowerment and meaningful inclusion of women and girls.

17. Simone Bunse and Caroline Delgado, *Promoting Peace through Climate-Resilient Food Security Initiatives* (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.55163/NFAX5143>.

18. Addressing the Interlinkages of Conflict, Hunger and the Disproportionate Effects on Women and Girls (Global Network against Food Crises, n.d.), accessed October 27, 2025, https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/sites/default/files/resource/file/CSW_Summary_FINAL.pdf.

19. 'Gender and Food Security and Nutrition', Gender, accessed 26 October 2025, <https://www.fao.org/gender/learning-center/thematic-areas/gender-and-food-security-and-nutrition/>.

20. *Addressing the Interlinkages of Conflict, Hunger and the Disproportionate Effects on Women and Girls* (Global Network against Food Crises, n.d.), accessed October 27, 2025, https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/sites/default/files/resource/file/CSW_Summary_FINAL.pdf.

21. "Women-Led Households at Triple Risk of Severe Food Insecurity in Sudan," UN Women – Headquarters, August 5, 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2025/08/women-led-households-at-triple-risk-of-severe-food-insecurity-in-sudan>.

22. Unna Mustalampi, *Gender, Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises*, 1st ed. (FAO, 2016), <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/6630en>.

23. "The Intersection of Gender-Based Violence, Food Security and Innovation | by WFP Innovation Accelerator | Medium," accessed October 27, 2025, <https://wfpinnovation.medium.com/the-intersection-of-gender-based-violence-food-security-and-innovation-9dcee1011f6a>.

• Migration, Conflict and Food Security

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) explores the links between migration, food security and conflict in the policy brief 'Conflict, Migration and Food Security'. The paper explains that conflict most severely affects rural areas, disrupting livelihoods and people's means of food production and increasing the pressure on people to migrate. As such, forced displacement can result from conflict and food insecurity, but equally, it may drive conflict. Outward migration can affect both social cohesion and food security in a community, as it involves the loss of members of the community and of the workforce. Inward migration may contribute to tensions and grievances between displaced people and people in the communities into which they enter, especially if there are perceived inequalities in access to essential resources such as food.²⁴

In responding to issues of food security, conflict and displacement, it is crucial to target the underlying causes of all three issues.

Without a combined approach to food insecurity and conflict, the root causes of these issues go unaddressed, affecting the sustainability of the solution. For example, ending a violent conflict without tackling food insecurity does not ensure lasting peace and stability.²⁵ Additionally, initiatives put in place to address one of these issues may inadvertently exacerbate the other issue. For example, a food programme which worsens inequalities could contribute to tensions within a society.

2. Norms, actors and initiatives within this nexus

While the food security-peace nexus is tackled by different actors in different ways, it is often addressed as part of a broader framework: **the HDP or triple nexus**. The HDP framework was proposed in the New Way of Working (NWoW) by the United Nations in 2016 and further developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2019.²⁶ Combining peace, humanitarian and development action, it is increasingly used by institutional²⁷ and civil society actors,²⁸ some of whom focus specifically on food security and conflict. The World Food Programme (WFP) explicitly addresses the link between hunger and conflict in its work²⁹ and has a joint research partnership with SIPRI to examine the manifestations of this nexus.³⁰ The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), a UN intergovernmental body, finalised a Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises in October 2015.³¹

Other relevant international standards include international humanitarian law (IHL) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In IHL, UNSC Resolution 2417, Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Convention and customary international law, and reports by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food address the use of hunger as a weapon of war.³² The SDGs call for urgent and coordinated global action in 17 key areas. The key SDGs within the food-conflict nexus are SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).³³

24. 'Conflict, Migration and Food Security', accessed 26 October 2025, <https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/index.php/resources/reports-and-briefs/conflict-migration-and-food-security>.

25. "There Can Be No Sustainable Peace Without Food Security - World | ReliefWeb," October 16, 2016, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/there-can-be-no-sustainable-peace-without-food-security>.

26. "Humanitarian-Development- Peace- Nexus Approaches | United Nations Development Programme," accessed October 27, 2025, <https://www.undp.org/arab-states/humanitarian-development-peace-nexus-approaches>.

27. 'Peace in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: Key Recommendations', EPLO, 15 December 2023, <https://eplo.org/peace-in-the-humanitarian-development-peace-nexus-key-recommendations/>.

28. "Food Wars: Conflict, Hunger, and Globalization, 2023," October 15, 2024, <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/research-publications/food-wars-conflict-hunger-and-globalization-2022-2023/>, pg.27.

29. 'WFP - Beyond the Annual Performance Report 2019 Series', accessed 26 October 2025, https://publications.wfp.org/2018/beyond-apr/Triple_Nexus.html#08.

30. "Conflict and Hunger | World Food Programme," April 20, 2022, <https://www.wfp.org/conflict-and-hunger>.

31. 'CFS: Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises', accessed 26 October 2025, <https://www.fao.org/cfs/policy-products/ffa>.

32. 'Starvation as a Method of Warfare', accessed 26 October 2025, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule53>, "A/HRC/52/40: Conflict and the Right to Food - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri," OHCHR, accessed November 11, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5240-conflict-and-right-food-report-special-rapporteur-right-food>.

33. "THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development," accessed October 16, 2025, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

II. HOW DOES CSPPS ENGAGE WITH THE FOOD SECURITY AND CONFLICT NEXUS AS A PLATFORM?

As part of our drive for more peaceful, just and inclusive societies, food security remains a key area for CSPPS. At both the secretariat and member levels, we are committed to promoting and including the issue of food security in peacebuilding efforts. CSPPS integrates food security into its 3 core areas of peacebuilding action : Amplifying, Networking and Lobbying & Advocacy.

► AMPLIFYING

CSPPS strives to enhance civil society's capacity and amplify its voice and impact. By engaging in diverse initiatives, CSPPS empowers organisations with essential skills and resources, enabling them to contribute to policy development and advocacy. Among the peacebuilding initiatives CSPPS engages in, several are committed to addressing food security-related concerns. Below are listed a few examples:

- The **Peace Corner Podcast**, an intern-led collaboration between CSPPS and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, spotlights the work of peacebuilding practitioners within the HDP nexus. Several episodes of the podcast touch on the intersection of food security action and peacebuilding, including Season 7 Episode 6, '[The interconnections between the humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors](#)' and Season 5 Episode 3, '[Liens entre Environnement et Paix au Sahel: la Jeunesse Dirige le Changement](#)' ('Links between Environment and Peace in the Sahel: Youth-led Change').
- CSPPS's '**Member Stories**' initiative highlights the work of its members on a variety of issues in many different national contexts. As part of this initiative, Floraison, a CSPPS member organisation in Togo, shared about their work advocating for the right to adequate food and promoting dialogue on food policy and systems, in the following article: '[Floraison, A Civil Society Organisation in Togo](#)'.
- With partners of the Global SDG16+ Coalition, CSPPS spearheads the **SDG16+ Voices Campaign: Stories for Global Action** to highlight the work of civil society around SDG16+. The link to other SDGs and interconnected issues is often made to show the multifaceted work around SDG16 and emphasise the multiple effects and root causes on social cohesion, stability and peace.
- The Alliance for Peacebuilding, CSPPS, Forus International and the TAP Network co-organise the **SDG16+ Storytelling Initiative**, which aims at amplifying the stories of civil society and other stakeholders to demonstrate the leadership role of civil society in driving progress towards SDG16+ at national and local levels. These efforts raise awareness of the interlinkages between SDG16 and other components of the 2030 Agenda, and how peaceful, just, and inclusive societies can pay dividends in other sectors such as food security, amongst others.

► NETWORKING

As a global network of civil society actors committed to advancing peacebuilding and conflict prevention, networking lies at the heart of CSPPS's mission. The platform brings together a diverse membership of grassroots and national-level civil society organisations, many of which operate in fragile and conflict-affected contexts where the intersection of food security, peace, and conflict prevention is critically relevant.

CSPPS actively collaborates with international organisations, governments and civil society groups to create a broad coalition that supports the integration of food security in peacebuilding. CSPPS's network thus offers strategic access to key networks and events where discussions are relevant to the HDP/triple nexus, and more particularly between food security and peacebuilding. Additionally, it provides grounded technical expertise and advocacy efforts across various policymaking spheres. Engaging in this network provides opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and resource acquisition.

► LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

Lobbying and policy outreach are key elements of CSPPS' activities. Committed to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, CSPPS provides a space and platform - where possible and needed - to amplify the voice and agency of civil society working on SDG16+. Putting forth the concerns and demands of civil society in all its diversity is essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding



CSPPS represents the civil society constituency in this tripartite partnership between donors, governments and civil society. CSPPS holds a key role in representing civil society and the dialogue serves as an opportunity for lobbying and advocacy activities within the policy space of peacebuilding and conflict prevention between the three aforementioned partners. More recently, the IDPS published a policy statement in September 2025, which calls for a fragility lens to be applied to resource distribution in order to prioritise areas affected by fragility and conflict and advocates for the complementarity of actions through the HDP nexus.

Just Future Alliance



CSPPS is a networking partner of the Just Future Alliance, a 5-year (2021-2025) programme which has been implemented in 6 countries and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The aim of the Just Future programme is to strengthen the capacity of civil society to carry out their advocacy work in fragile and conflict-afflicted settings. Food security is an element of consideration in the implementation of Just Future activities, as food insecurity is extremely prevalent in conflicted-affected contexts such as South Sudan,³⁴ one of the 6 countries involved in the programme.

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Through its collaboration with BMZ, CSPPS supports advocacy that connects development cooperation with peacebuilding, conflict prevention and food security. CSPPS advocates for international donors like BMZ to consider the broader importance of food security and crisis response on social cohesion and conflict dynamics, especially in fragile contexts.



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



COP29 and COP30 Positioning Paper, with Cordaid

In collaboration with Cordaid, CSPPS published a [positioning paper](#) ahead of COP29, which urges donors and governments to strengthen the nexus between peacebuilding, security, climate, environmental and gender policies, and calls for action in a multitude of areas, notably in the development of climate-resilient food systems. CSPPS and Cordaid also recently published a [positioning paper](#) ahead of COP30, reiterating these statements.

34. 'South Sudan', Just Future, 6 June 2023, <https://justfuturealliance.org/en/southsudan/>.

III. HOW ARE CSPPS MEMBERS ENGAGING WITH THESE ISSUES IN THEIR OWN CONTEXTS?

CSPPS's advocacy activities and efforts to amplify the voice and agency of civil society involve promoting and highlighting the work of its membership. In this section, we put forward the work of some of our members who drive progress in the food security and peacebuilding nexus. This section will present case studies from CSPPS member organisations, who carry out a diverse range of actions within the peace and food security nexus within their different contexts.

► **Youth Without Borders Organization for Development (YWBOD), Yemen**

YWBOD is a local civil society organization specialized in youth empowerment and peacebuilding, with additional expertise in Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) programming in partnership with Cordaid since 2020.



YWBOD has adopted the humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) triple-nexus approach by integrating humanitarian and FSL support with youth-led peacebuilding and inclusive local governance. We have learned from our work that it is difficult to discuss or achieve peace with hungry people. Our projects are designed and implemented around fulfilling community-identified needs, enhancing social cohesion, strengthening resilience, and reducing the risk of violence. YWBOD has implemented more than 40 projects on youth empowerment, peacebuilding, coexistence and community peace and security, resilience and vulnerable households' access to livelihood and humanitarian assistance.

YWBOD integrates Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) programming with youth empowerment and peacebuilding initiatives. The organization supports vulnerable households through livelihood recovery, the promotion of micro-enterprise opportunities, and targeted skills development for youth in areas such as vocational training, small business management, and renewable energy. These interventions not only address urgent economic needs but also create pathways for sustainable employment and resilience. By embedding participatory processes, conflict-sensitive approaches, and youth leadership, YWBOD ensures that livelihood support contributes directly to social cohesion, reduces competition over scarce resources, and strengthens the foundations for peaceful and resilient communities.

YWBOD's work follows two key themes:

- *Peacebuilding & Social Cohesion:* Facilitating dialogue, trust-building, and collective community initiatives that address shared needs and reduce competition over scarce resources.
- *Youth Empowerment:* Training and engaging youth to secure resources for food security and act as livelihood facilitators (PALS), which enables them to be community peacebuilders and to play active roles in mediation, negotiation, and local development.

Stakeholders include youth groups, women, community leaders, local authorities, and partner NGOs. Our processes are participatory and inclusive, ensuring community ownership, sustainability, and measurable peace dividends through improved livelihoods and reduced tensions.

► Youth Without Borders Organisation for Development (continued)



YWBOD strongly believes that youth are central to linking food security, poverty reduction, and peacebuilding. By empowering young people as agents of change, and by addressing immediate livelihood needs, our programs help prevent the recurrence of conflict while promoting stability and sustainable development in Yemen. Our partnership with Cordaid further strengthens this integrated approach, ensuring technical expertise, broader outreach, and long-term impact.

► Rwanda Institute for Conflict Transmutation and Peace Building (ICP Rwanda), Rwanda



ICP Rwanda works on agricultural education and peacebuilding. We are developing agricultural programs to raise poultry and plant maize for a school food program in Rwanda.

► Maison des Organisations de la Société Civile (MOSC), Comoros



MOSC is a platform of 65 multidisciplinary associations and NGOs working in the fisheries, agriculture, local development, environment, health and culture sectors. Some NGO members of MOSC, such as the Intervention Group for Sustainable Development (GIDD), work with local communities and stakeholders on agriculture and fisheries.

Findings show that it is the lower classes who are the victims of food insecurity. In order to adapt to the effects of food insecurity, it is necessary to avoid conflicts of any kind (community, inter-village and between countries), as conflicts and wars accelerate monetary crises, which are the source of food insecurity. In the Comoros, wars in other countries cause prices to rise for basic necessities such as rice, fuel and customs duties, and it is the lower classes who bear the brunt of these problems. The GIDD also made a very pertinent observation, emphasising that food insecurity will continue to increase until the world recognises the existence and importance of supporting the lower classes so that everyone is able to support themselves.

► **Voices in the Vision for Africa (VIVA), Zimbabwe**

Voices in the Vision for Africa (VIVA) has in-depth expertise on climate change, peace, and security matters. It has developed the first-ever Climate Risk Assessment toolkit for the United Nations Climate Office in New York. They have also developed climate indicators for the SADC Regions early warning system. In partnership with the African Union (AU) under the Southern Africa CSO umbrella organization SAPPC Regional Early Warning System (SAPPC REWS), they coordinated the SADC region member states consultations on developing the regions inputs in developing the AU Common Africa Position on Climate Security and serves as the SADC Member States' Climate Security technical advisory expert. The organization addresses how climate change impacts food security and exacerbates conflict in vulnerable communities, emphasizing the need for localized resilience and policy engagement to build sustainable and peaceful environments.

Climate security and peacebuilding efforts

● Food insecurity:

VIVA recognizes that climate change, through effects like drought and desertification, directly threatens food security in Africa by impacting agricultural yields and water availability. The organisation's work focuses on building resilience at the local and national levels, as this is critical for communities to withstand and adapt to climate-related shocks and stresses without resorting to conflict.

Policy and engagement

● Climate Security Policy Influencing and engagement:

VIVA engages in policy dialogue at both national and community levels. Through policy briefs, they aim to influence relevant committees and stakeholders to create and implement policies that address the root causes of climate-related conflict and promote sustainable development.

● Strengthening Climate governance:

The work acknowledges that climate change can put a strain on weak governance systems. By strengthening local and national capacities, VIVA supports efforts to build more resilient governance structures that can effectively manage climate-related challenges and prevent them from escalating into violent conflict.

► **Floraison, Togo**



Floraison's mission is to inform, train, and educate individuals in order to raise their awareness of their economic, social and cultural rights and to participate as active citizens in their own well-being and the development of their community. Peacebuilding and the promotion of well-being are central to Floraison's work, which focuses on women and grassroots communities.

Within the intersection of food security and peacebuilding, Floraison advocates for the right to adequate food and promotes dialogue on food policy and systems in Togo. As part of this work, Floraison is a member of the African Network for the Right to Food in Togo (RAPDA-Togo).

► **Cercle de réflexion et d'action pour un développement local innovant (Cercle Dev), Niger**



Le Cercle de Réflexion et d'Action pour un Développement Local Innovant, known as Cercle Dev, is a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting young people with the aim of preventing their radicalization and involvement in violent extremism. We particularly support people in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas who live in precarious conditions in order to foster local development. Cercle Dev implements several initiatives to empower communities, particularly young people and women, in favor of peace and peaceful coexistence. Many tensions and conflicts are often linked to economic vulnerability and the search for livelihoods.

Our main initiatives include:

Training for women and agri-food support in conflict zones

- We train women in appropriate production techniques, enabling them to cultivate small, secure areas of land while increasing the profitability of their production. To maximize their profits, we also support them in processing and marketing their products.
- In the Tillabéri region, a tri-border area, we assisted 2,000 women, both from host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as part of integrated emergency response projects in Torodi and Téra (Tillabéri region). These projects, carried out in collaboration with the NGO Help and funded by FHRAOC funds, enabled the distribution of goat kits (including two goats, a billy goat, and 50 kg of livestock feed), as well as adapted seeds. These initiatives strengthen the livelihoods of these communities and reduce their vulnerability.

Strengthening land governance

- To improve communities' access to shared resources, we have established and strengthened local land management mechanisms. As part of the Justice and Stability in the Sahel (JASS) program, in collaboration with Mercy Corps Niger and funded by the UK's FCDO, we have established more than 120 land commissions, which have been equipped in accordance with the principles of Niger's rural code.
- The JASS program improves communities' knowledge of rural code texts in order to prevent frequent conflicts between farmers and herders, particularly in the Tahoua and Maradi regions. To reduce the occupation of pastoral areas, we have marked out around 50 kilometers of animal passage corridors, as well as rest areas and water points. This helps combat the conversion of grazing land into cropland, a phenomenon exacerbated by climate shocks and declining agricultural yields. We also encourage farmers to rehabilitate degraded land.

Cordaid is a Dutch INGO working on fragility across 15 focus countries in Africa, Middle East and Asia, including Ethiopia. Cordaid underlines the importance of an HDP approach when working in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings (FCAS). In addition to Humanitarian Aid, it is working on structural change through system strengthening in three thematic areas: (1) Sustainable Agri-Food Systems; (2) Peace, Security & Justice and (3) Health Systems.

Project results indicate that food systems projects increase food security, jobs and income but can also contribute to increased resilience, stability, social cohesion and conflict prevention. Multi-stakeholder approaches and inclusive value chain projects bring together producers, traders, service providers and governmental offices. This facilitates communication and common understanding which leads to more trust and increased social cohesion. Projects can include conflict sensitivity tools or use early warning systems for environmental hazards and conflicts.

Youth in fragile settings can participate in integrated projects with services varying from soft & hard skill training and inclusive finance for employment and entrepreneurship initiatives to mental health support, peace dialogues, interfaith meetings and peer to peer mentoring.

Teklebirhan Hailu Beyene from Cordaid Ethiopia explains how an HDP approach was used in a food resilience project in a region with frequent natural resources disputes and violence conflicts. Initially the project focused on food security and natural resource management but the scope was extended to Conflict Resolution and Conflict Risk Reduction:

- *The Peace component of the HDP approach gave special attention to capacity building on Conflict Risk Analysis (CRA) and Conflict Risk Reduction (CRR) to local actors (including local government) about how to identify risks, analyse them and plan accordingly to sustain their peace and security.*
- *Participatory Conflict Risk Assessments (PCRA) were conducted that fed into the development of CRR/Disaster Risk Reduction community action plans. Communities planned and implemented their own measures and resilience building interventions. Inter-community dialogue sessions were facilitated and existing local resolution mechanisms strengthened. Livelihoods initiatives were supported by the other components of the intervention. Conflicts reduced, especially when livelihoods of youth improved.*
- *The Humanitarian interventions mainly focused on the recovery and reconstruction stage which was aimed at rehabilitation of degraded lands with conditional cash transfers (Cash for Work), agricultural production (e.g. seed provision) and asset building (provision of goats). Special attention was given to youth.*
- *The Development component worked on enhancing the productivity of homestead, farmland and livestock production by improving the service delivery to farmers and their access to output markets. This included capacity building to youth, communities and governmental sectors on e/g. agronomic practices, irrigation farming, animal health care, producer organisation and marketing. Special youth groups were organised and special youth interventions were initiated to support their income-generating activities.*

IV. REFLECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND PEACEBUILDING ACTION

We will now 1) draw on the previous section to identify common themes in CSPPS members' work on the intersection between food security and peace, 2) explore how combining peace and food action provides a more effective and sustainable means of addressing food insecurity and conflict, and 3) make concrete recommendations for integrated peace and food action.

1. Common themes in CSPPS members' work

One initial observation is the variety of contexts and activities that CSPPS member organisations describe in their testimonies. It is clear that food security and peacebuilding look very different from one context to the next. Nonetheless, these contributions from our members present many valuable ideas for simultaneous peacebuilding and food security action which could be implemented in or adapted to other contexts.

A key element is the complementarity between food security and peacebuilding. CSPPS members engage in combined initiatives to promote peace, improve people's livelihoods and ensure their access to essential resources.

Other key common themes in our members' work include:

- *The economic empowerment of local communities* by creating pathways to employment and entrepreneurship and supporting local actors through training, investment and infrastructure development.
- *The recognition of the need to fulfil urgent humanitarian needs* for peace to be achieved. Providing livelihood support to communities is a crucial step in the path to peace.
- *The use of food systems as a vehicle for positive peace*, in engaging people in food programmes and fostering trust, connection and cohesion between actors within a food system.
- *Context-specific and integrated approaches* to peacebuilding and food security which take into account gender sensitivities, conflict sensitivities, and class sensitivities in their programming.
- *A focus on sustainable, long-term solutions* which allow people to develop livelihoods and build resilience and independence, rather than short-term fixes such as food aid.
- *The recognition of the important links between climate change, food security and conflict*, and the implementation of climate-smart food systems.
- *Inclusion, participation and fair governance*: By strengthening civil society's ability to engage in local governance, and advocating for the inclusion of youth, women and marginalised people, deep issues such as conflict and food insecurity can be addressed in a more effective, sustainable and equitable manner.

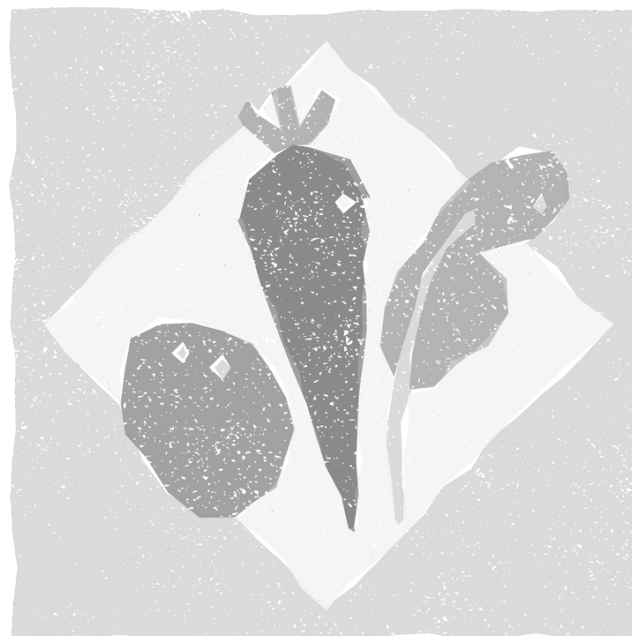
2. Advantages of combined action : Food Security for Peace, and Peace for Food Security

Food security is an essential element for the sustainability of peace and must be a key priority of stakeholders in their peacebuilding efforts. In the words of Maged Alkholidy of Youth Without Borders Organization for Development, Yemen, 'it is difficult to discuss or achieve peace with hungry people'.

"It is difficult to discuss or achieve peace with hungry people"

- Maged Alkholidy (YWBOD, Yemen)

Food security initiatives can improve the resilience and independence of communities, generate employment, foster community cohesion, improve state-society relations and improve prospects for peace and stability within a community.³⁵ Likewise, peace, justice and equality are essential conditions for building the trust and stable governance necessary for developing effective food security programmes and tackling the injustices within food systems which often lead to conflict. In this way, food security and peace act in a virtuous circle. Effective food security initiatives help to promote peace, and the more peaceful a society becomes, the more possible it is to put in place food security programmes.³⁶



35. "Livelihoods for Peace," Interpeace, n.d., accessed October 15, 2025, <https://www.interpeace.org/resource/livelihoods-for-peace/> pg. 5.

36. *ibid.*

3. Key Recommendations for addressing the Food Security-Conflict nexus

The complexity of the food security-conflict nexus must be reflected in flexible, multifaceted and thorough measures which address the many root causes and effects of food insecurity and conflict.

The following recommendations have been developed from a combination of CSPPS member inputs and consultation of research from the humanitarian, peace and development field.

In their combined approaches to food security and peace, donors, governments and civil society actors should:

- Work along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, and more specifically, the conflict-food security nexus, by integrating peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity into food security programming, and vice versa, integrating food security into peacebuilding and conflict prevention programming.³⁷ This integration should occur during the funding, coordination and implementation of these activities. It is important to implement policy harmonisation across all relevant sectors.
- Address the underlying and systemic causes of food insecurity, instability and conflict and their intersections with other critical issues such as poverty, discrimination and displacement.
- Work to promote combined peace and food security initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels.³⁸
- Address both short-term and long-term (protracted) food insecurity in conflict-affected or unstable regions.

YWBOD, Yemen: *"Sustainable solutions for food insecurity must be livelihood- and income-generating, instead of rapid response measures such as food distribution."*

- Use context-specific adaptation strategies which are tailored to the geographic, social and political landscape in which they are implemented.
- Acknowledge and address the climate dynamics which both result from and contribute to food insecurity and conflict, and work to build food systems and societies which are climate-resilient.³⁹

37. Cedric Habiyaremye and Timothy Pietrack, *The Geopolitics of Food Insecurity and Conflict*, accessed October 27, 2025, [Habiyaremye Pietrack The-Geopolitics-of-Food-Insecurity-and-Conflict FINAL.pdf](#) pg.4

38. "Livelihoods for Peace," *Interpeace*, n.d., accessed October 15, 2025, <https://www.interpeace.org/resource/livelihoods-for-peace/> pg.5.

39. Simone Bunse and Caroline Delgado, *Promoting Peace through Climate-Resilient Food Security Initiatives* (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.55163/NFAX5143>.

- Empower populations to build sustainable food resilience, by improving their access to training, financing and equipment.

MOSC, Comoros: *“To ensure food security resilience, it is important to:*

- *Strengthen local knowledge to allow the population to engage in food production*
- *Support the development of basic infrastructure that can promote production in all seasons.*
- *Invest in modern equipment in all sectors (fishing, agriculture, livestock farming) while establishing temporary areas that will serve as production zones.*
- *Consider a variety of solutions, such as strengthening the capacity of populations to process certain products and support them with infrastructure and processing equipment.”*

- Incorporate justice, equity and respect for human rights into all of their activities in order to tackle the inequalities and rights violations which contribute to conflict.⁴⁰
- Consider and address gender sensitivities in the planning and implementation of all activities. Other key considerations which must be taken into account are climate justice, food sovereignty⁴¹ and the inclusion of marginalised people.
- Support civil society actors in their work within this nexus, by increasing their funding and removing bureaucratic obstacles to their work.
- Promote participatory processes and fair governance in food systems. Recognise and tackle the power imbalances present in food systems and governance structures.
- Advocate for the respect for and enforcement of humanitarian law and the respect, protection and fulfilment of the right to food and the right to health in conflict situations.



40. “Food Wars: Conflict, Hunger, and Globalization, 2023 - World | ReliefWeb,” October 16, 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/food-wars-conflict-hunger-and-globalization-2023>.

41. Hannah Wittman, “Food Sovereignty: An Inclusive Model for Feeding the World and Cooling the Planet,” *One Earth* 6, no. 5 (2023): 474–78, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2023.04.011>.

V. SDG16 + INTERLINKAGES

This paper has explored many of the interlinkages between the food security-peacebuilding nexus and other issues, with a particular focus on the ways in which this nexus interacts with climate, gender and migration, as well as drawing links with issues such as poverty, health and social inequalities. This shows the scope and diversity of SDG16+.

It is worth noting that the implementation of SDG16 has faced great difficulty, with the 2025 UN Global Progress Report disclosing that not a single one of its targets are on track.⁴² For meaningful and effective progress on this goal, it is essential to target the underlying causes of conflict and ensure the necessary conditions of health, wellbeing and economic stability in our communities in order for peace to grow, thrive and last.

42. "Progress on Peace, Justice and Inclusion Dangerously off Track – a New UN Report Calls for Urgent Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16," UNDP, accessed November 6, 2025, <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/progress-peace-justice-and-inclusion-dangerously-track-new-un-report-calls-urgent-action-achieve-sustainable-development-goal-16>.

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