



Five Factors Driving Neglected Crises

written by Members of the Integral Alliance

Integral   Responding Faster.
Reaching Further.
In Christ.



With thanks to all Integral Members who have contributed to producing this report. Integral is an alliance of 21 Christian agencies from 14 countries, working across 85 nations to alleviate suffering and restore hope in many fragile settings.

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Front cover: Top: Kelemi, pictured with her grandmother Genet, received free treatment for malaria at Dubti Hospital, Ethiopia. © International Health Partners. Bottom left to right: Displaced families wait to fill their water containers, Sudan. © LM International. Aerial view of a rural village, Burkina Faso. © Tearfund Belgium. Coffee ceremony, Ethiopia. © Veronika Macsai, Integra. Fishing to support a family, Afghanistan. © Mission East. Adomica from the women's vegetable group showing her produce, South Sudan. © Jan Tschannen, TearFund Switzerland.

Page 2: ZOA built water tanks in a drought prone area giving people access to water all year round, Yemen. © Ayman Fuad, ZOA.

Foreword

It is noteworthy that Integral is focusing on the need to address the prolonged crises of many fragile states. The causative factors behind these crises are complex and entangled with geopolitical alliances that make them difficult to resolve.

Those of us who operate within the tight economic and political constraints of our societies have long bemoaned the fact that western aid agencies tend to rush in to respond to the latest media-grabbing disaster hotspot. This inevitably diverts funds and attention from disasters in other countries. Local Partners are left to find viable solutions with reduced resources.

The report surfaces the bias of aid distribution, whether correlated to historical ties of colonialism, the geopolitical interest of the US in its 'war on terror' or its European allies pouring aid to Ukraine in defence of the 'free world.' The report cites a study of the G7's record of aid over 30 years which found that oil-rich nations are more likely to receive aid than oil-poor countries.

Such is the nature of our fallen societies that rich nations will behave according to their interests, even in humanitarian concerns. The media has to compete in the commercial free-for-all to get attention. Compassion fatigue sets in when drawn-out wars cause famine and mass displacement. Most people want tangible results from their donations and are not keen to engage in seemingly lost causes.

Unfortunately, complex social problems rooted in culture and ethnic tensions cannot be solved by aid infusions that run on three-year project cycles.

Much of what passes for development is premised on the notion that massive amounts of aid, the installation of democratic mechanisms and the right application of governance technologies will yield results such as 'nation building'. It is worth noting that it took at least five centuries for warring fiefdoms in mediaeval Europe to evolve into nation states. In contrast, we expect newly decolonised countries to behave as nations within 50 years of independence.

External aid can make a difference in certain contexts. For this to happen, aid agencies need to be truly incarnational, that is, able to intervene not merely with preferred programmes but with insight on what really needs doing, informed by local actors who

know how to care for their own people. Often, indigenous technical knowledge and initiatives get overrun by foreign projects that are heavily funded but are in fact clueless.

The report mentions the insufficient support of donor agencies for local action and the need for capacity building. There is often a dearth of skilled staff on the ground because international NGOs (non-governmental organisations) pirate local staff who have been trained and nurtured by indigenous agencies. Instead of enabling the flourishing of local initiatives, many international NGOs gut local organisations by enticing their staff with higher paid jobs.

It is local initiatives run by strong local institutions that will make a difference in the long term.

Aid can be an agent of transformation when congruent with the life systems and narratives of a people. It can also be merely an agent of modernisation, a conduit of the metanarrative that there is only one path to a nation's wellbeing, and that is development as conceived, experienced and promoted by the West.

This report is a call to pay attention to the incongruities between today's global distribution of aid and country-specific levels of need and is a step towards redressing the imbalance.



Melba Padilla Maggay, Ph.D.

Founder of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church & Culture and Micah Global Ambassador



People displaced by war are supported by locally-led initiatives, Sudan. © LM International.

Executive summary

Fostering change in neglected crises



Fiona Boshoff
CEO of the
Integral Alliance

This report addresses the overlooked crises that deteriorate due to diminishing public and media attention. It explores the multifaceted reasons behind the neglect and advocates for a renewed focus on transformative action. The authors and co-authors of the report are drawn from the membership of the Integral Alliance. Integral is an alliance of 21 Christian agencies from 14 countries, working across 85 nations to alleviate suffering and restore hope in many fragile settings.

The expertise of these practitioners gives a clear picture of five factors that are causing disasters to become neglected and suggests ways we can overcome these challenges.

Neglected crises often arise from geopolitical and economic priorities that overshadow acute human needs. This discrepancy is evident as aid frequently flows towards countries with historical or strategic importance

rather than those in greatest need (Article 1). Simultaneously, media coverage plays a pivotal role in sustaining public interest and funding. However, prolonged crises suffer from underreporting, leading to gaps in support and worsening conditions (Article 2).

Furthermore, the phenomenon of 'donor fatigue' has emerged in our interconnected world, where continuous exposure to global suffering leads to a decline in public responsiveness and donor engagement (Article 3). This fatigue is exacerbated by the complexities of climate change, which, despite its immediate impact on vulnerable populations, often remains underrepresented in discussions focused more on future implications (Article 4).

A powerful mechanism for change in the midst of neglected crises are local actors, yet they face systemic challenges including insufficient funding and coordination difficulties. However, engaging local leadership and capabilities is crucial for sustainable crisis management and recovery (Article 5).

This report calls for collective action to address and amplify the needs of neglected crises. By uniting efforts, the Integral Alliance seeks to transform the landscape of humanitarian aid, ensuring that no crisis remains hidden and every response is imbued with hope and resilience. Together, we can shift from mere compassion to impactful action, embodying our shared commitment to uphold the dignity of all individuals.



A powerful mechanism for change in the midst of neglected crises are local actors.



Left to right: Amelwork is changing from farming coffee to growing macadamia nuts, Ethiopia. © Veronika Macsai, Integra. This father has walked through miles of hot sand to collect water from a well near the sea, Madagascar. © Laricha R., Medair. Discussing plans for future work in the community, Afghanistan. © Mission East.

The impact of cultural, political or economic isolation

1

A casual observer or a rational individual might assume that the distribution of foreign aid corresponds closely to the levels of need around the world. Yet the cultural, political and economic interests of donor countries have an outsized influence on the distribution of aid. As a result, some countries in crisis become isolated from donor countries, aid agencies, and potential support. This isolation leads to neglect which can worsen and leave countries without an ongoing basis of partnership.

The incongruence of aid distribution and need is dramatic. Based on 2022 data, among the nine nations of the world designated as both “Low Human Development” (UNDP’s HDI) and High Alert or Very High Alert on the Fragility Index, only two countries (South Sudan and Somalia), were among the top twenty recipients of aid per capita. Four nations (Chad, Burkina Faso, Burundi, and Central African Republic) received less aid per capita than more than 100 countries.¹²³

Among the key factors driving this disparity can be the cultural and political influences of colonialism. An empirical analysis of aid provided by the United Kingdom and France between 2007 -2016 found a relationship between historical colonial ties and aid distribution nearly fifty years after the end of colonialism.⁴ Both countries were more likely to provide aid to countries that used to be part of their colonial holdings than to other countries. Further, they each provided dramatically little aid to each other’s former colonies. While this distribution might be deemed an ethically appropriate response to injustices of colonialism, it does contribute to a deviation of aid away from some nations experiencing the greatest vulnerability.

The distribution of aid for political reasons extends beyond the legacy of colonialism. The United States, the largest donor in gross foreign assistance dollars, has used its aid as an extension of foreign policy for decades. The beginning of US Foreign Aid can be tied to the Marshall Plan and the rebuilding of Europe after World War II. Subsequently,

US assistance followed Cold War Interests, and since the turn of the century, economic aid has flowed disproportionately to countries connected to the ‘war on terror’. Currently, five of the top seven nations supported by the US are in the Middle East. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, aid to that country has surged, with economic aid exceeding US support to the next five countries combined.⁵

Additionally, economic interest can be a key driver in aid distribution. The availability of oil in recipient countries has a documented relationship with aid distribution. Research that analysed thirty years of aid from G7 Countries identified that oil-rich nations are more likely to receive foreign aid than oil-poor countries.⁶ Further, the researchers identified a relationship between the levels of oil consumption of G7 countries and the likelihood oil would influence their respective distribution of aid.

In light of these disparities, the global church must advocate for a more equitable distribution of aid that prioritises human needs over political and economic interests. Scripture teaches us that all people are created in the image of God, and Christ’s example exemplifies offering assistance to all – regardless of race, nationality, religion or relative importance in society. This divine mandate should challenge us to look beyond historical, political, and economic ties and place our common humanity at the forefront of our efforts.



Myal Greene

CEO & President,
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Isabelle Duval

Development Program
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The distribution of aid for political reasons, extends beyond the legacy of colonialism.



Girls carrying water from the village well, Burkina Faso. © Tearfund Belgium.

1 World Bank Open Data, The World Bank [website], <<https://data.worldbank.org>>, accessed April 2024.

2 The Fund for Peace, ‘Fragile States Index Annual Report 2022’, Fragile States Index [website], <<https://fragilestatesindex.org>>, accessed April 2024.

3 Human Development Report 2021/2022, United Nations Development Programme [website], <<https://hdr.undp.org>>, accessed April 2024.

4 Becker, B. (2020). Colonial Legacies in International Aid: Policy Priorities and Actor Constellations. In: Schmitt, C. (eds) From Colonialism to International Aid. Global Dynamics of Social Policy. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

5 Government of the United States of America, ‘Foreign Assistance Dashboard’, Foreign Assistance [website], <<https://foreignassistance.gov>>, accessed April 2024.

6 Cécile Couharde et al. (2020). The role of oil in the allocation of foreign aid: The case of the G7 donors. Journal of Comparative Economics, Volume 48, Issue 2, Pages 363-383.

2 Lack of media coverage and profile



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The media frequently overlooks devastating humanitarian crises, resulting in neglect and growing funding gaps for those in need. While it is the media's duty to shed light on these forgotten disasters, the reasons behind their neglect are multifaceted and have negative effects.

Yemen, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Myanmar are examples of countries grappling with prolonged humanitarian crises, which have displaced millions of individuals amidst ongoing conflict and harsh environmental conditions. Yet these crises receive scant attention from the media of more affluent nations. This lack of attention in the media has major consequences with donors and politicians and increases the risk of losing the attention of churches and ordinary people in their praying and giving.

It is not that the media lacks interest in foreign crises in general; the recent coverage of conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza demonstrates otherwise. However, crises with sometimes significantly higher humanitarian tolls seldom make the headlines. Yemen, Sudan and other examples can be seen in the infographic on pages 8 and 9.

Understanding this media behaviour involves examining the key factors hindering the spotlight on neglected crises. The media does not operate in isolation. It is embedded in society, reporting on political actions and economic interests. There is an interplay of these factors and other considerations which create additional hurdles preventing neglected crises from reaching the headlines.

Limited Access: Many neglected crises occur in volatile regions where access for journalists is restricted or very dangerous. Countries like Yemen, Syria, and Myanmar deny or heavily regulate media access, hindering free reporting. Even if access is granted, it can be too hazardous for journalists to operate independently in fragile contexts like Somalia or Afghanistan.

Information Overload: The proliferation of digital media and the rapid dissemination of news means there is a constant overload of information reaching consumers. Meanwhile, the number of humanitarian crises and populations being displaced continues to rise. Amidst this deluge of information, media outlets must prioritise and condense stories. In the competition for attention, even significant crises can be ignored.

Commercial Pressures: Media outlets operate within a commercial framework driven by metrics like ratings, clicks, and sales figures. Content that fails to attract audience interest, such as ongoing crises lacking direct relevance to readers, is deemed unprofitable. Consequently, media organisations, including non-commercial entities, hesitate to invest in expensive reporting from challenging or dangerous environments.

It is imperative that the media prioritises coverage of crises where there are significant needs so these crises do not become further neglected. The media acts as a catalyst in generating attention. Without this attention fundraising becomes harder, there is a lack of political will to address hard situations and churches and the general public do not focus their praying and giving to alleviate the suffering of those affected. Readers also need to learn to look beyond countries featured in the headlines to those that receive little attention but have high needs. Since we are all created in His image, we know that no one should be considered 'neglected' in the eyes of God – nor should they be in ours.

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In the competition for attention, even significant crises can be ignored.



Water filters provide clean water for communities, Yemen. © Ayman Fuad, ZOA.

Donor fatigue, inertia and the protracted crisis

3

We live in an increasingly interconnected world. With information, news, and first-hand accounts available in real-time, at the touch of a button, stories of immense need and tragedy in distant regions feel geographically closer than they are.

While this contributes to a positive sense of global connection, it also contributes to a shared sense of helplessness as each new crisis unfolds in vivid detail. This helplessness is then compounded by charities or not-for-profits clamouring for communication airspace, often utilising the same channels to obtain critical funding for their worthy cause increasing the volume of options for people to give to.⁷ For both private donors and institutions which support aid and development work, this sense of feeling overwhelmed can eventually lead to a state of 'donor fatigue.'

'Donor fatigue' can cause inertia or desensitisation, critically reducing funding for recovery or response efforts for crises around the world. Donors, both institutional and private, are most motivated when they understand the tangible difference their financial contribution makes within a specific timeframe. When donors are continually asked to donate to crises with no resolution in sight, and which require complex solutions that are difficult to understand, they can become hesitant to engage at all.⁸ There are several factors when considering this interplay between protracted crises and donor fatigue.

Fatigue in the face of unquantifiable impact

In fundraising, the more tangible a call to action and its corresponding impact, the more likely it is to see a donation response.⁹ In the case of protracted crises — with no easily determined end, and where calls to action seem short-term only — a donation can seem like a temporary band-aid and less compelling for donors wanting to have a long-term, significant impact. One example of this can be seen in the ongoing Afghanistan conflict, where only 51% of the 2023 humanitarian response plan was funded.¹⁰

Fatigue regarding conflict-based crises

These crises involve complexity around neutrality and impartiality unlike disasters which do not require donors to navigate personal politics and ideology. Crises of any kind have the ability to expose power structures and distribution.¹¹ It is easier to rationalise responding to sudden onset natural disasters because solutions and recovery timelines are less nuanced and more comprehensible.

Fatigue relating to stagnant outcomes

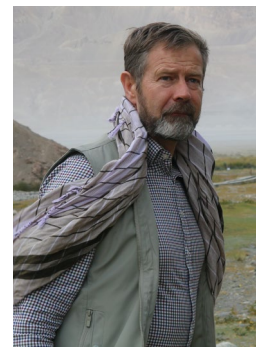
By nature, a prolonged emergency may only see incremental relief through aid efforts over many years. The complexity of protracted crises means that contributing factors are often multi-faceted and cyclical in nature, making progress difficult. With little to no improvements recorded, donors can feel discouraged in their support. One such example can be seen in the reduction of funding for the humanitarian response plan in South Sudan.¹²

It is up to those in the aid and development sector to continue to innovate, communicate and work together to ensure the lives of those suffering are not ignored. But we cannot do it alone. For those donors committed to seeing a difference in neglected crises, it is important to understand response plans take time and therefore so too should the financial support to match. Consider following up some months after the disaster and make another donation or turn it into a recurring one. Even if it is difficult to see, every dollar still counts.



Hannah Moeda

National Engagement Manager, Fundraising, Transform Aid International



Peter Drummond Smith

International Director, Mission East

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'Donor fatigue' can cause inertia or desensitisation, critically reducing funding for recovery or response efforts for crises around the world.



Even young children can be expected to help with household tasks, Afghanistan. © Mission East.

7 Klein, K. (2020) 'Donor Fatigue: Causes & Cures' in Non-Profit Quarterly [website] <<https://nonprofitquarterly.org>>, accessed April 2024.

8 Compassion Fatigue', Psychology Today [website], <<https://www.psychologytoday.com>>, accessed April 2024.

9 Heather A. O'Connor "Crafting Compelling Appeals," in 'Achieving Excellence in Fundraising', edited by Genevieve G. Shaker, et al. (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2022) pp. 269-278

10 Global Humanitarian Overview, Humanitarian Action [website], 2023, <<https://humanitarianaction.info>>, accessed April 2024.

11 Amir Pasic. "Fundraising in Challenging Times: Crisis, Survival and Transformation," in 'Achieving Excellence in Fundraising', edited by Genevieve G. Shaker, et al. (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2022) pp. 69-78

12 Francis, O. & Kleinfeld, P. 'Fighting, flooding and donor fatigue: Unpacking South Sudan's food crisis', The New Humanitarian [website], 2021, <<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org>>, accessed April 2024.

Integral Members and their Partners

AFGHANISTAN

8 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



23.7 million

PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



BURKINA FASO

4 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



6.3 million

PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



COLOMBIA

4 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



8.3 million

PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

10 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



25.4 million

PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



ETHIOPIA

12 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



21.4 million

PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



Source: Data from UN Inter-Agency Plans for 2024 (accessed April 2024) <https://humanitarianaction.info/>



Daw Ma Hla Win received seedlings and has a vegetable garden which can now feed six family members, Myanmar. © Jilke Tanis, ZOA.



are responding in many Neglected Crises



Two sisters sit where their family home stood before it was destroyed by flash flooding, Afghanistan. © Tearfund Australia Partner.

- 
 NFIs
- 
 Protection
- 
 Shelter
- 
 Water, sanitation, hygiene
- 
 Long-term resilience initiatives
- 
 Psychosocial services
- 
 SGBV support

All of these countries received less than 55% of the funding they required in 2023, except South Sudan which received 64%.*

Please note: The situations highlighted in this graphic are examples of Neglected Crises where Integral Members and Partners are working. They are not necessarily the most Neglected Crises globally.
 * Source: <https://humanitarianaction.info/overview/2023>

MADAGASCAR

5 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



2.3 million PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



MYANMAR

8 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



18.6 million PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



SOUTH SUDAN

12 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



9 million PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



SUDAN

7 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



24.8 million PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:



YEMEN

9 Integral Members and their Partners are working here

NEEDS:



18.2 million PEOPLE ARE IN NEED

FACTORS DRIVING THE CRISIS:

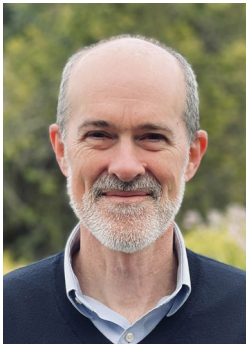


4 The climate connection



Allan Bussard

CEO, Integra



Matthew Maury

CEO, Tearfund Australia

The impact of climate change on people from vulnerable backgrounds is being felt now through the loss of homes, livelihoods and millions of lives. Yet this impact is often discussed as though it were still years away. Why is it being overlooked? One of the answers might lie in our inability to connect the dots.

When I was young, one thing that was certain beyond dispute; we cannot change the weather. Now, it turns out that even as my young mind was absorbing this "truth", the weather was already being changed, by me and others like me.

I grew up in Western Canada, where minus 40 degrees was good news; a reason to cancel school and play outside all day. Cars were kept running outside the shops and workplaces because petrol was cheap and car engines could freeze. It occurred to no one that our habits were already accelerating poverty in far-away Africa.

Now, decades later, I am more aware. But habits are hard to change. For many in my demographic, it is easier to deny reality than to change habits. There are those who argue that countries can live isolated lives, not influencing nor being influenced by what is happening elsewhere. But the climate is not listening to their arguments. Pretending that rising sea levels will not flood my shores, or that warming will not ignite my forests, is like a modern-day King Cnut believing that he could hold back the tide.

The World Bank states the impact of climate change is felt most intensely by the poorest and most vulnerable communities, especially those living in fragile and conflict-affected settings.¹³ The IMF has estimated that in a high emissions scenario, deaths from conflict as a share of the population could increase by almost 10 percent in fragile countries by 2060

and that climate change would also push an additional 50 million people in fragile states into hunger by 2060.¹⁴

When we began to work on agriculture value chains in East Africa 15 years ago, we learned when the long rains and the short rains came. Generations of farmers moved through the rhythms of their year with these certain markers. Now, when asked when the rains may come, they shrug in the direction of God, or perhaps fate. When to plant, and whether one will reap, have moved from fair certainty to cruel lottery.

So, full cycle. Once again it is true that one cannot change the weather. Or, to be more precise, the farmers affected by climate change in East Africa cannot change the weather. How could they, when they did not cause the weather to change in the first place? These dramatic changes over a short period of time are giving rise to neglected crises across East Africa.

Repeat trips to coffee farming regions in Ethiopia bring a certain sadness. Arabica coffee, first used a millennium ago in Ethiopia, is losing the fight with global warming. This should be upsetting even for those who do not drink coffee. For more than 20 million families, a way of life is slipping away. It is beyond doubt that climate change affects more than coffee. Uncertainty, debt, malnutrition, migration, violence, disease, crime, poverty....all follow in the wake of the relentless forces of nature.

So, the coffee farmer in the Ethiopian highlands cannot influence climate change. But before we give up with a sigh, we need to take responsibility as the generation, perhaps the only generation, perhaps the last generation, who actually can change the weather.



Luku (centre) is the manager of a macadamia tree seedlings nursery, Ethiopia. © Veronika Macsai, Integra.

¹³ Van Bronkhorst, B and Bousquet, F. 'Tackling the intersecting challenges of change, fragility and conflict', World Bank Blogs [website], 2021, <<https://blogs.worldbank.org>>, accessed April 2024.

¹⁴ Azour, J and Selassie, AA. 'Africa's fragile states are greatest climate change casualties', International Monetary Fund Blogs [website], 2023, <<https://www.imf.org/en/blogs>>, accessed April 2024.

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...the farmers affected by climate change in East Africa cannot change the weather.

Insufficient support for locally-led action

5

Globally, over 300 million people are in need of assistance and protection to stay alive.¹⁵ The international community continues to fall short as funding gaps grow and conflict, climate change and economic instability drive ever-more dynamic protracted crises. However, there is a source of untapped potential in overcoming these neglected crises, by promoting and investing in local solutions.

The Grand Bargain Agreement emphasises the need for strengthening local and national responders in humanitarian efforts and making actions more local.¹⁶ The Agreement was signed by many of the largest donors and humanitarian organisations but these parties are falling behind on their commitments.

Models of good practice to inspire change already exist. In Sudan, a neglected crisis where 8 million people are displaced and 18 million do not know where their next meal is coming from¹⁷, localised responses through Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) have shown promise in providing effective support. Operated by volunteers, including medical and technical professionals, ERRs serve as community-level support centres offering essential information and aid services, especially in urban areas. Local responders face the same challenges as other humanitarian actors in avoiding duplication, making services accessible to all and coordinating with others to be more effective.

Locally-led action requires bold financial and strategic commitment to make a real impact. Local groups need donors who will accompany them as they grow through their experience, increase their knowledge of humanitarian principles, establish organisational policies and procedures and invest in building staff expertise. Donors may choose not to fund local actors due to a perceived lack of compliance with their rules rather than working alongside them to help them develop competencies they lack. Such situations pose dilemmas for international agencies and donors because local organisations can reach communities in need of assistance when others can not.

A second challenge pertains to how national organisations can scale up operations in times of crises. The retention of skilled staff is a

critical concern, driven by uncertain funding and more attractive career opportunities within international organisations. When a crisis overwhelms local capacities or persists for an extended period, local organisations may struggle to sustain their operations or meet the evolving needs of affected communities. Addressing these challenges requires financial support but also investments in training, mentorship and future career development.

Third, support for locally-led action must reckon with the intricate web of local community dynamics and social identities. In Sudan, the recruitment practices of some national organisations can involve hiring staff from their specific community, which can raise issues of neutrality and impartiality. Some of these issues can be addressed through a greater awareness of humanitarian principles and ways of working.

We must adopt an approach that considers the interconnected issues of funding, capacity strengthening and community engagement. Doing so requires collaboration, humility and a constant process of seeking and learning. More support and investment for locally-led action will build local leadership and help prevent crises from becoming neglected. Local actors know their own context and ultimately they are there for the long term.

Models for change do exist and it is up to the international community, together with local Partners and communities, to collectively take bold action. As the Integral Alliance, guided by our Christian values, we remain committed to embracing the complexities of locally-led action with courage and compassion. Are you with us?

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Locally-led action requires bold financial and strategic commitment to make a real impact.



Denis Semakula

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Naomi Bula

Director of Marketing and Communications, World Renew Canada



Wad Al-Amin and Hashim washing at a rehabilitated tap stand, Sudan. © LM International.

¹⁵ Global Humanitarian Overview 2024, February update', Relief Web [website], 2024, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2024-february-update-snapshot-29-february-2024>>, accessed April 2024.
¹⁶ The Grand Bargain 2.0 Endorsed framework and annexes', Inter-Agency Standing Committee [website], June 2021, <<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>>, accessed April 2024.
¹⁷ Sudan Situation Report 25 April 2024', Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [website] <<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country.sudan>>, accessed April 2024.

Call to action

- 1 We call on donor governments** to focus primarily on the level of need and vulnerability of recipient countries. Human need must be prioritised over political, economic and cultural national interests. We ask donor governments to be mindful of the political, economic and cultural interests of their countries when making humanitarian aid allocations. It is not acceptable to be blind to the biases of colonial history, foreign policy and economic interests when writing policies and setting aid budgets.
- 2 We call on other institutional donors, foundations, trusts and corporate donors** to begin or continue to fund crises that are not in the media and are underfunded. It is often the case that relatively small amounts of funding for neglected crises can make a significant impact.
- 3 We call on the media** to be more equitable in their humanitarian reporting, understanding that media coverage of a humanitarian crisis is a significant driver for NGOs to launch fundraising campaigns. Media coverage informs the general public and holds significant sway over a donor's decision to act.
- 4 We call on NGOs** to explore new ways of working in all crises that include strengthening locally-led action, increasing collaboration and diversifying funding sources. We also call on International NGOs to lobby their governments about their climate commitments, recognising that the impact of climate change is felt most intensely by the poorest and most vulnerable communities, especially those living in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
- 5 We call on the church and Christians** to resist compassion fatigue in all its forms, and to recognise that God is at work in all situations. We call on Christians to act - in prayer and by giving, recognising that situations of greatest need may not be hitting the headlines and funds can be best used if given for where the need is greatest.



Top to bottom: These mothers walked for three days to find water after three failed rainy seasons, Ethiopia. © International Health Partners. Children from minority groups and those with disabilities receive education. © CEDAR Fund Partner. Vaccination clinic, Burkina Faso. © Tearfund Belgium.

Learn more

Climate change

Take a closer look at the climate crisis and how Christians are called to respond. "Christianity and climate change" is a nine-part film series produced by Integral Alliance member Tearfund UK featuring Katharine Hayhoe, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist.

You can find discussion questions and further actions to go with each film: <https://www.tearfund.org.au/resources/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series>

Locally-led Action

All Integral Members have agreed to five commitments to support locally-led action. Integral understands that in humanitarian crises it is local organisations and communities who respond first. One of our objectives is to support and enable local actors to respond more effectively.

You can find Integral's five commitments and localisation statement here: <https://integralalliance.org/about/localisation>



This land was prone to drought and flooding but with a new irrigation system the land is protected and can produce three crops in a year, Democratic Republic of Congo. © Food for the Hungry.