

# CARE Crisis Report

Ten humanitarian  
crises that did not  
make the headlines  
in 2024



# Introduction

Humanitarian crises are challenges affecting millions of people. They are diverse and global – be they natural disasters, famine crises, conflicts or wars. However, the attention of the global public is usually focused on a few, particularly prominent crises. With this Crisis Report, which is being published for the ninth year in a row, CARE puts ten underreported crises and the people affected into focus.


The facts speak for themselves: as a consequence of these underreported crises, around 34.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. As in the last two editions of our report, these crises take place exclusively in Africa. While conflicts, hunger crises and extreme weather events in countries such as Angola, Mozambique and Niger have a massive impact on the lives of those affected, the emergencies largely escape global attention.

Our media analysis for the year 2024 shows the weighting of reporting on humanitarian crises at a global level. A total of 43 crises were analyzed for the report. Each of these affected at least one million people. Of the total of 5.6 million online articles analyzed, 2.7 million articles - almost half - are about the devastating conflict in Gaza.

Numbers never capture the scale of human suffering. In many of these crises, mothers, fathers and children struggle to survive on a daily basis - often without access to basic humanitarian aid or international support. And underreporting on a crisis is often accompanied by a lack of financial support for people in need.

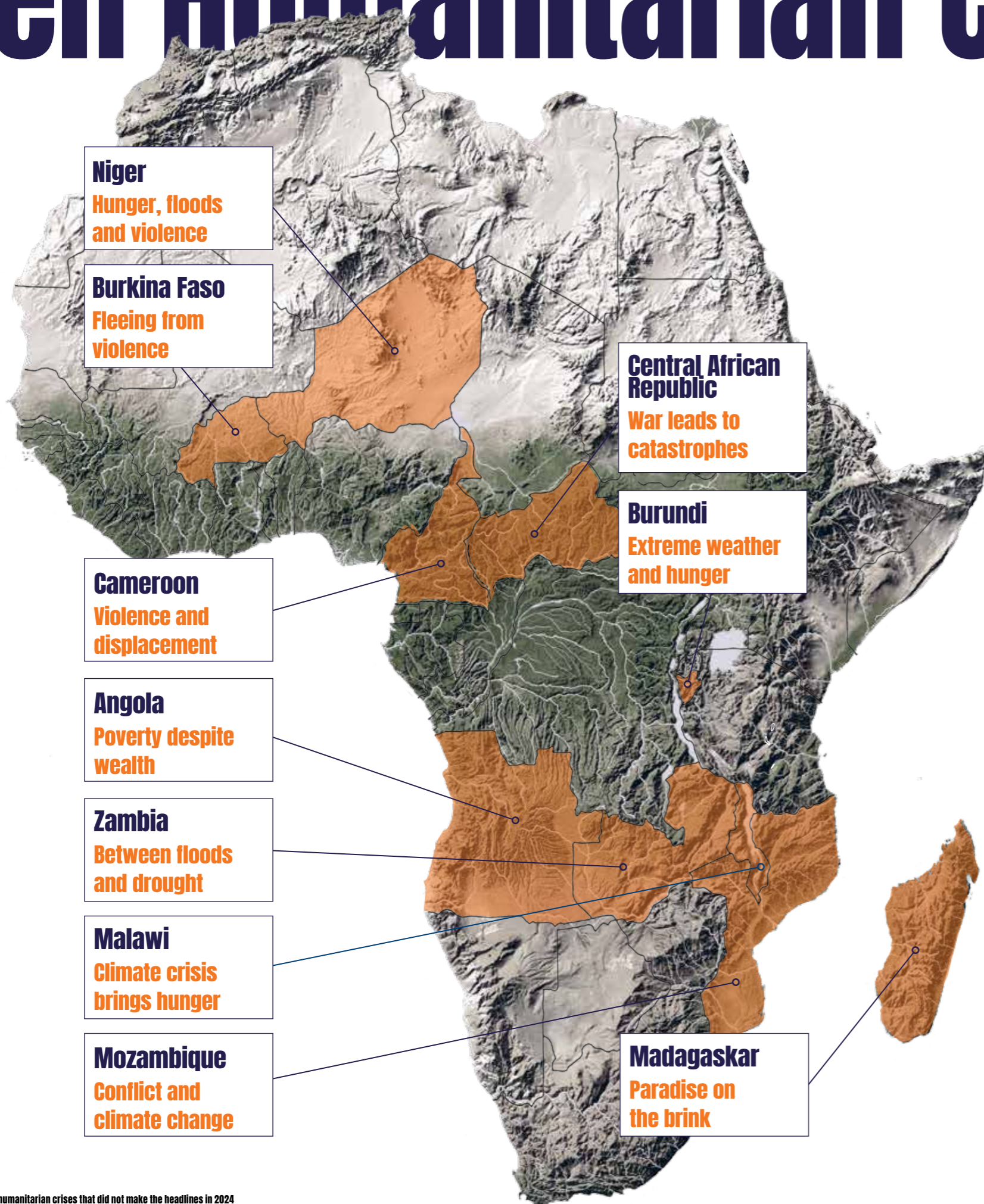
CARE's aim is to raise awareness of what is happening in these countries and communities, highlighting where greater support is needed and capturing what initiatives people are taking to forge a better future for themselves. Join us in bringing into the limelight what is too often overseen.

Joaquima (photo on the cover) lives with her family in a small village in Cabo Delgado in the embattled north of Mozambique. Since long periods of drought have dried up water sources, it has become even more difficult for her to provide her family with water.



In Mozambique, many water points are drying up due to the climate crisis. Water is often only available in deep wells. Usually, it is not clean.

# Ten Humanitarian Crises, that did not make the headlines in 2024



## WHY THIS REPORT?

Together with the media monitoring agency Meltwater, CARE annually analyzes the humanitarian crises that receive the least media attention. Around 5.6 million online articles were analyzed for the period from January 1 to September 30, 2024. The analysis includes humanitarian crises affecting at least one million people. The estimate for the total number of people affected by the crises is sourced from data published by ACAPS, Reliefweb and CARE. The result - a list of 43 crises - was subjected to a media analysis and ranked according to the number of online articles published worldwide (in English, German, French, Spanish and Arabic). We are aware that the report can only show a trend in reporting. Nevertheless, it provides an insight into the global attention paid to humanitarian crises in online media. Our report is intended to provide a perspective on the need to increase reporting of people in need.

## Number of online articles 1.1. - 30.9.2024



## In comparison

**125.689**  
Online articles on the Oasis reunion

**115.541**  
Online articles on the Affleck/Lopez separation

# 1 Angola

## Poverty despite wealth

Population: 37,8 million  
Area: 1.246.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 72,4%  
Life expectancy: 62 years

Angola is a huge country with 1,600 kilometers of coastline and a central plateau. The capital Luanda, with a population of nine million, looks west across the South Atlantic towards Brazil, where Portuguese is spoken, just like in Angola. Three times the size of Germany, Angola is rich in commodities and natural resources such as oil and diamonds. This makes it one of the ten strongest economies in Africa. Nevertheless, a large proportion of the population lives in abject poverty and does not have enough to eat. There is also a lack of clean drinking water.

### Dry wells

According to data from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), the worst drought in southern Africa for over 40 years has caused an insecure food situation for around 2.2 million people in Angola (status: November 2024). Most of the water points in the regions most affected by drought are not in operation. For women and girls, who are usually the ones fetching water, this means long and dangerous journeys.

### Poor harvests

Around 85 percent of the population work in agriculture. However, most of them only own small plots of land, the yield from which is rarely enough to survive on. Due to the drought, there have recently been severe losses in beans, manioc and corn. Many households have already been affected by droughts several times. Their supplies have been used up. They have hardly any seeds and seedlings for the next planting season. If less is sown, further poor harvests will follow.

While it is tropical in the north of the country, heat and drought prevail in the south. The mighty baobab

**2,2 million**  
people are in need of  
humanitarian assistance.

Worst  
**drought**  
for more than  
40 years.

trees grow in the savannahs. Wild animals such as hippos, rhinos, elephants, antelopes, giraffes, zebras and baboons roam through the barren landscape. Their habitat is shrinking every year due to slash-and-burn agriculture and deforestation. The climate crisis is becoming increasingly difficult for people. Angola has great potential in agriculture with its abundant agricultural land. However, the country must strengthen its resilience to climate change. Extreme climatic events and rising temperatures are expected to exacerbate water shortages and prolong the dry seasons.

### Six school years only

In Angola, schooling is compulsory for only six years. Girls are often not even sent to school. In total, two million children do not go to school. Angola's children are at risk of early marriage, sexualized violence, child labour and other forms of abuse and neglect.

### CARE in Angola

CARE does not currently deliver any programmes in Angola, which has topped the list of least reported crises in this report for the past three years. We believe the worsening crisis in the country deserves greater attention and we hope this report encourages increased reporting and action to respond to people's growing needs.

# 2 Central African Republic

## War leads to catastrophe

Population: 5,9 million  
Area: 622.980 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 37,5%  
Life expectancy: 54 years

The Central African Republic lies at the heart of Africa. For more than 12 years, a devastating humanitarian crisis characterized by armed conflicts, displacement and a difficult supply situation has been raging there, largely unnoticed by the media. The reason for this is an ongoing civil war on ethnic, religious and political tensions. Decades of instability, poor governance and economic inequality have led to this human catastrophe.

### Forced to flee

Around 2.8 million people are dependent on humanitarian aid. As a result of the insecurity, a fifth of the population is fleeing either within the country or to neighboring countries. More than 750,000 people have fled abroad, mainly to Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The security situation continues to deteriorate due to attacks by armed groups. As a result, access to vital resources such as food, water and medical care is massively impeded for the population. More than 2.5 million people do not have enough to eat.

### Violence against women

According to the Gender Inequality Index, the Central African Republic is one of the five countries in the world where women experience the most disadvantage. In 2024, more than two people every hour - mainly women and girls - were victims of gender-based violence. Over 11,000 cases of violence were reported in the first half of the year. The conflict prevents survivors from getting help quickly.

Women and girls are also subjected to early marriage and exploitation, especially in refugee camps and conflict regions where there is even less protection for them. In addition, girls often have to drop out of

**2,5 million**  
people do not have  
enough to eat.

**One in five**  
people are  
displaced.

school to support their families. Because educational facilities have been destroyed, teaching is not possible in many places.

### CARE activities

Together with local partners, CARE works in countries neighboring Central African Republic to provide refugees with vital relief supplies such as food, shelter, clean water and hygiene products. Medical and psychological care for all those who have experienced sexual assault is integral to CARE's emergency response.

# 3 Madagascar

## Paradise on the brink

Population: 31,1 million  
 Area: 581.795 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Literacy rate: 77,5%  
 Life expectancy: 65 years

Madagascar is one of the largest islands in the world and is located in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of southern Africa. The country has a unique biological diversity and is considered a natural paradise.

Despite the outstanding natural beauty, life is hardly a paradise for the population. More than 80 percent live in abject poverty and have to get by on 2.15 US dollars a day. Madagascar is one of the ten poorest and least developed countries in the world. Hunger is widespread. According to the Global Hunger Index 2024, the situation in Madagascar is classified as **alarming**.

### Drought, hurricanes, floods

The island state is heavily exposed to the effects of the climate crisis. The country suffers from prolonged droughts and violent hurricanes. Around 70 percent of people work in agriculture. For the subsistence farmers, if they harvest less, they have less money in addition to having less food. Around half of the people do not have enough to eat and almost one in four young children are chronically malnourished.

### Child labor on vanilla plantations

Madagascar is known for the production and export of vanilla. However, the dark side of growing the fragrant pods is child labor. According to the children's relief organization UNICEF, hundreds of thousands of children and young people are forced to work in agriculture - often on vanilla plantations.

Crises and systemic injustices have a particularly detrimental effect on girls and young women. They have fewer opportunities for education and are more likely to suffer from hunger. They are also more likely to be subjected to early marriage and experience violence.

Madagascar is increasingly being hit by cyclones as a result of climate change. CARE provides emergency aid for families who have lost their homes.



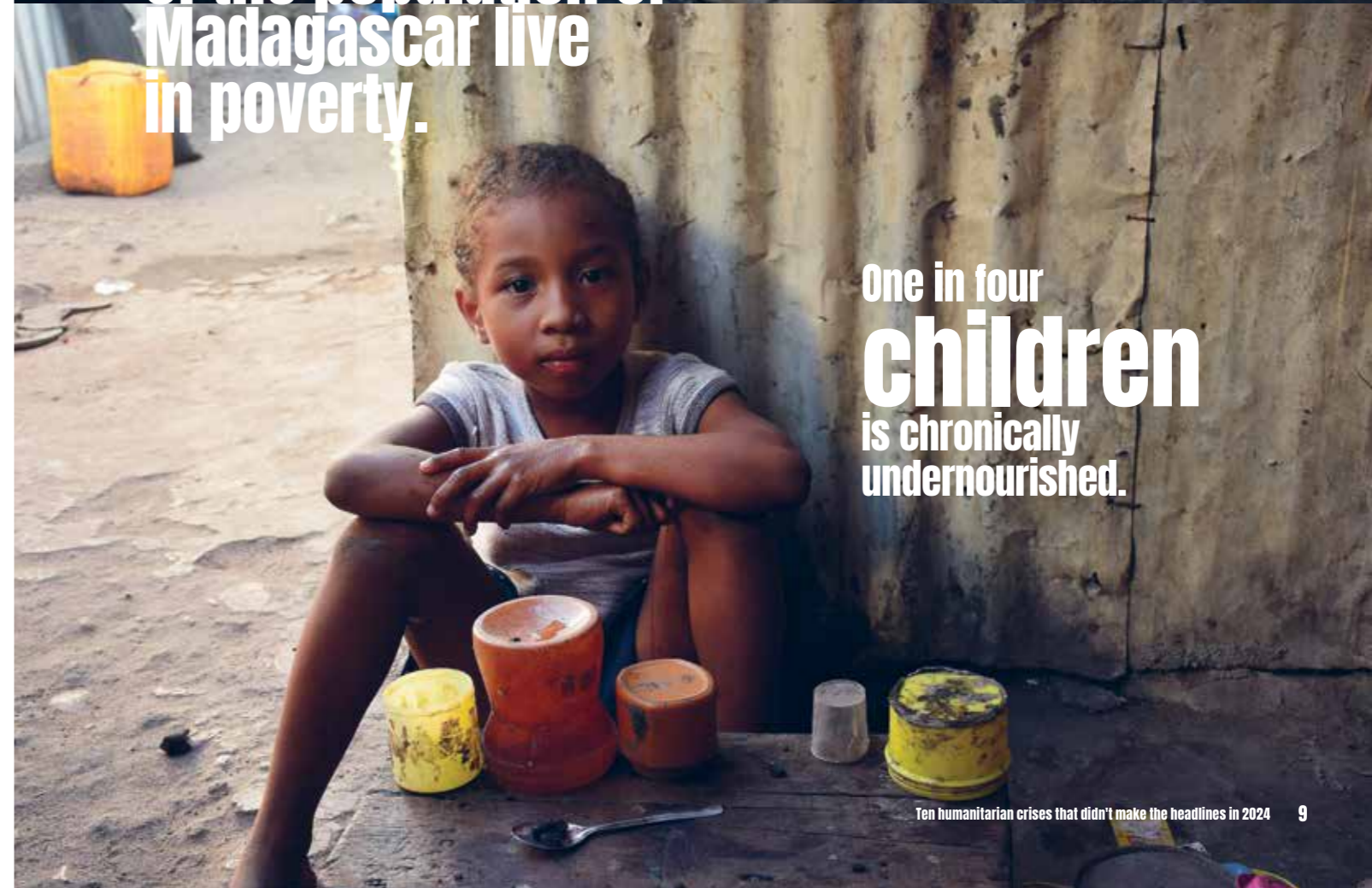
Sandra sells fried noodles and deep-fried pastries in her small cookshop on the street. This is the only income for her and her children.

More than **80%** of the population of Madagascar live in poverty.

The untouched natural environment and its wildlife are coming under increasing pressure due to high population growth. Fertile soils are being destroyed by erosion and silting.

### CARE activities

CARE has been active in Madagascar since 1992, working to combat poverty and social exclusion. By 2028, CARE and our partners will have reached one million people with projects on the island. We support the population with strategies for protection against catastrophic weather extremes. We also strengthen the economic independence of women through small savings groups. Planting giant yams and improving access to education for children in crisis-hit communities are amongst the sustainable initiatives that have borne fruit. In recent years, CARE has supported the development of a network of feminist organizations and capacity building to promote gender equality.



One in four **children** is chronically undernourished.

# 4 Burkina Faso

## Fleeing from violence

Population: 23,8 million  
Area: 273.600 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 34,5%  
Life expectancy: 60 years

The richly decorated Royal Court of Tiébélé was the third site in Burkina Faso to be inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2024. Together with the ruins of Loropéni and the traces of iron production in the country dating back up to 2800 years, they bear witness to a culturally rich history.

Sadly, the country's the recent past is characterized by bloody conflicts and violence. Almost ten years ago, social unrest broke out. This was followed by conflicts throughout the country and the displacement of millions of people. The military took power again in 2022. The brutal fighting, particularly in the north and east of the country, is ongoing. The population is often caught in the crossfire without protection. Humanitarian aid delivery is dangerous due to repeated attacks on aid convoys.

### Harvest becomes scarce, nutrition extremely expensive

According to UN estimates, 6.3 million people are dependent on humanitarian aid. In 2019, this figure was just under one million, an increase of more than 660 percent in five years. In addition, around 2.7 million people are affected by acute hunger. The unstable security situation has led to a decline in agricultural production. This is compounded by changing climatic conditions and increasingly long periods of drought. The remaining scarce harvest is sold at higher prices.

Violence and hunger are forcing many families to pack up their remaining belongings and flee. Currently, more than two million people – almost ten percent of the population – are displaced within their own country. 82 percent of those displaced are women and children.

Acute hunger effects **2,7 million** people.

**82%** of displaced people are women and children.

**2 million** people are internally displaced.

### CARE activities

CARE supports a wide range of activities in Burkina Faso that are focus on the needs of displaced people and host communities. Together with local organizations, CARE distributes hygiene packages and cash, rehabilitates water points and puts in place measures to combat gender-based violence. We also provide economic training for micro-entrepreneurs and support the involvement of women in local decision-making processes. CARE is working alongside three women's organizations in Burkina Faso: Wenpanga, Waa-Manegdba and Maneg Taaba.

A recent development is the cultivation of plants without soil and the production of organic fertilizers, since arable land is scarce. Women are trained in this and pass on their knowledge to other women. This improves nutrition in many households because they harvest again, and also increases income.

# 5 Burundi

## Extreme weather and hunger

Population: 13,6 million  
Area: 25.680 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 75,5%  
Life expectancy: 62 years

Burundi, a small and densely populated country in East Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. Political tensions and violence have characterized the country for years. The consequences of the climate crisis are exacerbating the situation.

In spring 2024, the El Niño weather phenomenon led to torrential rain and storms, landslides and the overflowing of Lake Tanganyika. Overall, extreme weather affected 298,000 people, half of them women. Around 48,000 people were forced to flee. This increased the number of displaced people in the country to over 100,000.

### Chronically malnourished children

Juvenal Afurika, CARE Country Director in Burundi, describes the situation: „The region was already poor before the floods. Now many people have been plunged even deeper into poverty. What little they had was simply washed away.“

90 percent of the population make a living from agriculture. Hunger is on the rise due to extreme weather conditions: 2.2 million people in Burundi suffer from acute food insecurity, 229,000 of them from extreme hunger. The country has one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition among children in the world - 52 percent of children under the age of five are affected.

### More violence against women in crises

There are repeated conflicts over resources such as water and land. There are also a large number of internally displaced persons and around 88,400 refugees from other countries in the country. Many have no access to vital resources and need humanitarian aid. Women and girls are particularly affected. Displacement and disasters increase the risk of

**One in five girls** marries before her 18th birthday

**52%** of children under 5 years old are chronically undernourished.

violence. Gender inequalities such as early marriage and lack of access to education and health are firmly entrenched. Around one in five girls marries before the age of 18. Women have limited access to land ownership and decision-making processes.

### CARE activities

CARE has been active in Burundi since 1994 and supports women and young people in particular. CARE creates sustainable structures to improve opportunities for women and young people in the long term. Community savings initiatives support women to become more financially independent, improve unequal power relations and meaningfully transform their role in society. CARE and our partner's work shares knowledge with communities about sustainable agriculture, health-care and family planning.

We work closely with women-led organizations whose expertise contributes to making a difference for the most vulnerable in the communities.

# Burundi

Extreme weather plunges people deeper into poverty. Suzanne and Suzanne, who both live in the village of Gatumba and happen to have the same name, lost what little they had in the floods.



Lydia (left) and Veronique (right), residents of the village of Gatumba, stand behind flooded houses affected by heavy rains.

**El Niño leads to torrential rainfall.**



# 6 Mozambique

## Between conflict and climate change

Population: 34,9 million  
Area: 786.380 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 59,8%  
Life expectancy: 60 years

Mozambique is known for its beaches: with a 2,500 kilometers of coastline on the Indian Ocean, the country is a haven for surfers. In contrast, the tense humanitarian situation, particularly in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, receives little attention. An ongoing conflict since 2017 has forced many people there to flee and destroyed their livelihoods. 1.7 million people were displaced in the region in 2024 and are dependent on aid. 583,000 have been displaced within the country (as of July 2024). Many of them report death, loss and suffering. "When they came to kill us, we ran and hid in the bush for three days," says farmer Zacarias.

### Violence and displacement

The insecure situation is driving entire villages to flee, but even in safety the need remains great. There is not enough food, water or shelter. In addition, infrastructure is being destroyed, income is being lost and people face the effects of trauma.

### No food, no medication

Many schools and health facilities in the conflict zone are closed. "Medicines run out quickly, there are no vaccinations and no help with births," reports Zacarias. Added to this are the consequences of climate change. Cyclones and droughts have destroyed harvests and exacerbated the food situation, especially for children and pregnant women. Food is always in short supply. Between April and September 2024, 2.8 million people were affected by acute food insecurity. This situation could deteriorate further if reserves are exhausted and the effects of conflict and climate change persist.

### Hoping for rain

Farmers have no seed to cultivate their fields. In recent months, Mozambique has been severely affected by the El Niño phenomenon, which has led to a lack of precipitation and an increase in temperatures, resulting in a severe drought. The survival of the population, most of whom rely on

**583.000**  
people  
are displaced.

**2,8 million**  
people  
do not have  
enough to eat.

agriculture, was put at risk. The need for humanitarian aid increased.

### CARE activities

Together with partner organizations, CARE supports families affected by violence, displacement and the consequences of climate change. The projects aim to increase the resilience of communities by improving shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene and strengthening infrastructure. Participants receive essential relief supplies as well as kitchen utensils and hygiene products. Even amidst conflict and drought, communities and the women who lead them show inspirational ways to adapt and thrive via locally-rooted savings and loans initiatives that CARE supports. Our work also focuses on emergency relief and disaster preparedness, psychosocial support, services to protect women and children from gender-based violence, and the creation of safe spaces for those affected.

# 7 Cameroon

## Violence and displacement

Population: 29,4 million  
Area: 472.710 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 78,2%  
Life expectancy: 61 years

This central African country between the Atlantic and Lake Chad was long considered relatively stable, but tensions have increased in recent years. The conflict, in the north and south-west between separatist groups of the Anglophone minority and the government in the majority French-speaking Cameroon, has claimed thousands of lives since it began in 2017. In the Lake Chad region in the north of the country, there are repeated attacks that spread terror, killing people and forcing the population to flee. The situation is also tense on the country's border in the east, where hundreds of thousands of people from the Central African Republic are fleeing to Cameroon.

### Precarious humanitarian situation

Due to the ongoing violence, the need for humanitarian aid remains high: 3.4 million people required humanitarian aid in 2024. One million people are displaced within the country. 55 percent of them are children. They mainly come from the crisis-hit regions in the far north, north-west and south-west. There are also 489,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the country, mainly from the Central African Republic and Nigeria.

At least 2.5 million people do not have enough to eat. Only 40 percent of the population have access to clean drinking water; more than 600,000 people lack shelter. Medical care is also inadequate: some health facilities have already had to close due to repeated attacks. For women and girls, there is increased risk of unwanted pregnancies and gender-based violence. Safer access to medical care, water, hygiene and sanitary facilities is essential in order to reduce the spread of diseases such as cholera and the dangers for women and girls.

In the north and south-west, educational institutions are repeatedly the target of armed attacks. 36 percent of schools are non-functional. Countless children are therefore denied access to education.

**60%**  
of the population  
do not have access to  
clean water.

### Extreme weather

Cameroon is also suffering greatly from the consequences of climate change. Heavy rainfall in central and west Africa was followed by severe flooding in September 2024, with more than 350,000 people affected in Cameroon alone.

From January to April 2024, there were several fires in settlements for internally displaced people in the north and many shelters were destroyed. Most of the fires are due to accidents, but the spread of the flames is often driven by heat and strong winds in the region. The consequences of climate change, such as floods, droughts and heat, are jeopardizing the livelihoods of farmers, herders and fishermen in the country.

### CARE activities

CARE has been active in Cameroon since 1978 and works primarily in the areas of water supply, environmental protection, food security and HIV prevention. In the northern regions, CARE is providing support in the form of cash, hygiene and health packages, food and the construction of shelters. CARE also provides humanitarian and psychosocial aid for refugees from the Central African Republic and supports the local communities around the refugee camps.



# Mozambique

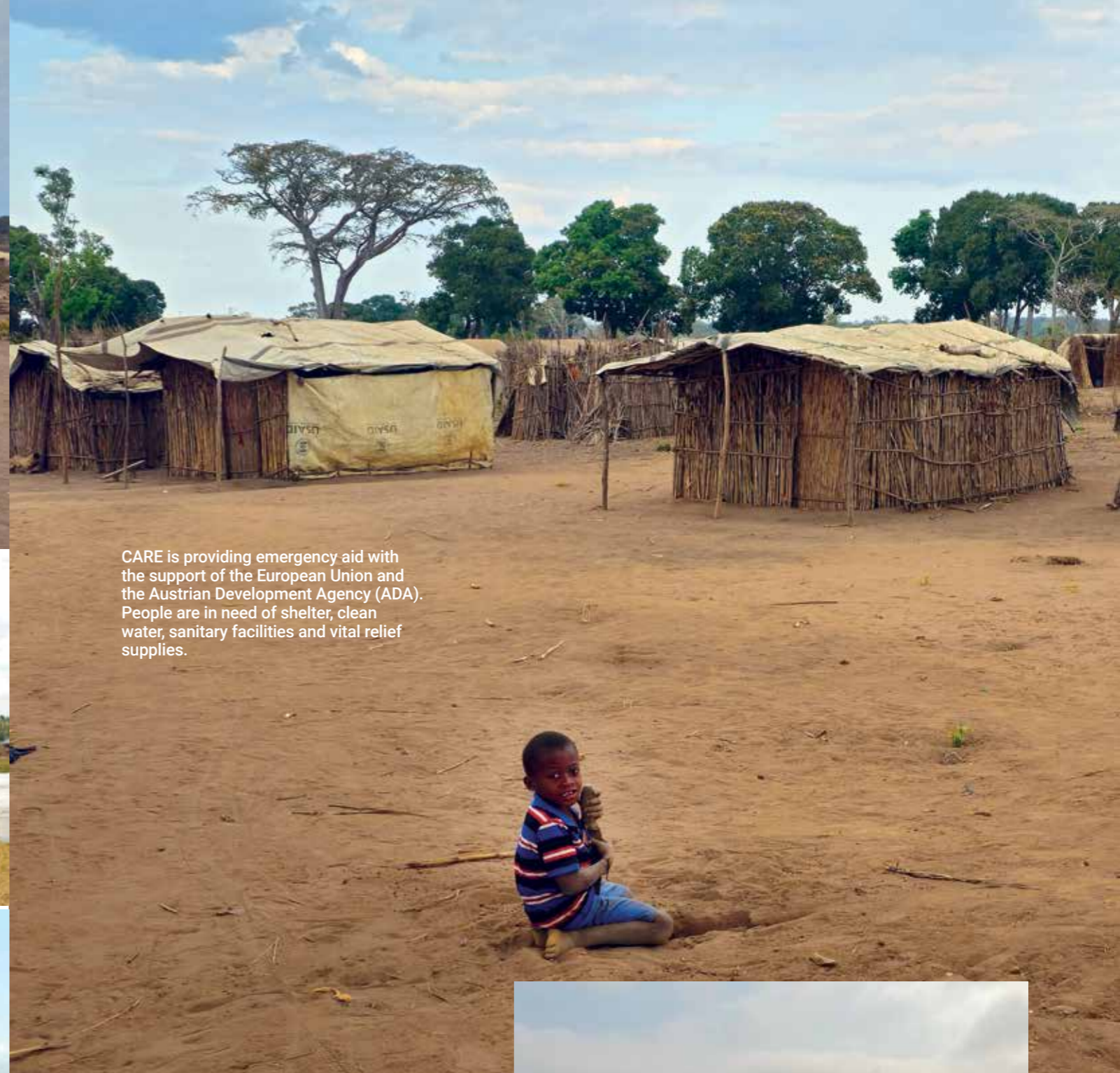


"Anyone who has a plastic sheet over their head is lucky," reports one mother. Many people live in huts, which they provisionally seal with old clothes to protect against the wind and weather.

**Violence and displacement – entire villages are fleeing.**



CARE is providing emergency aid with the support of the European Union and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). People are in need of shelter, clean water, sanitary facilities and vital relief supplies.



**Waiting for rain:  
Crop failure worsens food insecurity.**





**28%**  
of the population are affected by acute food shortages.

**6,1 million**  
People are in need of humanitarian aid.

# 8 Malawi

## Climate crisis brings hunger

Population: 21,5 million  
Area: 94.280 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 68%  
Life expectancy: 63 years

The small landlocked country in south-east Africa is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in its history. In 2024, the El Niño weather phenomenon triggered the worst drought in southern Africa in a hundred years. The government declared a national state of emergency in March 2024 as almost 40 percent of the population was affected by extreme food insecurity. The combination of recurring weather extremes, climate change and economic crisis means that 6.1 million people in the country are in urgent need of humanitarian aid. Recent estimates suggest 5.7 million people will not have enough food by March 2025.

Main food  
**Corn:**  
44% of cultivation ground is destroyed because of extreme weather.



### Drought, floods and loss of harvest

Malawi is suffering greatly from the effects of the climate crisis. Increasingly prolonged droughts and flooding are affecting the southern and central regions in particular. In 2024, droughts and floods destroyed 44% of the land used to grow corn, the country's main foodstuff.

Rose (45) is facing ruin: "I don't know how I'm going to survive." The farmer has been looking after her family of ten since her husband died 20 years ago. So far, she has always just about managed to feed her seven children and two grandchildren with her own harvest. But this year the plants have dried up. "It's harvest time and I have nothing," says Rose.

### High average cost of living

In addition to the climate crisis, people in Malawi are suffering from high inflation and food prices have risen sharply. The average price of corn, for example, is 160 percent higher than the five-year average. Basic food has become unaffordable for most people.

Women and girls are particularly affected. They often have to travel long distances for food and water and are frequently at risk of violence.

### CARE activities

CARE has been present in Malawi since 1998. In addition to the immediate provision of health services and essential goods, CARE supports with unconditional cash aid for the purchase of basic foodstuffs. Due to frequent extreme weather events, it is essential that Malawi makes its food supply crisis-proof. A change in agriculture is urgently needed to ensure the survival of millions of people. This is where the FoSTA-Health project, co-financed by the European Union, comes in. CARE supports women and girls who shoulder the burden of food production for their families, but often have limited access to land, resources and education. They receive training and technical support for more sustainable farming methods.



**Food insecurity**  
leads to state of emergency.



# 9 Zambia

## Between floods and drought

Population: 21,1 million  
Area: 743.390 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 87,5%  
Life expectancy: 62 years

From one extreme to the next: "It's either too wet or too dry, we hardly have any normal weather," says maize farmer Buumba. This puts many people in Zambia in a desperate situation, as more than half of the country's population is reliant on agriculture. Extreme weather endangers millions of livelihoods. In 2024, Zambia experienced one of the worst periods of drought in over 40 years, which was due to the consequences of the El Niño weather phenomenon and the relentless effects of the climate crisis. 9.8 million people were affected by the drought.

### Loss of livestock

Heavy rainfall at the beginning of 2024 was followed by a prolonged dry period. This led to an electricity crisis because the power supply is dependent on hydroelectric power plants. Many households and businesses were left without electricity for days. Springs dried up in rural areas. Livestock died on withered pastures. The total harvest was 43 percent below the five-year average. Corn, the most important staple food, was particularly affected. Almost five million people did not have enough to eat.

### Women and children go hungry

As in many crises, women and children have been hit particularly hard: a quarter of children under five suffer from food poverty. They often only have one simple meal a day. Pregnant and breastfeeding women also frequently suffer from malnutrition.

"The situation is catastrophic and continues to deteriorate, especially for women and girls," says Chikwe Mbweeda, CARE Country Director in Zambia. "They have to walk long distances to fetch water. This puts them at risk of violence. The water is usually not clean and increases the risk of disease."



**Worst period of drought for over 40 years affects 9,8 million people – almost 50% of the total population.**

The climate crisis leads to longer dry seasons. The soil dries out. If it does rain, a lot of precipitation falls in a short time. The masses of water do not seep away, but flood the fields. Harvests dry up or are washed away.

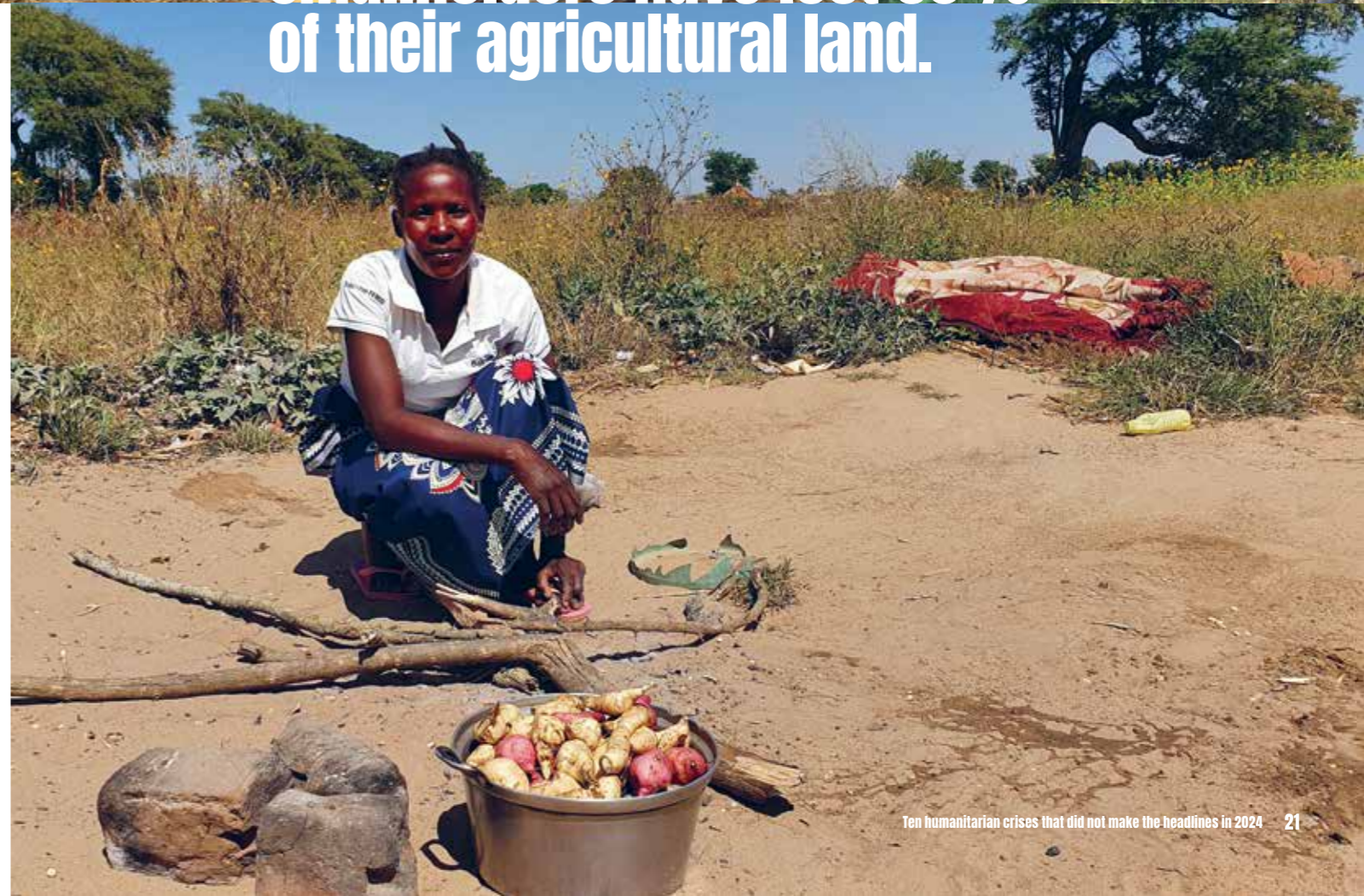


**Smallholders have lost 90% of their agricultural land.**

### CARE activities

CARE has been active in Zambia since 1992, working with local, national and women-led partner organizations. The determination and strength of these community leaders to face their challenges together is always humbling. The focus is on long-term, community-based projects with the aim of mitigating climate-related challenges, promoting sustainable development and bringing about social change. Project participants are trained in new cultivation methods, supported with reforestation and provided with drought-resistant seeds.

CARE is working the Choma District Women Development Association (CDWDA) to tackle the drought crisis. The CDWDA promotes the empowerment of women through capacity building and market networking. In consultation with the local government, the CDWDA supported around 5,000 affected people (mainly women and elderly people) in the Choma district. They received protection and food aid.





**52%**  
of people  
live below  
the national  
poverty line.

# 10 Niger

## Hunger, floods and violence

Population: 28,2 million  
Area: 1.266.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
Literacy rate: 38,1%  
Life expectancy: 62 years

Niger is located in the heart of the Sahel region and is one of the largest countries in Africa. Heat and drought characterize the country, which is largely covered by desert. "Niger is struggling with climate change, conflict, political instability and hunger," says Yawo Douvon, CARE Country Director for Niger and Burkina Faso.

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2024, 4.5 million people, around 17% of the population, were dependent on humanitarian aid. More than half of the population (52 percent) lives below the national poverty line. Around 3.4 million people do not have enough to eat (as of September 2024). Niger also has one of the fastest growing populations in the world.

### Fleeing from open conflicts

The Sahel is considered one of the most conflict ridden regions on the continent. An important transit route for migrants to Europe runs through Niger. Violence is particularly frequent in the border regions with Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. The danger to the population is particularly high here. At the end of September 2024, there were more than 507,000 internally displaced persons. Niger was also home to over 416,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Nigeria and Mali.

### Climate crisis destroys harvests

Floods and droughts destroy people's livelihoods. Around 80 percent of the population live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture as a source of income. In the 2024 rainy season, flooding washed away the roads. Over a million people were affected and hundreds lost their lives. Flooding increases the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera. The start of the school year had to be postponed by several weeks due to the flooding. In addition, thousands of classrooms were damaged, destroyed or had to house displaced families.

**4,5 million**  
people need  
humanitarian  
aid.

**Conflicts, violence**  
and the climate  
crisis threaten the  
existence of rural  
populations.



Mothers in Niger are often survival artists. They set up small savings groups and support each other, to be able to provide for their families.

**3,4**  
million  
people  
do not have  
enough to eat.



### CARE activities

CARE's began working in Niger in 1974 with support during a famine. Today, our work focuses on the areas of health and nutrition, climate justice, education and the empowerment of women and girls. CARE's has launched a successful "Village Savings and Loan Associations" (VSLA) program in Niger. These are village savings groups through which women receive microloans and can build their own livelihoods.

Together with local partner organization HED-Tamat, CARE raises awareness of the dangers of radical movements and provides training in conflict resolution techniques. With partner "Action en Faveur des Vulnérables (AFV)", CARE has provided emergency aid for around 23,000 people in the areas of health, nutrition and water supply.

# What can we do?

## Free access to information

Governments and local authorities should facilitate access to data and information for media professionals in order to enable free and independent reporting from crisis regions and counteract misinformation. Violence and intimidation - whether online or offline - against media professionals must be consistently prevented.

## Listen to those affected

People in crisis areas, especially women and girls – who are often the most affected – should have their say in reporting. It is important to show a diversity of perspectives and break through stereotypical narratives. Those affected in crisis areas can communicate directly with journalists about their situation via social media channels and messenger services.

## Secure financial resources

International donors must provide sufficient financial resources to alleviate humanitarian crises, including to local and national actors. Increased global cooperation is essential for needs-based and effective humanitarian aid. Journalists who report on humanitarian issues also need reliable sources of funding for their work.

## Promote reporting

Aid organizations should provide editorial offices with high-quality background information. CARE organizes press trips to project countries where journalists have the opportunity to speak with affected people and aid workers directly.

## Support quality journalism

Citizens can contribute to drawing more attention to forgotten crises by supporting critical journalistic formats, promoting balanced reporting by the media and addressing stereotypical representations.



## Promote local partners

Aid organizations should make the work of local partners visible and support them to communicate about their work. CARE is amongst several organisations who have committed to the Pledge for Change in this regard.

## Strengthen women

Women often take on leadership roles in crises. There should be a greater focus on women in the distribution of humanitarian aid and the communication of aid organizations, and they should also be fairly represented in reporting. It is important that women, girls and other disadvantaged groups can contribute their perspectives and be heard.

## Faith Phiri

Managing Director of CARE partner organization Girls Empowerment Network (GENET), Malawi



## Showing local perspectives

Malawi's humanitarian challenges, which include the effects of climate change, poverty, health crises and gender inequality, are often overshadowed by more prominent global crises. This lack of attention is partly due to Malawi's smaller geographical and economic footprint. The absence of immediately visible catastrophic events such as earthquakes or wars in Malawi, may be another reason why crises in this country remain under the radar compared to larger or conflict-ridden states. In addition, there is a lack of funding to support and invite both local and international journalists to cover events in the country.

However, Malawi deserves greater attention for many reasons. The country faces significant challenges that affect millions of people, especially marginalized groups such as girls and young women. Early marriage, inadequate access to education, unequal healthcare and climate shocks exacerbate the situation. International attention could lead to more support, investment and global solidarity which would strengthen the efforts of local organizations such as GENET to support local communities, improve infrastructure and secure resources for sustainable development. Recognizing Malawi's struggles would not only bring assistance but also spotlight the resilience and agency of Malawian girls and women who, despite adversity, are creating change in their communities.

highlight progress and challenges.. Stories that only focus on crises often lead to "compassion fatigue" among the audience. Balanced reporting on resilience, innovation and positive developments, on the other hand, can keep audiences engaged. Constructive journalism that not only reports on problems, but also highlights solutions, gives audiences the opportunity to take action for change. Another aspect is collaboration with local journalists -they can present the challenges in Malawi in a nuanced way and within the cultural context, offering unique perspectives that international audiences might not otherwise be aware of.

## Balanced reporting

This is why media professionals should also look beyond the headlines, reporting on long-term issues instead of just focusing on "breaking news" topics, for example through investigative articles that

## About GENET

Girls Empowerment Network (GENET) is a feminist, women-led local organization in Malawi that works with girls and young women and promotes their rights to autonomy and self-determination.

# In conversation with...

## Dolika Banda, Zambia

Expert Financing Development and Board Member of CARE USA. Former Director at the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank Group



**"THE MEDIA SHOULD REPORT LESS ON THE CRISES THEMSELVES AND MORE ON THE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISES."**

### Why do you think that African countries (except for Sudan, the world's largest humanitarian crisis today) feature little in global reporting?

Our world only reacts when there are big, headline-generating crises. Media houses are compelled to choose news stories that will interest their audiences. Slow-on-set events do not seem newsworthy. Internal displacement within Africa was also invisible to the media for a long time. It was only when people risked their lives to flee across the sea that this was classified as an 'international refugee crisis'.

Outside the African continent, new crises such as those in Gaza or Ukraine demand attention and therefore space in the media. Added to this is the geopolitical relevance of a country – if this is not deemed to be high, the country is not a priority in reporting.

### Is the media to blame for the fact that chronic crises in Africa are usually forgotten?

The media is not directly to blame that crises are neglected, but they do play a role. Responsibilities are rather complex. The media should report less on the crisis itself, but more on the causes and solutions to the crises. There are several high profile media outlets that have global impact with their reporting.

### What would it take for the often chronic crises in Africa to receive more attention?

I do not have a proper answer to this question. Because I would rather not see on the front pages, on TV or on social media channels that once again an African country is not managing its affairs. I don't want this and the next generation of brave, talented and creative Africans to live with this stigma. For centuries, this has robbed us of our pride and dignity. I would prefer to see more reportings with a focus on solutions.

### What can we do as an aid organization to raise awareness on these crises?

Look for Africans who can serve as an authentic and credible voice for the cause. Listen actively to the affected communities, in particular when discussing crisis prevention. It is an important task to continue working with governments to ensure that there are sufficient budgets for crises and disaster management. Humanitarian organizations can then become active strategically and support the efforts.

### Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

Humanitarian organizations need to claim the topic of crisis prevention more for themselves. They can help shape a narrative in which people in African countries are portrayed with dignity, resilience and respect. Because if we maintain a narrative that appeals to international donors but portrays future generations of Africans as helpless and in never-ending crises, then this image will not change in the media either. A kind of reporting that focuses on dignity and potential can contribute to overcoming hurtful and tiring stereotypes, and can produce a more balanced perspective.

## NamukaBo Werungah, Kenya

Journalist at the media and news company "The New Humanitarian"



**"WITH TECHNICAL AFFINITY, CREATIVITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA, TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY THAT PREVIOUS GENERATIONS COULD NOT USE, THAT JOURNALISTS COULD ONLY DREAM OF."**

### Why do you think that certain humanitarian crises - especially in Africa - receive so little coverage in the international media?

Bureaucracy is often a major hurdle. In 2019, I spent a month in an African country, reporting on an ongoing conflict. I was confident that this would be a "big story" that could provoke a response from the international community. It had previously taken us almost a year to get media accreditation. But upon our return, our accreditation was revoked by the country's authorities. We were clearly warned of serious consequences if we published the story. After consultation Together with the legal team, we made the incredibly difficult decision not to publish, as the story would have put many people in danger. It was heartbreaking. Almost a year and a half of work had gone down the drain, along with over \$40,000 in expenses.

Unfortunately, our experience is not an isolated case. Colleagues have been turned away upon entry despite having valid documents, others have been detained and deported, and some have even charged with alleged crimes and imprisoned. Obtaining media accreditation is gruelling for international journalists and is often marred by delays, corruption and arbitrary rejections.

### Would it be an option to work more closely with local journalists?

That would be the ideal solution, but the risks for local reporters are often even greater. They are confronted with strict media restrictions, heavy fines or harsh prison sentences.

Another point is the cost. Even for media organizations that have the financial resources, the risk of spending tens of thousands of US dollars on a story that may never be published due to legal threats or political censorship is a major deterrent.

### How do you decide which crises to report on? Are there any specific criteria that are taken into account?

At "The New Humanitarian", we specialize in neglected crises. But if journalists don't have access to the location or can't verify the story, it slips down the priority list. A "chronic crisis" can also lose priority, even if it remains urgent and unresolved.

### In your opinion, are there any positive developments or innovative approaches that could help to strengthen public awareness of vulnerable crises in the coming years?

Platforms like X, WhatsApp and Instagram have made it easier for local voices to be heard. Partnerships with NGOs and advocacy groups can also provide resources and protection for reporters on the ground.

### What tips would you give to young journalists who want to draw more attention to humanitarian crises that are underrepresented in the media?

I would tell them that there has never been a better time. With an affinity for technology, creativity and social media, they have tools at their disposal that previous generations of journalists could only dream of. Take advantage of these opportunities!



## About CARE

CARE International is a humanitarian organisation leading the fight to end poverty in the world's most challenging situations. Women and girls are at the centre of our work, because we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities. We know that when a crisis erupts, women are often the first to pick up the pieces, so we work alongside women so they have the power to make change where it's needed most. Founded in 1945, CARE currently works in over 120 countries and last year alone, reached 53.4 million people through nearly 1,500 projects.

Find out more at [www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

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