What the Experts Are Saying about Hunger and Climate Change

'Climate change affects every aspect of society, from the health of the global economy to the health of our children. It is about the water in our wells and in our taps. It is about the food on the table…is at the core of nearly all the major challenges we face today'.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, World Business Summit 2009

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the leading body for the assessment of climate change, to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic consequences.

- **More frequent and intense natural disasters** and extreme weather events (such as droughts, floods and hurricanes). The number of natural disasters has quadrupled from 100 in 1975 to 400 in 2005.
- **Rising sea levels** and the contamination/salinisation of water supplies and agricultural lands.
- **Changes in rainfall patterns** with an expected reduction in agricultural productivity in already fragile areas, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Declining water quality** and availability in arid and semi-arid regions.
- **Surging health and sanitation problems**, will affect malnutrition rates.
- 'Agricultural production and food security (including access to food) in many African countries and regions are likely to be severely compromised by climate change and climate variability. Projected **reductions in yield in some countries could be as much as 50% by 2020**, and crop net revenues could fall by as much as 90% by 2100, with small-scale farmers being the most affected'.
- 'Areas in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America, with high rates of population growth and natural resource degradation, are likely to continue to have **high rates of poverty and food insecurity**'.

World Food Programme
What the leading humanitarian and relief organisations are saying about Hunger and Climate Change

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Over the next decades, it is predicted that billions of people, particularly those in developing countries, face shortages of water and food and greater risks to health and life as a result of climate change.

(http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/txt/pub_07_impacts.pdf)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): Major catastrophes involving floods, storms or water scarcity – combined with other factors such as population growth, urbanisation, food insecurity, environmental decline and poverty – may lead to major migration and forced displacement in many parts of the world. Such unprecedented population movements could overwhelm national governments and global disaster management systems, as well as planting the seeds of future conflicts. (Press release 3 September 2009, http://ochaonline.un.org)

UN Development Programme (UNDP):
Climate-related disasters are heavily concentrated in poor countries. Some 262 million people were affected by climate disasters annually from 2000 to 2004, over 98 percent in the developing world.

(http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_20072008_EN_Complete.pdf)

OCHA/Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):
At least 36 million people were displaced by sudden-onset natural disasters in 2008. Of those, over 20 million were displaced by climate-related disasters, while almost 16 million were displaced by non-climate-related disasters.

(http://www.nrc.no/arch/_img/9412026.pdf)

International Organization for Migration (IOM):
A large number of people is expected to migrate due to a gradual deterioration of environmental conditions. Gradual environmental degradation, including phenomena such as desertification, reduction of soil fertility, coastal erosion and sea-level rise, which may be associated with climate change, impact existing livelihood patterns and systems of production and may trigger different types of migration.

(http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/2070)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
Climate change will affect all four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food systems stability. It will have an impact on human health, livelihood assets, food production and distribution channels, as well as changing purchasing power and market flows.

(Climate change and food security: A framework document, 2008, ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/k2595e/k2595e00.pdf)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)[2]

Higher rates of malnutrition

- Climate change will decrease food availability in sub-Saharan Africa with an average of 500 calories less per person in 2050 – a 21% decline. This will further increase the number of malnourished children by over 10 million, amounting to a total of 52 million in 2050.
- In Asia, the total number of malnourished children will increase by about 11 million in comparison with a no climate change scenario.
- And in Latin America, the effects of climate change are projected to result in a total of 6.4 million malnourished children by 2050 – 1.4 million more children suffering from hunger.

Lower agricultural production

- As a direct result of climate change, by 2050 crop yields in sub-Saharan Africa are likely to mean a decline by 14% (rice), 22% (wheat) and 5% (maize), pushing the vast number of already poor deeper into poverty and leaving them more vulnerable.
- Crop yields in the Middle East and North Africa will decline by 47% for maize, 30% for rice and 20% for wheat.
- The Asia-Pacific region will experience the worst effect on total production of rice and wheat worldwide, with an up to 50% decline in wheat and 17% in rice by 2050 compared to 2000 levels.

[2] The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is one of 15 centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), an alliance of 64 governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations.