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## Climate Security and SDG 2 on Food Security

By Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros

**T**he latest Global Report on Food Crises indicated that more than [205 million people](#) today live in “crisis situation” countries or territories. According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification’s \(IPC\) Acute Food Insecurity Stages](#), these are households with “above-usual acute malnutrition” and who are “marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.”

### Recent Supply Chain Challenges

Numerous factors have precipitated in the worsening food insecurity. Russia’s war on Ukraine has since February 2022 disrupted supply chains for fertilisers and grains. It added to disruptions in labour as well as farming inputs like fertilisers and pesticides which resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020.

These disruptions had significant impacts on food producers, since farming is a time-sensitive activity that is tied to crop-growing seasons. [Delays](#) in the supplies of labour, seeds and other inputs, may in the worst case cause farmers to miss out on the entire planting or harvesting season, leading to increased food waste as well.

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## Longer-term Food Insecurity from Climate Change

Even before COVID-19 and the Ukraine war, though, the bigger issue which farmers were already struggling with was climate change. As early as 2014, the share and number of undernourished people in Asia and globally was already starting to increase, which the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) attributed to climate change.

Within Asia, the growth in crop productivity has declined by close to half over the recent three decades (1990-2020), relative to the previous decades (1960-1990), translating to more episodes of acute food insecurity. Increasing frequencies of extreme weather conditions such as floods and droughts, and less predictable rainfall and day temperatures have made it more challenging for farmers to sustain improvements in their productivity. Rising temperatures over the past decades have also made food more vulnerable to spoilage during transport or storage.



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## Policy Implications

Moving forward, the risks to food security are set to further increase, with an immediate challenge being the burgeoning financial crisis which the [World Bank](#) warned of earlier this year. This can worsen food insecurity, learning from the previous Global Financial Crisis of 2007-08 wherein 100-200 million people fell into poverty and [63 million](#) became undernourished. At this time, food price inflation rose [above 4 percent](#) in more than half of the countries globally. The 2nd UN sustainable development goal (SDG) of “Zero-Hunger” would be further beyond reach should a financial crisis occur today.

Concerted efforts will be needed in addressing the overlapping spheres of challenges, including political, health, and economic challenges, which worsen the existential threats to individuals’ food security. The UN FAO, for instance, has proposed [re-purposing food and agricultural policy support](#), in order to increase the availability and reduce the cost of nutritious food. [Disaster preparedness](#) will be crucial as well, given the impacts of climate-related disasters on lives and livelihoods. Finally, initiatives towards improving the adoption of digitalisation towards development climate-smart food supply chains may yet trigger a much-needed [Green Revolution](#) in agriculture.

## SUGGESTED READINGS

**FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises, 2022, *Global Report on Food Crises Mid-year Update*, Rome: FSIN and GNAFC.**

**Christopher Rugaber, 2023, “World Bank warns of looming global recession”, *PBS News and Associated Press*, 10 January.**

**FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2018, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018: Building Climate Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition*, Rome: FAO.**

**Paul Teng, Mely Caballero-Anthony and Jose Ma. Luis Montesclaros, “ASEAN responses to COVID-19 for assuring food security”, *Advances in Food Security and Sustainability*, 2021, pp. 83–118. doi: 10.1016/bs.af2s.2021.07.001.**

**Jose Ma. Luis Montesclaros, “Changing the Narrative of ASEAN Progress in Addressing Hunger: ‘Snoozing’ the Alarm for SDG #2?” *Food Security Journal*, 2021, DOI: 10.1007/s12571-021-01158-8.**

**UN FAO, 2022, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy Diets More Affordable*, Rome: UN FAO.**

# CLIMATE CHANGE



Photo Credit: freedomnaruk on Freepik.com

## NEWS & COMMENTARIES

### Stop blaming overpopulation for climate change - it's deeply problematic

*It's not the amount of people on the planet that's the problem, but our current rates of consumption. The carbon footprint of the world's richest one per cent is nearly double that of the poorest 50 per cent, and the wealthiest 10 per cent contributes almost half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.*

**Emily Chan**

Vogue | 9 April 2023

### The largest habitat on Earth is finally getting protection

*In early March, after nearly 20 years of planning and heated negotiations, more than 190 countries agreed on a global treaty to conserve the high seas. The centerpiece of this groundbreaking treaty is a plan to establish new protected areas.*

**Benji Jones**

Vox | 10 April 2023

### "We must work for water, for water to work for us" - UN Climate Change Executive Secretary addresses water-climate challenge

*Climate change is putting water resources under pressure. Protecting and expanding water environments can have the potential to have a dramatic impact on climate change, providing the basis for both mitigation and adaptation solutions to the climate emergency.*

**United Nations Climate Change**

11 April 2023

### Low-carbon Energy Transition: Lessons from the Philippines

*The Philippines presents an interesting case for renewable energy development. Defying cost concerns typically expressed by developing countries, the Philippines is making strides to expand its renewable energy capacity. With low-carbon energy transition on the horizon, finding the right balance between the interests of the private sector and the consumers will be the key to success.*

**Margareth Sembiring**

RSIS | 18 April 2023

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Global Electricity Review 2023

*Wind and solar reach a record 12% of global electricity in 2022. The decarbonisation of the power sector is underway, as record growth in wind and solar drove the emissions intensity of the world's electricity to its lowest ever level in 2022. It will be an impressive moment when power sector emissions begin to fall year-on-year, but the world is not there yet, and emissions need to be falling fast.*

**Malgorzata Wiatros-Motyka, et al.**

EMBER | 2023

### Ukraine conflict environmental briefing: The coastal and marine environment

*The primary impacts of the armed conflict on coastal and marine ecosystems include chemical and acoustic pollution, physical damage to habitats and the curtailment of conservation activities. The conflict has also impeded environmental monitoring and governance of the Black and Azov seas. Damaged industry and settlements can be important sources of chemical pollution in the coastal and marine environment.*

**Conflict and Environment Observatory and Zoï**

Environment Network | 2023

## EVENT & ANNOUNCEMENT

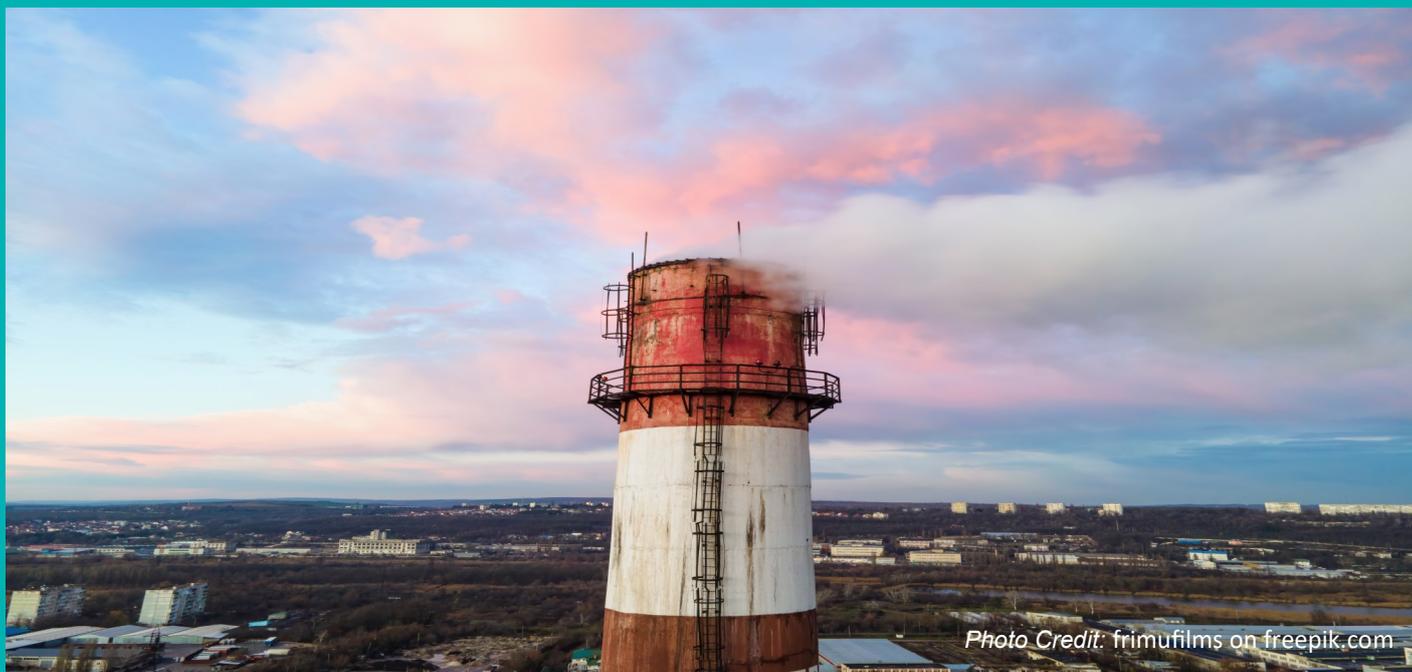
### International Mother Earth Day

*This is the first Mother Earth Day celebrated within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people. Restoring our damaged ecosystems will help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent mass extinction. But we will only succeed if everyone plays a part.*

**Worldwide**

22 April 2023

# ENERGY SECURITY



## NEWS & COMMENTARIES

### USA, Indonesia announce partnership on SMR

The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has awarded a grant to PLN Indonesia Power to provide assistance to assess the technical and economic viability of a proposed nuclear power plant, to be located in West Kalimantan.

**World Nuclear News** | 20 March 2023

### Australia passes tougher emissions reduction law that hits gas investments

The "Safeguard Mechanism" reform legislation is key to the Labor government's pledge to cut emissions by 43% by 2030 in a country that ranks as one of the world's biggest carbon emitters per capita.

**Reuters** | 30 March 2023

### Vietnam, once regional renewables beacon, loses shine to neighbours

Vietnam, the de-facto renewables frontrunner in Southeast Asia that houses almost 70 per cent of the region's installed solar and wind power capacity, has been stuck in governance limbo for some two years and counting.

**Liang Lei**

**Eco-Business** | 4 April 2023

### Mitsubishi, ADB, others raise \$692m for wind farm in Laos

The project, which is set to sell power to Vietnam under a 25-year deal, will have 600 megawatts of installed capacity and should be launched in 2025. Its total costs stand at \$950 million.

**Reuters**

**Asia Financial** | 10 April 2023

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### A historical turning point? Early evidence on how the Russia-Ukraine war changes public support for clean energy policies

Authors present early evidence on how the war has changed public policy support for policies aiming at the phase-out of fossil fuels, and for policies supporting the phase-in of clean energy alternatives.

**Bjarne Steffen and Anthony Patt**

**Energy Research and Social Science**, Vol. 91 | 2022

### Lessons learned in regulating small modular reactors

The energy sector has been lacking in gender diversity since its creation. This report focuses on assessing the extent of gender bias that exists in the energy sector, and ongoing efforts to address this imbalance.

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

Vienna: IAEA | 2022

## EVENT & ANNOUNCEMENT

### Climate Neutral Heating and Cooling: RD&D needs and perspectives for international collaboration

This webinar, organised under the auspices of the IEA Experts' Group on R&D Priority-setting and Evaluation (EGRD), will discuss RD&D needs in the area of climate neutral heating and cooling in order to serve as an input to governmental research policies and strategies.

**Webinar**

20 April 2023

# FOOD SECURITY



Photo Credit: user6702303 on Freepik.com

## NEWS & COMMENTARIES

### Sri Lankans struggle to afford food as IMF approves bailout

While Sri Lanka has secured a bailout from the International Monetary Fund of USD2.9 billion, this came with preconditions in the form of structural reforms. Some of the reforms required by the IMF, however, can be harmful to citizens in the short-term, as it includes measures such as hikes in taxes and in electricity bills.

**Aparna Ramamurthy**

DW | 21 March 2023

### China's agricultural power strategy: What is it all about?

The Communist Party of China's latest "No. 1 central document" for 2023 has shared China's new grand goal of becoming an "agricultural power", defined as strong capacities in agricultural and food production and related technological innovation among others. This new goal has become an imperative for China given its growing strategic rivalry with the United States and growing hostility between the two countries.

**Zhang Hongzhou**

IDSS Papers No.23032 | 29 March 2023

### Recurrent food insecurity shocks to worsen macro-economic situation in emerging markets: Moody's

A report by Moody's Investors Services has highlighted that difficulties relating to food supply shocks are greater for emerging and frontier markets, where a higher share of food in household spending combines. The potential for acute food insecurity will be a recurrent source of credit risk for many emerging market sovereigns, thereby worsen the macroeconomic situation in emerging markets.

**Saurav Anand**

Mint | 11 April 2023

### Structural reforms sought to attain food security

Episodes of high global commodity prices and currency depreciation in the past months have fuelled domestic inflation in the Philippines, since the country is a net importer of most staple foods, fertilizer and fuel. Potential policy approaches to explore include revisiting protectionist measures vis-à-vis trade liberalisation commitments, hastening agrarian reform programs, and even inspecting government or military bases for land conversion opportunities.

**Jordeene B. Lagare**

Inquirer.Net | 12 April 2023

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Food insecurity and disasters: Predicting disparities in total and first-time food pantry visits during the COVID-19 pandemic

This article explores how the COVID-19 pandemic influenced urban food insecurity patterns by analysing the socio-demographic characteristics of users of food pantries in Maricopa County, Arizona, where subsidised/free food is provided. Findings show an overall increase in food pantry usage during the pandemic, indicating greater food insecurity. It concludes with recommendations on including striving for a more versatile and adaptable approaches for food pantries, including having their own disaster preparedness plans.

**Alexandria Drake et al.**

Food Security, Volume 15, pp.493–504 | 2023

### Agricultural transformation in Asia: Experiences and emerging challenges

This article reviews the process of agricultural transformation in Asia, including a series of "6th industrialisation agriculture" approaches, to address challenges such as widening rural-urban income gap, aging farmers, changing food consumption patterns, increased exposure to international competition, and reawakened interest of the youth in the agri-food system driven by technology. It concludes with emerging challenges in the agri-food sector in Asia and the need for a more inclusive and integrated approach to rural and agri-food system development.

**Arya Aziz**

Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development, Volume 19(2), pp. 11-24 | 2022

## EVENT & ANNOUNCEMENT

### Redirecting Agriculture Policies and Support to Address Climate Change, in Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2023

TA High Level Debate brought together Ministers from the global North and South to discuss challenges, transformative options, and opportunities for policy action to build climate-resilient, low-carbon and sustainable agriculture and food systems. Recommendations included reforming laws to shift incentives away from harmful practices to restore soil health and increase productivity, among others.

**Recorded Webinar**

19 January 2023

# HEALTH SECURITY



Photo Credit: DC Studio on Freepik.com

## NEWS & COMMENTARIES

### COVID-origins data from Wuhan market published: What scientists think

Peer-reviewed analysis of a Chinese research team suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic could originate from an animal-to-human spillover event. But the research is not conclusive.

**Dyani Lewis, Max Kozlov and Mariana Lenharo**

Nature | 5 April 2023

### Dirty air in Laos, Thailand casts pall over health, tourism

Forest fires and slash-and-burn farming has resulted in serious air pollution in some parts of Southeast Asia, particularly in the border areas between Thailand and Laos. It has led to concerns over the health and economic impacts.

**Kosuke Inoue**

Nikkei Asia | 12 April 2023

### Is ASEAN Prepared for Future Pandemics?

This commentary argues that public health capacity gaps are still prevalent in the ASEAN region, despite major achievements in health security and emergency preparedness. It calls for ASEAN countries to enhance regional collective actions for future health preparedness.

**Bony Wiem Lestari, Aly Diana, Adriana Viola Miranda, and Fadilah Fitri Arsy**

Fulcrum | 12 April 2023

### WHO monitoring new Covid-19 sub-variant Arcturus, which is driving surge of cases in India

The Omicron sub-variant XBB.1.16, first detected in late January, is behind the surge of COVID-19 cases in India. The number of cases increased thirteen times in March.

**Amanda Lee**

Straits Times | 13 April | 2023

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Regional strategic roadmap on health security and health system resilience for emergencies 2023-2027

The Regional strategic roadmap provides guidance for South-East Asian countries to revise and implement their national action plans on health security, with the aim to bolster health security capacity and build resilient health systems in the region.

**World Health Organization**  
2022

### Strengthening public health surveillance and risk assessment for health security threats in the WHO South-East Asia Region

This report provides key directions for the efforts and investment to advance health security and implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).

**World Health Organization**  
2022

## EVENT & ANNOUNCEMENT

### The 54th Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) Conference 2023

The 54th APACPH Conference in 2023 will bring together global thought leaders, academicians, public health practitioners, and organisations to address public health concerns, share knowledge and strategies, and plan and implement strategies to support the achievement of the SDGs for health.

**Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia**  
30 October – 1 November 2023

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF



Photo Credit: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid on Flickr.com

## NEWS & COMMENTARIES

### **Climate change, environment and humanitarian action in Southeast Asia**

Led by the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, the development of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations helps organisations to limit their environmental footprint and address climate and environmental impacts through their work.

**Alistair D. B Cook**

Humanitarian Law & Policy | 28 March 2023

### **What's the 'Flagship Initiative', and how might it transform emergency aid?**

Initiated by the UN's top humanitarian official, this 'Flagship Initiative' aims to transform the current aid delivery system from supply-driven to one that is less bureaucratic and more flexible in responding to the needs on the ground.

**Jessica Alexander**

The New Humanitarian | 5 April 2023

### **BNPB releases disaster map for exodus travelers**

Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency has launched the "Exodus Safe from Disasters Map". Providing information on the level of floods, extreme weather, and landslides on the routes traversed by land travelers, this map aims to alert road travelers to potential hazards during the annual Eid exodus period.

**Devi R and Kenzu**

Antara News | 13 April 2023

### **The urgent humanitarian need to get diplomats back to Afghanistan**

With the drastic reduction of diplomatic missions to Afghanistan, humanitarian organisations still in the country have had to take on this additional burden of diplomacy alongside continuing to deliver humanitarian relief in an increasingly restrictive environment.

**George Varughese and Daniel Madhani**

The Interpreter | 13 April 2023

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### **The midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Regional report for Asia-Pacific**

This report examines the progress that has been made since 2015 in realising the outcomes of the Sendai Framework and its end goal of reducing both existing and new disaster risks in the Asia-Pacific region.

**United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
2023

### **World disasters report 2022**

This report looks at the global level of preparation for COVID-19, lessons learnt from the handling of the pandemic as well as how the world can prepare more effectively for future public health emergencies.

**International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
2023

## EVENT & ANNOUNCEMENT

### **What should we change for greater accountability to people in crisis?**

This webinar will explore findings from a review of various donor commitments on accountability to affected populations and examine the progress made. It will also look at the perspectives of people affected by crisis and what they think needs to change, as well as the barriers that need to be addressed.

**Webinar**

24 April 2023

# MIGRATION



Photo Credit: UN Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid on Flickr.com

## NEWS & COMMENTARIES

### Reporters' diary: What women who stay can tell us about migration Central Asia

Migration has complex impacts on women. These include increasing their economic independence, increasing workload at home, decisions related to marriage, and their ability to get education.

**Magdalena Rojo and Noel Rojo**

*The New Humanitarian* | 27 March 2023

### An assault on asylum? Experts raise alarm

An unfortunate trend is increasingly picking up pace: the erosion of the right to seek asylum in a country. Asylum rights are under attack globally with a weakening of the right to claim asylum in a significant number of countries.

**Jillian Kestler-D'Amours**

*Al-Jazeera* | 11 April 2023

### Italy declares state of emergency over 'migration congestion'

Following a sharp rise in migrant arrivals by boat to Italy, the government has declared a state of emergency for the next 6 months. Despite concerns raised about Italy's stringent migration policies, the government has insisted this temporary measure is a scheme to "transform illegal migration to legal migration".

**Al-Jazeera**

12 April 2023

### UN migration agency sounds alarm over sea deaths as EU arrivals rise

The number of people attempting to reach the EU through the Mediterranean has tripled in the first three months of 2023 as compared to the same time period in 2022. Considering this quarter has been the deadliest since 2017, the persisting humanitarian crisis in this region is only likely to intensify.

**Gabriela Baczynska**

*Reuters* | 13 April 2023

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Migrants' Perspectives: Building trust in humanitarian action

Based on the insights of migrants themselves on their situations and the assistance available to them, this report highlights trust in humanitarian action cannot be assumed, but needs to be built. By placing migrants in the forefront of humanitarian work in migration, actors can better understand what is needed.

**Red Cross Australia**

2022

### Using risk analysis to shape border management: A review of approaches during the COVID-19 pandemic

This report analyses eleven publicly available methodologies that were used to assess travel-related risks during the pandemic. Based on this analysis, it provides recommendations including a proposed decision instrument that could improve the use of risk analysis for border management during future emergencies.

**Kelley Lee, Julianne Piper and Jennifer Fang**

*Migration Policy Institute* | 2023

## EVENT & ANNOUNCEMENT

### Internationalization of Labour Markets and Combined Relocation

This seminar will look at the interactions between transnational labour migration, multinational corporations' location strategies, and public policies in the context of contemporary Malaysia.

**Singapore**

27 April 2023