

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.



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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.