

»THE DISASTER SPIRAL

# CLIMATE CALENDAR

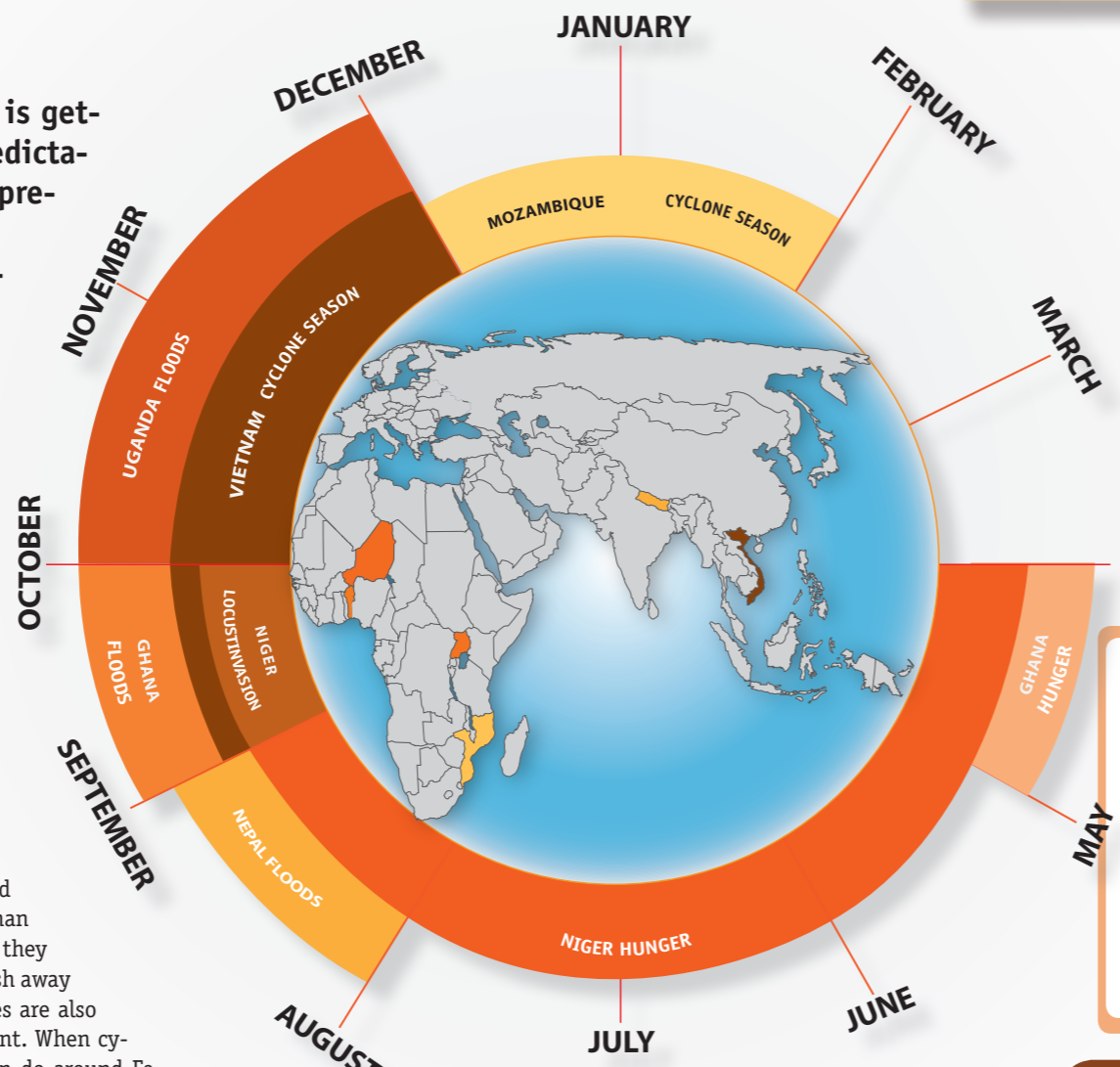
Even though the climate is getting more and more unpredictable, the disasters are very predictable. And the present harsh climatic conditions have already gone from bad to worse. The graphics show a range of examples from countries where CARE is working.

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Climate change has disastrous consequences for people in developing countries.

In Mozambique, like in the rest of Africa, the local population is experiencing that the rainy season is more and more unpredictable. But farmers sow their crops like they have always done. So when the rains fail to arrive, the seeds dry up and they have to re-sow everything. This is very costly and causes a harvest yield that is lower than usual. When the rains finally arrive, they are so violent that floods that wash away the fields often appear. Cyclones are also more violent and more frequent. When cyclones hit, which they often do around February, they destroy the crops that are usually harvested in March. This leaves the population starving.

Mozambique is like many other countries experiencing a rise in temperature. This means that diseases like malaria, which did not previously occur in this area break out. Research into the inter-linkage between rising temperatures and the prevalence of pests concludes that the warmer the temperature, the better the conditions for destructive viruses and pests.



**MOZAMBIQUE**  
**DECEMBER - FEBRUARY**  
**CYCLONE-SEASON**  
 Striking just before harvest time. Crops are destroyed, the population is starving and their homes are in ruins. The cyclone in February 2007 destroyed the hospital in the town of Vilanculos. It has not yet been rebuilt.

**NEPAL**  
**AUGUST - SEPTEMBER**  
**FLOODS**  
 Washing away homes, destroying fields and people drowning in the huge amounts of water. The floods occur in continuation of the monsoon which has become more intense in recent years. The 2008 floods destroyed 4 million dollars worth of crops.

**NIGER**  
**APRIL - SEPTEMBER**  
**HUNGER**  
 Not even a record harvest can save families from the 4 months' hunger gap each year. 62% of Niger's 14 million inhabitants are so poor that they get only one low-nutrition meal per day at a maximum.

**NIGER**  
**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**  
**LOCUSTS**  
 The locusts are hatched in the beginning of the rainy season and start moving south towards drier areas where they invade the millet fields just before harvest time.

**GHANA**  
**APRIL - MAY**  
**HUNGER**  
 Last year's floods destroyed the harvest. This time of year the granaries are empty and market prices very high. A large part of the population is starving.

**GHANA**  
**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**  
**FLOODS**  
 Destroying fields, homes and granaries. Flooded wells cause polluted drinking water and spreading of diseases. Many people lose their livestock. Exceptionally, Northern Ghana was hit by extensive floods in both 2007 and 2008.

**VIETNAM**  
**SEPTEMBER - JANUARY**  
**TYPHOON SEASON**  
 Fields, forests and houses are destroyed. After the storms, violent rains and floods occur that take human lives and destroy the year's rice harvest.

**UGANDA**  
**OKTOBER - DECEMBER**  
**EXTREME RAINFALL**  
 Destroying crops in the fields causing food shortages and outbreaks of diseases. 2007 saw the worst floods in 35 years. Farmers lost 95% of their crops.



Foto : CARE International



FLOODS

Foto : Allen Clinton - CARE



CYCLONES

Foto : Stockphoto

DROUGHT