The current food crisis is having alarming effects on people and communities in the global South. It hits women in already difficult situations the hardest. The food crisis has aggravated already grave situations of poverty and has been compounded by factors such as people’s ever-decreasing access to land, climate change and the recent global financial crisis.

But women are also meeting the challenges of the crisis in creative ways. Their responses range from survival strategies and coping mechanisms to empowering initiatives to overcome the crisis. Some of their solutions point to long-term alternatives for their communities and could be adopted on a wider scale.

In the following pages, women farmers and indigenous women, rural and urban poor women, women fish workers, women organisers and activists speak of the impact of the crisis on their lives and communities. These women, from all corners of the world, share their strategies, struggles and solutions for overcoming the crisis. They give us a glimpse of their spirit and determination to prevail.