

OUR COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE JUSTICE

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.



Photo Diederik Veerman / Climate Studio, Museum, The Hague

THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR

“We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Pope Francis, Encyclical
Laudato Si', p 49

Climate change concerns every single person on the planet. But its causes and effects are unevenly spread. The people who are contributing least to climate change suffer the most. They live in the most poverty stricken and fragile parts of the world. Confronted with natural hazards and disasters, they bear the brunt of the world's most polluting economies – and with less means to respond and adapt to climate change.

In addition to having to cope with a lack of peace and security, these communities are being forced to deal with increasingly frequent and more severe flooding, hurricanes and droughts. Natural disasters like these intensify the sense of hopelessness and fragility. They increase poverty, and exacerbate existing conflicts and social exclusion.

Cordaid is committed to build flourishing communities in fragile and conflict-affected areas. Part of this mission is to advocate the principle of climate justice and to combat the adverse effects of climate change, side by side with those who pay pollution's highest price.



Climate justice

Climate change is not only an environmental problem. It is, in our view, also a global humanitarian emergency and a matter of justice. We are inspired in this vision by Pope Francis' insistence on "[hearing] both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". In our commitment to climate justice we stand together with other members of Caritas Internationalis and the international alliance of Catholic development organizations, CIDSE.

Climate justice has two related aspects. It entails the moral responsibility to take care of our planet for the well-being of current and future generations. It also means that those who contribute most to global warming – i.e. the industrialized economies of the global North – bear most of the responsibility to reduce carbon emissions, to counteract the adverse effects of climate change and to support communities who suffer most in their efforts to adapt to climate change.

Cordaid's commitment to climate justice is expressed in

- our advocacy work with Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE, with whom we have been campaigning for an ambitious, fair, and binding international agreement on climate since 2009;
- our work, including joint work with the Dutch Partners for Resilience alliance, on viable climate adaptation and climate risk management strategies for vulnerable communities in disaster-prone areas;
- the effort to reduce Cordaid's own carbon footprint, and to compensate our carbon emissions by investing in sustainable climate projects;
- our role to involve our constituency of more than 300,000 donors in our work, and inviting people to make sustainable lifestyle choices that help tackle climate change.

OUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE CLIMATE SUMMIT IN PARIS - AND BEYOND

With the upcoming international summits on the sustainable development goals (New York, September 2015), climate change (Paris, November 2015), and humanitarian aid (Istanbul, May 2016), Cordaid has stepped up its climate change lobby and advocacy work. We join citizens, social movements, faith groups and local and international civil society organizations in a call on world leaders to do what it takes to tackle the ecological crisis and the deepening social inequality.

We are calling for a serious commitment to address the plight of people in fragile and conflict affected areas, where poverty is increasingly concentrated and where communities are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

In the run up to the Climate Summit in Paris (UNFCCC COP21), Cordaid is therefore campaigning with other members of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE for

- an ambitious and binding agreement on measures to reduce carbon emissions;
- a serious commitment to justice for impacted people, including the funds necessary
 - to build the resilience of communities to adapt to climate change in fragile, disaster-prone area;
 - to relocate and rehabilitate communities that are or will be displaced due to effects of climate change.

Expectations from the Paris Climate Summit

The Brussels-based international alliance of Catholic development organizations, CIDSE, has listed an elaborate set of expectations from the Paris Climate Summit. As a founding member of CIDSE, Cordaid fully subscribes to these expectations:

- A fair, ambitious legally binding agreement signed by all countries;
- A commitment to funding for developing countries to meet their climate adaptation needs or transform their economies to stay on a low-carbon pathway. We need to see pledges to the Green Climate Fund and a clear trajectory for countries to meet their shares of the USD100 billion by 2020.
- Agreement on loss and damage due to the irreversible effects of climate change, including support for communities that will be displaced and people who have to relocate.
- A commitment to phasing out conventional fuels including coal and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, which can be redirected to meet the needs of the most poor and vulnerable.
- The most vulnerable people and communities must have a strong voice and role in shaping the agreement.
- A commitment to not only focus on greening the energy supply but also on reducing consumption and promoting the ideals of 'living well' (buen vivir).

For a full listing of CIDSE expectations see: <http://www.cidse.org/>

CORDAID'S WORK ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Our work on climate resilience builds on an extensive track record of implementing Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) programs around the world. It also includes our work with farmers on food security, and focuses on increasing the capacities of local communities to develop and implement viable climate adaptation and climate risk management strategies. Enabling communities to advocate for more inclusive and effective policies, and helping governments to achieve these, are also important aspects of our programs.

CORDAID RESILIENCE PROGRAMS 2011 - 2014*

158

projects in **14** countries in Africa, Asia and Central America

1,248

communities implementing DRR plans

1,409,316

people reached

21.7 Million euro

total invested budget

* Includes CMDRR, and integrated DRR / Climate Resilience / Environmental Management programs



'Climate smart' water conservation in Ethiopia

Partners for Resilience

Our resilience programs include joint work with the Partners for Resilience (PfR), an alliance of the Netherlands Red Cross, CARE Netherlands, Cordaid, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, and Wetlands International. The PfR aim to reduce the impact of natural hazards on the livelihoods of vulnerable people worldwide. The alliance uses an integrated approach to reduce disaster risks and enhance livelihoods, addressing climate change, ecosystem management and restoration. The PfR work together with local implementing partners in nine countries: Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Uganda. The PfR program is financially supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

EXAMPLE OF CURRENT WORK ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

RWANDA AND BURUNDI



Solar for health

Health clinics in fragile areas lack access to stable electricity supply for delivering basic healthcare services. In Rwanda and Burundi, Cordaid is supporting the development of solar energy systems for healthcare clinics. The systems are installed and maintained by a lease company that guarantees clinics a reliable, off-grid power supply for vital health care services and adequate storage of vaccines and medicines.

EXAMPLE OF CURRENT WORK ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

INDONESIA

3R approach to rain water management

Climate change places increasing risks on agricultural production in Indonesia. On the island of Timor, Cordaid is working with farmers who are struggling with drought on securing their water supply, using an approach to water management that entails Recharging, Retaining and Reusing rain water. The 3R method, which involves constructing dams and water holes in the river, and planting trees along the river bank, provides farmers with sufficient water for domestic and agricultural use during the dry season, while collecting water effectively during rainy season.

EXAMPLE OF CURRENT WORK ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

UGANDA

Climate proof rural communities

In Uganda's Karamoja region, Cordaid is working with several local partners to help rural communities deal with increasingly severe and prolonged drought, resulting in crop loss, soil erosion and, by implication, deteriorating living conditions. All projects engage communities in building local knowledge and capacity to develop and implement viable climate adaptation strategies. Strategies that communities themselves have identified to make them more resilient include drip irrigation schemes, the introduction of drought-resistant crops and vegetables, beekeeping as an alternative source of income, the use of energy saving cooking stoves, and the establishment of saving and credit groups.



Photo Cordaid

CORDAID'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Cordaid strives to be a 100% carbon neutral organization. We seek to reduce our carbon emissions systematically, and to compensate the emissions that remain by investing in sustainable climate projects. Cordaid is monitoring CO₂ emissions at our headquarters in The Hague. In 2015 we have also started monitoring our country offices. Due to the nature of our international work, air travel is still the greatest source of emissions. As a percentage of total emissions, those associated with air travel and paper usage rose in 2014. Vehicle related costs decreased significantly with a related increase in public transport. Emissions related to both electricity and office heating remained stable.

INFORMATION

For more information about our climate work, see www.cordaid.org/climate

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is based in the Netherlands and has country offices in 11 countries. It has been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for a century. It delivers innovative solutions to complex problems by emphasizing sustainability and performance in projects that tackle security and justice, health and economic opportunity. Cordaid is deeply rooted in the Dutch society with more than 300,000 private donors. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE.



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