



*Small-scale farmers in South Sudan are vulnerable to fragility and climate change. A double burden.*

# WHY URGENT CLIMATE ACTION IN FRAGILE SETTINGS MATTERS

CORDAID & CSPPS STATEMENT FOR THE COP30 CONFERENCE IN BÉLEM

# ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED SETTINGS

As evoked in our [COP28](#) and [COP29](#) positioning papers, populations in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCAS) face a double burden as being the most affected by fragility and violent environments and being the most vulnerable populations to climate change. Yet, these countries only receive a quarter of the climate finance they require.

For Cordaid and CSPPS, the Climate, Peace & Security nexus has served as our focus for many years. Cordaid operates in fragile contexts where threats to human security come from different sides, impacting women and men differently. Climate change is an enormous threat multiplier that affects daily resilience and exacerbates conflicts and humanitarian crises that can deepen instability.

From contributing to food insecurity, limiting access to health services, to fueling conflict, the consequences of climate change are far-reaching and deeply interconnected. Without urgent action, the current situation in FCAS will continue to worsen. As such, climate change is a risk that affects all communities and countries, and it demands the involvement of all sectors of society, including individuals, communities, and institutions.

Recent budget cuts on development cooperation by multiple donor countries have further constrained the ability to address climate change risks and implement preventive interventions effectively. Limited funding has forced reductions in essential programmes such as community resilience building, environmental restoration, and early warning system development. These financial constraints undermine long-term sustainability and restrict the reach of adaptation projects, leaving vulnerable populations exposed to recurring climate shocks.

Donors, therefore, need to reconsider the current direction of reduced funding for climate change initiatives. No sustainable development outcomes can be achieved across any sector, whether health, education, livelihoods, or peacebuilding, without addressing the growing risks posed by climate change. Climate action must be integrated into everything we do, from strengthening health systems to promoting gender equality and fostering social cohesion. Only by embedding climate resilience at the core of all interventions can we secure lasting results and safeguard the progress already made, and promote sustainable peace and dignity.

## PILLARS OF THIS STATEMENT

- Climate change is a shared responsibility between countries in the Global North and South.
- Investments are needed in sustainable agri-food and health systems, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings, to adopt a climate- and conflict-sensitive approach, ensuring sustainable and peace-responsive solutions.
- Recommendations for policymakers on why we believe the climate, peace, and security nexus needs to be discussed at COP30 in Belém, and taken forward afterwards.

## COP30: AN OPPORTUNITY TO WALK THE TALK

As the world gathers for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, we must acknowledge that this summit is a direct consequence of our individual and collective inaction in addressing the root causes of climate change. Sadly, many governments continue to treat climate change as a distant threat rather than the ongoing crisis it truly is.

Progress has been made in interlinking global concerns for peace and climate action in international climate forums over the past few years. The COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace, and the Baku Call on Climate, Relief, and Recovery, represented important milestones that underscore the integral role of conflict and climate in effective global climate action. However, peace has dropped off the agenda for COP30 at a time when peace and climate action are more needed than ever.

The language around climate change often makes it seem optional or hypothetical. Yet, the world is already experiencing its adverse impacts. **To underscore the urgency of the issue, our rhetoric must shift from saying we should act to saying we must.** The word must convey the necessity of immediate action to prevent the escalation of climate-related risks and to address the threats already unfolding.

# THE CLIMATE-PEACE-SECURITY NEXUS: INSIGHTS FROM SOUTH SUDAN AND YEMEN

## SOUTH SUDAN: PREVENTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

South Sudan is one of the world's most fragile countries. Climate change, through recurrent floods and droughts, destroys livelihoods, displaces communities, and hinders access to essential services, including healthcare and education. Waterborne diseases, including cholera, claim preventable lives. Women and children are hit hardest.

Amid these challenges, Cordaid has continued to adapt its interventions to ensure that lifesaving services reach those most in need. In areas where damaged roads make it impossible to deliver medical supplies by vehicle, Cordaid relies on the dedication and resilience of local community members, including women who physically transport medicines to isolated locations.

However, these adaptation efforts are not sustainable solutions. The lasting response lies in preventive climate action that addresses the root causes of vulnerability before they strike. Preventive measures such as improved flood management, investment in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and community-led environmental stewardship would reduce displacements, minimise disease outbreaks, and prevent conflicts arising from competition over scarce natural resources. Preventive action is therefore about safeguarding dignity, equity, and the future of South Sudan's most vulnerable populations.



Medical supplies are transported via a canoe in Unity State, South Sudan. Photograph: Orlando Moses/Cordaid

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*"If we don't act on climate change today, tomorrow's generations will remember us as the ones who could have saved the world but didn't."*

**Tom Otieno, Director Cordaid South Sudan**

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## YEMEN: MARKET-DRIVEN RESILIENCE

In Tuban District, Lahj Governorate, Cordaid and its local partner Nahda Makers Organisation (NMO) are empowering smallholder farmers—especially women and youth—to adapt to water scarcity and market instability through a locally led, climate-smart agriculture project. The project introduces drip irrigation, greenhouse tunnels, and soil-health practices to boost yields and water efficiency, while forming farmer-led producer groups that aggregate products, standardise quality, and negotiate directly with buyers.

Women like Iman, a mother of three and group treasurer, now manage shared drip systems and small processing units, gaining financial control and confidence to lead market dealings. Early results show increased productivity per drop of water, steadier household income, and higher trust between farmers and traders. This experience demonstrates that when risk-informed, gender-responsive climate finance is coupled with strong local partnerships, it delivers scalable, market-driven resilience in fragile settings such as Yemen.

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*"In fragile states, like Yemen, acting on climate is not only an environmental duty — it's a moral imperative to protect lives, dignity, and peace."*

**Mohammed Abdulrahman, Programme Coordinator Cordaid Yemen**

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# OUR PLEAS FOR COP30

1. Integrated climate, peace-responsive & conflict-sensitive approaches to programming must be prioritised in fragile and conflict-affected settings to strengthen resilience of affected communities, also when referring to health and food systems.
2. We call upon decision-makers to ensure compliance with the Paris Agreement, the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace, and the Baku Call to provide timely and predictable climate finance, particularly to those who are most vulnerable to address loss and damage and build resilient communities.
3. The current global economic model must be transformed to ensure climate considerations are factored in, manifesting sustainable and accountable food systems that serve all. We call for concrete measures to restore vital ecosystems and halt biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.
4. Climate policies and human rights go hand in hand. Community ownership, land rights, and communal consent must be in place when seeking workable climate solutions. We urge the donor community to support local community actions through civil society organisations that help communities and raise their voices to request more people-centred development, recognising that these spaces are shrinking.
5. The Climate, Peace & Security nexus needs to be better integrated within food systems debates at all levels (from local to global level). Food systems and conflicts are mutually reinforcing. When food systems collapse due to climate change, the risks of instability and conflict increase. And the other way round.



Cordaid's climate justice advocacy is carried out through Dutch and global alliances. The "International Climate Coalition" targets Dutch government officials and parliamentarians and feeds them with evidence-based advocacy messages on topics like Loss and Damage, climate funding and carbon markets. Cordaid brings expertise on the links between climate, food security, and health. The Dutch Food4All coalition influences the Dutch government's food security and trade policies, including the Climate Food Nexus.

Internationally, Cordaid's key networks for climate advocacy are CIDSE, Caritas Internationalis and the ACT Alliance, all of which will be present during the COP30 conference. Cordaid's climate justice policy aims to support individuals in overcoming the negative impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods, and empower them to become agents of change, influencing practices and policies related to climate justice. We primarily focus on women and girls, the elderly, people with disabilities, small-scale farmers, and indigenous peoples. Climate justice combines environmental and social justice, integrating human rights into climate action. We advocate for increased funding for civil society, adopting a climate, peace, and security approach.



The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a global network of civil society organisations, experts, and academics that supports peacebuilding efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Hosted and coordinated by Cordaid, CSPPS aims to amplify and strengthen the voice and agency of local civil society in fragile settings.

Members across the Platform increasingly experience the effects of climate change. The most vulnerable populations are impacted, and within peacebuilding and conflict prevention work, the interlinkages with climate change are increasingly seen and addressed. CSPPS continuously investigates how the climate crisis unfolds within the triple nexus. For more information, please see our publication, "Triple-Nexus and Climate Change in Conflict-affected Settings: Experiences, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices," and the CSPPS briefing paper on Climate, Peace, and Security, which discusses how the interlinkages manifest themselves in fragile and conflict-affected settings, drawing on the voices of CSPPS members.

## Key Positioning Papers endorsed by Cordaid and CSPPS

[COP30 – What Should be Delivered on Climate, Peace and Security?](#) - FriEnt, Brot fur die Welt, GermanWatch, Search for Common Ground, World Vision. September 2025

[Priorities for Climate Justice at COP30](#) - Internationale Klimaatoalitie. September 2025

[A Call to Action towards COP30](#) - Caritas - Caritas. March 2025.

[A Moral and Structural Turning Point for Our Common Home](#) – CIDSE - CIDSE. October 2025.

[CAN Europe's Key COP30 Demands](#) - CAN Europe.

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