



# CLIMATE JUSTICE: NO TIME TO WASTE!

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.

*A village in Bangladesh is flooded after a devastating cyclone.*

Photo: Johannes Ode

## OUR COMMON HOME IS AT STAKE

*“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

**The truth is out, and it is as inconvenient and frightening as many expected it would be. The report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in August 2021 about the effects of climate change and the undeniable role humanity has played in the rising of global temperature shook the world. But a large part of the world has already been shaken. Hard.**

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 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 fewer means to respond and adapt to climate change. It is not only morally right to support these people; it is also mandatory under international law, as declared by the UN Human Rights Council in October 2021. Having a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right.

Climate change is accelerating globally. This crisis destroys livelihoods, especially in developing countries, and exacerbates inequalities and fragility. The IPCC Report 2021 predicts that, with high confidence, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations (including indigenous peoples and local communities dependent on agricultural livelihoods) face a much higher risk of experiencing the negative consequences of climate change.

Together, we can act. Cordaid and its partners are working in fragile and conflict-affected areas, tackling the impacts of the climate crisis. Our mission is also to advocate for climate justice, to limit global warming and to combat the adverse effects of climate change, side by side with those who are affected most.

### Climate justice

Climate change is a matter of justice, consisting of two related aspects. First it entails the moral responsibility to take care of our planet for the well-being of current and future generations. Second it also means that those who contribute most to global warming – i.e., the

industrialized economies – bear most of the responsibility to reduce carbon emissions, to counteract the adverse effects of climate change, and to support communities and countries who are least capable to adapt.

Cordaid's commitment to climate justice is expressed in the following strategies:

- Our program work on supporting viable and inclusive climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and activities, based on climate change risk analysis done by local

actors (communities, government, private sector).

- Our advocacy work in the Netherlands, in Europe, and globally with like-minded organisations and networks.
- The effort to reduce Cordaid's own carbon footprint and to compensate for our remaining carbon emissions.
- Involving our constituency of more than 300,000 donors in our work and inviting them to make sustainable lifestyle choices that help tackle climate change.

### Policies driving climate action

The UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Paris Agreement is an international treaty to address climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015. Its goal is to limit global warming (climate change mitigation) to well below 2°C and preferably to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. The agreement also aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change (adaptation).



The global community has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. SDG 13: Climate Action commits states to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Climate action refers to both climate change mitigation (reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

*“As a resident of the Netherlands, it is sometimes difficult to imagine that climate change is already a daily reality in many countries, with major consequences for the people there. But the facts don't lie. That is why we call on the Dutch government and the international community to do more to tackle the causes of climate change and to reduce its impacts. Now! And not in 10 or 20 years.”*

**Kees Zevenbergen, CEO Cordaid**

## CORDAID'S PLEA

**Cordaid joins citizens, social movements, faith groups, and local and international civil society organisations 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 communities are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.**

Cordaid campaigns for:

### 1. Fair climate finance

The internationally available climate finance should be increased and should become more easily available for developing countries most affected by climate change. Developed countries should contribute their fair share to global climate finance. Climate finance should become more accessible for local actors in fragile and conflict-affected countries, such as civil society organisations and local governments, to implement activities based on people's local priorities. Currently, most of the available climate finance is spent on climate change mitigation projects (reducing

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions); more funding should go to good policies and programs on climate change adaptation.

### 2. Fair zero-carbon economy

Cordaid supports the global campaign 'Fair Race to Net-Zero', together with its subsidiary FairClimateFund. Carbon markets are instrumental in getting the necessary carbon finance from the private sector to support the transition to a zero-carbon economy in developing countries. We aim to ensure that a transition is fair, inclusive, and gender-focused and that carbon finance really reaches people living in the world's most vulnerable regions.



### 3. Protection of internally displaced people

By 2050, an estimated 250 million (now 50 million) people will be forcedly displaced due to floods, landslides, fires, droughts, and hurricanes. Cordaid calls for improving protection and humanitarian assistance for both the displaced and host communities, to prevent conflict over scarce resources. This starts with promoting resilience to the effects of climate change and supporting the adaptation of agricultural methods and techniques so that local farmers and ranchers are better prepared. Given the protractedness of the climate crisis, longerterm social services, income opportunities, and local integration policies are also required.

### 4. Promotion of climate resilient agri-food systems

To face the current challenges of food insecurity, Cordaid calls for the transformation towards climate-resilient agri-food systems. In these food systems, smallholder and family farmers are at the heart of change, empowered to shape agricultural systems that feed the people while being adapted to the current climate change and contributing to cooling the planet. To achieve this, different stakeholders must work in partnerships to promote synergies, ensure responsibility, and encourage climate-resilient agri-food systems agriculture must be accessible at the local level.



**More information can be found here**



Photo ACT/Peter Williams

Somalis flee drought.

### Demands for climate summits

Cordaid is campaigning for climate justice both in the Netherlands, in the EU and globally. As a founding member of CIDSE, Cordaid supports the following key recommendations:

- The most vulnerable people and communities must have a strong voice and role in shaping an agreement.
- A fair and ambitious legally binding agreement signed by all countries to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
- An immediate stop to all subsidies on fossil fuels to allow a rapid and just transition to 100% renewable energy sources.
- Developed countries must bridge the remaining climate finance gap as quickly as feasible to enhance their contribution above the US\$ 100 billion level until 2025.
- A deep transformation of agriculture and food systems is required to meet the long-term goal of 1.5°C and to contribute to the full realisation of the right to food.
- Establish a new dedicated climate finance mechanism for at least US\$ 75 billion per year for Loss & Damage by 2023, to be financed by using the Polluter Pays Principle.



**Go for a full listing of demands to the CIDSE website.**

## CORDAID'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Cordaid is firmly committed to becoming overall climate positive by 2030. We continue our efforts to reduce our carbon emissions systematically, including by reducing air travel, and to compensate for the remaining emissions by investing in fair and sustainable CO<sub>2</sub> reduction projects via FairClimateFund.

## FAIRCLIMATEFUND

Industrialized countries are responsible for most CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, the greatest impact of climate change occurs in developing countries. Carbon markets are instrumental in getting the necessary carbon finance from the private sector to support transition and adaptation in developing countries, but people at the base of the value chain benefit the least. FairClimateFund wants to demonstrate that the carbon market can benefit those who are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change in a fair and effective way. Those with the largest carbon footprint invest in carbon reduction projects with high social impact that meet the Gold Standard and Fairtrade Climate Standard.

*FairClimateFund is a subsidiary of Cordaid.*



## EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

### ADAPTING AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

### BANGLADESH



Photo Cordaid

A Farmer harvest salt-tolerant crops despite the salinity of the soil.

One of the reasons less and less land is available for agriculture worldwide is salinization. This can be caused by flooding by the sea or by saline water rising through the soil. In Bangladesh salinization is, especially in coastal areas, a major problem. Here, climate change is causing more cyclones and flooding of farmers' fields. In response, Cordaid trains 10,000 farmers to grow salt-tolerant crops. We do this by introducing varieties of well-known crops such as carrots, cabbages and kohlrabi. In this way, the degraded soil becomes productive again and farmers adapt to a changing climate.

## INFORMATION

Visit our website for more information about our climate work.

## ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is a value-based international development and emergency relief organisation, based in the Netherlands with offices in 20 countries. We believe in a world without poverty and exclusion. We work in and on fragility and support local communities in their efforts to improve justice, healthcare, food security, education, and economic opportunities. Where disasters strike, we offer humanitarian assistance. Cordaid is deeply rooted in the Dutch society with more than 300.000 private donors. The Christian values of human dignity, justice, compassion, and care for the planet guide us in our work. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE.



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### A SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

### BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, many women depend on the harvest and processing of shea nuts, a raw material for food and care products. However, the habitat of the shea trees is deteriorating rapidly. Climate change and pressure on the land have degraded the landscape. In the project Birds, Bees & Business Cordaid, FairClimateFund, and the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds create a diverse, rich landscape. New trees that attract birds and bees are planted. Women are trained in beekeeping and use efficient cookers that save fuel and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These activities restore the ecosystem that will act as a buffer against desertification and is a source for sustainable birdlife and businesses that benefits 191,000 people.



Photo Cordaid

Tree planting to restore the ecosystem.

### LINKING FOOD VALUE CHAINS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

### SOUTH SUDAN



Photo Cordaid

Solar-powered irrigation.

Climate change in South Sudan's already fragile environment is making farmers' livelihood security even more difficult to achieve. The South Sudan Agribusiness Development Project (SSADP II) improves food security, increases income, and creates employment for 10,000 farmer households. Activities include improved production of food crops and vegetables and solar-powered irrigation to adapt agriculture to climate change. In order to generate income, market system development and small businesses for women and youth are promoted. This will improve and enhance people's resilience to droughts, flooding, and other climate-related risks.