

CLIMATE ACTION IN AFRICA

A HEALTHIER PLANET FOR HEALTHIER POPULATIONS

Making health systems in Africa climate resilient

Climate change has a direct impact on human health. The direct impact includes injury, morbidity and mortality caused by climate change-related extreme weather events; thermal stress; skin and eye damage; and cardio-respiratory diseases directly related to temperature and air quality changes. Most conventional interventions are neither fast nor deep enough to slow climate change's impact on health systems. Therefore, there is an urgent need to make health systems in Africa more climate resilient by adopting the One Health approach when designing health interventions.



Photo: Simon de Bruijn, Cordaid

Cordaid's transformative climate approach

Cordaid endeavours to adopt a transformative climate approach in all activities, where science, local knowledge and human dignity are symbiotic, working in tandem to change the behaviours that impact climate and the environment to become climate positive by 2030. In particular, Cordaid aims to contribute to the climate change agenda in its health programs in three ways:

- **Financing climate-resilient health systems** through Performance-Based Financing (PBF). In 2001, Cordaid was among the first agencies to pilot PBF in Rwanda and, since then, has been involved in more than 15 countries, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa. PBF is a system-based approach that provides

financial incentives to health facilities based on performance to increase the utilisation and quality of essential health services, improve transparency and accountability and improve data reliability for more evidence-based decision-making. Cordaid can leverage this system-strengthening approach to address climate change-induced challenges in the health system like droughts and epidemics, for example, to sustain access to essential quality health services in protracted climate crises.

- **Adapting health system routines** through stimulating circularity in healthcare systems within our programs. Circularity means a closed loop of continuous reuse of resources, where no waste is created to reduce the negative effects on climate and environmental health and improve the well-being and health of patients and health workers. Circularity goes beyond just recycling, which is just one of the last steps in the scheme of circularity (Figure 1)

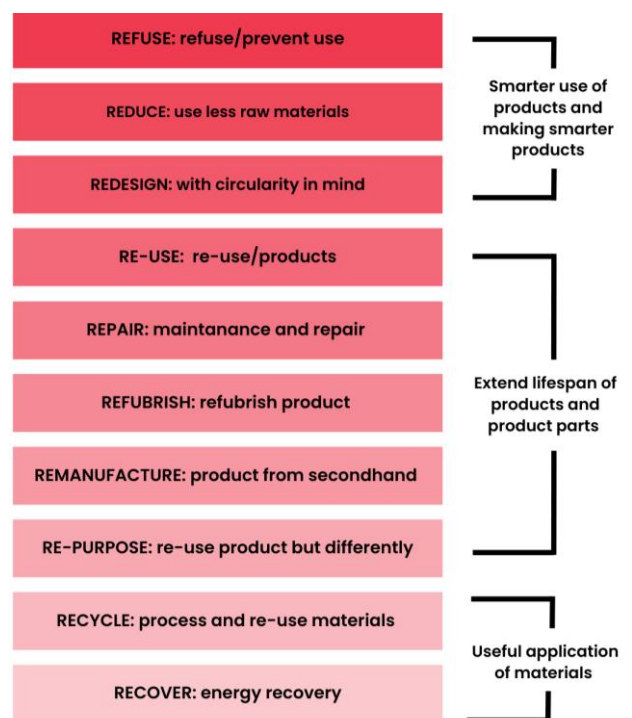


FIGURE 1. THE TEN-STEP PRIORITY SCHEME DEVELOPED BY THE UTRECHT SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

- **Advocating for One Health and Planetary Health** through our Global Health Global Access program. Cordaid aims to bring this discourse into focus for policymakers in the Netherlands as well as the general public while building up our own understanding of these topics. Throughout our advocacy at the global level, we aim to highlight the urgency of climate change and its effects on health. An example of this is the series of Clingendael webinars around global health challenges, where we explored One Health and Planetary Health approaches for global health and its policy challenges.



Photo: Raymond Rutting, Cordaid

"17.2 million people reached through our health care interventions."



Zoom in case

Financing a climate-resilient health system in Borana, Ethiopia

For the past three years, Borana Zone in Ethiopia has been experiencing prolonged drought. In response, Cordaid is adapting its PBF program in Borana to become more climate-resilient. PBF was initially piloted in Borana in 2015 and is currently implemented in all health facilities in the zone, with funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Since then, the facilities have successfully been incentivised to increase the utilisation and quality of essential health services. In response to the protracted drought, the program is now adopting additional incentives to maintain the quality of critical services such as measles vaccination, pneumonia treatment and screening and treatment for malnutrition. The additional support will enable facilities to secure the availability of water, nutrition and essential medicines.

Key figures

Our key results for 2021 included:

- 4.7 million outpatient consultations.
- 143,000 fully immunised children.
- 172,000 women who have at least four antenatal care visits.
- 3.6 million people tested for HIV.
- 407 health facilities with improved (technical) quality (score).

Our partners

World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Commission, the German development bank KfW, the UN, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various Dutch embassies.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is an internationally operating value-based development and emergency relief organisation working in and on fragility. We support local communities in their efforts to improve justice, health care, food security, education, and economic opportunities.

Our mission is to work towards a world without poverty and equal opportunity. We offer international expertise through a locally-led approach, having decades of in-country experience in the countries we operate in. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE and a member of the ACT Alliance.

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