



Christian Aid has long-standing strengths in Climate Change programming, research, development and innovation in resilience, disaster risk reduction, locally-led adaptation, early warning/early action, climate resilient agriculture, local renewable energy access, climate smart agro-enterprises and food value chains.

Our approaches address the unprecedented scale and impact of existing and future climate risks and shocks across the world.

This is a key theme of our work in Burkina Faso, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, in Middle East region, Afghanistan, Bangladesh Myanmar, and Colombia, Honduras, Haiti/Dominican Republic.

Christian Aid works with local partners and crisis-affected communities on the causes and consequences of climate change, so the most marginalised can adapt, build resilience and reduce their vulnerability.

We focus on:

- **Climate resilient agriculture** – agroecology, conservation agriculture, organic value chains, access to sustainable, productive clean energy, linking with nature based services.
- **Climate finance** – local government-managed climate funding, village savings and loans associations, mutual insurance, microfinance for women-led enterprises.
- **Loss and damage and restoring livelihoods** – post-drought, -flood and -cyclone recovery work. Slow onsets and non-economic loss and damages.
- **Climate information services/DRR** – linking early warning systems with humanitarian interventions, reducing the impact of extreme weather and enabling earlier emergency preparation. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in flood affected communities.

We also seek to influence practice and policy. From supporting County Climate Change Fund strategies in all 48 Kenyan counties to facilitating the production of National Framework for Climate Services in Ethiopia, Christian Aid always seeks to amplify partner voices. Globally, our policy focus is on loss and damage, energy access and just transition.

Our work

Key to our success has been the centrality of our partnership approach at national level – with local organisations and affected communities, technical, private sector, and government partners. In defining problems, finding solutions, learning and sharing knowledge, implementing change and speaking out on critical issues, we stand together, building resilience and delivering change through influencing, mobilisation, movements and networks – regionally and globally.

Christian Aid promotes innovation, investment, capacity development and better practices working with the most vulnerable communities, so they can respond to and recover from climate shocks, build thriving, sustainable livelihoods and address loss and damage.

Our research has a real impact on systemic and structural issues, including gender justice and climate resilience, global early warning systems for early action to El Niño and La Niña events, the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and the [Principles for Locally-Led Adaptation](#).

We are a pre-qualified supplier for the High Value Lot on Climate and Nature of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's [Global Development Delivery Framework Agreement](#), demonstrating our value and experience of working with partners across a range of innovative approaches.

We are a gold standard registered FCDO supplier and have delivered work with [USAID](#), the European Commission, United Nations agencies, [the German government](#), [Inter-American Development Bank](#), [Irish Aid](#) and [the Scottish government](#), the [Aurora Trust](#), [the Mott Foundation](#), [the Climate Justice Resilience Fund](#) and [the European Climate Foundation](#).

Strategic Objectives

#1 Locally-led adaptation and climate risk management

- Effective early warning/early action and climate services that help people reduce their vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses, supporting and enhancing both locally-led adaptation and survivor community-led humanitarian response (sclr). This includes developing community capacity in risk reduction especially for extreme flood events.
- Policies enabling decentralised, off-grid renewable energy initiatives are supported, scaled up and funded.
- A fully-resourced, global Loss & Damage Fund channelling resources to the most affected, marginalised people, particularly women, so they can take risk-informed decisions to recover loss and damage, reducing the loss of life and livelihoods.

#2 Climate resilient communities

- Ensure vulnerable households, communities and their organisations can successfully adapt to climate change through locally-led adaptation, using their own capacity and structures and external support for their resilience building strategies.

Key pillars of our work

Learning: Enhancing impact evidence, using appropriate data to more effectively support research, learning, programme design and management and influencing – with an emphasis on strengthening Southern-led climate justice movements and accountability to supporters and donors – is integral.

Monitoring and evaluation: Christian Aid is committed to assessing the evolution of our work and effectively capturing the changes that matter most to communities. Participatory approaches which enhance community capacity to monitor, evaluate and update their own resilience plans is critical. Digital data collection is increasingly used to measure and report progress.

Partnerships: Our work is implemented by local partners: NGOs, community-based organisations, cooperatives, private sector companies, microfinance institutions, meteorology agencies and faith-based organisations. They also lead on mobilisation and influencing. Our global priorities are based on the needs of the most vulnerable and organisations directly supporting them.

The change we want to see:

Communities should be able to live with dignity, respond effectively to climate-related disasters, risks and opportunities, and build thriving resilient livelihoods. Resilience should be both a continual capacity-strengthening process – enhancing the ability of individuals and communities to anticipate, organise for and adapt to change and an end goal.



Case Study

Building resilience in the face of climate change

Climate change causes frequent floods, droughts, and unpredictable weather in Zimbabwe.

Between 2017-22, the **BRACT Zimbabwe** programme helped 15,000 at-risk, rural households anticipate and adapt to a changing climate and economic shocks, and stand up for their rights. It developed diversified, viable livelihood options and strengthened community voice and participation in decision-making.

Christian Aid worked with four partners – [Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe](#), [Community Technology Development Organisation](#), [Nyahunure Community Trust](#) and [Silveira House](#) – through the [UNDP's Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund](#) to help farmers build their capacity, add value and access markets.

Interventions were locally-led and addressed community priorities and risks, especially those of women and women farmers. The US \$6.2m programme was funded by [UK aid](#), [European Union](#) and the [Swedish Government](#)

How we work

Our work consists of humanitarian, development, and advocacy programmes. Across all three, localisation is vital, underpinned by principles on how we approach and sustain partnerships.

Humanitarian- meeting the needs of crisis-affected communities and strengthening resilience.

Development- meeting the needs of marginalised communities and tackling the causes of poverty: conflict, climate change and the denial of power. Together with local partners and communities we respond, support and campaign in pursuit of dignity, justice, and equality.

Advocacy- supporting communities to come together to claim power to transform their lives and influencing policymakers to shift power and ensure greater equity, justice and sustainability in systems and structures. Advocacy is at the heart of both our humanitarian and development work: principally around economic justice, climate justice and crisis contexts.

Safeguarding, protection, and accountability are key programming elements, vital to the principle of Do No Harm to which Christian Aid is committed.

Flagship programmes

CCASE (Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Energy)

CCASE is a new flagship programme, to reduce the vulnerability of communities and amplify the voices of women and marginalised people. The initial three-year, US\$5m programme creates awareness of climate threats, strengthens adaptation and supports sustainable rural livelihoods in 12 countries and the Latin America region. Country approaches are tailored to specific needs.

CCASE works with local and national institutions and governments to restore drought-dominant and heavily degraded land, promote climate resilient agriculture and financial inclusion through farmer savings and credit groups and access to loans. We advocate for climate change policy implementation and better social accountability systems for farmers through dialogue between communities, government and private service providers. It supports the participation of our partners [CANLA \(Climate Action Network Latin America\)](#) and [CASM \(Comisión de Acción Social Menonita\)](#) in regional and global decision-making spaces, including Escazu COP, the Pan-Amazon Social Forum FOSPA, SB58 and COP28.

Breaking the Barriers

Reaching over 770,000 people, [Breaking the Barriers](#) created 2,545 jobs for rural women across 210 new businesses in the sustainable energy and agro-processing sector, improving working and living conditions, promoting gender equality and strengthening women's social status. The US\$7m programme funded by the European Union and Christian Aid ran between 2018-22 in Burkina Faso, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Honduras.

Breaking the Barriers supported women to create and own Women's Led Sustainable Energy Enterprises in the poorest and most remote off-grid communities, providing training in the marketing and distribution of sustainable energy products and technologies, business skills and access to finance through savings and loans groups. It influenced national level policy on increasing access to renewable energy.

Lake Region Economic Bloc Climate Change Governance

This project strengthened adaptation and resilience to climate change in the Lake region of Kenya between 2018-20. The County Climate Change Fund mechanism prepared target counties to access climate finance for adaptation and poverty reduction, integrating climate risk and empowering vulnerable communities. It strengthened county and sub-county public finance management, public participation and social and financial accountability and enhanced the delivery of climate-resilient public services and goods in support of livelihoods and economies. Funded by UK aid's [Deepening Democracy Programme](#) and implemented by the [Adaptation Consortium](#), the project rolled out robust policy frameworks and legislation in six counties, benefiting more than six million people.

The approach has since been adopted nationwide and fed into the development of the [Principles for Locally-Led Adaptation](#), signed by over 100 governments and organisations

Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP)

ECRP strengthened the resilience of around 420,000 people in districts of Malawi hardest hit by climate change, helping vulnerable people move beyond survival and subsistence, to enjoy thriving and dignified lives.

The US\$22m programme funded by FCDO/UK aid, [Irish Aid](#) and the [Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) ran from 2011-17. Christian Aid and our consortium partners worked with 10 experienced Malawian local partners, CARE International and ActionAid. An integrated package of approaches was deployed, with 75% of ECRP participants benefitting from at least three programme activities, creating vital synergy. Climate-smart agriculture techniques helped people provide food for their families all year round. People used money from village savings and loans groups to improve their homes or invest in businesses. When massive flooding hit in 2015, early warning systems and village civil protection committees initiated by ECRP prevented greater loss of life and identified recovery needs. ECRP communities planted more than 270,000 trees, while more than 23,000 households accessed affordable, clean energy.

ECRP generated \$2-3 in resilience value for every \$1 spent according to external evaluators. Christian Aid also supported the Malawi government with its COP27 statement and, with partners, promoted resilient practice on the National Adaptation Strategy, through the Ministry of Agriculture's Conservation Agriculture Taskforce. Cyclone Ana in 2022 and Cyclone Freddy in 2023 hit these same communities with rapid survey data showing that resilience structures were still active.

BRACED

Droughts, floods and high temperatures destroy lives in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. From 2014-19, our UKAid-funded BRACED programmes in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso helped vulnerable communities increase their resilience in the face of increasingly erratic weather patterns and climate shocks and delivered the knowledge and resources they need to better anticipate, adapt and protect their livelihoods. These projects were rated as A or A+ - either fully meeting or exceeding expectation in final scoring.

Our \$20m UKAid-funded BRACED programmes improved access to reliable climate information using text messaging and public service announcements on local radio stations, increased the capacity of local communities to respond to climate threats through training and the development of disaster response plans and sought to better understand the specific impact of climate extremes on women and girls. In Ethiopia, greater resilience has helped communities cope better with the severe extended drought through 2020-23. The Ethiopian National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) followed three years of community-level work and a national consultation. Christian Aid was the lead partner, working with consortium partners including the [Ethiopian National Meteorology Agency](#), the [UK Met Office](#) and [King's College London](#).

Adapta Nicaragua

Adapta Nicaragua protected the livelihoods of 1,000 small- and medium-sized cocoa and honey producers, building their resilience to climate change through access to high quality climatic information. The US\$2.5m project – delivered by Nicaraguan cocoa supplier [Ingemann](#), NGO Centro Humboldt and Christian Aid, funded by the [Inter-American Development Bank](#) and FOMIN – built the resilience of low-income producers in the face of unpredictable weather and increased the productivity of crops, leading to greater investment potential.

Climate Resilient Microfinance: Bangladesh

In flood-prone Bangladesh, low-lying riverside communities permanently teeter on the brink of disaster. Microfinance has not responded well enough to the increased vulnerability faced by the impact of climate change. When crops are devastated, it leaves many borrowers trapped in debt and they have no choice but to seek new loans to repay old ones.

The Climate Resilient Microfinance project overhauled microfinance products and processes to better protect borrowers from climate threats, building knowledge that could transform the whole microfinance industry.

Disaster preparedness and response in Haiti

To strengthen community capacity in Haiti, Christian Aid through local partners coordinated with the General Directorate for Civil Protection to develop a curriculum and set up certified trainers in Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs). Five local civil protection structures (EICs) were trained on climate change, disaster preparedness and response, identifying their community disaster risks, developing their local EPRPs and carrying out an awareness campaign, through community meetings and radio messages, to inform people on disaster risks and how to respond to emergency alerts.

Innovative use of climate data

Our Climate Monitoring Action (CLIMA) project – which ran in Nicaragua until April 2023 – reached 1,500 small coffee, cocoa and honey producers. The project faced many challenges including Hurricane Eta/Iota, the COVID-19 pandemic and the shutting down of our key project partner as part of the increasing suppression of civil society, yet still largely met its objective of equipping families to anticipate and adapt to climate change.

Families can now make decisions on agricultural practices based on weather forecasts from the network of climate observers and newly installed weather stations. These families share weather information with up to five other families, increasing impact and reach. Coffee yields have increased by 15-20%, a significant success given the anticipated reductions in yield due to hurricane damage.

A network of over 350 community-managed climate stations still functions across Nicaragua, despite political challenges, and is being expanded into Honduras through organic coffee cooperatives. Learning from CLIMA has been used to develop an Irish Aid-funded project to increase climate resilience across DRC, Myanmar, South Sudan and Colombia and a project in Ethiopia.



Looking to the future



Christian Aid is re-energising its climate adaptation and resilience approaches between 2023-25. Climate resilient agriculture will be the mainstay. Focusing on the innovative mechanisms and transformational changes needed to support small-scale farmers and herders to transition to agroecology will be critical to reducing food system emissions, increasing resilience, productivity and food security.

Breaking the silo between climate resilience and renewable energy, through climate resilient agriculture and inclusive market systems, is key to ensuring small-scale farms can access the renewable energy they need to add value to produce, reduce food loss and access new markets. Our innovative community engagement approaches suggest substantial demand to grow

our work on locally-led adaptation, further advocating for increased funding and practical support. The gap between development and environment agencies has been closing around climate advocacy, but also resilience-building practice. We now partner with biodiversity-focused agencies to enhance the impact that can be achieved through nature-based solutions.

Our focus on loss and damage will support innovative recovery that builds resilience, addresses non-economic loss and damage and delivers evidence through impact assessment and research to drive our influencing. Digital climate services including forecasts, adaptation information and new technology to deliver resilience information is a fast-growing, highly innovative area that Christian Aid is well placed to expand and grow at both regional and programme levels.



Our vision is a world where everyone has fullness of life; a life lived with dignity, free from poverty and need; where global resources are equitably shared and sustainably used; and where the voice and agency of the poor and marginalised are fully realised.

What we do

Christian Aid provides long-term development support and humanitarian relief worldwide, highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing rights. We believe efforts to end poverty should be led by those people experiencing it. We focus our efforts where poverty is most widespread and the obstacles to ending it most complex.

Christian Aid implemented 275 projects in 2022/23 across 14 countries and two regional programmes, directly reaching 2,960,055 people. We worked with more than 240 implementing partners, spending US\$115m.

Thematic priorities

Christian Aid's work focuses on four themes: climate adaptation and resilience, gender justice, governance and rights, and peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Many of our projects and programmes are at the intersection of these themes. Climate change puts pressure on resources, which often leads to conflict. Gender justice cuts across all our work, as women experience poverty differently and more deeply than others.

Governments must provide essential services for citizens to realise their rights and live a dignified and fulfilling life in times of peace and stability, but also during conflict or humanitarian crises. Our work on governance and rights is critical for holding duty bearers to account.

Our humanitarian response work is driven by the specificities of each crisis and the needs of the communities. Our approach acknowledges the triple nexus of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding work, which ensures longer-term recovery and resilience.

Our strategic framework

Our global strategy Standing Together outlines our approach to eradicating poverty through the 3Ps framework.

Poverty- addressing people's immediate and longer-term needs and building resilience so those living in poverty are better able to meet their needs in the future.

Power- shifting power to communities, empowering people living in poverty and transforming the structures that keep them poor.

Prophetic voice- joining together with people living in poverty to speak truth to power, build collective agency and support the realisation of their own vision of a just future.



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