

CLIMATE STRATEGY

2022 - 2025



OXFAM DANMARK

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Where we stand	3
Who we are	4
Our Vision	4
Our Mission	4
Our Values	4
Our Ambition	5
Our Approach to Climate.....	5
Programmes and influencing work	6
Climate justice	6
Climate resilience	8
Climate education.....	8
Mainstreaming	9
How we work.....	10
Feminist approach.....	10
Human rights-based approach	10
Nexus approach.....	10
Thinking and acting locally and globally	10
Systemic change	11
Where do we work – geographies	11
Annex 1. Terminology.....	12

Introduction

The climate crisis is a man-made catastrophe challenging our survival and reversing progress made in the fight against poverty and inequality. It is driven by an economic system that pursues ever increased growth, production, and consumption at the cost of the planet and people. Large corporations, wealthy countries, and wealthy people by far contribute the most to the climate crisis. The top 10% of global emitters generate almost half of all greenhouse gas emissions and the global top 1% of emitters are responsible for more emissions than the entire bottom half of the world's population¹. The climate crisis has therefore become the symbol of global inequality.

Climate-related disasters are responsible for the majority of forced displacements worldwide, causing increased levels of risk, deepening inequalities and exacerbating pre-existing social and structural vulnerabilities, contributing to humanitarian crises worldwide. Ninety-four per cent of displacements triggered by disasters in 2021 were climate related. Countries that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change also saw 95 per cent of all conflict-related displacements in 2021². Climate shocks are also one of the drivers behind the global food crisis. Extreme climatic events were the main drivers of acute food insecurity in eight African countries in 2021, with 23.5 million people in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). In 39 out of 53 countries covered by the Global Report on Food Crises 2022, weather extremes were the primary, secondary or tertiary driver of acute food insecurity.

Over 780 million people globally are currently exposed to the combined risk of poverty and serious flooding, mostly in developing countries and many low-income regions are facing agricultural productivity losses of 30% due to climate changes. It hits the world's poorest the hardest, and women in particular bear the brunt due to gender-discriminatory practices and norms, including an unequal distribution of work. Thus, the climate crisis has a negative and disproportional effects on vulnerable women and girls, but they are systematically excluded from climate-related decision-making spaces.

Recently, climate justice and the historic responsibility of the rich countries for climate change has been acknowledged, but those countries fail to take the necessary steps towards a total transformation of the economy and systems that could set a path towards a substantial reduction of greenhouse gases. And they further fail to provide the necessary finance for mitigation, and adaptation to the climate crisis as laid out in the Paris Agreement. Thus, countries in vulnerable regions such as the Sahel, which have contributed the least to climate crises are among those that are most vulnerable to climate changes, but international funding obligations to support these countries are not met. As one concrete example, there is currently a climate adaptation finance gap of 82% between reported climate finance and West African countries stated adaptation needs³.

Where we stand

Oxfam IBIS has worked with climate related initiatives for many years. This includes support to Indigenous Peoples in Latin America to address the climate crises and claim their rights to territorial defence, as well as more recent efforts in the Sahel, which link conflict, displacement, and climate-sensitive natural resource management. In response to the escalating climate crises, Oxfam IBIS Board decided at the end of 2020 to

¹ Climate Inequality Report 2023, World Inequality Lab

² (Global Humanitarian Overview 2023, https://reliefweb.int/attachments/22b19cd1-a60a-4d9e-bde1-bd82a95009e8/GHO-2023-EN_FINAL.pdf, p.28)

³ Climate Finance in West Africa, Oxfam briefing paper, September 2022

further upscale and strengthen our climate work to fight inequality and make a difference. Our work should be closely aligned with the Oxfam Confederation, i.e., its overall strategy 2020-30, Oxfam's Climate Initiative (OCI) as well as Oxfam country strategies and programmes, and the climate work should be implemented in partnership with other organisations and movements. Consequently, climate forms a core intervention area in the current Strategic Partnership (SP) programme with Danida and it is also a top priority in the new overall strategy of Oxfam IBIS.

We are carrying out extensive policy and advocacy work, for example in relation to the annual Climate Change Conferences, which includes lobbying for increased finance for climate adaptation following the Paris agreement as well as recognition of Loss & Damages from climate changes and adequate financial compensation from the rich countries. This also covers advocacy work vis-à-vis the Danish government and campaigning in Denmark to raise public awareness on global climate inequality. Finally, we have recently taken concrete steps to reduce our own carbon footprint in line with Oxfam's overall policies and guidelines. This includes a restrictive flight policy and a green transformation of Oxfam IBIS Head Office practices, and the ambition is to further reduce our carbon footprint and mainstreaming climate into our programmes. The purpose of this climate strategy is to outline how Oxfam IBIS/Denmark intends to shift its own workforce practices, programming, and policies to contribute to reduce carbon emissions, adapt to the climate crisis and strengthen climate justice. It will be updated every year based on stocktaking and assessment of the actual climate work.

Who we are

Our Vision

To generate structural changes and radical shift in policies that effectively address the unequal and unjust impacts of climate change and bring the world on track to avert a climate catastrophe.

Our Mission

We will hold the richest nations accountable for their disproportionate contribution to climate change and ensure that the voices of people hit the hardest by climate change are effectively included in decision-making and planning of climate initiatives to increase resilience to climate and disasters and contribute to their basic rights.

Our Values

Equality: We believe everyone has the right to be treated fairly and to have the same rights and opportunities.

Empowerment: We acknowledge and seek to expand people's agency over their lives and the decisions that impact them.

Solidarity: We join hands, support, and collaborate across boundaries in working towards a just and sustainable world.

Inclusiveness: We embrace diversity and difference and value the perspectives and contributions of all people and communities in their fight against poverty and injustice.

Accountability: We take responsibility for our action and inaction and hold ourselves accountable to the people we work with and for.

Shifting power: We take sides against poverty and injustice everywhere, working with people, communities, partners, and allies for just and sustainable solutions.

Our Ambition

We take active part in a growing global movement, powered mostly by young people, urgently demanding action to address the climate emergency and promoting a green and just transition. This includes increasing finance for climate adaptation, mitigation, and loss & damage in line with international agreements and ensure that such funding is based on bottom-up planning process and reaches the vulnerable communities. Furthermore, knowledge on the mineral sources necessary to support a clean energy transition including strategies for a green just extraction of these resources in developing countries, will be given priority. It is done through international policy work, including advocacy and campaigning in Denmark, as well as strengthening the capacity and resources of the civil society in countries affected by poverty and climate crises. We thereby support them to take effective part in international negotiations, fora, and alliances to advocate for rights and climate justice, including holding their national government and private companies accountable. We also support women, young people, and indigenous groups to amplify their voices and inclusion in local decision-making processes related to climate, environment, and natural resources, extraction and revenue sharing to promote people-led solutions and call for support to climate-resilient development. This includes developing solutions for sustainable livelihoods and use of natural resources in line with the priorities and socio-economic background of the local communities.

We will:

1. Advocate for a significant reduction of **greenhouse gas emissions** to limit the global heating to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius.
2. Advocate for **climate finance** that is adequate, predicable, and accessible and that supports adaptation, mitigation, and compensation for loss & damage, especially in the most vulnerable communities.
3. Build the capacity of civil society to hold governments accountable for promoting and supporting a **green and just transition** including safeguarding of community interests and rights vis-à-vis extractive industries and in nature resource management processes
4. **Strengthen climate resilience of vulnerable communities** to better manage climate risks and develop local expertise and solutions to strengthen sustainable local development with food- and income security.
5. **Build the knowledge and agency** of youth, women, and indigenous peoples to address the climate emergency, especially its gendered impact, and take effective part in decision making to protect their rights to land, livelihood, and biodiversity.
6. **Mainstream** climate into all aspects of our work – including reducing our carbon footprint, making systematic assessments of risks, and avoiding negative impact on climate and environment in our programs, strategies, and partnerships.

Our Approach to Climate

Our climate work will follow two main tracks: It will address climate changes directly through *programme interventions* combined with policy, influencing and campaigning efforts in Denmark and at an international level, and it will *mainstream* climate and environmental concerns into all aspects of our operations to maximize the sustainability of our work and as far as possible avoid (potential) harmful effects. The latter also include reducing our own carbon footprint.

The approach takes its point of departure from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development from 1992 and its three conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification which also lay the foundation for the Paris Agreement from 2015. The Climate Convention aims at stabilising greenhouse

from rich countries, including Denmark, responsible for urgent and adequate action to mitigate climate changes. We will follow the yearly negotiations in the UNCCC Climate COP's and advocate for the need for significant reductions – especially in the high-income countries. Together with Oxfam International we will analyse the nature of carbon inequality and advocate and communicate for realistic and durable solutions.

We will advocate for a shift in policy and practice on climate finance. The goal is to secure increased and new sources of finance for adaptation and loss and damage and ensure its delivery to frontline communities. **Climate finance** should be increased and simultaneously reduce inequality, whereby Denmark, the EU and other rich countries comply with the Paris Agreement from 2015 – 100 billion USD in climate finance to poorer parts of the world from 2020 – as well as commitments made at the Climate Change Conferences. A major goal in this respect is to ensure that the agreement at COP27 to establish a fund to pay for Loss & Damage in connection with climate disasters is made concrete and to secure that the financing does not come from existing development assistance. Vulnerable countries must also be strongly represented in the fund. Moreover, climate finance should not be loans, that can lead to increased debt, and there must be concrete and binding agreements for climate finance after 2025, where there is no financing now. As part of this, we will work to strengthen climate aid in the Danish Development assistance. Denmark must allocate new/additional funds (in addition to the 0.7% of GNI spent on development assistance today) to help the world's poorest affected by the climate crisis. Parallel to this, we will work for innovative finance from *green taxes* that reduces inequality, is adequate, predictable, and accessible and that supports adaptation, mitigation, and compensation for loss and damage, especially in the most vulnerable communities. Based on research and data, we will push for Denmark and other rich countries taking the lead, as well as for new and innovative taxes that can raise additional funds and provide incentives to reduce emissions.

We will work to shift the power. People most impacted by the climate crisis have the power to participate and influence decisions that affect their lives. Oxfam DK shall help strengthen the climate movement and weaken the influence of powerful vested interests. We will strive to ensure that women's voices and the root causes to disproportionate vulnerabilities of women are strongly reflected in climate policies and actions. Being **gender responsive**, at policy level implies that Oxfam IBIS supports the principle of ensuring a gender track adopted to all major climate policy processes as for instance is the case for the UNFCCC where gender specific goals are tracked and reported every year. Oxfam IBIS supports women's agendas and participation in key events, including the COPs. As an effect of climate change, women's human rights are further derailed, however indigenous women are often at the frontlines, and we will support them defending their rights and ensuring that the principle of free, prior, and informed consent is upheld.

In our programme countries, we will build the capacity of networks and alliances of civil society organisations and movements to hold governments accountable for planning and funding of policies, plans and initiatives that promotes a **green and just transition**. This includes advocacy for fair taxes that addresses inequality and environmental damages and mobilise revenues that can be spend pro-actively on supporting the green transition and a just and fair phase out of fossil fuels. A key priority here will be to ensure access to clean, available, and affordable *energy* as an alternative to fossil fuels and firewood for heating and cooking and with a particular focus on ensuring access for vulnerable women. Another priority relates to *extractive industries*. Through research, documentation, communication, and advocacy, civil society will be enabled to put pressure on key duty bearers and corporations to take responsibility for social and environmental safeguarding of mega projects – including all type of extractive industries - and lobby for governments and

corporate sector to prioritize responsible extraction of critical minerals for the green transformation of the respective country.

Climate resilience

Our aim is to strengthen local expertise, capacities awareness to support climate change adaptation and community resilience by creating new solutions that contribute to sustainable livelihoods, foster sustainable and climate-sensitive production practices and use of natural resources and that strengthen local capacities to prepare and respond to climate shocks. Special attention will be paid on the active involvement of local civil society, youth, and women in capacity development and the design and implementation of such new solutions and adaptation and response mechanisms.

A key priority will be to support the successful introduction of **green solutions** at a community level which will strengthen sustainable local development as may also provide evidence that can be used for wider influencing work to push for a green transition and national and/or sector levels in areas such as agriculture, water, and energy. One concrete element will be further development of the *agroecology sector*, which emphasizes the transformation to sustainable food and agricultural systems that both seek to protect and restore nature and biodiversity and at the same time enhance food and income security, ensuring that nobody is left behind. As agroecology builds on local knowledge, practices, and solutions, it seeks to delegate power to local communities in the governance of land and natural resources. A key element will be to create a dynamic whereby community-based models and best practices are integrated in relevant plans and budgets, such as climate change adaptation and disaster response plans, from local to national levels and beyond, ensuring that civil society demands for accountable governance on climate change adaptation are supported.

To address some of the core climate and humanitarian challenges in vulnerable contexts, we will support communities to better prepare, adapt and manage multiple climate-related shocks and stressors by investing in community early warning, disaster risk management/preparedness action, support access to safe drinking *water*, water use efficiency and climate-sensitive water use management to name a few. We will take a conflict sensitive lens and integrate support to dialogue and conflict prevention, recognising that many of these contexts are also affected by violent conflict and that the use, control, and management of natural resources can be contested and contribute to local tensions. As special focus will be on **gender** aspects. We will emphasize inclusivity, ensuring that women and other marginalised groups are not left behind nor harmed and can meaningfully participate in decision-making related to climate change adaptation and natural resource usage, and seek to harness the potential of natural resources to build peaceful relations.

Climate education

Education is absolute paramount to achieve a transition to a **climate and gender just society**. We will support quality, transformative education on the causes and effects of the climate emergency and how the address the inequalities that it amplifies. Due to gendered divisions of roles and responsibilities in societies attributing to women and girls the responsibility food, fuel, and water – areas particularly affected by climate changes – a special focus will be on the negative gender aspects. Likewise, rights of indigenous peoples are frequently the first victims of climate changes and development activities in indigenous lands are often pursued with no regard to the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.

Thus, the aim is to strengthen the agency of vulnerable groups to demand climate justice at all levels. This entails building up life skills including knowledge and awareness on human rights, civic engagement, and

policy processes as a crucial pathway for disadvantaged youth, women, and indigenous peoples – for example to take active part in planning and decision-making processes on natural resource management. Or for student movements to undertake critical policy and advocacy work.

Another key priority relates to strengthening a green curriculum in the formal educational system. This includes basic education as well as Technical Vocational Education and Training to build up **green skills** that can support a just transition and provide new job opportunities for young people. The latter will take place in close cooperation with the private sector and include advocacy and capacity building elements to promote decent work, access for women and safety at the workplace.

Mainstreaming

We will systematically mainstream climate and environmental concerns into all aspects of our programmes and operations as a cross-cutting priority. The aim is to pro-actively strengthen green aspects and synergies and avoid (potential) harmful effects⁴. Thus, this includes reducing our own carbon footprint. The approach is inspired by the Climate & Environment Mainstreaming Tool developed by Global Fokus and aligned with the Oxfam guideline and system for monitoring and reporting of carbon footprint.

To be effective and targeted, we have selected some priority areas which we assess will have the most significant impact. Areas, where we aim to generate special awareness and improve our procedures, practices, and policies. We will start with these areas and gradually build more aspects of mainstreaming into our approach, based on the learning generated:

Budget tracking of green projects. The tracking of green projects will be based on the Rio markers, whereby they are classified based on their expected, positive impact climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and desertification. This may be projects that has this as the overall objective (principal impact) or as one of the key outcomes among others (significant impact). We will set a baseline followed by annual targets for increased spending on green areas.

Applying a **“Do no Harm” principle**. This is based on a checklist of key environmental dimensions (mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, circular economy, water resources, pollution prevention, etc.). All our programmes will be systematically screened to avoid/or mitigate a negative impact on these areas. The screening covers design, monitoring and evaluation phases and is carried out in close cooperation with our country offices and partners. Adequate action will be taken when a (potential) negative impact is identified.

Reduction of our **Carbon footprint** focuses on the administration and operation of Oxfam IBIS’s head office and staff. A baseline will be set for each of the priority areas which will be followed by annual reduction targets and work plans:

- *Flight policy* – we will fully adopt Oxfam’s the restrictive flight policy and strengthen our internal procedures for approval as well as coordinating and planning missions more effectively.

⁴ Some stakeholders tend to use the term “greening”, which is about increasing awareness and efforts of the organization to promote green aspects. However, we prefer the “mainstreaming” terminology, as this covers a more systematic inclusion of climate and environment as a cross-cutting issue rather than on a more ad-hoc basis. See annex 1 for further definitions.

- *Food systems* – we will take further action to reduce food waste in our canteen through awareness raising and higher discipline among staff for lunch registration.
- *Electricity* – we will scrutinise means to reduce our electricity consumption, primarily through building awareness among staff.
- *Separation and recycling of waste* – we will establish a waste collection system and build awareness among staff.
- *Procurement*: We will identify key procurement items that have a critical environmental impact and buy products from suppliers that have obtained a green certification.

How we work

Feminist approach

We apply a feminist approach to everything we do to promote transformative, structural and sustainable change. We address gender justice and women’s rights across all our interventions and ensure that the specific needs and experiences of women, men, girls, boys, and non-binary people are accounted for. And we systematically fight patriarchal systems perpetuating sexist and hierarchical power relations and legitimizing injustice, discrimination and exclusion of women and gender non-conforming people through harmful social norms and institutionalized oppressive practices. Adhering to Oxfam’s Feminist Principles, we believe that that “there is no economic, social and environmental justice without gender justice”, and therefore, no climate justice without gender justice

Human rights-based approach

Human rights are fundamental to build a just and equal future free from inequalities. We adhere to human rights principles (universality, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation, accountability) and apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to guide our development cooperation. This entails a focus on developing the capacities of both ‘duty-bearers’ to meet their obligations, and ‘rights-holders’ to claim their rights and private sector to adhere to local, national, and international agreements and conventions. It also seeks to analyse inequalities which lie at the heart of development problems and redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power that impede development progress and often result in groups of people being left behind.

Nexus approach

We take a nexus approach where we seek to coherently address people’s needs and vulnerabilities before, during and after crises and tackle the structural and systemic root causes of crises, conflict, and fragility with the aim to reduce and eliminate humanitarian needs, address root causes of marginalisation, vulnerability and inequality through system change, peacebuilding, and climate justice outcomes. This entails gearing our actions and programming towards ‘collective outcomes’ including humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding elements all the while upholding humanitarian principles and applying a do-no-harm and safe programming approach and conflict sensitivity. With climate change acting as risk multiplier, exacerbating vulnerability and climate disasters and shocks increasing, it is key to see climate as part of the nexus.

Thinking and acting locally and globally

We will build coalitions within and between regions and from the local to the global level. Changes at local levels are based on the needs and priorities of the local population and informed by national and global processes. Likewise, national, and global changes have to be informed by experiences and learnings from

local levels. We see this as interwoven and mutually reinforcing processes. Thus, we will leverage the power of collective knowledge to understand and respond to climate changes and injustice at all levels and learn from partners, movements, and allies.

Systemic change

We take pride in always aiming at addressing the root and systemic causes of climate inequality and injustice. Through thought leadership, cutting edge analysis building on the experiences of those suffering from injustice we will mobilize to transform the systems that perpetuate poverty and injustice. We will provide direct support to vulnerable communities affected by climate changes and at the same time advocate and mobilize support to demand systemic changes to economic, political, and social systems as well as consumption and behavioural patterns that form the root causes of climate changes. . We are committed to prioritize our gender justice agenda at community, country, regional and international levels.

Where do we work – geographies

Oxfam IBIS has a deeper and long-term engagement in 12 priority countries in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. The countries are chosen based on a needs assessment, where we can bring an added value and where we can mobilize funding for activities: Mali; Burkina Faso; Niger; Ghana; Kenya, Uganda; South Sudan; Syria; Yemen; Palestine; Colombia; Guatemala. Further, we have smaller programmes and activities in more countries, and support civil society groups working for quality education in more than 60 countries.

Annex 1. Terminology

- **Biodiversity:** Physical ecosystems, habitats, and species that are threatened by changes in the climate or environment
- **Climate:** Weather patterns and temperatures. Climate change leads to droughts, floods, and sea-level rise, affecting people, animals and plants
- **Climate change mitigation:** preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere
- **Climate change adaptation:** adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems or policies to the current and future effects of climate change.
- **Climate education** is learning about causes and consequences of climate changes and empowerment to undertake effective responses that address the emergency, inequality, and injustice of the climate crises
- **Climate Financing:** based on the Climate Change Convention and the Rio Markers, the financing covers four green areas: climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, and desertification. It is expected that Loss & Damage will be added to this following COP27.
- **Climate Justice:** Climate justice calls for a just division, fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the burdens of climate change, including a responsibility of the rich countries to stop warming the planet and support other countries adapt to climate changes as well as upholding human rights principles and effective participation of vulnerable groups in climate responses
- **Climate resilience:** ability to resist, recover from, and adapt to negative external effects of climate change
- **Environment:** The air, water, and land in or on which people, plants and animals live
- **Greening:** the organisation is becoming more aware of climate and environmental issues and aims at making its programme and operations “greener” – i.e., more eco-friendly and sustainable
- **Loss & Damage:** Impacts of climate change that have not been, or cannot be, avoided through mitigation or adaptation efforts
- **Mainstreaming:** Systematic integration of climate and environmental considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout an organization’s strategies, programmes, and operations
- **Sustainable and green solutions:** solutions that support a just and green transition with a shift towards economically sustainable growth and an economy that is not based on fossil fuels and overconsumption of natural resources and that promote the circular economy and biodiversity.