

### Learning and advocacy

Communities, partner organisations, own staff, colleague organisations and other relevant agencies have to learn from each other about what works and what doesn't work and what new directions need to be taken. Research is done into the impacts of climate change in the regions where partner organisations work.

In the field of advocacy the information is shared with others, either through publications in magazines, on the website or during conferences. Audiovisuals such as films are used to strengthen the messages.

There is close cooperation with other actors working in the field of DRR. In each country networks are developed. Local and international governments need to be aware of the impacts of climate change in the different regions and in various sectors and need a good policy to support climate adaptation - disaster risk reduction strategies. Funds have to be made available and accessible for climate adaptation. Therefore Cordaid campaigns jointly with Caritas Internationalis and Cidse partners and will respect and promote equity and social justice.

### Future plans

For 2009 and onwards plans are being developed to work towards long term approaches in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. Attention will be paid to the integration of climate change scenarios for the coming 10 to 50 years in the DRR approach, studying the expected long term impacts of climate change on survival, the livelihood, water availability, the environment, food security, expected migration patterns and its consequences, such as urbanisation. This will result in the identification of alternative livelihood options in the regions. Cooperation with enterprises will be sought, regarding for example solar energy, wind energy, water purification, micro insurances and marketing of local produce.

### Cooperation

Cordaid works closely together with a variety of agencies, including donor agencies, NGO's, UN, universities and enterprises.

**In the Netherlands:** The HIER campaign (including all Dutch environmental and development NGO's), the Schokland group climate adaptation (Dutch government, NGO's, universities, enterprises), the Dutch DRR platform, the Dutch Postcode Lottery, World-connectors, Wageningen University, University of Amsterdam, Both ENDS.

**Internationally:** ECHO, the Voice DRR working group, CIDSE, Caritas Internationalis, Cafod, Trocaire, CRS and other Caritas colleagues, the Red Cross Climate Centre, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, FAO, Oxfam GB.

## Disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation



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Climate related hazards have a big impact on the lives of people, especially the poor. A 2008 survey among Cordaid's partners in Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America indicates that weather patterns are already changing due to climate change.

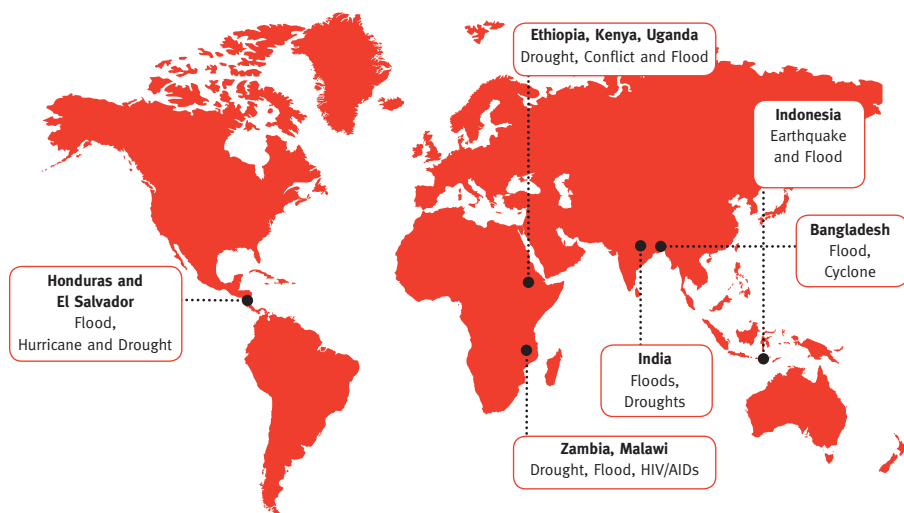
### Impact of climate change

In the developing world extremely heavy rainfall or hardly any rain at all, changes in rainfall patterns and seasons, rises in temperatures, hailstorms, increased frequency of hurricanes, droughts, floods and storms are common nowadays. As a result food and water insecurity increase, as well as loss of lives and livelihoods. Pastoralist people in the Horn of Africa lose their cattle, crop farmers in Bangladesh suffer from diminished agricultural production, the environment is degraded in Central America and food prices are on the rise worldwide

### Survival becomes a real struggle

In the coming decades, climate change is expected to further exacerbate the risks of disasters, not only from more frequent and intense hazard events but also through greater vulnerability to the existing hazards. More frequent and intense storms and floods and long-lasting droughts can erode existing community coping capacity to prepare, respond and rebuild after successive hazard events. The other adverse impacts of climate change, for example on economic development, public health, ecosystems, food security, migration, urban growth and conflicts will increase the vulnerability of communities to natural based hazards of all types. This is especially the case in areas that are already fragile now.

### Overview of Cordaid's partners working on DRR and climate adaptation



## Climate adaptation through Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Climate adaptation needs to be taken up at different levels through disaster risk reduction measures: at local level, at national level and globally. Cordaid works on all levels, through specific program interventions at field level, capacity building locally and nationally, and through advocacy, nationally and internationally.

### Empower the communities

Empowerment of those that suffer the most from the hazards is crucial in tackling climate change. This requires close cooperation with all those who can play a role. Communities have their own mechanisms of coping with disasters. However, these are not sufficient any more due to the magnitude of the problem. But their coping mechanisms can form the basis for further adaptation to climate change. Capacity building of different stakeholders such as communities, local organisations and local government on how to cope with climate change and/or other disasters can be helpful, thereby building on local expertise, experience and initiatives.

### Disaster Risk Reduction

Reducing people's vulnerability for climate related hazards or geological hazards such as earthquakes, and strengthening their capacity and reducing the risk of hazards are all components of Disaster Risk Reduction. Since 2004 Cordaid has been supporting 100 local partner organisations and the communities they work with, in 10 countries worldwide, with community managed DRR programs. Partners are trained, while they in turn train communities. A training manual has been made available for this. The hazards and risks are analyzed at community level and disaster risk reduction plans are developed including early warning systems.

### Coping with climate change

Specific interventions are implemented to better adapt to climate change. These are mainly in the field of livelihood security (livestock, crops, food, water). In the Horn of Africa drought cycle management is practiced, linking relief and development. Examples are the introduction of camels, that are better able to withstand drought in Ethiopia, the building of flood shelters in Bangladesh, rain water harvesting tanks in Kenya, crop diversification and small scale irrigation for winter cropping in Malawi, peace building in the Horn of Africa and sustainability of the drinking water resources in Central America. This is done in close cooperation with local government and other stakeholders.

