



Adapting for the Future

Islamic Relief's response to the global climate emergency



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Photo: Islamic Relief Türkiye, Syria



Introduction

Our world is in peril – the global climate catastrophe is upon us.

But all is not yet lost. There are effective and affordable options for reducing damaging emissions and vulnerabilities and building resilience.

We will have to rely on the very best of our humanity – including science and indigenous knowledge, as well as deep resources of faith, resilience and ingenuity – to reduce the risks and deal with the consequences. Adapting for the Future sets out Islamic Relief's efforts to rise to this ultimate test.

Since 2020, when we last published a comprehensive report on all Islamic Relief's work in climate adaptation and community resilience building¹, our work in this area has extended to 23 countries and a combined budget of nearly £150 million. This reflects the increasing pace of the climate emergency and its expansion further into the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable.



“Viable, effective, and low-cost options for mitigation and adaptation are already available”

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC]

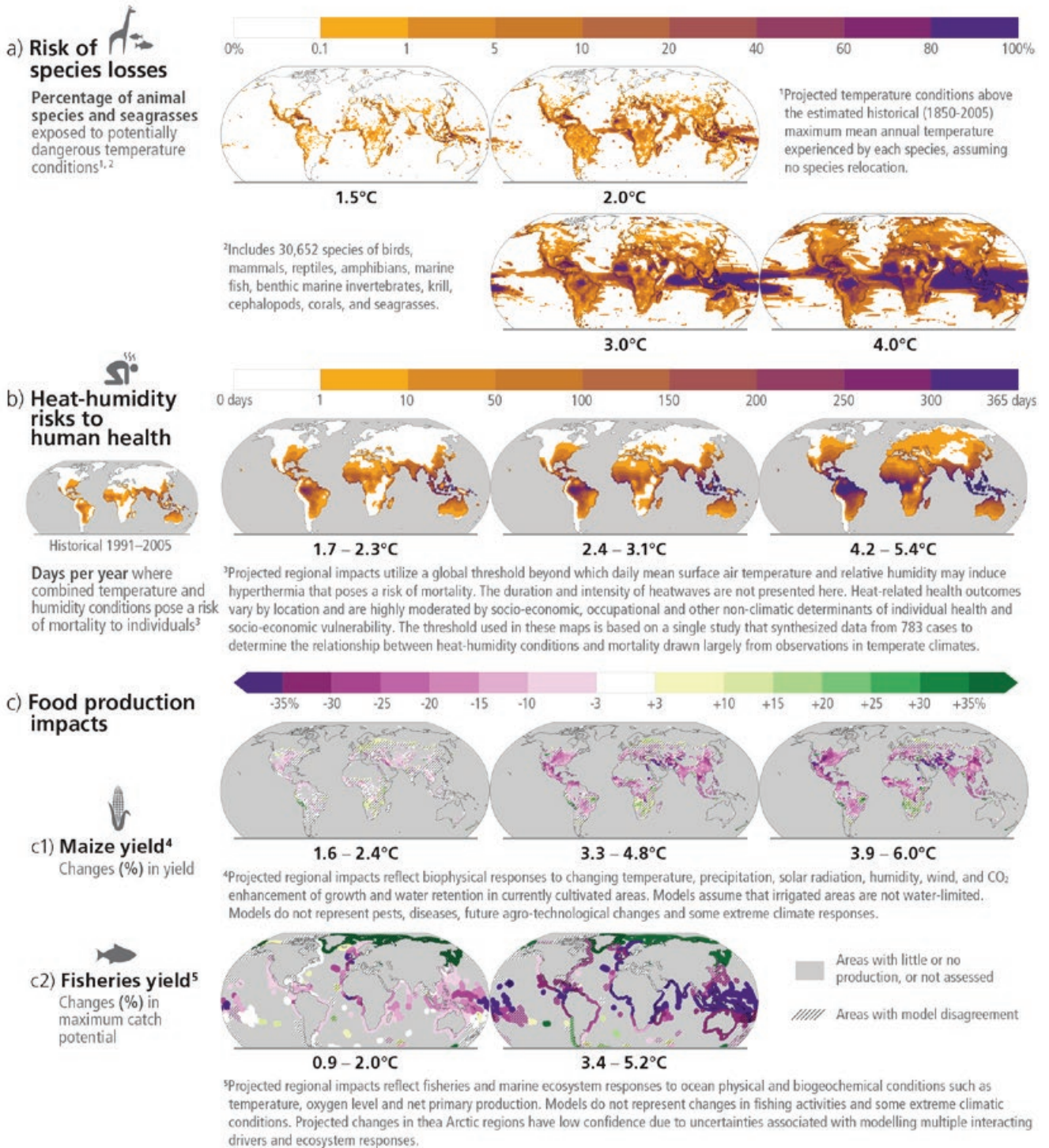
¹ <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/islamic-relief-adapting-for-climate-justice.pdf>

What the future holds

Scientists 'envisage a "semi-dystopian" future, with famines, conflicts and mass migration, driven by heatwaves, wildfires, floods and storms of an intensity and frequency far beyond those that have already struck.' **Guardian, 8 May 2024**²

Future climate change is projected to increase the severity of impacts across natural and human systems and will increase regional differences

Examples of impacts without additional adaptation



https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/figures/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM_Figure3.png

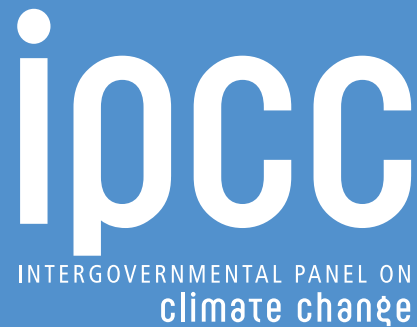
The next five years

The perilous and uncertain future we face is illustrated by the severity of what is in store in just the next five years:

- More frequent and severe extreme weather events such as hurricanes, heatwaves, droughts, and floods
- A growing threat to life, more homes destroyed, and vital services severely damaged
- Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns that increasingly limit how much food we can grow, making hunger and malnutrition worse – especially in places where people are already struggling
- Severe disruption of drinking water supplies and farming because of reduced and unreliable rainfall and melting glaciers, making life harder for everyone
- The suffering of animals and the existential threat to some plants are set to increase, with some species dying out and our trees and soil struggling to sustain the contribution they make to cleaning the air and keeping the climate stable.

Because of all these changes, the health and wellbeing of many more people across the world will be profoundly affected. More of us will likely get sick because of extreme heat, polluted air, and bugs carrying deadly diseases. More will face the huge economic and mental health challenges that come with losing their homes or jobs.

In many communities where there are already significant social divisions and tensions, the increasing pressure on all aspects of life caused by the climate crisis is likely to push people into conflict over vital but increasingly scarce resources such as water for drinking and agriculture, land for growing crops, and pasture for animals.



Highlighting the expert perspective

Throughout this document we quote from the extensive and authoritative reports³ of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – reports that play a vital role in informing governments about the full extent of what we know about the impact of climate change.

The IPCC examines all the relevant scientific literature on the subject, capturing the natural, economic and social impact of climate change, while also weighing risks and assessing possible responses to the climate crisis. Thousands of scientists and other experts from across the world review the IPCC's publications. They compile their findings into Assessment Reports for policymakers and the public. Their work has been described as the biggest peer review process in the scientific community.

³https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

What has led us here



“Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected”⁴

The climate is changing

Temperature records are being shattered one after another. Last year, 2023, was the hottest on record, with temperatures soaring almost 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The maximum daily temperatures in 2023 and 2024 have been notably higher than in previous years. Over the last decade, from 2015 to 2024, daily average temperatures have reached the highest levels in recorded history, indicating an alarming trend of global heating.

Uncharted territory

On Monday 22 July 2024 Earth experienced its hottest day since records began.

“What is truly staggering is how large the difference is between the temperature of the last 13 months and the previous temperature records.

“We are now in truly uncharted territory, and as the climate keeps warming, we are bound to see new records being broken in future months and years.”

Carlo Buontempo, Director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service⁵.

Photo Graeme Maclean Creative Commons



⁴<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/resources/spm-headline-statements/>

⁵<https://climate.copernicus.eu/new-record-daily-global-average-temperature-reached-july-2024>

HEADLINE-MAKING CLIMATE-RELATED EVENTS IN 2023

RECORD-BREAKING HEAT IN ASIA

**Typhoon Mawar in
Asia and the Pacific**

**RECORD
HEAT IN
CHILE**

**CATASTROPHIC
FLOODS IN LIBYA**

Heavy snow in Los Angeles

**SEVERE
SANDSTORM
IN BEIJING**

**EXTREME HEAT
IN EUROPE AND THE US**

**CYCLONE FREDDY IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

SPRING HEATWAVES IN AUSTRALIA

CYCLONE MOCHA IN MYANMAR

What is happening now

Not all climate-related emergencies make the headlines internationally. The following short reports, collected from Islamic Relief offices in the first eight months of 2024, show the extent and impact of the many climate-related events – large and small – that our teams and the communities they serve are dealing with.

JANUARY

Sri Lanka: Monsoon flooding affects over 11,000 families, with significant infrastructure damage.

FEBRUARY

Pakistan: Torrential rains in Gwadar lead to severe flooding and infrastructure damage. The area is declared a disaster zone.

APRIL

Afghanistan: Severe flash floods across multiple provinces result in 489 deaths and many injuries. 4,000 homes are destroyed.

MAY

Kenya: Floods and landslides kill or injure 392 people, displace 42,526 families. Agricultural land and infrastructure is destroyed.

Syria: Heavy rainfall and strong winds result in significant population displacement and infrastructure damage, especially to tented camps housing displaced people.

Bangladesh: Cyclone Remal destroys or damages 150,475 homes, kills 10 people.

Bangladesh: Heavy rains and flash floods affect 1.6 million people, submerging 75 per cent of Sylhet.

JUNE

Bangladesh: Flash floods leave 800,000 people stranded. 25,000 families are forced to take refuge in shelters.



Photo: Islamic Relief Ethiopia



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh



Photo: Islamic Relief Philippines



Photo: Islamic Relief, India



Photo: Islamic Relief Yemen



Photo: Islamic Relief Yemen

JULY

Philippines: Widespread flooding and landslides affect over 844,000 people, with 29 dead and injured.

Afghanistan: Severe windstorms and flash floods in the east and northeast cause 58 deaths, with a further 380 people injured.

AUGUST

India: Catastrophic monsoon rains in Kerala cause multiple landslides, killing or injuring 362 people and destroying homes, roads, and bridges.

Pakistan: Monsoon floods leave 494 people dead or injured, including 216 children, with significant damage to houses, schools, bridges and roads.

Yemen: Torrential rains and widespread flooding damage the homes and shelters of crisis-affected communities, as well as schools, roads, and health facilities, with many people losing their livelihoods.

Bangladesh and India: Three million people are affected by continuous heavy rainfall, at unprecedented levels in some places, with severe impacts across multiple districts.

Mali: Devastating floods affect 69,000 people, with 33 deaths and 104 people reported injured.

Sudan: Extreme rainfall and flash floods across the country kill 132 people and displace 118,000 from their homes – including refugees and families who are already internally displaced.

SEPTEMBER

Morocco: Torrential rains and floods kill at least 11 people, destroying homes, damaging roads, and disrupting electricity, water supplies, and phone networks.

Nigeria: The worst flooding in two decades in Borno State affects a million people, with 30 killed by the collapse of a dam, 400,000 people forced to evacuate, and thousands of houses destroyed.

Nepal: Floods and landslides after relentless rains leave 217 dead and many more missing.

What we do

Islamic Relief's work to address climate-related events such as these starts with humanitarian response and life-saving efforts, and moves into supporting people to recover as well as helping them to adapt and prepare for future events.

Pakistan's unprecedented floods (2022)

In Pakistan torrential rainfall in 2022 resulted in devastating floods across the country, leaving millions of people homeless and infrastructure destroyed. A staggering 33 million people were affected.

The consequences were particularly profound for the poorest areas and for marginalised people within communities, including women, children, older adults, and people with adverse health conditions. The floods forced nearly eight million people to leave their homes, causing a compounded social, economic and health crisis.

Islamic Relief was at the forefront of the humanitarian response from the start, delivering life-saving aid including food, water, sanitation and cash vouchers to 1.4 million people in three provinces.

Our disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation programmes in Pakistan are ongoing as we aim to ensure that the most vulnerable communities are less exposed to the ravages of climate breakdown and better prepared when disaster strikes.

Photo: Islamic Relief Pakistan



Slow-onset events

Not all climate-related crises are caused by sudden events, such as heavy monsoon rains and floods, heatwaves, wildfires, hurricanes and tropical storms. As well as responding to disasters like these, Islamic Relief is working in contexts affected by what have become known collectively as 'slow-onset events', where crisis conditions build up slowly over a prolonged period.

The slow-onset challenges we are currently grappling with include desertification in West Africa, as the Sahara slowly but inexorably encroaches more and more onto pasture and farmland; the creeping advance of land and soil degradation in East Africa; and steadily rising sea levels in Bangladesh that are contaminating coastal areas with salt, rendering water undrinkable and agriculture unsustainable. Drought is a widespread slow-onset phenomenon that can afflict an individual country or a whole region, sometimes with large-scale loss

East Africa's record drought (2021-23)

More than 50 million people in the Horn of Africa were affected by the severe drought that gradually took hold and then tightened its grip from 2021 to 2023. This is a region where millions of people's livelihoods rely on rainfall to cultivate crops and raise livestock, and successive failed rains can have a devastating effect.

In October 2022 Islamic Relief reported at least 21 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity and rising malnutrition. Nine million livestock had died across the region by this point, reducing milk production by 120 million litres. This left 1.6 million children under five without milk, with severe consequences for their physical and cognitive development.

By October 2022 over a million people had been forced to leave their homes by the drought, and were searching for food, water, and pasture. Across the region, many women sacrificed their own wellbeing and nutrition to care for their families. People were forced to ration their water use and prioritise drinking and cooking over hygiene, increasing the risk of skin and eye infections. Water points dried up or diminished in quality, heightening the incidence of deadly waterborne diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea.

The harsh reality facing the communities we serve is that both sudden extreme weather events and slow-onset emergencies are becoming more frequent and severe because of climate breakdown. While immediate relief efforts are crucial, there is a pressing need for long-term climate adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects to build community resilience and prepare better to withstand the impact of future shocks.

Somalia was one of the countries most severely affected by the 2021-23 drought. Islamic Relief Somalia responded by deliberately gearing its emergency response towards longer-term resilience and adaptation as well as providing immediate assistance. It worked with people affected by the drought to try to ensure that Islamic Relief cash transfers were linked to some extent with income-generating activities and village savings-and-loan schemes to support agriculture and food security in the longer term.

Islamic Relief Somalia has also invested in constructing boreholes and shallow wells to meet water and sanitation needs, and it has continued with its integrated health, education and livelihoods programming to deliver a multi-sectoral approach that tackles poverty and vulnerability in a comprehensive and multi-dimensional way.

Taking an integrated and community-led participatory approach, as our teams in Somalia are doing, has more impact because it combines service delivery with strategically important elements, such as stimulating market demand for agricultural products and promoting behaviour change.





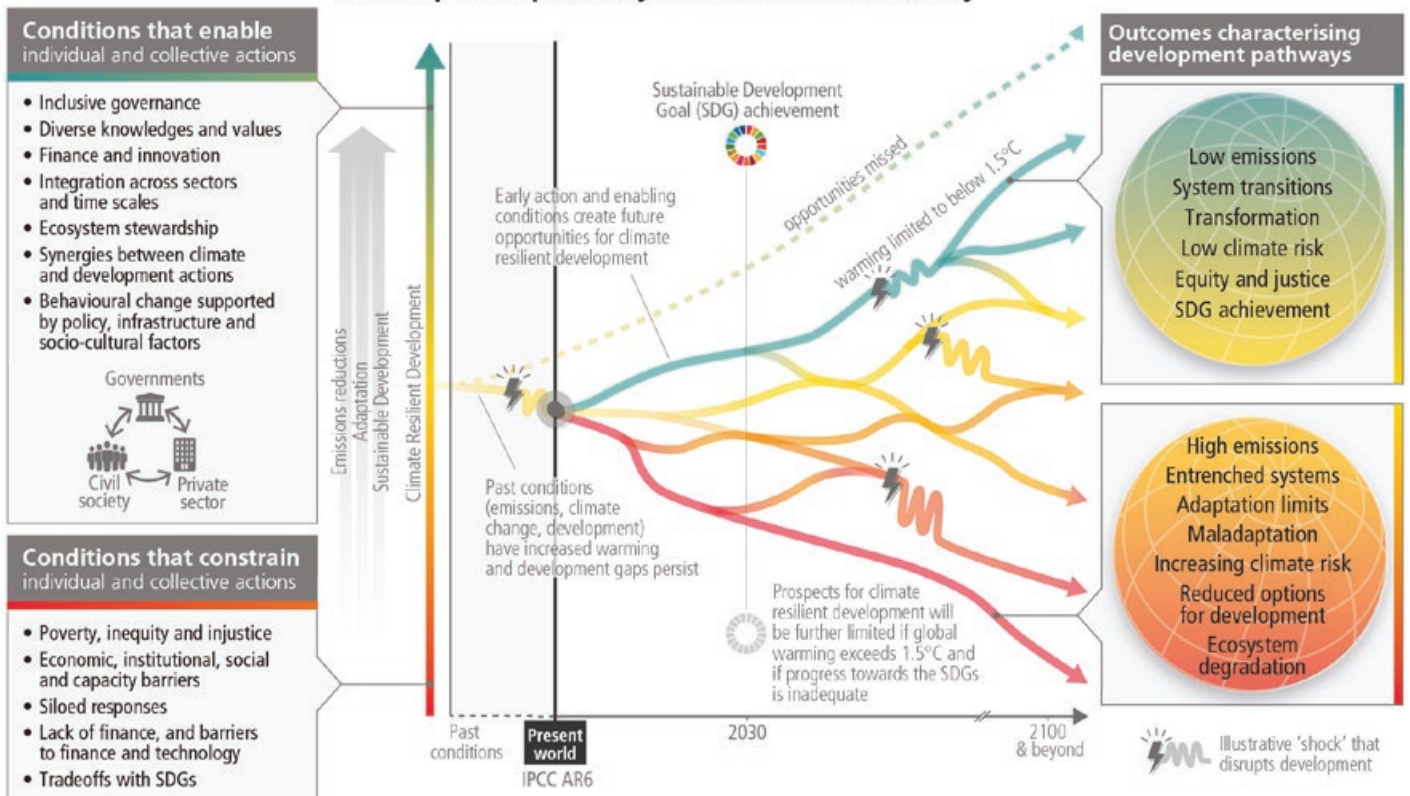
“Feasible, effective, and low-cost options for mitigation and adaptation are already available”



Photo: Islamic Relief Malawi

There is a rapidly narrowing window of opportunity to enable climate resilient development

Multiple interacting choices and actions can shift development pathways towards sustainability



Islamic Relief's response

This section offers selected examples of how Islamic Relief is responding to the effects of climate breakdown. It is followed by a comprehensive listing of all our climate-related projects.

“Islamic Relief needs to prepare for emergencies and humanitarian crises to increase as the world heats, but we will also support local communities to build resilience through climate change adaption, sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding.”

Islamic Relief Worldwide Global Strategy Framework 2023-33

A world reshaped

“The climate crisis is fundamentally and irreparably reshaping our world, with grave implications for the rights of current and future generations. The threat posed by climate change to people and their rights globally is not theoretical; it is real, and it is urgent.

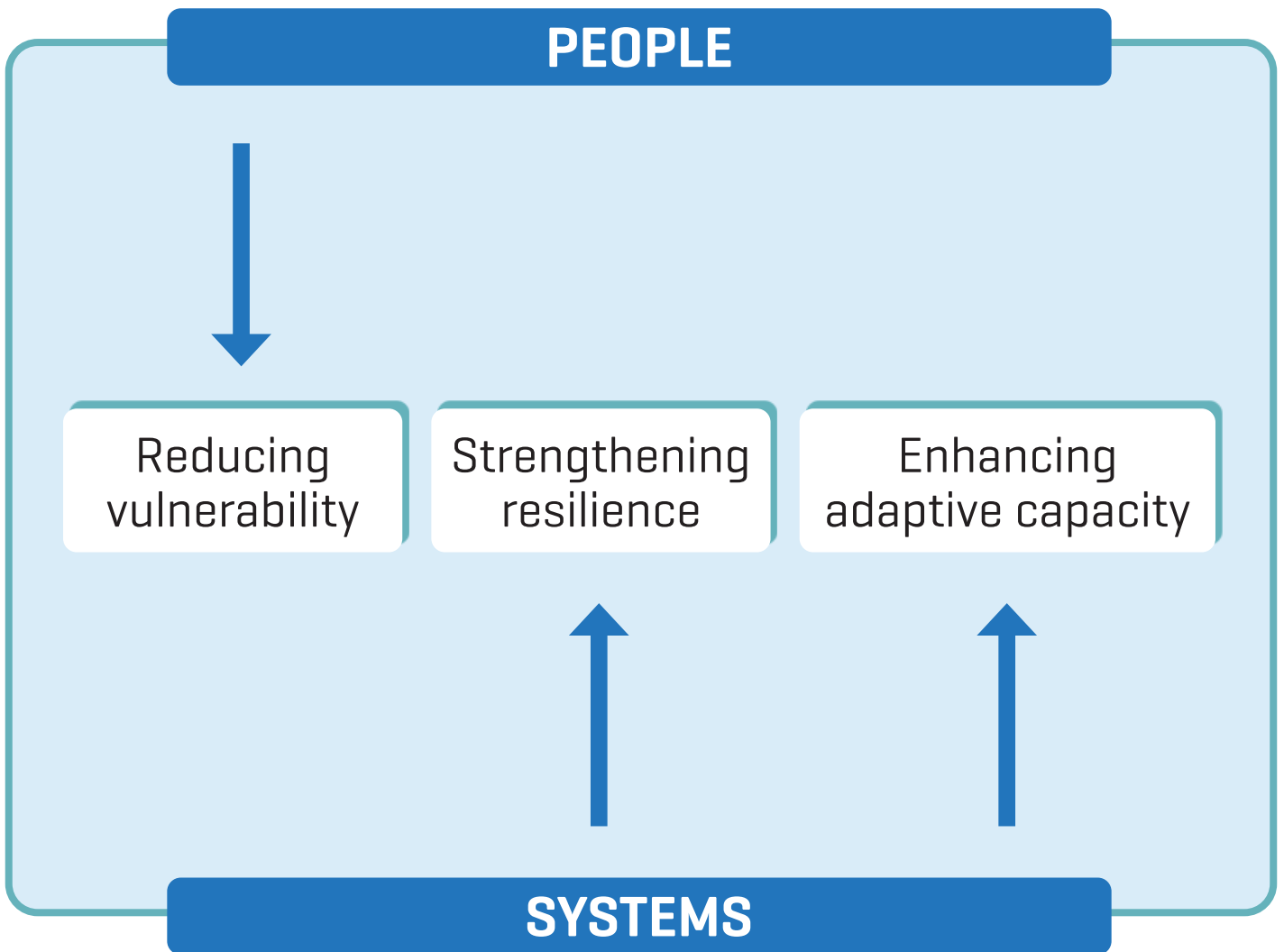
“The impacts of climate change are already here, and local actors whose livelihoods largely rely on climate-induced natural hazards are the most vulnerable, often being the first and hardest hit.”

Scaling-up Inclusive Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities through Locally Led Adaptation (ICRA)



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh

The Global Goal on Adaptation



The Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change signed at the UN's Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2015, established the Global Goal on Adaptation to focus minds and establish a clear pathway to step up adaptation across the world. The Global Goal aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability.

Humanitarian Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (H-CVCA) approach

Islamic Relief has developed, and is testing, a new tool that uses what we call Humanitarian Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (H-CVCA) to respond to the climate crisis as effectively as possible at the community and project level.

CVCA is a practical tool used in collaboration with local stakeholders to scope out a community's vulnerability to climate breakdown and assess its capacity to deal with the effects. Current CVCA toolkits are often designed for long-term development settings, rather than for humanitarian contexts. We want to build the ability of our country offices and local implementing organisations to implement the CVCA process in humanitarian interventions, which is where H-CVCA comes in.

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), our aim is to develop an accessible H-CVCA toolkit that Islamic Relief country offices, their local partners and other local organisations can use to help affected communities rapidly assess their vulnerabilities and capacities at the outset of an emergency.



Photo: Islamic Relief Afghanistan



Photo: Islamic Relief Ethiopia

Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis in action – from spreadsheets to practical implementation

At the heart of Islamic Relief's approach are spreadsheets on which we collect, keep and update data on climate vulnerability and people's capacity to deal with it for a given location.

These data are used for

- project scoping, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- formulating project proposals to shape interventions
- informing government local adaptation plans of action.

CASE STUDY

Empowering local communities for climate adaptation and socioeconomic resilience

Islamic Relief's Scaling-up Extreme Poverty Graduation and Climate Change Resilience in Disaster Vulnerable Communities in Asia is a programme to foster locally led adaptation and address the growing challenges posed by climate breakdown and socioeconomic marginalisation. Operating in five countries, this programme aims to address both financial exclusion and vulnerability to climate change in an integrated way, building a firm foundation for resilience and sustainable development.

The target communities for this programme face a range of socioeconomic and coordination challenges. For example, the lack of organised groups hinders the participation of women and marginalised people in socioeconomic activities and decision-making processes. Without the kind of support we are providing, the poorest families tend to lack access to community-led savings-and-loaning funds systems, leaving them with limited financial support to improve their livelihoods.

Additionally, the extreme poor tend to be socially excluded, with minimal voice or participation in community and societal decisions. Gender-based discrimination and the exclusion of vulnerable groups – such as orphaned children, older people, and people with disabilities – can further compound the marginalisation of the poorest people.

To address these challenges, Islamic Relief offers assistance for people to identify and establish suitable income-generating activities. We help the formation and strengthening of active, pro-poor, women-focused self-help groups (SHGs). These groups learn how to manage savings and revolving-loan funds effectively, ensuring that poor households can access financial resources to sustain and improve their socioeconomic standing.

The project also empowers women by encouraging them to participate in decision-making processes which enhances their mobility and their ability to shape decisions affecting their lives. We also create apex bodies, groups with broad representation from different SHGs, to build bridges between women and marginalised people and government services that can play a significant role in supporting them.



Photo: Islamic Relief Philippines

Alongside these efforts, awareness campaigns are delivered by local people focusing on water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and human rights. These campaigns help to encourage behaviour change and increase community involvement in addressing protection and inclusion issues.

Our teams delivering this programme find that local DRR and disaster management committees are often inactive, with little focus on updating or implementing DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) plans. Local governments lack both the technical skills and the financial resources to deliver climate-resilient services or to integrate community-based adaptation measures into their development plans.

To tackle these issues, our Scaling-up Graduation and Resilience in Asia projects provide training and resources to key players in local government to enhance their ability to promote climate adaptation and integrate DRR/CCA into local development plans. The input we provide includes technical support to assess vulnerabilities and prioritise community adaptation measures.



The project encourages community-led adaptation initiatives, enabling communities to identify and implement strategies tailored to their specific needs, with support from local government. We also encourage SHGs, apex bodies, and other local institutions to mainstream DRR/CCA in local planning and increase coordination between stakeholders.

This case study demonstrates the importance of empowering local communities and institutions to lead adaptation efforts in the face of socioeconomic challenges and climate risks. The formation of SHGs and strengthened local governance structures not only improves the socioeconomic standing of marginalised groups but also facilitates a more inclusive and participatory approach to CCA and DRR.

Through these locally-led initiatives, the project helps pave the way for long-term resilience, ensuring that vulnerable populations have a voice in shaping their future.

Climate justice

Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh



“Climate justice means richer countries who have benefitted from the economic growth that is creating the climate crisis must make the biggest contribution to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. They must also provide for adaptation to, and repairing loss and damage from, climate change in countries least able to cope with its effects.”

Adapting for Climate Justice

Islamic Relief, 2022



“Adaptation actions that prioritise equity, social justice, climate justice, rights-based approaches, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes and advance climate resilient development.”

Islamic Relief’s Climate Policy asserts that it is essential for people and systems to adapt to climate change in such a way that removing entrenched inequalities is at the centre of adaptation efforts. Islamic Relief’s climate-related programmes address the root causes of vulnerabilities, including gender discrimination, socio-political barriers and economic disparities. Our humanitarian and development projects integrate responses to climate breakdown into their design and implementation.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh, collaborating with the Climate Justice Alliance of Bangladesh, gathered 35 national and international organisations for a three-day capacity-building and strategy workshop in May 2024. The workshop aimed to deepen understanding of critical issues in international climate negotiations, focusing on three key themes:

- The science and impact of climate change
- The policy landscape and the politics of negotiations
- Civil society strategies and positions for COP 29 at the end of the year.

During the event, Islamic Relief Bangladesh shared insights from the ICRA project on how emergency and adaptation funds can be mobilised to build resilient communities. The presentation given emphasised the importance of engaging women and young people in localising adaptation efforts and decision-making processes to ensure a just response to the climate crisis.

“Climate action is the 21st century’s greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Antonio Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General



Photo: Islamic Relief Iraq

Rights-based programming

Thakurgaon is one of the most poverty-stricken areas of Bangladesh. The people who live there are very vulnerable, not only because of extreme poverty but also because there is a high risk of drought, severe cold and heat waves, floods, fires, earthquakes, landslides, riverbank erosion and other hazards.

Lacking any significant industrial development, the area relies on agriculture as the primary source of employment and livelihoods. Agricultural production depends heavily on underground water because of a severe lack of surface water, adding costs if crops are to be grown effectively. Agricultural land is consequently being used for less labour-intensive fruit production, reducing employment opportunities.

It is in this context that Islamic Relief Bangladesh's Child Rights Programme, which focuses on supporting orphaned children in female-headed and child-headed families in Thakurgaon, established a ground-breaking approach called the Alternative Livelihoods for Orphans (ALO) project model. Instead of traditional one-to-one orphan sponsorship, ALO combines direct support for individual orphans with cash grants and technical support to their families in a comprehensive rights-based approach to help people develop sustainable livelihoods and become self-reliant.

Inclusion

Inclusion is an important principle in all Islamic Relief's humanitarian and development programmes: we are committed to ensuring that everyone in the communities we serve should benefit from our intervention, with no vulnerable or marginalised groups excluded or left behind.

As our climate-related projects have developed, the growing technical knowledge and skills of Islamic Relief staff have enabled us to 'mainstream' gender considerations, protection for the most vulnerable and inclusion in these projects. As well as addressing discrimination and marginalisation based on gender, age, disability and other characteristics, we place women at the centre of adaptation programmes because of their specific knowledge and skills and because they are well placed to make a positive difference in their communities. Women have significant roles in agriculture and pastoralism, food security, household livelihoods, labour productivity and managing natural resources.

Islamic Relief also seeks to identify people with disabilities so they can take part in decision-making and contribute to identifying risk reduction and adaptation measures that can be effective for and carried out by people with disabilities. The unique insights and actions that come from an inclusion-inspired approach often prove to be of benefit to everybody.

Photo: Islamic Relief South Sudan

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON
climate change

“Redistributive policies across sectors and regions that shield the poor and vulnerable, social safety nets, equity, inclusion and just transitions, at all scales can enable deeper societal ambitions and resolve trade-offs with sustainable development goals.”



An approach grounded in understanding the local context

The work of Islamic Relief Pakistan implementing WASH projects in flood-affected regions of the country has been enhanced by an inclusive, community-centred approach.

As Islamic Relief Pakistan explains in a report published in 2024⁶: “Recovery efforts must be inclusive and guided by community-led solutions to WASH challenges to create resilient and sustainable ecosystems that can be upheld by those affected and help inform key service providers.

“The intersection of social class, economic marginalisation, gender, and climate change is not adequately addressed by current solutions focusing on physical infrastructure or health outcomes. To improve the well-being of climate-displaced populations, we need to understand their context and socio-economic realities.”

Improving health and building resilient livelihoods in Afghanistan

Four decades of conflict in Afghanistan, interspersed with severe climate-related challenges including extended drought, heavy floods and harsh winters, have left many of the country's people in a weakened and highly vulnerable state. The fresh turmoil of the last three years, including political transition coupled with economic shocks, has further undermined community resilience and wellbeing.

In this challenging context, Islamic Relief's large-scale Health, Education and Livelihood Programme aims to reduce suffering, vulnerability and instability, while enhancing dignity, resilience and social cohesion. It is doing so through an integrated multifaceted programme that is supporting livelihoods, improving food security, and addressing the chronic need for better health, education, water and sanitation provision.

The project empowers vulnerable communities to draw up and enact local development plans which include disaster risk management to enhance climate adaptation and build readiness to respond to future disasters.

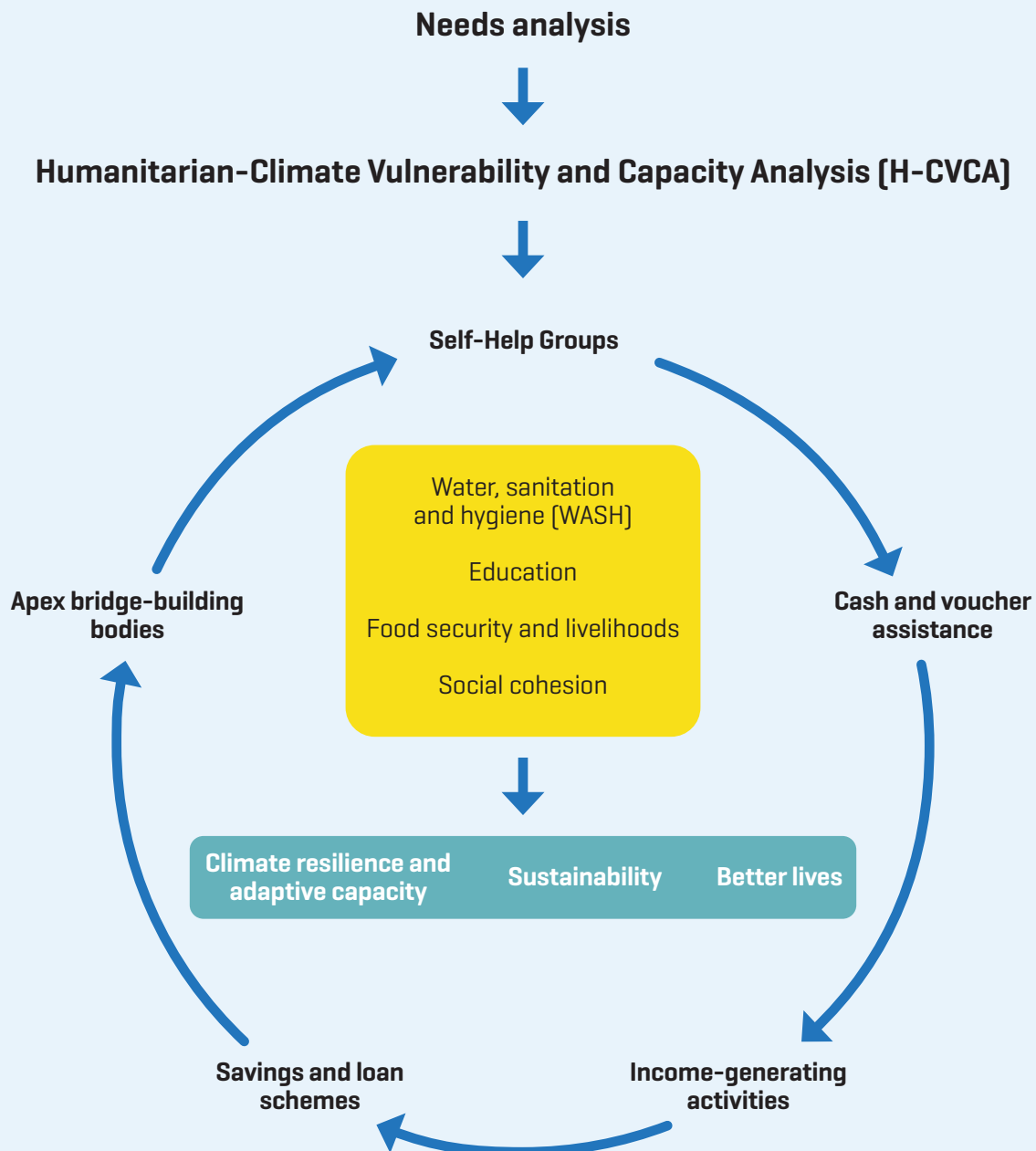
⁶WASH Challenges and Localised Solutions in Flood Affected Regions in Pakistan, 2024

Falah

Pathways to prosperity

A programme of interventions led by Islamic Relief that uses the Graduation model of poverty reduction⁷

Falah⁸ recognises that climate breakdown and poverty are linked. Poverty reduction and climate adaptation initiatives also need to be linked and complementary to be successful



⁷The Graduation approach recognises that poverty is multi-dimensional and needs to be tackled in a multi-dimensional way if people are to be empowered to lift themselves out of extreme poverty for good.

⁸Falah is an Arabic word that expresses profound multi-dimensional well-being that goes beyond material advancement.

Empowering women in conflict-afflicted Mali

Photo: Islamic Relief Mali



In Mali, Islamic Relief's KAFO project is working to improve social empowerment and protection for marginalised people living in conflict-affected communities of Douentza region. The project's beneficiaries include women, young people and people with disabilities, who now enjoy safer and more dignified access to vital basic services such as clean water and sanitation.

"Market gardening is a key factor in the empowerment of women in our community, and today thanks to Islamic Relief Mali and its donors, I have the technical capacity to operate the garden after several trainings initiated by the KAFO project."

Salimata Soukanaba

Mother of six from Douentza, Mali

Effective adaptation



“Examples of effective adaptation options include cultivar improvements, on-farm water management and storage, soil moisture conservation, irrigation, agroforestry, community-based adaptation, farm and landscape level diversification in agriculture, sustainable land management approaches, use of agroecological principles and practices and other approaches that work with natural processes. Ecosystem-based adaptation approaches – ‘nature-based solutions’ such as urban greening, restoration of wetlands and upstream forest ecosystems – have been effective in reducing flood risks and urban heat.”

Restoring pastures, regenerating degraded land

Islamic Relief Indonesia is tackling the challenge of land degradation and diminishing soil fertility head on through its Building Community Resilience Against Climate Change and Fostering Multi-Stakeholder Alliance programme. The projects being implemented under this programme follow a holistic approach that combines sustainable land management practices with reforestation, enhanced community involvement, and policies and practices that promote responsible land use.

Through the West Africa Regional Community Resilience Building Project, Islamic Relief Mali has been able to harness the energy of youth to regenerate degraded pastures. It has trained 500 young people in soil conservation and restoration and water retention using zai (a farming technique) and half-moon planting pits, as well as the use of stone barriers to counter soil erosion.



Photo: Islamic Relief Mali

Anticipatory action

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climate change

“Adaptation options such as disaster risk management, early warning systems, climate services and social safety nets have broad applicability across multiple sectors.”



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Coordination with government in Bangladesh

It is important where possible for Islamic Relief to work alongside government in CCA and DRR, and our work in Bangladesh is a good example of this.

One of the projects being implemented by Islamic Relief Bangladesh – Strengthen Community Resilience through Flood Forecast-Based Early Action in Jamalpur District – is specifically designed to complement government systems and ensure that government services reach and benefit the poorest and most marginalised.

The challenges our teams encountered in flood-affected Jamalpur were many and varied:

- Agriculture, livestock and WASH facilities severely damaged by chronic flooding
- Scarcity of food linked to crop damage caused by flooding, with dramatic increases in prices for food, animal fodder and agricultural inputs
- Some livestock had perished in the floods, and the risk of theft from cattle sheds had increased
- Some people had been forced to sell their livestock at low prices to meet immediate needs
- Wells contaminated by flood water, reducing supplies of clean water and increasing the prevalence of waterborne and skin diseases
- Women facing increased health complications before, during and after childbirth because of the limited availability of adequate personal hygiene and sanitation facilities
- Severe damage to some access roads, disrupting transportation and impeding evacuation
- The inadequacy of boats and fare hikes had discouraged some people from moving to shelters
- Schools at risk of inundation and sometimes destruction
- Adoption of damaging ‘coping mechanisms’ by some families, such as making children work or forcing them into early marriage.

To address these problems and lessen current and future risks, the project sought to ensure that location-specific flood forecasts were developed through government forecasting facilities and made available to key stakeholders and local communities. Islamic Relief Bangladesh ensured that relevant institutions and vulnerable communities in the area were better equipped and prepared to take timely, appropriate and inclusive early action to reduce flood risk. Islamic Relief Bangladesh developed ‘early action protocols’ linked to existing social protection systems and researched funding mechanisms to facilitate anticipatory action⁹ by local communities against floods.

As an example of increasing access to early warning systems, Islamic Relief Pakistan is exploring the potential for exploiting artificial intelligence (AI) and information and communications technology (ICT) in anticipatory action.

“The integration of AI and ICT in flood disaster management has the potential to significantly reduce the damage and loss associated with extreme weather events,” says Islamic Relief Pakistan.

“By leveraging these technologies, communities in flood-prone areas can improve their preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities, ultimately enhancing their resilience to future flood events.”

“The successful implementation of these technologies requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and technology providers. [There is a] need for capacity building, policy support, and ongoing research to ensure that AI and ICT tools are effectively integrated into flood management strategies. Moreover, addressing the ethical considerations, such as the potential for algorithmic bias and ensuring equitable access to these technologies, is crucial for their sustainable and fair application.”

⁹Anticipatory action refers to actions taken to reduce the humanitarian impact of a forecast hazard before it occurs, or before its most acute impact is felt.

Integrated programming



“Most observed adaptation responses are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions. Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist across sectors and regions, and will continue to grow under current levels of implementation, with the largest adaptation gaps among lower-income groups.”

Ensuring a joined-up approach in Bangladesh, Sudan and Kenya

The value of integrated programming is being able to address diverse challenges and meet multiple needs in a coordinated way, instead of having separate projects in areas such as health, education and livelihoods.

While designing projects with an integrated-programmes mindset, Islamic Relief Bangladesh has placed particular emphasis on ensuring that cross-cutting and potentially pivotal issues are not missed. This has included building the capacity of civil society to better withstand future shocks; ensuring that faith perspectives are taken into account in all projects; factoring in gender, disability and human rights concerns; and paying particular attention to DRR and disaster preparedness. Islamic Relief Bangladesh initiatives include various programmes for strengthening civil society and enhancing social and spiritual development to uphold people's rights and dignity.

Sudan is experiencing increasing incidence of drought, flooding and low crop yields. The increasing depth of the water table and reduced rainfall have led to ground water scarcity and desertification, impacting agriculture and livestock production, particularly among pastoralist communities. This has led to displacement of large numbers of people, further increasing their vulnerability. In Blue Nile state, Islamic Relief Sudan is helping people to adopt climate-resilient agricultural techniques while also improving education and health services to enhance livelihoods and improve food security in the long term.

Food insecurity in Mandera county, north-east Kenya, is often at a critical level because of a combination of factors. These have included reduced rainfall, locust infestation destroying crops, livestock disease and the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The work of Islamic Relief Kenya in Mandera has centred on increasing access to ground water by upgrading damaged boreholes with solar powered pumps and training water users' associations on effective and efficient management of water resources. At the same time Islamic

Relief Kenya has also invested in empowering communities to access education, developing alternative livelihoods, and building the capacity of relevant ministries at national, county and sub-county levels.

Islamic Relief recognises the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, and the need for responses that integrate climate adaptation with building resilience and capacity in all areas of people's lives.



Photo: Islamic Relief Kenya

Reducing maladaptation

While climate adaptation is desperately needed across the world, it is important to guard against potentially damaging 'maladaptation'. The IPCC described maladaptation in 2014 as "actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, increased vulnerability to climate change, or diminished welfare, now or in the future".

The climate-related challenges facing people in the Somali region of Ethiopia have prompted a number of harmful adaptations. This is a region that relies heavily on livestock rearing and opportunistic crop cultivation irrigated by rivers. But is also an area where recurrent drought has taken its toll, increasing people's vulnerability to hunger and destitution.

With limited livelihood options in the event of drought, people's coping strategies often end up worsening their future resilience for the sake of short-term survival. Some put their future in jeopardy by selling weakened livestock and other productive assets for small amounts of cash, by cutting down trees and selling wood for fuel, or by forcing children – especially girls – to drop out of school to fetch water and wood from distant areas. Other maladaptive strategies include limiting food consumption by reducing meal frequency and portions, begging, and migrating to nearby towns.

Islamic Relief Ethiopia is helping communities struggling to sustain their agricultural livelihoods through a combination of distributing agriculture inputs, providing animal health services, improving water resources, and enabling farmers to improve their knowledge and skills so they can be more resilient in the face of climate-related hazards. Islamic Relief Ethiopia aims to reduce vulnerability by helping families to develop new livelihood opportunities, mainly by setting up small businesses that are not as vulnerable to climate breakdown as agriculture.

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"There is increased evidence of maladaptation in various sectors and regions. Maladaptation especially affects marginalised and vulnerable groups adversely."

Photo: Islamic Relief Ethiopia





Working with what is working

Building climate adaptation alongside poverty alleviation

The IPCC highlights the benefits of 'incremental adaptations' to changes in climate that build on how communities are adapting to their circumstances more broadly. It describes these incremental adaptations as "extensions of actions and behaviours that already reduce the losses or enhance the benefits of natural variations in extreme weather/climate events".

For Islamic Relief the incremental adaptations we are facilitating stem from and build on activities designed to alleviate the poverty and suffering of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in the communities we serve.

Islamic Relief understands that poor and vulnerable people are often already adept at changing their relationship with their environment as they deal with immediate issues of insecurity and fragility. More intentional locally-led climate adaptation activities can enhance and systematise this existing adaptability and flexibility to benefit whole communities.

Community-based adaptation

Local, community-driven adaptation is at the core of many of Islamic Relief's climate-related programmes. Community-based adaptation involves focusing attention on promoting and enhancing the adaptive capacity of communities, empowering them to be in the driving seat in taking effective action.

This is an approach that takes all things local – the local context, culture, knowledge, resources, institutions and preferences of communities – as strengths to be built upon. Islamic Relief believes that locally led adaptation can bring together people's spontaneous adaptation efforts to become more effective, achieve economies of scale, and strengthen community capacity to deal with further changes as the climate crisis deepens.



Steps for climate-smart programmes and operations

Figure 2. The steps of the Climate Action Journey



- ENABLERS:** Institutional buy-in, Resources, Awareness, Capacity building, Learning and evaluation
- Basic principles:** Working with climate information across timescales and partnerships
- Amplifying through influencing:** Climate and disaster laws, policies and plans at national level
- Parallel trajectories:** Integrating environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent (2024) The importance of scaling up locally led adaptation

“In taking a locally led approach to adaptation, we need to unlearn and relearn, change the way we have been doing development for years and ‘shift the system’. It will be difficult. It demands individual mindset and systemic shifts but it is worth it to ensure adaptation results in equitable benefits.”

Aurélie Ceinos

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2024-07/22461g.pdf>

Locally-led adaptation

Locally-led adaptation refers to climate adaptation strategies that are designed, implemented, and managed by local communities and stakeholders. It is an approach that emphasises the importance of involving local and indigenous knowledge, priorities, and capacities in the decision-making process to ensure that adaptation measures are relevant, sustainable, and effective in addressing specific climate impacts experienced by communities.

Islamic Relief's experience is that the most effective adaptation often occurs with a the community-based approach supportive of local knowledge and leadership.



Photo: Islamic Relief South Sudan

Islamic Relief Climate Policy

Our climate policy asserts that adaptation must be truly locally led and people centred to be successful.

It is not enough just to consult and 'work with' local people in a token way. Local knowledge and resources are too often overlooked or disregarded. Leaving no-one behind means local communities really need to lead the way.

We believe that successful adaptation must be driven by, and connect with, local priorities and the knowledge of local people. The localised impact of climate breakdown needs to be dealt with at the local level where it is occurring. Vulnerability must be understood and acted upon at the level and scale at which it is experienced by the people most affected.

One of our key guiding principles is that, as far as possible, climate adaptation activities should be developed and led locally. Local experts, community leaders, women, children and people with disabilities, informed by details of the likelihood and effects of climate breakdown, must be enabled to lead their own communities in planning for and delivering effective adaptation.



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Again and again Islamic Relief's experience has shown that the efficiency and effectiveness of its climate adaptation work depends on the engagement of local communities, the people most affected, in the planning, implementation and monitoring of its interventions.

Examples include women farmers forming collaborative groups to support irrigation in Sudan, and community-directed investigations to identify and exploit new groundwater sources in Sri Lanka. One of our major projects in Bangladesh is explicitly focused on mobilising local resources to create a sustainable framework following the Principles for locally-led adaptation that will allow government and local communities to operate and maintain these practices even after our project-based support comes to an end.



“Drawing on diverse knowledges and cultural values, meaningful participation and inclusive engagement processes including Indigenous Knowledge, local knowledge, and scientific knowledge facilitates climate resilient development, builds capacity and allows locally appropriate and socially acceptable solutions.”

CASE STUDY: BANGLADESH

Empowering local communities for climate adaptation and socioeconomic resilience



Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Lifting climate-vulnerable families out of poverty

Islamic Relief Bangladesh is empowering climate-vulnerable families classified as ‘extremely’ poor to lift themselves out of poverty through a ground-breaking project called **Scaling-up Inclusive Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities through Locally Led Adaptation – or ICRA for short.**

The achievements of this project are significant:

- 3,700 extremely poor and climate-vulnerable families have been organised into 150 SHGs. These groups have been introduced to climate-adaptive livelihood opportunities and the principles and potential of group-based savings and lending.
- By May 2024, these newly formed SHGs had established two key action funds and levied over £75,000 from their members. One fund supports emergency needs and the other is reserved for climate adaptation.
- Loans have been granted 2,264 times from the emergency fund to pay for needs as diverse as house repairs, latrines, tube wells, medical costs and food purchases. These are no-interest loans that help people avoid high-interest microfinance options.
- Additionally, 23 beneficiaries have taken loans of up to £100 from the adaptation fund, also without interest, to scale up their income-generating activities.

These achievements are attributed to strong SHG management and leadership, together with financial management training for SHG members focused on group-based savings and lending. The SHGs elected representatives who actively raise awareness, prevent early marriage, and secure government support for group members.

Community-led adaptation innovations through co-financing include the piloting and scaling up of low-cost twin-pit latrines. Nature-based solutions, such as low-cost rainwater harvesting systems and canal excavation for rainwater reservation identified through Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs), are also being implemented through co-financing mechanisms.

A resilient livelihoods assessment was conducted for the community using a participatory approach, with findings shared with relevant specialists and service providers. Technologies for adaptive farming have been demonstrated across 126 plots of land, including conservation agriculture and home gardens, fish farming, rooftop gardening, fodder cultivation, and black soldier fly culture for waste management and animal feed.

Many of these livelihood options are proving promising for climate change adaptation. Detailed reports and guidelines for new approaches and technologies are being shared with the wider community for scaling up.

A database and an action plan for 72 disaster management committees (DMCs) have been established. The 1,711 DMC members have received training on the Standing Order on Disaster, resulting in heightened awareness and responsibility during recent events such as Cyclone Remal in Bangladesh's coastal area and flash floods in Sylhet.

Four hundred young people have trained as climate activists, demonstrating in global climate strikes and monitoring locally-led adaptation activities. Some of these activists have also organised climate fairs where community members, students, and service providers have been able to learn about adaptation technologies and climate change issues.

Photo: Islamic Relief Bangladesh



Developing Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs)

Islamic Relief Bangladesh has delivered extensive training for local communities on how to develop and use Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs). This training has led to the development of eight LAPAs.

Discussions have begun with like-minded organisations and academia with a view to forming a national consortium for locally-led adaptation. Some local actors that Islamic Relief Bangladesh has trained have developed locally-led adaptation action plans and organised open budget sessions, resulting in prioritised adaptation schemes being included in the annual budgets of local government bodies.

Finance for adaptation: Recommendations for action

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“Key barriers to adaptation are limited resources, lack of private sector and citizen engagement, insufficient mobilisation of finance (including for research), low climate literacy, lack of political commitment, limited research and/or slow and low uptake of adaptation science, and low sense of urgency. There are widening disparities between the estimated costs of adaptation and the finance allocated to adaptation.”



Photo: Islamic Relief Yemen

Most of Islamic Relief's climate-related projects are financed not by major institutional funders but by donations from individual donors – particularly supporters in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries in Europe. But the scale of funds needed globally for effective climate action demands the support of significant public finance, through governments and development banks.

Islamic Relief is working with a range of organisations to make as strong a case as possible for adequate money to be released and for that money to be directed to where it is most needed.

We call for:

Increased adaptation finance: The UN and governments of the richest nations should significantly scale up the share of global climate finance directed towards adaptation, particularly in low-income countries.

Much more direct funding for grassroots action: Richer and poorer countries need to work together more

closely and effectively to ensure that at least 70 per cent of climate finance supports locally led adaptation efforts by 2030, prioritising direct access to funding for grassroots organisations. The current percentage is only three per cent, which is woefully inadequate to meet the scale of the challenge.

Simplified access to climate funds: The regional development banks and other institutional funders should reform multilateral climate fund structures as a matter of urgency to make application processes easier and more accessible for smaller, local organisations.

Tailored criteria for small projects: The same institutional funders should develop separate evaluation frameworks for smaller, community-driven initiatives, focusing on sustainability and long-term resilience over cost-efficiency.

Integrated climate and development: Align climate finance with broader development goals, integrating health, education, and social progress to ensure comprehensive climate resilience.

“Even if funding is provided to projects with limited duration, emphasis must be placed on what the projects will leave behind once they are over, rather than on what is done during project implementation. Thus, investment in adaptation to climate change should be seen as investment in long-term capacity-building.”

Saleemul Huq

Climate adaptation expert and lifelong climate activist (1952-2023)



“Feasible, effective, and low-cost options for mitigation and adaptation are already available”

Islamic Relief Global Strategy Framework 2023-2033

“We will continue to build the design quality of our programmes in the following core areas: food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and employment, health, education, water and sanitation.

“We will secure long-term programming and partnership with communities, supporting them over many years to become empowered and build their resilience.

“Communities who are least responsible for the climate crisis bear the brunt of its negative effects and are least able to cope. Such communities already need emergency response to a greater number of humanitarian crises, as natural disasters become more frequent and intense while conflicts flare over increasingly scarce natural resources.

“In addition to responding to the immediate needs in a rapid onset crisis, we must build resilience at community level through climate change adaptation, sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding.

“Climate change itself can be addressed with systemic and structural global change.”



Summary of Islamic Relief climate-related projects

Recent and current projects completed or
due for completion after September 2023

Afghanistan

Resilience Building through Advancing Livelihoods – £1,497,900
(1/1/21-30/9/24)

Health, Education and Livelihood Programme (HELP) – £7,598,627
(1/1/23-31/12/25)

Strengthening Emergency Resilience of Vulnerable Communities – £160,028
(1/4/23-31/3/26)

Replicating ALO Model in Afghanistan for Socio-Economic Development of Orphaned Families – £697,114 (1/6/20-31/5/24)



Albania

Integrated Project on Livelihood, Health and WASH for Communities
– £310,247 (1/6/23-31/5/26)



Bangladesh

Alternative Orphan Family Sponsorship Programme through Sustainable Livelihoods – £1,168,595 (1/1/21-31/12/24)

Alternative Livelihood Support to the Orphan Families for Better Future
– £115,000 (1/4/24-30/9/25)

Promoting the Model for the Elimination of Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh
– £511,968 (1/2/20-30/11/23)

Strengthen Community Resilience through Flood Forecast Based Early Action in Jamalpur – £298,070 (1/1/22-30/9/24)

Sustainable and Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene through Appropriate Technologies – £854,091 (1/3/22-31/1/24)

Scaling-up Inclusive Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities through Locally Led Adaptation – £2,273,011 (1/12/22 - 30/11/25)

Safe Water and Hygiene Awareness for the Marginalised Community of Bangladesh – £647,600 (22/5/23-21/11/24)

Access to Safe Water and Hygiene Awareness for the Marginalised Community of Bangladesh – £401,339 (1/8/23-30/9/24)

Shelter, Livelihood, and WASH Facilities Improvement Project – £3,154,363
(1/9/23-31/8/25)

Elimination of Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh – £3,000,000
(1/1/24-31/12/27)

Scaling-up Extreme Poverty Graduation and Climate Change Resilience in Disaster Vulnerable Communities (Scaling-up Graduation and Resilience in Asia) – £3,151,847 (1/1/24 - 31/12/27)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fostering Economic Growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina – £787,462
(1/1/23-31/12/25)

Community Livelihoods Improvement through Agricultural and Livestock Support – £442,170 (1/1/23-31/12/24)



Ethiopia

Reduced Vulnerability and Strengthening the Capacity of Pastoralist Households to Withstand Drought Shock – £2,000,000 (1/12/21-30/11/24)

Youth and Women Economic Empowerment through Microenterprise Development Support – £743,840 (1/1/21-1/1/24)

Strengthening Emergency Resilience of Vulnerable Communities (multi-country) – £160,028 (1/04/23 – 31/3/26)

Strengthening Community Resilience and Economic Empowerment Programme – £2,127,924 (10/1/23-10/1/26)

Building Resilient Livelihood for the Most Vulnerable Community Members – £872,394 (1/1/22-30/9/24)

Afar Livelihood Restoration and Reconstruction Project for Conflict and Drought Affected Communities – £2,500,000 (1/9/22-31/7/24)



Indonesia

Building Community Resilience Against Climate Change £724,486 – (1/10/21-30/9/23)

Fostering Multi-stakeholder Alliance for Pro-Poor and Gender Sensitive Low Carbon Development and Climate Resilience – £297,920 (14/2/22-13/2/24)

Building and Deepening Low Carbon Development and Climate Resilience – £1,513,220 (1/12/22-30/11/25)

Unlocking Resilience Project (Scaling-up Graduation and Resilience in Asia) – £787,879 (1/1/24-31/12/26)



Iraq

Strengthening Community Resilience in Southern Iraq – £312,979 (10/7/23 - 30/6/24)

Jordan

Green Start – £454,243 (15/11/23-15/5/25)

Kenya

Strengthening Community Resilience and Economic Empowerment Programme – £2,465,663 (10/1/23-10/1/26)

Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change – £2,821,799 (1/12/23-31/3/27)

Integrated Community Support Project (ICSP) – £601,529 (2/1/23-10/1/25)



Kosova

Integrated Health and Sustainable Livelihood – £644,974
(1/11/22-31/10/24)

Supporting Health and Agricultural Development for Poor Families – £320,155
(1/3/23-28/2/26)

Drinking Water for People in Need – £87,833 (1/7/23-30/6/24)

Integrated Support in Health Education and Rural Economy – £543,741
(1/11/23-31/10/26)

Increasing Potential for Agriculture in Kosova – £607,856 (1/7/23-30/6/25)



Lebanon

Improved Health, WASH Systems, Services, Dignity for Vulnerable Communities – £591,072 (1/11/23-31/1/25)¹¹

Malawi

Graduating the Ultra Poor Orphan Families – £849,820 (1/12/20-30/11/24)

Integrated Action for Community Resilience – £788,435 (1/11/21-30/4/24)

Integrated Protection and Basic Needs Support – £1,308,420
(1/10/21-30/9/24)

Poverty Reduction, Food and Nutritional Security and Protection – £2,419,185
(1/3/23-1/3/26)

Mali

YIRIWA SIRA (Pathway to Development) – £342,4080 (1/10/21-30/9/23)

Improving Social Empowerment and Protection for Marginalised People (KAFO) – £1,104,419 (1/9/22-1/9/25)

Supporting Education, Livelihood and WASH – £386,054 (1/11/22-30/4/24)

Building Community Resilience – £128,568 (1/12/22-29/2/24)

Shelter for Flood Affected Population – £1,211,496 (15/1/23-13/3/24)

Provision of Shelter for Flood Affected Population – £250,000
(15/1/23-14/3/24)

Strengthening Livelihood and Water Access – £133,398 (1/3/23-30/5/24)

West Africa Regional Community Resilience Building – £894,715
(1/1/22-31/12/24)

Building Resilient Communities in the Sahel – £2,230,012 (10/1/23-10/1/26)

¹¹ Project suspended or delayed due to crisis in the Middle East

Myanmar

Improve Food and Livelihood Security and WASH Facilities of the Extreme Poor – £644,946 (1/10/20-30/9/23)

Livelihood Development Programme (Rakhine State) – £1,504,510 (1/1/21-31/12/23)

Socio-Economic Transformation of the Rural Extreme Poor and Marginalised Communities – £456,500 (1/8/21-1/8/24)

Nepal

Building Resilient Communities – £731,602 (1/9/21-28/2/25)

Strengthening Community Resilience in Bara District – £659,299 (1/7/22-30/6/25)

Promoting Resilience of Poor and Vulnerable Communities in Lumbini – £2,280,542 (1/12/22-30/11/25)

Resilient Livelihood of Vulnerable Farmers in Rupandehi – £221,481 (1/2/23-31/7/24)

Integrated Extreme Poverty Graduation and Climate Change Adaptation Project (Scaling-up Graduation and Resilience in Asia) – £794,534 (1/1/24-30/6/27)



Niger

West Africa Regional Community Resilience Building – £894,715 (1/1/22-31/12/24)

Building Resilient Communities in the Sahel – £2,230,012 (10/1/23-10/1/26)

Graduating Ultra Poor Orphan Households in Niamey out of Poverty – £755,060 (1/12/20-1/12/23)

Strengthening Nutritional Resilience in the District of Ouallam – £2,252,320 (15/12/20-15/12/23)

Improving Living Standards in Gassi Kaina – £359,575 (1/8/21-30/01/24)

Qurbani Plus in Dosso – £668,798 (1/12/21-1/11/24)

Integrated Programme to Build Resilience to Climate Change and Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Communities in Fakara – £985,747 (1/8/21-31/7/24)

Zero Straw Classrooms in Niger Schools – £387,198 (1/11/22-31/10/23)

Supporting Shelter Rehabilitation for Flood Affected Communities in Dantchandou – £250,000 (25/12/22-24/12/23)

Food Security and Livelihood Rehabilitation in Makera – £128,965 (1/12/22-29/2/24)



Occupied Palestinian Territory

Tree Planting in Palestine/Gaza – £100,000 (20/5/22-20/8/23)

Responding to the Multi-Sectoral Humanitarian Needs of the Most Vulnerable Population in the Gaza Strip – £745,286 (1/4/23-31/3/24)

Rehabilitation of Poor Families' Housing Units – £268,410 (1/10/22-15/2/24)¹²

¹² All projects listed suspended or delayed due to unprecedented escalation in Gaza

Pakistan

- Strengthening Emergency Resilience of Vulnerable Communities (multi-country) – £160,028 (1/4/23-31/3/26)
- Protection of Children at Risk – £379,290 (1/10/20-30/9/23)
- Resilient Initiative for Development and Adaptation – £1,151,885 (1/1/21-30/10/23)
- Climate Sensitive Livelihood Modelling – £1,263,880 (1/1/21-29/2/24)
- Sustainable Transformation Towards Resilient Water Management and Economy – £500,000 (1/2/21-30/11/23)
- Water and Livelihood Inclusive Initiative – £372,087 (1/11/21-30/6/24)
- Sustainable Water Resources and Livelihoods Initiative – £958,375 (1/11/21-30/4/24)
- Voices Organised for Climate Change Advocacy and Lobbying – VOCAL (IV) – £211,181 (1/8/22-31/7/24)
- Flood Emergency Response: Killa Saifullah – £82,576 (15/9/22-30/6/24)
- Women Initiative for Skills Enhancement – £100,000 (1/1/23-30/6/24)
- Flood Emergency Response Sindh and Balochistan – £2,072,326 (15/3/23-14/6/22)
- Early Recovery Sindh Response – £1,573,529 (15/3/23-30/6/24)
- Floods Recovery Shelter Programme – £1,106,752 (1/4/23-31/3/24)
- Responsive Actions for Building Lives – £3,518,826 (1/7/23-30/6/26)
- Resilient Initiatives to Support in Emergency – £4,601,967 (1/4/23-31/3/25)
- Poverty Reduction Initiative Within Asia Region (Scaling-up Graduation and Resilience in Asia) – £3,932,135 (1/1/24-31/12/27)



Philippines

- Sustaining Transformative and Resilient Initiatives in Vulnerable Communities – £458,276 (1/7/20-8/9/23)
- Community Resiliency through Ecological Integrity – £291,340 (1/9/21-30/9/22)
- Sustaining Women Economic Empowerment and Education of Vulnerable Children Affected by COVID-19 and Climate Change – £389,084 (1/9/22-31/8/24)
- Rebuild into Resilient Coastal Communities Affected by Typhoon Odette – £518,779 (1/9/22-31/8/24)
- Strengthening Livelihood and Climate Resilience for Ligawasan Marsh Communities in Mindanao – £597,135 (1/4/23-30/9/25)
- Scaling-up Extreme Poverty Graduation and Climate Change Resilience in Disaster Vulnerable Communities – £762,057 (27/12/23-27/12/27)
- Scaling-up Extreme Poverty Graduation and Climate Change Resilience in Disaster Vulnerable Communities (Scaling-up Graduation and Resilience in Asia) – £861,734 (1/1/24-31/12/26)



Somalia

Fishing and Agriculture Development Project in Puntland – £740,241 (1/1/21-29/2/24)

Beledweyn Rural Development – £388,425 (1/9/21-1/9/23)

Community Hope and Resilience – £1,112,998 (15/1/22-15/4/24)

Drought Response for Vulnerable Populations in Somalia – £626,550 (1/3/23-30/9/23)

Water Solutions for IDPs in Baidoa – £146,583 (10/6/22-30/9/23)

Livelihood and Water Sources Enhancement in Sanag Region – £1,472,716 (15/8/22-31/1/24)

Support the Malnourished Children of Somalia – £272,775 (1/11/22-31/1/24)

Drought Response Project – £343,503 (15/12/22-15/3/24)

Livelihood Opportunities for Yemen Refugees in Puntland – £433,071 (1/11/22-31/10/24)

Health, Education, Agricultural Livelihood and Protection – £1,784,660 (1/11/22-30/11/24)

Strengthening Community Resilience and Economic Empowerment Programme – £2,152,672 (10/1/23-10/1/26)

Food and Nutrition for Children and Women of Daynile and Afsoye – £449,929 (1/3/23-29/2/24)

Strengthening Emergency Resilience of Vulnerable Communities (multi-country) – £160,028 (1/4/23-31/3/26)

Integrated Humanitarian Response for IDPs and Host Communities – £1,560,716 (1/4/23-31/3/24)

Safe Water Access for Affected People – £92,262 (1/6/23-31/5/25)

Reliable Water for Somalia – £499,220 (1/1/23-31/12/23)

Islamic Relief USA Graduation Model – **£861,734** (1/1/24-31/12/26)



Sri Lanka

COVID-19 Adaptation and Recovery through WASH and Education Facilities – £543,126 (1/9/21-31/8/24)

Islamic Relief's Learn and Ride for Education Empowerment £886,904 – (1/1/24-30/12/26)

Islamic Relief's Climate Change Adaptive Livelihood for Education – £2,334,816

Sudan

Increase Access to Integrated Services of Education, Health and Food Security and Livelihood – £883,210 (1/1/22-31/12/24)

Integrated Life Saving Interventions in West and Central Jabal Marra – £1,404,644 (1/4/23-30/6/24)

Integrated Life-Saving Interventions in Central Darfur and Gedaref States – £1,651,560 (1/4/24-31/3/25)

Strengthening Community Resilience and Economic Empowerment Programme – £2,149,512 (10/1/23-10/1/26)¹³



¹³ All projects listed suspended or delayed due to crisis in Sudan

South Sudan

WASH, Protection and Nutrition for Tonj North Crisis Affected Populations – £1,507,333 (1/3/22-31/5/24)

Supporting Flood and Conflict-Affected Communities – £1,170,537 (1/4/23-16/6/24)

Strengthening Community Resilience and Economic Empowerment Programme – £2,143,805 (10/1/23-10/1/26)

Promoting Gender Equality and Resilient Livelihoods – £895,230 (1/5/23-29/4/25)

Supporting Flood and Conflict-affected Communities in Humanitarian Emergency – £1,126,064 (1/4/24-31/3/25)

Tunisia

Improvement of Local Communities through Livelihood Intervention – £300,000 (1/9/22-2023)¹⁴

Türkiye

Restoring Lives, Rebuilding Hope – £4,126,855 (1/7/23-30/6/26)

Empowering Communities, Rebuilding Hope – £1,474,595 (1/1/24-31/12/26)

Yemen

Strengthening Households' Resilience in Yemen – £8,109,080 (1/11/23-31/10/27)



¹⁴ Islamic Relief concluded operations in Tunisia in 2023

Further reading

Islamic Relief (2020) Adapting for Climate Justice <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Islamic-Relief-Adapting-For-Climate-Justice.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2018) Climate Champions <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Climate-Champions-1.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2022) Climate Policy <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/IRClimatePolicy2022-v4.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2019) Climate Change Policy: Understanding and Responding <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Climate-Change-Policy-2019-REDUCED-003.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2023) Global Strategy Framework 2023-2033 <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/IRW-GlobalStrategy-1.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2023) Bridging Localisation and Climate Adaptation Pathways <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/IRW-Bridging-localisation-and-LLCA-pathways.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2023) Towards a Resilient Pakistan

<https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/TowardsAResilientPakistan-WEBx.pdf>

Islamic Relief Pakistan (2024) Unpacking Urban Resilience <https://ndrmf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Research-Study-Unpacking-Urban-Resilience-11-30-23.pdf>

Islamic Relief Pakistan (2024) WASH Challenges and Localised Solutions in Flood Affected Regions in Pakistan: An exploratory research study <https://islamic-relief.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WASH-Challenges-and-Localised-Solutions-in-Flood-Affected-Regions-in-Pakistan.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2022) Adapting to Instability <https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AdaptingToInstability.pdf>

Islamic Relief (2021) Climate Induced Migration in Pakistan: Global discourse, local realities and governance https://islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IRWClimateInducedMigration_Digital-V2.pdf



Photo: Islamic Relief Sudan

“We will do more to support communities to adapt to climate change and we will increase advocacy efforts to address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability”

Waseem Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief Worldwide
Global Strategy Framework 2023-33



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