

Islamic Relief Climate Policy 2025: Our position



On the brink of disaster

'We are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster. This is a global emergency beyond any doubt. Much of the very fabric of life on Earth is imperilled. We are stepping into a critical and unpredictable new phase of the climate crisis. Only through decisive action can we safeguard the natural world, avert profound human suffering and ensure that future generations inherit the liveable world they deserve. The future of humanity hangs in the balance.'

2024 State of the Climate Report: Perilous times on planet Earth¹

Islamic Relief is committed to responding to the threats facing our world due to the breakdown of climate systems. [Islamic Relief's Climate Policy 2025](#) sets out the policy positions, summarised below, needed to realise our work towards empowering the most disadvantaged families and communities to overcome poverty and vulnerability.

Core positions

We support every ethical action designed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. This includes ending the exploration, production and use of coal, oil and gas, and replacing them with renewable sources of energy.

We demand that the necessary transformations to society and economy are just and equitable and respect human rights and dignity.

We require that the means, capacity and technical support to adapt to climate breakdown is made available to all.

We expect proper provision to be made to address Loss and Damage due to climate breakdown.

We recognise the overwhelming ethical and moral responsibility of those who have benefitted from the activities that have led to climate breakdown to provide for adaptation and, where this is not possible, compensation for Loss and Damage incurred.

We hold that climate action is both compatible and necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



¹ Ripple, W., Wolfe, C., et al, 'The 2024 state of the climate report: perilous times on planet earth', BioScience 74:12, December 2024, <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/74/12/812/7808595?login=false>

Context and policy areas

Context

- Climate breakdown must be integrated into the design and implementation of all humanitarian and development projects.
- Climate policies must align with protecting the rights of all people to have a say in and contribute to climate responses.
- To achieve the SDGs, climate actions need to be supported and funded. This needs to be the top priority for all sectors.
- A people-centred approach is essential to achieving the Paris Agreement objectives (as well as the SDGs).
- The full participation of women must be ensured in climate policy and decision-making.



Image: Islamic Relief South Sudan, 2025



Image: Islamic Relief Pakistan, 2025

Mitigation

- Limiting warming to no more than 1.5°C is an essential prerequisite to achieving the SDGs.
- A change in generating and using energy is imperative.
- There should be a just transition from fossil to sustainable energy that ensures equitable distribution of benefits to the people and communities who are most vulnerable socially, economically and in terms of the impact of climate change.
- Governments must urgently set measurable and legally binding renewable energy targets to address rising energy insecurity and to meet climate goals.
- Urgent action and investment to limit global heating will save and enhance lives through clean air, healthy diets, active lifestyles and more resilient health systems.
- It is better to transform the systems and behaviours that lead to climate change and its effects than to threaten peace and security and increase inequalities through geoengineering.



Image: Islamic Relief Bangladesh, 2024

Adaptation

- It is essential that people and systems adapt to climate change.
- In considering humanitarian and development interventions, there needs to be a thorough assessment of current and future vulnerabilities to climate breakdown and the capacity of individuals and communities to adapt.
- Climate action needs to address the root causes of vulnerabilities, including gender discrimination and other sociopolitical and economic disparities.
- Removing entrenched inequalities must be at the centre of adaptation efforts.
- To be successful, adaptation must be driven by, and connect with, local priorities and the knowledge of local people.
- Vulnerable and marginalised people must meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.
- Effective climate action must be aligned with disaster risk reduction and sustainable development to build community resilience.
- Conflict-sensitive adaptation planning and programming can tackle climate/conflict dynamics, address climate vulnerabilities, and promote peace.
- Resources must be redirected to measures, including adequate social protection, that build resilience and uphold the rights of women and other marginalised groups/communities.
- Adaptation must be locally led and people centred.
- Women and girls must be protected from the heightened risk of harm due to the effects of climate breakdown.

Loss and Damage

- There needs to be sufficient Loss and Damage finance in line with the 'polluter pays' principle.
- Climate-induced migration responses must be included in climate change planning, response and financing.

Finance

- Climate finance should be public, new, and additional to current development and humanitarian funding. It should be responsive to gender equality, and disbursed without creating unsustainable debt for the communities and countries receiving it.
- At least 50 per cent of climate finance should support adaptation in order to ensure that the practical needs of the most vulnerable communities and countries are prioritised, rather than sidelined.

Islamic Relief believes that governments must set ambitious and transformational targets to:

- eliminate greenhouse gas emissions
- phase out fossil fuels
- invest in renewable energy
- decarbonise industry
- incentivise green building
- achieve zero-carbon transport
- conserve ecosystems, protecting and restoring natural ecologies
- improve food systems
- challenge and change carbon-intensive lifestyles and behaviours
- remove carbon through natural solutions
- support countries and communities to adapt to changing climate and recover from Loss and Damage
- enhance protections for land and oceans
- make social equity and environmental protection priorities in all economic decisions.

Image: Islamic Relief Philippines, 2025

Conclusion

We are living through changes, and the biggest of these is the breakdown of the world's climate and the environmental predictability that humans have enjoyed for thousands of years. Today we are facing extreme weather events, drought, sea level rise, soil degradation, food insecurity, proliferating displacement, and social breakdown. For years Islamic Relief have been saying that it is imperative to restrict global heating to 1.5° above pre-industrial levels, and deal with the inevitable consequences of the heating that has already occurred. Nations have established treaties, conventions, agreements, human rights, environmental and customary law, and mechanisms for responding. This policy sets out the pathways to survival with dignity and safety for our descendants. They only need ethical choices and political will to be put into action.