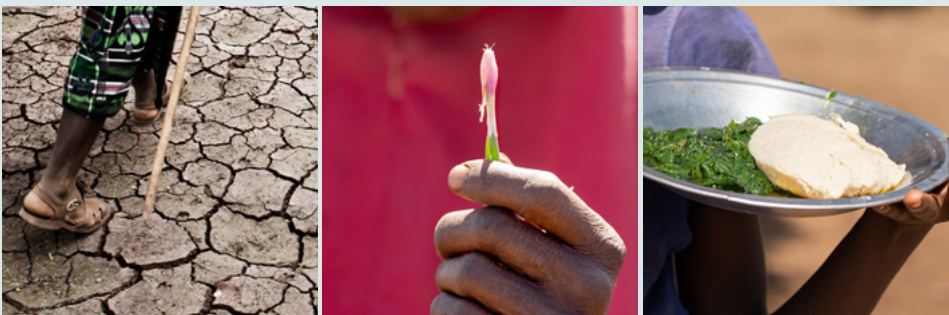


# TWO CHALLENGES, ONE SOLUTION -

LESSONS LEARNED ABOUT  
INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT  
AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION



## Foreword

Climate change is devastating the world's most vulnerable communities, and we urgently need to better understand how to secure long-lasting, sustainable development in the wake of an increasingly extreme climate.

DanChurchAid commissioned this report to learn more about the extent to which integrating adaptation and development projects provides for more sustainable interventions, and how to achieve this integration most efficiently.

As a development NGO, we are, of course, aware that there are development needs that must be addressed that are not linked to the climate agenda. These are, for example, specific projects promoting civic space, addressing good governance, or enabling democratic dialogue. These projects are important and must continue to receive funding.

However, all development efforts that could be affected by climate change must consider the risks of the increasingly extreme weather. At the same time, more climate-related projects must be established so that they promote broader development goals.

The findings from our research are clear. It is imperative that development and adaptation go hand in hand. Without this integration, we risk jeopardizing years of development efforts and vulnerable communities will be left worse off.

With these results in mind, we urge governments, investors and organisations to take into account the necessity of integrating development and adaptation, to build resilience to the effects of climate change and secure sustainable development.

**Jonas Vejsager Nødderkær**  
Secretary-General, DanChurchAid

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DanChurchAid supports the most vulnerable communities in the world in their struggle for a dignified life and helps people in need. We provide emergency relief in disaster-stricken areas and long-term assistance in the poor regions to create a more equitable and sustainable world.

This report was produced by Mattias Söderberg, Otto Lykketoft, Sidsel Koordt Vognsen, and Alma Garcia from DanChurchAid and Hannah Greene from Barncat Consulting.

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A reference group consisting of a number of stakeholders were consulted during the research. This reference group included experts from different organizations including: BRAC, Global Center on Adaptation, Development Inivatives, Action For Development, Danish Institute for International Studies, LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change, LI-BIRD and CONCITO.

Cover photos: Mikkel Østergaard, Bax Lindhardt & Rasmus Emil Gravesen

## Executive summary

Can climate adaptation contribute to success in development projects, and can development initiatives contribute to success in climate projects? Based on this study, we believe that the answer is yes. The research showed that while the emphasis on climate adaptation vis a vis sustainable development elements differed, our respondents found that the integration contributed to deliver better and more robust outcomes for communities. The integration of climate adaptation and development projects provides for more effective and sustainable interventions.

However, the research also points to the fact that consideration needs to be given to a variety of factors to ensure success. This research highlights five recommendations for successful integration of climate adaptation and development projects based on the lessons learned from case studies in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Nepal:

- More flexible funding is needed to enable projects, which can contribute to both development goals and adaptation.
- More collaboration and multistakeholder partnerships are needed, including local actors (ensuring localization), and climate expertise, to ensure that adaptation measures are adequate and related to scientific climate scenarios.
- Localization is essential for sustaining long-lasting effects and should be considered as a key component for sustainable success in adaptation and development projects.
- Scaling up of projects, promoting both adaptation and development, will require mobilization of more funding, creation of enabling political environments, and strengthening of links to markets and private investments.
- Adaptation and development goals need to be integrated in our planning, both on government level where national plans and strategies should be aligned, and on organization level, where country programs and projects are developed.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE,  
BUT ITS IMPACT IS WORSENERD IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE OURS  
**PROJECT MANAGER, RISING PROJECT, ETHIOPIA**



## Introduction

In the countries in which DanChurchAid works, climate change is having devastating impacts. Prolonged droughts are followed by flash floods, usually reliable crops fail, and new pests appear. Where infrastructure and governance are scarce or weak, there is little resilience to adverse weather impacts. And where families are close to the subsistence level, the loss of just one harvest can be disastrous.

Acknowledging that development gains risk being rolled back due to increasingly severe and frequent climate shocks and stresses, DanChurchAid (DCA) has increasingly focused on integrating climate adaptation and development objectives in our projects, aiming to strengthen the resilience of the communities that we work with. However, we need to understand more about how and in which circumstances this integration works best, and to ensure that neither climate efforts, nor development engagements are lost in this new model. For example, one may worry that a too narrow focus on climate action may limit attention to other important areas of development work, such as poverty eradication. Using some of our established projects as case studies, we posed two questions:

1. How is climate adaptation integrated into development projects, and to what extent is the climate-development nexus contributing to the achievement of the projects' objectives?
2. How are climate projects integrating other sustainable development objectives, and to what extent is the climate-development nexus contributing to the achievement of the projects' objectives?

In simple terms, can climate adaptation contribute to the success of development projects, and can development initiatives contribute to the success of adaptation projects?

Based on our case studies, we believe that the answer is yes - that the integration of climate adaptation and development projects provides for more effective and sustainable interventions - but that consideration needs to be given to a variety of factors to ensure success.

There are four parts of our report. First, we provide some background on the selected case studies, and outline some of their similarities and differences, to understand how climate action and development are being integrated in these projects. Second, we identify three lessons learned that may inform governments, donors, and NGOs in planning their integrated climate and development efforts. Third, we reflect on some broader considerations, including how our case study projects are linked to national and regional development and climate plans, and the potential for scaling up of these projects. Finally, we provide recommendations for future action that can guide a successful integration of climate and development projects.

# 5



WHEN WE SOW CROPS, DUE TO LACK OF RAIN,  
WHAT IS SOWN DOES NOT GROW, AND AS A  
RESULT, WE SUFFER FROM HUNGER.

**FEMALE FARMER, CRGI PROJECT, ETHIOPIA**

## Part 1: About the case studies

Working across the humanitarian and development spectrum, DanChurchAid (DCA) operates in 19 countries. For this research, we selected eight case studies from our own portfolio of work: two each in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Nepal. DCA has been operating in these countries for many years, and much of our work in these contexts currently integrate development and climate adaptation objectives. All the selected projects are implemented by DCA's local partners, who work with smallholder farmers, whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. However, the emphasis in each case project varies: some projects primarily focus on climate adaptation in agriculture, while others prioritize more classic development goals such as poverty eradication. Our approach of selecting cases within the area of agriculture, but with differing emphasis on climate adaptation and development-oriented objectives, allows us to compare integration in both directions.

All of the case study areas are severely impacted by climate change. In every location, climate change was clearly identified by interviewees as having an increasingly severe and negative impact on crops, livestock, and agricultural livelihoods in the local area. Droughts, floods, and an increase in pests and waterborne diseases were the most commonly cited impacts. Many beneficiaries had lost crops, livestock, and family members as a result.

DanChurchAid is a partner in all but one of the projects; however, the funding mechanisms and donors vary. Most of the selected projects have accessed funding through DanChurchAid, with Danida as the back donor, and are designed and carried out by our local NGO partners. DanChurchAid's programmatic efforts are partially based on funding from the Strategic Partnership with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which offers a high degree of flexibility in programming related to development and climate objectives. One project, RISING in Ethiopia, is part of a large World Food Programme project implemented by World Vision and DanChurchAid, while one project is funded through the international market for carbon offsets, Trees for Global Benefits, implemented by Ecotrust in Uganda. Here, DCA is not a partner to the project but engages Ecotrust as a service provider.

DCA takes a human rights based approach to promoting locally led climate action, ensuring representation, inclusion, and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The principles of participation and non-discrimination were the most evident in all of the projects, and several worked explicitly on supporting rights holders to hold duty bearers to account.

The projects selected for case study all integrate gender equality considerations. This is key to ensure that development and adaptation interventions contribute to empowerment of all and avoids risks of deepening inequalities and vulnerabilities of groups, who would otherwise be marginalised from decision making. Illustrating this, while all case projects integrated gender equality considerations, several interviewees reported on the challenges of ensuring that women smallholder farmers were equally targeted with agricultural extension services, reached by financial inclusion and business interventions and able to make decisions on how income should be spent in contexts with high levels of gender inequality. The projects employed different approaches to counter gender-based discrimination, which include prioritisation of women-led enterprises, skill development and training programmes for women, supporting women to take leadership roles, gender equality sensitisation with men, and training women to address and respond to gender-based violence. The Green Karnali project in Nepal takes an inclusive and gender responsive approach to climate adaptation of agricultural livelihoods. The project specifically targets women in poor communities, who often have the main responsibility for farming activities, as many male family members have migrated in search of seasonal work opportunities. Project participants and staff report that with more resilient agricultural livelihoods and better links to

markets, the participating women have become more financially independent, contributing effectively to meet household expenses and having decision-making power over household incomes together with male household members.

While this study has selected cases in which it is possible to compare and analyse the nexus between climate and development initiatives, it is important to note that not all development projects necessarily need to relate to climate adaptation. This may, for instance, be the case with work to advance civic space and good governance, which may have no or only indirect links to climate action. However, it is a commitment of DCA to ensure the mainstreaming of climate action into all projects, in the sense of considering potential climate and environmental risks posed by project interventions and adopting adequate safeguarding measures to do no harm. Thus, it is important to emphasize that our selection of cases from DCA's project portfolio is delimited in scope because they deal with both climate and development objectives. It is also important to mention that DCA's project portfolio may not be representative of the broad variety of agricultural interventions and investments in the selected case countries made by local and international NGOs, public, and private actors. Hence, this study should ideally be complemented by other studies.

## Definitions

**Development:** DanChurchAid understands development, and development projects, as activities aimed at promoting a world without hunger, poverty and oppression, achieving the broad range of sustainable development goals. In our portfolio, development projects mainly focus on strengthening individuals and communities' livelihoods opportunities, building social, economic and environmental resilience to shocks and stresses and fighting extreme inequalities. Our development projects integrate cross-cutting commitments, which include applying a human rights-based approach and focusing on gender equality, youth engagement and mainstreaming climate and environmental sustainability.

**Climate adaptation:** Following the OECD DAC Rio Marker for Climate, we understand climate adaptation as the intend to reduce the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the current and expected impacts of climate change, including climate variability, by maintaining or increasing resilience, through increased ability to adapt to, or absorb, climate change stresses, shocks, and variability and/or by helping reduce exposure to them. This encompasses a range of activities from information and knowledge generation to capacity development, planning and the implementation of climate change adaptation actions<sup>1</sup>.

## Methodology

The research was commissioned by DanChurchAid, with data collection carried out by a team of local and international researchers in each location. Researchers conducted key informant interviews with project managers and implementers, representatives from local authorities, and participants in the projects, undertaking between 7 and 10 interviews for each case study. The same interview guide, with tailored questions for each respondent group, was used across all four countries to allow for comparative analysis, and a standard template was used for a desk study of the project documents for each of the eight case studies.

The collected data was analysed by DanChurchAid, with the help of an external consultant, to produce this report. A reference group, including donors, external stakeholders, and scientists, was formed to shape the initial research and discuss the draft report before publication. Our findings and recommendations also reflect inputs from the reference group.



## The case studies:

### COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA

**Project:** **RISING:** Resilient Incomes through Systems Strengthening in Gambella Region.

**Primary focus:** Development, but with a strong focus on adaptation/climate risk management.



**Project:** **CRGI:** Community-Led Adaptation for Climate Resilience and Green Income: Opportunities in Oromia, Bale Zone

**Primary focus:** Climate, but with a strong development, resilience and income generation focus.



### COUNTRY: NEPAL

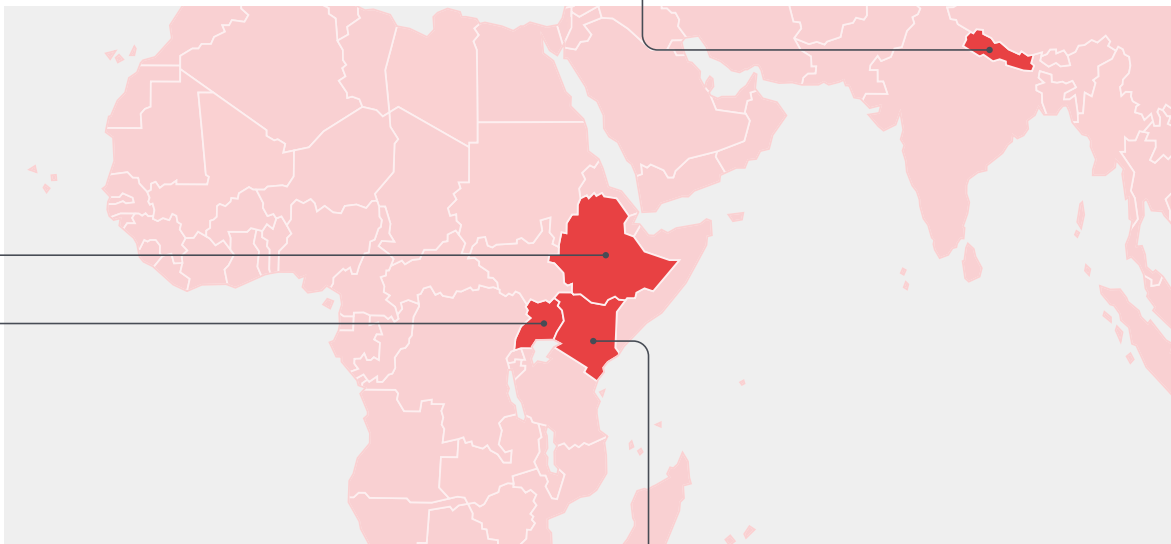
**Project:** **AADHAR**

**Primary focus:** Development, with climate as secondary objective.



**Project:** **Green Karnali:** Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in the Karnali River Basin.

**Primary focus:** Climate, with development as secondary objective.



### COUNTRY: UGANDA

**Project:** Improving Resilience of Rural Households In Teso Sub-Region.

**Primary focus:** Of these objective, the second relates most strongly to development, and the first and third are hybrid.



**Project:** **TGB:** Trees for Global Benefit

**Primary focus:** Climate, with development as secondary objective.



### COUNTRY: KENYA

**Project:** **FOSECCA:** Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation

**Primary focus:** Of their three objectives, two relate most strongly to climate and one to development.

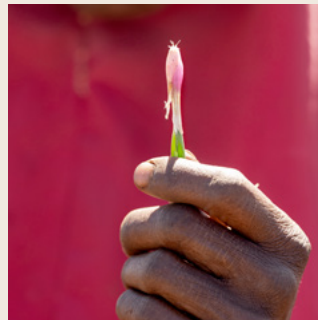


**Project:** **Uwajibikaji na Maendeleo**

Accountability for Development

**Primary focus:** Climate, with an increasing focus on development as the project progressed.





WE INTEGRATE ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT. THEY GO HAND IN HAND. IT'S ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION [...] WHEN YOU SEPERATE [THEM] THEY WILL NOT WORK.

**GEORGE ORUKA, PROJECT IMPLEMENTER,  
IMPROVING RESILLIENCE OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN TESO SUB-REGION, UGANDA**

## Part Two: Lessons learned

This study set out to explore how development projects are integrating climate adaptation initiatives, and vice versa, and to what extent the results were successful. Below, we have listed some of our key lessons to ensure success, but first, a few lines on how the integration worked.

Firstly, the communities engaged in both development and climate projects were aware and convinced that climate change was impacting their livelihoods and thus that climate change needs to be tackled. Interviewees in all case studies were clear that crop-growing conditions were worsening, and that climate change was to blame for temperature increases and increasingly severe and frequent droughts and rainfall extremes. Household yields of maize in the area of our FOSECCA project in Kenya had decreased from 20 bags of maize to 5 due to drought or flooding. Participants were quite clear about linking these impacts to climate change and about the need for considering climate adaptation regarding agricultural practices, choice of crop and livestock breeds, and use of weather information.

Secondly, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of adaptation practices in particular, projects employed various techniques to model future success. For example, demonstration farming plots were used to highlight how costs would be lower in the long run when adaptation practices are introduced. In FOSECCA in Kenya, the project conducted participatory climate and disaster risk assessments. This entailed climate risk and vulnerability mapping with community members to chart conditions 20 years ago, current conditions, and projected changes in the next 20 years based on scientific climate change projections. This informed the community's planning on adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures. The project manager commented that this helped community members have a positive outlook on their ability to effect change.

Finally, our case studies showed the need to ensure that livelihoods programming complemented climate adaptation action and vice versa. The majority of projects integrated climate adaptation elements to enhance the resilience of agricultural livelihoods interventions to climate shocks and stresses, while also maintaining a focus on broader sustainable development elements such as inclusive value chain development and access to markets, gender equality and strengthening of communities' abilities to engage with duty bearers. Our consultations clearly showed that while the emphasis on climate adaptation vis a vis sustainable development elements differed, our respondents found that the integration contributed to deliver better and more robust outcomes for communities. In the case of the Trees for Global Benefits carbon offset project, smallholder farmers earn cash incentives from the voluntary carbon market to plant and tend to indigenous trees. The main focus of the project is to support landscape restoration, while farmers also benefit from support for more diversified, resilient and sustainable agroforestry models, which in turn generates incomes and strengthens food security. The ecosystem restoration that the project contributes to has clear adaptation benefits for the local farmers in addition to the carbon sequestration generated for the voluntary carbon market. The CRGI project in Ethiopia employs a dual approach, engaging communities for natural resources management and providing cash incentives for local communities to carry out soil and water conservation work including both grey and green infrastructure such as water harvesting ponds, small scale irrigation channels, gully rehabilitation etc. for ecosystem-based adaptation to drought. At the same time, following market and value chains assessments that identified sustainable livelihood options, the CRGI project also supports communities in establishing enterprises based on sustainable use of natural resources,

diversified agriculture and agroforestry models and connecting to markets. A recent case study on the project, documented the successful adaptation and livelihoods outcomes<sup>2</sup>.

## Lesson One: Flexible funding is key for effective and holistic responses to climate and development challenges

Throughout the case studies we find that financial flexibility to secure climate adaptation and development effects is essential for a successful integration of both climate and development goals.

A good example of this is the Accountability for Development project in Kenya, which started out as a training and capacity building project for local climate action. Based on community feedback, the project introduced physical inputs such as fruit tree seedlings. Also, cash transfers were added as a holistic livelihood approach. The project manager commented that DCA was 'lenient' in being open to funding this additional component of the work securing stronger development effects and support for the overall climate project. The flexibility and leniency of DCA enabled them to adjust and align the project to local needs and contexts following community-led feedback to the organization. DCA was able to be lenient because this project was funded by DANIDA Strategic Partnership, which allows partners flexibility to navigate complex and changing contexts.

The importance of flexibility is also evident in the TGB-project in Uganda, where the project via the voluntary carbon market provides a cash incentive for farmers to plant and tend to trees over a 20-year lifespan. At the same time the project also includes livelihoods elements that link to agroforestry-based production and generates income from fruits. In this project we find that there is a great deal of flexibility to respond to local and changing circumstances securing a focus on both livelihood and climate initiatives.

We also find how flexibility to address the nexus of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding action in conjunction with climate adaptation is important in conflict affected areas. Depending on contextual factors, the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation may contribute to exacerbate tension and conflict over scarce resources. In the Accountability for Development project in Kenya, interviewees identified how climate change leads to crop and livestock loss, contributing to increasing human conflict among communities in neighbouring sub-county based on resource scarcity. This in turn has other negative impacts on development outcomes, with children being unable to attend school because of the insecurity.

Drawing on experiences from the wider DCA portfolio, the conflict sensitive design of adaptation interventions and the integration of adaptation and development elements in projects may in turn contribute to decreasing tension and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change. Exemplifying this, the RISING project carried out in the large Jewi Refugee camp in Ethiopia is also addressing conflict drivers and conflict sensitivity risks. The project team drew up a comprehensive risk management approach (including addressing conflict and instability between refugee and host communities); conducted conflict sensitivity assessments; and ensured that resources were distributed equally amongst the various clans. The project team also placed an emphasis on social cohesion activities in Gambella to build trust and prevent future conflicts. Without this approach it would be more difficult to secure both the development and climate goals of the project.

Country	Name of project	Funding sources
Kenya	Uwajibikaji na Maendeleo (Accountability for development)	DANIDA - SPA
Kenya	FOSECCA	Bread for the world & co-sponsored by DANIDA-SPA
Uganda	TGB	The project is funded through the international market on carbon-offsetting.  DCA and selected business partners offset emissions through Ecotrust's TBG project
Uganda	Improving Resilience of Rural Households In Teso Sub-Region	DANIDA - SPA
Ethiopia	RISING	World Food Program
Ethiopia	CRGI	DANIDA - single grant
Nepal	AADHAR - everyone has the right to a worthy life	Own funds (The United Danish Appeal for Funds, A collaboration of 12 humanitarian organisations and the Danish Broadcasting Company)
Nepal	Green Karnali	DANIDA - SPA

## Lesson Two: Multi-stakeholder cooperation guards against the risk for maladaptation

An important lesson from the research is the fact that effective integration of adaptation and development elements requires engaging multiple stakeholders and cutting across siloes. Concretely, the case projects provide good examples of how the integration of local knowledge and climate change expertise contributes to better outcomes, and how the engagement of multiple stakeholders and perspectives leads to more effectively considering risks for maladaptation.

It is paramount to avoid projects and strategies that fail on both adaptation and development outcomes, costing time and money, and leaving people with no prospect of improved conditions or ending up in a worse situation.

**Maladaptation** refers to climate adaptation efforts that are inadequate or fail to address relevant climate-related effects or impacts, potentially increasing vulnerabilities instead. Maladaptation may thus lead to a false sense of security in the short run and disillusionment with climate change adaptation efforts if not properly addressed.

Therefore, maladaptation is not just about poorly adapting to climate change; it is a process whereby people become even more likely to be negatively affected by climate change

Collaboration between locals who know the context and the needs of the community and climate experts who may provide science-based insights on adaptation is extremely important avoiding maladaptation. Similarly, collaboration with local government actors, among other actors, is key to ensuring harmonized and enabling policy frameworks for climate adapted agriculture, agricultural extension services that are responsive to communities' adaptation needs and early warning systems and climate information services that support agronomic decision making.

### Taking local knowledge and practices into account

All the projects in the research employ extensive community consultation and local knowledge in their design and implementation, and we found that knowledge of more culturally specific practices is essential in ensuring success.

This is very much in line with the Locally Led Adaptation principles that DCA has endorsed. Exemplifying this, the importance of the recognition and integration of local knowledge and perspectives with scientific knowledge has been identified as a significant factor in ensuring solid adaptation and development outcomes in the CRGI project in Ethiopia.

NCKK in Kenya (partners to the 'Accountability for Development' project) have consulted on traditional farming practices and heritage seeds, so that they can help to source those seeds again, to test if they will prove more resilient. To facilitate better consultation, NCKK moved their meetings from the larger town of Iten to locations closer to communities at the suggestion of beneficiaries, allowing more community members to attend without traveling.

In the TGB-project in Uganda, some tree species have a negative association in the local culture and are therefore removed from the list of trees Ecotrust offers. In Ethiopia, the RISING project employed local knowledge to enhance sustainability by promoting local agricultural practices in the community and organizing different community dialogues on disaster risk management and natural resource conservation measures.

THERE IS A NEED FOR ALL KNOWLEDGE.  
JOSEPHINE TARUS,  
PROJECT MANAGER, FOSECCA, KENYA



### Climate expertise is necessary

The research also points to the fact that capacity building through knowledge sharing among climate experts and local communities is essential because it provides communities with science based knowledge on how to adapt to climate change.

In the case studies we find that capacity building through formal education and guidance on climate resilient agricultural practices helps reduce the risk of maladaptation. Also, we find that it is important for the projects to have the resources to introduce practices and mechanisms such as **early warning systems**, which help to mitigate against benefits from climate and development projects being swept

away. Climate information and agronomic advice related to adaptation is key for informed decision making in the agricultural sector. This is exemplified in the case of the Green Karnali project in Nepal that facilitates insurance and agronomic advisory services to support adaptation efforts in partnership with private sector and government actors.

The research shows that at times, this requires collaboration with national institutions. For example, in the FOSECCA project in Kenya, the National Drought Management Authority provides an early warning system for drought that gives monthly bulletin updates and carries out food security assessments based on the short and long rains. This helps the local community to better navigate the risks of unexpected and extreme weather.

An important insight from the studies is that there is sometimes a lack of technical resources in the province. At local government level, local officials often point to international partners or development organizations as important stakeholders to help ensure adaptation measures are aligned with recent scientific climate scenarios for the region.

The unprecedented acceleration of climate change means that globally, as well as locally, many practices that have served us well in the past may no longer be fit for purpose. For example, in the FOSECCA project in Kenya, there is a status associated with growing a lot of maize and having a lot of cattle, and the project has needed to tackle that mindset to encourage farmers to grow other crops and have dairy goats instead of cows.

The research also finds that continuous analysis of what is and what is not working is key to address the threat of maladaptation, as well as other risks. For example, the RISING project in Ethiopia incorporated an **adaptive management approach** enabling the adjustment of programs and activities accordingly to achieve success.

### Lesson three: Local ownership increases the chances for long-lasting effects

An important takeaway is the fact that well-designed, integrated climate and development projects not only enable participants to sustain their climate-resilient improvements after the project ends, but also motivate them to inspire the community to follow suit. This is achieved, for example, through demonstrating adaptation practices, directly comparing income, and offering discounts on the sale of climate-resilient plants and seeds.

Thus, local ownership is not only a key to secure that projects take local culture and practices into account, but also essential in securing long-term sustainability for the successful integration of climate and development initiatives.



ONCE IT IS LOCALISED, IT IS MORE LIKELY TO SURVIVE.

PATIENCE OKUTOYI,  
PROJECT IMPLEMENTER, FOSECCA, KENYA

For example, Francis Kipngetch Limo worked with the Anglican Development Service (partners in the FOSECCA project) to improve his land, on which all topsoil had been washed away before the FOSECCA project started. His harvest reduced from 42 bags of maize in 2016 to only 15 bags in 2019. The FOSECCA project supported Francis in terracing his land, preventing erosion and landslides and to diversify into short term, high value crops, leading to a tripling of his yearly income. Although the project has now ended, Francis is using his increased income to put up solar panels on his roof, implement a water piping system, and is currently digging a pond that will capture water and contain fish.



WHEN YOU EMPOWER ONE PERSON,  
THAT PERSON WILL EMPOWER MORE.

**NICODEMUS CHESEREK,**  
**BENEFICIARY, ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT, KENYA**

Francis **demonstrates his successful adaptation practices** to visitors on his farm. To convince them, he compares his own much improved income to their yearly income. Similar demonstration and peer learning approaches for encouraging others to follow suit can be seen in other projects, such as the Green Karnali project in Nepal and the Accountability for Development project in Kenya. The demonstrated success of peers is a powerful way of convincing people of the long-term benefits of the integration of climate adaptation and development goals, and the commitment of project beneficiaries to encouraging their friends and neighbours to adopt their techniques was considerable across all case studies.





THE NEXUS BRINGS IN MORE VALUE, BUT IT ALSO ENSURES SUSTAINABILITY AND MAKES IT LESS LIKELY TO FAIL.

**SOY CHEROTICH, FOSECCA PROJECT IMPLEMENTER, ADS, KENYA.**

## Part 3: Broader reflections

Two key aspects must be considered further when discussing the potential and challenges for an integrated focus on climate and development projects: The potential for scaling up initiatives, and the need for integrating both climate and development into strategies, plans, and projects. In the following section the report will focus on inputs from the research based on both the case studies and the inputs from the reference group.

### Potential for scaling

One question that is important to reflect upon in the context of how to secure an integrated approach to climate and development: How can we bring successful interventions to scale and contribute to broader impact?

Three lessons become apparent when talking about the potential for scaling: 1) More funding, 2) enabling political environments, and 3) stronger links to markets and private sector finance for adaptation in agriculture.

#### The need for more funding

One of the main conclusions echoed throughout the research is that if integrated climate and development projects are to be scaled, there is a need for more funding.

For example, in the ‘Improving Resilience of Rural Households in Teso Sub-Region’ project in Uganda, the farmers say that there is strong interest from other communities to join the project, but there is not enough funding to support the scaling of the project.

Scaling up of finance depends on many factors. It is both a matter of priority, of existing allocations, and a matter of increasing the overall allocation for development aid and climate finance. Scaling up of finance is the responsibility of donor countries. While some progress may be possible with increased integration of adaptation and development, the total funding requirement remains significant. For instance, the UNEP gap report estimates a gap between US\$194-366 billion per year<sup>5</sup>. To bridge this gap, increased allocations are needed, from public sources, or new and innovative solutions, to mobilize funding (e.g. levies on shipping or aviation).

The private sector, both through companies and investors, may also play a crucial role in efforts to scale up funding. This option will be elaborated further below.

### **Enabling political environments**

Governments and authorities should be aware of their key role in enabling and scaling of adaptation and development projects. This can be achieved, for example, through introduction or adjustment of subsidies, taxes, standards, and restrictions, promoting an integration of adaptation and development. It can also be done through adjustments to agriculture extension services, establishment of early warning systems and other public investments, which can enable synergy and promote an integrated approach to adaptation and development.

In our research, we noted how official strategies in Nepal address the nexus between climate and development. For example, we find how a five-year action plan at the provincial level in Sudurpashchim province in Nepal aims to pave the way for the incorporation of both climate and development approaches into actionable plans, prioritizing integrated climate action and development activities. Turning the attention to the national level we see that Nepal's adaptation plan highlights sectors where enhancing resilience is urgent, with the goal of systematically integrating adaptation measures into policies, planning, and programs across all levels of government<sup>4</sup>.

In other words, integrated regulatory frameworks and accountable and effective institutions should be considered as important political enablers for scaling projects along with finance.

### **Mobilization of private investments**

The private sector, including both companies and financial investors, plays an important role in ensuring investments both for development and adaptation. There is a need for increased investments in adaptation, especially for smallholder farmers, where adaptation can serve as a catalyst for increased food production, with co-benefits for biodiversity and livelihoods.

During the research, a project manager at NCKK emphasised the need for local farmers to have access to markets to scale up their sale and production. The role of markets and value chains is important to consider when assessing the potential for private investments. Local and national value chains can also have positive effects for local companies, leading to positive development impacts.

The business case for investments in adaption is complex and has a high-risk profile. Therefore, development and climate finance can be used to de-risk and leverage private investments from both domestic and international companies and investors. This includes, for example, exchange of good practices, guarantees, enabling regulatory frameworks, and promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives to support the development of bankable projects<sup>5</sup>.

Private investments should be accompanied by an increased focus on social and environmental risks and should adhere to the UN guiding principles for business and human rights.

### **Integration of adaptation and development in plans, strategies and projects**

Adaptation and development goals need to be integrated into planning, both at the government level where national plans and strategies should be aligned, and at the organizational level where country programs and projects are developed.

Put differently, integrated planning is crucial to ensure that more projects transition from operating in

isolation to adopting approaches promoting both adaptation and development. This necessity is evident from the research, which indicates a need to move beyond classic silo-thinking in the planning and strategy process and instead integrate a more holistic climate and development focus.

In the research, we find that local government officials generally felt that projects aligned well with national strategy, which integrated both climate and development objectives. For example, in Kenya, officials pointed out that tree planting (a feature of both Accountability for Development and FOSECCA projects) is a key part of the national approach to climate action, as outlined in both the National Adaptation Plan and in Kenya's Vision 2030, which has a target to reach 10% forest cover in across the country.

However, some project staff and even some officials expressed personal frustration with the lack of integration of climate and development objectives. In Dullu municipality in Nepal, elected local governments have primarily focused on infrastructure, such as road construction. While roads are necessary for development in hilly terrain, unsupervised road construction exempt from climate risk considerations has resulted in landslides and depletion of spring water sources, thus exacerbating the impacts of climate change. This is a classic case of how development, when planned in silos, can lead to increased climate risks and climate induced hazards.

The responsibility to integrate adaptation and development into plans, strategies, and projects is shared by many stakeholders. It is a commitment that must be embraced by governing bodies in public authorities, civil society organizations, and private companies.

## Recommendations

This report was prompted by the necessity to gain a deeper understanding of the widely discussed integration of climate adaptation and development projects.

We have investigated whether climate action contributes to the success of development projects, and whether development initiatives contribute to the success of climate projects. Based on our case studies and extensive discussions with experts and key stakeholders, we believe that the answer is yes. However, it is crucial to consider a variety of factors to ensure success, both in the design and implementation phase, but also how to improve the structural conditions that enable the integration of climate and development projects.

This report will highlight five recommendations, which should be considered going forward:

- More flexible funding is needed to enable projects, which can contribute to both development goals and adaptation.
- More collaboration and multistakeholder partnerships are needed, including local actors (ensuring localization), and climate expertise, to ensure that adaptation measures are adequate and related to scientific climate scenarios.
- Localization is essential for sustaining long-lasting effects and should be considered as a key component for sustainable success in adaptation and development projects.
- Scaling up of projects, promoting both adaptation and development, will require mobilization of more funding, creation of enabling political environments, and strengthening of links to markets and private investments.
- Adaptation and development goals need to be integrated in our planning, both on government level where national plans and strategies should be aligned, and on organization level, where country programs and projects are developed.

### List of abbreviations:

<b>UNFCCC</b>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>DCA</b>	DanChurchAid
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>RISING</b>	Resilient Incomes through Systems Strengthening in Gambella Region
<b>CRGI</b>	Community-Led Adaptation for Climate Resilience and Green Income
<b>TGB</b>	Trees for Global Benefit
<b>FOSECCA</b>	Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation
<b>NCKK</b>	National Council of Churches Kenya
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)
<b>DAC</b>	Development Assistance Committee

### Endnotes:

1. [Revised climate marker handbook\\_FINAL.pdf \(oecd.org\)](#)
2. [Community Led Adaptation for Climate Resilience and Green Income Opportunities in Ethiopia - DanChurchAid](#)
3. [Adaptation Gap Report 2023 | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)
4. [Nepal unveils historic climate adaptation plan | Global Adaptation Network \(GAN\) \(unep.org\)](#)
5. See also the previous DanChurchAid report - Private investments in adaptation  
<https://www.noedhjaelp.dk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/11/private-investment-in-adaptation-dca.pdf>



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