

# Women & Climate Fund



**Bold women.  
Real impact.**





# Shifting the narrative

## We're positioning women as frontline leaders in adaptation and resilience

The climate crisis is not “gender neutral”. Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. And yet, only .2% of overseas funding goes to women-led climate initiatives. **But we won't label women as “victims”. We will position them as leaders.**

## WHY NOW?

The countries most at risk of climate change are also those where women and girls experience less social, economic and health equality.

In these countries, **women rely more on natural resources**, bearing a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel that is increasingly difficult to access.

As climate change drives conflict across the world, **women and girls face increased vulnerabilities** to all forms of gender-based violence and limited access to health care and services, increasing risks to maternal and child health.



# Why Mercy Corps?

Mercy Corps' climate programming builds on our decades of experience partnering with communities to solve urgent challenges with transformative solutions:



## COMPREHENSIVE, MARKET-BASED PROGRAMMING

We work with local economies and strengthen them by developing self-sustaining, market-based programming that creates new opportunities, expands access for people who have been excluded in the past, and builds resilience to climate shocks in the process.



## EVIDENCE-BASED, TECH-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

We apply and expand on proven solutions with demonstrated results, harnessing the power of digital technology to inform and advance each community's journey to climate resilience.



## LOCALLY LED, INCLUSIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

We partner with community members to identify the solutions they believe can address their challenges and tailor them to meet their specific needs. We work to bring marginalized voices to the table, including women and girls, who are powerful change agents.



# The Women & Climate Fund Difference

## SHARED RESOURCES FOR SHARED IMPACT

By donating to the Women & Climate Fund, your gift will be combined with other donors to maximize impact.

Together, we can:

- Prioritize women in Mercy Corps' leading climate programming
- Pilot and help grow innovative, high-potential climate adaptation work led by women
- Provide funding to overlooked areas and communities that private donors and philanthropists often ignore
- Leverage our funding to demonstrate impact and influence other donors



## OUR COMMUNITY

Each year, donations to the Women & Climate Fund are pooled, and annual distributions are made based on:

- Programs that center women in climate adaptation
- Ideas positioned for follow-on funding to help scale the solution
- Mercy Corps' climate team's strategic priorities of climate-resilient agriculture or renewable energy





## CASE STUDY: SENEGAL



### A SOLAR SOLUTION FOR FEMALE FARMERS

Senegal is predominantly an agriculture-based country where many smallholder farmers - of whom many are women - rely largely on rainfed subsistence farming and thus are highly vulnerable to climate change.

The Women & Climate Fund provided support for an innovative partnership model to bring solar-powered water pumps and irrigation to rural female farmers.

Mercy Corps connected women to microfinance institutions to help them buy solar panels and equipment, and provided financial literacy training and farming mentoring to help the women pay back the loans, increase their yields, and identify new products and markets for their crops to further increase their income and standing in the community.

## CASE STUDY: IRAQ

### BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SAFETY IN COMMUNITY HUBS

Iraq is simultaneously one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world *and* ranks second-to-last globally in terms of women's economic opportunity.

The Women & Climate Fund will establish community market hubs for women that will allow them to make market connections, learn about climate-resilient agricultural production practices, and expand their networks and economic opportunity. Additionally, these hubs will connect women to innovative climate resilient strategies and products, and will also provide business grants and mentoring to help women get their businesses up and running.





## CASE STUDY: BENIN



### REDUCING WASTE & INCREASING INCOME

Despite having among the lowest greenhouse gas emissions globally, the West African country of Benin is one of the most vulnerable to climate change. The country's dependence on agriculture means farmers need a resilient growth model to increase incomes.

The Women & Climate Fund provided support to women's co-ops in Benin to help them identify new products and markets for their commodities. Due to the difficulty in preserving cow's milk, the women learned how to produce cheese through the use of the biochar, a type of organic fertilizer, generating a new livelihood activity that reduces waste and increases income.

# Your support makes a climate resilient – and gender equal – future possible.

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The Women & Climate Fund is an initiative of Mercy Corps' Women's Philanthropy Group — a collection of individuals building opportunities for female philanthropists and partners to learn, grow, and invest in supporting women and their communities impacted by climate change.

[mercycorps.org/womens-philanthropy-group](https://mercycorps.org/womens-philanthropy-group)

