

Investing in Climate Finance: Adaptation Success Stories

Climate change is having a destructive effect on our natural environment. Increasingly frequent extreme weather events, melting ice caps, and mass species extinction warn us that our ecosystems are undergoing profound changes that threaten our national security and economic system.

These impacts fall hardest on countries in the Global South, where rising seas, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, and biodiversity loss serve as force multipliers that deepen pre-existing crises. Extreme weather events already caused over *20 million people* to leave their homes and move to other areas in their countries each year, particularly in regions where livelihoods are closely tied to climate-sensitive activities like agriculture and fishing. **Resource scarcity increases the risk of global conflict. Therefore, international climate finance is a vital tool to reduce suffering, prevent violence, and care for all of God’s creation.**

We urge Congress to continue its bipartisan history and robustly fund international climate finance programs in the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs) appropriations bill. This includes at least **\$270 million** for the **Adaptation bilateral development account**, which assists low-income countries with reducing their vulnerability to climate change impacts like hunger, intensified conflict, and increased poverty by building resilient communities.

The former **USAID Climate Ready** program can serve as testament to the impact this development account has already had in Pacific Island Countries (PICs), **advancing projects that reduce disaster risks and help communities withstand climate impacts:**

- PICs are especially vulnerable to climate change because of their location, economies, and reliance on the ocean.
 - Many islands are low-lying and exposed to rising sea levels and extreme weather events;
 - Their economies depend heavily on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and tourism;
 - Communities rely on the ocean for food, income, and cultural practices.
- **From 2016 to 2023**, USAID Climate Ready worked in **11 PICs** to create 19 climate adaptation policies and plans, supported accreditation for national and regional institutions, assisted with 86 project proposals, mobilized about **\$578 million** for climate resilience, and **trained over 2,500 people**.
 - The global initiative **exceeded** its targets in improving climate planning, strengthening institutions, and building the capacity needed to access and use climate funding effectively.
- In Vanuatu, U.S. funding supported the “Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilience Project,” which will increase access to climate information and early warning systems for extreme weather.
 - Vanuatu is widely recognized as **the most disaster-prone country**. Frequent storms, shifting rainfall, droughts, and rising seas have disrupted farming and fishing, making it harder for people to meet their daily needs.

Urge Congress to fund the Adaptation development account no less than \$270 million, ensuring vulnerable communities around the world can strengthen resilience against climate impacts.