



Mennonite Central Committee

MCC is a global, non-profit organization that strives to share God's love and compassion for all through relief, development, and peacebuilding.

Why advocating for climate resiliency and peacebuilding matters

3.6 billion people live in areas vulnerable to the devastating affects of climate change. Experts estimate **1.2 billion people** to be displaced by 2050 due to these impacts.

Climate catastrophes can both drive and exacerbate conflict. When fragile communities experience unpredictable weather, drought, floods, heat, or wildfires, they are more susceptible to economic instability and food insecurity. These pressures lead to violent conflict, displacement, and increased demand for humanitarian assistance. Conversely, violent conflict weakens a community's ability to respond to climate-induced disruptions.

Local peacebuilding initiatives help communities build stronger infrastructure, grow their own food, access clean water, and be better prepared in the face of environmental harm.

In turn, climate resilient communities are better able to prevent violent conflict.

Funding for climate adaptation projects in communities most impacted by climate change means they are less vulnerable to armed conflict.

As Mennonites, we are called to envision global communities in right relationship with God, creation, and each other. Climate change and environmental harm is a form of "slow violence" that disproportionately affects marginalized individuals in all regions of the globe. Jesus' example teaches us to stand up for the oppressed, create space for diverse voices, and confront powerful, unjust systems.

"This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.'" Zachariah 7:9 (NIV)

You can make a difference!

Take climate action for peace now by scanning the QR code. Send a letter to your members of Congress calling for funding for climate resiliency initiatives in the FY2026 federal budget.





Three MCC peacebuilding and climate initiatives



Etel Salas of MCC partner, Sembrandopaz participates in community tree-planting in the Montes de Maria region in Colombia. MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht.

Chad: Trained peace builders mediate climate-induced conflict

The Koumra area of Chad has experienced significant land competition between cattle raisers and crop farmers, as climate change has reduced the availability of viable land. A committee of ten Christian and Muslim women received conflict mediation training by MCC partner, Ethics, Peace and Justice Department (EPJ). These women have been mediators in domestic violence situations, local schools, and between cattle raisers and crop farmers. **Peace building initiatives reduce climate-related conflict.**

Colombia: Sowing seeds of peace

Located in rural Colombia, Sembrandopaz (sowing seeds of peace) collaborates with MCC to teach farmers about sustainability practices. This makes farming more economically viable, keeping farmers from joining armed groups. **Investing in these projects provides communities with the tools they need to facilitate peace, grow food, protect their forests and rivers, and be financially secure.**



In February 2023, Pastor Victor Dogos (back row, center) meets with an interfaith group that brings together Christian and Muslim women and youth in Koumra, Chad. Photo courtesy of Wawa Chege



Theum Chan Thou stands in a boat during a patrol on the Mekong River in Kraté Province, Cambodia. MCC/Fairpicture photo/Saobara Narin

Climate change: 10 facts you need to know. Climate Change - 10 Facts You Need To Know. (n.d.).

Cambodia: Trained peace patrollers curb illegal fishing

Climate change and overfishing impact the health of ocean ecosystems. In Cambodia, Illegal fishing affects local livelihoods and national food security. MCC partner Peace Bridges Organization (PBO) trains community members to patrol the Mekong River for illegal fishers and work with them to halt the practice. **Funding for peace helps with threats of climate change and overfishing.**

Climate refugees: The world's forgotten displacement crisis. Concern Worldwide. (n.d.).

<https://www.concern.net/news/climate-refugees-explained>