

CARE at COP 18 in Doha, Qatar

1. CARE's position on Climate Change Loss and Damage.

Runaway greenhouse gas emissions are increasing the impacts of weather-related hazards in Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and other highly vulnerable countries. Unless drastic emissions reductions take place soon, current science projects temperature rises of 4 to 6 degrees Celsius – above any safe level of warming. Such a trajectory increasingly means adaptive capacity will be exceeded in many regions and communities, necessitating an increased focus on preventing and tackling climate change loss and damage. The loss and damage issue is paramount from a human rights and climate justice perspective, as the world's most vulnerable countries are more likely to suffer loss or damage from climate change while contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Timely and sufficient financial resources are needed for poor countries to assess climate risks, project potential loss and damage, and explore approaches to reducing their vulnerability. Read CARE's [COP 18 position on Loss and Damage](#).

2. CARE's position on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

Deforestation and forest degradation account for some 15% of emissions globally. Therefore, REDD+ can play an important role in climate change mitigation as part of an overall package of climate measures. This package must include provisions for: implementing safeguards that protect the rights of local communities and indigenous people who are dependent on forests; effectively addressing the drivers of deforestation, including international demand for products derived from unsustainable use of forested land; setting global mitigation targets that lead to real cuts in emissions; and avoiding the use of forest offsets to compensate for continuing industrial emissions. Read CARE's [COP 18 position on REDD](#).

3. CARE's position on Climate Change Adaptation

Current science shows that climate change impacts are unfolding much faster than previously modelled or observed. However, political intransigence is remarkably common – despite the fact that emissions continue to rise, limited resources are being provided for adaptation, and the scientific community continually warns of the possibility of global warming exceeding 4 to 6 degrees Celsius. The scale and increasing momentum of climate change impacts – and the disproportionate vulnerability of the populations least responsible – makes a massive adaptation response both necessary and urgent. The social, economic and environmental–ecological consequences of climate change are most severe for people in developing countries; and within those societies poor women and children are disproportionately affected. Climate change is already undermining development efforts, making poverty reduction harder to achieve. But early investment in adaptation can help reduce risks and build resilience. Massive and urgent investment must be made now – not only to mitigate climate change but also to provide sufficient resources and scaled-up support for widespread adaptation activities across a range of sectors, regions and countries. Read CARE's [COP 18 position on Adaptation](#)