

● Climate Action & Health Resilience

Supporting vulnerable communities *to adapt and build health resilience to the impacts of climate change*

In 2023, Foundation S made significant strides in bolstering community-level climate adaptation and driving global advocacy for climate action.



Water access in a climate impacted community in Casamance - Senegal

Empowering communities, strengthening health resilience

Climate change is a public health emergency. In many vulnerable countries, the harmful effects of climate change severely impact already weak primary healthcare systems and compromise people's ability to access essential health services.

Foundation S aims to increase the health resilience of these communities impacted by climate change, focusing on the thirty countries listed in the [Notre Dame climate vulnerability index](#).

Our approach involves grants for community adaptation projects, collaborating with regional

strategic partners, and gathering data for policy change.

Twenty-two grantees working on community health systems and climate resilience – including capacity building of healthcare professionals, developing local early warning systems and community preparedness, climate-smart agriculture and food security, water, sanitation and hygiene – were selected out of 137 project submissions, each with a strong focus on community empowerment and local adaptation to climate change for improved health outcomes.

Foundation S
has committed
€40 million
to 2030

to address the devastating impacts of climate change by supporting vulnerable communities



Children at the Wamba Girls Rescue Center in Samburu County (North), Kenya using the wash station made possible by Foundation S and With My Own Two Hands

Our strategic objectives include:

Empowering communities

Work with partners to advocate for increased investment in climate health adaptation and policies focusing on support for vulnerable populations.

Capturing data for collective action

Collect data to better understand the health impacts of climate change in LMICs and document community experience and stories for use in implementation science.

Data-driven advocacy and policy action

Advocate for increased investment in climate health adaptation and policies focusing on support for vulnerable populations and working with partners for collective action.



“*The climate crisis is a health crisis.*”

We need urgent collective action now to adapt to its devastating impacts. The Collective Minds Climate x Health Council is a culmination of Foundation S’s efforts to convene a diverse group of global experts to advocate to drive this urgent action.

As a Council, we are spearheading efforts to provide real-world evidence on effective local solutions, support and fund locally-led climate adaptation programs, to accelerate policy change for climate adaptation and ensure the most vulnerable communities around the world build health resilience to ultimately save lives.”

Vanina Laurent-Ledru, Director General,
Foundation S - The Sanofi Collective

Grantee projects in action

Improving climate resilience in Bangladesh and Kenya



In the remote Gaibandha region of Bangladesh *Foundation S support has enabled Friendship to deploy 700 community health workers, benefiting 10,000 individuals during environmental crises* and helping to provide sustainable capacity strengthening for a more climate-resilient health system. Using healthcare boats, Friendship has provided essential healthcare to remote populations otherwise inaccessible because of climate change.

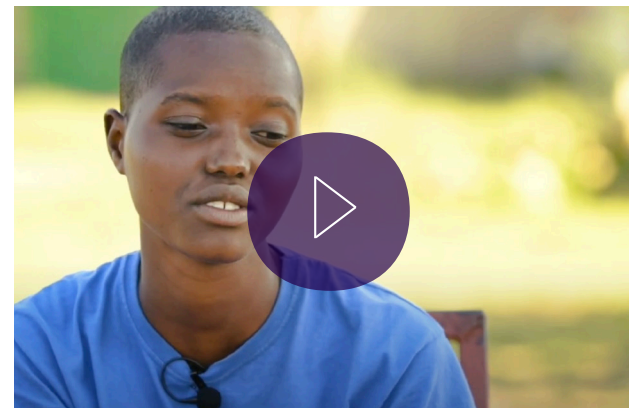
“What I’ve seen in Bangladesh is not a fixed health system for all, but it is an organized ecosystem for health adapted to the seasonality, the different way climate hits, and the way communities themselves are the first line of the response”

Daouda Diouf

Head of Climate Action and Health Resilience - Foundation S

Enhancing community-owned WASH and agriculture projects in Kenya

By supporting *With My Own Two Hands* in Kenya, Foundation S contributes to community-owned and led climate adaptation projects focused on enhancing WASH and agricultural practices in East Africa. This project has a strong gender component, empowering women to lead and ‘own’ community initiatives to increase climate resilience.



Watch the video

Driving global advocacy

for climate action, global health & climate agendas



Foundation S identified two strategic partners as Regional Accelerators, leveraging their extensive multi-country reach. These partners act as ‘big brothers and sisters’ to smaller local organizations, aiding in capacity building and their community-driven projects.



> **Watch** Foundation S and the Africa-Europe Foundation have convened the Collective Minds Climate Council to outline the urgent need to elevate community-led climate adaptation.



In 2023, the Council highlighted the multifaceted impacts of climate change on health and the essential need for supporting and financing local communities. Their year-long strategic dialogue culminated in the publication of “Time to Adapt: Accelerating Climate Adaptation for Health Equity,” an action report launched on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. This event brought the report to the attention of global leaders and policymakers, underscoring Foundation S’s commitment to health equity and resilience in communities most affected by climate change.

> **Download** the report



Complementing this, Foundation S established the Collective Minds Climate x Health Council. Comprised of a diverse group of climate and global health thought leaders and experts from foundations, governments, academics, and NGOs. The Council is an inclusive platform driving collective action for climate change and health.

The 2023 Council members are:

Elhadj As Sy, Kofi Annan Foundation

Dr. Awa Marie Coll Seck, Minister of State for the Republic of Senegal; Galien Forum Africa

Dr. Alan Dangour, Wellcome Nathalie Delapalme, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Dr. Vanessa Kerry, Seed Global Health

Jack Leslie, Duke University

Anil Soni, WHO Foundation

Dr. Agnès Soucat, Division of Health and Social Protection, Agence Française de Développement

Paul Walton, Africa-Europe Foundation

Calling for action at the highest levels

Between 2022 and 2023, Foundation S convened high-level events, spearheading crucial dialogues on integrating health into climate finance and policy. We facilitated the exchange of best practices and rallied global partners at significant gatherings, including the World Health Summit, the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, the Paris Peace Forum, and the inaugural Health Day at COP28.

Furthermore, Foundation S collaborated with Foreign Policy and the Africa-Europe Foundation at the 78th UN General Assembly, spotlighting climate change’s detrimental impact on global health. The event, attended in-person and virtually by over 1,000 people, facilitated crucial dialogues on the global health climate crisis, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies to tackle this growing challenge.



Looking forward

→ *We are committed to continuing to equip communities to effectively handle climate challenges and bolster their enduring resilience.*

Our focus

We will prioritize projects that are both led by and beneficial to the long-term resilience of local communities. This involves backing initiatives that enable communities to autonomously tackle climate-related challenges, placing control and decision-making power directly in their hands.

We aim to accomplish this by ensuring financial resources are directly accessible to these communities, actively involving them in the process, and empowering them to lead the way towards a sustainable and resilient future.

