Trócaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

Terms of Reference
Climate Finance – Guidance for programming
August 2026

Background

Trócaire is committed to advancing climate and environmental justice across its programming, policy and advocacy work. Our Climate and Environmental Justice Strategy prioritises supporting communities most vulnerable to and least responsible for climate change, while addressing the structural drivers of inequality and environmental degradation. Trócaire's Climate and environmental justice work spans food systems, natural resource management, diversified livelihoods, inclusive markets, women's empowerment and support to environmental human rights defenders. We also engage in national and global advocacy to promote fair, equitable and accessible climate finance, grounded in principles of climate justice, just transition and common but differentiated responsibility.

Climate finance is a critical means of implementation for climate action, climate adaptation, resilience and sustainable development for climate adaptation, resilience and sustainable development. However, climate finance mechanisms are complex and difficult for organisations and communities to access. Recent analysis highlights challenges around transparency, accessibility, localisation and equitable access to climate finance, particularly for local organisations, women-led organisations and communities most affected by climate change.

Trócaire and its partners are increasingly interested in understanding climate finance opportunities and how it can support communities and programmes. Trócaire recognises the importance of ensuring that any engagement with climate finance strengthens, rather than undermines localisation and climate justice commitments.

Purpose

The purpose of this consultancy is to strengthen understanding of climate finance among Trócaire staff and partners, identify climate finance opportunities that are most relevant and accessible for Trócaire country programmes and partners and develop practical guidance and resources/tools on how to assess and access climate finance in line with climate justice and localisation principles.

Expected Outcome: By the end of the consultancy, Trócaire staff and partners will have a stronger understanding of climate finance, increased awareness of relevant opportunities and risks and practical guidance and tools to support informed and locally led engagement with climate finance mechanisms.

Objectives

The consultancy will:

1. Develop accessible learning resources that explain climate finance, trends, key mechanisms, opportunities and risks for non-specialist audiences[1]
2. Map relevant climate finance mechanisms, donors and funding opportunities that may be relevant to Trócaire partners and country programmes, particularly for adaptation, loss and damage, resilience and locally led climate action
3. Identify key barriers, opportunities and considerations affecting partner access to climate finance
4. Develop practical guidance and tools to support Trócaire country teams and partners to assess, access and engage with climate finance opportunities

Scope

The consultancy should seek to answer:

- What is climate finance and how does it work?
- Which climate finance mechanisms are most relevant to partners in target country contexts?
- What opportunities and challenges exist for Trócaire and local organisations wanting to access these mechanisms?
- What practical steps can partners and Trócaire take to engage with climate finance opportunities?
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Methodology

The methodology should be practical and grounded in programme contexts and partner experience

1. Adopt a participatory and inclusive approach, incorporating the perspectives of partners, particularly local and women-led organisations, to ensure mapping and guidance address gaps in knowledge and understanding and current opportunities and risks
2. Conduct a desk review of:
    - Relevant Climate finance mechanisms, policies and trends
    - Learning on access, risks and opportunities of climate finance
    - Peer organisational approaches (NGOs, donors, UN agencies)
    - Trócaires and partners programme learning and existing practice, drawing on country experience, pilots and initiatives
3. Undertake key informant interviews with:
    - Trócaire staff (programme, policy, institutional funding team and leadership)
    - Selected partners and relevant networks
    - External experts and practitioners
4. Draft mapping, guidance and tools to support Trócaire and partners assess and access climate finance
5. Facilitate internal consultation processes, including:
    - At least one cross-team session
    - Engagement with the policy, IF and localisation hub teams to ensure alignment with climate ambitions
6. Incorporate feedback and finalise mapping, guidance and tools
7. Facilitate a learning and information session on climate finance for Trócaire staff and partners
8. Develop and refine outputs iteratively, incorporating feedback from Trócaire throughout the process

Expected Outputs

[1] Local organisations working on climate resilience, sustainable development and community-led adaptation, but whose primary focus is not climate policy or climate finance

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1. A short learning resource on climate finance for Trócaire staff and partners
2. A mapping and prioritisation of relevant climate finance mechanisms, donors and opportunities for Trócaire and partners, e.g. adaptation, mitigation, resilience and locally led climate action, food systems, natural resource management and women's economic empowerment funding
3. Practical guidance and tools that supports country teams and partners to assess and access climate finance
4. A brief paper outlining considerations and recommendations for Trócaire's role in supporting partner access to climate finance in line with climate justice and localisation principles
5. A validation workshop and webinar to present findings and gather feedback from Trócaire staff and partners

The target audience for these outputs are Trócaire country teams, Programme, management and institutional funding staff, Trócaire partners - Local and national organisations interested in climate finance.