



**MOMENTUM
FOR CHANGE**



2013 LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITIES



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

NOVEMBER 2013



SUPPORTED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Design: SJI Associates

© Copyright. All rights reserved. Images owned by the activity partners, all rights reserved.

FOREWORD



Momentum for Change: Recognizing Action on the Ground

It is my great privilege to present the 2013 Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities! These 17 activities are shining examples of climate action around the world. They demonstrate what happens when innovation and passion come together to address the biggest challenge of our time.

This year's activities touch on three focus areas:

- *Women for Results*: recognizing the critical leadership and participation of women in addressing climate change. This focus area is implemented with the generous support of The Rockefeller Foundation.
- *Urban Poor*: recognizing climate action that improves the lives of impoverished people in urban communities. This focus area is implemented with the generous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- *Financing for Climate Friendly Investment*: recognizing successful and innovative climate-smart activities. This focus area is implemented in partnership with the World Economic Forum.

I am convinced that this year's Lighthouse Activities will inspire you and help you take practical ideas for action to your communities. Each of us has a role to play in meeting the climate challenge, and sharing success helps raise ambition and scale up the global commitment to act on climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'C. Figueres'.

Christiana Figueres | UNFCCC Executive Secretary



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE ADVISORY PANEL



On behalf of the Momentum for Change Advisory Panel, I am proud to announce the 2013 Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities. After receiving 252 worthy applications, we had the challenging task of selecting a small group from among them that stood out as true beacons, shining a light on the transformational societal shift underway to address climate change. These activities also demonstrate the potential to replicate and scale up action in communities around the world.

This year's Lighthouse Activities range from a women-led climate campaign in Australia to a groundbreaking effort to build climate-smart housing in Mexico. We recognize both small, entrepreneurial solutions in urban communities, such as the Recnowa project in Ghana, as well as large initiatives, such as an innovative financing scheme in the Philippines, to unlock resources needed to address climate change.

I'm sure that you will be as inspired as we were by this year's winners. Please spread the good news portrayed in their stories, and let them serve as catalysts for change.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Rigg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kelly Rigg | Executive Director of the Global Call for Climate Action
Chair of the Momentum for Change Advisory Panel



1 Mexico: Financing sustainable housing, page 18



2 Guatemala: Improving lives with trees and fuel-efficient stoves, page 15



3 Liberia: Fostering sustainable sanitation, page 11



4 Ghana: Reducing landfill waste, page 10



5 Ghana: Building bamboo bicycles, page 15



6 Sudan: Using low-smoke cook stoves, page 20



7 Kenya: Creating opportunities for vulnerable women, page 16



8 South Africa: Building resilience through food and trees, page 16



9 Mozambique: Putting community-led adaptation activities into action, page 12

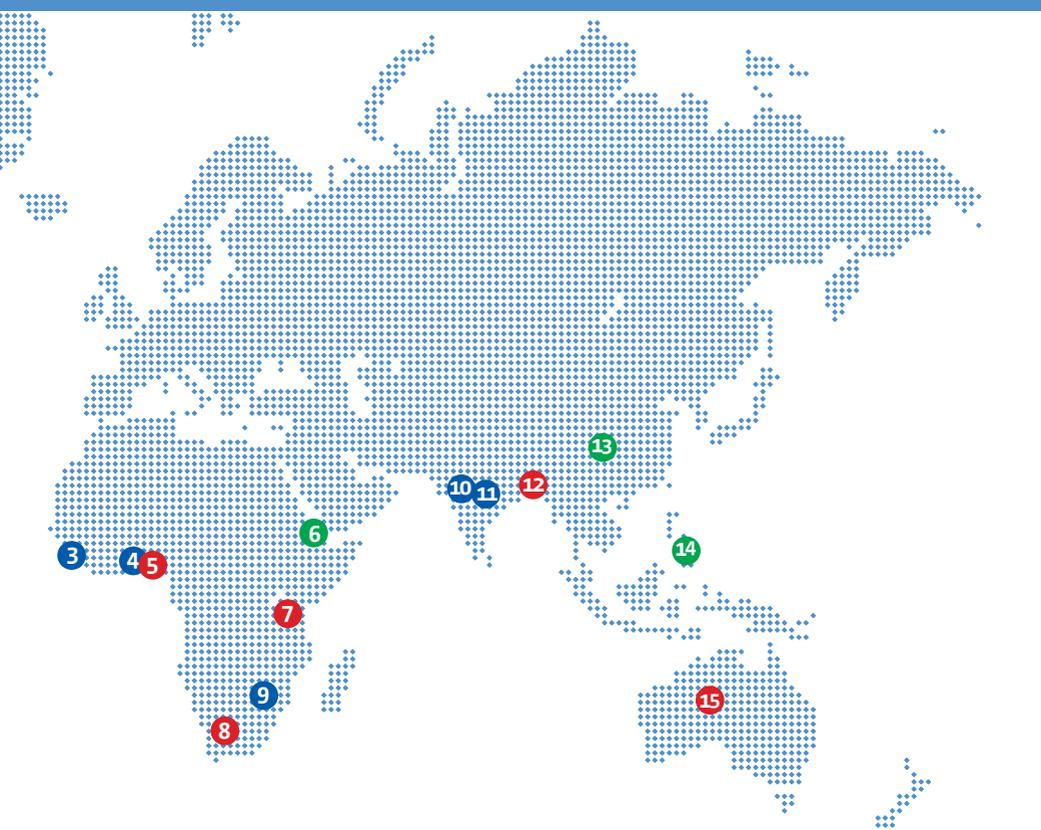


10 India: Building flood-resilient and affordable homes, page 11



11 India: Bringing solar energy to Bangalore's slums, page 10





12 Bangladesh: Addressing extreme weather in vulnerable communities, page 14



15 Australia: Empowering women to take action, page 14



13 China: Supporting low-carbon growth with innovative finance, page 18



Multi-regional: Deploying solar farms around the world, page 19



14 Philippines: Funding renewable energy projects, page 20



Multi-regional: Investing in agriculture, page 19



Urban Poor

Although urban centres are often ill-prepared to meet the basic needs of rapidly expanding populations, the urban poor are incredibly resourceful people, with their own networks and the proven capacity to save and invest in the betterment of their communities. Climate change creates a stimulus for action to improve and transform some of the most vulnerable urban communities.

Momentum for Change: Urban Poor celebrates activities that address climate change and improve livelihoods and living conditions in urban areas of developing countries. This focus area is implemented with the generous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

GHANA

Reducing landfill waste

In the crowded city of Kumasi, Ghana, garbage is a major problem. The government sanitation systems do not reach the slums. But the young people of the *Recycle Not a Waste Initiative (Recnowa)* are turning the waste into a low-carbon business opportunity. This social enterprise employs local artisans and street youth in poor urban communities to take recyclable waste out of landfills and off the streets, reducing emissions at the same time.

Ten plastic waste mobilization centres, which process between 80 to 100 tonnes of plastic each month, are managed by groups of trained street youth. The plastic collectors earn money for every 50 kilograms of plastic they remove from the streets, markets and waste bins. By converting waste materials into eco-friendly goods, the initiative has already cut carbon emissions by more than five million kilograms. *Recnowa* has also created 30 direct jobs and 100 indirect jobs (plastic waste collectors, sorters and transporters), with workers earning a higher wage than most other Ghanaians in similar positions.

INDIA

Bringing solar energy to Bangalore's slums

In the slums of Bangalore, children cannot do their homework after the sun sets. Families use polluting kerosene lamps, and the fuel eats up a significant percentage of their humble incomes. *Pollinate Energy* trains members of the local community to distribute and install solar lighting systems as micro-entrepreneurs, or what the organization calls "Pollinators." These Pollinators are armed with the best solar systems on the market and sell them to families within their communities.

This activity has two key benefits: it gives communities access to cheaper, renewable energy, providing alternatives to the expensive and toxic kerosene lamps that many of them use; and it gives community members the opportunity to earn extra income through a micro-entrepreneurship programme. So far, over 10,000 urban poor living in Bangalore's slum communities have been provided with solar systems. Transitioning from kerosene to solar has saved more than 40,000 litres of kerosene and 100,000 kilograms of carbon emissions to date.

INDIA

Building flood-resilient and affordable homes

The Mahewa ward of Gorakhpur, India, is prone to flooding during the monsoon season, affecting more than one million people in Uttar Pradesh. Many of the people who live in this community are poor and marginalized and are therefore more vulnerable to the impact of climatic hazards, such as floods, cyclones, altered rain patterns and heat waves.

Community-Based Micro-Climate Resilience helps urban poor communities in Gorakhpur adapt to climate change by designing and building new types of flood-resilient and affordable houses. Locally available bricks are used, with technologies and techniques that make building brick walls less energy intensive. This building method is more environmentally friendly than conventional practices, both in terms of optimization of resources and energy efficiency.



LIBERIA

Fostering sustainable sanitation

Since the civil war ended in Liberia in 2003, many areas of the capital of Monrovia still have damaged sewer infrastructure. Fecal sludge in latrines is left untreated, which is causing health problems and emitting methane, a potent greenhouse gas. *Fostering Innovative Sanitation and Hygiene (FISH)* is the first initiative by the Liberian government, since the civil war, to provide fecal sludge management services to unsewered poor areas of Liberia. This activity is reducing greenhouse gas emissions while providing new or improved access to sanitation for 800,000 people.

The initiative will also collect and treat fecal sludge along with the controlled capture of biogas to produce reusable products and fertilizer. The activity is creating health benefits by reducing people's vulnerability to water-borne diseases that result from open defecation and septic tank overflows. Economic benefits include creating 15 businesses and 55 new jobs for the urban poor.

MOZAMBIQUE

Putting community-led adaptation activities into action

Public Private People Partnerships for Climate Compatible Development (4PCCD) empowers people living in urban poor neighborhoods in Maputo, Mozambique, to design and implement activities to adapt to climate change. These activities include improving and maintaining drainage channels; protecting the water supply; managing local waste; and establishing awareness and communication channels between citizens and relevant institutions.

The 4PCCD activity brings together municipal and national actions to jointly build strategies for climate resilience that benefit urban poor communities. It focuses on producing local plans and engaging municipal and national government institutions, which are developing strategies to tackle climate change. 4PCCD also gets citizens involved in decisions that increase their resilience to climate change and the future sustainability of their neighbourhoods.





Women for Results

Women are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, such as droughts, floods and other extreme weather events. But women are also taking a leadership role in addressing climate change. *Momentum for Change: Women for Results* showcases women-led activities that address climate change. These Lighthouse Activities demonstrate

measurable impact on the ground and the potential for replicability and scalability at the local, national and international levels.

Women for Results is implemented with the generous support of The Rockefeller Foundation.

AUSTRALIA

Empowering women to take action

In Australia, women are building a movement to take action on climate change in their households, workplaces and communities. The organization *1 Million Women* has a simple goal with a big impact: get one million women to pledge to take small steps in their daily lives that save energy, reduce waste, cut pollution and lead change. So far 83,000 women have joined the campaign, and together they have committed to cut more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Since 2009, *1 Million Women* has grown to become Australia's largest women's environmental organization. When the campaign reaches its ultimate target of one million women members and cutting more than one million tonnes of carbon, it will be equivalent to taking 240,000 cars off the road for a year. Finding ways to make *1 Million Women* an organization that engages women and girls everywhere is central to its development plans for the next three years.

BANGLADESH

Addressing extreme weather in vulnerable communities

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh is a women-centered initiative that helps communities in Bangladesh adapt to climate change by addressing extreme weather conditions such as cyclones and flooding, as well as the consequence of increased salinity conditions in agriculture. The initiative brings together groups of women who lead vulnerability assessments of climate risks and then identify action plans. These plans are later implemented by the same groups of women brought together by the initiative.

As a result of this women-led approach, improved cooking-stoves were installed in 110 households, 10 temporary dams were built to preserve fresh water for irrigation and reduce salinity in the land, and a raised cluster village was created for landless families in flood-prone areas. Scalability is a key element of this initiative, which channeled resources to the local government to enhance their capacity. The initiative facilitates dialogue between communities and the local government to ensure that the good practices piloted by the women-led groups are scaled up.

GUATEMALA

Improving lives with trees and fuel-efficient stoves

Alliance for International Reforestation: Women Farmers in Guatemala promotes tree planting to sequester carbon and improve farming techniques, such as preventing erosion, improving yields and increasing crop diversity. The activity also builds efficient brick stoves with chimneys that reduce both the negative health impacts caused by smoke inhalation and the need to cut down trees for fuel.

The women-led Alianza Internacional de Reforestación (AIRES) offers training and tools to women farmers. The activity is already seeing positive results with more than 150,000 trees planted in Itzapa alone, more than 800 energy efficient stoves built in dozens of communities in Guatemala and the reforestation of mountain slopes of an entire region. The trees planted by the women prevent mudslides and soil erosion, clean the air, provide shade and sequester carbon, which helps mitigate climate change.



GHANA

Building bamboo bicycles

Propelled by women's leadership, the *Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative* is tackling climate change by building high-quality bamboo bicycles. The initiative has double-barreled climate benefits: it reduces emissions not only from the transportation sector but also from the bicycle production process. Compared to traditional steel bicycles, making bamboo bicycles releases far fewer emissions, requires less electricity and uses no hazardous chemicals.

The *Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative* is improving the lives of many rural Ghanaians not only by delivering a non-polluting and affordable form of transportation that satisfies local needs, but also by creating employment opportunities for women and stimulating economic growth. The initiative trains people with little or no education in the manufacturing and assembly of bamboo bikes. Women are also trained to use bamboo waste to manufacture charcoal and briquettes that address their energy needs. Producing stable, more affordable and reliable bikes in Ghana is helping the country reduce its dependence on fossil fuels while increasing economic opportunities for rural Ghanaians.

KENYA

Creating opportunities for vulnerable women

The BOMA Project helps women living in extreme poverty in Kenya's arid lands adapt to climate change by diversifying their livelihoods by starting small businesses in their villages. Its Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) targets the poorest and most vulnerable women in each community. REAP builds resilience to climate change by enabling women to own productive assets, which generate income and are not tied to the drought-threatened livestock industry.

REAP provides a start-up grant, sustained business-skills and savings training. It also provides hands-on support by local *BOMA* village mentors. To date, *BOMA* has lifted more than 32,000 women and children out of extreme poverty; its goal is to reach 100,000 within five years. REAP offers a long-term approach to climate change adaptation for vulnerable women in Kenya.



SOUTH AFRICA

Building resilience through food and trees

Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA) fosters women's leadership to address climate change. The initiative carries out activities such as planting trees to sequester carbon and raises public awareness about climate change. Its programmes also enhance food security, alleviate poverty, teach women skills and create a healthier and more sustainable environment.

One of its programmes, Food Gardens for Africa, responds to hundreds of community requests for food gardens. *FTFA* also develops organic farmers, through its Farmer Eco Enterprise Development programme, where more than 50 per cent of the farmers are women. Thousands of schools, women's groups and other community organizations have benefited from the planting of millions of trees and thousands of organic food gardens. There are increasing numbers of organizations that are planting trees to mitigate climate change based on the *FTFA* model and are developing permaculture training, educational material and gardens.



Financing for Climate Friendly Investment

Given our planet's growing environmental and resource challenges, such as climate change and water security, the imperative for shifting development onto a more sustainable pathway is increasingly clear. Governments can use strategically targeted public funds and policies to address the risks faced by private investors, resulting in a significant increase in private capital flows for climate friendly development.

Momentum for Change: Financing for Climate Friendly Investment showcases activities that represent successful financing mechanisms and approaches to support climate change adaption and mitigation activities. *Financing for Climate Friendly Investment* is implemented in partnership with the World Economic Forum.

CHINA

Supporting low-carbon growth with innovative finance

The *China Clean Development Mechanism Fund (CCDMF)* is a national climate fund that supports low-carbon growth and climate resilience in China. It is a revolving fund that receives regular capital injections from levies collected by the government on clean development mechanism projects in China.

The *CCDMF* provides support for climate mitigation and adaptation projects in China, including energy efficiency and clean energy projects, and leverages private sector investments into these areas. *CCDMF* also supports policy studies, capacity building and public awareness raising activities. *CCDMF* is scalable and replicable as it provides a practical innovative mechanism to channel funds originating from carbon markets to climate smart activities. Government representatives from Brazil, Vietnam and Cambodia have already visited *CCDMF* to learn more about this type of climate financing.

MEXICO

Financing sustainable housing

Rapidly expanding cities in Mexico are bringing with them increased energy demand and inefficient transport patterns. Mexico's residential sector currently accounts for about 16 per cent of total energy use and 26 per cent of total electricity use. But sustainable housing requires investment. *ECOCASA* is helping Mexico tackle climate change by unlocking financing to build low-carbon housing and increasing the number of mortgages for low-carbon housing.

In addition to its many climate benefits, this activity is providing long-lasting benefits to Mexico's housing sector. Providing financing to build more sustainable houses will help lower energy consumption and spending, cut greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen government policies and initiatives. In its first seven years *ECOCASA* is helping build 27,600 houses and finance an additional 1,700 "green" mortgages.



MULTI-REGIONAL

Deploying solar farms around the world

In remote locations, large-scale diesel generators are usually the most convenient way to generate electricity. But with rising energy costs and increased concern about carbon emissions, the market is hungry for alternatives.

Solar panels traditionally require a significant up-front investment and a long-term pay-back period, but what if you could rent them short term? *Redavia* leases cost-effective, convenient and clean solar farms without up-front capital investment or long-term obligations. The farms in turn reduce consumption of diesel fuel by generators, improve access to electricity and reduce emissions and power costs in countries around the world.

In addition, diesel fuel prices are likely to increase further in the coming years and the emissions from diesel engines are both a local health hazard and a global environmental risk. *Redavia* enables customers to replace diesel power with solar power during the daytime, thereby reducing power costs, locking in a fixed power price over a flexible contract period and avoiding carbon and other harmful emissions.

MULTI-REGIONAL

Investing in agriculture

The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate finance to smallholder farmers so they can access the tools and technologies that help build their resilience to climate change. Launched by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), *ASAP* is the world's largest climate change adaptation programme for smallholder farmers, reaching millions of smallholders worldwide.

ASAP empowers community-based organizations to make use of new climate risk management skills, information and technologies and combine them with tried and tested approaches to sustainable land and water management. For example, improved weather station networks provide farmers with more reliable seasonal forecasts while mapping technologies help farmers better understand and monitor landscape use in a changing environment. Putting a price tag on climate change informs more robust policy decisions, while access to drought-resilient crop varieties and innovative land management practices empowers agricultural workers to manage risk and uncertainty.

PHILIPPINES

Funding renewable energy projects

The groundbreaking *Sustainable Energy Finance (SEF) Program* is the first of its kind in the Philippines and is paving the way for more private financial sector investment in sustainable energy projects. These projects are reducing greenhouse emissions, improving energy security and boosting economic development in the Philippines.

The *SEF Program* is an advisory programme being implemented by the International Finance Corporation in different regions around the world. The *Philippines SEF Program* supports private banks through capacity building, technical evaluation and product development to help them finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Companies that want to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects can now access loans from select partner banks.



SUDAN

Using low-smoke cook stoves

Sudan's *Low Smoke Stoves* initiative delivers health and economic benefits to households in the strife-torn region of Darfur, where climate change, drought and desertification are a fact of life. The project provides micro-financing opportunities for families wanting to replace traditional wood and charcoal stoves with more energy-efficient, clean-burning liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cook stoves.

Burning charcoal and firewood for cooking contributes to thousands of deaths each year due to smoke inhalation. The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves notes that cooking with LPG stoves reduces most key pollutants by more than 95 per cent and reduces energy consumption by 50 to 70 per cent in comparison to dirtier fuels. Additionally, cooking with LPG stoves is a cheaper alternative to firewood and charcoal, making it a more sustainable option for households.

Fully funded through carbon finance and co-managed by local women's networks, the activity aims to deliver 10,000 cook stoves, which will cut more than 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over 10 years.

MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE



2013 LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Special events at the 2013 United Nations Climate Change Conference

Tuesday, 19 November 2013

13:15 – 14:45

Momentum for Change: Women for Results

Wednesday, 20 November 2013

11:30 – 13:00

Momentum for Change: Financing for Climate Friendly Investment

18:30 – 20:00

Momentum for Change: Showcase event to recognize and celebrate the 2013 Lighthouse Activities

Thursday, 21 November 2013

13:15 – 14:45

Momentum for Change: Urban Poor

18:30 – 20:00

Launch of Momentum for Change: ICT Solutions

Location: National Stadium, Warsaw, Poland

momentum4change.org



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

✉ momentum@unfccc.int

📘 facebook.com/unfcccmomentum

🐦 twitter.com/Momentum_UNFCCC