



# Locally implemented or locally led?

## Tracking Climate Finance for community climate action

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Tracking finance for community climate action

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Climate change

Keywords:  
Climate finance, locally led adaptation, financing local adaptation, financing for development



# Background

Three major reports have attempted to track climate finance flows to the local level, varied scope and focus

	IIED Soanes et al (2017)	UNEP Adaptation Gap report (2023)	IIED Treichel et al 2025
Time period	2003-2016	2017-2021	2016-2023
Data source	12 climate funds and 4 development funds	Bilateral and multilateral climate finance providers' reporting to OECD, including non-concessional finance	Bilateral and multilateral climate finance providers' reporting to OECD
Focus	All climate action	Adaptation only	All climate action
Keywords	civic, community, cooperative, decentralised, home, household, indigenous, local, municipal, province, rural, slums, smallholders, SMEs, subnational, town, village	civic, community, cooperative, decentralised, home, household, indigenous, local, municipal, province, rural, slums, smallholders, SMEs, subnational, town, village	city/cities, civic, commun*, cooperative, decentrali*, home, household, Indigenous, local, municipal, provinc*, rural, slum*, smallholder*, SME*, subnational, town, urban, village, cooperativo, descentrali*, casa, hogar, indígena, barrio*, subnacional, pueblo, aldea; civique, coopératif, décentrali*, maison, ménage, autochtone, infranational, ville

# What does ‘to the local level’ even mean?

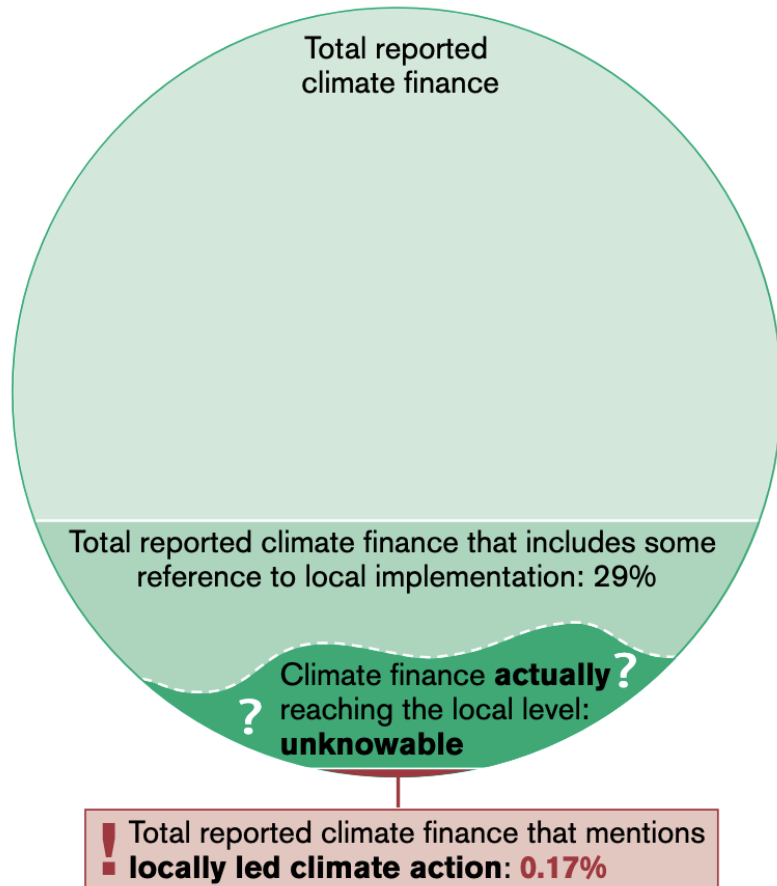
**Locally led climate action:** decision-making power to the community in question and broadly align with the LLA principles.

**Locally implemented climate action:** activities implemented at local level, local actors as ‘beneficiaries’ or ‘implementers’; strategic decisions remain external.

**Local actors:** public, private, civil society, households, and other sub-national actors.

- Current global reporting systems do not systematically define between these.

# Key Findings



- Less than 1/3 of climate finance mentions local communities (only 29% reported climate finance include terms like ‘local’, ‘community’)
  - More for adaptation (33.6%) than mitigation (24.6%)
  - Climate finance that mentions locally led climate action—critically underfunded—just 0.17% mentions the terms “locally led” or “community led” across eight years.
- *Link to the paper: [Locally led or Locally Implemented?](#)*

# Methods and Challenges

**Approach:** a key word search on project titles and descriptions in OECD DAC data  
→ limits on each element

- Key word search: Extremely crude, and risk of both under and over counting.
  - Refined and expanded keywords, but findings still limited to estimations only.
- Using project titles and descriptions: either all of each reported funding line is included, or none.
- OECD DAC data: inconsistent reporting between countries, and ‘over-coding’ by funder countries against the Rio markers.
- Funders report same information to both OECD and UNFCCC in different ways

Despite limitations, OECD DAC data remains the most comprehensive publicly available dataset

# 'Deep dive' side quest to nowhere

We proposed 'deep dive' into a subset of completed projects from across the range of funders:

- This would allow us to see what proportion of a project's activities actually involve local actors, and to estimate the funding proportion within a project making it to the local level.  
→ could compare with macro estimates from OECD data
- Despite initial enthusiasm no funders were willing to share their data

# Implications and Recommendations

- **Transparency and accountability:** current reporting methods cannot accurately track local-level flows; improved transparency is vital as we prepare for NCQG reporting
- **Standardised and consistent metrics and reporting standards:** address current parallel systems, collectively agree upon consistent reporting approaches for the data they already generate, what constitutes local.
- **Emphasise quality as much quantity:** prioritising locally led approaches and delivery mechanisms, not just the flows.

# Thank you!

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