

The CLIMA Fund is a collaboration among [Global Greengrants Fund](#), [Grassroots International](#), [Thousand Currents](#), and [Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism](#), which resources grassroots climate justice movements building local resilience and addressing the root causes of the climate crisis. In the face of expanding authoritarianism and escalating climate shocks, movements are building timely, durable, and effective solutions. Below is a snapshot of how the CLIMA Fund's grassroots grantee partners have been taking critical climate action in 2025. For more partner profiles, check out [our website](#).

Grassroots movements are influencing global policy



"Nothing about us, without us". Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB).
 Photo by Lirio Moraes

Two global convenings in 2025 enabled climate justice movements to organize, hone collective agendas, and build cross-movement infrastructure: the [Nyéléni forum](#) and the [People's Summit at COP30](#). The Nyéléni forum is the largest gathering of food sovereignty movements globally. Grassroots movements from around the world aligned shared agendas on the road to Nyéléni, informing and influencing global climate policy at COP30.

Our partners, [Asociación por la Defensa del Agua, la Tierra y el Territorio Policarpa Páramo](#), and the [International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty](#), among others, participated in the Nyéléni forum. The movement actors prioritize food for people (rather than solely for profit), protecting the environment, and ensuring local control of food systems from inputs to pricing.

[Care About Climate](#) and [Shifting Advocacy](#) trained youth activists to shape high-level climate policy at COP30 and connected activists with decision-makers. The groups were resourced to develop advocacy strategies to ensure youth voices were present and heard at the negotiations. These youth-led partner organizations are working to shape Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that reflect each country's ambition to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Care About Climate had previously developed the [NDC Equity Tracker](#), which compiles local analyses and suggestions from youth leaders for their countries' NDCs. The database connects international climate policy with national commitments to support youth leaders' advocacy at the national level and develop a framework for accountability.

Grassroots movements are changing national policy: a spotlight on plastics

[Red Dominicana de Estudios y Empoderamiento Afrodescendiente \(RedAfros\)](#) is working to reduce and control single-use plastics in the Dominican Republic. The group is advocating for the government to sign on to the Global Plastics Treaty, which aims to address the life cycle of plastics. RedAfros is also pushing for stronger implementation of the General Law on the Environment (Law 64-00), which places the responsibility on the government to protect the environment and ensure community participation in conservation. The Dominican Republic is highly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis, as it faces increased natural disasters and declining crop yields, yet climate has not been a significant policy issue for lawmakers. RedAfros is working to change this by training community members to work with government representatives to develop a just and holistic vision for the country's climate future.

[Green Forum Panay Guimaras](#) is putting the principles of the Global Plastics Treaty into practice in the Philippines. Their current campaign targets a [waste-to-energy](#) joint venture between a local government and a coal plant. Such projects burn non-recyclable waste, such as plastic, to generate electricity. Green Forum rejects this venture as it is exacerbating respiratory illnesses instead of addressing the root causes of plastic pollution. The group has conducted a waste and brand audit to identify major contributors to plastic pollution and is using these insights to inform its advocacy work. Green Forum is working with policymakers to create regulations that reduce the use of single-use plastics, promote sustainable alternatives, and prevent waste incineration.

Grassroots movements are strengthening locally-controlled food production by uplifting agroecology

Agroecology prioritizes decentralized, local markets, which reduces transport-related emissions and ensures that food production is led by and is accountable to local communities. Meanwhile, mining companies and agribusiness in Northern Paraguay are destroying local biodiversity and displacing Indigenous communities. Expansion of agribusiness is accompanied by the introduction of genetically modified crops, which is suppressing traditional farming knowledge and preservation of native seeds. Our partner **Organización Campesina del Norte** is preserving the region's rich biodiversity and agricultural knowledge. The group's seed distribution programs, trainings, and knowledge-sharing convenings are supporting agroecology and livelihoods of residents, most of whom are engaged in family farming. Organización Campesina del Norte and its allies across the country also engage policymakers to uplift the rights of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale farmers.



Organización Campesina del Norte members at a seed fair in Asunción sharing native seeds and medicinal products. Photo by OCDN.

In the fifty years since the end of the war and the reunification of the country, agribusiness in Vietnam has grown significantly, accompanied by an over-reliance on pesticides. A 2022 survey found that **60% of Vietnam's pesticides were classified as Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)** or banned in multiple countries. Industrial fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are petrochemicals that are destructive to local ecosystems and communities. Synthetic fertilizers contribute significantly to total agricultural carbon emissions, accounting for **roughly 21.5% of annual direct emissions from agriculture**.

Our partner, the **Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED JSC)**, is pushing back against these harmful petrochemicals. The group is providing training to local women farmers as they move away from fossil fuels in agriculture. Agroecological practices, such as those traditionally practiced in the region, help increase resource-use efficiency and reduce the need for fertilizers or pesticides.



SWI members planting organic asparagus at their three-day youth conference. Photo by SWI.

Agroecology sequesters carbon, improves soil health, and eliminates the need for pesticides. Use of pesticides in agriculture is directly linked to developmental delays, respiratory issues, and **chronic illnesses in children**. The **Social Work Institute (SWI)** is creating rural education programs for small-scale farmers in Nepal to encourage sustainable agricultural practices. SWI's training program promotes agroecology as a viable, safe alternative to pesticide-dependent farming. SWI is advocating for stronger implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) and the Food Sovereignty Act at the national level. SWI and its allies are working with the national and provincial governments to ensure fair pricing for agricultural products and to deprioritize large agribusinesses in subsidy provision.

Grassroots movements are strengthening civil society and pushing back against authoritarianism

Authoritarianism is on the rise across the globe. Governments and corporate elites are abusing the threat posed by the climate crisis to consolidate power and accelerate climate shocks. We have seen an increase in surveillance, criminalization of dissent, and rollback of protections for land and labor in the last year. Yet we are also seeing grassroots climate justice movements from the Philippines to Brazil, and from Kenya to the U.S., protecting democratic life and advancing climate solutions that center equity.

Grassroots movements, such as the **Landless Workers' Movement (MST)**, are insisting on governance that is participatory, accountable, and grounded in care. MST organizes over 1.5M people across Brazil to reclaim land, grow food, and set up schools. Alongside other movement allies, MST successfully pushed back against authoritarianism in Brazil and helped elect a progressive government. Movement groups are now **holding the government to account** to ensure that respect for human rights and the environment does not slip away again.



The Marcha das Margaridas in 2023. The march spotlights rural women's needs and preserves the memory of feminist activists from years past. Photo by César Ramos.

The **Marcha das Margaridas** (March of the Daisies) brings tens of thousands of rural women and grassroots organizers to Brasília every four years to make policy demands. Even under Bolsonaro, when women's rights were rolled back, the march persisted as a show of resistance, and when a progressive government was re-instated, the movement was positioned to ensure those demands turned into policy.

Movement groups like the MST and the Marcha demonstrate an alternative model of democratic governance grounded in collective self-determination.

Our publication **Why Grassroots Climate Justice Movements are Critical for Defending Democracy** shares more examples of grassroots movements acting as democracy's immune system over the decades.

The CLIMA Fund resources a wide range of grassroots strategies in addition to the themes shown above. In 2025, our grassroots partners protected **Indigenous land tenure**, resisted **oil pipelines**, strengthened **youth leadership**, and advanced **peacebuilding efforts**. Our partners have taken to the streets and courts of law in Poland, Turkey, and the United States to resist oppressive abortion laws, anti-trans legislation, and **gender-based violence**. CLIMA Fund members have **resourced activists and movements** in conflict zones and **humanitarian crises**.

Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari's work to obtain legal personhood for the Marañón River in Peru and **Semia Gharbi's** campaign to challenge the illegal export of waste from Italy to Tunisia won them the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. **Yuturi Warmi**, an all-woman forest patrol group from Ecuador, received international attention for protecting the Amazon from extractive industries. These international accolades highlight Indigenous women's often invisibilized climate defense work. As governments stifle dissent and corporations intimidate and harass natural resource defenders, our grassroots partners are standing strong on the **frontlines**.