

 Pillar 3.
INTEGRATION

DOMPET DHUAFA

Using religious donations to tackle climate change

- **Country:** Indonesia
- **Number of staff:** Unknown
- **Year of incorporation:** July 2, 1993
- **Type:** Operating foundation
- **Endowment:** No
- **More information:** dompethuafa.org

In 1993, a group of Indonesian journalists and activists ran a column on the front page of the *Republika* – a daily national newspaper targeted at the country’s Muslim community – to call for donations. Living in one of the poorest¹ and most populous Muslim-majority countries in the world, they aimed to leverage the Islamic principles of giving and social finance for poverty alleviation. From that initial effort emerged Dompeth Dhuafa, which means ‘the wallet of the poor’ – an Islamic philanthropic foundation that collects and manages various forms of alms obtained from individuals, groups or corporate donors to empower poor people in Indonesia, who are referred to as *mustahik* (*‘the deserving’*).

Since its establishment, Dompeth Dhuafa has supported more than 28 million people with the direct transfer of funds, social capital development and advocacy campaigns, in both urban and rural areas in Indonesia. Over the decades, the foundation’s focus has expanded to five programmatic pillars: Health, Education, Economy, Social Affairs, and *Da’wah* and Culture, always maintaining the *Da’wah*² spirit of preaching Islam and adopting people-centred approaches. The combination of the broader Islamic community’s engagement on climate change, coupled with the foundation’s first-hand experience of communities vulnerable to climate change, were key triggers for Dompeth Dhuafa’s initial steps in climate action.

¹ “Poverty Data: Indonesia”, Asian Development Bank, 2022, <https://www.adb.org/countries/indonesia/poverty>

² Chitwood, K. (2018). “Da’wah”. In: Gooren, H. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions*. Springer, Cham., https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-08956-0_254-1

Religious calls to climate action

In 2021, ahead of COP21 and the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, several groups of stakeholders, including Pope Francis of the Catholic Church and leaders of the Buddhist and Muslim communities, issued calls for greater commitment and ambition from governments and more active citizenship to address the climate crisis. The issuing of the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change³ was a pivotal movement for Dompot Dhuafa because it helped to clarify how climate action could be aligned with Islamic principles and motivated the foundation to reflect on how to optimise the potential of its assets for climate action. On its website, Dompot Dhuafa shares ideas⁴ about how Islamic donation instruments can be leveraged for climate-relevant interventions, such as financing renewable energy projects or capacity-building schemes that train farmers to make their crops more resilient to climate impacts such as droughts or floods. The foundation has also been focusing on disaster response measures, which are specifically relevant for the under-resourced communities that it aims to serve.

Raising awareness among beneficiaries

Working alongside the *mustahik* and with local farmers, the Dompot Dhuafa team came to understand poor communities' dependency on ecosystem services, as well as the territory's unpreparedness to deal with climate impact and disasters. The team identified two main problems: many communities in which they worked did not have enough information about their level of exposure to climate risks, nor did they have an established structure or disaster preparedness plan.

“Climate change is a global issue with local impacts. So, we are trying to focus our advocacy efforts to raise awareness among vulnerable local people and develop their adaptive capacity to disaster response.”

— SYAMSUL ARDIANSYAH, DOMPOT DHUAFa SENIOR OFFICER OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE.

³ “Islamic Declaration on Climate Change”, UNFCCC, 2015, <https://unfccc.int/news/islamic-declaration-on-climate-change>

⁴ “Waqf for Climate Change”, Dompot Dhuafa, 2021, <https://www.dompotdhuafa.org/wakaf-untuk-perubahan-iklim/>

The foundation decided to invest mainly in capacity building and information provision by integrating a climate lens into their programmes. To improve the quality of information about disaster management in the communities in which they operate, the foundation provided disaster preparedness training for journalists. They also created the Dompét Dhuafa Disaster Management Center⁵, with the mission of ensuring that disaster volunteers meet basic standards of disaster management knowledge and tactical skills before being deployed. The Center belongs to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction⁶ – a multistakeholder mechanism to review progress on the implementation of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The foundation has also supported other projects, like planting 2,050 mangrove trees⁷ as part of a community effort to encourage local officials to transform the Pacitan Regency area, specifically Sidomulyo Village, into an area that could respond to and recover from climate disasters. Furthermore, through its Economy Programme, the foundation led capacity-building efforts to improve farmers' and fishers' sustainable production capacities.

In addition to its domestic focus, Dompét Dhuafa started actively pursuing international engagement on climate and sustainable development to strengthen collaboration and peer learning on the climate agenda. When Indonesia assumed the G20 presidency at the end of 2021, Dompét Dhuafa joined the Civil Society 20 (C20) – a platform for civil society organisations to voice their aspirations for the G20 presidency. The foundation played an active role in preparing and delivering the C20 policy recommendations presented during the C20 Summit in Indonesia. The alignment of G20 countries' policies and regulations with the goals of the Paris Agreement was one of the group's key asks of government representatives.

Recently, Dompét Dhuafa has won several awards⁸, including second place in the philanthropy category of the 2022 SDGs Action Award - an Indonesian government initiative in appreciation of all parties who have taken real action to realise inclusive and sustainable development. Dompét Dhuafa aims to continue to grow and expand its climate work, always following the principle of leaving no one behind.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union.
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⁵ Dompét Dhuafa Disaster Management Center, 2022, <https://dmcdompetedhuafa.org/>

⁶ Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2022, <https://globalplatform.undrr.org/about-gp>

⁷ "To prevent Abrasion, DMC and Several Institutions Plant Thousands of Mangroves in Pacitan", Dompét Dhuafa, 2022, <https://www.dompetedhuafa.org/en/to-prevent-abrasion-dmc-and-several-institutions-plant-thousands-of-mangroves-in-pacitan/>

⁸ "Indonesia SDGs Action Award", 2022, <https://sdgs-awards.bappenas.go.id/>