

To all those who work full-time or on a voluntary basis in parishes, groups, orders, movements, schools and associations; to friends of MISEREOR everywhere!

Make a change. For climate justice.

The slogan of this year's Lenten Campaign is a claim, a commitment and Jesus' promise all in one. It is part of MISEREOR's DNA and drives the work of our partner organisations.

Over the past year, extreme weather in the shape of typhoons, forest fires and destructive floods in Germany and its neighbouring countries have pushed the boundaries of what we consider conceivable. People lost their loved ones. The news was full of events that we usually associate with countries of the South but were suddenly taking place right on our own doorstep. Where were you, God?

Scientists have concluded that these extreme weather situations are a consequence of human-induced climate change. Painful as it is, these events are opening our eyes to the damage we are doing to Mother Earth, God's creation.

It is plain to see that today, as in the past, the world's industrialised nations are responsible for most CO2 emissions, while poorer countries in particular are bearing the brunt of the consequences of global warming. Pope Francis talks of humanity as people who share a common home and notes that everything is interconnected and that we simultaneously have a joint and an individual responsibility. If we share this attitude, then it is clear that the time for metanoia, for reorientation and reformation, has come. Now is the time to put words about justice into action: in the face of the climate crisis, no one must be left behind. The alternative to poverty is a community built on solidarity. That is where you are, God!

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says that in order to ensure that new models of progress arise, we have to change 'models of global development' (cf. LS 194).



Photo K. Mellenthin / MISEREOR

He is referring here to the kind of development that brings forth an affluent minority at the expense of the majority and of Mother Earth. Progress means seeing the writing on the wall and really changing direction and reforming; really developing rigorous, consistent policies and responsible economic practices and really allowing ourselves to be shaken out of our complacency by Earth Overshoot Day, which is gradually moving forward in the calendar. With you, God!

This Lenten Campaign magazine contains liturgical elements and practical methods and suggestions to guide you through the Lenten season. Most importantly, we shine a spotlight on some of the men, women and initiatives in Bangladesh, the Philippines and Germany that are working for greater climate justice in the world. Stand up and take action for greater climate justice: let us share the resources we have been given in a responsible manner.

Make a change. For climate justice.

Pirmin Spiegel
Director General of MISEREOR

How much future will be left for future generations?

Climate justice is possible.

Anika Schroeder, desk officer for climate in the Policy and Global Challenges Department, MISEREOR Aachen

When I went to pick up my daughters earlier than usual on 14 July 2021 because the river that flows past their playschool was rising, they found the whole thing both scary and exciting at once. For many children in Germany's Ahr valley, things did not pan out so well. And for hundreds of millions of children on this planet, natural disasters have posed and continue to pose a regular threat to their health

Both natural disasters that creep up on us slowly, such as drought or the rise in sea levels, and those that hit us out of the blue, such as cyclones or torrential rain, are causing devastating damage in developing countries in particular. In 2019 alone, 24 million people were displaced as a result of extreme weather events. Of this number, five million had to leave the place they called home for good. By 2050, this figure could rise to 300 million.

Tipping points: heading towards an inhospitable world

It is alarming to think that global heating can cause tipping points to be passed, triggering a domino effect that would see temperatures continue to rise, making heating irreversible. If the temperature rises by two degrees, almost all of the world's coral reefs would disappear. If this rise could be restricted to a maximum of 1.5 degrees, there would still be a chance to save at least some of the coral, which would in turn protect the coasts from spring tides and erosion. With the Paris climate agreement, the international community committed itself to taking measures that would limit global heating to 2 – and if possible to a maximum of 1.5 – degrees Celsius.

The time to act is now: MAX 1.5°

The most recent reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show clearly that we simply cannot and must not risk a rise of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. It is still technically and physically possible to limit global heating in this way. To do so, only a further 440 gigatonnes of greenhouse gases would be allowed to be emitted. If emissions remain at their current level, however, this limit would be reached by 2030.

and both their day-to-day lives and their lives as a whole.

The catastrophic flooding that hit western Germany last summer showed us in the starkest terms that the climate crisis has arrived here too. If we are to limit the climate crisis to a manageable level, the coming years are going to be decisive. We should use this challenge as an opportunity to create a fairer world.



On 8 November 2013, typhoon Haiyan devastated large parts of the Philippine region of Visayas

Photo: H. Schwarzbach / MISEREOR

In short, emissions must be cut by half over the next ten years. Global climate neutrality must be achieved by 2050.

Germany's responsibility for climate justice

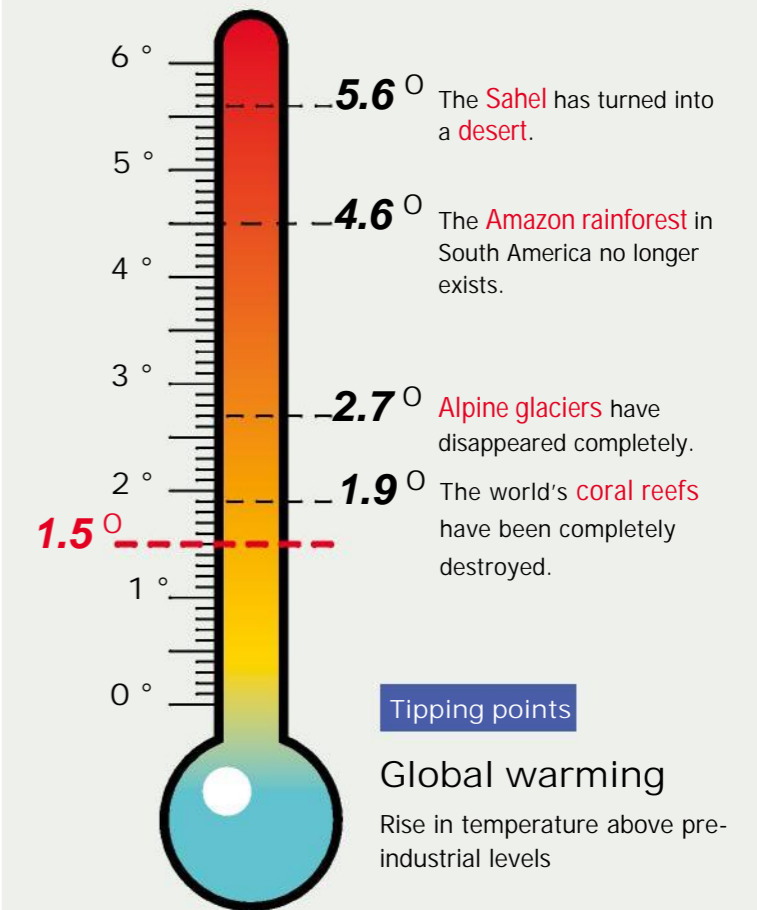
By accident of birth, I live in a safe country – a country that grew affluent in the course of its industrialisation by burning coal, natural gas and oil. Together with other industrialised countries, it has generated almost half of the emissions that are now heating up the atmosphere, the earth and the oceans. To this day, we generate on average between five and ten times as many emissions per head of population as most people in developing countries. We now have to use the affluence we have generated and the technical opportunities we have created to take consistent climate protection measures here in Germany and to support climate protection measures in other countries that will foster development and to help people cope with the damage and loss that will inevitably be caused by the climate crisis.

In what kind of world will my children live?

The IPCC predicts that we will probably reach the 1.5-degree limit by 2030. When that happens, my children will be 14 and 15 years of age. Depending on how rigorous we are in changing course and reforming the way we live and manage our economy in the next few years, temperatures will either remain stable or they will increase by up to 4.4 degrees by the end of the century. My children will be 85 years old at the end of this century. Will they be living in a world that is more than 4 degrees Celsius hotter compared to pre-industrial levels? If that happens, the Amazon will be a sand steppe, the monsoon dynamics will have been disturbed and coral will long since have disappeared from the face of the earth. Conflicts over water and land will have escalated into wars in a growing number of regions. Or will we manage to turn this ship around in time?

What kind of world will I see in my lifetime?

If Germany makes its fair contribution to climate protection, I may still be able to see this better world by 2040 at the age of 60.



If not, it will be too late to change. In that better world, fossil fuels would no longer be used. We would use energy more efficiently and 100% of the energy we use would come from renewable sources. Sustainable food production methods and diets would allow farmers – and not just those who sell what farmers produce – to make a living. Local cycles would be established and the overall focus would be on quality (of life) rather than on quick growth.

On the day I collected my daughters early from playschool, I explained to them why torrential rain is happening more frequently. My older daughter asked 'Why aren't you doing anything?!' It is my hope that in 15 years, she will look back on the photos taken during her childhood with the smoking chimneys of the Weisweiler power plant in the background, shake her head and say 'Inconceivable today.'

A longer version of this article is available at fasten-aktion.misereor.de/grundlagen or here:



We can only shape the future together

Statements from the North and the South

'The gravity of climate change should motivate global decision-makers to find solutions that will limit the terrible impact of climate change.'

Rosalinda R. Sanchez
Volunteer for Pagtambayayong, Cebu, Philippines

'The first part of the IPCC's latest assessment report makes one thing crystal clear: there is no negotiating with nature.

Above all, countries and companies with high CO₂ emissions must make drastic cuts. Now!

Kathrin Schroeder
Head of the Policy and Global Challenges Department
MISEREOR

'We are tired of hearing companies and our government saying they are doing their best to save our planet. We don't need greenwashing and empty promises; we need a change of system. This is the way to make climate justice possible.'

Eloisa Mae Abejaron
Student volunteer for IDIS, Davao City, Philippines

'Climate justice helps to prevent poverty and makes a major contribution to greater global justice.'

Pirmin Spiegel
Director General, MISEREOR

'Every day, I see poor people migrating to the cities because of climate-related disasters and living there in unhealthy conditions. It is my duty to save the environment for us and for future generations.'

Zahangir Alam
Staff member at BARCIK, Dhaka, Bangladesh

'Climate justice is the responsibility of society as a whole and can only be achieved together. However: every contribution brings us one step closer to our goal!'

Elisabeth Bially
Head of the Asia and Oceania Department,
MISEREOR

The yin and yang of climate justice

The role played by Asian cities in achieving climate justice

Dr Almuth Schaubert, desk officer for urban poverty and urban climate policy, MISEREOR Aachen

Yin and yang denote a balance of opposites that attract and complement each other and that are brought into equilibrium by striving for balance. In Asia, rapid urbanisation and the climate crisis have led to a constellation for which a harmonious counterbalance is being sought.

All over the world, cities are shaping life in the twenty-first century. This is more true of Asia than of any other continent on earth because Asia is currently home to more than half of the world's urban population.

In the year 2050, almost two thirds of humanity will be living in cities – that's roughly the same number of people that live in the entire world today. Both the speed and the extent of urbanisation processes – both in Asia and worldwide – are unprecedented. This dynamic is calling into question existing systems and, therefore, familiar courses of action.

Forecasts say that as urban populations increase, the number of people living in slums

could increase by one to two billion people worldwide. This puts a more clearly contoured, urban complexion on matters of social justice.

The key challenge is to find just solutions that will protect poor and vulnerable population groups against the effects of the climate crisis!

Climate neutrality in Asian cities by 2050

The urban poor often live in vulnerable places: on the banks of rivers, in estuaries or in coastal areas. They are directly at risk from extreme weather events and rising sea-levels. The urban poor are also directly affected by extreme heat, drought and water shortages. The effects of these events are reinforced by inadequate or non-existent basic infrastructure. In the spirit of global and local climate justice, the protection of particularly vulnerable populations groups against the consequences of the climate crisis – and also against future damage and loss – must become a political and societal priority.

Photo: K. M. ASAD / MISEREOR



When worlds collide: the Chaduddan district in Dhaka City, Bangladesh

As in the Philippine capital Manila (pictured here), the urban poor often live in dangerous areas on the banks of rivers



It is also about how the climate neutrality of Asian cities and urban societies can be achieved by 2050 – especially in the context of such rapid growth.

Cities consume 70 per cent of all the energy generated worldwide and emit 75 per cent of all greenhouse gases. This makes cities a decisive factor when it comes to attenuating climate change. There is still a chance: new settlements need to be designed in a climate-friendly manner and existing cities – worldwide – need to decarbonise fast. In addition to the energy and building sector, it is the mobility sector in particular that will play a key role because it could become the greatest polluter by 2050.

Over the next 30 years, the number of people living in Asian cities is set to almost double. In Bangladesh and the Philippines, the urban population will grow by up to 50 million in each country. In India, it will grow by at least 406 million.

Sixty per cent of the infrastructure that will exist in India by the year 2050 will have to be built in only 30 years. It can be assumed that developments in

heavily urbanising countries such as Bangladesh and the Philippines will be comparable.

Bangladesh, China, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand are the six countries in the world that are most under threat from rising sea-levels. In these six countries alone, about 300 million people will be directly affected by the year 2050. Major cities and coastal cities are already permanently losing land and settlement areas as a result of the sea level rise. Forecasts predict that many cities could lose almost their entire surface area.

As urbanisation rapidly increases, issues such as overcoming poverty, urban energy consumption, climate- and poverty-friendly urban mobility, as well as the way cities are built and socio-spatially divided up – all of which must be decided at local level – take on global significance. This agenda is linked to the hope that new cities can succeed in leapfrogging the fossil fuel age and adapting to climate change in a socially just manner.

The yin and yang of a good life in the city – for everyone!

What visions are there for a good life in the city, a life that is socially just, resource-conserving, climate friendly and protects in particular the poorest of the poor against the consequences of the climate crisis?

Together, MISEREOR and its partner organisations are looking for answers to these very questions.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to these problems. Instead it is about locally defining social and environmental objectives together with the representatives of the poor urban population and using education and dialogue to generate social and political majorities for creating a city in which it is worth living.

The rich and varied work of MISEREOR's partner organisations

For many of MISEREOR's partner organisations, answering the question as to what they can contribute to a socially and climate-just city is a new challenge.

BARCIK works with climate refugees in Dhaka, helping them to live a life of dignity in the city. Climate refugees are affected by climate change in a number of ways: they lose their homes and livelihoods, they are traumatised and they face almost insurmountable new challenges in the city. BARCIK knows what life is like for people in the regions they have fled and is, therefore, able to get straight to work and help the people in question regain their self-esteem and master their new life situation.

The organisation IDIS began working on the issues of organic farming and water conservation and later moved on to the subject of urban settlements. IDIS is now a reference organisation for urban environmental questions such as sustainable mobility. With these issues, IDIS is also getting young people excited about working towards environmental and climate justice progress in their cities.

Both are priority areas when it comes to climate-just urban development.

Getting citizens actively involved is key to helping cities grow their transformative power.

This is where the strengths of the organisation Pagtambayayong lie. Over the years, it has contributed to the development of a social movement that is driving issues such as living space and infrastructure development, poverty-friendly mobility systems or the drafting of a climate strategy.

The yin and yang of climate justice

People who have a small environmental footprint are hardest hit by the consequences of climate change. In order to keep the effects of the climate crisis to a minimum for the people in Asia, it is necessary that the global North seeks to reach zero emissions as quickly as possible. The responsibility of creating a vision of climate neutrality in a short space of time is undoubtedly huge. Yes, it is about global climate justice and adherence to the Paris climate accord. However, it is also about showing that the necessary transformation is possible and that societal visions and political programmes already exist. It is about the life of future generations! Make a change. For climate justice.



How can we ensure a good life for everyone in cities? Now is the time to come up with answers.



The urban populations in Bangladesh and the Philippines are each set to grow by up to 50 million in 30 years

'We are the future!'

Borsha Moni

Sameera Afreen, journalist, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Borsha Moni (16) lives in the Chaduddan slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She shares a hut together with her parents and four sisters. This is her story:

'I was born and raised in Chaduddan, a dumping site at the corner of the city with high rise buildings all around. This slum is all I have ever known, since childhood, I have seen how powerless we are as humans.

We never have the security of basic things like a safe home or water supply or food on the plate. Sometimes at night, my mother tells us stories about her home in the village. Her house was by the river, and she would go swimming in the river – but then came the floods.

I find it sad that the same river forced her to leave her home and move to Dhaka.

I always had so many questions to ask, but there was nobody to answer me.

Unlike many of my friends from the neighbourhood, I was lucky to have gone to school. In school, everyone is the same and I feel like I am no less than the others. But when I was in class five, the

COVID-19 pandemic started and my studies came to a standstill.'

In the last two and half years, my family and I got to know BARCIK and their work. Only after that I found a place to find answers to my questions. We were taught about our rights, about climate change and why it happens, about the types of

disasters that happen and how to manage them.

The plants on our roof cool down the house, their fruits fill our stomachs

Now I can laugh at how ignorant we were before. Living on land filled with waste, we used to dispose waste around our house. Today, we know how to separate waste. Earlier we did not know that we can use the small space around our house to grow plants and trees to reduce the unbearable heat in the summer and cold in the winter.

With BARCIK's support, we have enough greenery around the house now that gives us shade and fruits.

The meetings and trainings helped me to know more about all the diseases that make many of us ill regularly. Now I know how to prevent them and where to go for medical services in an emergency. The art competitions and cultural programmes BARCIK organised were the most enjoyable for all of us. We had seen such things only on television until then.

Together, we fight for our rights and against violence

In addition, I am the president of an adolescent girls' organisation called Shukpakhi with 20 members, which was formed with the support of BARCIK. We are convinced that young women are the future. Together, we fight for our rights and work towards a change in society. Together, we are stronger than ever. We share with others what we

Greenery on the roof cools down the house and contribute to feed Borsha's family

learn, we identify problems and find the solutions to them together with BARCIK's help. We organise rallies for awareness about dengue fever and against violence against women. Our activities help the parents from my neighbourhood realise why education is important for their child and why child marriages are wrong.

Being the group leader, now I believe I can make a change and I have the confidence to follow my dream of becoming a police officer one day, to help others. I want to complete my studies, to live in a better environment and to secure a better and safe future for the next generations.



Photo: K. M. ASAD / MISEREOR

Borsha Moni also fights for women's rights as one of the protagonists of the current MISEREOR poster campaign. For further information see [misereor.de/mitmenschen](https://www.misereor.de/mitmenschen) (German only)



Photo: K. M. ASAD / MISEREOR

Tandem partner North

The Bavarian State Agency for Viniculture and Horticulture (LWG)

Florian Demling works on the urban gardening demonstration gardens project at the LWG and is building bridges between Bavaria and Bangladesh:

'Planting, cultivating and enjoying organic vegetables that you have grown yourself in the city is the ideal contrast to a day in the office for city-dwellers. For others, it is key to their survival.

But if you don't have a garden or a balcony, why not make the most of a roof? The countless ungreened roofs of this world have massive potential. This is why our Institute for Urban Greening and Landscaping at the LWG in Veitshöchheim spent five years researching the cultivation of vegetables on roofs. I found out that even with little substrate but adequate irrigation and feeding, almost any vegetable can be grown on a roof. Whether it be crunchy peppers, juicy strawberries or fresh herbs – so



Photo: private

Florian Demling harvests a variety of vegetables on a roof in Veitshöchheim all year round

much can grow on a flat roof. What's more, greening a roof provides insulation for the building beneath it and can also cool the immediate environment in the summer. If the produce harvested is then eaten locally, food miles are not an issue – and that protects the environment. Growing food on your roof helps people in cities become self sufficient, whether it be in Bavaria or in Bangladesh!'

More information on LWG Veitshöchheim's research project on urban gardening on roofs and facades can be found at:

> https://www.lwg.bayern.de/landespflege/urbanes_gruen



'Bamboo for climate change adaptation!'

The first Filipinos, Malakas (the "strong") and Maganda (the "beautiful"), were said to have stepped out from a splice of bamboo. Today, there is a stigma attached to its accessibility: where bamboo is native, it is valued less.

Lucia Alcover, councillor of Barangay San Isidro in Talisay City, witnessed this stigma when informal settlers would build two to three-story concrete houses by the riverbank and then burn the bamboos planted on the existing lots because they were "a nuisance." She contradicts this narrative: 'As witnessed during the last flood on 12 June 2021, bamboo has incredible absorption qualities. Whereas the rest of the riverbank was shoulder-deep in water, the houses that had planted bamboo were only knee-deep. Therefore, the families with bamboo near their lots could already go home the day after the flood, whereas other families could only access their houses several days later.'

The 61-year old councillor is also president of the Villa Santa Cruz Homeowners Association (VISCHOA), a collection of 65 families. In 2013, even with small lots and limited resources, the association started planting vegetables and ornamental plants in their yards.

Eight hundred and forty-one families, in total, had to be evacuated on 12 June 2021 due to the flood. Lucia Alcover did not only coordinate the distribution of blankets and food. As the pioneer group to receive DRRM training from a MISEREOR partner organisation, VISCHOA has a built-in community action plan for disasters, which proved helpful on the day of the flood. 'Those houses in the riverbank should never have been constructed in the first place. But of course, because of the bitterness and hardship of life, many are forced to encroach on land that isn't theirs.'

Three-time winner of urban gardening contests

'Partnering with Pagtambayayong Foundation, we have participated in urban gardening contests since 2015', says the enthusiastic gardener, her eyes gleaming. Equipped with knowledge in urban gardening, with a resolve to use this for climate change adaptation and mitigation, Lucia Alcover and her group also won a city-wide gardening contest 2018. 'The contest prize allowed us to build a community hut, a purok payag!' Filled with herbs, medicinal plants and hanging ferns, the purok payag is a sorority house and classroom rolled into one. There, the group discuss their earnings from waste recycling programmes and check on their vermicomposting stations.

The byproducts are turned into soil conditioners and sold to other villages at \$2.00 a kilo. With Lucia Alcover at the helm, association projects feel like family affairs.



Photo: Jacqueline_Hernandez_Photography /

In week 5 of "climate awareness" Lent, Lucia Alcover promotes Urban Gardening. Join us at klima-fasten.de (German only)



It's the youth's turn!

Lucia Alcover cares for the eight barangays along the river bank, like a mother for her children: 'I want to encourage them to plant bamboo as well. During our last training, we learned that besides the local kawayan tinik, there are 62 other bamboo variants in the Philippines. These species could easily be planted three meters from the river to help reinforce the riprap put in place. Our group has already identified portions of open space where we could plant bamboo. In addition, we updated our community action plan to include bamboo planting as a strategy for climate resiliency.'

Lucia Alcover also banks on the next generation: 'As a senior citizen, I want the youth to take responsibility this time.' VISCHOA's community hut actually accommodates younger faces these days. The music is slightly louder, but Lucia doesn't mind the basses. She looks skyward, where the bamboo sways in the breeze.



Photo: Jacqueline_Hernandez_Photography /

The community hut is decorated with yellow frangipani decor from recycled PET bottles



Planting trees together not only makes sense, it brings joy too

Tandem partner North

The "Edible City"

The first "Essbare Stadt" (Edible City) organisation was founded in the German city of Kassel on 5 May 2009. The project seeks to develop a lively and productive urban gardening scene. Our objectives are not only environmental, but also social and economical. It is also about bringing people together. As an organisation, we organise joint activities, workshops and much more. A project like this creates a bond. One of our organisation's important objectives is to make a contribution to resilience in the fields of nature and food in order to move towards a more future-proof urban development. This is the only way that the city will remain capable of adapting to changing global conditions such as climate change. We manage all of this by enriching the city with fruit-bearing trees and bushes (e.g. walnut, sweet chestnut and fruit) and by creating community gardens.

'My personal vision is that residents will plant flowers, crops and herbs on inner-city plots all over the city and will later harvest the fruits of their labour,' says Karsten Winnemuth, founder of the first "Essbare Stadt" organisation in Germany.

More about Edible City Kassel at:

> www.essbare-stadt.de



'Better public transport is going to be a big help to Mother Earth!'

Maria Stella Dayundon

Johanna Michelle Lim, journalist in Cebu City, Philippines

As the rest of the city sleeps, Maria Stella Dayundon fumbles through a pitch dark alley to make her way to Cebu's public highway. With her husband Torning, she cycles five kilometres every night to get to Tabunok Public Market where she works as a vendor.

On her family's rusty mountain bike, Maria Stella Dayundon sits side-saddle on the top tube while her husband pedals past monstrous ten-wheeler trucks.

Many times, husband and wife get chased by rabid dogs. Other times, Maria Stella Dayundon is approached by seedy taxi drivers who would offer her a "free ride."

Because 80% of the Philippine population uses public transport, commuters like Maria Stella Dayundon have resorted to cycling during the COVID-19 lockdown; but because Cebu City, where Maria Stella Dayundon lives, doesn't have dedicated

bike lanes, daily transits like hers are a fatal affair.

While admittedly fearful for her safety, Maria Stella Dayundon – mother of three girls and two sons – would go through the dangers of commuting rather than losing a potential income of \$6.00 a day, money she uses to fend for her family of eight.

'My husband's salary goes to our house's mortgage loan and our children's schooling while my salary is for everyday needs.'

Prior to the pandemic, public mass transport was a hodgepodge of converted 16-seater US jeeps called jeepneys, taxis, vans, tricycles, and overloaded motorcycles called habal-habals. Commuting masses have demanded a more integrated mobility solution even before the pandemic exacerbated the problem.

The new BRT's going to be a life-changer for my kids and me

In 2018, that demand was answered: The Department of Interior and Local Government named Cebu as a smart city project recipient focused on creating a Bus Rapid Transit System. While buses ply within the city already, the BRT will run on dedicated traffic lanes in higher frequency, with dedicated stations for embarking and disembarking. A first of its kind, the BRT projected is estimated to serve about 60,000 passengers a day once in operation.

'The new BRT's going to be a life-changer for my kids and me. I won't experience as much traffic, and won't breathe as much exhaust. I'll also have peace of mind every time my kids go to school,' hopes Maria Stella Dayundon, who is 56.

As the rest of the city sleeps, Maria Stella Dayundon and her husband are on their way to the market



Photo Jacqueline_Hernandez_Photography / MISEREOR

'I hope the BRT pushes through soon,' says Maria Stella Dayundon.



Photo Jacqueline_Hernandez_Photography / MISEREOR

Socially just and better climate change mitigation

Better urban transportation at socially compatible prices is not only a strategic social equalizer but a bridge to a more climate-resistant future especially in a country where the transport sector consumes more energy than any other sector.

'Better public transport is going to be a big help to Mother Earth too,' affirms Maria Stella Dayundon. She is one of the participants of the climate justice workshops conducted by MISEREOR's partner organisation Pagtambayayong Foundation. Despite working seven days a week, Maria Stella Dayundon takes time to educate herself on more sustainable ways to run her household. Once better transportation is implemented, she will save two hours every day, the time she uses now to migrate from home to her place of work, and back.

This is time she could use for her role as mother and homemaker, or perhaps for Maria Stella Dayundon, who only gets three hours of sleep every day, to rest longer and more soundly.

Tandem partner North

The Catholic Rural Youth Movement of Germany (KLJB)

Daniela Ordowski, national chair of the KLJB, and the association she leads are campaigning among other things for climate-neutral mobility in rural areas in Germany: 'We at the KLJB have actively been working for sustainable mobility for many years. For young people in particular, sustainable mobility is essential for their skill development, which makes it a prerequisite for social mobility. At national level, our working group on the environment carries out its own tests on the subject of mobility and highlights alternatives and deficiencies. We do this in the spirit of sustainability, but also because we see mobility as an opportunity for our rural areas, which we want to revive and make more attractive so that young people will stay. To this end, we need an infrastructure that doesn't just focus on urban spaces, but also actively includes the special needs of rural areas.'



Photo KLJB Deutschland

Daniela Ordowski, national chair of the KLJB, is calling for climate-neutral mobility

Sustainable mobility in rural areas

For us, the closure of numerous railway lines, the fact that public transport links in rural areas are few and far between, and the lack of e-mobility infrastructure (e.g. charging stations and mobile Internet) are not signs of a mobility for the future. We need much more political will to develop sustainable mobility not only in the cities but in rural areas too and to make mobility attractive. As Christians we at the KLJB believe in our vocation as stewards of creation. Therefore, we are calling for climate-neutral mobility and a transformation of the transport sector that meets the needs of young people: for young people in particular, mobility has always been a question of participation, inclusion and self-determination!



For more information, visit:

> www.instagram.com/kljb_de

and > www.kljb.com



'I am called Green Panda'

Mark Peñalver

Keith Bacangco, journalist, Davao City, Philippines

Inspired by the plight of the indigenous peoples, lawyer Mark Peñalver dropped his dream of becoming a high-paid corporate lawyer and embraced the world of development work. During

an internship, he witnessed the injustices towards the indigenous peoples and the negative impacts that socially and ecologically incompatible mining

operations can have on them as well as on the environment. 'It was like the tipping point of my career. I thought I have to do something for the environment and for the indigenous peoples,' Mark Peñalver points out.

Thus, after passing the BAR exams in 2017, he joined the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), a competent and successful environmental policy advocacy organisation in Davao City, as policy advocacy officer. In joining

IDIS, Mark Peñalver hopes to strengthen the representation of indigenous peoples and to ensure that environmental issues are considered in political decision making. "Atty", meaning "Green Panda", as Mark Peñalver is fondly called by his friends, assumed the helm of IDIS in 2021.

'Fighting for climate justice is hard and inspiring all at once. Hard, because you have to fight influential

persons and corporate groups favouring ecological oppression. Inspiring, because of the many movements that advocate for climate justice at local and global level, especially those of the younger generation.'

The new 55-kilometre long bicycle network reduces carbon emissions

One of the many pressing issues Mark Peñalver has to handle as head of MISEREOR's partner organisation IDIS is the commitment to sustainable mobility. Together with IDIS, he has been pushing for some amendments in the bicycle ordinance that could make bicycle culture safer and thus more attractive.

On the onset of the pandemic, IDIS promoted the establishment of new bicycle lanes as there was a significant rise of bicycle commuters in the city. Most of these are daily wage earners who opted to use bicycles not just as their means of daily transportation but also as their means to avoid the crowded public utility vehicles. IDIS emphasises that bike commuting does not only promote a healthy lifestyle but it is also a big help in reducing carbon emissions.

To ensure the safety of the bicycle commuters, IDIS supported a campaign to establish a bicycle lane network in

MISEREOR's partner organisation IDIS paves the way for safe cycling

mid-2020 – with success. A year later, the local government has formally opened a 55-kilometre bicycle network that cuts across some of the major thoroughfares of the city.

Policy advocacy work is no "walk in the park" job

The "Green Panda" is closely watching the current political situation in the Philippines. He fears that some politicians could become environmentalist overnight just to appease the public. 'Of course, policy advocacy is not always a "walk in the park" job. For IDIS and me it is clear, however, that the environment as well as the health of the people must never be compromised. This way, I learned that policy advocacy work is really hard. You really have to live by the advocacy to be an effective advocate – you have to "walk the talk",' Mark Peñalver summarises.



Photo Ute Haupt / Radentscheid Aachen

37,436 signatures were collected and handed over to the then Mayor of Aachen Marcel Philipp in 2019

Tandem partner North Signing up for safer cycling in Aachen

When more than one fifth of eligible voters in Aachen signed the "Radentscheid Aachen" petition on cycling in the city in 2019, they showed that they wanted a mobility policy that would help improve the city's climate by ensuring clean air and less noise. This citizen's initiative, which quickly grew to have 200 active members, tabled a vision for a city where everyone – children and senior citizens alike – could move around safely, whether it be on foot, by bike or by car, and which provided the necessary space and infrastructure. After all, when people feel safe cycling, they will cycle. The initiative's "seven objectives for an Aachen worth living in" picked up on this idea and suggested concrete measures for the layout of junctions, cycling infrastructure and the development of a network of roads and paths that the city would construct and allocate space to. Targets for quality and quantity determined the speed and the scope of implementation. Positive impacts such as cleaner air and less noise are now an integral part of discussions about the development of the city.

Numerous interest groups – such as student groups or district initiatives – are now also contributing their ideas and actively networking. Ninety-six per cent of city council members voted to accept the initiative's proposal. The objectives have since been included as a mobility policy pillar in the City of Aachen's integrated climate protection concept.



More about the Radentscheid Aachen initiative:
> www.radentscheid-aachen.de



Photo Manman Dejeo / MISEREOR

The 31-year old lawyer Mark Peñalver seeks to expand the green spaces in Davao City



Photo Manman Dejeo / MISEREOR