

# Season of Creation Advocacy and Prayer Opportunity: A Call for Climate Justice



September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# A Call for Climate Justice this Season of Creation

**The webinar is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.**

**Please submit your questions in the Q/A box.**

**For this event, the Chat will be available for you to save and download. Please remember to be respectful and civil in all Chat interactions.**



**O Great God of all creation, hear our plea:**

**We pray for an end to broken systems,  
in a world beset by the ravages of poverty and debt.**

**We pray for rightness, fairness, justice and grace.**

**We pray for your light to guide us as we seek your will.  
seek your will.**

**Bless us with an economy that is whole and right,  
where all can live in dignity and hope,**

**and your light shines brightly in every land.**

**God Most High, Bless us with your Jubilee**

# A Call for Climate Justice this Season of Creation



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LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER (AMOS 5:24)



# A CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE THIS SEASON OF CREATION



# Forgiveness of Debt

**A critical climate solution**

# The Ask

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Dear President Biden, Special Envoy Kerry, and Secretary Yellen,

We write to ask that you **place the forgiveness of debt and the restructuring of debt as values and solutions within your agenda for COP28.**

Our nation has a bipartisan track record of leading on international debt solutions. Therefore, we ask that the United States lead the global community in **prioritizing the forgiveness of debt and restructuring of debt as critical components of climate finance.**

[Sign on letter](#)

# Forgiveness of Debt - Biblical sources

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But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and ***lend expecting nothing back***.  
*Jesus at Luke 6:35*

If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.  
*Exodus 22:25*

If a man is just—if he does what is right, . . . he does not lend at interest or exact usury.  
*Ezekiel 18:8*

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.  
*Proverbs 19:17*



# Pope Francis in Laudato Si' paragraph 52

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The foreign debt of poor countries has become a way of controlling them . . . .

The developed countries ought to help pay this debt by significantly limiting their consumption of non-renewable energy and by assisting poorer countries to support policies and programmes of sustainable development.

We must continue to be aware that, regarding climate change, there are *differentiated responsibilities*. As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to “the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests”.

# Paris Agreement

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In pursuit of the objective of the Convention, and being guided by its principles, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

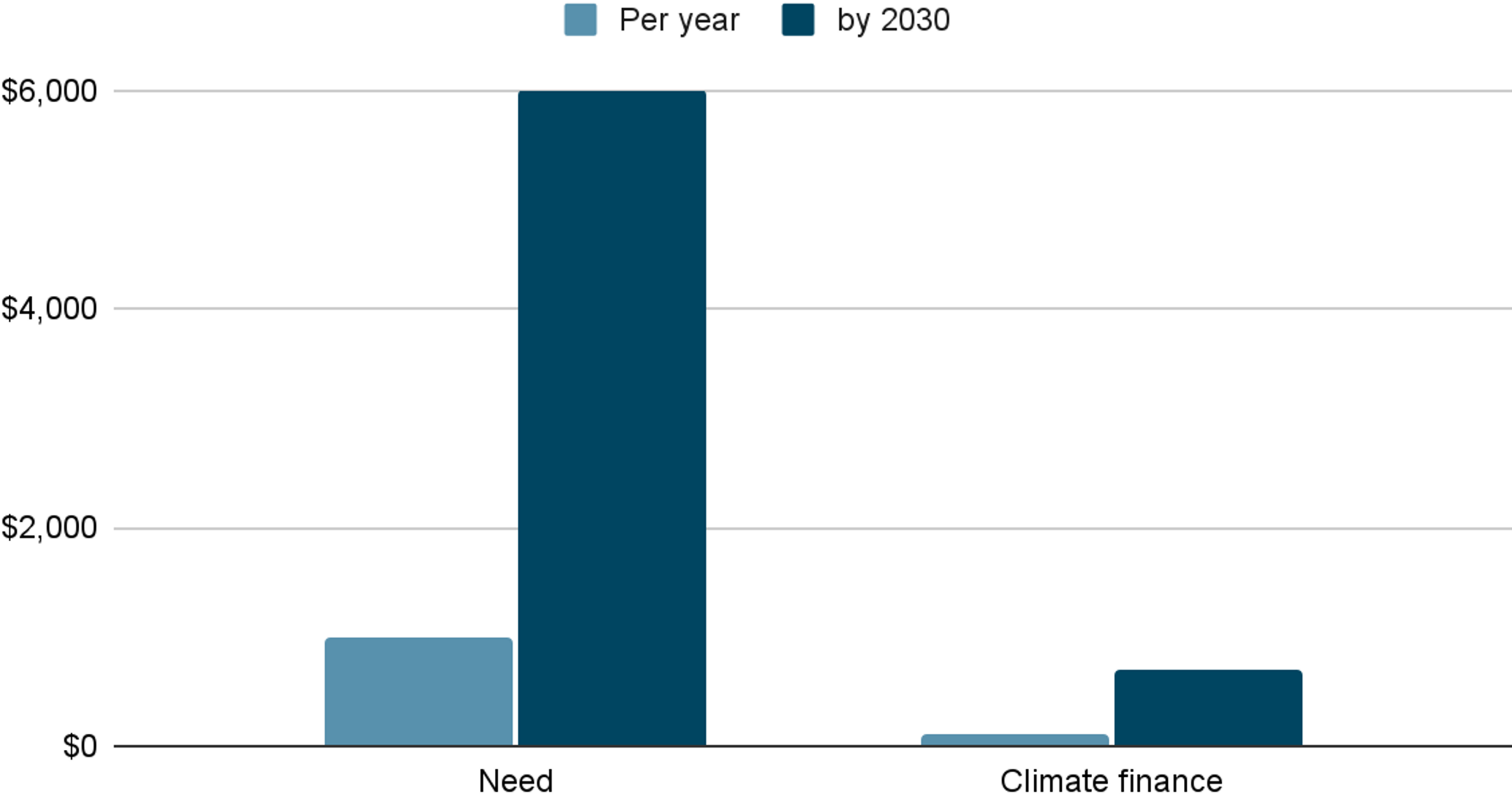
# Needs vs. Actuals

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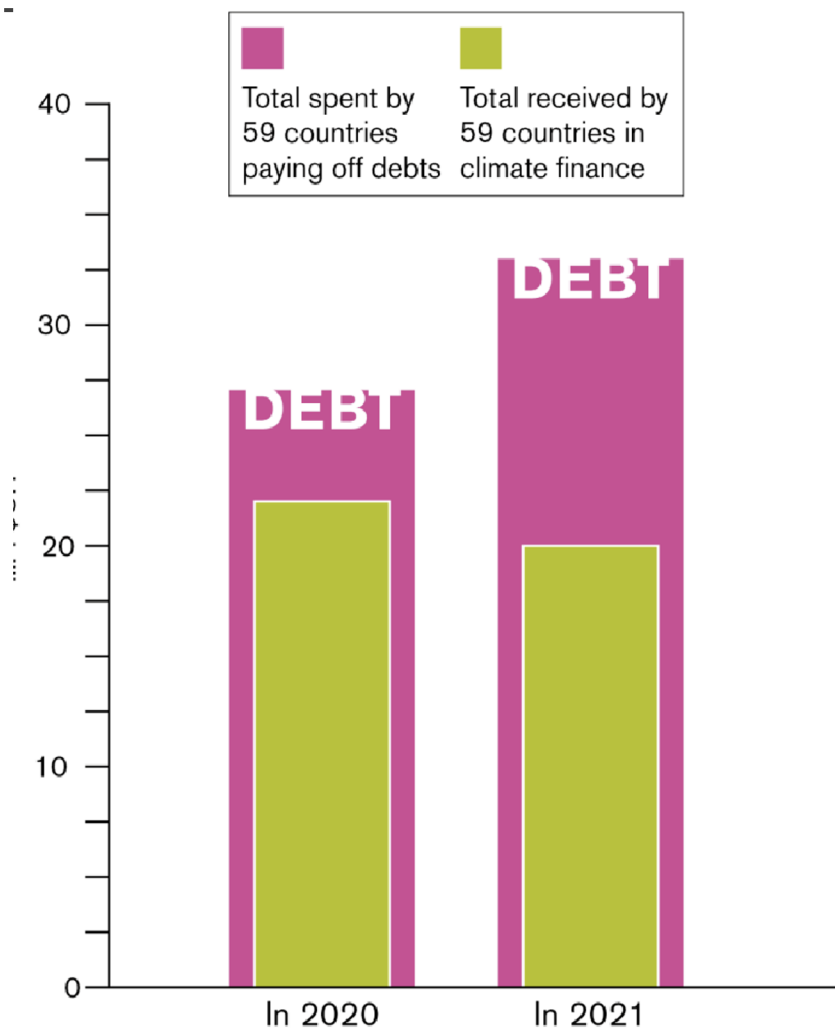
Developing countries need nearly \$6 trillion by 2030 **to meet less than half of their goals** under the Paris Agreement. ([UNFCCC](#))

The current UNFCCC climate finance goal of \$100b per year does not meet that need. ([OECD](#))

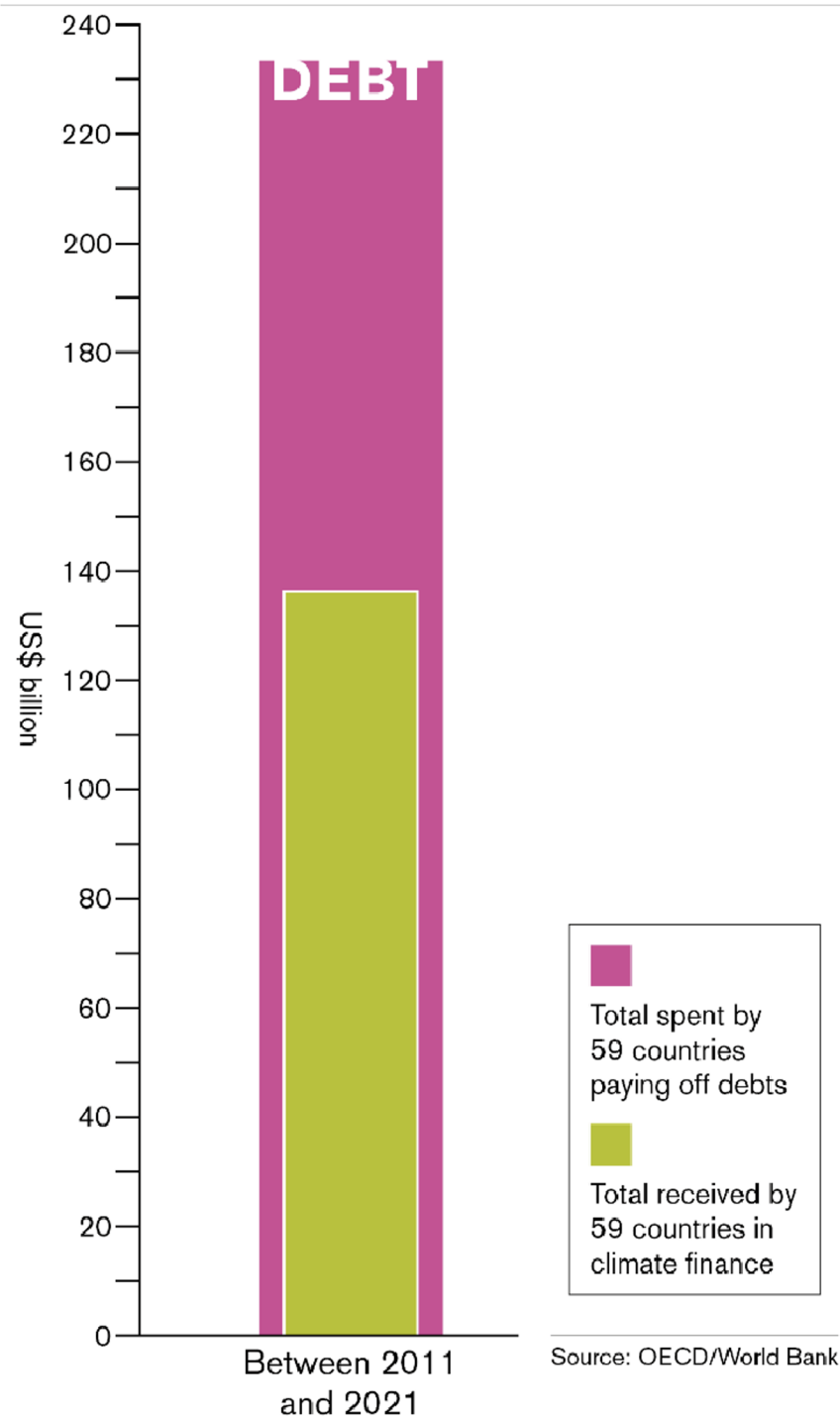
# Need vs. Actual



# Drowning in Debt



Source: OECD/World Bank



Source: OECD/World Bank

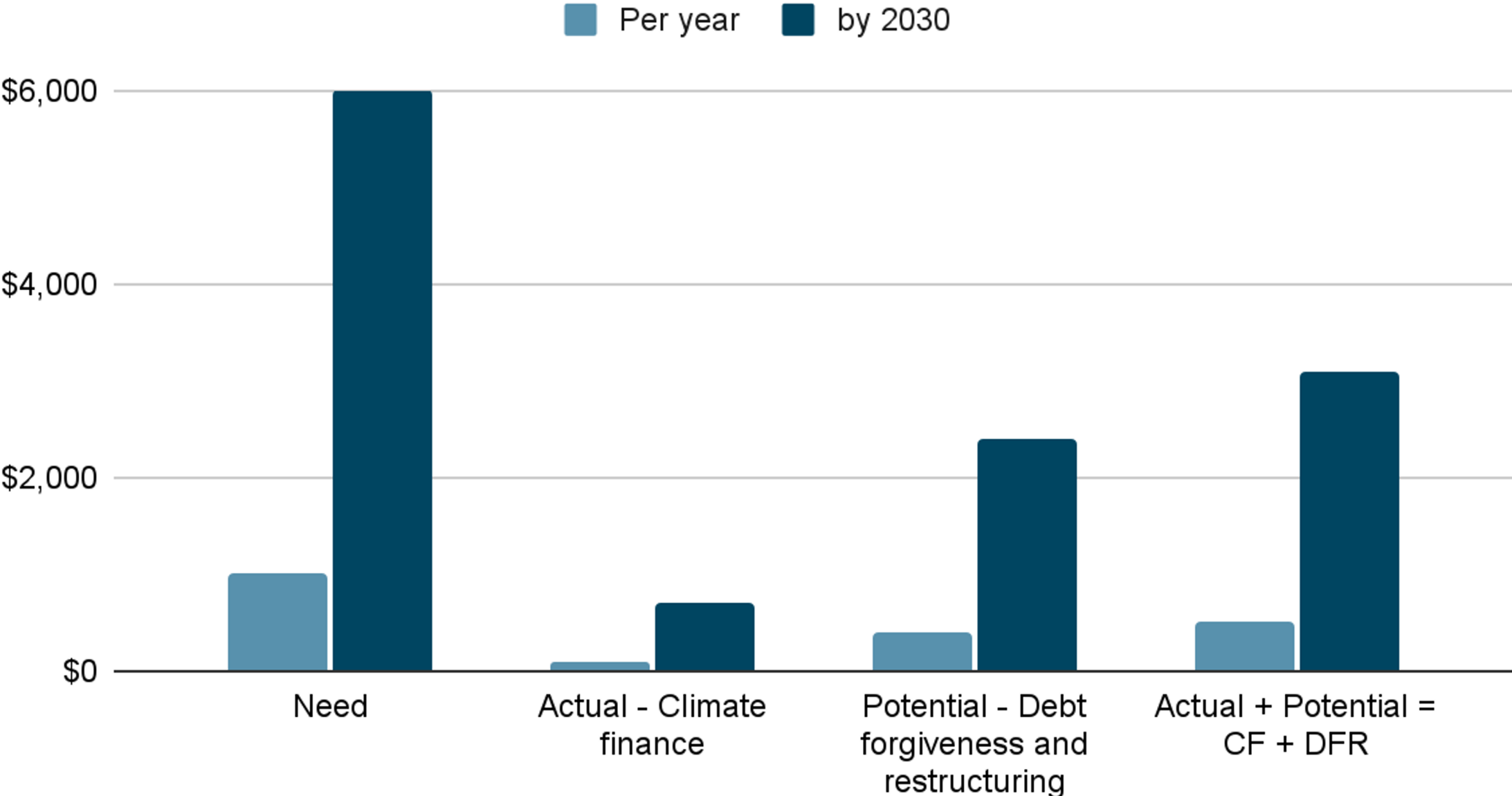
# Debt Forgiveness - A Critical Climate Solution

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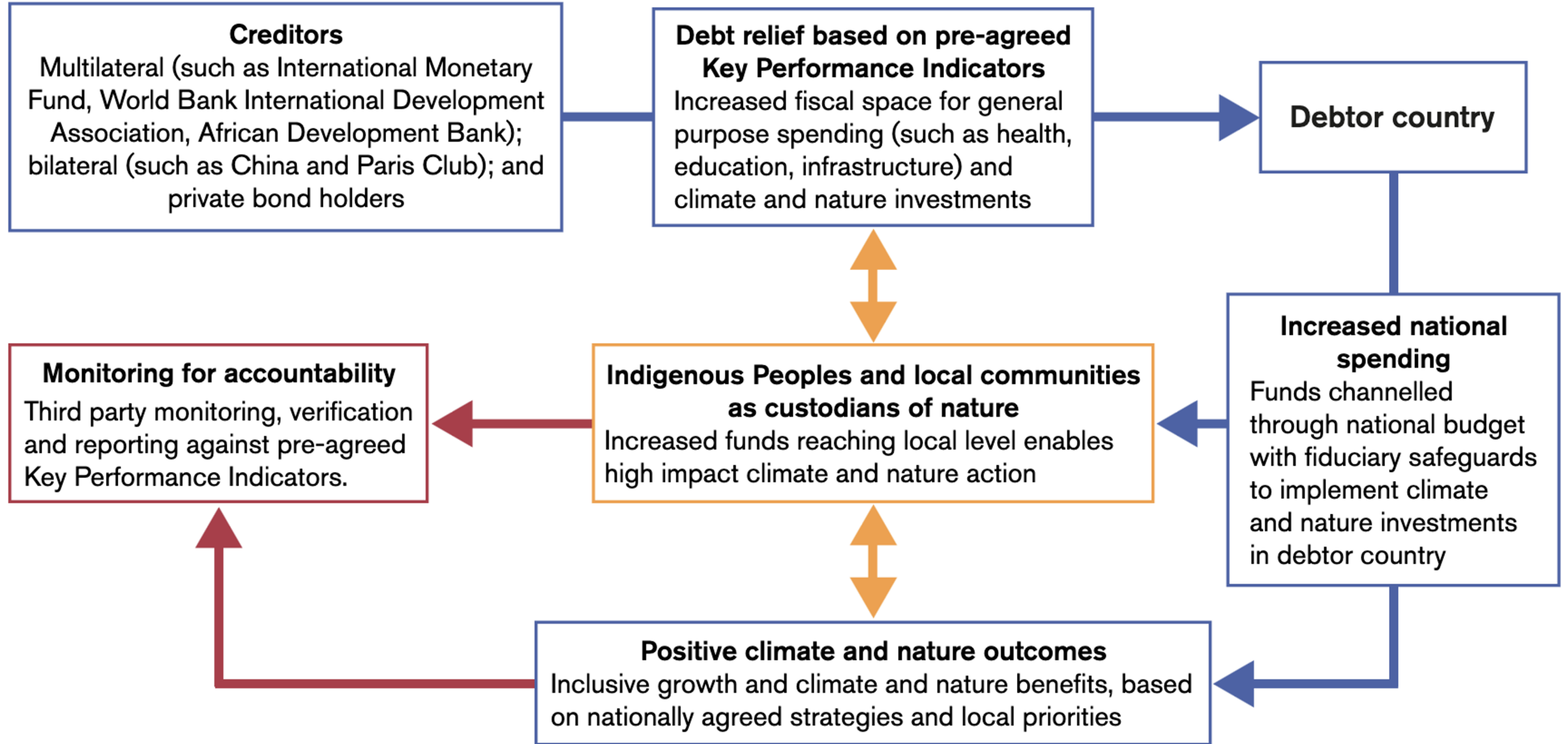
Innovative climate and nature-linked debt instruments can help to address the current crises. They could mobilise upwards of US\$105 billion from debt relief for climate and nature in the short term, and more than US\$329 billion in new debt issuances, with the possibility of even more in the medium and long term.

Source: [Averting the Crises, International Institution for Environment and Development](#), IIED

# Need v. Actual + Potential



**Figure 1. Overview of climate and nature debt relief**



Blue arrows show flow of finance; red arrows show show monitoring, verification and reporting; orange arrows show contributions and engagement of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities



# Pilot Project - Cabo Verde (debtor nation) and Portugal (creditor)

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In January 2023, shortly after the pilot ended, Cabo Verde announced it was entering into a debt-for-climate-and-nature swap with its major creditor, Portugal, making it the first country to agree a deal of this kind. The approach is also now attracting concrete interest from other countries, including Egypt, Kenya and Pakistan.

Source: [Redesigning debt swaps for a more sustainable future, IIED](#)

Figure 2. Potential climate and nature KPIs for a PBCN for Senegal



## Biodiversity restoration



### Marine life conservation

- Km<sup>2</sup> of marine protected areas for fish breeding



### Terrestrial life protection

- Increase in count of endangered species (dama gazelle)
- Increase in count of vulnerable species (African elephant)



### Vegetal life preservation

- Improving soil fertilisation rates
- Restoring critically endangered vegetal species



## Climate resilience



### Land restoration

- Ha of watersheds afforested
- Ha of land restored



### Coastal protection

- Km<sup>2</sup> of marine area protected areas for ecotourism



### Carbon abatements

- Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) sequestered
- Percentage of population with access to renewably sourced energy

**Align KPIs with existing initiatives, such as Emerging Green Senegal Plan**

Source: Bankers Without Borders, unpublished, adapted with permission.

# Resources

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[Sign on letter](#) - by the Co-sponsors

[The ABCs of Sovereign Debt Relief](#) - Center for Global Development

[The Debt - Fossil Fuel Trap](#) - S consortium of organizations

[Drowning in Debt](#) - International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

[Averting the Crises](#) - IIED

[Redesigning debt swaps for a more sustainable future](#) - IIED

# A Call for Climate Justice this Season of Creation

**Email us at:**

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**<https://laudatosimovement.org/contact/>**

**More info:**

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**Laudato Si' Movement**

**<https://laudatosimovement.org/>**

