

Facts about climate change

Unless urgent action is taken:

By 2020, between 75 million and 250 million more people in sub-Saharan Africa could have their livelihoods and human development prospects compromised by a combination of drought, rising temperatures and increased water stress.²

By 2080, the number of additional people affected by malnutrition (due to the effects of climate change in vulnerable areas) could reach 600 million globally.³



Christian Aid/Amranda Farant

Endnotes

1 World Bank, World Development indicators, 2007 available from http://devdata.worldbank.org/wdi2005/Section1_1_1.htm

2 *The United Nations Human Development Report 2007/2008 Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World*, United Nations, 2007, p99. This report, in turn, references NW Arnell, *Climate Change and Global Water Resources: SRES Emissions and Socio-Economic Scenarios*, Global Environmental Change 14: 31–52, 2004. The former is available at <http://hdr.undp.org>

3 *Ibid*, p9.

Front cover photo: Nasma Beghum lives on the banks of the River Padma (Ganges) in Bangladesh. Each year, as the weather becomes more unpredictable, the cost of not acting on climate change threatens Nasma's chances of escaping poverty. Christian Aid/Mohammadur Rahman



POVERTY



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Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists that the world can, and must be, swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

For millions of the world's poorest, climate change is not a future threat but a current reality, with unpredictable weather patterns, increased natural disasters and severe water shortages being just some of the challenges faced by those with few resources to fight back. Without urgent action, by governments and citizens, climate change will make poverty permanent.

LIFE ON THE FRONTLINE

Almost half the world's population still live below the US\$2-a-day poverty line¹. They have done least to contribute to climate-changing carbon emissions, but they live in parts of the world most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

People in developing countries are already doing their best to adapt to climate change, and local partners, supported by Christian Aid, are helping with funding and expertise to achieve this.

NICARAGUA

Overall, rainfall in Nicaragua is decreasing but the amount falling during extreme weather has increased, contributing to soil erosion and reduced agricultural productivity. Silvia and her family used to live right beside a river and her home flooded every single year. With no effective way to protect the house from the floodwaters, Christian Aid partner MCM has supplied building materials for Silvia to relocate.



Christian Aid/Sian Curry
Silvia with her young brother-in-law Geral outside Silvia's new house, built with help from Christian Aid

KENYA

Abdullahi Abdi, executive officer of Christian Aid partner Northern Aid, says: 'Every day, I witness climate change impacting on the lives of Kenyans. The pastoralist way of life is under serious threat. Climate change has turned these people's lives into a nightmare: the drought cycle that used to recur every 11 years now happens every second year.' Northern Aid's tankers supply communities with water at the height of every drought.



Christian Aid/Mike Goldwater
Fifteen-year-old Harida looks after herds of goats belonging to several families. Her own family's herd has dramatically shrunk in numbers due to the drought. She injured her eye in a fight over water during the last tanker delivery, and fears she might lose the sight in this eye because she has no access to medical treatment



CLIMATE JUSTICE!

Industrialised countries, who have built their economies on fossil fuels and have the wealth to take action, must deliver the majority of the global carbon emission reductions needed.

These rich countries must also help to pay for the poorest, most vulnerable parts of the world to cope with the threat that climate change poses to their communities and livelihoods, and for them to invest in a sustainable path out of poverty.

The Time for Climate Justice campaign has two main calls.

Rich countries must:

1. Make deep and urgent cuts in their own domestic carbon emissions in line with keeping global warming within 2°C (at least 40 per cent cuts by 2020)
2. Assist and help pay for developing countries to reduce their emissions, develop cleanly and adapt to the impact of climate change.



Christian Aid/Rachel Steven

We need your campaigning voice to speak on behalf of the world's poor.

While the costs of responding to climate change seem high, the benefits most certainly are. If we work together to respond urgently and with the common goal of restoring balance to the planet and its people, then the result will be a much stronger and more stable world – and one in which poverty need not be permanent.

Find out more:

Visit www.christianaid.org.uk or contact the Campaigns team by emailing campaigns@christian-aid.org or calling 020 7523 2264