

Forests turn to desert in Mali

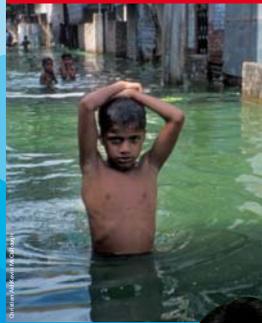


? The land Armand is describing is now desert. How would that change the lives of people living there?

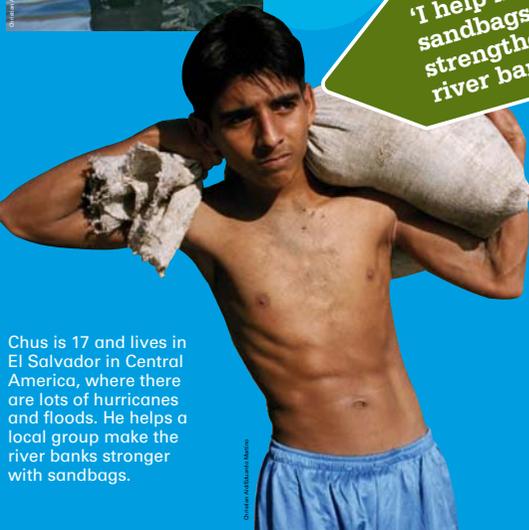
### What's happening to our weather?

Global warming means that our planet is heating up. When it doesn't rain for a long time, you get **drought**: crops can't grow, and people and animals don't have enough food to eat or water to drink. Hotter temperatures can also bring worse **floods and storms**: heavy rains wash away land, crops are ruined and people have to leave their homes. A charity called Christian Aid is working with the world's poorest people to help them deal with the changing climate.

? What unusual weather have you seen? Ask an older person to talk about any changes they have seen.



'I help fill sandbags to strengthen the river bank.'



Chus is 17 and lives in El Salvador in Central America, where there are lots of hurricanes and floods. He helps a local group make the river banks stronger with sandbags.



### Uncertain weather

Bangladesh is often hit by floods, but the rains in 2004 and 2007 were much heavier than usual. Scientists believe that climate change will make flooding in Bangladesh, hurricanes in Nicaragua, and typhoons in southeast Asia stronger and harder to predict.

These villagers are walking through the floodwaters to get clean water. They lived on the roof of their house for a month because their home was flooded.



? If you had to leave your home in an emergency, like a flood, what would you take with you?

### Holding back the floodwaters

During a flood, water can damage homes and wash away land. In Bangladesh and El Salvador, people use sandbags and tyres to make barriers to stop the land flooding. In the Philippines, Christian Aid has helped people plant mangrove trees to keep the land safe from floods and storms. The trees make good windbreaks – the wind gets weaker as it passes through their branches.

# CRAZY CLIMATE



Armand has seen the climate change in Mali, west Africa: 'During the rainy season, it was a dense forest. There was a pond where the animals would drink. Now that pond has disappeared.'



### Solar power

In countries where the sun shines a lot, it can be used to make electricity for free! Christian Aid has given solar panels to schools and clinics in Mali. This school now has electricity for power and lights.

### Planting trees in Senegal

There used to be forest and wildlife in northern Senegal, west Africa. But there has been very little rain for many years now, and people have cut down lots of trees for firewood. The area is now dry and sandy. Christian Aid runs classes to teach people how to plant and care for trees, to make the soil healthier.



Climate changed. Let's cut the carbon.

'I have to chase the birds from the rice fields. That's my job.'



Yusuf is eight and lives in Mali. Every day he works in the fields, swinging a rope to keep the birds away from his father's rice crop. His father used to be a fisherman, but the rivers started to dry up because there wasn't enough rain. Christian Aid helped Yusuf's family get some land to grow rice.

'Some of our neighbours got swept away.'



Gile is ten and lives in Bangladesh, southeast Asia. Her whole family had to live on a bed for two months when their home flooded. Gile now goes to a school helped by Christian Aid, where she has learned how to prepare for disasters.

### Reduce, reuse and recycle

This poster is printed on 100 per cent recycled paper.

How can we reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away?

What can you reuse and recycle?

### Let's cut the carbon

The amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) you put into the air is called your **carbon footprint**. On average, each person in the UK emits 9.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, and in Ireland it is 10.3 tonnes. That's a lot, isn't it? But, on average, a person in Mali only emits 0.1 tonnes!\*

**So why is our carbon footprint so huge?** Well, everyday activities – watching the TV, driving to school, heating our homes – produce CO<sub>2</sub>. We need to reduce our carbon footprint to try to stop floods and droughts becoming even more damaging in the future.

**Take action!** Write down five things your class will do to cut your carbon footprint:






Visit [www.globalgang.org](http://www.globalgang.org) to join our online pledge and put your school on the map!

(\*Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2006)