

# THE BIG SHIFT

Campaign briefing

## Get powered up for climate justice



### Need to know

- Climate change is an issue of justice, with the effects already being felt by our brothers and sisters around the world, particularly in the poorest communities.
- The big banks, including some on our high street, lend their money to energy projects around the world.
- These banks have two options: they can either finance clean, renewable energy projects and help build a more prosperous, safer world, or they can finance energy projects based on burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, that lock communities into a dirty and dangerous future for decades to come.
- HSBC, one of the biggest and most influential banks in the world, has said it will still fund new coal projects in three countries that are among the most vulnerable to climate change – Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia – despite having repeatedly stated its commitment to tackling climate change.
- HSBC must stop financing coal everywhere immediately and come up with a plan for getting out of all fossil fuels altogether.
- Take action at [caid.org.uk/bigshift](https://caid.org.uk/bigshift) and start building a movement in your local community to increase the pressure on HSBC to stop funding coal.

### The Big Shift so far

Climate change is already having a devastating impact on some of the poorest communities. That's why we're working for a world where energy comes from clean, safe and renewable energy sources, and is available to everyone.

In 2016 we launched our campaign to get private finance – money invested by the biggest banks – out of fossil fuels and into clean energy.

Together, we targeted the four biggest high street banks in the UK – Lloyds, RBS, Barclays and HSBC. Because of your actions, we've seen all four banks take some steps forward:

- Barclays ruled out the funding of new coal projects anywhere in the world.

- Lloyds committed £3 billion to clean and low carbon finance and announced that it will not finance any new coal power plants.
- RBS announced a phase out of project finance to all new coal power projects and thermal coalmines, and announced £10 billion for renewable energy projects in 2018–20.
- HSBC announced that it will provide \$100 billion in sustainable financing and investment by 2025 and prohibit finance to new coal power plants in most (but not all) countries.

All of this is a good start, but they're not making the Big Shift as fully or as quickly as the world's most vulnerable communities need.

Now, we're refocusing our efforts and attention on HSBC – one of the biggest and most influential banks in the world. If we can persuade HSBC to up its ambition on climate change and stop financing dirty coal power everywhere, we will be making progress towards a world where everyone can thrive.



### **‘I’m just an ordinary person, but I can contribute’**

Randy Zosa lives in Costa Brava, a small community in the Philippines which translates as ‘brave, rugged coast’. This is particularly fitting for this community where the sea provides both their fishing livelihoods and exists as a permanent reminder of the danger they face from typhoons.

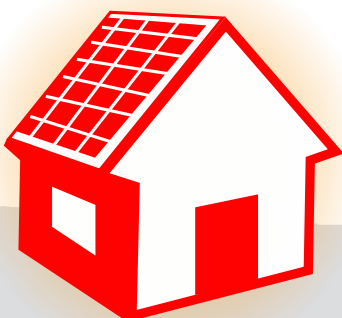
In 2013, they were hit by the devastating Typhoon Haiyan. With extreme weather events like this becoming more frequent and severe as the planet warms, the community came together to make their future brighter and safer.

Randy trained as a solar scholar with Christian Aid’s partner Institute For Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC). He can now use, maintain and repair solar powered kits that provide emergency lighting, radio and phone chargers. Randy

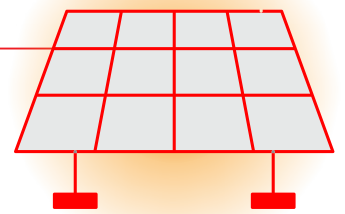
is also part of the community disaster risk reduction committee, meaning if another typhoon is ever on the horizon, he will be able to help his community stay safe.

Randy also helps maintain other solar energy technology in the community – powering lights in people’s homes and shared spaces, opening up new possibilities after dark.

Thanks to solar energy and people like Randy, the community of Costa Brava is powering its way to a better future. And if disaster strikes again, they will be ready – ready to light the evacuation centre, charge megaphones and radios, and operate medical machines like nebulisers for asthma attacks.







Randy said: 'I feel glad whenever I see the community lit and people are benefitting. It feels good to see the fruits of my labour. I marvel at the fact that I'm just an ordinary person but I can contribute. It doesn't take someone very special – everyone can do their share, even an ordinary person. That's what I want to project; that **I'm an ordinary guy, but I can contribute, so everyone can.** It's my way of inspiring my community.

'I make an effort to go to different trainings so that I can help in the future so that our community has a chance to improve itself. I take pride in that because it's not just for me, it's for the whole community.'

Solar energy provides an important lifeline to Randy's community. By using it they have found a way to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change without contributing to it.

Randy is particularly passionate about this: 'If you use dirty fuel you're destroying the environment. If you use the power of the sun you're also protecting the environment.'

The efforts of people like Randy to tackle climate change are inspiring – but they are undermined by those who continue to invest in fossil fuels such as the UK's biggest banks.



**Randy and Hazel, both trained solar scholars, are driving forwards a cleaner, brighter future.**

## Reflect

- Randy experienced disaster first-hand and knows what climate change could mean for his community – and yet he embraces solar technology and works to help his community adapt. What can we learn from Randy's story?
- What might we be able to do to follow Randy's lead and take a step towards a future where everyone is doing something to tackle climate change?
- Pray for Randy and his community, that they may be prepared and safe next time a typhoon hits, and for the rest of us to do what we can to stop the warming that leads to more dangerous typhoons.

We believe that we are called to put our faith into action by loving our neighbours and caring for the earth, our common home.

## Why this matters

In 2015, most of the world's nations finalised a historic agreement to tackle climate change. We call it the Paris Agreement and it commits countries to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for less than 1.5 degrees. If we are to stick to this agreement, we need to see a rapid transition away from fossil fuels and towards clean and renewable energy supplies. Many companies, including HSBC, came out in support of the action required to meet the agreement.

However, if we are to meet these commitments we have already passed the point where any new coal power stations can be built. HSBC claims to be a climate leader and yet it has refused to rule out funding new coal projects in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia. Funding coal anywhere is bad news for everyone, everywhere. Overall, HSBC also continues to lend far more money to fossil fuel energy than to renewable energy.

Our Big Shift campaign calls on HSBC to shift investment away from fossil fuels and into renewable energy. As a matter of urgency, HSBC must rule out funding for any new coal projects anywhere, publish the carbon footprint of its investments, and create a timebound transition plan to show how it will keep its business in line with the Paris Agreement.

# Get powered up for climate justice and call on HSBC to make the Big Shift and stop funding coal or any other fossil fuels.

### What HSBC must do

- Remove the exception in its energy policy that allows HSBC to continue financing new coal power plants in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam.
- Stop financing companies that make more than 30% of their money from coal mining or coal power.
- Publish a clear, timebound plan with measurable targets for phasing out finance of fossil fuels altogether and increasing finance for renewable energy.

### What you can do

Get powered up for climate justice and stop HSBC funding climate change by getting involved in the campaign:

- Email HSBC now from [caid.org.uk/bigshift](mailto:caid.org.uk/bigshift)  
You will most likely get a stock response from them, but make sure you reply to push them further. Get in touch with us if you need help with what to say.
- We want to flood HSBC branches across the UK with messages of support for the Big Shift. Can you get your church on board by signing a giant petition poster for HSBC, showing the breadth of support for the campaign?
- In Lent 2019 we will be aiming to visit as many branches as possible to hand-deliver messages to HSBC. Start building a small team of people who can work with you to plan an action, and get in touch with us for support on what to do next.
- Pray for the campaign and for the work of our partners around the world who are working with communities like Randy's, feeling the effects of a changing climate, and working hard to make a different future a reality.

For support, resources or to invite a speaker to talk about the campaign, get in touch with us on [campaigns@christian-aid.org](mailto:campaigns@christian-aid.org)

