

Notes for NW SS School Powerpoint in July – Oxfam and Climate Change

Slide 1



The year 2009 sees the launch of Oxfam's campaign on Climate Change.

The debate about whether climate change is **really** happening is a **thing of the past**; the efforts of the international community are now focused on how we can **safeguard our future**. The people we work with are reporting ever-changing and unpredictable weather patterns, whether that's deeper and longer lasting [floods in South Asia](#), irregular rainfall and [drought in Kenya](#), or hotter temperatures which are melting glaciers in Tajikistan. Because of all this, so much of our work now needs to include the potential impact of the changing climate.

2009 is an **all-important** year in the fight against climate change. In Dec 09, world leaders will get together at the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen to decide how the world tackles climate change and global warming for decades to come.

By the end of this presentation you will understand why climate change is Oxfam's number one priority, why we need to engage with combating climate change Here & Now, and how Oxfam is tackling the biggest **humanitarian challenge** of the twenty-first century.

This picture: Rubia, 40, sits on a banana raft inside her house which is waist deep by flood water, Kestiar Char, Sariakandi, Bangladesh. Her husband is a farmer and they have three children. They came to this house five years ago after losing their own land: 'Shifting house in the flood time or river erosion is hard but losing own land is different experience, it is an indescribable pain.'

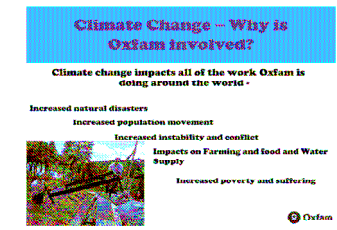
Slide 2



So far, much of the discussion around climate change has focused on the impact on the environment, or the science debate. **Oxfam is going to turn the whole climate change debate on its head**. We want the world to understand the **human cost** of climate change. We're going to put **people**; the ones being hit first and worst, right smack in the centre of the argument.

That's why in April we launched our new communications campaign under the banner '**Here & Now**'. In our communications with supporters and the UK public we will be focussing on the **human impact** of climate change. We want people to understand that climate change is about **people** – that it's affecting **poor people** first and worst – and our supporters **can make a difference**.

Slide 3



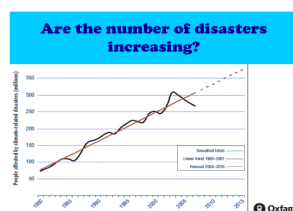
Increased natural disasters – Natural disasters have doubled since the 1980's and the number of people affected has increased by 100%. Each year, on average, almost 250 million people are affected by 'natural' disasters. Oxfam's report – 'The Right to Survive' - projects that by 2015 – just six years away - this figure could grow by more than 50% to over 375 million people affected by climate-related disasters each year. That's more than the population of the whole of Britain and the United States, combined. Between 1990 -1998, 94% of the world's 568 major natural disasters, and more than 97% of all natural disaster-related deaths were in developing countries (Oxfam website)

Increased population movement- one billion people will be forced to move from their homes by 2050

Increased instability and conflict – 46 countries will face a 'high risk of violent conflict' when climate change exacerbates security threats.

Impacts on Farming and food and Water Shortages - 2008 – 923m malnourished people in the world (FAO) 2080 – an extra 600m malnourished people if we don't tackle climate change (UNDP). By 2020, between 75 and 250 million of people (that's nearly one-third of the continent's population) are predicted to be exposed to increased water shortage due to climate change. By 2020, in some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50%. Agricultural production, including access to food, in many African countries is projected to be severely compromised. This would further adversely affect food security and exacerbate malnutrition.

Slide 4



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Slide 6



2009 is an all-important year in the fight against climate change.

In Dec 09 world leaders will get together at the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen to decide how the world tackles climate change and global warming for decades to come. In the words of Oxfam's Campaigns Director, Thomas Schultz-Jagow, this conference is "the most important meeting mankind has ever had".

So, we have just this year to do something about this deal. The deal has to be **safe and fair** for poor people. A **safe** deal would see countries agree to **cut global carbon emissions** to limit climate change (keeping global warming as far below 2°C as possible - the limit that scientists agree is 'safe'). A **fair** deal would mean that **developed countries take primary responsibility** for cutting emissions, and **provide money** to help developing countries adapt to climate change.

Over the last century, the 23 richest countries (14 % of the current global population) have been responsible for 60 % of accumulated CO₂ emissions. World leaders must support poor people in their fight against the devastating effects of climate change. Whatever happens at Copenhagen, we will continue to push for a fair deal for everyone – leading one of the biggest global movements the world has ever seen.

Our international campaign plans centre on **3 key 'global' moments**: June - UN Intercessional Meeting, Bonn, September - UN General Assembly Meeting, New York, December - UN summit in Copenhagen. At these key dates we'll work with our allies to mobilise the public and build the sense of outrage needed to convince decision makers to take urgent action.

With so many people around the world fighting for change, we can make it happen.

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This picture: Anna (26) cooks food on a banana raft in front of her kitchen, in Bogra, Bangladesh, after the region was heavily affected by floods.

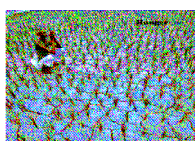
Scientists have predicted that Bangladesh could lose up to 17% of its land by 2050 because of rising sea levels due to global warming.

Slide 8



More than **one thousand climate refugees** are crammed together in makeshift shelters in the grounds of a primary school in Tala, Shatkhira district, south-western Bangladesh. They sleep in basic bamboo structures with only a plastic sheet as a roof. They were forced to move here in September 2008, when heavy flooding **destroyed their homes**.

Slide 9



This picture: A farmer sits on his parched paddy field during the worst drought that has affected Tezpur in Sonitpur district of Assam, northeast India on Friday, August 18, 2006. Farmers in Assam and other parts of northeast India are having tough time due to less rainfall and extreme heat this year. In Assam state alone a total of 8,17,769 farmers in 19 districts have been affected and over 500,000 hectares of crop damaged.

Slide 10



This **harrowing** image of dead and dying animals at the Dambas in Kenya, which has dried up due to successive years of very little rain, is becoming a **commonplace** sight in many parts of equatorial Africa.

Slide 11



Dealing with Disaster: We are constantly responding to natural disasters which can be linked with global climate change, like our emergency relief efforts after floods in India, hurricanes in Haiti, or drought in Kenya. What's more, we're making sure these communities are better prepared for extreme weather events in the future, too. That means things like raising homes up on stilts, or providing early warning systems for when disasters strike.

Holding back Hunger: Oxfam is already helping people to cope with severe climate events worldwide – and to plan for the future.

Poor communities around the world are **already adapting to climate change** – and with our help, are improving their chances of beating poverty.

- In South Africa, for example, farmers are planting **faster-maturing crops**, making the most of less-reliable rains.
- In Bangladesh, villagers are creating **floating vegetable gardens**, to protect their livelihoods against flooding.
- And in Viet Nam, communities are planting **dense mangroves** along the coast, to **diffuse storm waves**.

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Fighting for a fair deal – explained in slide 6

Slide 15

1) Why are natural disasters more of a problem for people in developing countries?

- More occur in the developing world
- Fewer resources to deal with disaster
- More vulnerable to disasters

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More occur in developing world - Between 1990 -1998, 94% of the world's 568 major natural disasters, and more than 97% of all natural disaster-related deaths were in developing countries (Oxfam website)

Fewer resources to deal with disasters - For example Netherlands and Bangladesh – only one can afford expensive flood defense

More vulnerable to disasters - Everywhere, poor people are the most vulnerable to being killed or made destitute by disasters. In rich countries, an average of **23 people die** in any given disaster; in the **least-developed countries it's 1,052**. Vulnerable because of poorly constructed homes, land more susceptible to flood/droughts/landslides, weaker health service and infrastructure.

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2) Does climate change affect men and women in developing countries equally?

- Women are affected more greatly by climate change
- Women are less likely to be educated
- Women are in charge of collecting water and wood - the walk is becoming longer
- More woman die in each disaster

 Oxfam

Women are affected more greatly by climate change -

Women are less likely to be educated – men more likely to have savings and skills to earn money

Women are in charge of collecting water and wood – the walk is becoming longer – In Kenya 85% of a women's daily energy is spent on fetching water and this gets worse in times of drought

More woman die in each disaster – women boys and girls are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster e.g. Bangladesh cyclone 90% who died were women.

Slide 17



Over the last century, the 23 richest countries (14 % of the current global population) have been responsible for 60 % of accumulated CO₂ emissions. (Bangladesh is the 66th largest emitter).

Total Co₂ (not per capita)

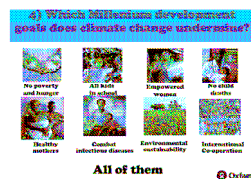
No 1 – China

No 2 – US

No. 3 – Russia

However the image shows per capita emissions and the US produce a lot more CO₂ per capita

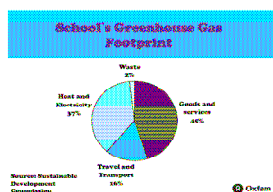
Slide 19



If anyone questions the above as being affected by climate change here are some back up facts.

- 1) An extra 600 m people malnourished by 2080 because of climate change
- 2) Natural disasters and drought may mean young people are required to stay at home to help out. Also school buildings affected by natural disasters.
- 3) Women make up 80% of the agricultural workforce in Africa and agriculture highly vulnerable to climate change
- 4,5,6) Long term good health of populations depends on continued stability and functioning of the biosphere's ecological, physical and socio-economic systems. 80% of populations in poorer countries rely on plants for medicine.
- 7) 15-37% of species become extinct by 2050 (mid range scenario) In Namibia 30% of GDP relies on natural resources.
- 8) Undermines progress made by humanitarian development. Puts pressure on relations as more money needed for CC adaptation.

Slide 22



This slide is used as a part of a carousel activity where participants write their ideas for working on climate change at school under 4 headings

- 1-fundraising
- 2 Awareness raising
3. Lifestyle matters – how to reduce your individual, schools' carbon footprint
4. Campaigning – most important in run up to Copenhagen.

The slide above is just to ensure participants assess the priorities within the lifestyle bracket with the knowledge of which areas have the biggest CC impacts.

In 2006, the SDC identified that the UK schools estate contributes almost 15% of the UK public sector's carbon footprint and 2% of the UK's total carbon emissions. We followed this work up in 2008 with a more detailed study of school carbon emissions that included scenarios for how they could be reduced up to 2050.

As shown below, only 41% of the schools' carbon footprint, and only 37% of its greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint, is related to energy use in school buildings, with 42% (45% GHG) coming from emissions in the supply chain (including school food and construction activity), and 17% (16% GHG) from pupil and staff travel to school. Waste accounts for a small amount of the carbon footprint, though it contributes 2% of GHG emissions.