



## Climate Change

*As global temperatures continue to rise, climate change threatens to undo any progress made on poverty. Let's explore the issue.*

### Facts

- The Scottish Climate Change Act commits Scotland to significant cuts in carbon emissions - 40% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. It is widely recognised as extremely progressive;
- Around 600,000 deaths occurred worldwide as a result of weather-related natural disasters in the 1990s, some 95% of which took place in developing countries ([WHO 2012](#));

### What is the issue?

Climate change is a matter of justice. The world's most vulnerable communities must deal with the harsh impacts of climate change, yet they have done the very least to cause global warming.

Developing countries are simply unequipped to deal with the sort of extreme weather conditions which have occurred with increasing frequency in recent years. These changes in global weather patterns have occurred due to climate change.

The world's richest nations must take responsibility for overuse of resources. They need to urgently scale-up cuts to their carbon emissions.

Furthermore, more money is needed to help developing countries cope with the impact of climate change. Scotland has launched a Climate Adaptation Fund to help some of the world's poorest communities adapt to changing weather patterns.

Millions of the world's poorest people depend on agriculture to earn a living and feed their family. But climate change is putting this at risk. Global leaders must recognise the links between climate and food and support communities to adapt to a changing climate.

All the progress we have made on poverty could be undone by climate change, we must stand together to ensure this does not happen.

### Why has climate change become such an issue?

- Humans are pouring carbon dioxide into the atmosphere at a rate which is much faster than plants and oceans can absorb;
- Rich countries have overused resources for so long, that this has had a detrimental effect on people living in the poorest communities;
- We all use fossil fuels to heat our homes, power our cars and power electrical items. This releases harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, causing great concern for the environment. It is only since the dawn of the industrial age that the planet has experienced such drastic changes in global warming with potential to change how we all live forever;

### How can I help?

- Talk about the issues – discuss the issue of climate change with your friends and family;
- Use social media – share this factsheet or other resources with your social media networks;
- Think about the way you use power at home. Do you waste it? Even small actions like turning off lights when you leave a room or not leaving your TV on standby can make a difference;

### Useful links

- CAFOD – [Get clued up on Climate Change](#)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – [Climate Change](#)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – [information and processes](#)
- Stop Climate Chaos – [SCIAF is a member of the Scottish coalition](#)