

LENT 2014

ACTIVIST TOOLKIT

Trócaire
Working for a just world.



For almost 40% of people in the world, water is scarce- that's nearly 3 billion people! Our actions can help address water shortages around the world by addressing Climate Change and by living more sustainably.

How to use this resource

You have heard how water scarcity is negatively impacting on the life of Enestina and her family. One of the key root causes of water scarcity in Malawi is climate change. Changing rainfall patterns because of climate change means Enestina's already inadequate water source dries up at certain times of the year. The issue of climate change is a global problem. Carbon emitting nations like Ireland need to take some of the responsibility and act on it. That's where you come in. Collective action is a powerful force to bring about change. This activist toolkit resource aims to help inform you how to be the change maker in your community so that collectively, we can tackle this problem together. Download or print off this document so that you can be better informed on how to address the root causes of water scarcity and be better equipped to inform others.

The change starts with us...

The impacts of climate change in Malawi

Climate change and global warming refer to an increase in average global temperatures. This is caused primarily by increases in "greenhouse" gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂)¹. Climate change is already a daily reality for some of the world's poorest communities.

"We have watched the rains getting less and less and we harvest fewer crops. The rain is so precious. When there is no rain, we really suffer."

Eliyeta Muyeye (Enestina's mother)

Climate change and climate variability is already having serious impacts on the people in Malawi. Over the past four decades the country's temperature has increased (temperature's in Malawi have increased by 0.9% since the 1960s), and the intensity and frequency of climate change related events such as droughts, and floods have increased. The most affected by all of these events are the rural poor households, most especially women and children.² Changing rainfall patterns and higher temperatures have resulted in reduced levels of food production, which for communities who depend on subsistence farming, has led to an increase in food insecurity.

"Climate change is the defining development issue for CADECOM, since climate change has a tremendous influence on poor people who are particularly vulnerable"

Patrick Namakhoma (CADECOM)

The increase in annual temperature in Malawi over the last decades and change in rain patterns – has meant that CADECOM (one of Trócaire's partner organisations in Malawi) focuses on helping communities to:

- Have safe access to drinking water
- Use irrigation systems to maximise water – allows two crop cycles a year rather than one.
- Access knowledge and expertise on adapting and diversifying their crops: groundnuts, cotton, vegetables, rice, sugarcane, banana and sweet potatoes.
- Participate in political decision-making processes which affect them, such as developing the National Climate Change Policy.

WHY DO WE NEED A CLIMATE ACT?

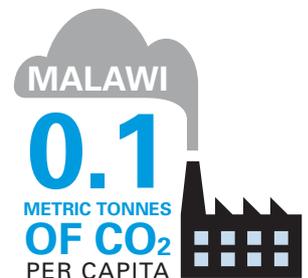
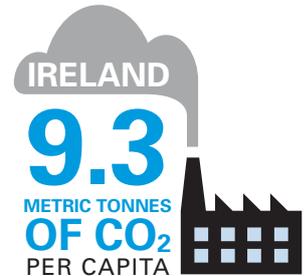
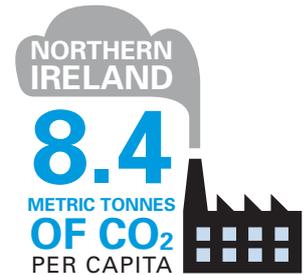
One of the key findings in the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change 2013 (IPCC) report is the attribution of more than half the increase in global surface temperatures from 1951-2010 to human activities, underlining the dominant role of fossil fuel burning as a key driver for climate change.

Having one of the highest rates of carbon emissions (which cause climate change) per person in Europe, Ireland and Northern Ireland have a serious role to play in tackling the climate crisis and its effects on people in developing countries, including Enestina and her access to water in Malawi.

Continuing on the current course will make it difficult – if not impossible – to prevent the widespread and catastrophic impacts of climate change. A further 2°C increase in global average surface temperatures, will result in severe and irreversible weather changes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) now estimates that this boundary will be breached, with temperatures set to rise to at least 3°C-4°C above safe limits by 2100. Even within the 2°C limit, food and water impacts are severe. The IPCC has indicated that developed countries like Ireland must reduce our carbon (CO₂) emissions by 80%- 95% by 2050. Despite repeated promises, the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and Northern Ireland (NI) have not yet passed climate change legislation, or set targets to reduce our carbon emissions.

“For future generations, the consequences of continuing on the same carbon-emitting path are of unimaginable severity to all of society”

Mary Robinson



We have a moral responsibility to act. Those who are suffering the worst impacts of climate change, like Enestina and her family, are those who have contributed least to the problem. A Climate Change Act would set us on a path to cut our emissions and take responsibility for our part in the climate change crisis.

Where is climate change legislation at in the Republic Of Ireland and Northern Ireland today?

Several times over the last number of years the **Irish government** has made pledges to cut our greenhouse gas emissions. But our progress in actually making these cuts has been too slow. Without binding climate legislation, promises of emissions cuts will remain in the realm of nice statements that can be broken again and again.

In 2012, Minister and TD for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan produced a roadmap for climate legislation in which he promised to publish a Climate Bill before the end of 2013. It's 2014, we have a draft bill, but we are still waiting for legislation. Even the draft bill falls short of the ambition needed. Emission targets have not been set for 2020 or 2050.

We need to tell the Taoiseach that we need real action now and no more delays. We can see the impacts of climate change at home more and more. It's time we see strong legislation in place, reflecting the emission targets needed.

Northern Ireland is the only region in the UK which does not have a Climate Act. Every region in the UK has the target to reduce carbon emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025' yet Northern Ireland is seriously lagging behind the rest of the UK. The UK as a whole has cut its greenhouse gas emissions 29.1% over the base levels, while England (30.9%), Scotland (30.8%) and Wales (20.6%) have all outpaced Northern Ireland's 17.5%.

Despite past commitment to introduce a Climate Bill, we have seen a u-turn in policy and no commitment to enact a Climate Act, with the appointment of a new Environment Minister, Mark H Durkan MLA in Autumn 2013.

This is where we have a real opportunity to show our support for a Climate Act in NI and get it back on the agenda with this new Environment Minister.

Without putting in place climate change legislation and setting reduction targets, how can we reduce our level of carbon emissions? Without reducing carbon emissions, how do we expect to have a world without climate change?

TAKE UP SOMETHING THIS LENT!

**WE MUST RETHINK THE WAY WE CONSUME.
THIS MEANS WASTING LESS AND BEING ENERGY CLEVER.**

This Lent we are promoting a pledge that people can take to live more sustainably. So as well as giving something up for Trócaire, we have a number of tips and suggestions of things people can take up to change our behaviour for the better. Visit www.trocaire.ie/uptous and click on the icons below to find out how. Please share your stories with us on Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #UoToUs, and see what we at Trócaire are doing to live more sustainably too.



RECYCLE



WASH AT 30°C



COMPOST



GET WALKING



EAT LESS MEAT
AND DAIRY



REDUCE FOOD WASTE



GREEN LIGHT



SUSTAINABLE
FASHION



GET ON YER BIKE



SHARE, BORROW,
LEND



DRINK TAP WATER



DON'T WASTE
WATER

We live in an interdependent world. Our actions here have an impact on those living in the global south. We would need 3 planet earths if the world consumed like Ireland. We need to address our over consumption as a nation and strive to live more sustainably to address the problems we are contributing to. Below are some of the issues arising from our unsustainable habits.

Don't waste water

At the moment we are doing the opposite. Nationally, we use 70% more water today than we did 40 years ago! The average adult in Ireland uses about 150 litres per day while Enestina, aged 9, uses 24 litres of dirty water per day. The single use of a washing machine consumes approximately 40 litres of water, the single use of a shower consumes around 35 litres of water, and brushing your teeth with the tap on uses between 6 and 12 litres of water. The average family of four in Ireland uses about 436 litres of water per day, through activities like cooking, drinking, washing our hands, brushing our teeth, washing dishes, and using the shower, washing machine, and toilet.

Reduce food waste

One third of all food bought in Ireland is thrown out. This costs each household in Ireland between €700 and €1000 (or £600 or £850) a year! When we throw food away, all the energy that went into growing, producing and transporting it goes to waste too. Rotting organic waste on landfill sites produces the potent greenhouse gas, methane. Growing food out of season in hothouses, and flying fresh fruit and veg around the world uses lots of energy. Eating seasonal, local produce can help cut about 1.3Kg of CO² off each meal. For the global picture, watch UNEP/WWF's Waste video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHUI111_D-A.

Invest in Sustainable fashion

We all love to look good and grab a bargain. But we have to start thinking critically about our appetite for 'throwaway fashion' and of practical ways to enjoy the clothes we wear, while being in solidarity with workers around the world and cutting down our environmental impact. There has been a dramatic increase in the amount of clothing sent to landfill. On average each of us now throws away approx 30kg of textiles in the bin each year. The textile industry uses huge amounts of water. It takes up to 2,720 litres of water to produce one cotton t-shirt! That's about the amount of water that an average person drinks over three years. Demand from our throwaway fashion culture has even caused water shortages in certain countries. While the intensive use of pesticides and insecticides in cotton farming mean that toxic compounds find their way into water systems.

THE CHANGE STARTS WITH US!

Now that you are informed, why not mobilise others to take action on this important issue, by engaging your school, university, community or parish? The following list provides suggestions on how to do this.



1. Corinna Steward



2. Dublin community garden initiative



3. Blue demonstration in Copenhagen

Share Trócaire's online petition - telling the Government that you want strong action on climate change - and **our online pledge**, asking people to live more sustainably. Go to www.trocaire.org/getinvolved to take action.

Be a 'Cyber Activist', encouraging people to retweet social media posts on these topics, and use a related hashtag eg #UpToUs, 'Like' videos, and Share them on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. (As well as taking the online action and sharing that with friends too...!)

Get a campaign pack using leaflets, posters and other campaign materials to promote the campaign in your community- contact Orla Quinn at oquinn@trocaire.ie for a campaign pack. Use the materials to set up a stand at your local farmer's market like volunteer Corinna Steward at a Trócaire stand at the Dublin Food Co- op (photo 1).

Write a letter/send an email/ talk to your local TD/ MEP telling him/her that you want them to do all they can to make sure ROI and NI passes a strong climate bill – for more info on this contact Joanne Mc Garry at jmcgarry@trocaire.ie in ROI and Mary Friel at mfriel@trocaire.ie in NI.

Partner with a local community garden or local green school to co- organise an event highlighting the importance of linking the global and the local. Photo 2 shows volunteer Póilín Brennan with the then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague at a joint Trócaire and Summer Row Community Garden event.

Organise a stunt (vigil, street drama, or a flash mob) on International Water Day (Saturday 22nd March) and paint the town blue! This is a fun way to raise awareness on this issue and a good opportunity to attract local media attention. Take inspiration from the blue demonstration that Trócaire volunteers participated in 2009 in Copenhagen at the largest climate summit ever to take place (photo 3).

THE CHANGE STARTS WITH US!

Organise a film screening in your community on the issue of climate change and arrange a 'question and answer' session with a member of Trócaire staff to create a discussion after the screening. Contact Orla Quinn at quinn@trocaire.ie for a copy of any of the film's listed in the box below.

There was once an Island:

What if your community had to decide whether to leave their homeland forever and there was no help available? This is the reality for the culturally unique Polynesian community of Takuu, a tiny low-lying atoll in the South Western Pacific. As a terrifying tidal flood rips through their already damaged home, the Takuu community experiences the devastating effects of climate change first hand.

Sun Come Up:

This documentary film tells the story of some of the world's first environmental refugees, the Carteret Islanders. The film follows relocation leader Ursula Rakova and a group of young families as they search for new homes in war torn Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.

Climate of Change:

A documentary focused on the efforts of everyday people all over the world who are making a difference in the fight against global warming.

The Economics of Happiness:

This documentary reveals how globalization is accelerating climate change, destroying jobs, fraying the fabric of our communities, and adding to the stress of modern life. Most importantly, this film shows how these trends can be reversed.

Organise a Lent photo exhibition. Pictures tell stories. A good photograph can be an immensely powerful campaign tool. A well planned exhibition of relevant photographs can be an effective method of engaging interest and getting your message across to a wider audience. The photos in this exhibition speak to the information contained in this toolkit. Order the photo pack by contacting Orla Quinn at quinn@trocaire.ie.

Schools can use this resource and access the primary and post- primary Lent resources at www.trocaire.org/education/lent2014 or by contacting Mary Boyce at mboyce@trocaire.ie.

Church groups can use this resource and request the parish resource. This can be accessed at www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes or by contacting Kate McQuillan at kmquillan@trocaire.ie.

The trick is to choose the best combination of tactics to achieve your goal, taking into account the skills and resources available to you and your group.

BECOME A CHANGE MAKER IN YOUR COMMUNITY THIS LENT

Need help with organising any of the events above? Contact Orla Quinn in the Campaigns team at quinn@trocaire.ie or 01 505 3229 for more information. We'd love to hear about the changes you're making in your community. Why not share these stories with us via email, Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #UpToUS? Remember, the change starts with us!

¹ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/233/climate-change-and-global-warming-introduction>

² http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/malawi_climate_change_report.pdf

³ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/233/climate-change-and-global-warming-introduction>

⁴ http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/malawi_climate_change_report.pdf

⁵ IPCC's fifth assessment report (AR5), http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#.UvN5s2J_ulU

⁶ <http://www.trocaire.org/resources/policyandadvocacy/new-global-policy-same-local-reality-trocaire-40th-anniversary>

⁷ <http://www.mrfcj.org/news/2013/bsr-conference-2013.html>