

IF YOU WANT TO COMBAT POVERTY, DEMAND ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



OXFAM

WHILE CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS US ALL, POPULATIONS LIVING IN POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE HIT HARDEST — THE SAME COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THE LEAST TO GLOBAL CARBON POLLUTION AND HAVE FEWER RESOURCES WITH WHICH TO ADAPT.

As an organisation tackling poverty around the world, Oxfam has been aware of this for many years. We are fighting to move Australia beyond coal and to ensure vulnerable communities around the world are supported. We know from experience that more extreme weather equals greater hunger and disease.

1. CLIMATE DAMAGE CONTRIBUTES TO HUNGER

Climate change is making it harder for families to grow and buy enough food to eat. Shifting rainfall patterns and rising temperatures are causing crop yields to decline. Meanwhile, extreme events like intense downpours or crippling heatwaves may wipe out entire harvests in a stroke. World hunger has risen for three straight years, reversing hard fought gains and returning numbers to the same level as a decade ago.¹

1. <https://www.oxfam.org.au/media/2018/09/climate-a-leading-cause-as-un-finds-global-hunger-rises-again/>

“MY GREAT HOPE FOR MY COUNTRY IS THAT IT REMAINS, EXISTING ON THE MAP.”

-CLAIRE ANTEREA



Ambo, South Tarawa, Kiribati: Claire Anterea, 39, stands in front of the lagoon in Ambo, South Tarawa. Claire works for KiriCAN (Kiribati Climate Action Network) and is one of the country's leading climate advocates. Photo: Ula Majewski/OxfamAUS 2017.

2. WOMEN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALL DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

The situation in the Torres Strait Islands epitomises the disproportionate impact of climate change upon Indigenous Peoples. Rising seas and coastal erosion are inundating sacred sites, swallowing land and homes, and forcing some villages to relocate.² Despite contributing almost nothing to the causes of climate change, Torres Strait Islanders are truly on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Women are disproportionately harmed by climate change as they typically bear greater responsibility for tasks made more difficult by climate change, including sourcing food and water. And young people are at greatest risk of injury, malnutrition and death linked to climate change.

2. <https://www.oxfam.org.au/2017/07/close-to-home-the-climate-crisis-in-the-torres-strait/>



YET ALL PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN DRIVING SOLUTIONS

Indigenous knowledge is critical to climate solutions and to building resilient communities. Similarly, ensuring women and young people have a greater say in decision-making at all levels is essential in driving fair, ambitious and effective responses to climate change.

3. COAL LEADS TO POVERTY

Burning coal is the single biggest contributor to climate change. More coal will drive more people into poverty through the devastating consequences of climate change and the direct toll of coal mining and burning on local communities. Moreover, renewable energy is far better suited to bringing electricity to the more than a billion people worldwide who still live without it.³

3. *More Coal Equals More Poverty: Transforming our world through renewable energy* (Oxfam 2017)



4. CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY LEADING TO DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE

Supercharged storms, more intense and prolonged droughts, rising seas and other impacts of climate change all exacerbate people's existing vulnerabilities and increase the likelihood of people forced to move. By one estimate, if we do nothing, more than 140 million people within Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America could be forced to move by 2050.⁴ Oxfam research shows that people in poor countries are around five times more likely to be displaced by extreme weather disasters than people in high-income countries.⁵

4. *Groundswell: Preparing for internal climate migration* (World Bank 2018) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2018/03/19/groundswell---preparing-for-internal-climate-migration>

5. *Uprooted by Climate Change: Responding to the growing risk of displacement* (Oxfam 2017) <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/uprooted-climate-change>

WE BELIEVE THAT

A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, **POWERED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY AND FREE FROM HUNGER AND POVERTY**, IS POSSIBLE.

WE KNOW THAT

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENDING POVERTY **GO HAND IN HAND**. AND THAT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE LEAVES COMMUNITIES **STRONGER, FAIRER AND MORE RESILIENT**.

Limiting warming to 1.5°C — a matter of survival for many vulnerable communities — means no new coal, shifting to 100% renewable energy, and achieving zero emissions as soon as possible.

WE STAND WITH

STUDENTS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WORLD DEMANDING **REAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**.

STUDENTS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITIES CAN CONTINUE TO LEARN ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE DAMAGE AND POVERTY AT [OXFAM.ORG.AU/SCHOOLS](https://www.oxfam.org.au/schools)