

CHILD RIGHTS and CLIMATE CHANGE



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Educational, Scientific and
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UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION
OF HUMAN
RIGHTS

Dignity and justice for all of us

**“Only when the last tree
has died and the last river
has been poisoned and
the last fish has been caught
will we realise that we
cannot eat money.”**

Cree proverb



What exactly is
CLIMATE CHANGE?

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FAST.



The consequences of climate change in Tuvalu.



How will we
BE AFFECTED?

Climate change
is already
affecting many
people.

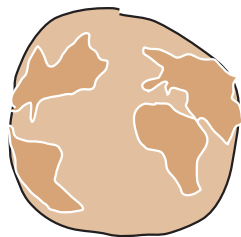


**Floods in Britain
in 2000**

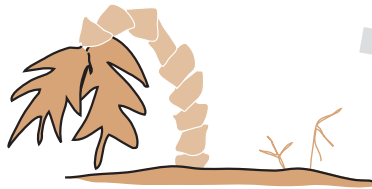
Children and CLIMATE CHANGE

One consequence of climate change is a lack of safe water.

Children – especially those from poorer regions of the world – are particularly vulnerable.



climate change



drought

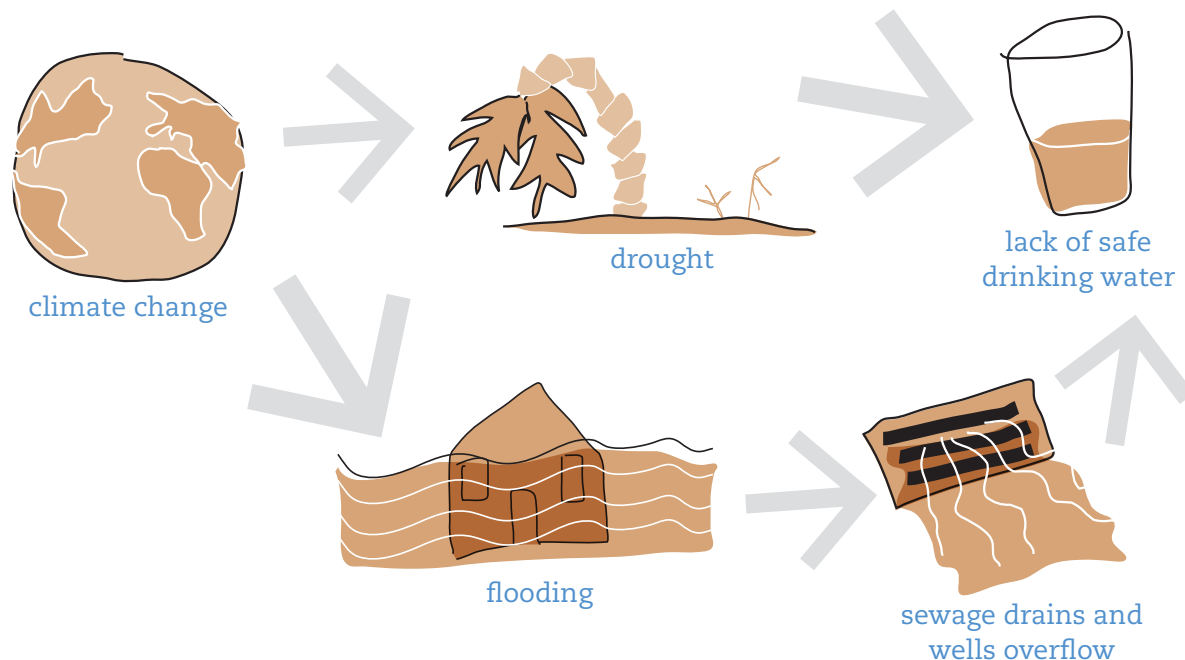


lack of safe drinking water

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Climate change =
HUMAN RIGHTS
problem

A lack of safe water can lead to:

- **malnutrition** (*right to food*)
- **disease** (*right to health*)
- **poverty** (*right to an adequate standard of living*)
- **displacement** (*right to shelter*)
- **inequality** (*right to education*)
- **armed conflicts** (*right to security*)

When we talk about how humans will be affected by climate change, we are thinking about climate change as a human rights problem.



Climate change =
HUMAN RIGHTS
problem

Human rights are the rights and freedoms that we all have.

- Some human rights are based on our **physical needs**.
The right to life. To food. To shelter.
- Other human rights **protect us**.
The right to be free from torture, cruel treatment and abuse.
- Human rights are also there to ensure we **develop to our fullest potential**.
The right to education. To work. To participate in your community.



The right to
PARTICIPATE

Human rights can also help shape our thoughts and actions on climate change.

The right to participate can help children make sure their ideas on climate change are heard by those in power.

RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

comes from

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

UNITED NATIONS

comes from



The right to **PARTICIPATE**

Young people are well informed and aware of the effects of climate change. Their right to be heard is vital.

9-year-old Hanh lives in Vietnam, a country with many rivers and a long coastline. It is in danger from climate change because of rising sea levels. Save the Children worked with the local community to find ways to lessen the impacts of future disasters. The team asked children for their ideas. Hanh and his friends were part of a group of children that saw the repair of an evacuation road as a priority. Hanh lives in the Go Cong Dong district, an area which has many floods and storms. Improving the evacuation road will enable him and his friends to continue going to school even when there has been flooding or a typhoon. Save the Children also taught the children first aid and evacuation processes to help them feel in control and prevent panic when disasters strike. Read more in 'Face of Disaster: Children and Climate Change' on www.savethechildren.org.uk



The right to
PARTICIPATE

14-year-old Ziana Kotadia champions action against climate change.

In 2007, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) launched a competition in search of nine 'climate change champions', one to represent each region of England. Ziana, the West Midlands champion, used shocking images of the effects of climate change in her winning presentation. She gives talks on climate change and raises awareness in the local media to ensure that young people's perspectives are heard. "It is my generation that will have to adapt to temperature changes...therefore we should have an opportunity to input our valid points to an authoritative figure." Read more about Ziana and the other climate change champions on www.footprintfriends.com

www.una.org.uk
www.unesco.org.uk