

WHY ADVOCATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE?



'The climate has changed. Because of the droughts, we don't know whether we'll harvest anything at all'

ANDREW – FARMER, MALAWI

'We expect climate impacts to increase, with more of our country becoming desert, more woods and jungle being lost, torrential rains, hurricanes and greater seasonal instability.'

EUGENIO – AMEXTRA, MEXICO

Why advocate on climate change?

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Front cover photo of family affected by climate change in Bangladesh:
Peter Caton / Tearfund

Back cover photo of farmers in Tanzania: Jim Loring / Tearfund

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Why advocate on climate change?

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Glossary

- Adaptation** Taking action to cope with climate change and environmental degradation.
- Climate change** The climatic changes caused by the rise in the earth's global temperature due to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels.
- COP/CMP** COP stands for 'Conference of the Parties' and is the main authority of the UNFCCC (see below). The CMP is the supreme body of the Kyoto Protocol (see below). Both are made up of representatives of all the countries belonging to each treaty. The COP and the CMP meet each year to negotiate on global solutions to climate change – COP16 took place in Mexico in 2010, COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009 and so on back through to the early 1990s. Sometimes, people refer to the COP as a UN climate summit or UN climate negotiations.
- Disaster** An event, either natural or man-made, that causes great distress or destruction. It is a social crisis which occurs when a hazard coincides with a vulnerable situation, resulting in significant loss of life, severe life-threatening disruption and substantial physical damage.
- Disaster risk reduction (DRR)** Measures taken to make a disaster less likely, such as reducing exposure to hazards, or reducing people's vulnerabilities and increasing their capacities.
- Fossil fuels** Fuels such as coal, oil and gas formed from the mineralised or otherwise preserved remains of dead plants and animals over many years.



Samuel Hauenstein Swan

Global warming

Term used to describe rises in the earth's global temperature caused by human activities. It is sometimes used interchangeably with the term 'climate change'. However, the term 'climate change' is preferable because it refers to the changes in the climate that result from the earth's warming. The term 'global warming' can be confusing because some of the weather changes it produces can mean colder, not warmer, weather in some parts of the world.

Greenhouse gases (GHG)

Gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, which cause climate change.

Hazard

An event or situation which could lead to danger, loss or injury.

IPCC

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – a body of 2,500 of the world's best climate scientists from the leading scientific organisations of more than 130 nations.

Kyoto Protocol (KP)

An addition to the UNFCCC (see below) joined by most countries (except the US) which agreed emissions reductions for most developed countries.

Low carbon development

Development that is sustainable and that does not rely heavily on burning fossil fuels for heat, light, transport and industry.

Mitigation

Measures to reduce the emissions that cause climate change. (This differs from the way the term 'mitigation' is used in the field of DRR (see above) where it means measures taken to limit the adverse impacts of hazards.)

NAPAs

National Adaptation Programmes of Action – these are plans developed at country level but funded internationally through the Least Developed Countries Fund (a UN fund managed by the Global Environment Facility).

UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – a treaty agreed by 192 countries to set an overall framework for global efforts to tackle climate change.

Vulnerability

The degree to which people are susceptible to loss, damage, injury and death due to hazards. This is a function of spiritual, physical, economic, social, political, technical, ideological and cultural factors. These factors affect people's ability to protect themselves, to recover from a disaster and to cope with the impacts of climate change.



Jim Loring / Tearfund

Introduction

'The rain does not come at the right time. People start cultivating and there is no rain. Then it comes after a month, so the seeds die and again we have to plant.'

TEARFUND PARTNER EFICOR, INDIA

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today, and its impacts are already hitting the developing world hardest.

This booklet is for organisations that are experiencing the effects of climate change on their work now— be it in the field of food security and agriculture, water resource management, care for the environment or disaster risk reduction, or other areas. You may only know a small amount about global climate change, and may not have considered carrying out advocacy on this issue.

In this short guide we look at the global problem of climate change, how it affects development and what advocacy is and how it can be used to tackle the problem. We look at the role of local and national governments, international bodies such as the UN, civil society organisations and the church.

We also look at why advocacy on climate change is needed:

- Climate change is happening now and is leading to changed weather patterns, including increased floods, droughts and storms. This is affecting food security and water resources and leading to more disasters, especially in the developing world.
- Governments at every level are responsible for helping communities respond to these changes.
- Communities and churches can play an effective role in helping governments make good decisions on climate change.

We briefly cover how to begin advocacy work around climate change and recommend further resources and contacts. Tearfund believes that it is vital that organisations make all their work resilient to the impacts of climate change. This booklet aims to show that advocacy can be a crucial tool, alongside other tactics, in addressing climate change.



Marcus Perkins / Tearfund

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is about influencing people and policies to bring about change. It is about influencing those in power to act more fairly.

Tearfund defines advocacy as...

'... seeking with, and on behalf of, poor people to address the underlying causes of poverty, bring justice and support good development through influencing the policies and practices of the powerful.'

Advocacy is firmly rooted in the Bible, and is based on God's commitment to justice:

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.'

PROVERBS 31:8-9

Advocacy is about relationship-building and can often be a collaborative approach, working with the authorities to bring about change. Decision-makers such as governments and local leaders are often aware that there is a problem and will welcome the opportunity to work with others towards resolving the issue.

The roles of an advocate can include facilitating communication between people, negotiating, demonstrating good practice and building alliances with other organisations and networks. Working with other like-minded groups can be



helpful in increasing your influence, and can help reduce any risk you may feel in approaching the authorities. Therefore, advocacy is not necessarily confrontational, although of course it can be sometimes. Decisions about the kind of advocacy work we choose to do will always be guided by what is appropriate in the local culture.

Here are some of the ways advocacy can be carried out.

Relationship-building (sometimes called lobbying)

This is about building relationships with people in authority and starting a dialogue about a particular issue or a community's needs. It involves increasing the awareness of someone in a position of power and seeking to influence them about an issue and suggesting potential solutions.

It could involve:

- small-scale face-to-face meetings with a decision-maker
- writing letters or sending useful information to decision-makers.

It is important to include people who are directly affected by an issue in influencing those in power, because this gives legitimacy to the advocacy, whether that means involving them in research, consulting them about what needs to be done, or helping them to speak directly to those in power.

Mobilising the public (sometimes called campaigning)

This is about raising awareness of an issue by telling the public about a situation – the problem and the potential solution – so that they are encouraged to take action.



Sometimes, this involves discussing with groups of people how a situation may affect them, and encouraging them to send a message to the person who has the power to challenge the injustice. It could include:

- educating people about the issue
- arranging public meetings
- writing newsletters
- asking people to sign petitions
- preaching a sermon
- taking part in demonstrations or marches.

Methods that are appropriate in some countries may not be appropriate in others. For example, public demonstrations may be appropriate in some countries but ineffective or even dangerous in others.

In the case of climate change, educating people about the problem – helping church leaders, the media, politicians, young people and others to understand the problem – can be a crucial first step towards taking action.

Explaining climate change can be challenging, especially given that its causes may seem complex and slightly distant from ordinary people's lives. However, a few simple questions about changes in the weather, harvests or plants and animals quickly help show that people are already aware of the impacts of climate change.¹

Media

We can work with the local or national media to help get the message out about a particular situation and its potential solutions. Government officials generally read, watch and listen to the media, so it can be an effective way of highlighting a problem to them. The media also reaches lots of ordinary people who may be interested in the situation and who might want to get involved. Some examples of media work include:

- telling stories relating to the issue in a regular radio show
- introducing the subject matter into the story line of a well-known soap opera
- writing an article or letter for a newspaper or magazine
- talking on the radio or TV
- telling a journalist about the situation.



Samuel Hauenstein, Sweden

1 The Campaigns team at Tearfund have many resources that help to explain climate change in simple ways. They are happy to share these resources and provide advice.

Prayer

Prayer should support every kind of action. Prayer for advocacy can happen in small groups, at a church service or individually. Prayer is one of the things that makes Christian advocacy work distinctive.

The Bible tells us that 'God created the world and all that is in it' (Psalm 24:1). Throughout scripture, we are reminded that God created the world for his purposes and we have a responsibility to take care of it. We should try to live in a way that does not destroy the beauty or resources of the earth for future generations. The issue of climate change can seem overwhelming, so praying for God to help us play our part and lifting up the global problem to him is a crucial underpinning of any advocacy that we do.

Lifestyle

The way that we live can contribute to climate change. This is more of a problem in the developed world where over-consumption leads to over-production, depleted natural resources and climate change. But there are ways for all of us to live more sustainably, regardless of which country we live in. Some simple principles which can help us to act with integrity are those of *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* – reducing what we use, reusing things where possible and, if facilities exist or can be created, recycling things that have reached the end of their lives.²

Credit: Crawford / Tearfund



What is global climate change?

'The climate has changed and the rainy season has become unpredictable. The water levels fall year by year and some kinds of animals and vegetation have disappeared. The future is bleak for farmers and cattle-breeders alike.'

TEARFUND PARTNER TNT, MALI

Climate change is a term used to describe the climatic changes caused by rises in the earth's global temperature because of human activities. Global temperatures

² *Roots 13* (Tearfund) provides guidance on living sustainable lifestyles. See <http://titz.tearfund.org/Publications/ROOTS/Environmental+Sustainability.htm> or order a paper copy by sending an email to roots@tearfund.org

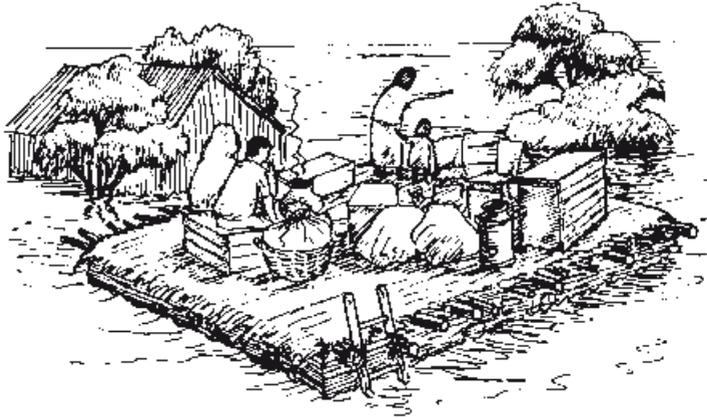
have been rising since some countries started to burn coal, oil and gas (fossil fuels) a few hundred years ago, and are set to increase by several degrees this century unless we start to live more sustainably. Scientists tell us that if the average global temperature rises by just 1.5 degrees, compared with pre-industrial levels, the consequences could be disastrous.³

Climate change is already hitting us

These rises in temperature may not sound very large, but the impacts that are being felt already and those that will be experienced in the future are very grave, especially for poor countries which already face huge development challenges.

Some of the current and future impacts of climate change include:

Unpredictable rainfall – Many regions are experiencing huge variations in rainfall, leading to droughts, floods and crop failures. Overall, parts of the world which already receive heavy rainfall are likely to experience more intense downpours and flooding, and parts of the world which are already drought-prone are likely to face more severe droughts and desertification. This is resulting in food insecurity and water scarcity, often in places which are already vulnerable.



3 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or IPCC (a UN body of 2,500 of the world's top climate scientists) found that global temperatures increased by 0.76°C since the 19th century. The IPCC predicts temperature rises of between 1.8°C and 4°C, and perhaps even as high as 6.4°C, by the end of this century unless there are rapid and drastic cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases. IPCC (2007) *Climate change 2007: Summary for policymakers*, www.ipcc.ch

Extreme weather events – As weather patterns change, extreme weather events are becoming more common. Heat waves, floods and droughts are likely to increase in intensity and frequency, leading to an increased number of disasters. Storms and sea surges are likely to become more intense.

Sea-level rise – As the oceans warm, water expands, leading to rises in the sea level. There is also the threat of polar ice caps melting, leading to an even more dramatic sea-level rise. This threatens low-lying islands and coastal zones.

Other impacts – The changes outlined above are likely to lead to conflicts over food and water, increases in health problems and the wider spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, as well as increased migration to urban areas. Climate change will cause a huge loss of many plant and animal species, which will in turn further affect human health and food security.

It is important to note that climate change does not happen in isolation. It is interlinked with existing problems of environmental degradation, food insecurity, disasters and water resources. Often climate change will make an existing problem worse, or will interact with local environmental problems. Climate change will affect whole regions, and countries will need to work across borders to address its impacts and its causes.

The exploitation of natural resources (such as water, forests and fossil fuels) has resulted in the pollution, destruction and degradation of the natural environment on which we all depend. The world is facing a 'perfect storm' where rising demands for energy, food and water all need to be addressed at the same time as addressing climate change.⁴ Unchecked, climate change will reverse years of development efforts, condemn millions more people to live in poverty, cause irreparable damage to ecosystems and biodiversity, and further undermine the well-being and security of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

The causes of climate change

It is widely accepted that climate change is caused mainly by the following activities:

- the burning of fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil) – used, for example, to heat and light buildings, for industry and for transport
- cutting down or burning forests, and certain ways of growing crops.



Peter Caton

4 See more about this in Professor Sir John Beddington's speech at <http://www.govnet.co.uk/news/govnet/professor-sir-john-beddingtons-speech-at-sduk-09>



These activities produce gases referred to as 'greenhouse gases' (such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide). They form a layer in the earth's atmosphere which traps heat from the sun and changes normal weather patterns and seasons.

Both historically and currently, it is developed countries that bear most of the responsibility for climate change, mainly through burning fossil fuels for energy, although carbon dioxide emissions from some emerging economies have increased very rapidly in recent years. However, many of the emissions from deforestation happen in the developing world.

Tackling climate change

There are two key ways to tackle climate change:

- ensuring that communities can adapt to the current and future consequences of climate change that are already inevitable – a process known as **adaptation**
- ensuring that levels of greenhouse gas emissions, especially in developed countries, are reduced rapidly; and that poorer countries have access to clean energy solutions to help them develop without high emissions and to measures to help protect their forests – a process known as **mitigation**. Increasingly, people are talking about **low-carbon development** to mean sustainable development without relying on burning fossil fuels.

5 See <http://tilz.tearfund.org>

Issues 20, 32, 41, 47, 54, 59, 70, 77 and 82 of Tearfund magazine *Footsteps* also contain useful information: see <http://tilz.tearfund.org/Publications/About+Footsteps.htm>

You can find more information about responding to climate change in your field work in the Tearfund publications *ROOTS 13 Environmental Sustainability*, *CEDRA (Climate change and Environmental Degradation Risk and Adaptation assessment)*, and in the related project assessment tool, *Environmental assessment*.⁵

Advocacy is a useful tool to help achieve both adaptation and mitigation.

Adaptation

Adaptation is about taking action to cope with the impacts of climate change. For successful adaptation, countries and communities need financial resources and the right technologies and expertise. It is crucial that adaptation is properly integrated into national development planning, rather than it taking place as a separate, stand-alone activity. A crucial area where advocacy is required is in helping government to develop integrated development plans that include adaptation.

- At a local level, advocacy around adaptation might involve helping those with power in the community, such as local officials or local agencies, become aware of what is happening, and encouraging them to take action so that communities can adapt to climate change and develop more sustainably, such as through using alternative crops or by protecting land from flooding.
- At a national level, advocacy work might involve encouraging governments to integrate adaptation work into their national development planning and programming and ensuring that government departments work together to tackle the problem, rather than in isolation.
- Internationally, this might involve working to influence delegates at the international climate negotiations as they take decisions around what adaptation finance should be spent on and which regions it should be focused upon.

Mitigation

Mitigation is about reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Rich countries must make the largest reductions, while poor countries must be able to gain access to funding and technology to develop sustainably, for example by receiving incentives to protect their forests.

- At a local level, advocacy work could involve ensuring local authorities create or enforce laws to protect forests and prevent deforestation, or it could focus on encouraging them to take up small-scale renewable energy options which can benefit local communities.
- At a national level, advocacy work might involve encouraging governments to create national development plans which are integrated across all relevant



Severine Flores / Tearfund

ministries to include climate mitigation and energy access, and seeking funding and appropriate technology internationally for these plans. Or it could involve influencing governments to ensure that forests, and the rights of the people who live in them, are protected.

- Internationally, it could involve building relationships and influencing delegates at the international climate talks. It is important to ensure that international funding for mitigation is spent in a way which delivers sustainable development benefits to help poor communities and ensure that the funding reaches Least Developed Countries (which have low emissions), as well as middle-income developing countries (which have higher emissions).

Governments should protect their citizens

Governments have a responsibility to uphold their citizens' rights, including their right to be 'safe from harm' (see Universal Declaration of Human Rights).⁶ Government policy can also affect the programmes of NGOs and the communities in which they work, both in positive and negative ways.

CASE STUDY

Engaging local leaders in river dyke construction in Malawi

Disaster risk reduction can be one of the key ways of helping communities adapt to climate change. In Malawi, local communities faced a problem that a local river had changed course and had displaced some households in several villages. When heavy rains came, some people's gardens were washed away. Tearfund partner River of Life and the affected local communities identified construction of a dyke as a way to redirect the river flow.

River of Life started an advocacy initiative amongst local traditional leaders, local church leaders, teachers, civil protection committees and government officials. They gathered them together to start a dialogue and hear about the communities' solution for the problem. Stakeholders met together and after much discussion were able to agree on the project and commit to providing different parts of the resources required. For example the district assembly agreed to provide a tractor, the government forestry department agreed to help plant river bank cover, and the community agreed to do some of the practical work.

The advocacy activity itself also helped transform and build relationships. Traditional leaders, church leaders and government officials were able to work together and view each other as partners in development.

6 The declaration can be found at <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>



Climate change is a huge challenge for all of us, wherever we live. No-one will escape its impacts, and some will be affected far more than others even though they have contributed very little to the problem. Climate change means we have to make our projects strong so they do not fail. It means we have to change the way we plan for the future; and we must all change the way we live.

But because climate change is a global problem, it is especially important that governments work at a national level to develop a whole-of-government response to tackle the problem. This means reaching out to different government ministries to make sure they work together, especially on the vital issue of integrating adaptation into national planning.

National governments must also contribute to global efforts to solve the climate crisis. This means that advocacy is an essential companion to our field work.

It can be very daunting to think about how we, as relatively small organisations, can contribute to influencing governments, especially if we don't have experience or contacts at a national or international level. However, many of Tearfund's partners have achieved this and become trusted advisors to governments.

There are important steps that we can take locally, for example, building relationships with local authorities and community leaders encourages practical policy changes for our community and district. There is an example of this kind of local-level advocacy below. Local-level advocacy around climate change is essential. It can also sometimes be a stepping stone to using these skills at a national or even an international level.

Businesses have a role to play

Businesses, as well as governments, can have a big impact on climate change. They can have a negative impact: for example by contributing to deforestation or causing large emissions of greenhouse gases through industrial activities. They can also have a positive impact: by helping develop and promote new sustainable technologies to reduce energy poverty and helping pioneer new adaptation solutions. Businesses can be afraid that these technologies will increase their costs. However, there are many examples of businesses becoming more efficient and growing their business through using sustainable technologies. Through our advocacy we can show them how these technologies can benefit them.

If a business is having a negative impact, civil society can work to try to build relationships with its managers and bring about changes in the behaviour of that company or type of industry. Civil society can also work with national government or local authorities to try and ensure that existing or new laws are enforced so that companies are made to behave responsibly.

Or civil society can work together with businesses that are having a positive impact, to try and influence local or national policies, for example to give incentives to sustainable or renewable-energy projects that would have a benefit for the whole community.

Communities can be heard

Community-based organisations (CBOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and churches are all key parts of civil society. For a government to form policies that work, it should identify and address the real needs of communities, gain knowledge of what does and does not work, and ensure that the policies are developed with the input of people with genuine experience of the issues. To do this, governments should consult their citizens when writing policies. They should recognise that civil society has a wealth of experience and expertise in working with communities on environmental issues, adapting to changing weather patterns, addressing food and water security issues, reducing the risk of disasters and increasing access to energy (all of which are highly relevant to climate change).

Civil society organisations can work with poor people to help them be heard by those in



Severine Flores / Tearfund

power. This can be done by empowering people to speak for themselves, speaking with those affected by climate change or speaking on behalf of communities.

Civil society has a role in holding governments to account for the promises they have made and for any failure to implement things they have agreed to do. This is why building good relationships with governments is so important – so that they listen to civil society when we hold them to account. Similarly, civil society should congratulate governments when appropriate, for example if they respond to public pressure or honour their promises and commitments. By advocating on climate change and related issues, civil society can strongly encourage governments to be more transparent and participatory in their decision-making. This is important for communities, as it will help them to find out what governments have said they will deliver, and therefore the points on which they can hold governments to account.

'There is a pressing need to build participatory relationships between state, civil society, grassroots institutions and citizens, which result in greater state accountability and transparency and which also lead to broad-based alliances and coalitions within the broader context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation.'

MARCUS OXLEY, CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FOR DISASTER REDUCTION



CASE STUDY

A new forestry law in Honduras

Tearfund partner Mopawi have worked for many years to try to protect forests in the remote La Mosquitia region of Honduras. Preventing forests from being cut down not only stops carbon dioxide being emitted (which contributes to climate change) but also helps stop other environmental problems such as flooding when heavy rains come.

Mopawi have not just worked directly with local communities to protect forests. They were also instrumental in influencing the national government to introduce a new law in May 2009 which protects forests and ensures good forest management. The Honduran Ministry of Environment recently acknowledged Mopawi's role in influencing this new law and said that Mopawi are highly respected by the government for the work that they do. Mopawi have been building relationships with government for many years, and they also worked alongside other Honduran NGOs, which gave them a bigger voice when it came to influencing the new law.

Churches can make a big difference

For more than 40 years, Tearfund has been helping to build and support a global network of churches to engage in relief, development and advocacy work. Tearfund believes that Christian organisations (for example, church denominations, development departments of denominations, Christian networks, Bible colleges and Christian NGOs) can work with the local church to help communities out of poverty. They therefore have a unique role to play as a key part of civil society.

The local church forms part of many communities around the world. Its members live amongst the poverty and injustice and understand both very well. Christian organisations can help the local church make the most of their close relationship with and knowledge of their communities and help them speak up for themselves, or advocate with or for people who are being hit by climate change. Churches can:

- gain a deep understanding of local issues
- build relationships based on trust within their communities
- have a long-standing presence in a community
- make use of their coordinating body (eg diocese or denomination) to gain the credibility, respect and authority needed to affect local, national, regional and international policy processes.

International efforts to tackle climate change

Since the early 1990s, governments have been working together through the United Nations (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol) to try to tackle the *causes* of climate change, including deforestation. More recently, they have started to address the *impacts* of climate change by looking at how to finance and enable adaptation in poorer countries.

The annual talks (called the COP or Conference of the Parties) continue to try to find a global solution to climate change. It is challenging because it is an unequal problem. The countries that have contributed most to emissions over time suffer least from climate impacts and are reluctant to take action to cut their emissions. They are mainly powerful developed countries. Those countries hit hardest by climate change have often contributed very little to the problem, but will need the help to adapt. These countries tend to be less influential but can have a very powerful moral voice when they speak and act together.

Civil society plays a crucial role in influencing these negotiations. It can seem like a huge and complex process, but getting to know those who negotiate for your

CASE STUDY

Influencing the international process in Nepal

As the United Nations climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009 approached, civil society groups in Nepal became concerned that the government had low ambition and a poorly developed strategy to influence the negotiations. So, civil society networks gathered together to encourage the Prime Minister and the Environment Minister to develop a more ambitious negotiating strategy.

These groups produced a statement calling on the government to advocate strongly for 1.5°C of warming to be seen as the upper limit of what should be allowed. They pressed for a stronger stance on adaptation and a commitment to ensure that full financing for adaptation was available. And they called on the government to use bilateral and multilateral forums to pressure bilateral aid donors and regional neighbours to implement more ambitious emissions cuts in order to protect Nepal from unmanageable climate change.

The eventual negotiating strategy that was adopted by Nepal's environment ministry incorporated most of the specific calls, and large amounts of the actual text, developed by civil society campaigners. After meeting with campaigners, the Prime Minister promised to ensure that these points were raised in every relevant place. Once in Copenhagen, Nepalese youth campaigners staged peaceful demonstrations to keep up the pressure, and other Nepali campaigners talked with delegates about the negotiations.

It is not possible to know exactly what was said behind the closed doors of the negotiations. But at least Nepal's negotiators were in no doubt about where campaigners stood, and they had committed themselves to an ambitious negotiating stance.

government within your own country and influencing them ahead of international meetings can shape their policies and impact the talks. Another key way to bring about change is to join in with existing public mobilisation initiatives which raise the profile of climate change and can send a strong message to developed countries.

Some Tearfund partners have attended the COP to influence their government and delegates from other countries, on issues such as adaptation, mitigation and deforestation. These partners were able to understand the process quickly and have made a significant difference.

Next steps

Before deciding whether to develop an advocacy strategy, you can find out more about what advocacy involves by reading Tearfund's *Advocacy Toolkit (ROOTS 1 and 2)*.⁷ This will give you further information on why advocacy is important and practical ways to carry it out.

When applying for funding for your usual development projects, think about whether you could achieve some of your aims through advocacy. Perhaps even apply for funding for an advocacy post or to build advocacy capacity or undertake some pilot advocacy projects. You need to make sure that advocacy work is integrated into your planning processes and ongoing development work, so that it is relevant to the rest of your work and has an allocated budget.

We can achieve more by working in partnership with other agencies. Find out which other organisations are working on the same issues as you. Could you work together to influence decisions? Are there any national coalitions doing climate advocacy work that you could join?

When thinking about getting involved in advocacy on climate change, consider the following questions (though bear in mind that not all will be relevant to you as they cover a range of issues):

- How has the climate changed and how is this affecting the lives of local communities? Is there a need to explain climate change causes and impacts to local communities?



Warren Allott / Tearfund

⁷ See *Roots 1 and 2* <http://tilz.tearfund.org/Publications/ROOTS/Advocacy+toolkit.htm> or order a paper copy by sending an email to roots@tearfund.org

- Could we keep records about changes in the local environment, such as temperatures, rainfall, drought? Is there a Northern NGO to which we can give the information, for them to use in advocacy on climate change?
- What could be done by local authorities or local leaders to help people to cope with the impacts of climate change? What opportunities can we create for community members to talk to local decision-makers?
- Do people in the community have access to energy? Could we encourage the local authorities to explore clean, small-scale sources of energy such as solar, wind or hydro-electricity?
- What could be done by local or national authorities to protect or restore forests? Can we advocate for new laws to protect forests, or advocate to make sure existing laws are properly enforced?
- Do we need to learn more about climate change in our organisation, or at a governmental level, to understand what we need to do?
- Does our country have a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) – see website (www.unfccc.int/adaptation/napas/items/4583.php). If not, what needs to be done to ensure that it develops an effective plan? If it does have a NAPA, does it need to be improved, and how is it being implemented?
- Is our government including adaptation measures in its development planning and programming? Is it working in an integrated way across all its ministries? If not, what can we do to encourage it to do so?
- Is there a policy for drought prevention and preparedness? If not, can we encourage the development of one?
- Is our government considering sustainable, clean energy provision in its national development planning? If not, what can we do to encourage it to do so?
 - What is our country's position on key issues discussed at international level? What does it think about adaptation funding and good practice, about targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and about best ways to get access to sustainable technology?
 - How can we positively influence our government's position at the UN talks, or help it to be more effective? (This might involve lobbying and campaigning at a national level, or attending the UN talks to learn about the process and to gain experience of direct advocacy.)
 - Can we join a regional Climate Action Network group? (See useful networks and organisations section.) Are there any local climate advocacy organisations we could join?



Useful networks and organisations

Global

Climate Action Network International (CAN-I)

A useful network of civil society organisations working on climate change to influence policy at international and national levels.

1810 16th Street NW
Washington
DC 20009
USA

Tel. no: +1 202 621 6309

Fax no: +1 202 536 5503

Website: www.climatenetwork.org

Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA)

An international campaign working on climate change.

Website: <http://gc-ca.org/>

Regional

CAN-International is made up of CAN organisations working in many different regions. You can find out contact details of the following CAN regions at the international website (www.climatenetwork.org):

- Australia • Canada • China • East Africa
- Eastern Europe and Eurasia • Europe
- France • Latin America • North Africa
- South Asia • South-East Asia
- Southern Africa • United States
- West Africa.

National

There are many national networks doing advocacy on climate change issues. Find out about national networks by asking other NGOs working on climate change or asking your Tearfund country representative.

Further information

ROOTS 1 and 2: Advocacy toolkit, Tearfund UK

ROOTS 13: Environmental sustainability, Tearfund UK

CEDRA – Climate Change and Environmental Degradation Risk and Adaptation assessment, Tearfund UK

Environmental assessment, Tearfund UK

These publications can be ordered from Tearfund or accessed at <http://tilz.tearfund.org>. Tearfund regularly produces policy reports and briefings on climate change which can be found at the same web address.



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