



## A1 HIDDEN ISSUES – INFORMATION FOR FACILITATORS

# Revealing climate change: information for facilitators

Tools in this section of *Reveal* provide background information on hidden issues for facilitators. Tools in other sections are designed to be used with

## Questions for a facilitator to consider:

Have you noticed any changes in the weather since you were a child? Perhaps the rains come later and do not last as long? Or perhaps there is much more rain and you are seeing more flooding?

Do people talk about a change in the temperature? Is it now hotter than it was many years ago?

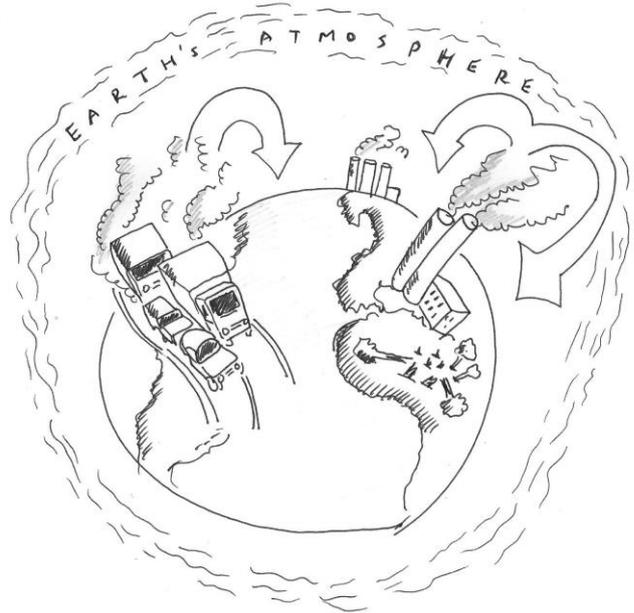
Communities all around the world are seeing many changes to their normal weather patterns (called the 'climate'). This process, called 'climate change', is mostly caused by human activities. Rich countries have caused most climate change, but other countries are now adding to the problem. However, it is poor people in poor countries who are being affected the most.



The communities you are working with may be experiencing changes in weather but they may not know they are caused by climate change. In this sense, it is a 'hidden issue'. Climate change is a very serious problem and is causing a great deal of suffering in many countries. Sadly, it will not be stopped or solved easily, and it is getting worse over time. Changes are happening and poor communities may not have the knowledge and resources to cope. People need to understand that these changes are going to get more extreme over time. They may also need help in changing the way they live to cope with the changes; this is called adaptation.

## Understanding climate change

When coal, oil and natural gas (fossil fuels) are burned, gases called 'greenhouse gases' are released. Fossil fuels are burned to create energy, make goods and fuel cars. One of these gases is called 'carbon dioxide'. Greenhouse gases form a layer around the earth that traps heat and keeps the earth warm. When too many greenhouse gases are released from human activities, too much heat gets trapped. This causes the normal global temperatures to increase.



Agricultural activities are the biggest contributor to climate change. The cutting down of forests, without replacing the trees (called deforestation), also causes climate change. This is because trees remove carbon dioxide from the air. However, when trees are burned or left to rot, they release carbon dioxide back into the air. The use of wood is not bad in itself if the trees cut down are replaced and cared for; this is called sustainable forest management.

## How does climate change affect people?

- Seasons are changing and people no longer know what weather patterns to expect.
- In many places, people don't know when the rains will start and stop.
- Some places are seeing more intense rain and more flooding.
- Other places are seeing rain less often. Sometimes this leads to droughts.



- Many places are experiencing both floods and droughts as rain is falling less frequently but more intensely.
- Many places are experiencing temperature extremes of excessive heat and / or cold.
- Disasters caused by floods and landslides are happening more often, and cyclones (sometimes called hurricanes or typhoons), are becoming more severe.



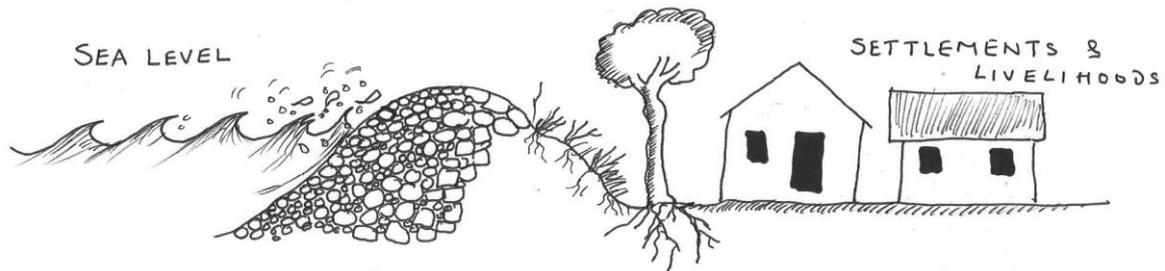
A1 HIDDEN ISSUES – REVEALING CLIMATE CHANGE

**These changes in the weather are causing many problems:**

- There is less safe water for people and animals to drink.
- There is less water for crops to grow.
- There is an increase in pests.
- Crops are failing and people do not have enough food to eat.
- Some types of animals, plants and trees are disappearing.
- There is an increase in diseases such as malaria that are affected by the weather.
- Floods can cause damage to property, buildings and crops, and wash away fertile soil.
- People are losing their livelihoods.



Climate change is also causing a rise in sea-levels causing flooding and many other problems.



**However, if communities are able to understand what is happening, there are many ways that they can help protect themselves from the effects of climate change.**

**Using Reveal**

Please see **Section A2** for tools to help communities to understand and talk about climate change. For Bible studies which look at caring for creation, please see **Section B**. And there are tools explaining different approaches communities can use to help them adapt to climate change in **Section C2**.

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene



## Finding out more

- Tearfund (2009) Roots 13 – *Environmental sustainability*  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/13\\_environmental\\_sustainability/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/13_environmental_sustainability/)
- Tearfund (2010) Footsteps 82 – *Natural resources*  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps\\_81-90/footsteps\\_82/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_81-90/footsteps_82/)
- Tearfund (2011) Footsteps 85 – *Trees*  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps\\_81-90/footsteps\\_85/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_81-90/footsteps_85/)

### Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing environmental degradation: information for facilitators [*A1: Climate & environment-2*]
- A2 – Different ways of adapting to climate change [*A2: Climate & environment-1*]
- A2 – Slides and ladders – helping or harming the environment? [*A2: Climate & environment-3*]
- A2 – Linking climate change, environmental degradation, food, water and disasters [*A2: Climate & environment-4*]
- A2 – How is our environment changing? [*A2: Climate & environment-5*]
- A2 – Mapping our past, present and future environments [*A2: Climate & environment-6*]
- B – Caring for God's world (Bible study) [*B: Climate & environment-2*]
- B – Caring for our environment (Bible study) [*B: Climate & environment-3*]
- B – Stewardship of the land (Bible study) [*B: Climate & environment-4*]
- C2 – Composting [*C2: Climate & environment-1*]
- C2 – Establishing a tree nursery [*C2: Climate & environment-2*]
- C2 – Conservation agriculture [*C2: Food & livelihoods-5*]
- C2 – Developing rural home gardens [*C2: Food & livelihoods-8*]
- C2 – Developing urban home gardens [*C2: Food & livelihoods-9*]

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