



## A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

# Linking climate change, environment, food, water and disasters



## Why use this activity?

To show the links between climate and environmental change, lack of food, lack of water and disasters.



## A brief description

A game played by eight to 16 players. A group is divided into four teams. Each team is asked to think about one of the following big issues: 1) climate and environmental change, 2) lack of food, 3) lack of water and 4) disasters. Each team is then given 18 pictures of problems that people in their community may face. They then decide which of the problems are caused by the big issue that they are thinking about. The problems that each group chooses are compared and are usually found to be quite similar. A facilitator then explains how these problems are all linked.



## You will need

- four copies of each of the 18 pictures on the following page
- four pieces of paper



## Time taken

One to two hours



## What to do

- On one piece of paper write 'climate change and environmental degradation', on another write 'lack of food', on another 'lack of water' and on the last piece 'disasters'.
- Ensure everybody understands the terms written on the pieces of paper. You might prefer to write 'changes in the weather' and 'environmental damage', rather than 'climate change' and 'environmental degradation'. You could ask people:
  - What changes in the weather have we experienced in our community?
  - What 'disasters' are we vulnerable to in our community?
- Divide your group into four teams. Give each group one piece of paper and a set of 18 pictures.



## Explaining the words we use

**Disaster** - occurs when a hazard (an 'extreme event') affects people who are in a vulnerable situation and who are unable to cope with its impact

**Environmental degradation** – when the natural environment is harmed by human activities

**Climate change** – changes to normal weather patterns caused by human activities

**See Section A1 of *Reveal* for background information on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.**

Awareness raising

Children &amp; youth

Climate &amp; environment

Conflict &amp; peace-building

Corruption &amp; governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination &amp; inclusion

Food &amp; livelihoods

Gender &amp; sexual violence

Health &amp; HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration &amp; trafficking

Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene

## A2 LINKING CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, FOOD, WATER, DISASTERS

- Each of the 18 pictures shows a problem which communities sometimes face. Ask the group to think about which of the problems are caused by the issue written on their piece of paper. There is no limit to the number of problems they can choose. You may want to add your own pictures of other problems faced by the communities you are working with.
- Once the teams have decided which of the problems are caused by the issue they are thinking of, bring the teams together.
- Each team takes it in turn to tell the whole group which of the four issues they were thinking about and to lay the pictures down on the floor or on a table where everyone can see them. Allow the teams to compare the pictures they have chosen.
- They will probably notice that the lists look very similar. This is because all of these issues and problems are closely linked. Take a few minutes to explain to the group that many of the problems their communities may face are linked, and that sometimes people give different names to the same problem. Here are some of the examples you could share about how the issues are linked:
  - Climate change can lead to a lack of water (for example, through less rain, and water sources drying up).
  - Less water can lead to lack of food (for example, traditional crops may be unable to cope with less water, increased temperature and increased pests caused by climate change).
  - Climate change is causing an increase in 'extreme events' (such as cyclones, floods, droughts) which lead to disasters.
  - Lack of food can lead to environmental degradation as people resort to cutting down woodland and forests in an attempt to find food, without replanting trees.



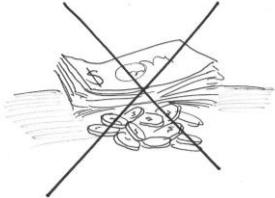
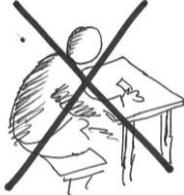
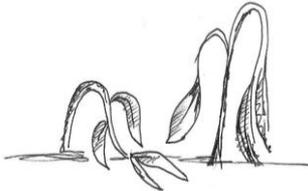
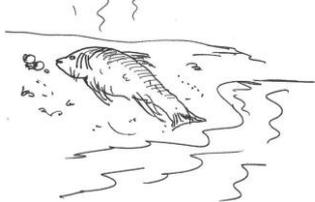
## Finding out more

- Tearfund (2011) *Disasters and the local church*  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/themes/disasters/disasters\\_and\\_the\\_local\\_church/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/themes/disasters/disasters_and_the_local_church/)
- 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/)

### Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing climate change: information for facilitators [A1: *Climate & environment-1*]
- A1 – Revealing environmental degradation: information for facilitators [A1: *Climate & environment-2*]
- A1 – Revealing fatalism about disasters [A1: *Disaster risk management-1*]
- 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*]
- B – Fatalism: can we avoid disasters? (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-1*]
- B – Noah, lessons in preparedness (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-2*]
- B – Preparing for disaster [B: *Disaster risk management-3*]
- B – God of justice and mercy (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-4*]

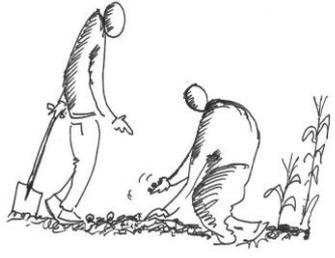
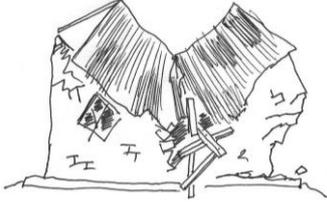
A2 LINKING CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, FOOD, WATER, DISASTERS

<p><b>Child illness</b></p> 	<p><b>Increased work for women</b></p> 	<p><b>Loss of some species of plants, trees and insects</b></p> 
<p><b>Loss of livelihoods</b></p> 	<p><b>Children missing school</b></p> 	<p><b>Animals dying</b></p> 
<p><b>Reduced crop yields</b></p> 	<p><b>Forced to sell assets</b></p> 	<p><b>Fish stock dying</b></p> 

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Corruption & governance
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Gender & sexual violence
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<p><b>Malnutrition</b></p> 	<p><b>Poor soil quality</b></p> 	<p><b>Forced migration</b></p> 
<p><b>Homes destroyed</b></p> 	<p><b>Increase in malaria</b></p> 	<p><b>Desertification</b></p> 
<p><b>High food prices</b></p> 	<p><b>Increased local conflict</b></p> 	<p><b>Increased hunger</b></p> 