



**SHE HAS the POWER to change her world.
YOU HAVE the POWER to help her do it.**

FROM AID TO IMPACT

The Human Face of Climate Change

CARE successfully works with poor communities and governments in developing countries to take steps to adapt to new and harsher climate conditions. As the largest historical producer of greenhouse gases, **the United States needs to:**

- Demonstrate leadership in the global effort to reduce the rate of climate change.
- Commit to sharing resources, knowledge and experience to help developing countries and people most vulnerable to climate change adapt to new conditions.

Addressing climate change has a price, but acting now is cheaper than the long-term cost of failing to act.

We know adaptation works: Ducks float.

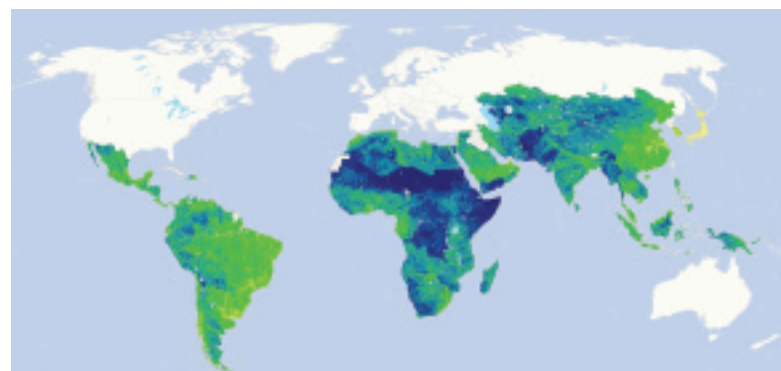
In Bangladesh, one of the biggest problems people face is increasingly frequent and severe flooding. This affects access to food and clean water, as well as people's ability to earn a living. CARE is working with community leaders to create innovative counter-measures. **Many of the solutions being put into practice are as simple as they are effective.** For example, raising poultry is a common livelihood strategy—especially for women. Unfortunately, chickens often drown during protracted floods; this can be a major blow to household economies. In response CARE and our local partners struck upon the idea of helping women in flood-prone areas switch from rearing chickens to ducks. The idea has caught on, dramatically improving the resilience of many women and their families to the ravages of climate change.

Climate change is a study in injustice: People least responsible for it will suffer most from its effects, and they are the least able to adapt to those effects without external assistance.

Developed countries, including the United States, have a moral responsibility to provide funding for adaptation in developing countries. This responsibility is in line with historic contributions to the problem and commitments made under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Communities need resources to adapt; countries must commit to mitigation

Community-based adaptation is a crucial element in the response to climate change. Past emissions have already set in motion longer-term changes, and people everywhere will need to adapt to new climate conditions. However, the funding available to help poor communities in developing countries adapt is grossly inadequate. New and additional adaptation funding is needed, and such funds must be earmarked for those most in need.



High
Low

Human Vulnerability in the Developing World

This map shows overall human vulnerability based on a combination of natural, human, social, financial and physical factors. Areas shown in the darkest blue are likely to be most at risk if exposed to extreme weather, such as floods, cyclones and droughts, or other impacts of climate change.

Vulnerability research and map was commissioned jointly by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and CARE.



Adaptation can reduce the adverse impact of climate change, but it can never bring that impact down to zero. Mitigation, urgently and on a robust global scale, is required to slow the onset and reduce the eventual extent of global climate change. This requires deep reductions in domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Because deforestation worldwide accounts for some 20% of global emissions, slowing down climate change also requires Reductions in Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). The United States must demonstrate global leadership by limiting domestic greenhouse gas emissions in line with scientifically sound international targets and by negotiating an ambitious and workable post-2012 international climate change agreement, which includes REDD as well as social standards and safeguards to ensure that REDD activities do not lead to violations of human rights or unduly burden poor, marginalized groups whose livelihoods rely on forest resources. **Forest conservation only works, in the long run, when indigenous and other forest-dependent communities have a stake in it and gain tangible benefits.**

Issue in Focus

Adaptation and Mitigation in Depth

Successfully mitigating and adapting to climate change requires global cooperation. **CARE's global reach can help replicate and expand promising initiatives as we work hand in hand with people most affected by climate change.** For example, in Uganda, which has the highest deforestation rates in the world, 80 percent of local people who depend on forests for their livelihoods are women. The Ugandan government, however, has been giving forest land away to powerful corporations. Forests are being cleared for profit. This has led to soil erosion, which combined with drought, is diminishing the ability of small farmers to grow food. CARE is working with women in Uganda to stop rampant deforestation and change national policies. We believe that people in poor communities are crucial allies in managing a situation that ultimately affects us all.

CARE is working toward a world where poor people can create opportunity out of this crisis. But the current reality is that climate change makes poor people even more vulnerable. Agricultural production will likely decline in the poorest developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Less reliable rainfall will likely impact planting seasons, crop growth and livestock health and lead to increased malnutrition. Flooding will likely further diminish the quality of already-marginal soil and could cause outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera and dysentery.

In the face of such climate shocks, poor families often become more risk averse. For example, they may select crops that are less sensitive to rainfall variation, but also less profitable. Following such shocks, they may feel compelled to take their children out of school, sell their assets or reduce the amount of food they eat in order to get by. The end result is deepening poverty.

At the international level, **negotiations to develop a new treaty to guide global efforts to address climate change will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark at the end of this year.** The United States must help lead those efforts and forge a strong agreement that caps emissions and enables all of humanity to prevent catastrophic warming and respond effectively to climate change impacts already in motion.



Defending dignity.
Fighting poverty.

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