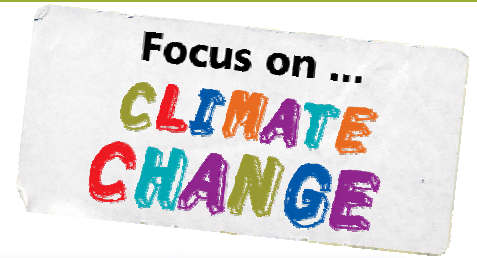


Focus on Climate Change



Theme(s): Livelihoods, emergencies, sustainable development, climate change

Materials Required:

- **Climate Change Powerpoint**
- **Questions for quiz**
- **Materials for 'action' at the end of the presentation**

Desired learner outcomes:

- **For pupils to look at impact of their lifestyles and see how climate change effects some of the poorest communities**
- **For pupils to understand CAFOD's role in sustainable development**
- **For pupils to act and campaign on the issue of climate change**

Time allocation: **Assembly format 20-30mins**

Please use these notes as you wish to assist with the delivery of this assembly. If possible try not to read from the script, but rather try and adapt it to your own style and to get as much interaction with the children as possible.

Introduction

Slide 1

[Welcome the pupils into the hall. You may want to start the assembly with a song or prayer]



Slide 2

Today we will be asking the following questions:

Why is climate change an issue for CAFOD? Why is CAFOD, an overseas development agency, campaigning on climate change?

[click 1] What is the impact of Climate Change on people living in poverty? We know that climate change will impact on everyone, but what does a change in climate mean for some of the poorest people?

[click 2] What do you know about Climate Change?

There'll be a chance for us to quiz you on what you know about climate change, later on.

What can you do about it?

And then finally we will look at what can you do about campaigning for climate change.

We will be looking at ways in which you might want to get involved and help CAFOD make a difference!



Slide 3

Now, before we start can you tell me what you think of when you hear the words 'climate change'?

Do you think of melting icecaps? Polar bears? Floods? Droughts?

When CAFOD thinks about Climate Change it thinks of the poorest people around the world. Because Climate Change is going to affect the poorest people the most. It will also affect a lot of CAFOD's work and efforts to tackle poverty.



Slide 4

Climate Change will have different effects in different parts of the world. This picture is taken from a country in West Africa called Niger. This is a field where the farmers grow their food. What do you notice about it? Does it look different to the farmer's fields here in the UK? Niger is a very hot country and suffers from drought. Can anyone tell me what droughts are? The farmers, with help from CAFOD, have made half-moon like shapes in the soil. Why do you think that is? How do you think this helps to trap water? Why will this help their plants to grow?



Slide 5

In some other countries the problem of climate change is not too little water, but too much water! This is a picture of some children in Bangladesh. Where do you think they are going? Have you ever walked to school in a flood? Do you think that the water in the picture is safe to drink? In Bangladesh about a third of the country floods each year during the rainy season. But with climate change these floods, as well as storms and rising sea levels will have a much worse affect on the poor people who live in Bangladesh.



Slide 6



So, let us remind ourselves how our lives impact on those poor communities around the world.

[animated kettle] If we take the boiling of a kettle as an example. Boiling a kettle takes a lot of energy. Sometimes we don't think about how much energy we use and can easily forget and become very wasteful. So can you think of anything else which we can become wasteful with? TVs, computers etc



[click 1 – animated power station] So when we use energy that needs to come from somewhere. Usually it comes from power stations which uses resources like oil, gas or coal. What do you think happens with all the pollution from these power stations?



[click 2 – animated earth]

All this pollution can put dangerous gasses into the air, like CO2 (carbon dioxide). This will warm the earth up, like a greenhouse effect. The increase in temperature will cause the climate to change.

[click 3 – image of women carrying water]

Climate change will have a terrible impact on the poorest communities around the world. It is the poorest communities who have caused the least to climate change, who will be affected the most! Is that fair?



So we need to make some big changes in our lives so that we help poor communities around the world. So it is not just making sure we only use the kettle when we need to, it is also about how we travel, making sure we turn off lights when we leave the room, recycling, caring for the earth etc

Slide 7

So let's test ourselves. Let's play the climate change game!

[please refer to separate sheet for details of how to play this game]



Slide 8

So what can we do about Climate Change? CAFOD is asking for your help. We are asking that you take action by using your hands!

CAFOD is asking for as many people, like yourselves, to make a big banner of handprints to send to our Prime Minister Gordon Brown. This is to influence him in preparation for his important meeting in December with world leaders to talk about climate change.



Slide 9

The banner can be made from old pieces of paper, newspaper, old wrapping paper. In this image the students used the back of old wallpaper sellotaped together!

On this banner they drew around their hands and put promises and messages in their handprints. They then took a picture to send off to the local press to raise the profile of the campaign.

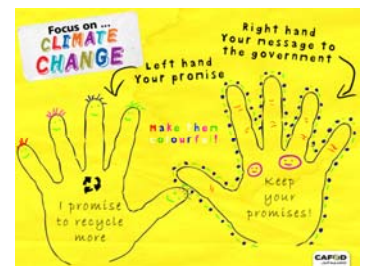


Slide 10

So can you do this? Can you make a banner for your school and send it off to the Prime Minister to make sure that he acts on climate change?

Here is how you can do it. On your **left** hand you can write a promise of what *you* can do. It may be switching off the lights when you leave the room, giving money to CAFOD, walking to school rather than having your parents drive you. On your **right** hand you can write a message to Gordon Brown which could be:

- asking him to keep his promises
- telling him that climate change matters!
- telling him to look after our future etc etc



Slide 11

So let us finish with a prayer:

[sign of the cross]

We ask God to give us the courage and the strength to help people who are poor around the world. We pray that our actions and our prayers help to create a better world in which everyone shares what they have.

We offer this prayer to you Lord as we say together the prayer of St Therese:

**Christ has no body now
on earth but ours,
no hands but ours,
no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through
which christ's compassion
is to look out to the earth,
ours are the feet by which
he is to go about doing good,
and ours are the hands by
which he is to bless us now.**
St Theresa of Avila



Slide 12

[End.]

