

Briefing for CCPu Debate 9th March 2021

When the Scottish Parliament passed the new Climate Change Act in 2019, it recognised that in order **to meet Scotland's ambitious climate change targets, it would need to embrace policies not just to shape what we do in Scotland but internationally too.** This includes:

- Show how Scotland will support developing countries on mitigation and adaptation
- Be aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Embrace climate justice

Both COVID-19 and climate change have worsened global inequalities. They have hit the poorest and the most marginalised the hardest. Every day, communities in the global south face droughts, floods, cyclones and heatwaves from a rise in temperatures. Now more than ever, is the time for Scotland to show global leadership. **Now is the time to transform our world for the better. Climate justice is at the heart of this.**

The Climate Change Plan Update (CCPu) published in December 2020 missed an opportunity to include key areas of international solidarity action beyond the transfer of knowledge listed **on page 26 of the CCPu.** Although much emphasis has been made on the fact that this is an Update rather than a comprehensive plan, it is a missed opportunity which could damage Scotland's aspiration to be seen as a global leader on climate change.

Our calls

1. There is a need to include the concept of **Climate Justice** in the CCPu in the year that Glasgow will play host to COP26. Developing countries are demanding action on adaptation and climate finance. Scotland could play a role here in augmenting that voice and needs to do so publicly.
2. This was an opportunity to demonstrate climate solidarity during the lifetime of this CCPu and **announce a significant increase** in funding for the Climate Justice Fund from £3m a year **to £10m a year** from new sources like a carbon emitter tax. The Climate Justice Fund has been frozen for a number of years despite the mounting climate impacts on communities.
3. There is a need for **a roadmap** of how the Scottish Government will enable voices from the Global South to be heard, particularly on the need for progress on adaptation and climate finance. The CCPu makes mention of a commitment that Scotland has to make these talks as 'inclusive' as possible. We need them to set out **how** they will engage and champion adaptation and climate finance in other fora. For example, in the Under2 coalition which includes 220+ sub national governments, cities and states who are not direct state parties to the UNFCCC treaty which Scotland is currently Co-European Chair [Under2 Coalition | The Climate Group](#)

Climate adaptation in Malawi

The Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (CCPM) is a Climate Justice Fund programme, administered by SCIAF. It adopts a model of sustainable development that puts participants in the driving seat. This community led programme has helped and supported farmers to develop new techniques that will protect their crops against climate change for decades to come. It works with communities to diversify their incomes through solar projects and achieve truly sustainable development. By working closely with communities and providing expert technical support, CCPM has improved access to food, water and energy for nearly 50,000 people across southern Malawi.

"We can see the climate change here. This year the harvest is bad. We don't know if there will be enough food. When I was young there were lots of trees, more food. It seems there is less now." - [Esther Sekani](#) (in picture, from CCPM) Photo credit Govati Nyirenda



Climate and COVID in Zambia

In central Zambia, climate change is already having a devastating effect on communities. Most of the population are small-scale farmers who rely on agriculture for income and for the food they eat. Drought hit Kabwe in August 2018, and again in 2019, causing widespread crop failure. Families have been surviving on just three meals a week. High malnutrition and limited access to water has led to outbreaks of preventable disease.

COVID-19 made things worse. Protective face masks and hand sanitisers are expensive, and poor diet and poverty-related diseases put people at greater risk. Food prices have increased, trade has been disrupted, and restrictions on movement have led to high unemployment rates. There's no furlough scheme in Zambia. Women are the main farmers, and they are bearing the burden of this double crisis. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is on the rise. Children are forced to leave school to work, or into child marriage.

About SCIAF

The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland. SCIAF runs projects in 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, helping thousands of people of all faiths and none to overcome hunger, poverty, war and natural disasters every year. Inspired by the Gospel, our mission is to help the poorest free themselves from poverty by equipping them with the tools they need to survive and thrive.