



Climate Justice Called to Care for Creation

A resource for National 4/5
Geography looking at the effects of
climate change on people living in the
world's poorest countries

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo: Colin Hattersley.

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SCIAF

Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

Climate Justice: Called to Care for Creation

Core themes:

- Effects of climate change on some of the people living in the world's poorest countries
- Climate justice
- Responding to the threat of global climate change through action and prayer.

Key messages:

- Climate change is already devastating the lives of some of the world's poorest people
- Climate justice recognises those people most affected by climate change are also those who have done the least to cause it
- We show our respect for God by our stewardship of His creation
- We are called to protect people and the planet, our common home, and live our faith through action.

Key learning:

This resource will provide learners with:

- real-life perspective on the effects of climate change on people living in the world's poorest countries
- real-life perspective on the immediate and long-term impact of environmental hazards on people in the world's poorest countries
- opportunities to apply their knowledge and understanding of global issues
- opportunities to respond in prayer and action to the threat of global climate change.

This resource provides this information and evidence through:

- Global case studies
- Data tables
- SCIAF reports and articles
- Interactive game and quiz.

Introduction:

Education Scotland tells us, in light of the Scottish Government Climate Change plan, that “The Scottish curriculum, and education system, also have a crucial role to play to provide learners with many opportunities to develop the skills, capabilities, attributes, knowledge, motivation and behaviours to live sustainable lifestyles as informed and committed global citizens.”

Through this resource, SCIAF will play a role in this huge task to provide learners with the reality of climate change in some of the world's poorest countries and in particular, sharing the voices of our partners on this vital subject.

Our intention is that this resource is not purely a theoretical learning experience but will encourage young people to respond to their learning, make connections to recent, current and future climate justice events (nationally and globally) and take action. For example, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will take place in November 2021 in Glasgow and will be a huge opportunity to join voices to raise concerns about our common home.

SCIAF are very proud to be part of the Catholic Church in Scotland and connected globally through the Caritas family. This resource will provide opportunities to reflect spiritually as it is impossible to separate how we care for the world from the God who created it.

There are **six activities for N4/5** within this resource.

Plus an additional **three activities for N5** which are a deep dive into some topics.

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| Activity 1: Called to care for creation | Activity 3: Climate Emergency + deep dive for N5 | Activity 5: Climate Hero |
| Activity 2: Vulnerability Analysis + deep dive for N5 | Activity 4: Climate Justice + deep dive for N5 | Activity 6: It's time for action |

You can begin or end each activity by reading the **Prayer for our Earth** either out loud or in silence.

Activity 1: Called to care for creation (suggested time 30 minutes)

Introduce the activity with the **Called to Care for Creation PowerPoint** to introduce SCIAF's work as part of the Catholic Church, and Church teachings on the global climate crisis.

As the development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland, SCIAF draws inspiration from Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. We work closely with local partners combining our skills, resources and capacity with community knowledge and expertise. We work with partners across Africa, Asia and South America and serve communities on the front-line of the climate crisis.

Use the **Agreement Line** to examine and discuss vulnerabilities to climate change and attitudes towards our responsibility, through the lens of Church teachings.

- Print page 1 of the **Agreement Line** pdf
- Place the **Totally agree** print out at one end of the room and the **Totally disagree** print out at the other to create the agreement line
- Ask the pupils to move themselves into place somewhere along the agreement line in response to hearing each of the statements on page 2
- After each statement, you can encourage pupils in the different positions to say a few words about why they have taken that position
- There are some Teachers Notes on page 3.

Activity 2: Vulnerability Analysis (30-50 minutes)

When examining the climate crisis and a country/community's vulnerability to climate change the Church asks us to take into consideration not only environmental factors but also social and economic conditions.

For example, we should consider:

- if a country has the resources to cope with whatever threats climate change might bring about
- if its local and national government would be able to provide help and assistance in the event of a disaster
- if its citizens have capacity and support to diversify their livelihoods and income after a disaster
- if its citizens have readily available access to information which could help them prepare for environmental disasters
- is the country already unstable due to conflict, food insecurity or extreme poverty?

The Church recognises that strategies for a solution to the climate crisis demand an integrated approach to combating poverty and injustice, while at the same time protecting nature.

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

Use the **Vulnerability Analysis** pdf to examine both the social and environmental factors which make countries and communities more vulnerable to climate change.

In groups ask the pupils to write down any factors they think would be important when examining a country or community's vulnerability to climate change. After allowing some time to write as many as they can, allow each group to feedback to the others.

Deep dive for N5

There is a growing body of research looking at countries' exposure and vulnerability to climate related risks. The Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index ranks to which extent countries have been affected by the impacts of climate related extreme weather events. It can be a useful tool to analyse vulnerability to climate change.

Using the Vulnerability Analysis learners have just completed, and the country profiles on page two of the **Vulnerability Analysis pdf** ask pupils to produce their own climate vulnerability analysis on SCIAF programme countries.

We've provided data on SCIAF's programme countries. It's up to learners to choose which factors they think are most important in the climate risk analysis and compare the data for each country. Findings can be presented in a narrative, or in graphs and charts.

This activity is not intended to be an all-encompassing analysis of climate related risks but it gives learners an opportunity to examine data from several countries and use critical thinking to explore which factors could make the people and place vulnerable to climate change.

More country profiles can be found at the **UN Human Development Reports** website www.hdr.undp.org/en/data

The Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index can be found here <https://germanwatch.org/en/19777>

More country profiles can be found using the **CIA World Factbook** <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>

Activity 3: Climate Emergency (30-50 minutes)

The people and communities that SCIAF work with are already facing huge challenges because of climate change. Our partners tell us that climate change is a devastating and immediate crisis for them and that they fear for their children's futures. Altogether, between 2000 and 2019 over 475,000 people lost their lives as a direct result of more than 11,000 extreme weather events globally.

Use the **Climate Emergency Game** to introduce learners to the SCIAF partners for whom the obstacles featured are not simply a game, but a real-life climate emergency.

The game can be played by one player at a time using the **Climate Emergency Game PowerPoint** or up to four players by printing the **Climate Emergency Game Pack**.

Deep dive for N5

El Salvador has been going through a deep environmental crisis, the worst for generations. SCIAF are working with a local partner, CESTA, to help communities mitigate the effects of climate change.

Read **Climate Emergency in El Salvador** and watch the testimony video **Climate Change in El Salvador** from Dr Ricardo Navarro. Dr Navarro is the Director of CESTA and a renowned climate change campaigner.

All of these real-life case studies and examples of SCIAF's work show us that our earth is in crisis.

Activity 4: Climate Justice (20-50 mins)

All of us are called to see how Christ is present throughout creation. This can move us to treat the world and each other with tenderness and care. We can show our deep commitment to caring for our common home, by acting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. One way of expressing our commitment is to speak out for justice.

Climate Justice weaves together the principles of environmental, economic and social justice recognising how they are integrally linked.

Scotland's Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (CCPM), is funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund. The programme is administered by SCIAF and implemented by Malawians. It is a leading example of climate justice in action. It is also a shining example of sustainable development, which empowers communities in the decision making and implementation of the project.

The CCPM helps communities in Southern Malawi to adapt to the effects of climate change such as drought and flooding. It supports farmers to develop sustainable techniques that increase their harvests without relying on fertilisers, improves access to water, and brings solar energy to remote communities spurring innovation and business opportunities.

Read **Climate justice is vital** written by Malawian climate change expert Julius Ng'oma on why climate justice is vital for the communities he works with. Julius works with communities supported by the CCPM.

Ask learners to draft questions they'd like to ask Julius about climate change and the impact of climate injustice on communities in Malawi.

Please tweet us with your questions [Julius @juliusngoma](#) | [SCIAF @sciaf](#)

Deep dive for N5

Visit the **Climate Challenge Programme Malawi (CCPM)** website to read more about this innovative programme www.ccpm.scot

Ask learners to research:

- What is the CCPM and who is involved?
- How is the CCPM helping communities to find solutions to problems caused by climate change?
- What unique challenges are Malawi facing in the face of climate change?
- How do the three elements of the CCPM programme (Community, Innovation, Advocacy) weave together in the programme?
- How is the CCPM approach an example of climate justice in action?
- In a group, or on their own, present their findings about the CCPM either in a short talk, leaflet, poster or written blog.

Please tweet us with your questions about CCPM [CCPM @ClimateMalawi](#) | [SCIAF @sciaf](#)

Activity 5: Climate Hero (30mins)

SCIAF are advocates for climate justice. We support our partners to make sure their voices are heard. We work with some amazing partners who are implementing projects across Africa, Asia and South America. They are all our heroes, but who is your climate hero?

Ask learners to take the **Climate Hero** quiz to find out who their climate hero is.

There are four Climate Heroes featured who inspire us at SCIAF with their commitment to care for creation and climate justice. They are:

- Lisa Banda, a Malawian student and climate justice campaigner.
- Maggie Ngwira, CCPM Programme Co-ordinator with a passion for supporting women farmers to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Bishop Juan Carlos Barreto, Diocese of Quibdo. One of SCIAF's long standing partners in Colombia. Bishop Juan Carlos is an advocate for his Diocese helping people mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change.
- Bernardino Mosquera is a human rights defender, guardian of the Atrato River and community leader from Chocó, Colombia.

These Climate Heroes exemplify qualities we'd all like to see in ourselves. Which Climate Hero will you be? Share your results with the class.

Activity 6: It's time for action (15-20 minutes)

We are called to protect people and the planet and live our faith through action.

We have failed to care for the world around us. But there is hope. If we act now. If we respond to the call to be stewards of God's creation, we can begin to heal our common home. If we put pressure on politicians to put the most vulnerable at the heart of decision-making, positive changes can be made. If we take action we can build a greener and fairer world for everyone.

We can take action by joining in Climate Justice events. The COP Climate conference in November 2021 held in Glasgow will be a huge opportunity to raise awareness and join voices to raise concerns about our common home.

As the host country, we are asking the UK Prime Minister to encourage world leaders to make three key promises.

- **Pay to protect the poorest communities**
Make sure financial support is given to those impacted by climate change so they can adapt and recover.
- **Act now to stop runaway climate change**
Make sure world leaders commit to keeping rises in global temperatures below the disastrous 1.5°C. threshold.
- **Listen to those on the frontline of the climate crisis**
Make sure that people worst affected by the crisis are at the heart of the climate talks.

Learners can **sign our petition** here www.sciaf.org.uk/timeforaction