



Simplify Climate Change Information: People Need to Know

Climate Change conversations are dominated by scientific and technical information. We understand climate change involves scientific knowledge. However, Earth Concern strongly advocates to simplify climate conversations to ensure that common people, communities and other actors across the world understand and contextualize these information which empower them to actively participate in global climate change movement and putting collective efforts. In our briefing papers we compile information from various sources, put them in perspectives and simplify as much as possible. Our intention is to democratize climate information and knowledge base. We request local organizations to translate climate change related information in local languages and share in public space!

Share your feedbacks: secretariat@earthconcern.org

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Executive Summary

Global data captured from 2018-2021 in this briefing paper reflects the fact that climate change is real and it is happening all around the world. The incidences of climate change related disasters including drought, flood, wildfire, rising temperature, heavy rainfall are alarmingly increasing every year. They are impacting lives and livelihoods including billiondollars' financial loss. Dramatic changes are noticed in weather conditions with high level of unpredictability and they are widening scope for multiple vulnerabilities.

Climate change is hitting everywhere, but it is hitting hard to the developing countries where there are extreme needs for resilient infrastructures, financial resources for recovery, coping mechanisms, and adaptation and mitigation efforts. It is critical to note that many of these countries have very little contribution to climate pollution (heat-trapping emissions) compared to the developed countries as part of their industrialization mission. Thus, it will be critical for the developed countries to fulfill their financial commitment of 100 billion US \$ every year which has been recently reinforced in UN climate summit (COP26).

It is equally critical for every citizen, governments, and private sectors in developing countries to take serious actions around adaptation, mitigation, promoting green economy, renewal energy, and climate smart agriculture. For governments, it is important to be honest with political and financial commitments. As women and girls continue to bear the hardest burden and exclusion, it is critical to keep gender at the center of all planning, governance, policy and financing priorities at all levels. Any delay in climate action will be costly!

Prabodh Devkota on behalf of Earth Concern

Climate Change Facts 2021

- ✚ From January through the end of September, U.S. has experienced 18 weather and climate disasters each incurring losses that exceeded \$1 billion; the disaster costs for the first nine months of 2021 are \$104.8 billion; Hurricane Ida is the costliest disaster this year – exceeding \$60 billion
- ✚ Extreme rainfall hit Henan Province of China from 17 to 21 July. The city of Zhengzhou on 20 July received 201.9 mm of rainfall in one hour (a Chinese national record), 382 mm in 6 hours, and 720 mm for the event as a whole, more than its annual average. Flash floods were linked to more than 302 deaths, with reported economic losses of US\$17.7 billion
- ✚ Western Germany and eastern Belgium received 100 to 150 mm over a wide area on 14-15 July over already saturated ground, causing flooding and landslides and more than 200 deaths
- ✚ UNHCR mentioned that roughly 90 per cent of refugees come from countries that are the most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- ✚ 6.9 million Afghans – nearly half of the country's population – lacked enough food in the first quarter of 2021, including at least 5.5 million facing emergency levels of food deprivation
- ✚ 26th UN Climate Conference (COP 26) 2021 in Glasgow highlighted key priorities- phasing down coal, end fossil fuels subsidies, doubling of finance to support developing countries in adapting to the impacts of climate change, and put a price on carbon

Climate Change Facts 2020

- ✚ 2020 was one of the three warmest on record
- ✚ In 2020, over 50 million people were doubly hit by climate-related disasters (floods, droughts and storms) and by COVID-19 pandemic
- ✚ As of 2020 the economic loss due to natural disaster events worldwide amounted to about 268 billion U.S. dollars
- ✚ Approximately 9.8million displacements, largely due to hazards and disasters, were recorded during the first half of 2020, mainly concentrated in South and South-East Asia and the Horn of Africa
- ✚ Severe drought affected many parts of the interior of South America in 2020, with worst-affected areas being northern Argentina, Paraguay & the western border areas of Brazil. Estimated agricultural losses were near US\$ 3 billion in Brazil, with additional losses in Argentina, Uruguay & Paraguay
- ✚ Cyclone Amphan which made landfall on 20 May near the India-Bangladesh border reported economic losses in India of approximately US\$14 billion
- ✚ In 2020, during one of the most challenging years in modern history, 416 notable natural disasters were documented
- ✚ U.S. wildfires burned 10.25 million acres as of December 18, 2020 Seasonal monsoon flooding in China in June through September killed 278 people, damaged or destroyed 1.4 million homes and businesses, and did \$32 billion in damage

Climate Change Facts 2019

- ✚ Extreme weather forced 7 million people from their homes in the first half of the year, making 2019 one of the most disastrous on record
- ✚ Cyclone Idai tore through Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe killing over 1,000 people & affecting more than 1.8 million
- ✚ Cyclone Fani was the strongest tropical cyclone to hit the Indian state of Odisha in 20 years. Prior to landfall, more than 1 million people were evacuated from India & Bangladesh. Nearly 90 people died and Fani caused more than \$8 billion in damage
- ✚ In July 2019, heavy rains triggered widespread flooding and landslides in Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. More than 7 million people were affected, with 300,000 displaced from their homes
- ✚ Failed rains in East & Southern Africa pushed 45 million people to the edge of hunger this year. In September, 10,000 people in South Sudan faced severe starvation. Cereal, harvested in 2019 between June & August, saw 60-90% below average production in Somalia and Kenya
- ✚ Nearly 690 million people, or 9% of the world population, were undernourished, & about 750 million, or nearly 10%, were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity in 2019
- ✚ Mozambique, Zimbabwe & the Bahamas were the countries most affected by the impacts of extreme weather events in 2019 followed by Japan, Malawi & Afghanistan
- ✚ In 2019, greenhouse gas concentrations reached new highs and 2019 was the second hottest year in its 140-year climate record

Climate Change Facts 2018

- ✚ In 2018, most of the natural hazards which affected nearly 62 million people were associated with extreme weather and climate events
- ✚ More than 1600 death were associated with intense heat waves and wildfires in Europe, Japan and USA where they were associated with record economic damages of nearly US\$24 billion in USA
- ✚ In August, the south-west Indian state of Kerala suffered major flooding, reportedly the worst since 1924, as a result of persistent heavy monsoon rains. Rainfall for the state for August was 96% above the long-term average
- ✚ Large parts of Europe experienced exceptional heat and drought through the late spring and summer of 2018
- ✚ Out of the 17.7 million IDPs tracked by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, over 2 million people were displaced due to disasters linked to weather and climate events as at September 2018
- ✚ At the start of 2018 Cape Town faced the worst drought in recorded history & came close to being the world's first major city where the taps ran dry
- ✚ Two of the top twelve deadliest wildfires in the world history hit in 2018
- ✚ Globally, Indonesia recorded nearly half the total deaths from disasters in 2018 while India recorded nearly half the total number of individuals affected
- ✚ In 2018, three million people were affected by an ongoing drought in Kenya, while Afghanistan suffered a major drought that impacted 2.2 million people, causing the internal displacement of thousands

References: UNFCC, UNHCR Mercy corps, WMO, UN SDGS, Christian Aid, UN News, Relief Web, Yale Climate Connection, NCDC, NOAA, BBC, Statista