

Tearfund climate change campaign Q&A, September 2009

SEAL THE DEAL

What's the campaign about?

Climate change is hitting the world's most poor and vulnerable people hardest. We need drastic and immediate global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide finance and support to help poor people adapt to the changing climate and prevent climate chaos.

United Nations climate talks during 2009 are crucial to agreeing a **global deal** to tackle climate change. This deal is our best chance yet at securing action to help those whose lives are already being devastated by the changing climate, and those who will be impacted in the future.

Tearfund is campaigning for world leaders to **seal a strong and fair deal** that prioritises the needs and voices of the world's poorest people, who are most impacted by climate change.

Why is this year so important?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol were foundational in international efforts to tackle climate change. A 'first commitment period' was originally agreed to under the Kyoto Protocol, running from 2008-2012, in which most developed countries committed to reducing emissions by at least 5% from 1990 levels by 2012.

It is crucial that a robust global deal is agreed and in place ready for when the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol is completed in 2012. Kyoto was agreed in 1997 but wasn't ratified by enough countries to take effect until 2005! So for a new climate deal there is very little time to get a deal both agreed *and* ratified by countries to be able to start in 2013. A gap between Kyoto's current targets and a new deal would lead to uncertainty in securing urgently needed emissions cuts, and finance for adaptation and clean development.

Is this the last chance to get a deal on climate change?

The climate talks in Copenhagen are the best chance we have at this time to secure urgent global action on climate change. However, if what is on the table at Copenhagen would fail to keep temperature rises below two degrees, or fail to deliver enough finance for poor communities then Tearfund would prefer negotiations to continue into 2010 in the hope of securing a better outcome. But agreeing a deal after December 2009 will make it more difficult to implement and ratify it by 2013.

Why is Tearfund campaigning about an international climate deal?

We need a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide finance and technology to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change, and reduce their emissions.

Tearfund works on climate change because it hits the world's poorest people hardest. Floods, droughts, storms, sea level rises and changing rains... around the world the climate is shifting because of our energy hungry lifestyles in the wealthy west. Poor people haven't caused climate change, rich people have, but it's the poorest who are experiencing its devastating effects. The bible tells us that 'love does no harm to its neighbour' (Romans 31:10) yet the way we live now harms our neighbours in poor countries.

For the world's poorest, climate change looks like:

- lack of rainfall or too much rainfall bringing floods and washing away crops and homes
- unusual and erratic rainfall which can cause crop failure, leading to hunger and loss of livelihood
- a rise in sea levels as a result of warming oceans

- more environmental refugees (people who are forced to leave their home to find food and shelter), and mounting pressure on vulnerable regions leading to tension and conflict
- increase in malaria as mosquitoes spread to new areas
- a rapid increase in malnutrition
- having to walk longer distances to access drinking water

We are working to lift people out of poverty, and climate change comes and pushes them back down - unless urgent action is taken to curb climate change and adapt to it, years of development work will be undone.

The United Nations climate talks this December in Copenhagen are an unprecedented opportunity for all countries to work together to agree a deal to tackle climate change. To prevent catastrophic levels of climate change we need keep global temperature rise as far below **two degrees** as possible (above pre-industrial levels). This means that we need to take urgent action to peak global emissions by 2015 with a decline after that point.

Tearfund is campaigning for world leaders to take urgent action to tackle climate change by sealing a strong and fair deal in Copenhagen.

What is Tearfund calling for?

To ensure the global deal on climate change is strong and fair, Tearfund believes it must include the following commitments:

- developed countries must agree to reduce their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 (from 1990 levels). The vast majority of these cuts must be made in the country where they were emitted rather than by offsetting. Developed countries must also commit to reduce emissions by at least 95 per cent of 1990 levels by 2050.
- developed countries must commit to provide at least US\$150 billion a year of climate finance for poor countries. This must be new and additional to Official Development Assistance commitments of 0.7% of GDP, and to finance provided by carbon markets. This finance is necessary to help poor and vulnerable communities adapt to the changing climate and to help support action to reduce emissions in developing countries.

You can find out more about these asks in Tearfund's latest policy documents [here](#).

Developing countries bear the brunt of a changing climate. Rich countries are most responsible for climate change and they have the capacity and resources to act so they must take action to combat climate change and help poor countries to adapt to the changing climate.

How can I get involved?

- **Campaign:** be part of Tearfund's campaign to call on world leaders to seal a strong and fair global deal to tackle climate change and for the UK and EU in particular to play a key role in this.
- **Lifestyle changes:** Emissions in developed countries are too high to be sustainable so they need to be reduced. Tearfund believes that to speak with integrity, those of us with high emissions must change our lifestyles to reduce our emissions to help protect poor people. These actions can also save us money. We believe the church has the opportunity to lead the way in this area.
- **Pray:** Prayer is at the heart of our work - for our leaders as they make tough choices; for poor people suffering from the effects of climate change and working to adapt to the changes; for ourselves, to have the courage to change.

Go to www.tearfund.org/deal to find out more

Will a strong and fair deal make a difference?

Yes. Global cooperative action to tackle climate change is vital. If developed countries commit to emissions cuts of at least 40 per cent by 2020 (on 1990 levels) and provide \$150 billion of finance to help poor countries adapt and reduce their emissions then we have a good chance of keeping global temperature rise below two degrees.

Is Tearfund part of the 350 campaign and 10:10?

Tearfund is signed up to the 350 campaign that calls on world leaders to agree a global deal on climate change that keeps the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at 350 parts per million or less. 350ppm is the upper limit that scientists say is safe in the atmosphere so we need to reduce global emissions as the current level is 389ppm.

Tearfund welcomes the launch of the new 10:10 Campaign. Everything that persuades people to cut their emissions is valuable and is a vital part of serving poor communities hit by climate change. However our main focus is campaigning towards a global climate change deal this December at Copenhagen, because that's the best chance we have to prevent runaway climate change, so we will not be formally joining 10.10.

THE WAVE

What is *The Wave*?

On 5 December – just before the climate talks start in Copenhagen - thousands will gather in London for *The Wave* as part of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition to call on the UK government to show leadership during the talks for a strong and fair deal.

The Wave will be the UK's biggest ever demonstration for action on climate change. Tens of thousands of people will flow through the streets of London to demonstrate their support for climate justice and call on the UK government to protect the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities from the changing climate.

Find out more: www.tearfund.org/wave

What's the purpose of *The Wave*?

The Wave is a big march through the centre of London. It is designed to make it abundantly clear to politicians that people are passionate about tackling climate change and would support the UK in taking strong action on this issue.

Will *The Wave* be safe?

We are working with expert organisers including the police to ensure that it is a successful, safe and fun day.

Those who co-ordinated the peaceful and family friendly Make Poverty History march and rally in Edinburgh 2005, The World Can't Wait rally in 2007 and the Put People First march in 2009 are also organising *The Wave*.

What is happening on the day and where should I go?

- **Church service at 11am:** Tearfund is working with other Christian organisations to organise a church service which will start at 11am in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. The Archbishop of Canterbury will speak at the service. We encourage you to join us for the church service at the start of the day. If you are unable to arrive by 11am then join the march from 1pm. We will make sure there is a meeting point for Tearfund supporters who can't go to the service so they can march together.
- **March at 1pm:** Those in the church service will then walk together to join the march as it flows from Grosvenor Square (from 1pm). If you are unable to come to the church service, you can join the start of the march at Grosvenor Square, people will be gathering from 12pm. The Wave will end near Parliament at around 3pm.
- **Tea from 3pm:** After the march there will be tea (and cakes) with Tearfund and others – venue tbc.
- Please wear or carry something blue to make *The Wave* look special

How can I travel to London?

Coaches, special trains and even bike rides are being organised from many places across the UK to help you travel to London. Find out about travel organised from where you live to

central London at www.tearfund.org/wave. If no transport is organised where you live, there are discounted coach tickets available. Find out more at www.stopclimatechaos.org

Who is organising *The Wave*?

The Wave is being organised by the Stop Climate Chaos coalition of which Tearfund is a member. The coalition has over 100 members – environmental and international development charities, trade unions, faith and women’s groups and more - representing the committed supporters, campaigners, hearts, minds and voices of 11 million people.

Find out more about Stop Climate Chaos at www.stopclimatechaos.org

Why is Tearfund supporting *The Wave*?

Tearfund is supporting the wave because climate change hits the poorest hardest. This is a great opportunity for the global church to show that it is at the heart of a wave of people calling for justice for the poor.

What can I do if I can't get to London for *The Wave* but want to support it?

There will be coaches and trains to transport people from all ends of the country to *The Wave* so do come if you can. There will also be an event in Glasgow on 5 December. Check out www.tearfund.org/wave for more information.

If you are unable to travel here are some ideas for how you can support our campaign for a strong and fair deal to be sealed in Copenhagen:

- **Pray:**
 - Please pray on 5 December for *The Wave* to highlight to UK and world leaders the need for a strong and fair deal.
 - Pray for political leaders to make bold and meaningful decisions to reduce carbon emissions and provide funding for poor countries during the Copenhagen climate talks (7-18 December) and for the Lord to prepare the hearts of world leaders so they can hear the arguments of the developing world and to act justly.
- **Campaign:**
 - In the lead up to the climate talks, please write to your MP to ask them to contact the Prime Minister asking for him to work to secure a strong and fair deal. Order Act Fast cards with this campaign action and prayer points by calling 0845 3558355 or emailing enquiries@tearfund.org
- **Encourage your church to come along to *The Wave* or campaign and pray**

COPENHAGEN

What will happen in Copenhagen?

Negotiators from 192 countries will meet in Copenhagen from 7-18 December for UN climate talks to negotiate a new global deal on climate change. Copenhagen is the culmination of two years of talks that were launched at the Bali conference in December 2007. Negotiations will take place on different subjects including reducing emissions, adaptation, finance, technology and avoiding deforestation.

The talks will centre on text for a new global deal to tackle climate change. Negotiators will discuss the detail of the text to try to agree a common position. However, some of the big decisions around emissions targets and finance will be made by Heads of Government and will be essentially a political decision – which is why campaigning is so important. The deal should be agreed by the end of the talks ready for countries to sign and ratify before it comes into force at the beginning of 2013.

What will Tearfund be doing at COP?

Tearfund’s climate change policy advisors will be present to lobby different country negotiating teams on the issues. They will work with other NGOs to target countries blocking good progress and to support the governments of the poorest and most vulnerable countries and others to get a deal that benefits the poorest and most vulnerable people.

We'll also work to get media coverage to raise the profile of the talks and the need for the voices of poor people to be heard. Tearfund's climate change campaigners will be there to report back to Tearfund supporters and get involved with campaign activities happening during the talks.

A number of representatives from Tearfund's partner organisations will also attend to lobby their own governments and bring their voices and experiences to the negotiations.

Why is the meeting happening in Copenhagen?

Countries take turns to host the annual UN climate talks, known as COP. Previous COPs have been hosted in Bali and Poland. Future COPs are likely to take place in Mexico and South Africa.