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We urgently need to switch to a way of life that protects our world today, and for future generations. You can take immediate action to prevent people from falling further into poverty and hunger.

**IN 2015, CREATE A CLIMATE OF CHANGE!**

**TAKE ACTION**

**Change your lifestyle**

Make a personal commitment towards lifestyle changes that will help to reduce your carbon footprint, like taking public transportation or buying locally.

**Change your community**

Support local green initiatives in your school, parish and municipality.

**Change our country**

Call on the government to be a leader in abandoning harmful fossil fuels and to transition to renewable energies.

**Photos:** Development and Peace, Caritas Internationalis

**Design:** Sherpa Design

**Cover:** Marie-Soleil Provençal

**Printing:** AGL Graphiques

**Sign Development and Peace’s Action Card today to create a climate of change!**

devp.org/climateofchange

**Climate change affects the poorest countries most severely. Yet Canada has emissions per capita that are 150 times higher than those of Ethiopia.**

**That’s where Canada’s emissions are compared to those of the Philippines, Ethiopia and Honduras. These countries are experiencing climate-related floods, droughts, extreme storms, water scarcity, and food insecurity.**

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**CO₂ emission per capita (metric tonnes)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CO₂ Emission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
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Dangerously hot temperatures, prolonged droughts and disappearing water sources are effects of climate change that have caused great difficulty for small communities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Eighty-five percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas and rely on subsistence farming for survival. Most farmers do not have access to irrigation, so when the rains do not come, it can be devastating.

For Gebre Nigusse from Biera village, the lack of water made it difficult for him to harvest enough food to provide for his family. At most, Gebre produced one crop per year. Development and Peace has funded an irrigation project which has increased food production for more than 30,000 people in the region. Irrigation has enabled farmers to harvest up to three times a year, boosting crop production. The project has changed everything for Gebre.

“Without irrigation, we could not grow enough crops to feed our family. Now we can grow enough food for our family and sell some.”

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“I did not do much irrigation until I joined the project four years ago,” he explains. “The project contributed very much and I took part in the construction. I received agricultural training, and fruit and elephant grass and coffee seedlings. I dug two hand wells for irrigation and bought a water pump with the money I made from my vegetables. I have planted coffee trees and will increase the number of small-scale gold mining projects that began to appear in the region since a large open-pit mine was established two years ago.

The combination of extreme weather events and mining projects jeopardizes communities throughout the region. Toxins used in mining can contaminate the water supply. This contributes to climate change. Mining projects in the region also cause deforestation and consume fossil fuels in mineral processing and transportation. This contributes to climate change.

“We can live without gold, but we can’t live without water. Our future depends on irrigation. We cannot buy a new planet. The speed of destruction of our planet is increasing, and we all live here!”

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Francisca Muñoz grows her family’s food in her hometown of El Corpus in Honduras. El Corpus is extremely vulnerable to tropical storms, such as Hurricane Mitch, which occurred in 1998 and affected 10% of the population. Francisca is also concerned about the growing number of small-scale gold mining projects that have begun to appear in the region since a large open-pit mine was established there. She also noted that large operations can be catastrophic.

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Francisca Muñoz from El Corpus in Honduras

We are warming our planet by burning fossil fuels which took millions of years to create. We use oil, coal and natural gas, unaware of the global consequences, to run our cars, heat homes, conduct business and power our factories. Canada’s economic dependence on fossil fuels is the main reason our government has refused to significantly limit our greenhouse gas emissions. We have continued extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels, when there are smarter cleaner ways to make energy.

Canada is the only country in the world to have withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol. We have become isolated on the world stage because we have not done our part. Recently, the European Union, Mexico, the United States and China have announced ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets, while Canada lags behind.

The Paris climate negotiations (COP21) will be held in December, 2015, and is an opportunity to turn the tide on climate change. World leaders will meet with the goal of signing a binding treaty to tackle climate change and solve the urgent crisis of extreme weather events. The Paris negotiations will take action on individuals, as communities, and as a country, for the survival of people in the Global South, and for the survival of our planet.

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Did you know?

The mine in Francisca’s region consumes 180 litres of water per second. This is 30 times the amount of water one Honduran family would use in 20 years!

One hour of mining extraction uses the same amount of water one Mexican family would use in 2020 due to water shortages.

Highly vulnerable to tropical hurricanes, Honduras is considered the country most affected by the impacts of extreme weather.

Did you know?

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More than 7,000 people died in the Philippines.

Canada in the hot seat

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For Gebre Nigusse from Biera village, the lack of water made it difficult for him to harvest enough food to provide for his family. At most, Gebre produced one crop per year. Development and Peace has funded an irrigation project which has increased food production for more than 30,000 people in the region. Irrigation has enabled farmers in Tigray to harvest up to three times a year.

Gebre explains, “The project constructed canals and I have planted coffee trees and will increase the number of hand wells for irrigation and bought a water pump with the money I made from my vegetables. I did not do much irrigation until I joined the project four years ago,” he explains. “The project constructed canals and I have planted coffee trees and will increase the number of hand wells for irrigation and bought a water pump with the money I made from my vegetables.”

The project has changed everything for Gebre. “The project constructed canals and I have planted coffee trees and will increase the number of hand wells for irrigation and bought a water pump with the money I made from my vegetables.”

“More than a year since Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the community in Tacloban City in the Philippines, Caroline Coasts still gets emotional thinking about the destruction of her plant damaged land.”

When Caroline saw the rising waters, which quickly reached her waist, she tried to find shelter with her 3-month-old baby. “My parents stayed behind to help my brother who had been injured by the strong wind, and so when tears as she tells the story of that fateful day. “I lost my home, my parents and others were taken away. However, they were not completely shielded from the strength of that unprecedented storm. Those waves were reaching more than 30 feet. As the people in the warehouse climbed on to the roof to escape the flooding below, her baby was carried away by the rushing water. Thankfully, her husband managed to catch the baby just in time, bringing him back to safety.”

The super typhoon caused the deaths of more than 6,300 people in the Philippines. For Caroline, it not only destroyed her home, it was the last time that she saw her parents. Their deaths were not and have not been seen since. “All this destruction was because of the typhoon, it is all because of climate change.”

**Did you know?**

- Ten major droughts were reported in Ethiopia between 1980 and 2010.

- Extremely reliant on low-tech, rain-fed farming, Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climate change.

- According to the United Nations, 80% of the Ethiopian arable land is at high risk of desertification.

- Temperatures have been rising in the region. The growing season has already been reduced by 15 days.

- Ethiopian farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture, and can’t buy a new planet. The speed of destruction of our planet is increasing, and we all live here!”

- With more than 7000 islands, the Philippines is regularly affected by typhoons, and cyclones are common.

- Erratic weather caused by climate change makes agriculture unpredictable in the Philippines and throughout the region.

- More than half the population lives in poverty.

- Due to Super Typhoon Haiyan’s high winds caused massive damage to crops in the Philippines and elsewhere. This caused a drop in income, prices, and jobs, and a major drop in food security.
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“The project constructed canals and I took part in the construction. I received agricultural training, and fruit and elephant grass seedlings. I dug trenches in the region’s fields and eventually opened the important ocean fisheries.”

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When Caroline saw the rising waters, which quickly reached her waist, she tried to find shelter with her 3-month-old baby. “My parents stayed behind to help my brother who had been injured by the strong winds,” she says, her eyes filling with tears as she tells the story of that fateful day.

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Development and Peace believes that it doesn’t have to be this way. We can address the root causes of climate change and help people adapt to its impacts.

“The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now.”

— Pope Francis, Laudato Si (161)

We urgently need to switch to a way of life that protects our world today, and for future generations. You can take immediate action to prevent people from falling further into poverty and hunger.

**Change your lifestyle**
Make a personal commitment towards lifestyle changes that will help to reduce your carbon footprint, like taking public transportation or buying locally.

**Change your community**
Support local green initiatives in your school, parish and municipality.

**Change our country**
Call on the government to be a leader in abandoning harmful fossil fuels and to transition to renewable energies.

That’s where Canada’s emissions are compared to those of the Philippines, Ethiopia and Honduras. These countries are experiencing climate-related floods, droughts, extreme storms, water scarcity, and food insecurity.

Climate change affects the poorest countries most severely. Yet Canada has emissions per capita that are 150 times higher than those of Ethiopia.

It’s true: those who do the least to cause climate change suffer the most.

*Do you know the expression “off the charts”?

Together, let’s create a climate of change!

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