



Climate Change and Africa's Poor
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The Problem

- Global community emitting more CO₂ than the world's atmosphere capacity to absorb—result CC
- CC—single greatest challenge to Human Development
- Potential to stall and reverse efforts to reduce poverty & achieve other MDGs
 - Africa will suffer the earliest and most damaging setbacks

Risk and vulnerability

- The state of human development shapes the process by which climate related risks is converted into vulnerability
- Africa is the least developed continent
 - All 22 countries in low HD are in SSA

The human development backdrop

- Four out of 10 people in SSA live in absolute poverty
- Lowest average life expectancy
- Around 32 per cent of children do not live to celebrate their 5th birthday
 - Malaria kills 800,000 children below age five annually
 - Accounts for 68% of adults & 90% of children infected with HIV—76% of deaths from AIDS occurs in the region
- About 4 in 10 adults are illiterate (1 in 2 women)
- One-fourth of children of primary school going age are not in school (girls 32%)

The human development backdrop

- SSA accounts for 68% of adults and nearly 90% of children infected with HIV
 - More than 76% of global deaths due to AIDS-related illnesses in 2007 occurred in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Accounts for 90% of deaths from malaria
 - Around 800,000 children under 5 die each year from malaria
- 45% of the population do not have access to safe water
 - In Tanzania women and their daughters spend on average 250 hours/person/year collecting water
- 63% do not have access to sanitation

Inequality in carbon footprints



The distribution of current emissions points to an inverse relationship between climate change vulnerability and responsibility

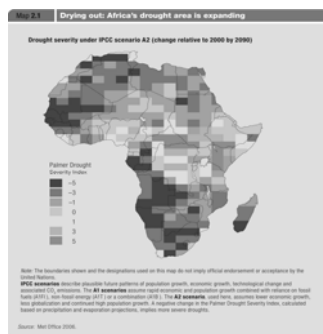
Rich countries deeper carbon footprint

- SSA accounts for 11% of the world's population but only 2% of global emissions
- The state of Texas (population 23 million) has a deeper carbon footprint than the whole sub-Saharan Africa (720 million people)

Rich countries deeper carbon footprint

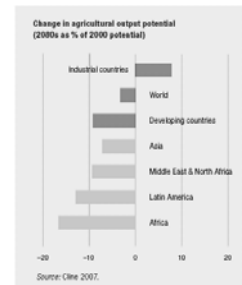
- Only one-third of SSA population has access to modern energy services
- Electrification rate is only 26%
- 80% rely on traditional biomass for cooking
 - In Tanzania women use on average 700 hours/person/year to collect fuel-wood
 - Walking 5 kilometres on foot
 - Indoor air pollution kills 400 children each day—majority in Africa

Implications for SSA



Implications for SSA

Climate change will hurt developing country agriculture



For dry-land SSA this could be as high as US\$26 billion in revenue losses

Implications for SSA

- Between 75 and 250 million people will have their livelihood compromised
- Heightened water insecurity
 - 350-600 million people in will be at risk of increased water stress
 - The collapse of ice sheets on Greenland and the west Antarctic would submerge cities like Lagos
- Sea levels are projected to rise in Africa by 15–95 cm by the year 2100
 - 30 % Africa's coastal infrastructure through inundation and coastal erosion

Implications for SSA

- Collapse of ecosystems
 - Losses of environmental resources will further impoverish the poor
- Increased health risks-increased
 - exposure to malaria-additional 200,000 child deaths
 - Cholera epidemic following floods (Ethiopia 2006)

Women vulnerability to climate change effects

- Livelihood strategies depend more on natural resources
 - livelihoods would be compromised
- Limited asset ownership & control
 - less able to cope
- Traditional gender role
 - Increased labour intensity
 - The girl child may have to forgo education to help collect water & firewood
 - Increased time and income poverty
 - Effects on women’s health

Low human development traps in operation

- Forced trade-offs undermine future opportunities
 - transferring children from classrooms to the labour market
 - Food rationing:
 - In Ethiopia, being born during a drought year increases the probability of children being malnourished by 36%--translates into 2 million additional malnourished children in 2005
 - For Kenya, probability of being malnourished increases by 50%
 - In Niger, children aged ≤ 2 years are 72% more likely to be stunted if they were born during a drought year

Adaptation capacity

Africa more vulnerable but less capacity to adapt

Developed country investments dwarf adaptation funds



Addressing the problems

- Put in place adaptation financing strategy—meet the aid target of 0.7% of GNI & provide additional funding for CC adaptation
- Integrate adaptation into poverty reduction strategies
- Re-orientation of public policies towards helping vulnerable people create and manage their own schemes for coping with potentially catastrophic risks.
 - Social protection measures: employment-based programmes to support cash or food transfer schemes (productive safety net programme in Ethiopia; Kalomo pilot project in Zambia)

Addressing the problems

- Climate proof infrastructure and building resilience of poor people to cope
 - Strengthen indigenous adaptation mechanisms
- Strengthen disaster response system
- Finance transition from relief to recovery

Improving access to modern energy services

- National energy reforms to enhance energy efficiency
- Address energy-gender issues in macro level policies
- Early adoption of clean energy technologies and best-practice international standards:
 - to increase access to modern energy services without increasing emission levels
 - Providing financial and technical support to tap renewable energy sources

- **Improve access to meteorological information**

- Expanding the continent's meteorological monitoring network, so that farmers can access better information about climate patterns in the region—1/25,460 km² (1/8 of WMO recommended minimum)
- Invest in water-storage or “water harvesting”
- Build on indigenous water harvesting technologies

- **This is not charity but social debt owed to poor and vulnerable people in Africa!**

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<http://hdr.undp.org>

Thank you!!!