



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
- African people (women especially) are more vulnerable to climate related risks for many reasons
 - Traditional gender roles influence resources and opportunities avail to women and men

The human development backdrop

- Four out of 10 people in SSA live in absolute poverty—a majority of these are women
- Lowest average life expectancy (49.6 years)
- Around 32 per cent of children do not live to celebrate their 5th birthday
- 1 in 2 women adult females are illiterate
- Nearly 1 in 3 girls of primary school going age are not in school

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
- Women traditional roles place extra burden of their time with implication for their well being
- 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
 - Studies show that women are exposed to sexual abuse as they trek in search of wood in resource scarce regions like Darfur-Sudan
- Climate change will worsen the situation of women if nothing is done

Inequality in carbon footprints



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

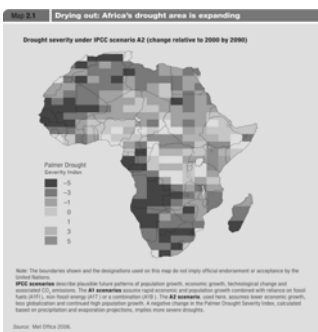
Rich countries deeper carbon footprint

- SSA accounts for 11% of the world's population but only 2% of global emission
- The state of Texas (population 23 million) has a deeper carbon footprint than the whole sub-Saharan Africa (720 million people)
- Women have made insignificant contribution to emissions because:
 - They are the least able to access modern energy services

Rich countries deeper carbon footprint

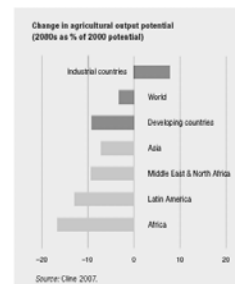
- Only one-third of SSA population has access to modern energy services
- Electrification rate is only 26%
- 80% rely on traditional biomass for cooking
 - In Tanzania women use on average 700 hours/person/year to collect fuel-wood
 - Walking 5 kilometres on foot with a load of wood and often a baby on the back
 - 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

Women vulnerability to climate change effects

- Women's livelihood strategies depend more on natural resources
- Less able to cope because of
 - Limited asset ownership & control
- 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

Women's knowledge in climate change adaptation

- Natural resources and women's livelihoods are closely linked—therefore great concern for the environment
- Traditionally, they play leadership roles in promoting an environmental ethic—reducing resource use, and reusing resources to minimize waste and excessive consumption.
- Indigenous women, have particular knowledge of ecological linkages and fragile ecosystem management
 - They know which crops are resistant to drought
- Yet they are under represented in climate change decisions

Addressing the problems

- Address gender-climate change issues in macro policies
- Include women in climate change discussions
- Build women's adaptation knowledge through training and resource availability
- Strengthen disaster response system
- Finance transition from relief to recovery

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-orient public policies towards helping vulnerable people (mostly women) 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)

Improving access to modern energy services

- National energy reforms to enhance energy efficiency
- Promote early adoption of clean energy technologies

• 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!!!