



CLIMATE CHANGE — IS FUNDAMENTALLY — RESHAPING THE WORLD

To better respond and adapt, we need to understand who is most affected and what can be done to help them

Climate change is an environmental phenomenon caused by human activity like the burning of oil, gas, and coal, which results in the emission of harmful greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. The effects of climate change are evident in the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. Adapting to life in a changing climate will require governments and communities to adopt new ways of life in the face of increasing volatility. Successful efforts to mitigate climate change—and cut emissions of these heat-trapping gases—require societal adjustments in how we conduct our economies and politics.

Accurate data are an important tool in helping us understand how climate change is affecting people's lives, who it's affecting most, and what can be done to help them build resilience.

Climate-induced changes affect every aspect of our lives.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Climate change contributes to increased instances of extreme weather like drought, floods, and heat waves that affect major sectors of the economy.



Our ability to produce **agricultural goods and raw materials** such as minerals, lumber, or fish are impacted by climate fluctuations. Extreme weather, crop-destroying insects, drought, and floods can all affect agricultural productivity.



Infrastructure and public works including transportation, health care, housing, and technology rely on physical investments in structures, vehicles, equipment, roads, and bridges that can become damaged or destroyed by weather events.



Job sectors shift or shrink to new environmental realities such as pastoral communities displaced into areas of subsistence agriculture. These changes threaten livelihoods and contribute to economic migration and displacement.

POLITICAL IMPACTS

Climate change can cause or worsen political instability as people experience compound crises and the costs of maintaining public services and essential resources rise.



Warmer weather and climate-related disasters have been linked to **increases in crime** and intergroup conflict.¹



The effects of climate change can further **stress weaknesses in existing systems and institutions**, creating conditions that can impact political stability.



Climate change can become politicized as nations vie for climate funds or are under pressure to **adapt their economies** to reduce their contribution to climate change.

HEALTH IMPACTS

Climate change affects human health directly through heatwaves, floods, droughts, and other extreme weather, as well as indirectly through increasing malnutrition, weakening health infrastructure, and increasing the spread of infectious diseases.



In 2050, climate change will cause **33,000 additional deaths** from vector-borne diseases, with 97% of these deaths occurring in Eastern Africa and South Asia.²



Between now and 2030, health care systems face an estimated \$2 billion to \$4 billion per year in **direct damage costs**.



Between 2030 and 2050, an estimated **250,000 additional deaths** per year are anticipated because of climate change.³

Population data are key to understanding who climate change affects and how their lives are changing, and to informing planning for climate solutions.

DATA POINT

Socioeconomic status and employment



Mapping economically vulnerable populations against climate variables like seasonal rainfall or heat indices can help identify target areas of highest need for climate adaptation interventions. For example, urban slum areas have dense populations and poor infrastructure and may be at heightened risk for flooding and mudslides. Policymakers can consider these factors to develop context-specific interventions.⁴

Population data disaggregated by age and sex



Women, girls, and young people are among the groups most vulnerable to climate change due to intersecting vulnerabilities (such as gender discrimination, access to education, and access to employment, among others). Identifying which risk factors increase vulnerability to climate impacts, such as the prevalence of women in subsistence agriculture, can help decisionmakers plan for interventions that consider gender, such as adaptive social protection, to increase resilience.

HOW JOURNALISTS CAN REPORT ON THIS TOPIC



Use data to highlight unequal impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations and the need for approaches that favor climate justice to address them while also mitigating climate change. What industries may be disproportionately affected (such as agriculture), and how can communities that rely on those industries adapt? How is climate change affecting older populations who are less able to make lifestyle changes, such as moving locations?



Unpack the gendered impacts of climate change. How are climate changes disproportionately affecting women and girls in areas such as maternal and child health, nutrition, and food security?


DATA POINT
Geospatial mapping of population density and movement


Looking at population density across factors such as distance to health care facilities or availability of transportation infrastructure can improve understanding of climate-caused threats to health and safety and inform decision-making on solutions. Migration to urban areas from rural, low-density areas due to shrinking employment opportunities or displacement from climate-related extreme weather events can strain the capacity of housing, health care, infrastructure, and other systems and bring groups into conflict with one another as they compete for scarce resources.


HOW JOURNALISTS CAN REPORT ON THIS TOPIC


Explore subnational differences in climate vulnerability and how they are being addressed (or not) at local government levels. Are national plans taking into consideration variations across different geographies? What about potential impacts of migration as people move to seek more stable livelihoods?

FOR MORE INFORMATION
[World Population Data Sheet](#)

This resource provides up-to-date demographic information, including indicators relevant for assessing climate vulnerability and adaptation readiness.

[International Monetary Fund: Climate and the Economy](#)

The IMF has numerous fact-filled reports on climate change's impacts on the global economy as well as risks to specific sectors, research, and policy proposals for managing climate change's economic implications.

Climate Fund websites: [Adaptation Fund](#), [Green Climate Fund](#)

These are the two primary multilateral climate funds, award projects in mitigation and adaptation. The plans list awarded projects on their websites and are good resources for understanding trends in climate finance.

[Nationally Determined Contribution Registry](#)

These plans developed by countries detail their intended contributions to climate mitigation and adaptation across sectors, as well as estimates of needed funding. They can serve as useful primary sources for understanding climate action priorities and process by country.

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