

# IN 2015, CREATE A CLIMATE OF CHANGE!

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.

**“On climate change, there is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical imperative to act.”**

Pope Francis, COP20, Lima, 2014



## 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.

Sign Development and Peace's Action Card today to create a climate of change!  
[devp.org/climateofchange](http://devp.org/climateofchange)

# CREATE A CLIMATE OF CHANGE



## TOGETHER, LET'S CREATE A CLIMATE OF CHANGE!

Climate change is dramatically altering the planet as we know it. The poorest people contribute the least to climate change yet are hit hardest by its impacts – but we are all affected. From the southern Alberta floods to Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, the lives of millions of people are being harmed by climate change. The poorest in the Global South, however, are struggling most to survive in the face of prolonged droughts, extreme storms and sudden floods.

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.”

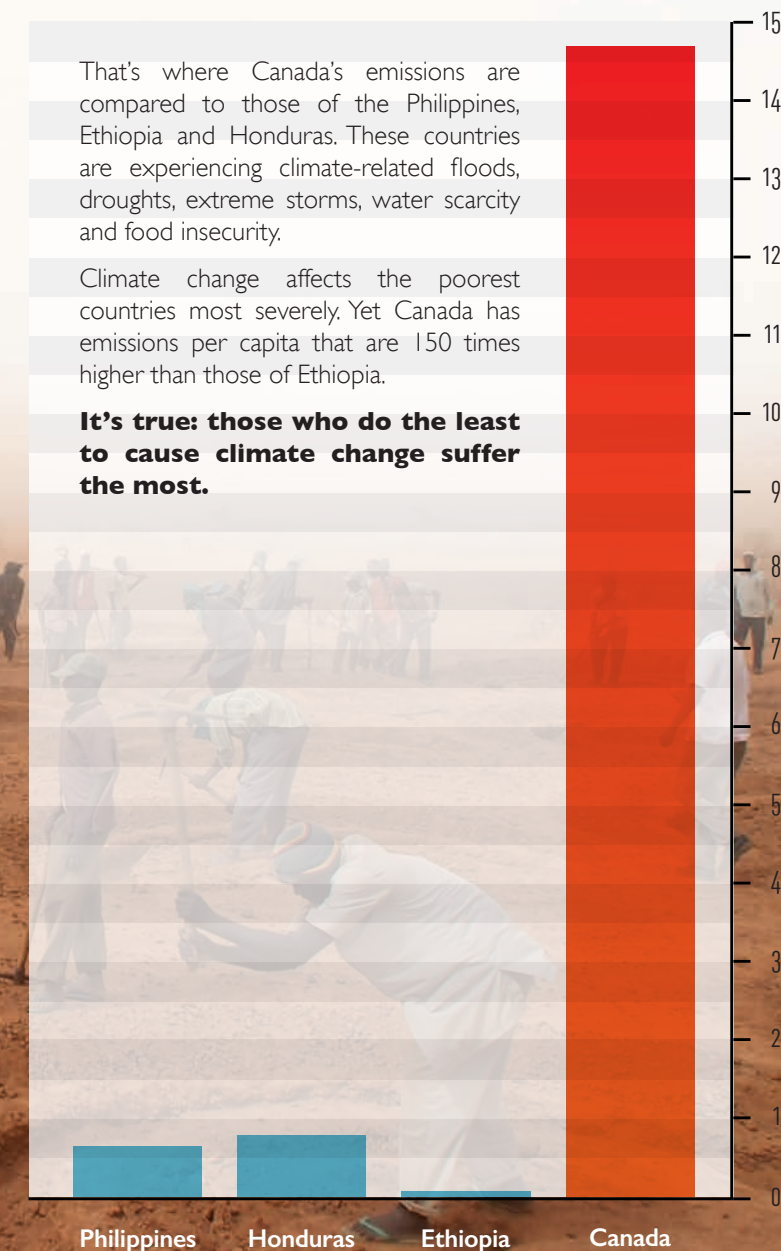
- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (161)

## DO YOU KNOW THE EXPRESSION “OFF THE CHARTS”?

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.**



CO<sub>2</sub> emission per capita (metric tonnes)



# ETHIOPIA



# HONDURAS



# PHILIPPINES

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 catastrophic.

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, boosting crop production. The project has changed everything for Gebre.

**“I did not do much irrigation until I joined the project four years ago,” he explains. “The project constructed canals and I took part in the construction. I received agricultural training, and fruit and elephant grass 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 my fruit trees. I know I can resist drought through irrigation.”**



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 are increasing in frequency. This worries Francisca. She 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.

The combination of extreme weather events and mining projects jeopardizes communities throughout the region. Toxins used in mining can contaminate the water supply. This could affect the region’s farms and eventually even the important ocean fisheries.

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 will be a desert. With gold, we cannot buy a new planet. The speed of destruction of our planet is increasing, and we all live here!”**



More than a year since Super Typhoon Haiyan hit her coastal community in Tacloban City in the Philippines, Caroline Coiati still gets emotional thinking about the day the violent storm landed.

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.

Caroline fled to a warehouse where others were taking shelter. However, they were not completely shielded from the strength of this unprecedented storm, whose winds were reaching more than 300 km/hour. 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. They disappeared and have not been seen since. **“All this destruction was because of the typhoon, it is all because of climate change.”**



Hurricane winds that reached speeds of more than 300 km/h were so strong that storm surges swept huge cargo ships ashore, right beside where people live.

## 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.
- › Temperatures have been rising in the region. The growing season has already been reduced by 15 per cent.
- › Ethiopia’s future depends on other countries reducing their carbon emissions, since Ethiopia’s carbon emissions are among the lowest in the world.

## Did YOU KNOW?

- › Highly vulnerable to tropical hurricanes, Honduras is considered the country most affected by the impacts of extreme weather.
- › Yields of maize, a staple food, are expected to drop by 10 per cent by 2020 due to water shortages.
- › The mine in Francisca’s region consumes 180 litres of water per second. One hour of mining extraction uses the same amount of water one Honduran family would use in 20 years!

## Did YOU KNOW?

- › With more than 7,000 islands, the Philippines is regularly affected by typhoons and coastline erosion.
- › Erratic weather caused by climate change makes agriculture in the Philippines unpredictable.
- › More than half the population lives in poverty.
- › During Super Typhoon Haiyan high winds caused waves to reach heights of up to 5 metres, creating a storm surge. This wiped out entire communities and was a major cause of death.

## CANADA IN THE HOT SEAT

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 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 been doing our part. Recently, the European Union, Mexico, the United States and China have announced ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets, while Canada lags behind.

## ON THE ROAD TO COP21

The Paris climate negotiations (COP21) to be held in December 2015 are 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 this urgent crisis. **It is time for us to take action as individuals, as communities, and as a country, for the survival of people in the Global South, and for the survival of our planet.**

