

## **Notes to go with Youth & Climate Change PowerPoint presentations:**

### **Presentation 1 – What is climate change?**

#### **Slide 1**

Introduction to the topic

#### **Slide 2**

Just like a Greenhouse that creates the right temperature to grow vegetables in, gases in our atmosphere trap the sun's heat – keeping the temperature on Earth just right for us to live. Without these gases the temperature of the Earth would be a very chilly -19°C. These gases are therefore known as greenhouse gases.

These natural gases like carbon dioxide in our atmosphere protect us from too much heat escaping into space and act like an invisible blanket. It keeps the temperature at a range that we can live in.

#### **Slide 3**

Extra gases caused by the burning of fuels trap extra heat – this is known as 'global warming' which causes our climate to change. We have been adding a lot more gases to the skies by burning coal and oil. Small changes in the levels of gases occur everyday.

HINT: At that stage in the presentation you could ask participants to list some of the things that produce gases...

For example: Transport (cars, trucks, trains, boats)

Electricity generation (coal, diesel generators)

Deforestation (cutting down trees releases carbon dioxide that is stored in them)

Agriculture (cows produce methane, fertilisers)

Industry (factories)

#### **Slide 4**

We can see a steep rise in the main greenhouse gases in the past 100 years compared to the past 1000 years. This is because we started to burn lots of fossil fuels around the world. Carbon dioxide comes from things like cars, methane from cows, nitrous oxide from fertilisers used for farming. These are all greenhouse gases.

## **Slide 5**

2005 was the warmest year on record

11 out of last 12 years have been the warmest recorded

Global average temperature has warmed 0.74C this century. This may not seem like much but think of a patient with a fever, a small difference can show that something is very wrong!

Latest projections published in May 09 estimate we are heading for 3.5-7.4C warming this century if we continue with 'business as usual'. Current emissions are higher than those predicted.

Even with emissions reductions in coming years we will still experience some amount of warming because greenhouse gases that have already been emitted stay in the atmosphere for decades.

## **Slide 6**

Warming of the Earth's temperature means more melting of Arctic ice in the Summer. – we can see from these diagrams that the summer ice is getting less over time.

## **Slide 7**

We can see here from the dark blue line that the number of weather related disasters such as those caused by flood, drought and cyclones has doubled in the past 20 years. Disasters like earthquakes, tsunami's and volcanic eruptions that aren't related to climate have remained stable as indicated by the light blue line. The green line shows the number of disease epidemics and insect infestations. These have also increased a little.

## **Slide 8**

Heavier and more rainfall means more floods. Flooding means people lose their homes and the food that is growing. People may also get injured or even drown. After flooding, there can be outbreaks of disease. This is because dirty water gets mixed with the water that people drink and people may get sick from diarrhoea. Also after flooding there may be problems with for example malaria. This is because there may be pools of water that the mosquitoes like to breed in, so there will be more mosquitoes.

## **Slide 9**

People all around the world depend on the weather for food – when it rains our food grows. Some areas are experiencing more severe droughts which reduces the amount of food that can be produced. In some areas where water is in short supply there can be disagreements over who should have access to the water that is available.

When people have less water, they may not wash their hands after going to the toilet and before eating. This can lead to more illness such as diarrhoea.

Also, when people do not have enough food to eat they become weak and more easily sick

### **Slide 10**

Cyclones form over warm water which gives it energy. Warmer waters will mean stronger cyclones.

Colourful coral gets stressed when the water gets too hot for too long and it loses its colour, sometimes permanently. This affects fish people live on and tourism.

### **Slide 11**

Climate change will bring more heatwaves. Old people and people who are already sick may suffer a lot, and even die.

### **Slide 12**

Glaciers are frozen ice, often in the world's mountains. Many of the world's glaciers are melting causing flooding of dams downstream. When the glaciers melt completely there is no water for the people downstream.

### **Slide 13**

Dengue is a disease that is passed by mosquitoes. Dengue gives a high fever and people may die. More mosquitoes mean more dengue! Mosquitoes lay eggs in small pools of water, like these in the picture.

## **Presentation 2 – Youth action on climate change**

### **Slide 1**

### **Slide 2**

Climate change gives us the opportunity to identify actions that could be taken to reduce the impact of disasters before they happen. Examples include clearing rubbish from drains in flood prone areas, making sure loose objects are cleared before the cyclone season, educating people about understanding early warnings, undertaking training in psycho-social support, making sure children know how to swim as a precaution against flooding and promoting wise water use and hygiene in drought prone areas.

When we work on climate change, sometimes what we end up doing won't look any different to the usual work of the Red Cross Red Crescent. But where we do it and why might change. We must also understand climate change and how it is changing our surroundings so we can be one step ahead!

### **Slide 3**

Examples of what you can do:

- Learn more about the effects of climate change in your country

- Raise awareness about climate change
- Volunteer and get vocal to get youth concerns heard
- Get together in a group to discuss climate change and create a project to address its impacts in your community

#### **Slide 4**

The following slides are examples of Red Cross Red Crescent youth action on climate change from around the world.

The actions you and your group take will be determined by:

The challenges your community faces;

The concerns and ideas of your group members;

The skills your group already has and what you have to work with.

#### **Slide 5**

A climate change show as part of awareness raising in a community of Chiquimula, Guatemala. The handheld puppets: Mother Earth, Doctor Climate, Ecologito etc., were originally designed in Colombia. Photo on left: Carlo Ortega

Reducing the impact of disasters before they happen! In 6 communities in Chiquimula, Guatemala, pupils, teachers, parents and Red Cross volunteers planted 7000 trees, donated by the Ministry of Agriculture. These modest reforestation activities are part of a project to improve the understanding of climate change related risks and to reduce the vulnerability of the communities. The trees will help protect against wind, landslides and erosion and also absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

#### **Slide 6**

Samoa Red Cross Youth groups combined climate change awareness into their community based drama – they mixed it with messages about the importance of disaster preparedness and made the drama really funny. They use dance, song and puppets to get messages across.

#### **Slide 7**

Youth from the Colombian Red Cross community project, trying to explain in their own words and action what is Climate Change .

#### **Slide 8**

Outbreaks of diarrhoea occur after flooding as dirty water gets mixed with drinking water. This is a picture a Red Cross volunteer showing how to purify water. Red Cross volunteers can give messages about hygiene and how to purify water through boiling, filtering or treatment.

#### **Slide 9**

The Netherlands Red Cross organized an education campaign on climate change at elementary schools, including quizzes and drawing contests. 45 children in Hazerswoude (The Netherlands) combined the course with direct action on heat wave awareness and visited retirement homes to inform elderly about health risks during heat waves and the do's and don'ts during hot spells. Photo by: Cees Hamburger

### **Slide 10**

In the Americas, the Costa Rica Red Cross has engaged young people in clean up campaigns, and has created a manual to foster environmental awareness and care for precious water resources. Volunteers are also involved in planting trees which both protect communities from landslides and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

### **Slide 11**

Youth volunteers of *Mediterranean* National Societies come together for an annual camp, Atlantis. A 2008 camp workshop focused on climate change and preparing communities by educating people at the grassroots level on how to adapt to its impact. In 2009, the camp will again focus on climate change, teaching young people how to make simple videos.

### **Slide 12**

Pakistan Red Crescent performed a play on World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day that drew attention to climate change.

### **Slide 13**

#### **Interactive game "Mission Possible: Saving the Planet"**

The Spanish Red Cross Youth has produced a CD-ROM with the interactive game for PC "Mission Possible: Saving the Planet", also accessible through the organization's website: [www.cruzrojajuventud.org](http://www.cruzrojajuventud.org)

In the game, a group of ecological superheroes and heroines (the players) fight against the uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions that affect the atmosphere and trigger global warming.

Their mission is to alleviate the consequences this causes on our Planet's health and, therefore, on human health, by showing the Earth's inhabitants how they can help improve this situation through their daily activities.

### **Slide 14**

In the *Solomon Islands*, over 70 youth gathered for a national youth forum on climate change. Participants learnt about the problems and then the skills to deal with them, such as mapping community strengths and weaknesses to identify flood preparedness projects, and interviewing elders to understand changes in seasons. A Red Cross volunteer group also organized a poster competition for high school students and radio programmes in partnership with the national disaster management office.

## **Slide 15**

A team at *British* Red Cross created a disaster masters toolkit that takes its participants through a three-hour role play on the theme of climate change and disasters using a flooding scenario on a small island in Tuvalu. The scenario is an excellent way to raise awareness of the increase in weather-related disasters and the challenges this poses to communities around the world.

Photos taken by Terry Upton

## **Slide 16**

Working with government: Kiribati Red Cross heard from their meteorological office that there was a drought coming. In Kiribati this can result in diarrhoea outbreaks amongst children and water shortages. Kiribati Red Cross teamed up with their Environment and Health Ministries to do a campaign with school children on hand washing and wise water usage.

## **Slide 17**

In a severe Cholera outbreak in *Zimbabwe* in 2008, hundreds of youth volunteers learned about hygiene, sanitation and how to manage sick people and delivered education programmes to reduce the impact of further outbreaks. Cholera spreads in dirty water and during heavy rainfall it will spread more. There will be more heavy rainfall with climate change. Actions like these can be part of the toolkit to address a worsening climate.

## **Slide 18**

Are a great way to get school children, and their parents to learn about topics such as climate change and to link it in with messages about disaster preparedness such as the need to use water wisely in dry times and the need to clean up loose debris before the cyclone season

## **Slide 19**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May this year (2009) the Cyclone AILA hit India and Bangladesh.

In India, Red Cross youth volunteers were involved in

- Giving out early warning messages to the communities
- Search and rescue efforts
- Distribution of bleaching powder and halogen tablets
- Distribution of medicines

## **Slide 20**

In *Australia*, youth voices reached Red Cross board level. A group of youth volunteers from Adelaide developed a climate change framework that led to the development of a national climate change strategy and policy. The recent edition of the Australian Red Cross youth e-magazine focuses on the humanitarian impacts of climate change and how people are adapting.

### **Slide 21**

In *Malawi*, 15 high school students from Lilongwe became Red Cross volunteers and made a film with the assistance of a film student. The film explained the climate change problem and steps people can take to adapt to a changing climate, such as tree planting to protect waterways from flood erosion. The students interviewed people in both rural and urban areas to compare their situations, and got local experts to talk about climate change.

### **Slide 22**

In *Indonesia*, International Youth Day 2008 was used to promote the global theme 'Youth and climate change: a time for action'. Red Cross youth members encouraged school children to perform drama, poetry, song and music that promoted risk reduction measures in the face of a changing climate. Messages have included advice on destroying mosquito breeding sites and clearing drains of rubbish to reduce the impact of flooding.

### **Slide 23**

These steps have been inspired by the Alliance of Youth CEO's 'Climate Change – Take Action Now' Guide to be published in 2009. See the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre's youth and climate change booklet for more information on the steps.