

# **THE CURRENT EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**



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The impact of climate change we are noticing the most right now is extreme weather, meaning an increase in the frequency of severe droughts and floods.

Women and children are affected disproportionately by extreme events.

- Women and children are 14 times more likely to die during natural disasters. [http://www.wedo.org/category/learn/...](http://www.wedo.org/category/learn/)
- In India, women born during an extreme event in the 1970's were 19% less likely to attend primary school.

<http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article27988>

***The concept of climate justice implies that not everybody will be affected by climate change in the same way. Some do more in causing climate change and some lose more from it.***



# FAO REAL FOOD PRICE INDEX:

Base 2002 2004=100 [http://www.google.co.za/search?hl=en-ZA&source=hp&q=fao+food+price+index+real&gbv=2&rlz=1W1ACAW\\_en&oq=fao+food+p%5Bprice+index+&gs\\_l=heirloom-hp.1.6.0i13l6j0i13i30j0i22i30i3.1610.7406.0.14125.22.12.0.0.0.0.609.2547.3-2j3i1.6.0...0.0...1ac.1.0GdqaHH1src](http://www.google.co.za/search?hl=en-ZA&source=hp&q=fao+food+price+index+real&gbv=2&rlz=1W1ACAW_en&oq=fao+food+p%5Bprice+index+&gs_l=heirloom-hp.1.6.0i13l6j0i13i30j0i22i30i3.1610.7406.0.14125.22.12.0.0.0.0.609.2547.3-2j3i1.6.0...0.0...1ac.1.0GdqaHH1src)

|                | Composite | Cereals |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| July, 2011     | 156.5     | 167.2   |
| July, 2012     | 142.3     | 173.9   |
| February, 2013 | 139.6     | 162.9   |

## CEREAL YIELD FORECASTS, 2050 (1.5 C)

Agriculture, Climate Change, and a Roadmap to Get There Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia,, 2012.

Base: 2000 Stabinsky, Deborah and Lim Li Ching [Ecological](#)

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Maize and sorghum | -18-32 %    |
| Rice              | -14.3 %     |
| Wheat             | -43.7-48.8% |



Women in Asia produce 80 % of the continent's food, and in Africa 60 %. FAO Women and Population Division **Women And Sustainable Food Security** <http://www.fao.org/sd/fsdirect/fbdirect/FSP001.htm>

The world over, women continue to predominate in the social role of processors and distributors of food.

Women small scale farmers from our rural areas had a very detailed knowledge of the effects of climate change, although these workshops were the first time they were introduced to the concept. They could tell us that the rains came late, that this disturbed the planting routines of centuries, and when the marula tree was ready to harvest they could not because they were still busy nursing young corn plants.

They told us of certain plants which did not fruit because by the time they flowered the pollinator had already swarmed. They told us of new diseases reducing harvests, that were coming about because of the increased heat, or because of the water stresses plants were undergoing (either too much, too little or at the wrong time).



# Intergenerational justice

**It has been shown that the response to rising food prices is first, to attempt to replace money with labour, and second, a cut in portion size. Rates of child malnutrition rise as food prices rise, leading to the transgenerational transfer of poverty.** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) *Soaring Food Prices and the Rural Poor*, 26 April, 2008, pp. 4 of 7. Available at <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/KKAA-7E47E5?OpenDocument>

**We are emitting the carbon today. While I have detailed the effects we are feeling now, the full burden will be felt in the next generation, by the children who will not have benefited from the things the carbon emissions were used to produce.**

**It would be good to:**

- increase understanding of the impacts of climate change beyond changes in biodiversity: what are the human impacts behind the science?**
- Improve the ability of the next generation to adapt to their new reality. If we cannot leave the earth in better shape than we found it, we can at least help the next generation deal with what is coming, while we take all possible steps to minimize the damage.**



**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A  
BAND AID**



**IF WE CEASE ALL CARBON EMISSIONS TOMORROW, WE MAY STILL NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT 2 C. BUT WE ARE NOT CEASING TO EMIT.**

**IF WE CUT OUR CARBON EMISSIONS WE WOULD HAVE FEWER CRISES WITH WHICH TO COPE.**

**THERE ARE LIMITS TO ADAPTATION – THERE IS NO SAYING WHETHER OUR SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS WILL BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED PRESSURES ON THE SYSTEM.**