

The Winds of Change in Malawi

The Human Impact and Adaptations to Climate Change

Teachers' Guide

Oxfam has written a report about the impact of climate change for the people of Malawi, called “The Winds of Change”. The activities in this resource are based upon the findings of this report. Pupils will therefore explore the impacts of climate change on people and their communities in Malawi, and the response of these communities, NGO groups and the government to find ways to limit the effect of this crisis (*adaptation strategies*).

Pupils will learn about how the climate in Malawi is being impacted by climate change, and details a number of ways in which this is having direct and indirect impacts on individuals and their communities. This links to the idea of sustainable livelihoods, and the ways in which farmers in Malawi are currently highly vulnerable to shifts in the climate through direct and indirect mechanisms. Pupils will also explore the range of responses, and the role of support through government and NGOs. Finally, pupils will explore the links between complex wider development processes, and their relationship with climate change, which together mean that adaptation strategies must incorporate a holistic developmental approach to strengthening the diversity of livelihoods for rural people in Malawi, and reduce their vulnerability.

Objectives

- Understand the uncertainty which climate change brings to weather patterns, and know ways in which instability has been brought to the Malawian climate
- Know what the range of impacts climate change has had for individuals and communities in Malawi
- Develop empathy with the lives of people in other countries through understanding their experiences of climate change
- Know what adaptation strategies people have used to cope with climate change in different parts of Malawi, and understand how support is required to achieve successful adaptation
- Know what ‘development’ means for society, and the type of factors which affect positive and negative development cycles
- Understand how climate change has increased the vulnerability of rural people in Malawi as part of wider development processes
- Understand that adaptation requires a holistic approach to development and climate change

- Develop a sense of moral injustice related to the issue of climate change, and a responsibility to take action as a global citizen

-

Outcomes

- Summarise the ways in which the climate has changed in Malawi through analysing human stories, and the positive and negative impacts of this
- Identify a range of ways in which climate change has impacted on people, and differentiate between direct and indirect ways this has happened
- Examine the adaptations which have taken place within Malawi, and identify areas which have required support to achieve them locally, nationally and globally
- Be able to define what is meant by development, and identify the most important factors which increase the vulnerability of rural people in Malawi
- Identify development factors which are affected by climate change
- Determine the most important strategies to assist development within Malawi, and make suggestions about how this may be better achieved
- Age Range

The activities and resources here are designed for use at Key Stage 4, although some support may be required in literacy support (such as assistance with keywords) for weaker students.

The resources could be adapted for use at Key Stage 3, with more time spent on disseminating.

Suggested structure

One way to use the resources is as an ICT based lesson where learners explore the impacts and adaptation strategies independently, with summary activities to complete once the resources have been covered.

Pupils could work through both impacts and adaptations sequentially (*linear approach*) or the class can be divided and half look at impacts, and the other half adaptations (*cross-group approach*). The latter would promote synthesis, analysis and discussion, and is recommended.

If ICT is not available, resources may also be printed out and used in a classroom setting for learners to explore independently (perhaps placed around the room as number of 'stations' on different issues, which groups of pupils rotate around to explore). Similarly, teachers may use the resources flexibly, asking different groups of pupils to look at different aspects and feed back (for example through making presentations) after accessing the resources on each area.

Each of the linked resources contain a brief teachers notes at the beginning, on how it is advised to use the resource, and what learning it is designed to cover. It is advised to **read these** before planning how to use the resources.

Time

The resources are designed to be used sequentially, to cover a series of lessons, and it is envisaged that the activities will take approximately 4 lessons to complete. However activities may be adapted and modified to suit the nature of the group concerned and the time available. Some activities may be condensed or left out dependant upon specific objectives and time.

List of Resources

Starter: 20mins

Starter activity for pupils to introduce the ideas involved in the resources

Background and Introduction: 30-45mins

Introduction to Malawi, it's climate and people, and activities for pupils

Video - Drought in Malawi : 15mins

To go with the Introduction activities – pupils watch the impact of drought in recent years

The Climate Change Compass: 30-40mins

Resource for pupils to understand how the climate is changing in Malawi

The Human Impacts of Climate Change: 1 hour approx

Resources for pupils to explore and summarise the human impacts of climate change on people in Malawi

The Adaptations to Climate Change: 1 hour approx

Resources for pupils to explore and summarise the how communities are adapting to climate change in Malawi, and the support needed

Development and Climate Change: 1 hour approx

Activities for pupils to explore the role of climate change in development, and how support is required.