



Teachers' guide to Act resources

These *Act* resources enable pupils to reflect on how Oxfam and local communities have acted to overcome water vulnerability.

Pupils then consider which kinds of action they might carry out themselves to help make a difference to water-vulnerable communities. If you have not already done so, you might like to refer to the *Liberia case study* in the *Think* resources to find out more about this year's Water Week project.

Age range: 7-14 years

Time: 50-60 mins

- What's happened in Niger? 15-20 mins
- Class water vulnerability chain: 25-30 mins (optional)
- Time for action! 35-40 mins

Learning Objectives

- Understand the role of water-vulnerable communities and Oxfam in overcoming water problems
- Find out about the impact of previous Water Week action in Mali and Niger
- Think creatively and discuss ideas for taking action
- Set objectives, plan and organise tasks
- Carry out action and evaluate it.

Key questions

- Who does most to overcome water vulnerability?
- Why is Oxfam's action like a catalyst?
- What has Oxfam been able to do as a result of funds raised in previous Water Weeks?
- What might we do to campaign or fundraise this year?

Resources (note that photocopiable sheets are at the end of this pdf)

- *Act* slideshow*
- *Act* film clips
- Five sports mats or hoops and some space
- *Water vulnerability in Niger* table
- *Niger country information* (see *Learn* resources)
- *Pupil action ideas* sheet (separate pdf)
- *Pupil action plan* sheet (separate pdf)
- *Pupil action evaluation* sheet (separate pdf)
- *Campaigning and Fundraising information* (separate pdfs)



*Note that new information will appear on most slides when you click. The blue circle on the bottom right-hand corner indicates the slide is complete.

Activity 1: What's happened in Niger? (15-20 mins)

Watch slides 1-10 of the Act slideshow

These slides explain the role of water-vulnerable communities and charities like Oxfam in overcoming water vulnerability.



Watch the two Niger film clips

These film clips show pupils the positive effects of previous Water Week action in Niger. If you have limited time, you can just show the Niger 2013 clip.

Activity 2: Class water vulnerability chain (optional activity - 25-30 mins)

1. Show pupils slide 3 of the *Act* slideshow again and explain they are going to make a class water vulnerability chain to help them understand the model more fully.
2. Divide the class into 5 groups and:
 - Causes
 - Symptoms
 - Action by water-vulnerable communities
 - Action by Oxfam
 - Impacts
3. Ask each group to identify what happened in Niger for their part of the water vulnerability chain. You might like to refer to the *Water vulnerability in Niger table* (below) for sample answers and to the *Niger country information* in the *Learn* resources.
4. Arrange the five mats or hoops in a line. Sit each group on a separate mat or hoop. Ask a representative of the first two groups to stand up and say what was happening in Niger.
5. The class will now be expecting a representative from the water-vulnerable community group to stand up, but explain that poverty prevents them from taking action. Ask pupils why this might be.
6. Now ask a representative from the Oxfam group to state their actions. Explain that Oxfam's action is like a catalyst, in that it makes something happen faster, more easily and more effectively. Show pupils slide 4 from the *Act* slideshow again. You might like to link this to some science experiments. Alternatively, use the analogy of providing a bicycle for someone who usually walks 5 miles to work. Note that the person on the bicycle is still doing the work, but that it is made easier by the bicycle.
7. Now allow the water-vulnerable community group representative to stand up and give their examples of action.
8. Ask the impacts group representative to state the impact of this work in overcoming water vulnerability on the community.
9. Finally, ask pupils to say who they think did most of the work to solve the water problem in Niger (answer: the water-vulnerable community itself).

If time, ask pupils to repeat the process for what is planned for Oxfam's water project in Liberia. This will help pupils understand where their Water Week action fits into making a difference to water vulnerability.



Differentiation

Make it easier: provide the *Water vulnerability in Niger* table for pupils to use.

Make it harder: ask pupils to make their own water vulnerability chain for Oxfam's action to build water pumps and latrines at schools in Niger.

Activity 3: Time for action! (35-40 mins)

Watch slides 11-13 of the Act slideshow

These slides show pupils ways of taking their own Water Week action, using examples of action taken by schools in previous Water Weeks.

1. Follow the instructions on the *Pupil action ideas* sheet and then ask groups of pupils to fill out their own *Pupil action plan* sheet.
2. Pupils will now need to carry out whatever ideas they have. Guidance and ideas for this are provided in the *Campaigning guide and poster* and *Fundraising guide and poster*.
3. Pupils will need your help and support to plan and carry out their Water Week actions, for example with liaising with the head teacher, visitors and newspapers.

Next steps

After the event, ask pupils to review their action by filling in their *Pupil action evaluation* sheets.

Return any funds raised or any 'Water can change lives' watering cans to Oxfam. If you are also able to email photographs and details of your Water Week activities to waterweek@oxfam.org.uk your school could feature on the Oxfam Education website. Please confirm parents' permission has been provided for us to use images of under-18s.

Glossary for Act film clips

This glossary contains a list of words and phrases used during the film clips. Definitions apply to the context in which the words are used.

Infrastructure and Water Vulnerability: Niger

- *irrigation*: digging channels and ditches to keep fields supplied with water
- *drought*: a severe lack of rainfall over a long period of time
- *climate change*: changes in the Earth's temperature and weather patterns over a long period of time



Water vulnerability in Niger

Cause of water vulnerability	Symptoms of water vulnerability	Action by Oxfam	Actions by water vulnerable communities	Impacts
Climate change	Not enough water to grow food	Campaign to ask governments in richer countries to reduce their carbon emissions	Participate in community meetings and attend training	People are able to grow more food
Poverty	People do not have enough food to eat a nutritious diet	Campaign to ask governments to help provide water infrastructure such as irrigation systems	Build and maintain irrigation systems	Farmers, their families and the local community are better nourished
Drought	People do not have excess crops to sell and make extra money to pay for schooling or to buy clothes and medicine	Raise money to pay for improved irrigation, training, tools and high-yield rice seeds	Plant crops, weed and water crops using new irrigation system.	Farmers and their families are able to grow enough food to have extra to sell and make money
			Share information about new irrigation and farming practices with others	Money raised can be used to pay for school fees, materials and uniform and to buy clothes and medicines