



Facing the climate crisis around the world

A Guest Blog by Scotland's International Development Alliance, July 2021

The historic arrival of the UN climate negotiations to Glasgow in November 2021 is an opportunity to raise awareness in Scotland and beyond of how climate crises are affecting people across the world. That's why as part of the runup to COP26, Scotland's International Development Alliance is hosting an innovative digital exhibition, [Facing the Crisis](#), sharing personal stories, highlighting challenges and celebrating responses to the climate crisis in communities at the sharp end of the climate crisis.

What is Facing the Crisis all about?

Every year, the Alliance runs a photo and film competition. This year, with the most important climate talks since the Paris Agreement coming up in Glasgow, we focus on the human impacts of the climate crisis.

Choosing images based on the strength of their stories, the quality of the photography, and the degree to which the photographer has approached the subject thoughtfully, sympathetically and ethically, we've collated a collection of fantastic images from around the world, showing how the climate crisis has changed people's lives and the changes they've made to meet it.

Among those suffering most from the climate crisis, we've seen some hugely moving experiences of loss and hope, and the phenomenal innovations and adaptations with which communities are meeting seemingly insurmountable challenges. We wanted to share these stories and help audiences in Scotland and beyond understand the human experiences behind the apocalyptic headlines.

Why is it important to meet the people most affected by the climate crisis?

The changing climates and its wider effects have had a massive impact on many, many people's lives for decades; from drought and flooding to disease and loss of livelihood, the challenges of the climate crisis require constant resilience and adaptation, and frequently cost people their stability, homes and even lives.

It is almost always the poorest communities with the lowest carbon footprint around the world who are most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of changing weather patterns, floods, droughts and storms. For these poorer communities, there is very little safety net when crops fail or homes are destroyed.

As Facing the Crisis shows, communities at the sharp end of the climate crisis are fighting to survive a situation that is not of their making, through resilience and adaptation and through working to mitigate the causes of the issue. But the responsibility can't fall on them alone.

Richer countries like Scotland, which are major (per capita) contributors to global climate change, must take responsibility both for reducing our outside emissions contributions, and for providing support and resources to help those most affected to build resilience and adaptability to survive the crisis.

If rich countries are willing to step up their game and commit to meaningful change, being led by the needs of communities at the sharp end of the crisis, then COP26 in Glasgow could be a tipping point. However, right now, rich countries' actions are wholly inadequate to compensate for the amount we continue to contribute to global emissions. Urgent action is needed to provide funding and resources to affected communities, allowing them to adapt and even thrive in the crisis we created.

How can you get involved?

Facing the Crisis is now open at www.facingthecrisis.scot. In this custom digital exhibition space, you can view and share images from 13 countries across 3 continents, and find information and ideas for engaging with the campaign for climate justice and global responsibility.