

1. Before you read the text, look at the title and briefly discuss what you think the text will be about.
2. While you read the text, underline any information that might help you in your poster. Remember, the poster is designed to encourage people to act. Each text has one example of this kind already underlined.
3. After you have read the text, discuss and agree a list of key pieces of information to use in the poster.

Climate change and water

The two hottest years in history so far were 2016 and 2020. Fossil-fuel use across the world is creating climate change, which has a large and damaging influence on many aspects of the life of our planet. And one of these damaging influences is on water. Specifically, the extreme weather patterns caused by climate change mean that global communities increasingly have too little or too much water. Too little and too much water both have disastrous results. Ninety per cent of the natural disasters we have in the world are connected to water.

Too much water

Excessive heat and moisture in the atmosphere leads to heavy rainfall and storms. In many countries, this excessive water is causing floods that are getting both bigger and more frequent. These floods are seen in countries as diverse as Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Germany and Malawi. Low-income countries tend to have less resilient infrastructures to deal with the flooding, and so people suffer more. In particular, farmland is flooded and crops are destroyed, leading to risks of starvation and financial problems. In addition, fresh water is contaminated and toilets destroyed, and this can lead to diseases.

Too little water

The problem of too little water can be equally catastrophic. Clean water is a basic requirement for drinking, and reduced and unpredictable rainfall can mean some communities lose their local water supply and need to travel large distances to collect water. All this impacts the female population especially, as they usually collect this water. A water shortage also means basic hygiene and sanitation such as handwashing and clean toilets may be difficult to find, and this will result in more deaths from diseases.

As temperatures rise and there is less rain, agricultural communities need more water to grow their crops, leading to less water for drinking and hygiene and the risk of food shortages. The stability of communities is also at risk from regional conflicts about water shortages.

Lakes and the sea

Climate change means that lakes will become warmer, and this can kill fish, which in turn means that fishing communities will suffer. Sea levels are also rising due to climate change, and in low-income countries, this can result in seaside towns and villages being damaged or even completely destroyed.

From the above, it is clear that there is a strong connection between climate change and both too much and too little water. Both of these issues can result in catastrophes for communities around the world.

