

The Weight of Water – The Human Cost of the Climate Crisis - What's Next

To learn more about the film, visit: www.humancostofclimatecrisis.com/

Global Effects of Climate Change

While the majority of the world's carbon emissions come from a handful of wealthy countries, the adverse effects they have on the environment do not discriminate. In fact, climate change disproportionately impacts nations and people that have limited responsibility for the issue. In addition, compounding social issues that make populations in these countries vulnerable make them even more susceptible to having their lives negatively impacted by climate change.

- **Flooding:** Climate change has caused irregular severe flooding in many areas, which leads to many issues such as destruction of infrastructure, disruption of agriculture, and impassable roadways.
- **Drought:** Prolonged drought has put a significant strain on water resources which has several cumulative negative impacts, especially in regions without running water. Similar to flooding, this also has a big impact on farming, which supports the livelihoods of people across the globe.
- **Compounding Social Effects:** These climate issues have a bigger, more tangible impact on countries in the global south compared to those in the global north because of compounding social factors. Widespread poverty, lack of government services, reliance on subsistence agriculture, gendered social disparities, and lack of quality healthcare are just a few of many factors that make these regions and the vulnerable communities within them bear the burden of climate change more than the countries causing it.

What You Can Do

The Weight of Water – The Human Cost of the Climate Crisis is inspiring in its depiction of our shared human experience to explain the effects of climate change. The good news is you can use this inspiration to go out and make progress towards a more sustainable and equitable world! Here's how:

- **Support Marginalized Groups Within Your Own Community:** You don't need to travel across the globe to find people that are disproportionately affected by climate change. Low-income families and people of color within the US also face many compounding social effects that make them more susceptible to environmental issues. You can help by educating yourself, understanding inherent privilege, and contributing to worthy causes. Walking Mountains and Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement are working hard on inclusive sustainability action including offering bilingual resources and events, community building, and equitable outdoor access.
- **Reduce Your Emissions:** Reducing your personal carbon emissions may seem like a daunting task, but you can take easy steps towards this goal like opting for alternative modes of transportation, using reusable products, and eating local foods. The impacts we have locally have global impacts.
- **Advocate for Environmental Justice:** There are many organizations around the State of Colorado and across the country whose mission is to reduce human inequities from the impacts of climate change, that you can get involved with. Use the Civic Engagement toolkit to contact your elected representatives and advocate for justice-oriented climate policy.