

**TRANSCRIPT OF ADDRESS TO UN CLIMATE SUMMIT, SEPTEMBER 2009
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Everywhere I go across the world for Oxfam, from Afghanistan, to Malawi to Nicaragua, poor farmers there say to me: 'The seasons have changed'. The rains don't come when they're expected, they plant their seeds and then the seeds get washed away, or perhaps the rains don't come at all. Many of those people don't know that what's happening to them is climate change, but they do know they're having to really try and cope with all this uncertainty.

Climate change is already affecting poor people, first and worst.

That's true about extreme weather events too. In the last twenty years the number of extreme weather events has increased several-fold, just as climate scientists predicted. And it's poor people who are suffering. Their houses are being swept away, as flood-waters come in from the sea their lands get salinated, and their drinking water too. And in all of this its often women who are really bearing the brunt of it, whether its because they have to walk much much further to get water, or because it's them who have to try and hold the family together when their house is destroyed and they're displaced.

Whatever our leaders decide in Copenhagen, we know that poor people are going to bear this for the next decades, but, if leaders don't take the right decisions, this could be much, much worse. This is the time now when we have to make a choice. A choice about our planet, a choice about our future. That choice will be made on December 18th in Copenhagen.

What we want our world leaders to do there is to commit to reducing carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2020. And it will have to be further reduced beyond that if the world is not to increase in temperature by more than 2 degrees centigrade. And that 2 degrees centigrade is only just enough to keep us safe.

But the deal not only has to be safe, it has to be fair for the poorest people. We estimate that we need \$150 billion a year to cover adaptation for climate change, but also so that the poorest countries can continue to have economic growth - a low carbon growth, with new technologies and the funds available to them to deliver that.

Oxfam is part of the Tck Tck Tck Campaign, for a fair, ambitious and binding deal in Copenhagen.

Already a million people have signed up to the campaign, and many more will have taken part in the global day of action yesterday, just before this summit. All of us are ordinary people, who are calling on our leaders to take bold decisions in Copenhagen, showing that we recognise the issues, but are also prepared to make changes in our own lives.

We're looking to you, our elected leaders, to take those bold decisions. You cannot let us down.