How Climate Change impacts Hunger and Poverty

- Climate change will negatively impact the food supply, water, and other resources, and lead to increased food prices, all of which will increase the likelihood of social unrest and conflicts, especially in developing countries.
- Marginalized and poor populations are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to inequalities in socio-economic status, income and exposure risks.

How Organic Agriculture and Agroecology impacts Climate Change

- Organic and agroecological farms do not use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, resulting in 50% less fossil fuel energy usage and 30% greater biodiversity than that of industrial farms.
- For every two acres of organic farmland, 14,000 pounds of carbon dioxide can be removed from the air and absorbed into the soil each year, which is equivalent to removing one car from the road.

False Solutions to Climate Change

- Biofuels result in greater GHG emissions than fossil fuels when considering the deforestation and land-use change necessary for its industrial production. Biofuels are also a major driver of global land grabs and pose a threat to global food security as its production displaces food production for fuel.

How Climate Change impacts Food System

- Elevated carbon dioxide levels and warmer temperatures will compromise the nutritional content of food.
- In 2050, 4-7% of children will be underweight due to inadequate caloric intake.

Take Action

1. Eat organic food.
2. Eat food that is grown close to where you live.
3. Do not waste food.
4. Grow some of your own food.
5. Support your denomination’s hunger programs.
7. Learn about Food Week of Action and more at pcusa.org/hunger
8. Attend a PHP webinar or reflection-action trip at pcusa.org/hunger
9. Incorporate food and climate concerns in an Earth Day Sunday worship: pcusa.org/earthday

The PC(USA) Response

The Presbyterian Church (USA) encourages Presbyterians to take “carbon neutral” steps while simultaneously calling for a just “climate solutions” which would mitigate the worst impacts of increased food prices for people living in poverty, and provide ample adaptation support for the poorest and most affected communities around the globe.

PHP Empowers Resilient Communities

PHP is working in many countries around the world with small farmers and local organizations to address environmental degradation, land grabbing, economic dislocation, food insecurity and other factors that contribute to the vulnerability of communities in the face of the worsening impacts of climate change. Together we are learning different methods to protect the environment and natural resources, addressing climate change, and advocating for people-centered solutions and alternatives which contribute to ensuring food sovereignty and resilience.

Joining Hands Addresses Systemic Causes

The Joining Hands (JH) Initiative of PHP analyzes how free trade agreements, the extractive industries, land grabs, and the corporatization of seeds are increasing poverty and hunger while also contributing to climate change. JH mobilizes people in focused campaigns to tackle these systemic issues both in the United States and abroad as a witness to the wholeness of God’s creation. pcusa.org/joininghands

Sources: ActionAid, Center for Food Safety, EAT, GFAN, IFPRI, IPCC, Rodale Institute, World Food Programme and World Watch