

PRIMARY LESSON Basic Needs Lesson 2: Basic Needs and the climate crisis

We all have basic human needs, such as food, water, shelter and medicine. How does the climate crisis affect the ability of farmers in the Global South to meet their basic needs?

In this lesson, students will learn why decent incomes for cocoa farmers are essential for farmers to cope with the challenges that the climate crisis brings.

Learning Objectives:

I can describe some of the effects of the climate crisis

I can consider how the effects of the climate crisis impact the basic needs of farmers overseas

I understand that higher incomes for farmers are essential for them to be able to cope with the effects of the climate crisis

You have been learning about the basic needs of all humans. There is a global challenge that is putting the basic needs of cocoa farmers like Thérèse at risk. It is called the climate crisis.

Read the following and think about how it might impact the basic needs of farmers e.g. healthy food, clean water, shelter, clothes, education, medicine



What do you know about the climate Crisis?

Did you know that the Earth is about 1-degree C warmer than it was 100 years ago? This doesn't sound like much, but the planet's delicate systems are greatly affected by this, and it can bring extreme and unpredictable weather. The temperature of the world is continuing to rise. Some countries are affected by the climate crisis more than others. Farmers and workers in countries in the Global South are badly affected by the climate crisis right now. Let's look at some of the challenges that cocoa farmers are having to deal with as a result of the climate crisis...



Drought

The climate crisis causes droughts. Droughts happen when hot weather lasts for weeks at a time and there is no rain. This is a big problem for farmers who depend on the crops they produce. Crops need water to grow. Without water, the crops will die. Drought means that cocoa farmers aren't able to grow as much cocoa. How might this affect farmer's basic needs?



Flooding

The climate crisis causes flooding. Floods are caused by heavy rainfall. Areas near the sea are also at risk of rising sea levels. The sea levels are rising because the ice caps on land are melting as the world gets hotter. Flooding can be very dangerous, and can ruin people's homes and land. For cocoa farmers, flooding can destroy their cocoa crops. How might this affect farmer's basic needs?

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding two cocoa pods. The person is wearing a red garment. The pod in the left hand is dark, almost black, with some white mold-like growth, indicating it is affected by black pod disease. The pod in the right hand is lighter, more yellowish-brown, and appears healthier. In the background, there are green leaves and a basket containing yellow cocoa pods.

Plant disease

The climate crisis means that plant diseases are becoming more common. A healthy cocoa pod is yellow or red, but black pod disease turns the cocoa pod black or brown. It is a very infectious plant disease and direct contact of a black pod with healthy pods will cause the disease to spread. Black Pod disease is killing 1 in 10 cocoa trees around the world. How might this affect farmer's basic needs?

A photograph of a dark, stormy sky. The sky is filled with heavy, dark grey and black clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or extreme weather conditions.

Extreme weather

The climate crisis causes a change in weather patterns. For cocoa farmers, this means that there is very heavy rainfall at unpredictable times. This has a big impact on cocoa growing and can damage their crops. How might this affect farmer's basic needs?

Rising temperatures



The climate crisis means that the world's temperature will continue to rise. Rising temperatures will cause hot, dry weather and water shortages. Rising temperatures can lead to droughts and/or flooding. Can you remember what impact droughts and floods have on cocoa farms? How might this affect farmer's basic needs?

Loss of biodiversity

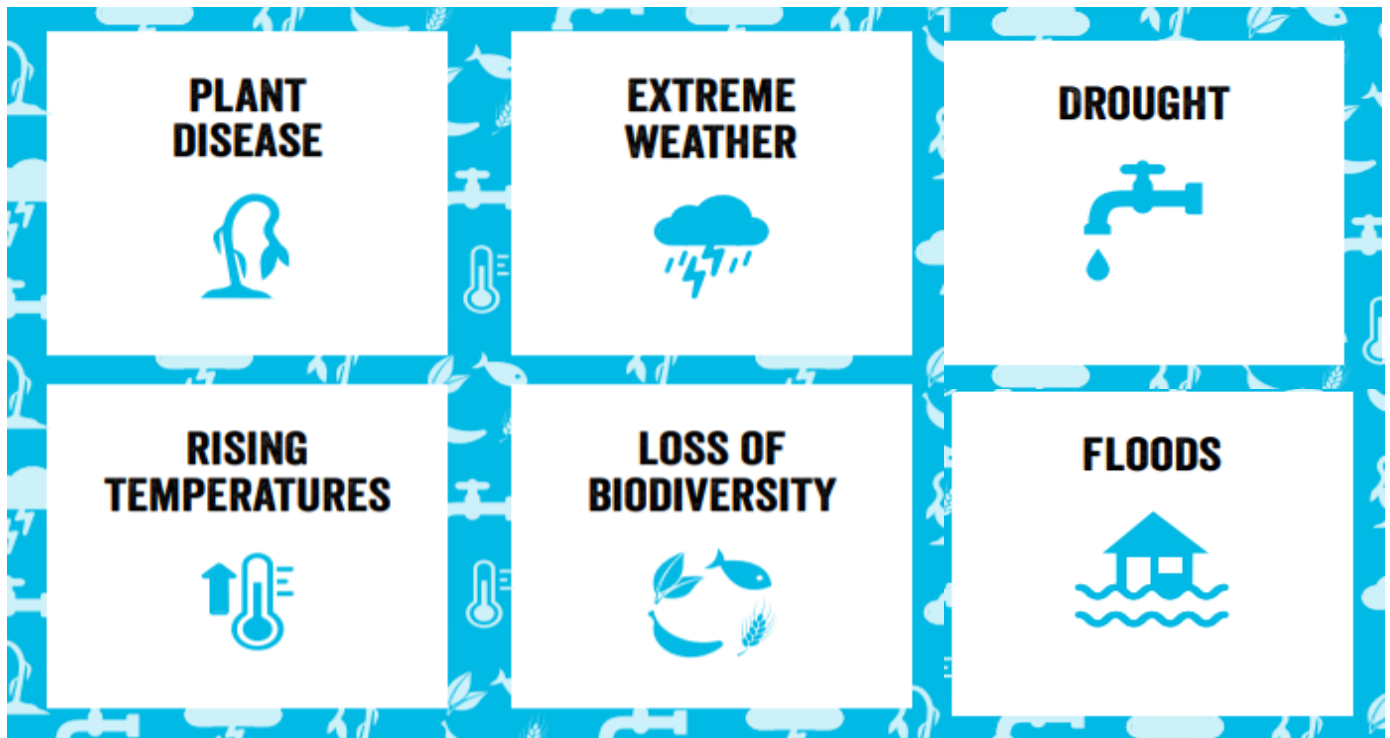


The climate crisis causes the loss of biodiversity. Biodiversity is a word that describes the variety of living things on earth, such as plants and animals. Rising global temperatures are causing the habitats of wildlife to change and put animals and plants at risk of extinction. Less biodiversity means that diseases become more common and it is more difficult to eat a nutritious diet. How might this affect farmer's basic needs? Fairtrade cocoa farmers, such as the Ngoleagorbu Cocoa Farmers, are adapting the way that they farm to protect the animals and plants around them

MAIN ACTIVITY Part 2: Crisis on my Cocoa Farm

This activity will help us to consider how the effects of the climate crisis might impact on the basic needs of farmers.

You are now in charge of your own cocoa farm. Your farm is about to be struck by a one of the climate crisis challenges they have learnt about. One of these:



Choose one challenge card at a time and answer the following questions on paper:

What is your challenge?

How will this challenge affect your farm?

Will this challenge affect your basic needs?

Millions of farmers are feeling the effects of the climate crisis right now. Remind the students that the average income of a cocoa farmer is 74p per day and for women it is even less at 23p per day. Farmers barely have enough money to meet their basic needs, let alone withstand the shocks of the climate crisis. Farmers need higher incomes if they are going to survive the climate crisis. Choosing Fairtrade is a way that we can ensure that farmers receive higher incomes.