Vocational Education and Training for Accelerated Promotion of Employment (VETAPE)

CISP started VETAPE project in 2009, targeting about 3,000 Somali youth in Galgaduud, South Mudug and Hiraan. Different training options are offered within the VETAPE project, including: carpentry, masonry, cloth making and embroidery, electrical, mechanics, nursing, tele-communication, plumbing, computer applications and secretarial skills.

CISP supporting Connect4Climate in Somalia

The International Committee for the Development of People (CISP) joined the World Bank’s effort in support of the Connect4Climate initiative, to raise awareness about climate change in Somalia.

Somalia is facing the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world today. The failure of two consecutive raining seasons caused an increase in livestock asset loss and crop failure. The impact on the food security situation has been dramatic, with famine rapidly spreading across the Southern and Central parts of the country. Conflict, extreme poverty, protracted violence and the lack of a viable governance structure have afflicted the Somali people and drained all their resources. But another important factor must be taken into account: the impact of climate change on agriculture and livestock, which exacerbates existing problems and aggravates the Somalia’s crises.

Acknowledging the importance of climate change and having the conviction that youth can play a great role for the future of the Somali society, CISP participated enthusiastically in the Connect4Climate initiative. CISP involved 340 students (including 119 women) between 13 and 30 years of age who enrolled in CISP’s vocational training programmes (VETAPE) in Dhusamareeb, Cadaado and Galkayo, in Central Somalia.

The trainees were invited to participate in small group meetings after school where they were informed about the “Connect4Climate” competition, inviting African youth to tell how climate change affects their lives, through photos and short videos.

Since most of the trainees had little or no knowledge on the subject, CISP provided them with introductory information on climate change and its effects on agriculture, energy, forests, gender, health and water. The youth were then invited to discuss about how climate change affects them, their communities and the environment around them.

Students discussing about climate change during a Connect4Climate meeting in Guriceel (Central Somalia)
Cadaado youth worried about deforestation in Somalia

120 youth (including 55 women) participated in the meetings held in Cadaado, during which the Connect4Climate competition was presented and climate change issues were discussed. Duran Mohamed Hussein, CISP’s project assistant in Cadaado, explained: “Most of the trainees had only a vague idea of what climate change is. Some of them were eager to participate in the competition, and said they would take pictures with their mobile, since they did not have a camera. The discussion focused mainly on deforestation: cutting wet trees for charcoal is a main problem in Somalia, it is illegal, but there is no central government in South Central Somalia that can protect trees and pasture”.

South Galkayo youth concerned about climate change impact on Water and Health

70 youth (including 29 women) took part in the small group meetings organized by CISP in South Galkayo, in support of the Connect4Climate initiative. “CISP explained to the participants that climate change has a big impact on our social and economic lives” said Asad Ducale, CISP project officer in Galkayo. “Climate change is a big issue in Somalia. Our country is experiencing drought, flooding and dry crops. All of that is related to climate change”.

The discussions touched on the issue of water scarcity: “There used to be abundance of water, and now the soil is very dry” said one of the participants. “Wells are dry everywhere: in Bud Bud, Hobyo, Bithale, Elgula, and many other places”. Health was also one of the main topics: “After the wells got dry, people started drinking dirty water. This made many people sick with AWD, swelling of the throat, cholera, etc...”. The youth welcomed the initiative: “Informing people is very important”, said one of the participants, “But in Somalia we need to do more to face the effects of climate change: we need to take action”.

Dhusamareeb and Guriceel youth engaging with their communities to halt deforestation

In Dhusamareeb and Guriceel, 150 youth (including 40 women) participated in CISP’s initiative to support Connect4Climate. Halima Ibrahim, CISP’s coordinator in Dhusamareeb and Guriceel gathered their voices and opinions:
The youth of Dhusamareeb and Guriceel voicing a message to their communities

Our region has been stricken by subsequent natural disasters, such as droughts and floods. Many environmental problems result from our day to day actions.

The production of charcoal is one of the major problems in our region. It plays a huge role in deforestation, which contributes to climate change. We need to reduce coal production and its trading with surrounding cities.

In our region, trees are cut and burned everywhere. Without trees, the environment loses its protection and gets threatened. The lack of trees can result in droughts, wildfires, and spread of infectious diseases. Many residents in this region abandon their homes, because of the lack of rain and the outbreaks of diseases. Displaced people are everywhere in the outskirts of the region.

But our effort can mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our duty is to show everyone in our communities how our actions are harming the environment and how we can make a change. If we change how we make use of our surroundings, the effects of climate change can be reduced.

The International Committee for the Development of the People (CISP) is a Non Governmental Organization established in Rome in 1983 to engage against the impact of poverty and denied rights worldwide. CISP has been active in over 30 countries worldwide: in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. CISP has been operating in Somalia since its inception and is currently implementing projects in the sectors of Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Protection and Livelihood, in Benadir, Galgaduug, Hiraam, Mudug and Lower Juba.

For more information: www.cisp-som.org
WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the greatest social, economic and environmental challenges of our time. Human activity is causing the climate to change. The average temperature of the Earth has been increasing for many years: this is called global warming.

Sub-Saharan Africa has warmed about half a degree Celsius over the last century, and the average annual temperature is likely to rise an additional 3-4 degrees by 2099. Dry areas will become drier and wet areas wetter, posing an additional challenge to livelihoods and economic activities that depend on natural resources.

THE EARTH’S CLIMATE IS CHANGING, AND PEOPLE’S ACTIVITIES ARE THE MAIN CAUSE.

The Earth is getting warmer because people are adding heat-trapping gases to the atmosphere, mainly by burning fossil fuels.

Warmer temperatures are causing other changes around the world, such as melting glaciers and stronger storms. These changes are happening because the Earth's air, water, and land are all linked to the climate.

The Earth's climate has changed before, but this time is different. People are causing these changes, which are bigger and happening faster than any climate changes that modern society has ever seen before.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN PEOPLE’S LIVES

The Earth's climate is getting warmer, and the signs are everywhere. Rain patterns are changing, sea level is rising, and snow and ice are melting sooner in the spring. As global temperatures continue to rise, we'll see more changes in our climate and our environment. These changes will affect people, animals, and ecosystems in many ways.

Less rain can mean less water for some places, while too much rain can cause terrible flooding. More hot days can dry up crops and make people and animals sick. In some places, people will struggle to cope with a changing environment. In other places, people may be able to successfully prepare for these changes. The negative impacts of global climate change will be less severe overall if people reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we're putting into the atmosphere and worse if we continue producing these gases at current or faster rates.
**EFFECTS ON PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

How will climate change affect you? Your community? The environment around you?

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<th>AGRICULTURE</th>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>HEALTH</th>
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<td>Climate change could make it too hot to grow certain crops, and droughts caused by climate change could reduce the amount of water available for irrigation. Climate change is also likely to cause stronger storms and more floods, which can damage crops. Higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns could help some kinds of weeds and pests to spread to new areas.</td>
<td>Climate change could make water very scarce for some people. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increasing droughts will affect the amount of water in lakes, rivers, and streams.</td>
<td>Climate change might allow some infectious diseases to spread. As temperatures increase, ticks and mosquitoes that carry diseases can survive longer throughout the year and expand their ranges, putting more people at risk. One big concern is malaria, a deadly disease spread by mosquitoes in many hot, humid parts of the world.</td>
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<th>FORESTS</th>
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<td>Forests are sensitive to many effects of climate change, including shifting weather patterns, drought, wildfires, and the spread of pests. Deforestation is one of the causes of climate change, and charcoal production plays a huge role in deforestation.</td>
<td>Changes in the climate usually impact on sectors that are traditionally associated with women. Water resources: women are largely responsible for water collection in their communities and are more affected when the quantity of water and/or its accessibility changes. Increased burden of care giving: As primary caregivers, women may see their responsibilities increase as family members suffer increased illness such as malaria and water borne diseases.</td>
<td>Global climate change will affect how much energy we need and when we need it. As temperatures rise, more people will need to keep cool by using air conditioning, refrigerators, etc. which uses a lot of electricity. Climate change could also make it harder to produce certain types of electricity, such as hydropower.</td>
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ABOUT CONNECT4CLIMATE

Connect4Climate (C4C) is a campaign, a competition, and a community that cares about climate change. The goal of C4C is to raise awareness about climate change issues around the world, with an initial focus on Africa. With the help of our broad coalition of partners, both big and small, we are kickstarting an interactive dialogue on climate change issues amongst African youth and global social media users. With roughly 70% of Africa’s total population under 30, the Connect4Climate campaign will tap the rich potential of African’s youth as powerful agents of social change.

THE COMPETITION

**Competition:** Connect4Climate is running a **photo and video competition** on climate change focused on African youth. If you are between the ages of 13 to 35, please send us your photos or videos (60 seconds or less) that tell a climate change story or present a cool idea for solutions related to one of these six categories

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Forests
- Gender
- Health
- Water

The participants are invited to add captions answering the question:

“What does climate change mean to you, your family, your community, your country?”

**Eligibility:** African youth from 13 to 35

**Deadline** 15 November 2011

**Modality** To participate, you can upload the pictures through the Connect4Climate Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/connect4climate](http://www.facebook.com/connect4climate)) or send them to c4cphotovideo@worldbank.org. Be sure to include your name, date of birth, title and caption of your photo or video, and where your photo or video was taken.

**Prizes** Over 60 prizes will be awarded, including cameras, mobile phones, computer tablets and solar backpacks. Winning entries will be exhibited at the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP17) in Durban, South Africa, this December. World leaders and prominent climate change thinkers will get a chance to look, listen, and learn about these climate stories generated by African youth from around the continent.

Sources:

[https://www.connect4climate.org/resources/what-is-climate-change](https://www.connect4climate.org/resources/what-is-climate-change)