



Climate Refugees

Age group	8-12
Group size	10+
Time	90 minutes

Overview

Participants put together a picture story about a family that has to flee from their home as a result of climate change.

Objectives

- To realise that many people are already suffering from the consequences of climate change
- To raise awareness that the poorest are hit the hardest by climate change

Materials

- Pictures from 'Samha's story' (appendix I)
- Eight Envelopes

Preparation

- Copy one complete set of the pictures in appendix I for each group and cut them out.
- Put the copies of each picture in the same envelope and hide the envelopes around the space.
- Copy Aziza and Phil's stories (one for each group).

Step-by-step instructions

1. Split into two or three smaller groups. Explain that they have to find pictures that are hidden in envelopes around the space. From each envelope they should take one picture. All pictures belong to a picture story about a child.
2. When they have found all eight pictures, they should put them in the right order and create a story about the child based on the pictures.
3. Come back together. Every group should now share their story.
4. If the stories are very different from 'Samha's story', read out her text in appendix II to the group.
5. Discuss with the group:
 - What did you base your story on? Did the pictures remind you of anything you have heard about?
 - Was your story close to the refugee story?Explain that the characters are invented, but that some islanders in the Maldives have really had to leave their homes.
6. Divide into two groups (or four if you have a large number of participants). Give one group 'Aziza's story' and the other 'Phil's story' from appendix II and ask them to read the text together.
7. Ask the groups to draw a picture story for Phil or Aziza.
8. Share the picture stories and ask the groups to explain to the others what happens in their story.

Debriefing

- What did you think of the stories? How did they make you feel?
- Why do you think the families in the stories had to leave their homes?

Lead into a discussion about why the environment of the families has changed. Make it clear that this is because of human-made climate change, caused by high greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide.

- Who do you think are the biggest greenhouse gas emitters?
- Is it fair that these three families had to flee from their homes? Why? /Why not?
- Do you think the same could happen in your country?
- What can be done to prevent that more people become climate refugees.

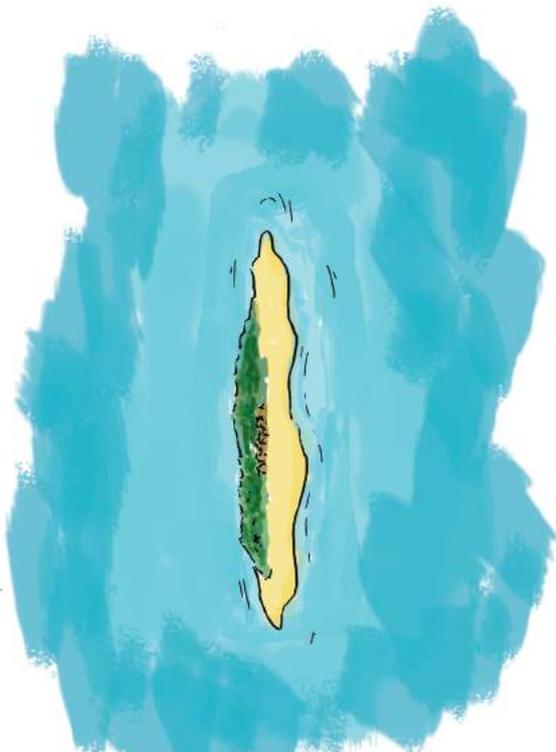
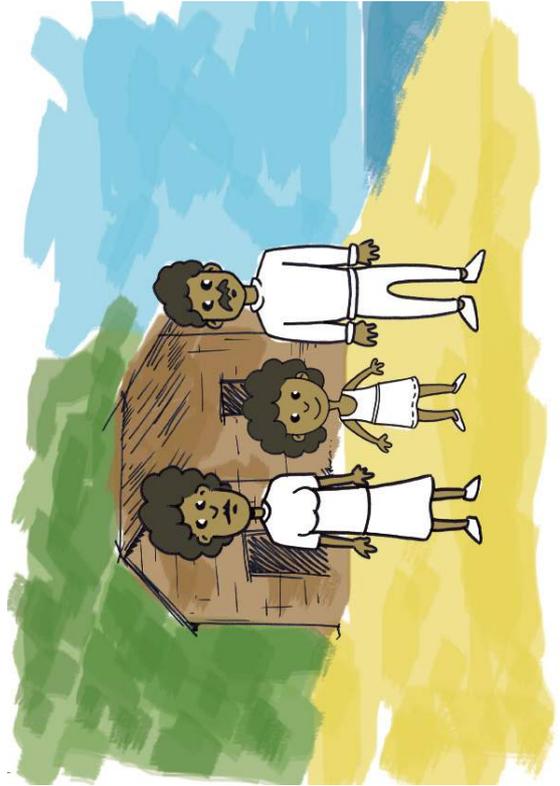
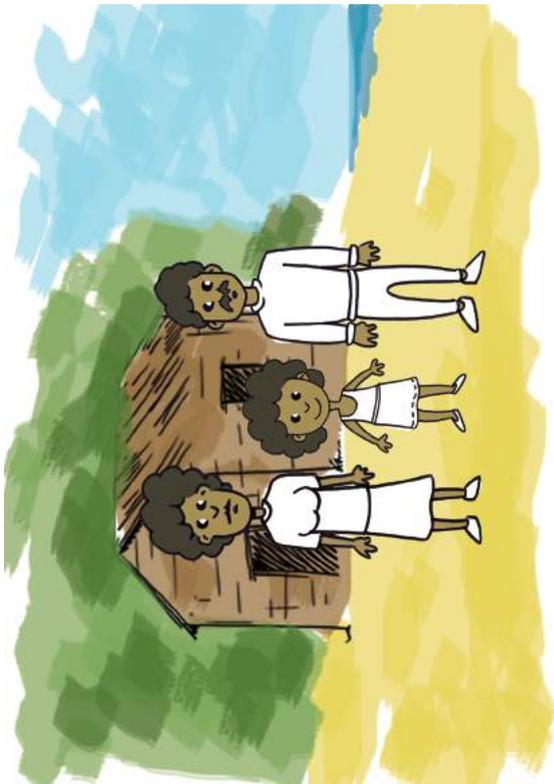
Tips for facilitators

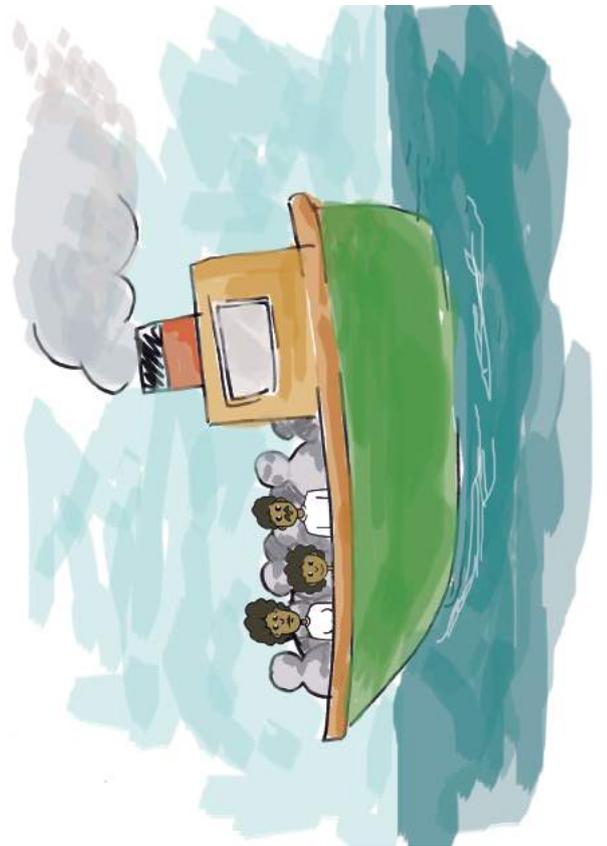
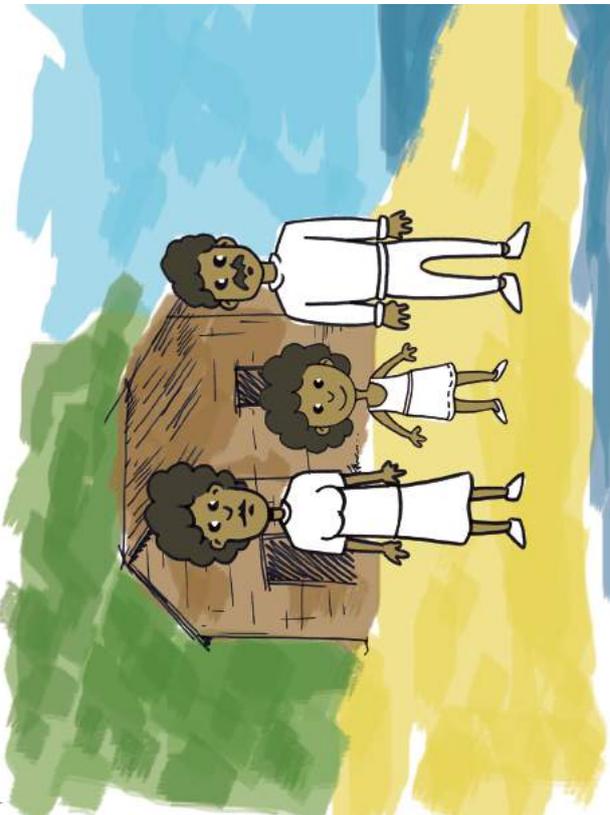
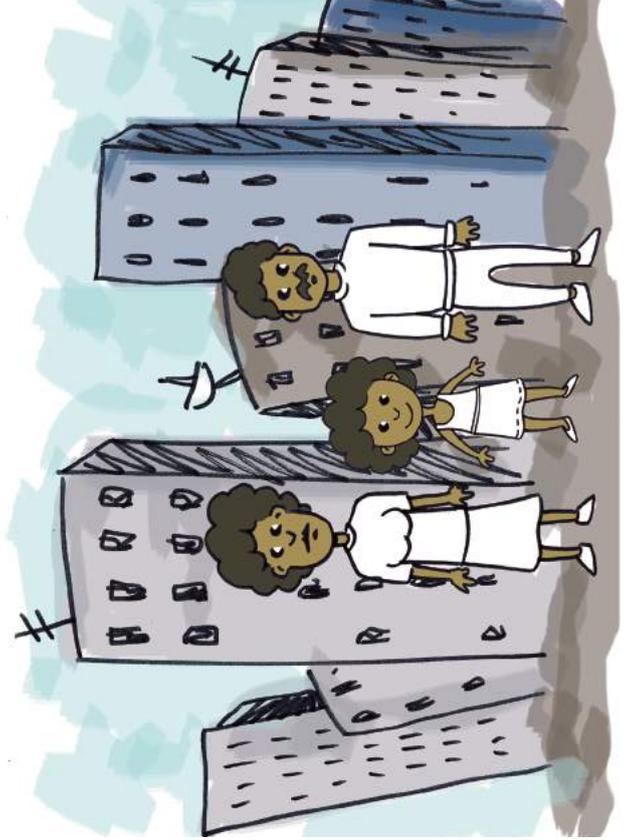
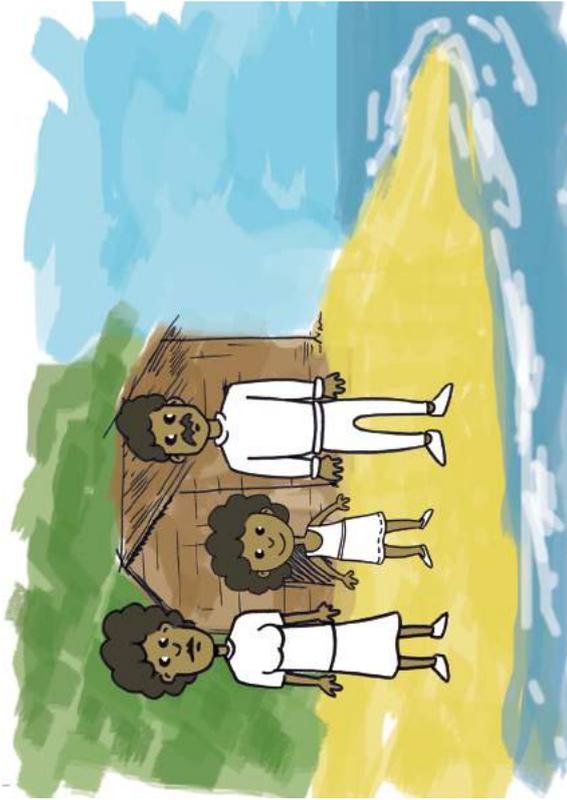
If you are looking for an activity for groups aged 12 and over on climate refugees, we recommend 'Letters from the Past' on page 38.

For information on climate change refugees see the box on page 39.



Appendix I: Samha's story





Appendix II: Climate refugee stories

1) Aziza from Kenya

Aziza lives with her little sister Zara, her parents and her grandparents in a small village in West Kenya. Aziza loves the life in the village. All her neighbours are her friends; they have a small garden in front of their house where her mum and her grandma grow vegetables. It is Aziza's task to get water from the well, which is easy, because it is very close to their house. Her dad watches over the cattle each day and sometimes they have a great meal after he and grandad have slaughtered one of their animals.

But as Aziza grows older, there is less and less rain in their village. The plants in the garden dry out and her mum and her grandma can't grow many vegetables in it anymore. There is less and less food. There is also less and less water in the well until they cannot get any water out of it anymore. Now Aziza has to walk for one and a half hours every day to get to another well close to another village. This well is deeper and gives more water. She cannot go to school anymore because it takes her the whole morning to get water. But there is also less water every day in this well. The women from the other village get angry with Aziza and her friends. They say this water belongs to them. Every day they shout at her and they even try to keep her away from the well.

All the adults from Aziza's village meet to discuss the situation. The parents and grandparents of Aziza and her friends decide that they cannot stay there, because they cannot survive without water. They need to leave quickly, the well only has water for one or two more days. The old people and children like Aziza's little sister are already very weak. The next day they go away to the east, hoping to find a better place to stay. After one week of walking, they finally reach a huge refugee camp where thousands of other families already live in white tents. They can stay there as well. It is very crowded, and the village was much nicer, but at least everyone gets enough to drink and also food packages.

2) Samha from the Maldives

Samha lives with her parents on a beautiful island in the Maldives. The island is very small, there are only around 20 other families living there. Samha loves playing on the beach right in front of their house. Her father is a fisherman like almost all men from the island. Very early in the morning they leave on their boats. But when Samha gets older, something changes on the island: The beach where Samha and her friends play every day after school is getting smaller and smaller. When there is a storm, the waves already reach the house. The men can still go fishing, but everyone is more and more worried about what will happen in the future. Will their island, where every one of them was born, suddenly disappear under the sea? Where will they live? Will they find another island? All families come together one evening to think about what they can do. The president of the Maldives has agreed to help them to move to a bigger island in the Maldives.

One day the water reaches up to the first line of houses – when Samha steps out of the door, her feet are almost immediately in the sea. It is time for everyone to leave the island. Very sadly they get onto the ship that has come to pick them up and wave goodbye to the island that was their home. The ship brings them to Male, one of the main islands of their island state. There they live in the capital city, a very crowded town. Samha's parents have to find work. There are already so many fishermen that the fishing boats don't need her father anymore. But they are sure they will find something.

3) Phil from Alaska

Phil lives with his parents in Newtok, a small village in Alaska on the banks of a small river. His mother Anna works in a small fish-processing factory that is right next to the village. Phil likes to go fishing in the river and the nearby sea. His village stands on permafrost ground, it is always frozen because it is so close to the North Pole and they have snow almost all year round. Only in the summer the snow melts, but the ground stays frozen.

When Phil gets older, the snow starts to melt much earlier. Phil really likes the time without snow, but then the ground starts to change. It is not so hard anymore, and it gets muddy. His parents say that this is because the ice below their village is slowly melting. Phil doesn't care very much about this, but his parents do! Because their house is not standing on stable ground anymore, they are worried that it will be damaged.

The biggest change is that the river, that was narrow and without much water when Phil was a small child, now grows bigger and stronger every year. The people who lived close to the river have already had to move away to the other side of the village! There is no longer a street to Anna's factory. It is so muddy that they had to build a bridge to reach to the building. One day the bridge is washed away by a storm. The river extends so much that there is suddenly a new lake between the village and the factory. The children really like the lake, but the parents cannot go to work anymore.

Together the community decides that they will build a new village, up on a hill, where they are safe from the river. During the holidays, Phil also helps to build their new house. After two years, the new village is ready.

