

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

*"As our planet grows warmer, our Christian witness must become bolder."  
(PCUSA General Assembly 2008)*

Sources include water.org, WHO, UNEP, USGS, Pacific Institute, and Greenpeace. For more information go to [pcusa.org/climatechange](http://pcusa.org/climatechange).

## THINGS YOU CAN DO

### Oceans, rivers, and storms

- Know:**
- Warmer oceans and acidity change ocean chemistry, bleach coral, and decrease sea ice needed for arctic animals like polar bears
  - Glacial melt leads to sea level rise and flooding
  - Climate change causes more frequent and stronger storms



Rooftops under water in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. (Liz Roll)

### Food, Hunger and Poverty

- Know:**
- Floods, drought, hurricanes, typhoons, and fires lead to increased hunger and poverty
  - Industrial agriculture emits greenhouse gases while also consuming and polluting local water sources
  - Agroecology and healthy local community food systems help combat climate change by trapping carbon in healthy soils and reducing transportation miles of food



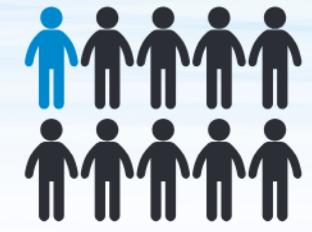
Salinization in Bolivia has reached level that impacts agricultural, environmental health, and economics. (UMAVIDA)

### Fossil Fuels

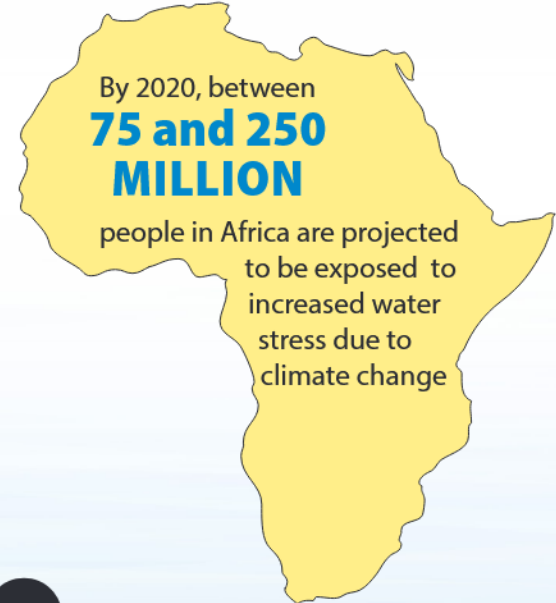
- Know:**
- Local waterways are often contaminated by heavy metals, sediment, and chemicals in fossil fuel exploration and extraction, such as for hydraulic water fracturing (fracking) and coal mining
  - Water has been called the "oil of the 21st century" and is increasingly a cause of violent conflicts



97% of children in of La Oroya, Peru have lead contamination (Jed Koball)



**1 in 10 people**  
(663 million)  
lack access to safe water



Each year **BOTTLED WATER** production in the U.S. **REQUIRES** an equivalent of **17 MILLION barrels of OIL**

- Provide relief and recovery (such as working in Flint for both immediate water supplies and to address longer-term governance and environmental justice issues)
- Work across personal, corporate, governmental, and industrial/business levels to combat climate change
- Support policies to improve local water infrastructure while maintaining or restoring public control over water
- Support funding for global adaptation and mitigation programs for vulnerable populations, such as the Green Climate Fund and United Nations climate efforts
- Reduce energy use and use renewables
- Conserve water and avoid bottled water
- Urge full environmental disclosure from industries
- Demand better, safer technologies and energy sources than fossil fuels (which emit greenhouse gases and lead to water contamination)