



## World's poorest people hardest hit by climate change - Oxfam

**Bonn, Germany (PANA)** - The impact of climate change is hitting hardest on the world's poorest people and yet it is the rich countries responsible for three quarters of green house gas emissions, according to an Oxfam report launched here Thursday as the UN climate change talks continued in the German city.

Oxfam, a group of non-governmental organizations from three continents working worldwide to fight poverty and injustice, said industrialized countries should take up a "double duty" to act on climate change as well as fund emission reductions in poor countries.

Oxfam said rich countries had a duty to cut emissions at home and to help fund emission reductions in poor countries in order to get a fair and safe climate deal.

"Rich countries got us into this mess and they have the money and the technology to get us out of it. This gives them a double duty to deliver major emission reductions at home and provide the money that poor countries need to start tackling

their emissions too," Jeremy Hobbs, executive director of Oxfam International, said.

In Africa, changes to rainfall are already affecting food production and rising temperatures are boosting the spread of disease.

The report entitled "Hang Together or Separately", indicated that annual global emission needed to return to 1990 levels or below by 2020 and suggested that half of these reductions needed to be achieved through the established of a Global Mitigation and Finance Mechanism which would provide poor countries with the up-front support they needed to limit the growth in their emissions.

"The deadlock threatening these talks must be broken if we are to have any hope of avoiding a human catastrophe," Hobbs said.

Rich countries have been urged to collectively cut their emissions by at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, with a majority of these reductions occurring at home and the Oxfam report stated exactly by how much individual countries needed to cut their emissions to meet this target.

Oxfam said there was no rich country anywhere near delivering their fair share of the reductions needed -- an observation somehow also shared by the UN climate change top official.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), expressed doubt that countries at the Copenhagen conference in Denmark where the global climate deal would be sealed would agree to the 80 per cent global emission reduction.

De Boer explained that the meeting in Bonn did not yet have agreements on collective targets for industrialized countries on how much they could reduce their emissions by 2020.

"It is impossible between now and end of Copenhagen to finalize every last detail of the post 2012 of a long term response to climate change, there is going to be work after Copenhagen," de Boer told reporters.

Over 4,000 delegates in Bonn are negotiating a text to be concluded in Copenhagen in December to come up with a strong climate deal intended to avert a climate catastrophe.

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