CLIMATE CHANGE IN IMPOVERISHED POPULATIONS

How Climate change impacts poverty

MGD429
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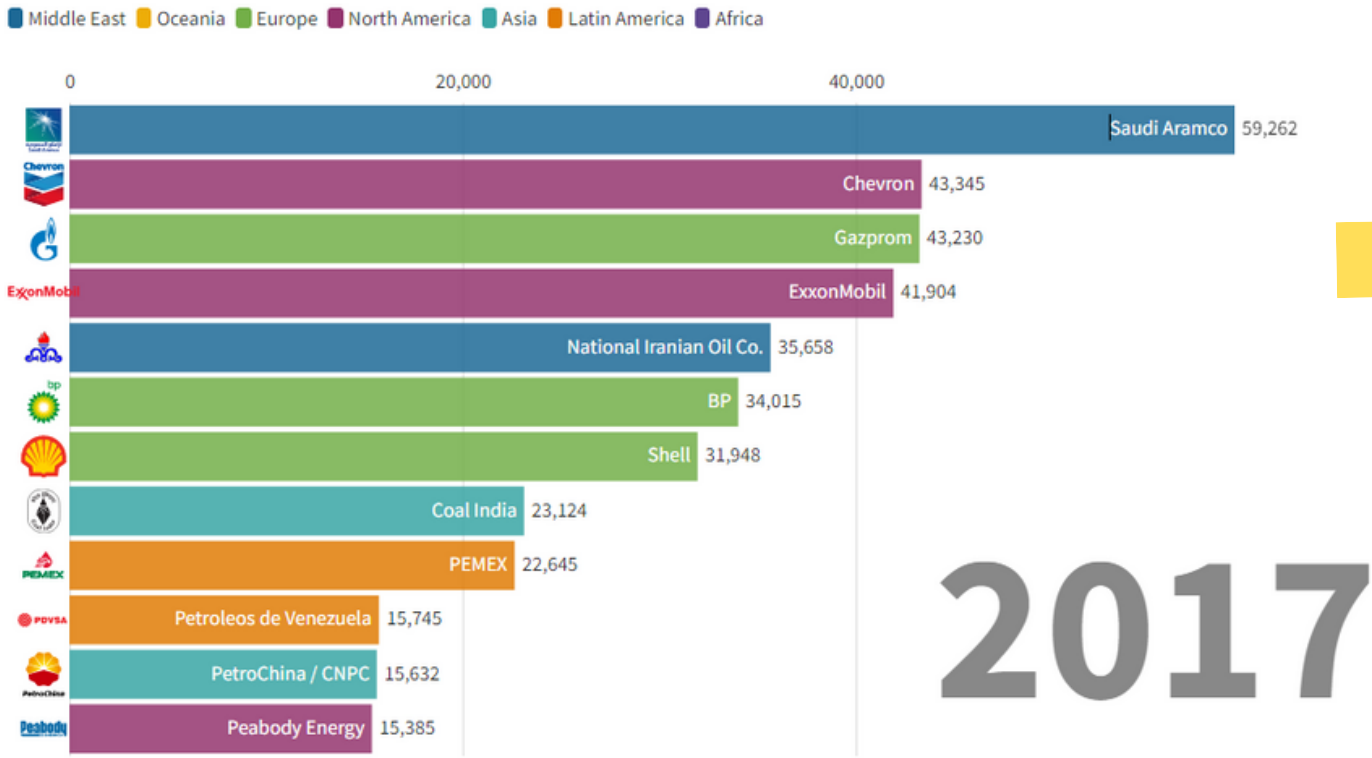
INTRODUCTION

Climate change has become a hot topic all around the world; from government policy-making to business forums, the world is coming to realize the effects of human interference and destruction of the earth.

Severe weather events including floods, heatwaves and storms are becoming more prevalent and intense across the globe. While most individuals in first-world countries are able to cope with the effects of severe weather due to security and infrastructure, the question begs to be asked, what are the impacts faced by those in low-income countries and those living far below what we believe to be the poverty line. The impacts on these populations go further than health risks as we slowly see the consequences of climate change in regions without the infrastructure needed to combat it.

As we try to tackle the environmental problems we created, we look to green initiatives and other projects dubbed as “environmentally friendly” or “green” as our saviours, however, we look past the impact that big corporations and consumer mindset has made in low-income countries where vulnerable people are exploited for cheap labour to produce many of the technologies we look at as green and eco friendly. A holistic view of the changing lifestyles in High-income countries along with emerging green technologies can demonstrate to us that these technologies are still in their early ages and are still reliant, in some form, on fossil fuels and other carbon-emitting energy sources.



Source: https://climateaccountability.org/carbonmajors.html

OUR PROBLEM

There is a lack of policy and work being done in the climate change field that takes into consideration, the overbearing impacts not only on the environment but also vulnerable populations that are often affected by our "green" innovation.

Big corporations and governments in high-income nations have hardly shifted towards clean energy and technologies, continuing to be the largest producers and emitters of C02 into our environment while hardly bearing any consequences. Along with this, these businesses and governments have continued to exploit the vulnerable globally. The impacts on these populations go further than health risks as we slowly see the consequences of climate change in regions without the infrastructure needed to combat it.

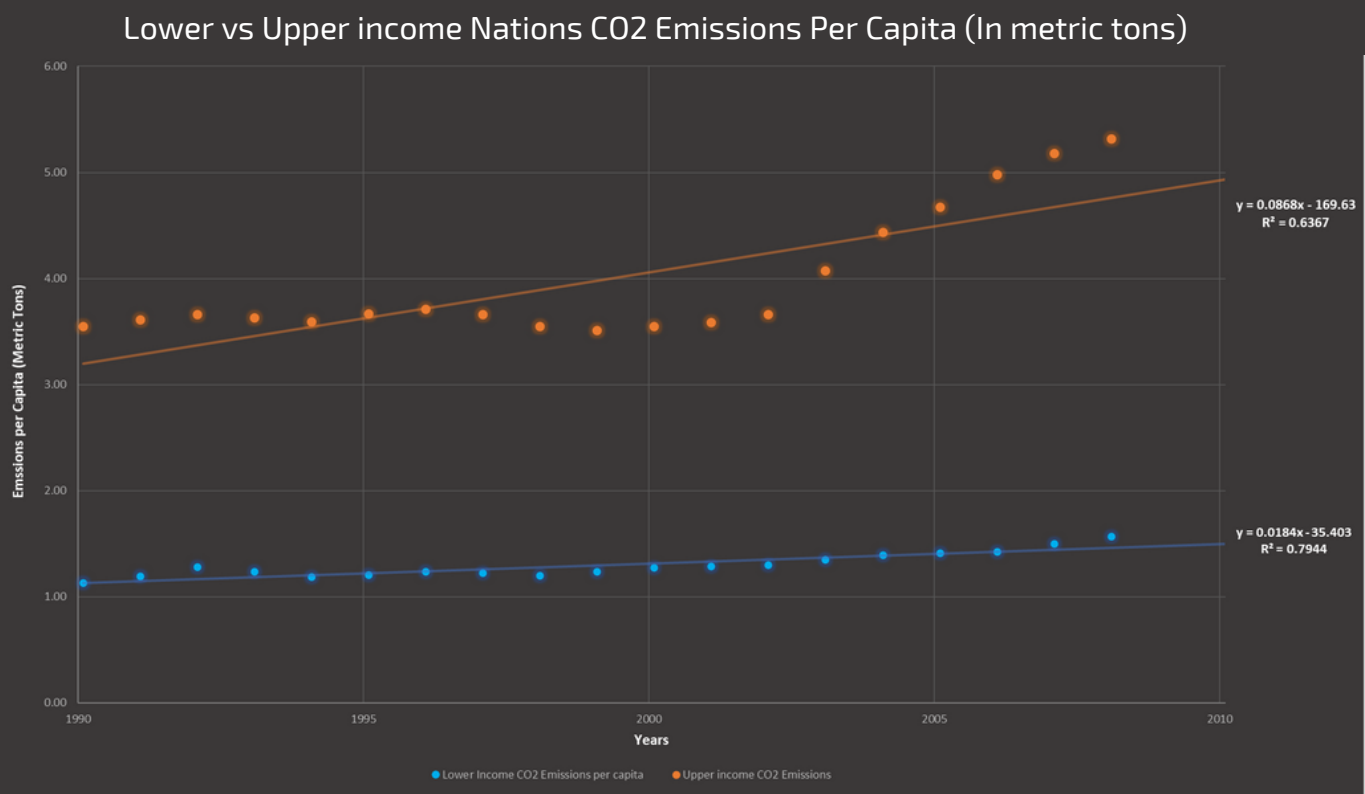
The Koch Brothers' Dirty War on Solar Power

All over the country, David Koch, Charles Koch and utilities have been blocking solar initiatives — but nowhere more so than in Florida.

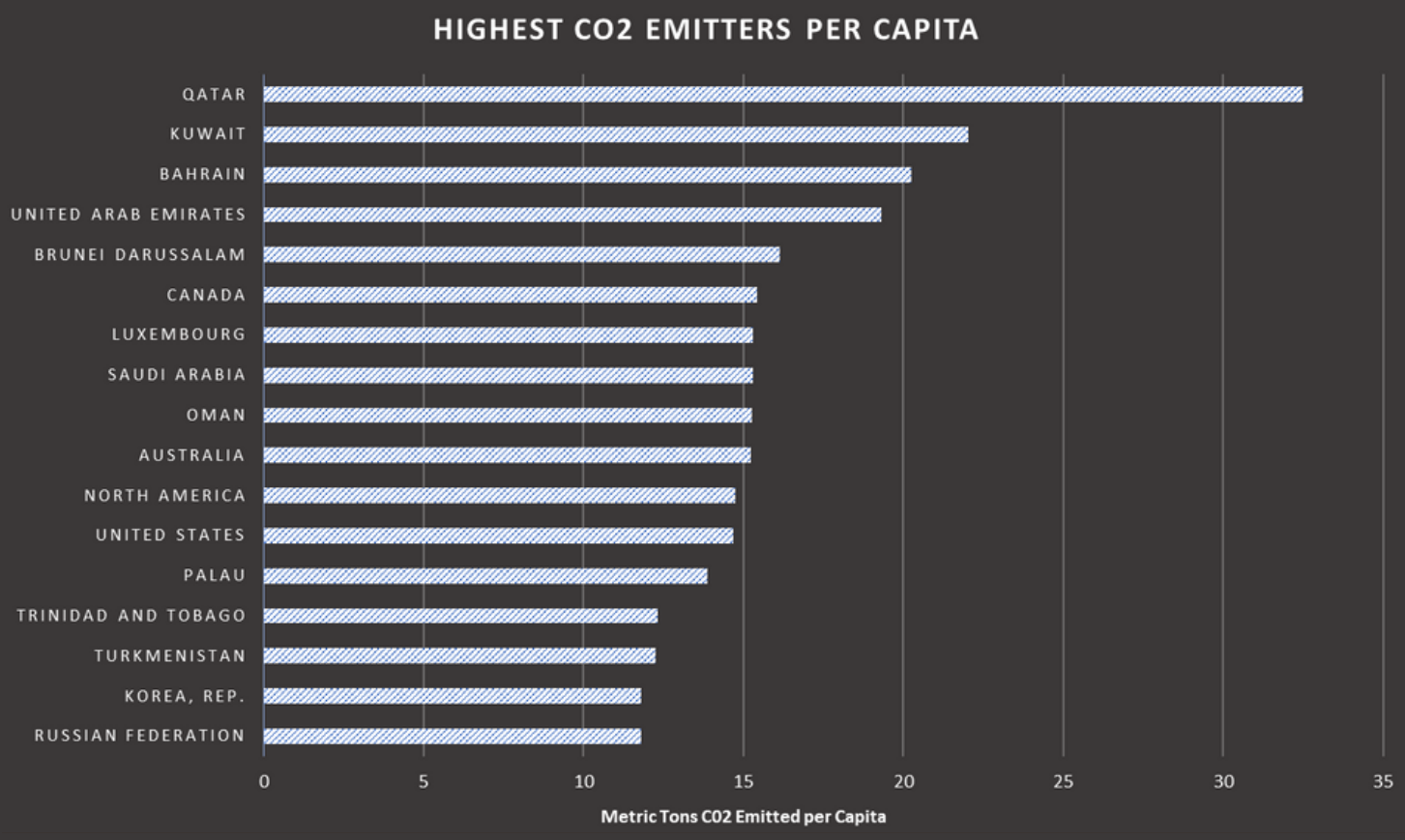
https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/the-koch-brothers-dirty-war-on-solar-power-193325/

Climate change has been robbed by capitalism. Companies like Apple, Tesla and Microsoft all boast about sourcing 100% renewable energy, however, the reality is that these companies output much more through their exploits and products than the tiny fraction they can offset. Major fossil fuel corporations fund marketing campaigns and lock out smaller green partisan groups from introducing cleaner solutions. (Dickinson, 2016)

OUR DATA



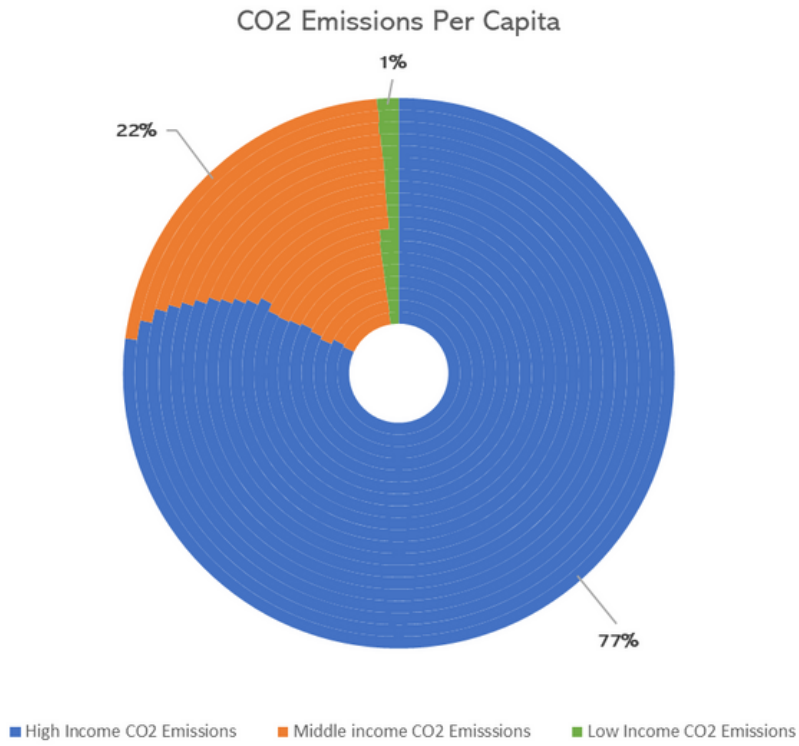
Our data looks at climate change from an environmental, economic and humanitarian perspective. The used data sets provide information on climate change impacts, economic indicators and global climate and disaster impact information from nation to nation across decades long range of years.

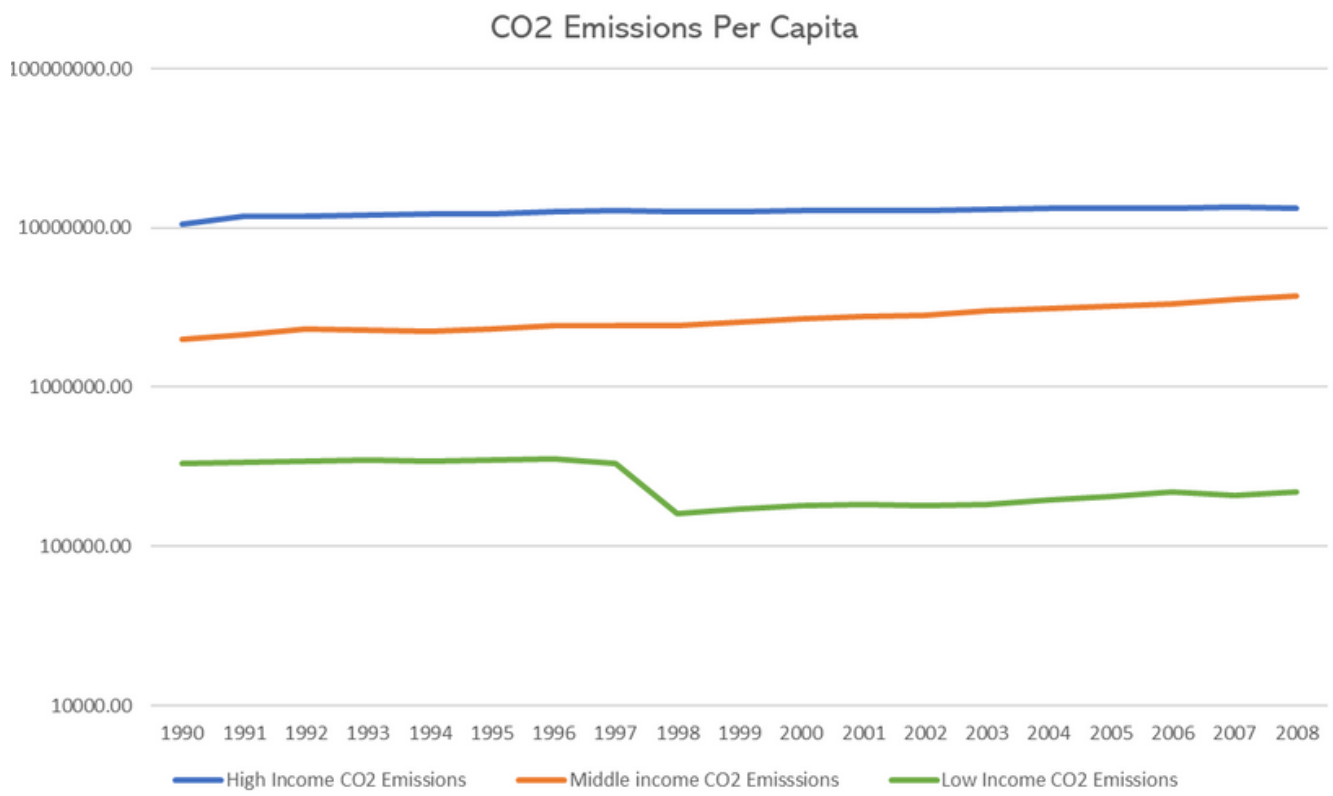


CO2 EMISSION

We have visualized a time series plot showing the correlation between the aggregation of high, middle, and low-income countries' CO2 contributions to the environment throughout the years. Throughout this assessment, it is evident that there is a **positive correlation between the wealth levels of these countries and the levels of CO2** they emit into the environment.

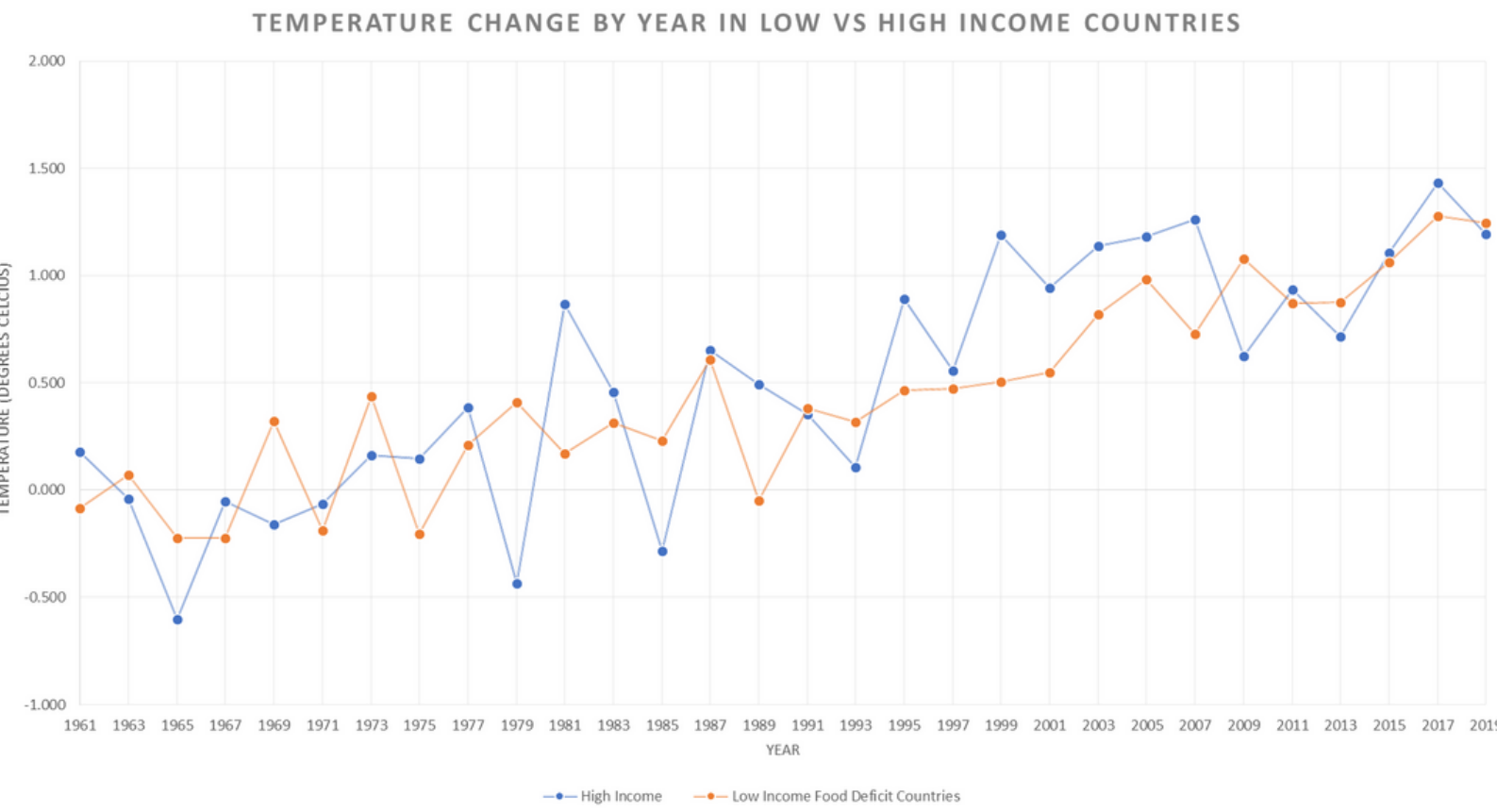
High-income countries are the countries that contribute the most followed by middle-income and low-income at the bottom. This notion emphasizes the impact that wealthy countries hold on the environment and how they contribute the most in terms of climate change even with more advanced infrastructure and practices in place.





GLOBAL TEMPERATURES

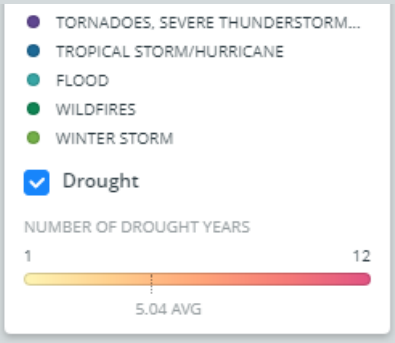
We investigated the average change in temperature to the aggregation of high, and low-income countries using a time series graph. The data presents that countries have all been slowly growing in average temperature at an approximately equal rate.

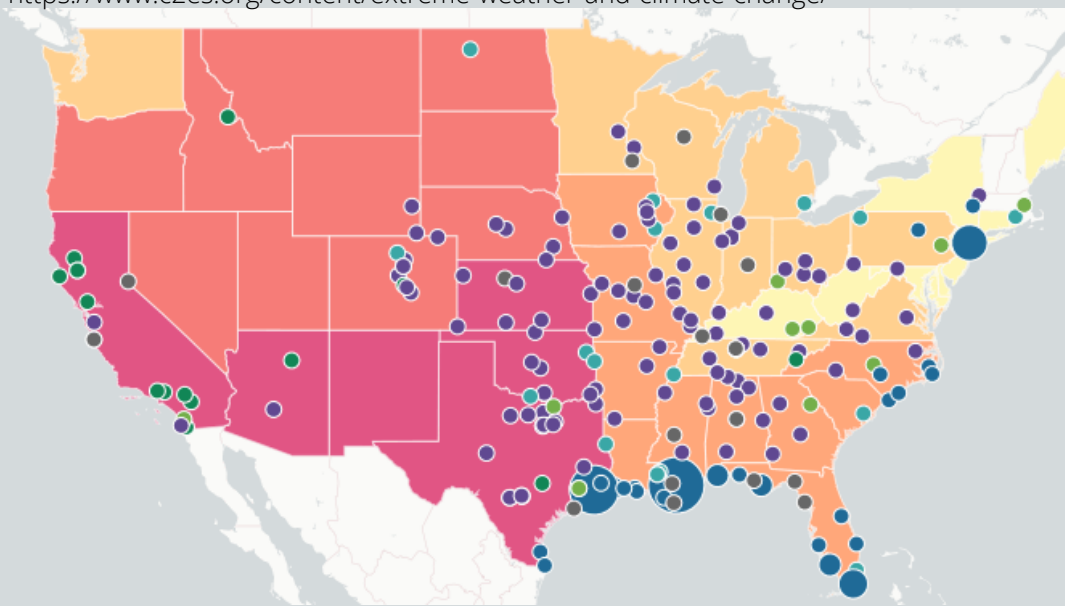


This information is vital in our analysis of the issue since these countries are disproportionately contributing to the climate change crisis (with the wealthy countries contributing the most). However, they are all equally impacted by the results of said contributions which should motivate UN officials to set policies and taxes on the countries who do contribute the most and penalize them for impacting nations that cannot handle disasters and do not have to deal with it or its impacts. This notion would promote greener practices in wealthier countries and aid in reducing their carbon footprint on the world while also leading to stronger humanitarian initiatives where they are needed.

SEVERE WEATHER

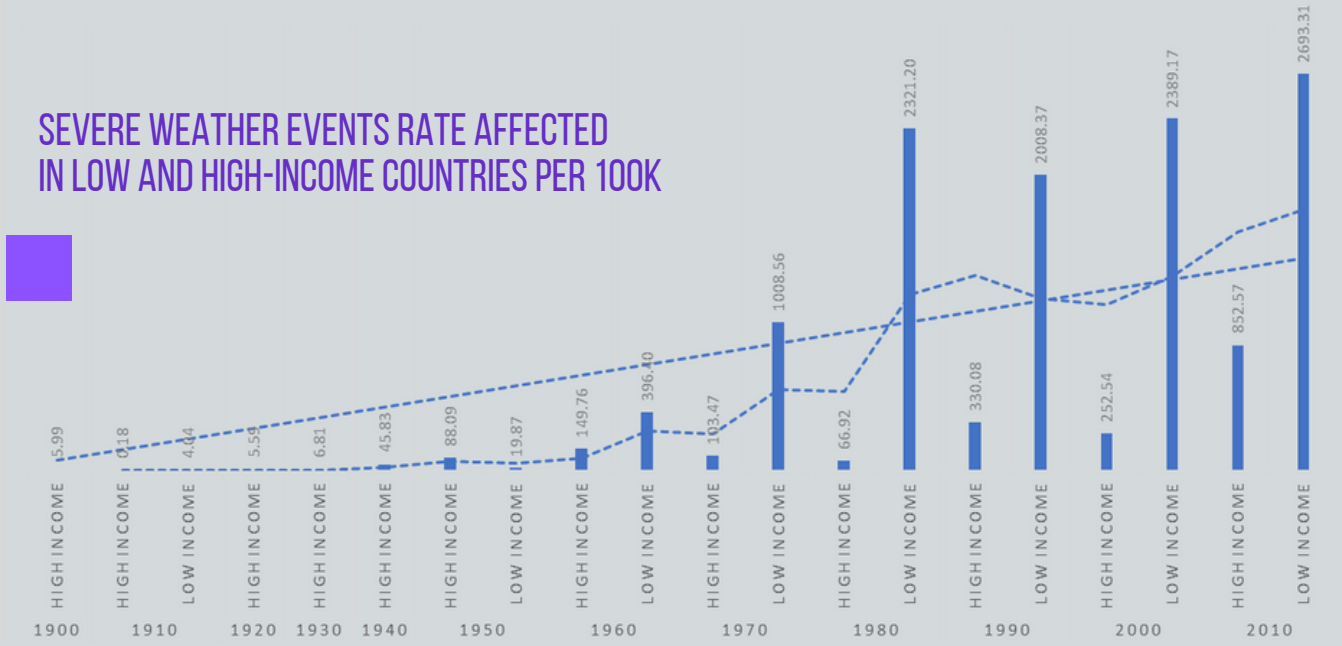
https://www.c2es.org/content/extreme-weather-and-climate-change/

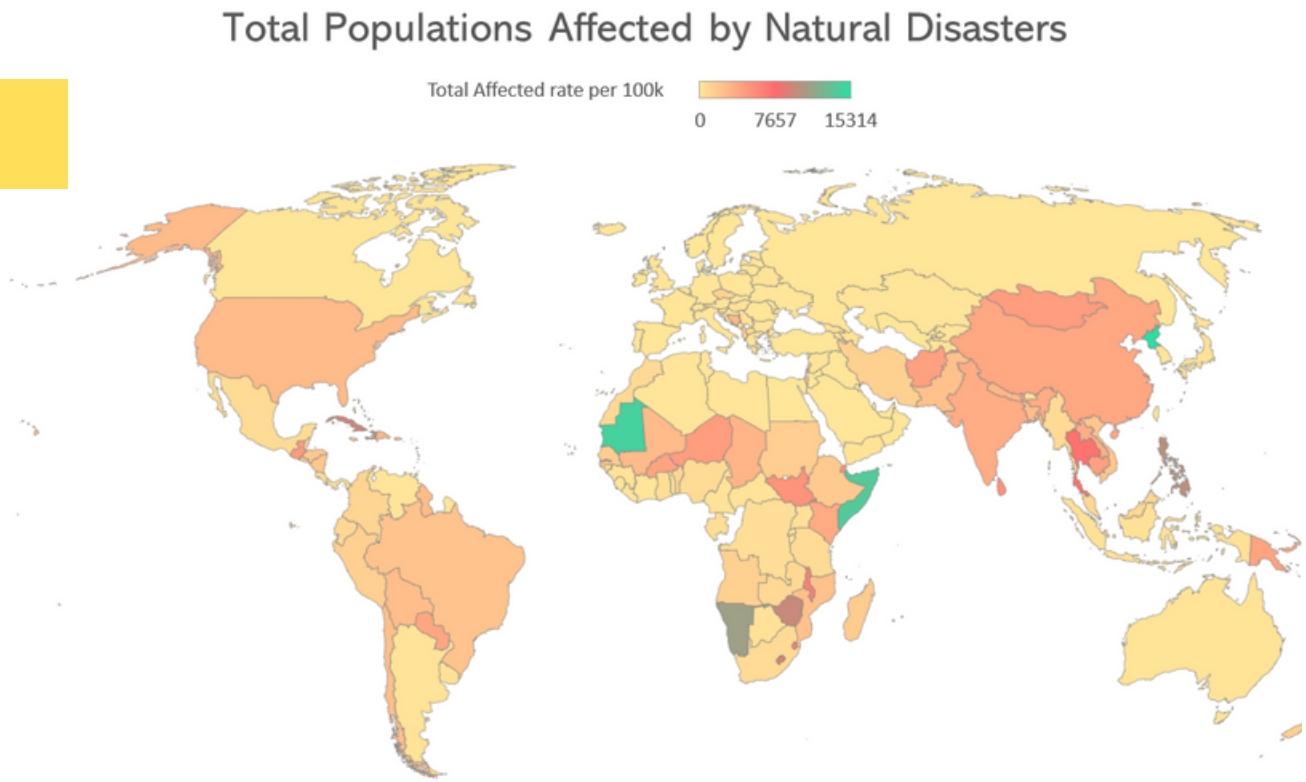




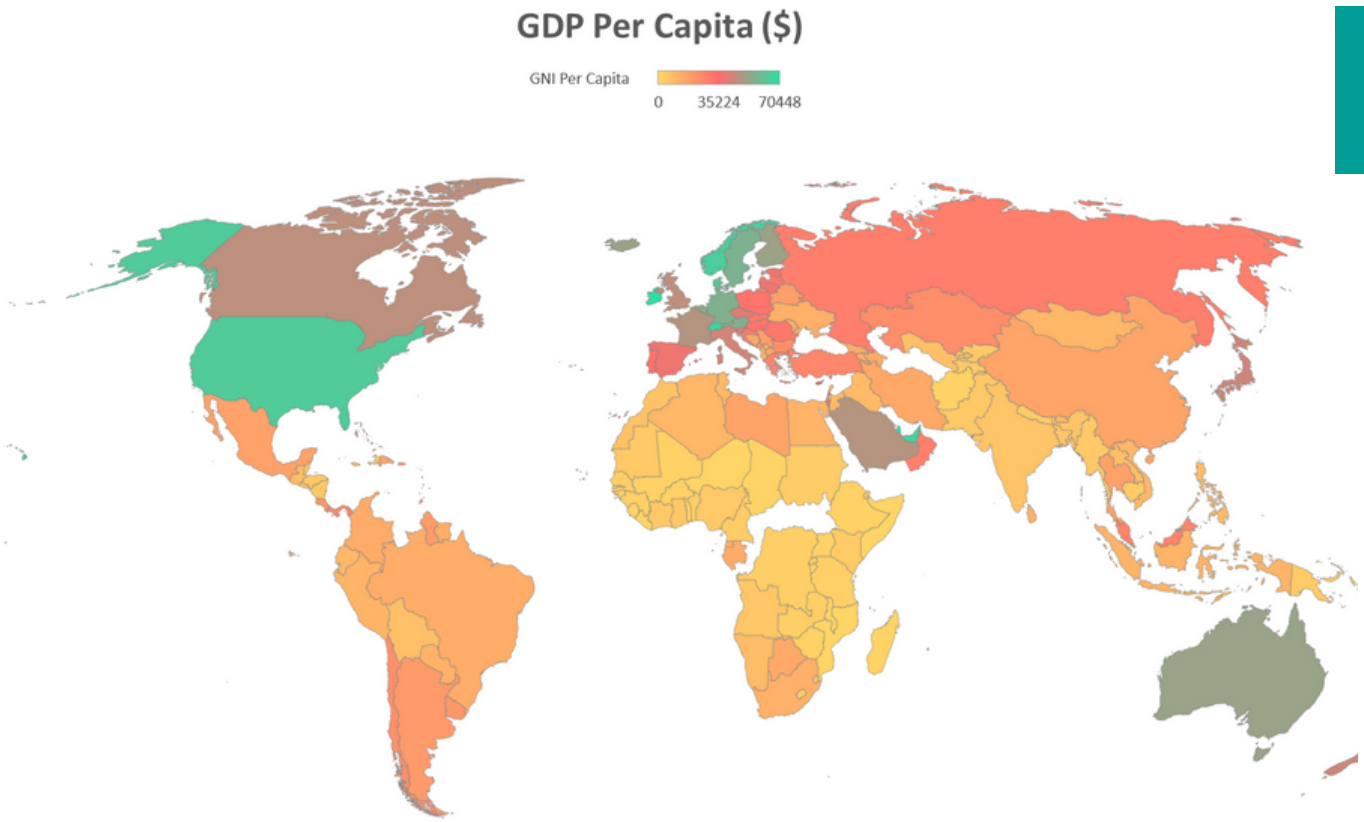
NOAA calculates total, direct costs – both insured and uninsured – including physical damage to residential, commercial, and government buildings, material assets within buildings, public infrastructure, vehicles and boats, offshore energy platforms, and agricultural assets, as well as business interruption losses and disaster restoration and wildfire suppression costs. These estimates do not account for losses to natural capital, health care-related costs, or values associated with loss of life.

Climate change is expected to worsen the frequency, intensity, and impacts of some types of extreme weather events. For example, sea level rise increases the impacts of coastal storms and warming can place more stress on water supplies during droughts.





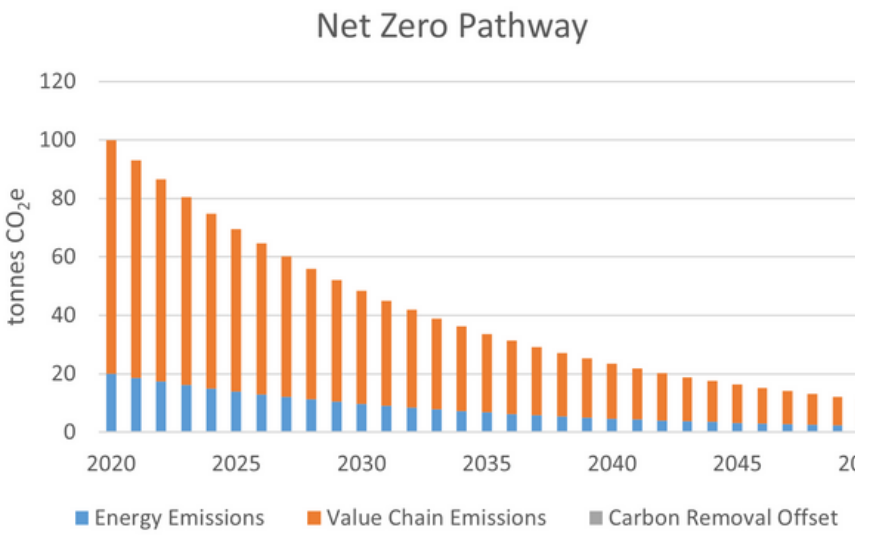
Our last visualization consists of a geo-graph of severe weather's impact around the globe. The reason for such an analysis is due to severe weather having a direct linkage to climate change as rapid increases in temperature cause more severe weather around the globe. Unfortunately, not every country has the infrastructure in place to handle such natural disasters thus, those without the monetary means end up suffering.



As seen from the graph most of the areas impacted by natural disasters occur in the poor areas of the globe. These include mostly Africa and Southeast Asia. This notion brings great awareness to the unfair impact of climate change on the planet as a whole. Richer countries contribute the most to the cause, while they all almost equally get impacted by the cause; however, since wealthier countries have the money to afford the infrastructure to resist said disasters they do not suffer the aftermath as equally as countries in lower-income areas.

OUTCOME & AWARENESS

Due to the ongoing issue of climate change and its impact on different countries, there are necessary actions that must be taken to address this severe issue. Changes in policies and laws can help push for a large-scale change that may reduce carbon pollution. Some examples of policy and law changes may include federal funding to make homes and buildings more energy efficient, striving to decarbonize towns and cities, and using federal dollars to cut on-road emissions and create better fuel standards for cars *(Washington Post, 2022).*



https://go-positive.co.uk/page-18190

https://www.ukgbc.org/ukgbc-work/net-zero-carbon-one-pager-for-new-buildings/

Limiting carbon footprints can create changes on a larger scale. It is vital for researchers and policymakers to develop solutions to limit carbon footprints. Some of these solutions can be made by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in areas such as electricity, transportation, buildings, land use, and industry *(C2ES, n.d).* Furthermore, it is necessary to adapt to and build resilience to climate impacts as climate changes are inevitable.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/air-air-pollution-climate-change-dawn-221012/

It is paramount that governments and non-governmental organizations to advocate for change and stop big corporations from exploiting communities in low-income countries and devastating habitats around the world. Population with less access and infrastructure are easily exploited and experience additional adverse impacts, both natural and due to human activity, including air pollution, poisoning in mines, sickness and flooding amongst many other types of disasters.

We only have one earth and cannot risk the disasters to come; climate change is real and it is here. As we live privileged lives it is necessary to look beyond how we are impacted and to the rest of the world who share the consequences of our lifestyles. Individual rethinking and reprogramming of our day-to-day choices is needed in society to bring about a change as a whole.

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Climate change datasets

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- https://extremeweatherdataset.github.io/
- https://ourworldindata.org/natural-disasters
- https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.PP.CD
- https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.CLC.MDAT.ZS
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