



## NEWS ROUNDUP

05 October 2022 [ 07: 50 am]

---

- Food wasted by the tons while millions of Filipinos go hungry
- Don't backtrack on climate, COP host Egypt tells Truss
- King Charles will not attend climate summit on Truss advice
- Cities are largely to blame for climate change. Could they also be part of the solution?
- Extreme weather shows time of climate change denial is over —Vatican
- PH children bear brunt of Karding, climate change hit
- 200 QC students trained on water conservation, climate change
- UN urges all COP27- bound countries to prioritize climate action
- [Opinion] World at breaking point: Facing uncertainties
- World Bank unit launches \$6-B facility to bolster food security
- Marcos gets renewable energy push after DOJ opinion on foreign equity cap
- [Opinion] Rising sea levels
- Five ways media and journalists can support climate action while tackling misinformation

### ABS CBN

#### [Food wasted by the tons while millions of Filipinos go hungry](#)

By: Wena Cos

Manila — Though millions of Filipinos go hungry, the amount of food waste generated by the Philippines remains staggeringly high. Some 2.9 million Filipinos experienced involuntary hunger in the second quarter of the year, according to a Social Weather Stations survey in September.

### BBC NEWS

#### [Don't backtrack on climate, COP host Egypt tells Truss](#)

By Justin Rowlett

Egypt, which is hosting this year's COP27 UN climate summit in November, has warned the UK not to "backtrack" on the global climate agenda.

#### [King Charles will not attend climate summit on Truss advice](#)

King Charles will not attend the climate change conference COP27, which is due to be held in Egypt next month, Buckingham Palace has confirmed.

## **CNBC**

### **[Cities are largely to blame for climate change. Could they also be part of the solution?](#)**

By: Karen Gilchrist

Some of the most extreme weather events on record took place in 2022, as climate change-induced wildfires and droughts ravaged parts of Europe, the U.S. and Africa, even as Asia battled disastrous floods and monsoon rains. Experts say this is just the beginning.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Extreme weather shows time of climate change denial is over —Vatican](#)**

By: Philip Pullella

Vatican City — Recent extreme weather events, such as the hurricane that devastated parts of Florida, show that the time for climate change denial and skepticism is over, a senior Vatican official said on Tuesday.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[PH children bear brunt of Karding, climate change hit](#)**

By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

MANILA, Philippines—Over a million individuals were on the path of Super Typhoon Karding as it ravaged Luzon last month. Among those who suffered most were children who are being exposed to far more dangerous situations.

### **[World at breaking point: Facing uncertainties](#)**

By: Selva Ramachandran

We are living in uncertain times. Extreme weather patterns are becoming usual occurrences around the world. The onslaught of recent Supertyphoons like “Odette” and “Karding” that swept parts of the Philippines clearly demonstrate the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society.

### **[World Bank unit launches \\$6-B facility to bolster food security](#)**

By: Ronnel Domingo

International Finance Corp. (IFC) of the World Bank group has launched a \$6-billion financing facility intended to help support food production and strengthen the private sector’s ability to respond to surging levels of food insecurity across the globe.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[200 QC students trained on water conservation, climate change](#)**

By: Perfecto Raymundo Jr.

Manila – Students from an elementary school in Quezon City on Monday received a lecture on water conservation and climate change.

### **[UN urges all COP27- bound countries to prioritize climate action](#)**

By: Xinhua

United Nations – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called on all countries to make climate action the global priority.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[Marcos gets renewable energy push after DOJ opinion on foreign equity cap](#)**

By: Ralf Rivas

Manila, Philippines – The Marcos administration has secured the legroom it needs to meet one of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s campaign promises, after the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a legal opinion that there are no foreign ownership restrictions on renewable energy projects.

## **THE VISAYAN DAILY STAR**

### **[\[Opinion\] Rising sea levels](#)**

As the country with one of the world's longest coastlines, stretching more than 36,000 kilometers, and 70 percent of municipalities facing large bodies of water, the Philippines should be preparing for the impact of rising sea levels, which the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has reported to be rising three times faster compared to global averages.

## **UN NEWS**

### **[Five ways media and journalists can support climate action while tackling misinformation](#)**

According to the IPCC, this “shaping” power can usefully build public support to accelerate climate mitigation – the efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of the greenhouse gases that are heating our planet – but it can also be used to do exactly the opposite.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **Food wasted by the tons while millions of Filipinos go hungry**

By: Wena Cos

Manila — Though millions of Filipinos go hungry, the amount of food waste generated by the Philippines remains staggeringly high. Some 2.9 million Filipinos experienced involuntary hunger in the second quarter of the year, according to a Social Weather Stations survey in September.

But environmental group World Wide Fund Philippines (WWF PH) and its partner, composting company GreenSpace, collect about a ton of food waste every week from 100 to 120 partner households and 20 to 25 partner businesses in Metro Manila alone.

The capital region generates around 2,000 tons or 2 million kilograms of food waste daily, according to 2017 data from the Philippine Institute of Development Studies.

"Based on our available sources coming from the study of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), majority of our municipal solid waste are actually your biodegradable waste; around 52 percent. More than 80 percent of that would be food waste," WWF Soil Mate Project Manager Melody Melo-Rijk said.

According to the DENR, out of 17 Metro Manila local governments, only Marikina and Muntinlupa operate a system that diverts food waste back into the "circular economy", instead of ending up in landfills.

#### **FOOD WASTE AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

"Food in itself is one of the greatest contributors to climate change," Melo-Rijk told ABS-CBN News.

The entire food system has gaps that need to be addressed, from the production in farms, to transportation of goods, and distribution among sellers and markets, she said.

The mass food production and transportation of food contribute to greenhouse gasses through burned petrol for machines and vehicles, Melo-Rijk said. But wasted food has a more direct impact on heating the planet, she added.

"When it is lost and wasted and it ends up in landfills. 'Yung mga nabubulok, it produces methane gas, 'yun ang greenhouse gas na nagko-contribute sa global warming o sa paginit ng ating mundo, and in turn yun din ang nagko-contribute sa pabagu-bagong klima natin," Melo-Rijk said.

(Rotting food produces methane gas, greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming, which in turn causes climate change.)

The Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to extreme weather due to climate change.

Lack of awareness and a skewed perspective of excess in urban areas contribute greatly to food waste, Melo-Rijk said. When people do not realize the problem at hand, no consequences can be seen from wasting food, she said.

"So that feeling na marami, 'yun siguro ang nakikita nating mali in terms of consumption kaya nagsasayang ang tao ng pagkain, kasi iniisip nila marami. Hindi sila aware na ganito, na meron tayong problema sa environment," she explained.

## FOOD WASTE TO COMPOST

A 2021 study by the United Nations Environment Programme said Philippine households generate some 9.4 million tons of food waste, excluding those from restaurants, markets and groceries, canteens, and other commercial and business establishments which cater to large groups.

WWF PH partner GreenSpace used to collect food waste from restaurants and hotels, but shifted to households when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"Since lahat ng tao nasa bahay, so wala nang food waste sa mga commercial spaces, which proves na kung nasaan tayo andoon talaga ang food waste," GreenSpace Chief Soil Mate Rina Papio explained.

"Ang isa sa mga gusto natin magawa, is maparami pa yung mga kaya nating iproseso ona daily basis at mas marami pang maengganyo na magshift to a composting life. Sana maging parte na ng bahay at buhay yung pagco-compost," Papio said.

## THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

In Marikina, the City Environment Management Office (CEMO) is scaling up composting.

While it collects only from commercial establishments, the local government gathers around 1 ton or 1,000 kilograms of food waste per day.

Since it began its Food Waste Management program in November 2014, the amount of food waste has gone steadily higher every year, save for a brief blip in 2020 during the pandemic when quarantines closed down many businesses.

"Per customer hindi naman po usually marami ang natitira [na pagkain, pero] 'pag pinagsama-sama sa whole day operation, doon dumarami talaga," Judith Angulo, Manager of Comedor by Miguel and Maria told ABS-CBN News.

(Per customer, not a lot of food is wasted. But it amounts to a lot when combined together after a whole day of operation.)

The restaurant is one of the establishments along the Gil Fernando food strip near the Marikina CEMO which benefits from the city's Food Waste Management System.

Restaurants in the area know to expect the small Food Waste Truck every morning to collect buckets of food waste from their back doors.

The waste is then processed in 2 machines: a rotary machine where it is combined with saw dust and enzyme, and a bioreactor where saw dust and animal manure are added.

Both machines produce compost, which is cooled and cured for 3 weeks, before being packaged in recycled sacks made of election campaign tarpaulins.

The compost is sold for P15 per kilo to farms or given for free to Marikina residents.

"May mga request din ang mga homeowners association at community associations, libre namin binibigay kasi sa Marikina pinopromote namin ang urban farming, para at home pa lang na-a-address na ang food security; may sarili silang tanim ng gulay," Acting CEMO Officer Oliver Villamena explained.

(Homeowners associations and community associations also put in requests, we give it to them for free because we promote urban farming in Marikina so that starting at the home, food security is already addressed.)

The city's Food Waste Management system began as food waste collection for hog feed.

"Naisip namin, i-level up the process at 'yung paraan, gumawa tayo ng truck talaga na mangongolekta para dito," Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro said.

(We thought of leveling up the process and deploying a truck for waste collection.)

Apart from brochures and social media posts for information dissemination, years of implementation ingrained the system to the city's constituents.

"Ang pinakamagandang paraan ay 'yung meron tayong food waste truck na nakikita nila na aktwal na nangongolekta at may specific na schedule o araw na nangongolekta para yung tao alam kung kailan iipunin ang food waste nila, at paano itu-turn over. Higit sa lahat 'yung mga nangongolekta mismo pinapaliwanag mismo sa mga taong nakakausap nila," Teodoro said.

"It has to be sustainable, in the sense that we have the proper infrastructure, we have knowledgeable personnel na gagawa ng mga bagay na ito," Teodoro added.

Food waste in Marikina is collected separately from non-biodegradable and biodegradable garbage.

But Teodoro admits some system limitations, including limited capacity for waste collection.

Marikina produces some 350,000 kilos of biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage daily, of which 65,000 kilos or 15.45 percent is household kitchen waste.

"Sayang, 'yung biodegradable in-e-encourage natin na 'yung iba kainin ng alagang hayop, 'yung iba dinidisperse na lang properly na may segregation, dahil 'yung capacity natin hindi pa ganun kalaki," he said.

## FOOD DEFICIT

While composting is one way to divert food waste back into the circular economy, it should be addressed at the source, Melo-Raijk said.

WWF PH reported that the world is now operating at a "food deficit." The world is consuming resources equivalent to 1.7 planets.

"We are using up our resources at a maximum capacity... meaning we are already borrowing coming from future generations, 'yung para sa kanila, hinihiram na natin yun," Melo-Raijk said.

(We are using what is meant for them.)

She said the basic strategy in any waste-management program is prevention: Buy only what is needed and what can be consumed, and prepare or cook only what can be eaten.

WWF PH also promotes buying "ugly produce," or fruit and vegetables that do not meet cosmetic standards but are otherwise good to eat.

Food surplus should be donated instead of left to rot, to address food security for the underprivileged.

When food waste is unavoidable, composting can help create community farms which can also help provide for those who cannot afford food, GreenSpace's Papio added.

"Kailangan atin maging mindful talaga, gusto natin maiba ang pagtingin natin sa food waste. Sa umpisa pa lang i-segregate natin nang maayos, makagawa ng compost, makapagtanim ng pagkain, so yung itinanim natin sa food waste na naging compost, 'yun ang pwedeng ipakain o makain ng mga tao," Papio explained.

(We need to be mindful, we want to change our perspective on food waste. From the start, let us segregate properly, so we could produce compost, plant food, and feed people.)

"We want to have a call to action for the public and private entities... prioritize the issue on biodegradable waste. Kasi malaking problema sa Pilipinas ang basura. Hindi naman tayo lahat forever na lang magtatapon nang magtatapon sa landfills, we have to manage our waste and the pollution we create," Melo-Raijk said.

## **BBC NEWS**

### **Don't backtrack on climate, COP host Egypt tells Truss**

By Justin Rowlett

Egypt, which is hosting this year's COP27 UN climate summit in November, has warned the UK not to "backtrack" on the global climate agenda.

The unusual intervention followed press reports that Prime Minister Liz Truss told King Charles III not to attend.

Ms Truss has not said whether she will attend COP27, suggesting that the UK may have neither a head of government nor a head of state in attendance.

The UK hosted the COP26 UN climate conference last November in Glasgow.

Traditionally the hosts of successive COPs work together to ensure a smooth handover.

A story in last week's Sunday Times claimed Ms Truss had "ordered" the King, a passionate environmentalist, not to attend the summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. Buckingham Palace said advice had been sought by the King and given by Ms Truss.

On Tuesday Ms Truss told LBC radio: "It is entirely a matter for the King, his travel programme," but said she would not reveal the contents of her discussions with the monarch, which she said were "entirely confidential".

The Egyptian warning appears to reflect fears over the Truss government's commitment to its 'Net Zero' policy of zero net carbon emissions by 2050. Don't backtrack on climate, Egypt tells Truss

The Egyptian team says it is disappointed that the British King will not be attending. His presence "would have been of great added value to the visibility of climate action at this critical moment," it said.

"We hope this doesn't indicate that the UK is backtracking from the global climate agenda after presiding over COP26," the spokesperson said.

Buckingham Palace has told the BBC the decision not to attend the climate summit was made "with mutual friendship and respect" and said the King was "ever mindful of the sovereign's role to act on the government's advice."

The previous prime minister, Boris Johnson, made the UK achieving net zero by 2050 a key government policy.

Liz Truss has said she supports the net zero target and will "double down" on achieving it, but has lifted a ban on fracking in England, plans to issue more than 100 new



licences for oil and gas in the North Sea and has signalled she may cancel a host of green regulations in the UK.

Her government has also commissioned a review into the policy, designed to "ensure that delivering the net zero target does not place undue burdens on business or consumers".

The chairman of the review, the conservative MP and former energy and climate minister Chris Skidmore, told the BBC this week that he saw it as an opportunity to restate the huge potential productivity and efficiency gains from transitioning to a low carbon economy.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged all world leaders to attend COP27. It is the best way to show "they are in this fight and in it together," he told a news conference in New York.

The UK's COP26 climate champion, Nigel Topping, told the BBC on Tuesday he had not ruled out King Charles attending the conference. "He'd be very welcome," said Mr Topping. "The Egyptians want everyone to come with their "A game", he told the BBC.

"Having King Charles in Sharm el-Sheikh would attract more leaders from around the world", Mr Topping believes.

## King Charles will not attend climate summit on Truss advice

King Charles will not attend the climate change conference COP27, which is due to be held in Egypt next month, Buckingham Palace has confirmed.

It was responding to a story in the Sunday Times which claimed Prime Minister Liz Truss had "ordered" the King not to attend.

The Palace said advice had been sought by the King and given by Ms Truss.

"With mutual friendship and respect there was agreement that the King would not attend," the Palace stated.

Before his accession to the throne last month, the King - then the Prince of Wales - had indicated he would attend the annual conference.

Royal correspondent Jonny Dymond said the BBC had put it to the Palace the King must be personally disappointed given his long decades of passionate environmental campaigning.

But the Palace responded that the idea the King was uncomfortable was not the case, and he was ever mindful of the sovereign's role to act on the government's advice.

Last November - as Prince Charles - the King travelled to Egypt with the then-government's blessing to urge the Egyptian administration on its efforts, meeting President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi during a planned visit.

In the past, the King has demonstrated his deep commitment to environmental issues and, as Prince of Wales, had a long history of campaigning to reduce the effects of climate change.

Only last year he made a speech at the COP26 opening ceremony in Glasgow, when the summit was hosted by the UK. The late Queen also gave a speech at the event, via video link.

Senior Conservative MP Tobias Ellwood said he hoped "common sense would prevail" and the King would be allowed to go Egypt.

He said in a [tweet](#) that King Charles was a "globally-respected voice" on the environment whose attendance would add "serious authority" to the British delegation.

### **Analysis box by Sean Coughlan, royal correspondent**

At last year's COP26 conference, King Charles - or Prince Charles as he was then - was one of the star turns, delivering a passionate call for world leaders to adopt a "war-like footing" over climate change.

This year he'll have to keep his powder dry, after what's presented, on the surface at least, as a dispute-free agreement that he shouldn't go.

Although it's worth noting this is about not attending "in person", which might leave the door ajar for other virtual contributions.

There will inevitably be speculation that, below all the constitutional smoothing, this will have really disappointed the King. He has campaigned devotedly for decades, heart on sleeve, on such environmental issues.

And it could also raise the prospect of early tensions between a new King and a new PM.

But it's a case of different role, different rules, and the King has always known that as sovereign he would have to act within a different set of politically-neutral constraints.

Presentational grey line

Conservative Cabinet minister Simon Clarke said the decision for the King not to attend had been made "amicably, as far as I am aware".

"The suggestions this morning that he was ordered to stay away are simply not true," he told Times Radio. "It is the normal course of matters that this would be handled by the government rather than by the monarchy."

The Egyptian authorities say they hope to use their presidency of COP27 to urge the international community to act on pledges of support for developing countries to cope with the devastating impacts of climate change.

However, there has been criticism ahead of the summit. Human Rights Watch has said Egypt has severely curtailed the work of environmental groups. Officials in Cairo said the report was "misleading".

COP27, a United Nations event, is being held in the coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh from 8 to 16 November.

Next week, King Charles will attend his first public engagements since the royal period of mourning came to an end, including a reception in Edinburgh for South Asian communities from across the UK and a visit to Dunfermline Abbey in Fife.

A new picture of the King with the Queen Consort, Prince and Princess of Wales was released on Saturday

On Monday, Downing Street dismissed claims it "ordered" the King not to attend the summit.

A spokesperson said it was a matter for the Royal Family whether any members address the COP27 climate conference.

The prime minister's official spokesman would not comment on conversations between the prime minister and the King, but said the UK had a "proud record" on tackling climate change.

Buckingham Palace previously said the King sought advice on attending the conference from Ms Truss with "mutual friendship and respect"

**CNBC**

**Cities are largely to blame for climate change. Could they also be part of the solution?**

By: Karen Gilchrist

Some of the most extreme weather events on record took place in 2022, as climate change-induced wildfires and droughts ravaged parts of Europe, the U.S. and Africa, even as Asia battled disastrous floods and monsoon rains. Experts say this is just the beginning.

“What we calculated and what we knew as, say, one-in-10-year events is now becoming one-in-five-years,” Ana Mijic, professor at Imperial College London, told CNBC.

The world’s cities are at the forefront of those shifts.

Cities play an outsized role in climate change, consuming around 75% of the world’s energy and producing more than 70% of greenhouse gas emissions.

But could they also be part of the solution, being small and nimble enough to avoid the bureaucracy of national politics?

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **[Extreme weather shows time of climate change denial is over —Vatican](#)**

By: Philip Pullella

Vatican City — Recent extreme weather events, such as the hurricane that devastated parts of Florida, show that the time for climate change denial and skepticism is over, a senior Vatican official said on Tuesday.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, a Canadian who heads the Vatican's development office, made his comments at a news conference presenting "The Letter," a new film on the climate crisis by two-time Emmy award winner Nicolas Brown.

The film takes its title from Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato Si* (Praised Be) on the defense of the environment. It premiered at the Vatican on Tuesday and will be available free on YouTube Originals. Tuesday is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of the environment.

"The time is over for speculation, for skepticism and denial, for irresponsible populism," Czerny said.

"Apocalyptic floods, mega droughts, disastrous heatwaves, and catastrophic cyclones and hurricanes have become the new normal in recent years; they continue today; tomorrow, they will get worse," he said.

Last week, Hurricane Ian, one of America's fiercest storms, killed more than 100 people and devastated tens of thousands of properties. [Read full story](#)

At the time that the papal encyclical was issued, some conservative Catholics allied with conservative political movements and corporate interests criticized the pope for backing the opinion of a majority of scientists who said global warming was at least partly due to human activity.

Francis, 85, strongly supports the goals of the 2015 UN Paris accord to reduce global warming and the use of fossil fuels. Former President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the accord but his successor, Joe Biden, has rejoined it.

Hoesung Lee, the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), told the news conference "the stakes have never been higher" in the need to stem global warming.

"The IPCC's assessment clearly points out that climate impacts and risk are becoming increasingly complex and more difficult to manage, and that accelerated and equitable climate action in mitigating and adopting to climate change is critical to sustainable development," said Lee, a South Korean economist.

"Both the science community and faith community are very clear. The planet is in crisis and its life support systems are in peril," he said.

Czerny said unchecked climate disruption and environmental degradation would lead to loss of lives and livelihoods, forced displacement, and violent conflict.

The film, which includes conversations with the pope, addresses climate change through the eyes of an indigenous leader from the Amazon, young people, poor people and researchers studying its effects on coral reefs

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [PH children bear brunt of Karding, climate change hit](#)

By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

MANILA, Philippines—Over a million individuals were on the path of Super Typhoon Karding as it ravaged Luzon last month. Among those who suffered most were children who are being exposed to far more dangerous situations.

According to estimates by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), a total of 1,072,282 individuals—or 299,127 families—felt the impact of Karding (international name: Noru), which wreaked havoc in Luzon.

According to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), which monitored the impact of Karding on poor communities in the Philippines, out of the total 689,000 people in vulnerable populations hit by Karding, 223,236 were children below age 15.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) said the typhoon exposed Filipino children to various dangers involving their health and wellbeing. It also halted many students’ progress in catching up with learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Children’s health at risk

According to Unicef, “damaged health, water, and sanitation facilities and disrupted services increase the risk of getting sick from many diseases.”

Last week, acting Health Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire reported that at least 21 health facilities had been damaged at the height of Karding.

However, she emphasized that the damage was minimal and no COVID vaccine had been destroyed as many feared.

Data from NDRRMC showed that 58,944 houses were damaged.

In 2021, after Typhoon Odette slammed into parts of Bohol and Cebu, some Unicef Philippines staffers who traveled in the areas noted that among the major concerns that needed to be addressed in the aftermath of the typhoon was access to safe water supply.

“Lack of safe drinking water can lead to dehydration, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene can lead to the spread of water-borne diseases like diarrhea, a leading cause of death among children under five years of age,” said Sol Balane, Unicef WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) consultant.

Unicef also pointed out that the lack of safe water and nutritious food can lead to malnutrition and even death.



Latest data from the Department of Agriculture (DA) showed that agricultural losses due to Karding rose to P3.12 billion as of Oct. 3. This included 158,117 metric tons (MT) of products on 170,762 hectares (ha) of cropland in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), Bicol Region, and Western Visayas.

The DA said rice, corn, cassava, abaca, high-value crops, livestock, poultry, and fisheries products had been destroyed. Agricultural infrastructure also took a hit, the DA added.

The NDRRMC noted in its situation report that as of Oct. 3, a total of 24,312 family food packs had already been distributed in areas hit by Karding.

#### Learning interrupted

The Department of Education (DepEd) earlier said that 12,174,549 students in 21,509 schools were displaced by Karding for mainly two reasons—their classrooms were damaged or used as evacuation centers.

As of Sept. 30, the DepEd said the cost of repair and reconstruction of 165 schools damaged or destroyed by the typhoon—including 386 classrooms—was already pegged at P1.17 billion.

The schools which suffered infrastructure damage were located in the Cordillera, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol Region, and the National Capital Region.

Out of the 561 schools converted into shelters, 92 still housed evacuees as of Oct. 1.

“Schools are often used as evacuation centers before, during, and after emergencies, preventing children from attending their classes and catching up on lost learning during the pandemic,” Unicef said.

According to DepEd spokesperson Michael Poa, the usual protocol for schools that suffered damage was for them to switch to either distance or blended learning.

“If this is not possible, what we are doing now is coordinating with various local governments to see if they have temporary spaces like covered courts and other rooms, which they can lend to us to hold classes for our learners,” he said.

#### Disasters and children’s mental health

Disasters, like super typhoons, have an impact on children’s mental health.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children may experience anxiety, fear, sadness, sleep disruption, distressing dreams, irritability, difficulty concentrating, and anger outbursts following a disaster.

Children under the age of 8, the US CDC said, are at particular risk for mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after a disaster.

One study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Pediatric Medicine* titled “Children’s mental health at times of disasters: a narrative review” found that disasters often lead to the most traumatic events among children.

The death of a parent or another family member, the loss of home and belongings, and various abuse to children due to uncertainty about basic needs and the future were among the traumatic impacts of disasters on children.

“Intolerance of the uncertainty associated with a disaster leads to anxiety, fear, and worry for both adults and children. Repetition of a displacement makes a child even more vulnerable to psychological trauma,” the study noted.

The study also found that some children may experience Acute Stress Disorder, which involves specific fear behaviors that could last from three days to a month after a traumatic event. The symptoms may include sleep disorders, negative affect, hyper-vigilance, or complaints of physical symptoms such as headache or dizziness.

Children with prior mental health diagnoses—such as depression, anxiety, or ADHD—may also demonstrate more symptoms after a disaster.

“The symptoms that children manifest in the immediate aftermath of a disaster will vary according to their ages and developmental stages,” the study said.

Children’s mental health at times of disasters: a narrative review

Stress and emotional problems may affect children’s physical health, quality of life, and how they do at home, in school, and in their communities.

“It is important to keep children mentally and physically safe both during and after a disaster. Parents who are able to recognize the signs of children’s mental stress can best help their children cope and remain healthy,” US CDC said.

Children vulnerable to abuse, violence

Aside from disasters’ impact on children’s mental health, Unicef noted that “the loss of income and heightened stress among families and communities increase the risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation.”

A separate study funded by The Philippines Project—a policy-engaged initiative to stimulate research collaboration between academics and policymakers in the Philippines—based at the College of Asia and the Pacific of The Australian National University (ANU) found the impact of multiple natural disasters on Filipino children.

In the study, “The influence of natural disasters on violence, mental health, food insecurity, and stunting in the Philippines: Findings from a nationally representative

cohort,” researchers saw that natural disasters are associated with child physical abuse and family violence.

Results from the survey the researchers conducted from October 2016 to January 2017 among over 4,000 Filipino children found that at least 41 percent of children affected by natural disasters in the past 12 months were living in households that experienced family violence.

At least 33 percent of children reported witnessing violence following a disaster, while one in three children—30 percent—reported being physically hurt by a parent, and 20 percent said being hurt by parents in a forceful manner.

One in three children (35 percent) were stunted—or were too small for their age.

Bearing the brunt of climate change

Civil engineer and wind dynamics expert Joshua C. Agar—an engineering faculty member at the University of the Philippines–Diliman—had told INQUIRER.net that the country was likely to see stronger typhoons due to climate change.

“Expect typhoons like Karding that are small in size but with super destructive winds near the eye,” he said.

This was echoed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, who said that “one of the effects of climate change is that the storms are growing stronger. The Philippines will bear the brunt of such extreme events in the Pacific. Karding will not be the last super typhoon, and it might not even be the last just this year.”

“The Eastern Seaboard, which tends to get hit by extreme weather events, also tends to have poorer provinces. Relying on local resources or mere coordination by the national government will not be enough,” he said.

“The local resources are simply not enough. And in extreme events such as super typhoons, the local responders are also victims, and their institutions are also disrupted,” Salceda added.

Climate change, Unicef said, is a child’s rights crisis.

The Philippines is the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change, according to Pacific Disaster Center and UN Humanitarian Country Team. With that in mind, Unicef noted that “children are bearing the brunt of climate change, yet they are the least responsible for it.”

“Climate action should put children at its center,” Unicef added.

Among the urgent action that Unicef said was needed to provide a better future for Filipino children include:

Protect and ensure essential social services for children.

Equip children with the knowledge and ability to adapt to a climate-changed world.

Increase funding and investments in adaptation areas such as climate monitoring, analysis, and forecasting systems .

In 2021, a preprint study by The Lancet, a highly-respected peer review science and health journal, surveyed 15,543 children aged 16-25 years old from 10 countries, including the Philippines, United Kingdom (UK), Finland, France, United States (US), Australia, Portugal, Brazil, India, and Nigeria.

Results showed that most of the respondents reported a significant amount of worry. Over 60 percent said they felt very worried (32 percent) or extremely worried (27 percent) about climate change.

At least 25 percent felt moderately worried, 11 percent were a little worried, while five percent said they were not concerned about climate change.

The countries where most respondents felt “very worried” and “extremely worried” were countries that suffer severe impacts of climate change, including:

Philippines: 84 percent (49 extremely worried, 35 very worried)

India: 68 percent (35 extremely worried, 33 very worried)

Brazil: 67 percent (29 extremely worried, 38 very worried)

Most of the respondents also associated negative emotions with the climate crisis—including “sad,” “afraid,” “anxious,” and “powerless.”

A separate study published in Science Magazine—the peer-reviewed academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)—found that newborns across the globe—including children to be born a few years from now—will face disproportionate increases in extreme weather events that would include heatwaves, droughts, crop failures, river flooding, and wildfires.

Children from low-income countries would be more exposed to future harsher events caused by climate change.

## **[OPINION] [World at breaking point: Facing uncertainties](#)**

By: Selva Ramachandran

We are living in uncertain times. Extreme weather patterns are becoming usual occurrences around the world. The onslaught of recent Supertyphoons like “Odette” and “Karding” that swept parts of the Philippines clearly demonstrate the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society.

They provide a preview of what inaction on climate change can lead to: escalating needs for disaster response and recovery; increasing fiscal stress as the government is compelled to provide humanitarian aid to disaster-stricken areas; and widening gap across income groups as low-income groups are more-often-than-not more vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

Headlines may scream for urgent action, but implementing change is tough. Filipinos, just like the rest of the world, may appear to be trapped in a whirlpool of real problems and possible solutions, fueled by the uncertain world we live in. It is unsettling lives everywhere.

Global development has stalled. Until 2020, the global human development index (HDI)—a measure of a nation’s health, education, and average income—had risen every year since 1991 when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) began calculating it. It fell in 2020. And it fell again in 2021. And it fell almost everywhere: 90 percent of countries saw a decline in one year or more, wiping out five years of progress. The Philippines is no exception. In 2021, the country slid back to “medium” HDI category, after years of maintaining a spot amongst the “high” HDI group.

Development today, with its new dimensions of uncertainty, is the focus of UNDP’s Human Development Report 2022. The report examines the ways in which crises are piling up to unsettle life, and interacting with our changing planet, increasing polarization and societal transformation. These are all moving at unprecedented speed and scale and interacting with each other in ways we cannot ignore.

An obvious example is humanity’s impact on planetary processes, from rising temperature to dwindling wildlife. For the first time in history, manufactured materials, such as concrete and asphalt, outweigh the Earth’s biomass. Microplastics are everywhere: in country-sized garbage patches in the ocean, in protected forests and distant mountaintops, in people’s lungs and blood. This is threatening humanity’s very survival.

Aside from the planetary crisis, we are faced with a quickly eroding social fabric. Our societies are divided all over the world. Globally, trust in one another is at its lowest recorded level, coming in at just 30 percent in the latest HDR 2022. This erosion of trust pushed people to extreme positions, with those feeling very insecure twice as likely to

support extremist views, which makes it even harder for a society to take collective action.

The future looks challenging, but this can be reversed. Our success will depend on our ability to take decisive action, and to prioritize policies that invest, insure, and innovate. There is already progress to cheer from the dramatic increase in renewable energy capacity. With serious investment this could rapidly accelerate and ensure a more sustainable source of energy. As investment ramps up, people also need to feel safe. Alongside insurance for companies and countries, social protection should be the bedrock of our societies, with universal basic income and cash transfers helping insulate people from increasing shocks.

However, it is innovation that will be at the epicenter of us conquering the unknowable challenges ahead. And we are only just scratching the surface.

Humanity's only certainty is that our future is uncertain. To thrive together, we must throw out the old rule book and recognize the world has changed. We trialed a new playbook during the pandemic, from cash transfers reaching over a billion people to saving 20 million lives through vaccination in 2021 alone. This shows what is possible when we put our minds to it. It is time to usher in a new era, to rekindle hope and rewrite the future.

## [World Bank unit launches \\$6-B facility to bolster food security](#)

By: Ronnel Domingo

International Finance Corp. (IFC) of the World Bank group has launched a \$6-billion financing facility intended to help support food production and strengthen the private sector's ability to respond to surging levels of food insecurity across the globe.

The facility will be used to support private sector companies along the food value chain by leveraging IFC's sectoral expertise in agribusiness, manufacturing, infrastructure, and technology, as well as the financial sector and trade finance.

IFC said in a statement the war in Ukraine and an uneven global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic have added to rising levels of hunger and malnourishment, which have already been worsened by climate change and increasingly severe weather events that are damaging harvests and reducing yields.

The new funding platform will supplement the World Bank's commitment of \$30 billion in response to the food crisis.

In their East Asia and the Pacific Economic Update report released last week, the World Bank said that to achieve the food-related goals of affordability, security, and sustainability, governments must begin by shifting focus from rice-centric food security to nutrition security.

World Bank EAP chief economist Aaditya Mattoo said rice-centric policies were most pronounced in Indonesia and the Philippines.

The report suggests that governments encourage diversified production of more nutritious foods like livestock products, fruits and vegetables, by reducing policy distortions that currently favor price production.

"This goal requires a move away from input-intensive to knowledge-intensive technologies and production practices, involving, for example, improved and resilient breeds/varieties and precision agriculture," the report stated.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **200 QC students trained on water conservation, climate change**

By: Perfecto Raymundo Jr.

Manila – Students from an elementary school in Quezon City on Monday received a lecture on water conservation and climate change.

Virginia Macapagal, principal of the San Gabriel Elementary School (SGES) in Novaliches, said 200 of their students took part in a seminar given by the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Kami po ay mayroong 6,178 students at 35 teaching personnel na sumusuporta sa LWUA at sa programa nito (We have 6,178 students and 35 teaching personal who are supporting the LWUA and its program)," the school principal said during the event, which was part of the 49th anniversary celebration of the LWUA.

The principal said the LWUA gave an audio-visual presentation on water conservation, climate change, the water cycle and the different sources of water.

The DENR, meanwhile, gave a presentation on the different functions of its attached agencies like the EMB, Mines and Geoscience Bureau, Forest Management Bureau and the Land Management Bureau.

The seminar also tackled different environmental problems and the waste segregation of biodegradable materials like fruit and vegetable peelings as well as non-biodegradable materials like plastic and bottles.

Remedios Pepito Destriza, president of the Heroes Hills Rotary Club which counts the SGES as one of its adopted schools, told the Philippine News Agency that parlor games and a poster-making contest were also held during the event.

"The SGES is an adopted school of Rotary Club since 2018. The poster-making contest was participated in by 10 students aged 8-12 y/o from Grades IV-VI. This is the 1st time that the 'LWUA-GAD Buhay Kyut' was held in in San Gabriel Elementary School located in Barangay Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, QC," Destriza said.

The LWUA-GAD Buhay Kyut is a program on water conservation, health and hygiene, and environmental protection.

The 200 students were given hygiene kits at the end of the event.



## [UN urges all COP27- bound countries to prioritize climate action](#)

By: Xinhua

United Nations – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called on all countries to make climate action the global priority.

The UN chief told journalists at the UN headquarters in New York that all countries, led by the G20, can demonstrate that "climate action truly is the top global priority" as government representatives begin finalizing the agenda for the COP27 (the 27th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) next month.

COP27 will take place in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt from Nov. 6 to 18.

"A third of Pakistan flooded. Europe's hottest summer in 500 years. The Philippines hammered. The whole of Cuba in black-out. And here, in the United States, Hurricane Ian has delivered a brutal reminder that no country and no economy is immune from the climate crisis," Guterres said.

He underscored the importance of COP27, while warning that the collective commitments of the G20 leading industrialized nations are coming "far too little, and far too late."

"The actions of the wealthiest developed and emerging economies simply don't add up," he said, pointing out that current pledges and policies are "shutting the door" on limiting global temperature to 2 Celsius degrees, let alone meet the 1.5 Celsius degrees goal.

Guterres warned that "we are in a life-or-death struggle for our own safety today and our survival tomorrow," saying there is no time for pointing fingers or "twiddling thumbs" but instead, "a quantum level compromise between developed and emerging economies" is required.

"The world can't wait," he said. "Emissions are at an all-time high and rising."

While pursuing their own "drop-in-the-bucket initiatives," international financial institutions must overhaul their business approaches to combat climate change, he said.

Meaningful progress must be made to address loss and damage beyond countries' abilities to adapt as well as financial support for climate action, said the UN chief.

Decisions must be made now on the question of loss and damage as "failure to act" will lead to "more loss of trust and more climate damage," he said, describing it as "a moral imperative that cannot be ignored."

COP27 is "the number one litmus test" of how seriously governments take the growing climate toll on the most vulnerable countries, according to Guterres.

"This week's pre-COP can determine how this crucial issue will be handled in Sharm al-Sheikh," he said, noting that the world needs clarity from developed countries on the delivery of their USD100 billion pledge to support climate action in developing countries.

Environment ministers from some 50 countries gathered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Monday for the pre-COP27 climate talks, with rich countries expected to come under pressure to contribute more to fight global warming.

Moreover, adaptation and resilience funding must represent half of all climate finance; multilateral development banks "must raise their game;" and emerging economies need support to back renewable energy and build resilience, said the top UN official.

While the Resilience and Sustainability Trust led by the International Monetary Fund is a good start, major multilateral development bank shareholders must be the driving force for transformative change, he said.

"On every climate front, the only solution is solidarity and decisive action," said the secretary-general.

## **RAPPLER**

### **Marcos gets renewable energy push after DOJ opinion on foreign equity cap**

By: Ralf Rivas

Manila, Philippines – The Marcos administration has secured the legroom it needs to meet one of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s campaign promises, after the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a legal opinion that there are no foreign ownership restrictions on renewable energy projects.

In its legal opinion, the DOJ said that foreign investors can own 100% of renewable energy projects and are not subject to the cap set by the Constitution. Prior to this, it was assumed that foreigners can only own at most 40% in renewable energy joint ventures.

The Department of Energy (DOE) welcomed the legal opinion, noting that it would help the Philippines achieve its target share of renewable energy in the power generation mix of 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

The legal opinion penned by Justice Secretary Crispin Remulla stated that the “exploration, development, and utilization of inexhaustible renewable energy” are not subject to the 40% cap on foreign equity provided in the Constitution.

The DOJ explained that foreign ownership restrictions exclude natural resources that are not “susceptible to appropriation,” such as the sun, wind, and ocean. It noted that the limit on foreign ownership was to preserve Filipinos’ limited and exhaustible resources.

Moreover, the DOJ said that the phrase “all forces of potential energy” in the Constitution should exclude energy of kinetic nature.

In physics, potential energy is “energy at rest,” while kinetic energy is “energy in motion.”

But for appropriation of water, the DOJ said that it will still be subject to the foreign ownership restriction set in the Water Code.

#### **IRR revision**

The DOJ noted that the implementing rules and regulations or IRR of Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 must be amended to conform to the newly released opinion.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that the agency is now preparing the necessary amendments, particularly Section 19 of the Renewable Energy Law’s IRR, which specifies that Filipino corporations must hold at least 60% in any joint venture.

“Private sector investments are central in achieving our renewable energy targets and vision for the Filipino people and this is a welcome development for our foreign investors to invest in renewable energy production here in our country,” Lotilla said.

Currently, coal-fired power plants have around 44% of the total share, while natural gas and geothermal cornered 22.9% and 13.4%, respectively, DOE data showed. Hydro accounts for 10.5% while, wind, biomass, and solar are under 1%.

As of June 2022, a total of 998 renewable energy contracts with an aggregate installed capacity of 5,460.59 megawatts and potential capacity of 61,613.81 megawatts have been awarded by the DOE. This generated around P270.8-billion investments for the country.

The push for renewables is a campaign promise of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., with images of windmills even repeatedly shown throughout his campaign.

Marcos is also looking at pricey nuclear energy to resolve the country’s energy crisis.

## THE VISAYAN DAILY STAR

### [\[Opinion\] Rising sea levels](#)

As the country with one of the world's longest coastlines, stretching more than 36,000 kilometers, and 70 percent of municipalities facing large bodies of water, the Philippines should be preparing for the impact of rising sea levels, which the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has reported to be rising three times faster compared to global averages.

"This can cause inundation of low-lying areas, especially many of our countrymen who live on the beach," Rosalina de Guzman, chief of the state weather bureau's climate data section said last week.

Scientists attribute sea level rise to warming temperatures which melt the polar ice caps, causing oceans to expand.

In April, Pagasa climate scientist Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte said the sea level in the Philippines had risen by about 12 centimeters over the past two decades. According to the World Bank's climate change portal, regional variations in the rise of sea levels exist "due to natural variability in regional winds and ocean currents, which can occur over periods of days to months or even decades."

The WB said rising sea levels "create not only stress on the physical coastline, but also on coastal ecosystems." "Saltwater intrusions can be contaminating freshwater aquifers, many of which sustain municipal and agricultural water supplies and natural ecosystems. As global temperatures continue to warm, sea levels will keep rising for a long time because there is a substantial lag to reaching an equilibrium," it said.

"The magnitude of the rise will depend strongly on the rate of future carbon dioxide emissions and future global warming, and the speed might increasingly depend on the rate of glacier and ice sheet melting," it added.

For a highly vulnerable country that has not done much to contribute to efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, there isn't much the Philippines can do, unless its government's priorities change. For now, coastal villages and areas will have to resign themselves to the fact that sea levels are rising and the good-old Filipino trait of resilience will have to see us and future generations through once again. Preparations to meet the rising sea levels will need to start now, and those whose homes and livelihoods are dependent on the coastline will have to keep it always in mind

## UN NEWS

### [Five ways media and journalists can support climate action while tackling misinformation](#)

According to the IPCC, this “shaping” power can usefully build public support to accelerate climate mitigation – the efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of the greenhouse gases that are heating our planet – but it can also be used to do exactly the opposite.

This places a huge responsibility on media companies and journalists.

The Panel also noted that global media coverage of climate-related stories, across a study of 59 countries, has been growing; from about 47,000 articles in 2016-17 to about 87,000 in 2020-21.

Generally, the media representation of climate science has increased and become more accurate over time, but “on occasion, the propagation of scientifically misleading information by organized counter-movements has fuelled polarization, with negative implications for climate policy”, IPCC experts explain.

Moreover, media professionals have at times drawn on the norm of representing “both sides of a controversy”, bearing the risk of a disproportionate representation of scepticism on the scientifically proven fact that humans contribute to climate change.

So how can journalists be a force for good amid these challenges and what UN Secretary-General António Guterres has deemed a ‘current climate emergency’?

UN News spoke with Andrew Revkin, one of the most honoured and experienced environmental journalists in the United States, and the founding director of the new Initiative on Communication and Sustainability at Columbia University’s Earth Institute.

Mr. Revkin has been writing about climate change for decades, even before the IPCC was created 30 years ago, for renowned media organizations such as The New York Times, National Geographic and Discover Magazine. He has also participated in events led by the UN Environmental Programme, the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-Habitat and other UN agencies.

Drawing on Mr. Revkin’s broad experience, and the expertise of UNESCO and the IPCC, here are five ways in which journalism can support climate action and fight misinformation.

#### 1. Stop being so (overly) dramatic

As climate change takes hold, people are increasingly demanding information about what is happening, and also about what they and their governments can do about it.

According to UNESCO, three of the media's traditional roles – informing audiences, acting as watchdogs, and campaigning on social issues – are especially relevant in the context of a changing climate.

Mr. Revkin explains that journalists are attracted to voices that are out in the landscape, and “subservient” to how the story is being framed, whether it is by the UN Secretary-General, or by activists blockading a street in London or New York.

“I’ve been on the Greenland ice sheet. I’ve written hundreds of stories about sea level. The range of sea level rise by 2100 is still kind of where it was when I wrote my first story [for Discovery Magazine] back in 1988. So, when you put all that together, we end up conveying unfortunately more of a problem story to the public”, he says.

The journalist adds that modern media also tries to get people’s attention amid a lot of competing priorities, and there is a “tendency” to latch onto the dramatic angle.

“I run a programme where I’m trying to, among other things, get people to stop and think about the words they use. When you use the word “collapse” to talk about a glacier, are you thinking in the many centuries timescale that the scientists are thinking, or are you thinking about collapse like when the World Trade Centre [towers] fell? It’s really important to be clearer when we choose words and how they might convey a false impression,” he underscores.

According to UNESCO, and studies carried out by the Thomson Reuters Institute, the “doom and gloom” narrative can also make some people simply “turn off” and lose interest.

“[The dramatic angle] will get you the clicks. But one thing I say a lot these days is if clicks are the metric of success in environmental journalism, then, we’re kind of doomed because what you really want is to build an engaged back and forth with readers and with experts so that you as a medium, or journalist of a media company, become a kind of trusted guide,” Mr. Revkin highlights.

## 2. A climate change story goes beyond (the) climate

Part of getting away from the doom and gloom and inspiring that engagement with readers and science experts is to realize that climate change is not just “a story”, but the context in which so many other stories will unfold.

“If you start your day thinking about questions like ‘how do I reduce climate and energy risk?’, ‘how do I define it and help communities grapple with that?’ then it really changes everything. Because I could keep writing stories warning how global warming is [progressing] or how this is going to be the 4th hottest year in history, and that is part of what journalism does, but it doesn’t move us anywhere towards risk reduction,” Mr. Revkin argues.

He says that taking a more contextual approach can also create space for stories that might go unreported otherwise.

“It’s about creating a pathway for impact. Sometimes the output won’t be a story, but it could be a tool. For example, a [savings] calculator.”

As an example, the journalist cites an online calculator created by an American NGO called Rewiring America. By inputting a few personal details, individuals can learn how much money they may be eligible for under the Inflation Reduction Act (a recent Congressional legislation that reportedly sets up the largest investment in combating climate change in US history) by switching to cleaner energy options.

“Do you know as a person in Ohio, what the benefits of this new climate legislation will be for you? How easy could you transition your home to solar or think about getting an electric vehicle? And you know, what will be the benefits? That’s the kind of thing [it will show] and could be just as true anywhere in the world,” he highlights.

The calculator does not mention climate change on its website, but it motivates users to switch to cleaner energy because of the benefits they might get.

“In the case of developing countries, the most important new information to convey is about risk, environmental risk, flood risk and also energy opportunities. And this is very different from the way journalism operated when I was a lot younger,” Mr. Revkin explains.

Indeed, in a handbook for journalists, UNESCO states that contrary to popular belief, climate is an issue full of knock-on concerns that can sell newspapers and attract new audiences online, in print and on the airwaves; journalists don’t really need to put ‘climate’ in their headlines to tell good climate change stories.

### 3. ‘Get local’ and think more about climate justice

The IPCC scientists have also recognized how “explicit” attention to equity and justice is important for both social acceptance and fair and effective legislation to respond to climate change.

By analysing local contexts and social factors, journalists can also create stories related to climate justice.

“Energy risk is not just about stopping fossil fuels if you are in a developing country that hasn’t contributed any greenhouse emissions at all, if you are living a life of 0.1 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year in rural Rwanda... So, anyone who’s writing simplistic stories about fossil fuel use is missing [the point that] that energy vulnerability matters too,” Mr. Revkin says.

He also gives as an example the Durban floods and landslides in South Africa earlier this year that left nearly 450 dead and displaced some 40,000. A local geographer, Catherine Sutherland, studied the areas where people had drowned and where the worst damage had occurred.



“That problem [was about so much more than] climate. It was about vulnerability created by racial and poverty drivers. Where do you live when you have no money and no power? You live in the places where no one else will live because they know they’re going to get flooded. So that’s the story. That’s where the whole idea of climate justice comes from. It’s too simplistic to say it’s just about fossil fuels,” the journalist adds.

Mr. Revkin underscores that energy decisions and climate vulnerability are largely a function of local conditions, which means they are a “very important part of the story”.

“For example, the World Weather Attribution Project has been doing a rapid analysis of how much global warming contributed to the recent disaster in Pakistan. Journalists focused on climate change because it is important, but each of those reports also has a section on the other drivers of loss, like where and how people were settled, government policies related to how water dams are handled, and flood infrastructure that is too vulnerable.”

For the Columbia scholar, it is important to build a community of local journalists that has a “climate risk lens” in their reporting toolkit.

“Everyone will be better off because you’ll be able to navigate all these factors more effectively and potentially with more impact for your community,” he explains.

#### 4. Build trust and engagement that can combat dis/misinformation

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists from The Atlantic realized that there was a flood of unreliable information online and so, with the help of some epidemiologists, they created a COVID-19 tracker which became a vital tool for people.

“The Atlantic is best known for doing nice narrative articles about things... but to me, the COVID-19 tracker exemplifies this other possibility, and the same can be said for climate,” Mr. Revkin notes.

He mentions the work of geographer Stephen M. Strader, which examines the “expanding bulls-eye” of climate hazards.

“Every year there’s typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones...But when a cyclone hits the shore the losses are [based on] of how many people are there, how much stuff is there and how prepared they are for taking a hit.”

Mr. Revkin provides as an example the case of Bangladesh, which he deems a remarkable success story.

“When I was a kid they had horrific losses, hundreds of thousands of people killed because of flooding related to cyclones. And while every death is terrible, the [fatalities] are now measured in the dozens, and from the same kind of storm [or stronger]. So, there is a way in which you can actually not just tell people and policymakers how big the storm is, but tell them what the expanding bullseye is, and not just report on the climate part, but the losses driven by the [overall] landscape.”

According to Mr. Revkin, normalizing and creating a simple way to have a “risk formulation” in journalists’ stories would be a major tool to combat misinformation.

“You build trust, you build engagement, and you get around this idea of “it’s a hoax” because you’re talking about risk...There will always be ideological arguments around that, just like there are around vaccination, I have a close relative who never got vaccinated. I love him, you know, but I’m not going to change him with a story. So, then I have to think at the community level. What can I do?”.

For him, a good example is the Solutions Journalism movement, which investigates and explains how people are trying to solve widely shared problems.

“I think a lot of traditional reporters think of solutions journalism, and they think ‘oh you’re like selling happy talk’, but no. [Taking into account the] expanding bullseye, for example, we can inform communities about practices that can foster resilience where vulnerability is greatest. And it’s still society’s responsibility to grapple with that, but it just makes it easier for them to figure out what to do”.

For Mr. Revkin, climate change is a complex and multidimensional issue. Thinking of that, he realized when he worked for The NY Times that sometimes a blog could fit the issue better than a “classic front-page story”. In that spirit, he created Dot Earth, which ran from 2007 until 2016.

“Who will succeed [in journalism] is the one who is more like a mountain guide after an avalanche than a traditional stenographer. Meaning that you have people develop an understanding and trust in you as an honest broker, amid all this contention and you know, conflicting arguments, and follow along”.

He calls it “engagement journalism”, reporting that gets past “the headline approach” and that emerges from a dynamic conversation with the community.

“I’d like to see ways for the big media, such as BBC, to adopt or integrate and give voice to the community of local journalists more, instead of [them] having to own the story,” he emphasises.

Another way to create this conversation, he argues, is to move away from an advertising business model and into a more subscription-based one.

“A tool and a portal through which communities can identify more clearly the risks and solutions around them... You’re not buying a story. You’re buying a relationship with a guide you know. I think that’s ...how I would love to see that mature, as a real viable model for journalism going forward in a changing climate.”

##### 5. Be guided by science and embrace ‘yes’

Mr. Revkin talks about a shifting relationship between journalism and scientists that he sees as positive.

“It used to be me with a microphone interviewing you the glacier expert. Increasingly, you’re seeing these examples of scientists coming into the newsroom and helping to build models whether it’s COVID or climate. I’m sure there are many outlets around the world that have started to do this, so that requires a whole new learning curve.” he explains.

The journalist underscored that looking back over the more than 30 years of his experience, the story of environmentalism was for decades framed by the word “stop” (stop polluting, stop fracking), but has now shifted into a call for activism and is framed by the word “start”.

“For example, in the United States, there’s now 370 billion to spend in 10 years on clean energy. But how does that happen after decades of ‘stop’? How do we have more transmission lines? How do we do that in a way that is just for people who tend to be the dumping ground for all our infrastructure? That’s the news story. It’s a ‘start’ story ... a ‘yes’ story. It’s activism of ‘yes’ and it’s for journalists. It’s been too easy to write the scary stories”.

Indeed, UNESCO tells us that coverage of climate change means several things. At the local level, it can save lives, formulate plans, change policy and empower people to make informed choices. Through informed reporting, journalists can shine a light on the wealth of activities that people are already undertaking to prepare for climate change.

On an international level, journalism can also bring regional stories to global audiences and help encourage the rich and powerful countries, their citizens and the companies based there, to act in solidarity with climate-vulnerable communities.

If you want more tips on how to communicate about climate change, even if you are not a journalist, you can also visit the UN Climate communication guidelines.

**=END=**