



MONDAY
Politics

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Scotland pays back Malawi for past pollution

Can the climate debt ever be paid off? Scotland is one of several countries who have agreed to pay for “loss and damage” caused by climate change.

First came the floods. Then came the crocodiles. The floodwater brought the deadly **predators** right into the village.

Mambundungu in Malawi has been **battered** by natural disasters recently.

But the flooding is not so natural after all. Climate change has caused all kinds of extreme weather around the world. Malawi is one of the countries that has been hardest hit.

That is why the Scottish government has agreed to pay into a “loss and damage” **fund** to help out in villages like Mambundungu.



Displaced: Villagers from Mambundungu have seen flooding destroy their homes.

THE STORY SO FAR

In 2009 several countries refused to sign the Copenhagen climate agreement in protest at the refusal to discuss compensation, launching the conversation about climate debt onto a wider stage.

It is one of the first **developed** countries to agree that the rich world owes a debt to countries worst affected by the changing climate.

The amount of carbon released by richer countries over the last century **dwarfs** the emissions of a country like Malawi. So, many have been **advocating**

for the developed world to pay for the damage.

Scotland signed up earlier than most, during the **COP26** talks. A wider agreement was reached at COP27 in 2022.

Scotland, the birthplace of the modern steam engine, has so far agreed to pay £7m into the scheme. The UK is the fifth largest polluter in history, responsible for 5% of emissions since 1750.

The total amount pledged so far stands at £202m.

A UN report estimates that the total cost of **adapting** to climate change could reach about £280bn a year by 2030.

KEY WORDS

Predators: Animals that hunt

Battered: Hard hit

Fund: A pool of money

Developed: Richer

Dwarfs: Is much bigger than

Advocating: Arguing in a public way

COP: Short for Conference of the Parties (on climate change)

Adapting: Making it possible to live with



YOU DECIDE

Can the climate debt ever be paid off?

YES. Rich countries have the money to pay to repair the harms of past emissions.

NO. The injustice of climate change is about more than money. Deaths, and the loss of entire villages, cannot be undone.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

Chatbot falls in love with journalist

Engineer fired for saying chatbot is alive

Chatbot writes romance novel, wins prize

What is the most potent greenhouse gas?



- A) Fluorinated gases
- B) Carbon dioxide
- C) Nitrous Oxide
- D) Methane

Build THE Change



Flooding will affect more and more people as the climate changes. In this challenge, you will design a house that is better protected against flooding.

Step 1: Think about your design! What would make your house water-proof? Will it be on high stilts, for example?

Step 2: Create your design! Draw a picture of it, or if you have time use LEGO® bricks or other craft materials to make a real-life version of your flood-proof house.

Share your genius
Show your work to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the Build the Change gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

Talking point

Do you think people who live in countries should feel responsible for their country's debt?

Amaze someone

In 2021, a politician from Tuvalu gave a speech standing in the sea to show the impact of the rising sea-level.

By 2050, climate change could cause one out of every seven Bangladeshis to lose their homes.

THE EXTRA PAGE

How Scotland pays back Malawi

When torrential rains came to the village of Mambundungu in Malawi, people's homes were washed away. But that was not the worst of it.

The flood waters were infested with crocodiles. Children were carried away by them. It was terrifying.

Eventually, in 2015, the villagers could not take any more and moved their entire community to higher ground. Then the new village began to flood too.

Malawi in southern Africa has been hard hit by the effects of climate change.

But it is one of the poorest countries in the world and struggles to pay for the measures needed to repair the damage.

That's where the Scottish government has stepped in, promoting the notion that rich nations should help pay for the damage from climate change in less developed countries.

At the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow, it committed £2m for a "loss and damage" scheme — a world first. A further £5m is promised from April.

In November, at COP27 in Egypt, other world leaders finally agreed they would follow that example.

In Mambundungu, some of the money is being used to create flood defences in the new settlement uphill.

It is estimated about 80% of people in



High ground: Many think rich nations should pay for climate damage such as floods.

Malawi live and work off the land and the southern region is a patchwork of small plots mainly growing maize.

It is an existence of extreme poverty. Many rural communities have no access to electricity and 3.8m people are at risk of food insecurity, according to the World Food Programme.

The Scottish government's money is being spent in Malawi by organisations such as Sciaf, the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

It identified six villages where the impacts from climate change have been significant.

Some of the £500,000 Sciaf has been allocated is being spent rebuilding the Mphatso preschool in Ngabu, which was originally constructed by the Roger Federer Foundation and ActionAid.

When the rains came from Tropical

Storm Ana and Cyclone Gombe in early 2022, buildings were lost and teaching was halted as the school was turned into a makeshift camp for the thousands whose homes were lost.

The "loss and damage" cash is now being used to rebuild those parts of the school which were destroyed.

Some of the money is being used to protect a cemetery in the village of Mbenje.

Group village head Lucy Banda Mbenje says: "When the water comes, the tombstones are underwater.

"The climate has really changed. If we talk about past flooding our graveyard was not affected. There was no water in our graveyard." ■

This is an edited version of a story from © BBC News [21/02/2023]

Now read the book



How to Make a Better World by Keilly Swift

Dorling Kindersley
£10.99



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition by William Kamkwamba, Bryan Mealer

Random House
£7.99

Answers to puzzles

Greenhouse gas question
Carbon dioxide

Spot the fake
Chatbot writes romance novel, wins prize

**Build
THE Change**

This week's challenge is part of the LEGO® Build the Change programme. It can be done at school or as homework, and parents can help upload photos of pupils' work to the online gallery.



Visit the gallery at <https://bit.ly/btcgallery> and feel free to use it as discussion point in class.