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Report argues US needs to increase climate adaptation funding 154-fold to pay fair share

ActionAid report argues rich nations must contribute far more to help poorer countries deal with the effects of climate change

By [Jocelyn Timperley](#)

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18 Nov 2015

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Rich countries are falling far short of providing sufficient funds to help people in poorer nations adapt to the impacts of climate change, according to a new report.

The [report](#), released last week by anti-poverty campaign group ActionAid, is the first to estimate the amount rich countries need to give based on estimates for future global adaptation requirements.

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It found that rich countries will need be giving at least \$50bn a year by 2020 and \$150bn a year by 2025 – a sizable jump up from the \$3-5bn provided for adaptation in 2013.

Brandon Wu, a climate finance expert at ActionAid, said the new report provides a "yardstick" to see whether countries are meeting their fair share.

"Up to now, rich nations have been sitting around plucking numbers out of thin air to pretend to deal with the climate crisis," said Wu in a statement. "Meanwhile people in poor countries are already battling its vicious storms. This approach is no longer good enough."

The report allocated "fair share" contributions to different industrialised nations based on their historical emissions and their ability to assist poorer nations financially. The United States will need to increase its funding to \$67.5bn in 2025, according to the report – a massive 154 times the \$0.44bn it gave in 2013. France, meanwhile, needs to increase its contributions by more than 75 times, from \$0.07bn in 2013 to \$5.5bn in 2025.

World leaders have [promised \\$100bn a year](#) in funding by 2020 to help developing nations both mitigate and adapt to climate change. However, it is not yet clear exactly how rich countries will divide up contributions needed to raise this sum.

Meanwhile, a [new study](#) published in the journal *Nature* has attempted to calculate the economic impact of climate change, predicting average global incomes will fall by around 23 per cent by 2100 if mitigation efforts continue only at current rates.

"Our best estimate is that the global economy as a whole will be 23 per cent smaller in 2100 than if we would avoid climate change entirely," Solomon Hsiang, an associate professor of public policy at the University of California Berkeley and co-author of the study, [told Reuters](#).

The new study analysed the economic data of 166 countries from 1960 to 2010 on both micro and macro levels. It found that while the economic productivity of countries rises as annual average temperatures approach 13C, it declines rapidly at higher temperatures. The study is the first to show that this rule is applicable across all countries, whether agricultural or non-agricultural and whether rich or poor.

Almost 80 per cent of countries will have lower per capita incomes than they would without climate change, the study found.

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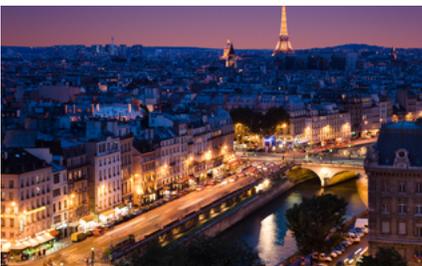
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