

Rachel Mark, former board member of PA-Interfaith Power and Light (PA-IPL).

About 7 years ago, at a PA-IPL conference in State College, I met Philipine Kidulah, who was giving a presentation. Pini, a native of West Pokot, Kenya, had come to the United States to study permaculture, and organizational skills at Eastern University. She was interested in teaching sustainability skills to girls and women in Kenya, and founded Jitokeze Wamama Wafrica to accomplish her goals. Harrisburg volunteers joined Friends of Jitokeze and helped with funding to get them started. Harrisburg hosted Pini several times and we were fortunate to spend time with her before she returned home to Kenya.

Last week, Pini reached out to her friends in Pennsylvania because of unusually severe drought, resulting in crop failure, water shortage, and loss of life in West Pokot. I contributed to the fund and forwarded her request to her friends in Harrisburg.

I believe this is what we are facing. The frequency and severity of floods and droughts are increasing.

What we do in the United States and in Pennsylvania has an effect around the world. Likewise, what happens around the world will have an effect on all of us. Food and water shortages will ripple out in ways we cannot imagine, from loss of life to human rights violations to climate refugees to conflict and violence.

What are our leaders doing to prepare for this reality?

Philipini Chepkoech Kidulah “Pini” from West Pokot, Africa. Studied at Eastern University. Returned to Kenya to found Jitokeze, which teaches women and girls sustainability in draught conditions.

Harrisburg Friends of Jitokeze raised \$8,000 to help fund a sand-dam, which stores flood water in sand for later use during draught conditions.

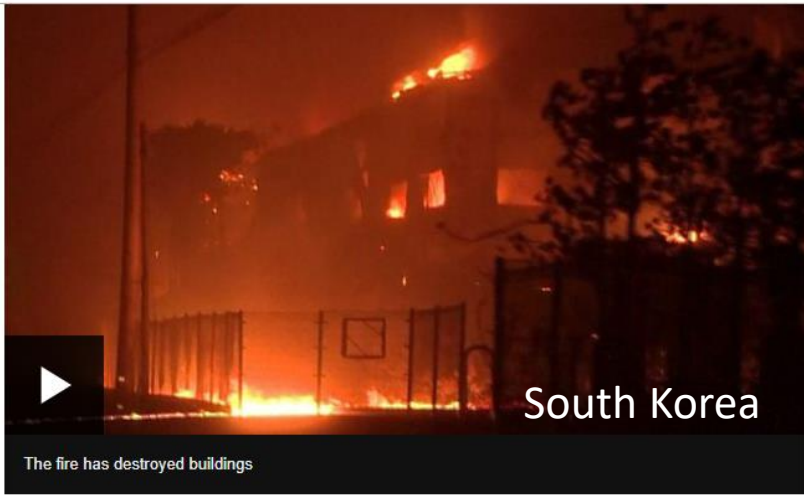
Pini and Jitokeze have been very successful in education and crop production.

Several days ago, Pini sent an urgent plea for donations because people are literally starving for food and water



[Philipine Chepkoech](#) Hi [Rachel Mark](#) thanks for sharing this news. The situation is really bad, we at [Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika](#) are currently working to assist the families with old people and children that are currently most afflicted in the areas we operate. Our target is to give 200 bags of maize each of 90kg. So far we have raised only \$400 that is enough to give 16 bags of maize to some of the afflicted families. We still have \$4,600 to raise. Please help us to raise people from among your friends who can donate towards this urgent need. Thank you.





South Korea

The fire has destroyed buildings

South Korea has declared a [national](#) emergency in response to one of the largest wildfires on record.

Jay Inslee [@JayInslee](#) · 3h

Defeating climate change isn't just our moral responsibility, it's also our fiscal responsibility.



Financial loss

Climate change could deliver a \$4 trillion hit to the financial system

Physical damage would have much broader impacts on finance than many suspect, warns the world's biggest money manager

[cbsnews.com](#)

John Englander [@johnenglander](#) · 1h

Inland flooding too. Tough Questions for Army Corps. Farmers. Elected leaders."Every event seems like it's ... higher water. You build the levee higher. And the next time you build it higher. You can't keep up with it."

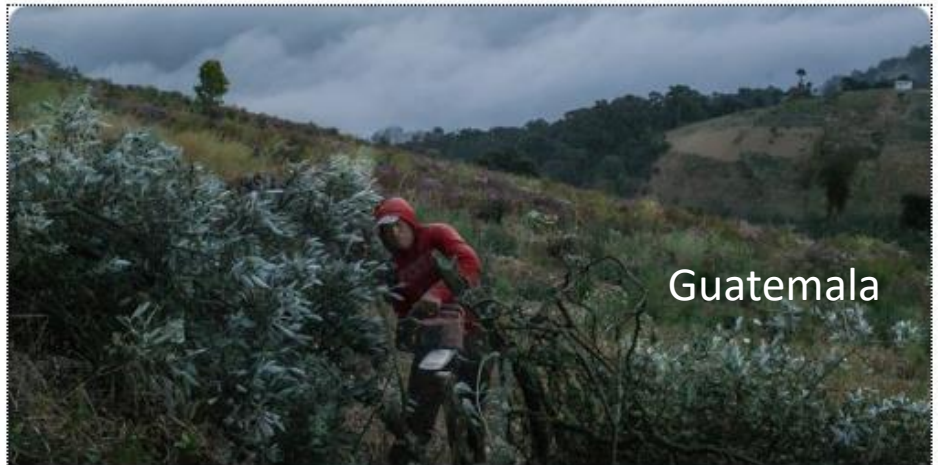


Midwest US

'Breaches Everywhere': Midwest Levees Burst, and Tough Questions...

Hundreds of miles of levees in the Midwest have been overwhelmed by the floods, leaving "Swiss cheese" infrastructure and reigniting a flood contro...

[nvtimes.com](#)



Guatemala

How Climate Change Is Fuelling the U.S. Border Crisis

In the western highlands of Guatemala, the question is no longer whether someone will leave but when.

[newworker.com](#)

'Half Of Our Town Is Still Underwater': One Iowa Mayor Worries About More Flooding As Snow Hits The Midwest

April 10, 2019

By [Robin Young](#) and [Serena McMahon](#)



Hamburg, Iowa

Guatemalan Climate Change Refugees Pouring Over U.S. Border – And Into South Florida

By TIM PADGETT • APR 8, 2019



Here's some news you may have missed. Southeastern Africa got hit in March with a cyclone that United Nations officials say was one of the worst weather disasters to ever strike the Southern Hemisphere. "Ever" is a long time.



We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN

Urgent changes needed to cut risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty, says IPCC



Mozambique

Mozambique's Beira buckles from the brunt of Cyclone Idai

Port city at epicentre of cyclone's landfall struggles to deal with humanitarian emergency created by storm, floods.

Why is Climate Top Priority (from various sources)

When we think of national priorities, climate change is often viewed as its own issue. We think of poverty, immigration, violence, the economy, national security, and then, quite separately, we think "climate change." However, a critical psychological transition that is necessary to expedite meaningful climate action is the realization that climate change is deeply tied to each of these other issues.

Immigration: there are now more environmental refugees than political refugees. The new phrase "climate refugee" has evolved as a result. How about national security? The Pentagon identifies climate change as a major threat to political stability and U.S. military infrastructure.

Economy: Future climate impacts are expected to cost the U.S. literally hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of this century, due to sea level rise, increased natural disasters, lost work hours, etc.

Public health: Warming temperatures are expanding the ranges of mosquitoes and other vectors, bringing diseases such as malaria, Lyme disease, and Zika virus to new areas.

Conflict: Additionally, as climate impacts worsen, we can expect more conflict over dwindling water and land resources, particularly affecting impoverished communities.

Because of its close inter-relatedness with a variety of top national priorities, there is no question that climate change is our top priority. The key is realizing the connection between climate change and other key issues.



'Put people in power who see the truth'

Sir David Attenborough slams Trump and calls on voters to elect leaders who understand threat of climate change and ecological collapse.

Natural gas drillers spend more than \$60 million to woo Pa. legislature

by Angela Couloumbis and Liz Navratil, HARRISBURG BUREAUS, Posted: October 1, 2017