



**Eco-School on
Water, Food and Climate
Justice**

24 July - 3 August 2017

Lilongwe,
Malawi, Africa



WCC Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Justice 2017

Introduction

795 million people – one in nine of the people of the world, – still go to bed on an empty stomach each night. 1.8 billion people drink water contaminated with faeces. 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines. And each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases.

The nexus between water, food and climate change is deep and directly impacts the sustenance of communities regarding their livelihoods and survival. The adverse consequences of climate change directly impact ecosystems, agriculture, fishery, food security and the availability of water. Agriculture, animal husbandry, exploiting water and land resources and the unbridled consumerist lifestyle, all, in turn contribute to climate change. Preserving the world's water resources and securing access to water for all is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Food security and nutrition are directly linked to the availability of fresh water, as 70% of it is used for agriculture. Climate change is affecting both the availability of water and food production. To be effective and to bring about change, these issues have to be addressed in a holistic manner.

The vulnerable communities are always at the receiving end when it comes to access to food and water. Climate change affects the poor and vulnerable communities the most, even though they are least responsible for the CO₂ emissions that are hastening climate change. The world has enough food and water for everyone. But some have too much and many do not have basic access to water and food for their survival. Therefore, it is important to reflect and act on the nexus between food, water and climate change within a framework of justice.

The Eco-School

Later this year, the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) along with WCC Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) will bring together about 20 young people from the Africa region in the first Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Justice.

In an ecumenical setting, the participants will have the opportunity to study the local, regional, and international manifestations and causes of the water crisis and food security affected by climate change. They will examine the situation and challenges from a perspective of faith and ethics, and search together for possible ecumenical responses to these challenges. The participants will be exposed to these issues by global experts, which will equip them to discern and challenge the unjust system which aggravates the global crisis of water, hunger and climate change. The participants are expected to be the eco-advocates to make this earth more sustainable and just. To this end, they are expected to draw an action plan to implement at their local level after they go back to their homes.



The details of the Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Change are given below:

Dates:	24 July to 3 August 2017
Venue:	Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa
Eligibility:	- African nationals 18-30 years old - Affiliated with WCC member churches /ecumenical organizations - Holding at least a Bachelor's degree - Fluency in English – working language of WCC Eco-School
Registration fees	:US\$ 150.-

Aims & Objectives/ outcomes

The Eco-School aims to motivate and prepare young people to contribute to the work of the churches at the regional and local level on issues related to water, food, nutrition and climate change towards a sustainable future.

Objectives:

- o Convey a basic understanding of the water crisis, food security and climate change and their root causes
- o To explore the nexus between water, food and climate change with a justice and rights perspective
- o To sustain regional capacity building of our churches on ecological issues, particularly on the nexus of the above issues through this annual regional Eco-school
- o Strengthen commitment to work in church and ecumenical context on these issues
- o Capacitate participants to initiate follow-up activities in their home communities

Expected Outcomes:

- o Participants have a basic understanding of the water crisis, food security and climate change and its causes.
- o Participants are aware and equipped with theological and ethical considerations relevant to the issues of environmental protection, poverty eradication,.
- o The participants become eco-advocates to work towards making this earth more sustainable and just.
- o Participants have expressed their commitment and developed concrete ideas to further pursue the issue upon returning home.
- o Churches represented by these participants are made aware of water and sanitation, food security and climate change related issues and that these issues may be prioritized in the churches' discourses.



Course Methodology

The course of the Eco-School would include:

- Lectures and workshops
- Theological and contextual bible studies
- Creative liturgy and worship
- Exposure visits for a live-in-experience
- Sharing of local and regional experiences
- Cultural and artistic activities
- Physical exercise and mediation
- Learning Journal and Eco-School Newsletter
- Assessment and plan of action

Facilitators

The WCC Eco-School will be facilitated by **Mr Dinesh Suna** and **Dr Manoj Kurian**, coordinators of WCC's EWN and EAA respectively under the leadership of **Prof. Dr Isabel Phiri**, deputy general secretary, Diakonia and Public Witness of WCC.

Application Process:

If you are interested in participating/ nominating someone, please download the **brochure, application form and the guidelines of WCC Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Justice 2017** from the WCC website: <https://www.oikoumene.org> or request for an application to eco.school@wcc-coe.org . Read the application form carefully, complete it clearly and fully in English, type if possible and send it to the address mentioned in the form **before 31 May 2017**

Timeline

01.05.2017	: Announcement / Call for applications
31.05.2017	: Deadline for applications
01-09.06.2017	: Screening process
12.06.2017	: Notification of chosen participants

Cost of Participation

Registration fees :US\$ 150.- (Mandatory for every participants)

Your church or sending organization is requested to take care of your participation expenses. If it cannot do so, full scholarships is available for few participants. Please enclose a separate letter requesting scholarships to cover your international travel, food and accommodation in a twin sharing basis during the Eco-School. **Cost of Visa and local travel are not covered by scholarships.**

Please also forward this call for applications to others you think might be interested.

For further information please contact: eco.school@wcc-coe.org

To know more about Ecumenical Water Network of WCC [click here](#)

To know more about Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance of WCC [click here](#)