

A DANGEROUS NEW ERA OF CLIMATE IMPACTS...



Earth's narrow band of atmosphere seen from the International Space Station.

This increase in temperature means that extreme weather events like floods, cyclones, wildfires and heatwaves are happening more frequently and with more intensity.



A hanging glacier in Nepal near mount Everest. From 1977–2010, Nepal lost 24% of its glacial areas due to global warming.

The name given to the devastation caused by higher global temperatures resulting from human-induced climate change is “loss and damage”.



A migrant shepherd kneels down amongst his dead sheep in a field in Surendranagar district, India. Extreme heat (above 47°C) and lack of water caused his animals to perish.

Whilst “damage” refers to things that have been affected but can be restored, like homes, schools, hospitals, roads and businesses, usually at a great financial cost.

Earth’s narrow band of atmosphere has warmed by more than 1 degree Celsius in the last 25 years due to the burning of fossil fuels, namely oil, coal and gas.



In Bangladesh, after losing her home to flooding, Narun Nahar leads her family to a nearby shelter until the waters recede.

At the same time, slow-motion disasters like sea level rise, coastal erosion and the melting of glaciers are accelerating, whilst droughts are lasting longer, bringing catastrophe to farming and livestock.



The Shadow Ridge Road wildfire consumes a family home in California. In 2018 alone, wildfires cost the US economy \$148.5bn (£110bn).

Here “loss” refers to what is lost permanently such as human and animal lives, lands, livelihoods, cultural sites, languages, ecosystems and species.



Women taking stock of the task of rebuilding after category 5, Hurricane Matthew, struck Haiti in 2016 resulting in 546 deaths and causing over US\$2.8 billion in damage.

#1. *What else is impacted..?*

SOME THINGS ARE LOST FOREVER...



A turtle swims above bleached coral at Heron Island, Australia. Bleaching, principally caused by climate change, kills coral, impacting the fish feeding on it and, in turn, the human communities that depend on the fish for food.

For example, when a bridge has been destroyed, we can calculate how much it will cost to replace but this is not the case when someone’s cultural heritage or language is lost.



Sisters Kelly and Sandra comfort each other after learning that 3 family members had died in the Carr wildfire in Redding, California, in July 2018.

Examples include how identity is affected when people are forced to leave their lands due to flooding, the mental health impacts people suffer when they lose loved ones in a hurricane or the loss of animals to wildfire.



Nyan Khat Gatwech, 15, from South Sudan, checks her reflection in a pocket mirror in a refugee camp in Gambela, Ethiopia. Many people displaced by climate change say they feel disconnected from their heritage and culture.

Non-economic loss and damage disproportionately impacts countries in the Global South, particularly indigenous communities, where local knowledge, language and customs may never have been recorded and can be lost forever.

While some loss and damage can be measured in economic terms and a financial value assigned, much of what is lost cannot be quantified.



Mohammed recovers from malaria at a clinic in Mogadishu, Somalia. Unseasonably heavy rains are perfect conditions for mosquitoes, increasing cases of malaria and other diseases like dengue fever.

Impacts caused by climate change where a price cannot be put on them are called “non-economic loss and damage”.



Michele and Alexander Baker take in their wrecked home after the devastating floods caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, USA.

A price cannot be put on permanent loss such as the extinction of a species or destruction of unique cultural places, such as burial grounds.



Flooded cemetery in an unidentified location in the USA. Damage to, or loss of, a burial ground, is traumatic beyond financial measure.

#2. Where is it happening..?

WHO IS AFFECTED AND WHERE...



A satellite image of the southern part of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa, where Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are located. Africa is on the right and the Arabian Peninsula on the left.

An ongoing climate-intensified drought in the Horn of Africa—which began in 2020—has resulted in the March-May 2022 rainy season becoming the driest on record in the last 70 years.



A dust storm envelops women and children walking in Sagalo village in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Severe drought has made the ground barren leading to a vast number of cows, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys dying from lack of food and water. Families now struggle to survive due to loss of livelihoods.

Whilst humanitarian aid and insurance are often touted as answers to paying for loss and damage, events like the Horn of Africa Drought demonstrate that neither can rise to the scale of the climate impacts being experienced.



Seven-year-old Ngikadelio Ngikeny has his upper arm measured as part of a malnutrition screening programme at a health clinic in northwest Kenya, where he receives nutrient-enriched peanut paste to help him increase weight. Repeated failed rains have left Kenya facing its worst drought crisis in over 30 years.

Moreover, insurance is often unavailable or unaffordable for communities experiencing loss and damage in climate-vulnerable regions of the world. Since neither are sufficient, money for people to put their lives back together needs to come from somewhere else.

#3.

How did we get here..?

Although every part of the world is experiencing loss and damage, countries situated between the Tropics, especially regions of Africa, which are least responsible for the climate crisis, are being hit the hardest.



A pastoralist walks home after collecting water from a UN-funded dam in northwest Somalia. Pastoralists, who make up 60% of the population, are particularly vulnerable to changes in climate as they rely on rain-fed rangeland for grazing their livestock.

As a result, at least 18.6 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are facing high levels of food insecurity and rising malnutrition. With Somalia—one of the poorest countries in the world—seeing 7.1 million people facing famine.



70-year-old Hussen Ahmed from the Somali region of Ethiopia has lost 7 cows from his herd of 23. He hopes his remaining cattle will survive but their only water source is shrinking by the day.

This is because humanitarian aid is designed to deliver immediate relief but not the longer-term assistance needed to help communities rebuild homes and infrastructure or relocate and learn new livelihoods.



Early morning, Kahiya Hassen Nur, a mother of five, leads her goats to find pasture in Kilway village, Ethiopia. She has already lost 25 of her cattle to drought but a little hope is on the horizon, a few days ago there was rain in the area where she lives.

WHO'S TO BLAME AND WHO SHOULD PAY...



Coal-fired power stations generate about a third of the world's electricity. They create one-fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions so are the single largest cause of climate change.

Developed countries, who have grown rich from carbon-powered industries, also knew the science that loss and damage would result if we did not transition away from fossil fuels. But they have not acted sufficiently.



US Climate Envoy, John Kerry blocked loss and damage finance at COP26. His efforts were thwarted at COP27, when developing countries drove home an agreement to set up a Loss and Damage Fund. The challenge remains for the US to step up in the coming year with a substantial contribution to the Fund.

But, in the aftermath of last year's devastating floods in Pakistan, a huge push by developing countries and civil society was rewarded by a major breakthrough at the UN Climate Summit COP27 in November 2022, with the historic agreement to establish a Loss and Damage Fund.



Minister Seve Paeniu from the Pacific island of Tuvalu holds up a picture of his grandchildren at COP26 in Glasgow, speaking passionately about the threat of his island nation being lost to rising sea levels.

Recognising the urgent need for funds, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has called on governments to tax the profits of fossil fuel companies, which would raise billions of dollars every year for the Loss and Damage Fund.

#4. *What will the Fund do..?*

For decades, fossil fuel companies like Shell, BP and Exxon, have known that the oil, coal and gas they produce were heating up the planet. They suppressed that information. In the meantime, they've made hundreds of billions in profits.



Ninety fossil giants, such as Shell, BP and Exxon, are responsible for around two-thirds of all industrial carbon emissions. Exxon knew of climate change in 1981 (possibly as early as 1977) but it funded climate change deniers for 27 more years.

Instead, in the United Nations' (UN) climate talks, fossil fuel companies worked to delay climate action by deliberately undermining the science, and rich countries, for years, blocked all moves to provide any kind of financial support for populations affected by loss and damage.



Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of the Caribbean island of Barbados, speaking at the UN Climate Conference, urging world leaders to agree to a Loss and Damage Fund.

The challenge now is to fill the Fund and get it working. Under the Polluter Pays Principle, countries with the greatest historical responsibility and the most culpable corporations, particularly the fossil fuel industry, should provide the lion's share of finance to compensate impacted communities.



UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in the opening plenary of COP27 echoed the call of campaigners across the world by saying: "Getting concrete results on loss and damage is a litmus test of the commitment of the governments to the success of COP27." He went on to invoke the Polluter Pays Principle, calling on governments to tax the profits of fossil fuel companies to pay for loss and damage.

REBUILDING, RESTORING, RELOCATING...



A young man helps build a temporary home in Muganga refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Loss and damage finance would support people to rebuild after experiencing climate disasters.

In the aftermath of a climate disaster, funds would be forthcoming to repair damaged buildings such as homes and businesses, hospitals and schools and to restore water supplies and power lines.



Spokesperson Chris Brunet describes how his community chose a new location to re-home the residents of Isle de Jean Charles in Louisiana after they were forced to relocate when the vast majority of their island was lost to erosion caused by climate change. Loss and damage finance would support communities who are forced to move because of climate impacts.

When a territory is lost to rising seas or has become uninhabitable due to extended drought, funding would be used for planned relocation, including for the starting of new communities and livelihoods and, where required, for mental health treatment.



Indigenous women of Guatemala's Polochic Valley work to preserve and recover cultural practices. Loss and damage finance would support communities who are facing the loss of their language, culture and customs.

The Loss and Damage Fund may have been agreed at COP27 but countries and communities impacted by the climate crisis are not yet getting the support they need. For this to happen, pressure must be put on Governments to provide money for the Fund and get it working as soon as possible.

A principal aim of the Loss and Damage Fund is to finance the rebuilding of homes, speedy replacement of infrastructure and rapid restitution of livelihoods. Support will be provided through grants, not loans, so as not to cause debt, with the community at the centre of decision-making.



In the Somali region of Ethiopia, life-saving water streams from a new borehole. Loss and damage finance would support communities to rebuild critical water infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the devastating impacts of climate change.

Payment in a timely manner will help reduce the displacement of populations both internally and beyond a country's borders.



Mangrove trees being planted in Timor-Leste to replace those lost to cyclones. Loss and damage finance would support communities to repair and restore ecosystems that offer critical protection from storms.

Funds would also be used to restore ecosystems like mangroves that strengthen protection against cyclones and for the reintroduction of species of animals and plants. Programmes that preserve and recover language, culture and customs would also be funded, allowing communities to mourn what has been lost and to heal.



A Kemp's Ridley sea turtle — the most endangered of all turtle species — about to be released into the Atlantic Ocean by a member of the Park Service near Cape Canaveral, US. Loss and damage finance would support the reintroduction of species of animals and plants.

#5. What can you do..?

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP...



Thousands march for climate justice at COP26 in Glasgow behind the banner of the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition demanding compensation for communities at the sharp end of climate change.

Climate activists like Vanessa Nakate from Uganda have spoken out tirelessly calling for Loss and Damage finance from rich industrialised countries and the most polluting fossil fuel companies as a matter of climate justice.



Members of Quakers in Britain, Faith For the Climate and Christian Aid hold a vigil for those lost to loss and damage at COP26.

Sustained pressure from Civil Society saw another major milestone achieved at COP28, where the operational details to get the Fund up and running were agreed. Now is the most critical time. The Fund has to be filled urgently and at the scale required to meet the needs of populations at the sharp end of devastating climate impacts.



Alexia Leclercq of the Colorado River Conservancy demands that polluters pay up for Loss and Damage alongside the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition at COP27.

Take action NOW! Scan this QR code to urge the UK government to make polluters pay!



People power makes a difference! Without it, the Loss and Damage Fund would not have been agreed at COP27.



Ugandan climate activist, Vanessa Nakate, calls on Ministers at the UN Environment Assembly to show their support for loss and damage finance by giving the thumbs up.

Climate, faith and youth constituencies from across the globe working with climate-vulnerable countries —representing 6 out of every 7 people in the world— combined in solidarity to drive historic progress on Loss and Damage finance.



Tasneem Essop of Climate Action International speaking at the Global Day of Action at COP27.

That's where you come in. We need the UK Government to pay its fair share into the Fund. It is high time the Government made the fossil fuel polluters pay up for the loss and damage their actions have caused.



Members of The Loss and Damage Youth Coalition from around the world demand that polluters pay up for Loss and Damage at COP27.

#6.

Let's make polluters pay!