

Loss and Damage and Adaptation

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Asks of the UK Government:

To support the creation of an international climate finance mechanism which will pay for climate change-related loss and damage

To lead efforts on mobilising finance from wealthy nations and high emitters for climate change -related loss and damage

Reinstate the 0.7% GNI aid target, reverse the closure of quality UK-funded adaptation programmes and [direct](#) funding for climate Adaptation to local communities

As COP President champion the delivery of a plan which increases adaptation finance, both quantity and quality - ensuring it is grants based and accessible to the poorest communities

The impacts of the climate crisis

Climate change is not a future problem, it's here and now, devastating the lives of billions of people and destroying livelihoods. From [droughts in East Africa](#) to unprecedented [heatwaves across India and Pakistan](#), many poor communities who are facing the impacts of climate change lack the capacity to cope.

The world's richest nations have contributed the most to the climate crisis and yet it is the world's poorest and the most marginalised, including women and girls¹, who are bearing the brunt and enduring its harshest effects.

¹ <https://mediacentre.christianaid.org.uk/top-10-hungriest-countries-contribute-just-0-08-of-global-co2-new-report/>

² About \$16.8 billion/year

Going further on Adaptation

Without urgent action and investment, the most climate-vulnerable countries have little hope of adapting to the devastating effects of both incremental climate stresses such as sea level rise and changing seasonality, and increasingly intense climate shocks.

Between 3.3 and 3.6 billion people currently live in areas that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the most recent [IPCC report](#) made clear that action on adaptation is fundamental to reduce risk, meet the needs of people on the frontline of climate change and avert and minimise future loss and damage.

However, wealthier countries have not been meeting their overall commitments on climate finance. Moreover, currently, only 21² % of existing climate finance goes towards adaptation and, less than half of multilateral financing for adaptation was targeted towards climate vulnerable countries³. This underfunding is limiting the capacity of low-income and climate vulnerable countries to adapt.

The Glasgow Climate Pact commits developed nations to doubling adaptation finance by 2025, attempting to make up for years of underfunding. However, this is still not enough to close the adaptation finance gap.

Investment from wealthy nations must fill this gap. A lack of investment in adaptation increases the risk of millions falling victim to climate-related loss and damage that is

⁴ Global Climate Risk Index 2021 produced by Germanwatch, [Global Climate Risk Index 2021 | Germanwatch e.V.](#)

irreversible, hitting women and people in poverty the hardest.

Why do we need an international fund for Loss and Damage?

As detailed in our [Counting the Cost report](#), extreme weather events – like persistent droughts or Cyclone Idai which hit Southern Africa in 2019 – cause untold damage and irreversible losses, wiping out homes, disrupting livelihoods, displacing people and cultures and requiring them to rebuild their lives, their homes and communities from scratch.

Developing countries are experiencing widespread loss and damage and this has caused huge financial and human costs, racking up losses of billions of dollars and devastating lives.

What is Loss and Damage

Climate change is amplifying the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events such as flooding, heatwaves, and cyclones and slow onset events such as sea-level rise, desertification, biodiversity loss, and melting glaciers.

The impacts from these extreme events can be devastating on peoples' lives and livelihoods, as well as having wider economic consequences. These effects cannot be avoided through adapting to climate change, and this is what is defined as 'loss and damage'.

Almost half a million people lost their lives due to extreme weather events between 2000 and 2019⁴

The economic harm will be particularly crippling to the poorest countries – with predictions that the top ten most affected countries, eight in Africa, will see a climate-induced GDP hit of 70% at current climate policy projections and 40% if we meet 1.5C of warming⁵. These losses will set back development gains, reinforcing inequalities across and within countries⁶, increasing the vulnerability of those living in poverty and pushing up extreme poverty.

Based on UN estimates, at least \$300 billion a year will be needed by 2030⁷ to support communities suffering from loss and damage to rebuild and restore their lives and communities.

Christian Aid's partner organisation, Centro Humboldt, describes what climate-related loss and damage means in Nicaragua: *'Corn is like a symbol of our culture and our food depends a lot on corn. We usually have two seasons for growing corn. Currently, with the prevailing patterns of precipitation, the first season has almost disappeared because the amount of rain has reduced to an amount that doesn't allow small farmers to produce corn, beans, rice and other products. Last year (2021), the amount of crops of this type grown was below 50% due to the lack of rain in the first period.'*

From Glasgow to Sharm El Sheikh: securing financing for Loss and Damage

Loss and damage gained some momentum in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow, becoming a major focus of negotiations. However, COP26 failed to establish a

⁴ Global Climate Risk Index 2021 produced by Germanwatch, [Global Climate Risk Index 2021 | Germanwatch e.V.](#)

⁵ [Lost and Damaged: A Study of the economic impact of climate change on vulnerable countries](#) - As of November 2021, p.5

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-change-threatens-progress-across-sustainable-development-warns-new-un-report>

⁷ <https://us.boell.org/en/unpacking-finance-loss-and-damage>

dedicated finance mechanism to receive and distribute loss and damage funding, instead committing to a dialogue to progress work on loss and damage, called the Glasgow Dialogue to conclude in 2024.

It is recognised that at current rates of warming of 1.1°C communities are already experiencing losses and damages. The levels of loss and damage will continue to rise as temperatures increase, even if we limit warming to 1.5°C.

For poor and climate vulnerable communities and countries who have, and will reach the limits of adaptation, rich countries must show their support and put in place a process under UNFCCC to address current and future loss and damage. Financing and resources must be harnessed and channelled to poor and climate vulnerable countries⁸.

While the UK still holds the presidency of the COP up until the next COP27 meeting in Egypt in November 2022, the UK is in a unique position to use its diplomatic power and influence to push for a clear outcome on loss and damage finance at COP27 and support the creation of a finance mechanism for loss and damage and to mobilise funds.

It is the world's richest economies who built their wealth almost exclusively on fossil fuels. Therefore, these countries bear a huge historic responsibility for causing the climate crisis we now face. This responsibility requires wealthy nations and high emitters to contribute their fair share⁹ to financing loss and damage. With the latest IPCC projecting droughts will displace 700 million people in Africa¹⁰, this is a matter of survival for climate vulnerable countries and communities.

We urge you to write to the Prime Minister to raise the issues laid out in this briefing and ask the Government:

- How is the UK Government advancing the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage during the remainder of our COP Presidency?
- How is the UK Government using its diplomatic role to respond to and find solution to the calls for loss and damage finance to have a dedicated agenda point at COP27?
- How does FCDO plan to address loss and damage, in addition to avert and minimise, as part of delivering on climate change commitments in the International Development Strategy?
- Does the UK Government support the creation of an international finance mechanism for loss and damage?
- What diplomatic steps is the UK Government taking to encourage high emitters to increase climate adaptation financing both quality and quantity towards the Climate & Development Ministerial?
- What steps is the UK Government taking to ensure adequate UK finance for locally-led adaptation, directed to local communities that most need it, in a context of a reduced UK aid budget?

⁸ <https://cdn.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/211025c-davis-shawoo-loss-and-damage-finance-pr-21101.pdf>

⁹ <https://odi.org/en/publications/a-fair-share-of-climate-finance-apportioning-responsibility-for-the-100-billion-climate-finance-goal/>

https://climatenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CAN-Submission_NCGQ_February2022.pdf

¹⁰ https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_Chapter09.pdf