

Testimonials of Loss and Damage



Rwanda

Ineza Umuhoza Grace share's how increasing floods are forcing agricultural-based communities to leave their homes and land for shared accommodation elsewhere.

Ineza believes that youth powered climate action can bring the injustice of climate related loss and damage to the fore.

I was born and raised in Rwanda. During my lifetime our temperature has increased far more than the global average. This was not driven by us. People in the least developed countries like mine emit 35 times less carbon than those in high-income countries.

Rwandans rely heavily on the land and we are used to coping with the long rainy season and the challenges of our mountainous landscape. But climate change is making things worse and we are being pushed beyond our ability to adapt – rain erodes soil and kills livestock. Land degradation affects the whole community, displacing thousands.

My family had a small and cosy home, but like so many others had to leave with just their clothes and bags, forced to move to a communal house. The last period of intense rainfall lasted for five months. It destroyed roads and health centres, leading to over 130 deaths.

These damages are profound; these losses are irreplaceable. Climate change disproportionately affects rural girls and women. Daily tasks such as collecting water and cooking wood are made increasingly difficult by drought and floods that wash away agricultural income, leaving them with nothing. Youth-led climate action can bring these stories of loss and damage, that go unseen and unheard, to the fore.



We have the power and the knowledge to develop solutions, but we need the right financial support. Our call is for developed countries of the world, to listen and to act.

You can hear more from Ineza over on her blog . caid.org.uk/inezablog