

# Testimonials of Loss and Damage



## Sierra Leone

**Gabriel Kpaka** shares how climate change means communities now face harsher droughts followed by floods and mudslides wiping away everything in their path.

Gabriel calls on richer polluting nations to provide finance for loss and damage for countries like his who have done the least to cause it.

My country is beautiful, with breath-taking mountain ranges, deep valleys and low lying coastal areas. But over the last fifteen years, I have witnessed the escalating trails of destruction left in the wake of floods, rising seas, landslides and more. We have always experienced moderate temperatures, heavy rainfall and high humidity and we used to have two equally marked seasons – dry and rainy.

When I was young the rainy season kept us cool enough to play football and the rains nourished agricultural production where indigenous crops thrived. But as climate change has intensified more frequent and prolonged dry spells have threatened our food security.

Due to rising sea levels, flooding now occurs yearly and is far more severe. Floods contaminate our drinking water, spreading sickness and disease. People living in disaster-prone areas constantly worry about their homes being destroyed. Mudslides that damage buildings and infrastructure are now common. In 2017, nearly 1000 people were killed and over 3000 were displaced in our overcrowded capital, Freetown. Least Developed Countries face the largest damages from climate change, proportionate to the size of our economies and face financial losses of hundreds of billions each year.

The impact of climate injustice severely affects people's lives. We urgently need nations across the world, particularly the richest nations whose heavy emissions have caused this damage, to take leadership and provide dedicated financial support to address the far reaching loss and damage caused by climate change.



You can hear more from Gabriel over on his blog: [caid.org.uk/gabrielblog](https://caid.org.uk/gabrielblog)