



MAPPING LOSS AND DAMAGE ACTIVITIES: WHO IS DOING WHAT AND WHERE AND WHAT ARE THE GAPS?

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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BACKGROUND

Many stakeholders have begun, and others have intensified, their work on Loss and Damage since 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) as the issue has increasingly garnered global attention. The on-going work on Loss and Damage¹ includes research, advocacy, capacity building, funding, and on-the-ground actions, among other things. This work is carried out at the local, national, regional, and international levels, as well as in all regions of the world. This year the Loss and Damage Collaboration (L&DC) has undertaken mapping Loss and Damage activities conducted by various actors including a range of civil society organisations, philanthropies and other funders as well as climate focused movements and initiatives. This exercise is undertaken to keep track of these activities, highlight areas of focus and duplication and better understand the gaps in Loss and Damage activities. The intended aim of this mapping exercise was to align stakeholders and the work that they are undertaking and matchmake funders with Loss and Damage actors.

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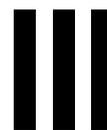


APPROACH

The methodology used to do this mapping activity involved contacting and scheduling interviews with key Loss and Damage actors, conducting the interviews, compiling the information attained in a spreadsheet, and synthesising the finding into this final report which has been made available online. This work was also informed by extensive desk-based research undertaken to get a sense of key stakeholders beyond those already known. Research was also conducted to get a sense of the gaps and needs on the ground which are being addressed at all levels by a range of stakeholders working on Loss and Damage. In total, 50 organisations, movements, initiatives and funders were contacted. Interviews were conducted with the representatives of 28 organisations, movements and initiatives who shared information about the Loss and Damage activities they were doing in preparation for COP 27 in November 2022 and beyond.

The interviewees shared the outcomes they anticipated at the completion of their projects and the challenges they encountered when carrying out their work to address Loss and Damage. A summary of activities is included below and more information will soon be made available in this [spreadsheet](#). The mapping will continue to be updated and will be made available to members of the Loss and Damage community as well as funders to aid alignment, avoid duplication and provide opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders undertaking similar work.

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LOSS AND DAMAGE ACTIVITIES

The interviews process revealed that Loss and Damage activities are being undertaken at the local, regional, national and international levels. Although this includes countries from across the globe, work is being conducted to support developing countries in addressing loss and damage. Some are short-term, such as actions on the ground, while others are long-term, such as research, advocacy and capacity-building.

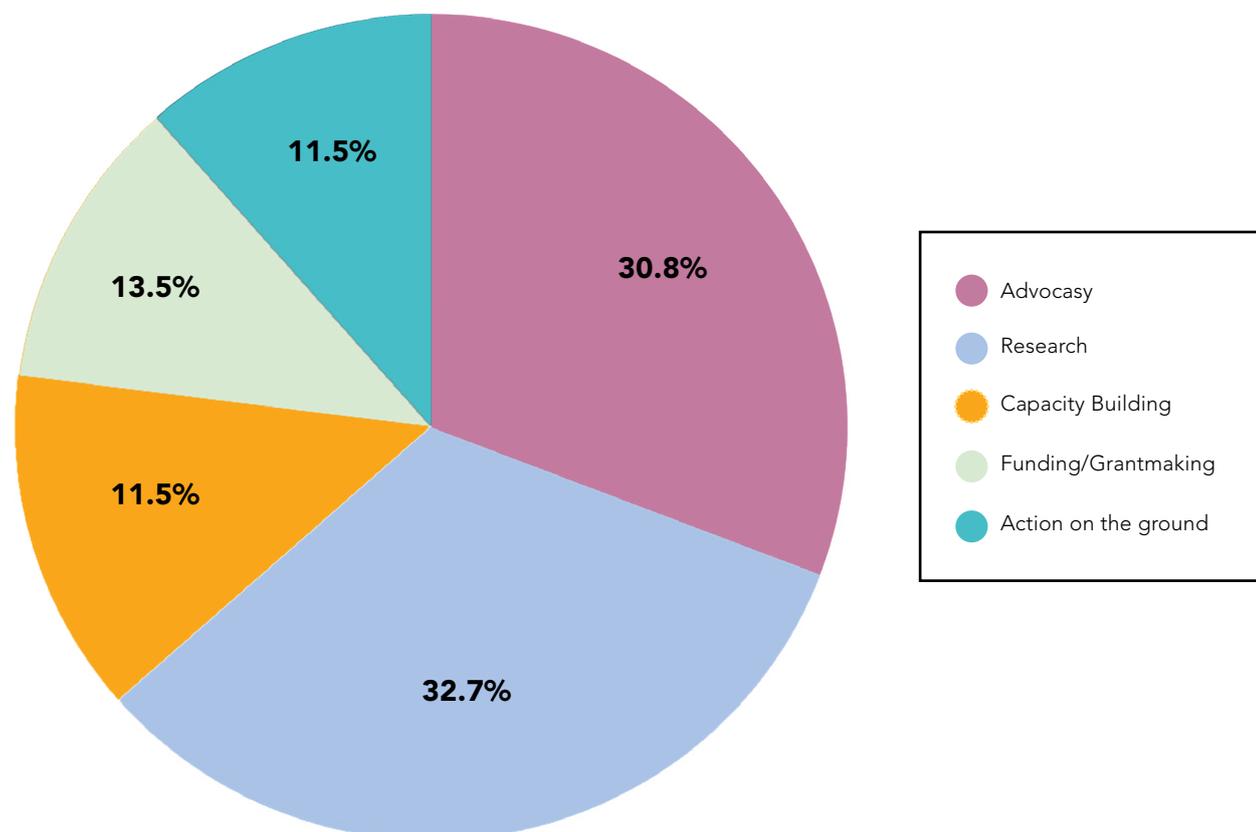
“**Loss and Damage activities are being undertaken at the local, regional, national and international levels.**”

AREAS OF FOCUS

Key activities of the actors we interviewed tended towards five areas of focus: advocacy, research, capacity building, funding, and actions on the ground. Some organisations/initiatives focussed on multiple areas. According to the findings, the areas of focus were distributed as follows: research (32.7%) advocacy (30.8%), funding/grantmaking (13.5%), capacity building (11.5%), and actions to address loss and damage on the ground (11.5%).

Research tends to focus mostly on economic loss and damage caused by extreme weather events. A few actors such as Overseas Development Institute (ODI), International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and ENDA Energie conduct research on non economic loss and damage (NELD). A few actors' research focuses on slow-onset climatic processes, extreme weather events, economic loss and damage, and NELD. The breakdown of focus areas is summarised in the figure below.

Figure 1: Breakdown of the focus of activities amongst those who participated in the research.



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A

ADVOCACY

This involves influencing and lobbying individuals, institutions, political leaders, and corporations, among others, both within and outside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Of the Loss and Damage actors interviewed as part of this study 30.8% are working on advocacy. This may be due to the importance of advocacy in amplifying the voices of communities on the frontlines of climate change.

“**Of the Loss and Damage actors interviewed as part of this study 30.8% are working on advocacy.**”

B

RESEARCH

In total 32.7% institutions surveyed are undertaking research on Loss and Damage and/or relevant issues. Research being undertaken ranges from empirical research, taking existing data and increasing the visibility of the results, to developing policy briefs and technical papers. The main challenge that was raised by interviewees is a lack of sufficient data on the amount of economic losses and damages on the ground in developing countries that have experienced climate change impacts and the difficulty in collecting data on NELD.

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C

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building involves exchanging knowledge, experience and good practices, gaining knowledge on Loss and Damage, and discussing strategies to address loss and damage. Of the actors interviewed 11.5% are working on capacity building relevant to Loss and Damage. Capacity-building activities include organising high-level roundtables, social media campaigns and seminars, developing policy briefs, among other things, to exchange knowledge about the meaning of loss and damage and the actions that can be taken to address it. This also involves strengthening the capacity of national negotiators from some developing countries ahead of COPs. This area of focus is critical for communities and other stakeholders to understand loss and damage and find sustainable solutions to address it, but there is still room for improvement.

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FUNDING & GRANTMAKING

Of the institutions interviewed, 13.5% are providing funding for Loss and Damage relevant work. This work is undertaken by organisations that have played a huge role in funding most of the work related to loss and damage whether it be advocacy, research or other types of work.

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ACTIONS ON THE GROUND

Of the 28 actors interviewed, 11.5% are undertaking actions on the ground to address loss and damage. Actions to address loss and damage on the ground were mainly focused on recovering from climate change impacts happening on the ground in developing countries and many of them are short term projects. For example, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) is conducting an action research project which will support communities impacted by Storm Ana and Cyclone Gombe in Southern Malawi, with the financial support of the Scottish government on the funding they pledged to address loss and damage at COP 26. This six month project takes a community led approach to address loss and damage, where the communities identify in their voice how they experienced loss and damage from extreme weather events and develop their own suitable solutions.

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CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Of the 28 respondents, 15 highlighted the gaps and challenges that they experienced while working on Loss and Damage. The following are some of the challenges and gaps mentioned by various actors.

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ORGANISATIONS, MOVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES:

The stakeholders interviewed as part of the research to inform this mapping expressed the following challenges:

- The main challenge identified is procuring the level of financing required to close the gaps in research and actions on the ground that address loss and damage.
- Another concern mentioned is the prolonged deadlock on Loss and Damage in the UNFCCC Negotiations, as well as the global north's government's reluctance to address loss and damage.
- The political challenges have translated into insufficient funding to conduct loss and damage work to the extent needed; in order to conduct research, advocate and provide capacity building to those in need, the majority of actors diverted funds from their existing environment and climate change projects. However, this still left them with insufficient funding to address loss and damage while diminishing the resources needed for their projects focussed on climate change and other environmental issues.
- There is a gap in conducting research and projects on NELD and slow onset climatic processes because it is difficult. Funding tends to be easier to procure for research on loss and damage extreme weather events that are high in magnitude and economic loss and damage. However, in order to address loss and damage, it is very crucial to work on the entire spectrum of relevant issues and types of loss and damage. Furthermore, there is a lack of understanding of the difference between economic and noneconomic loss and damage on the part of many organisations and communities. During our conversations, five of 28 respondents emphasised that grassroots organisations that inform and address loss and damage, as well as many other funders and implementing organisations, face the difficulty of clearly understanding this distinction between economic and non-economic loss and damage which causes confusion.
- It is difficult to understand and identify how to address loss and damage because of its conflation with adaptation and humanitarian aid. Four of 28 respondents mentioned the issue of confusion between loss and damage and adaptation, which are perceived by the external stakeholders to be the same. In addition to this, the finance allocated to humanitarian aid is often considered to be sufficient to tackle loss and damage. In this regard, it is essential in building and enhancing the knowledge of various stakeholders on the differences between all of these.

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“**Political challenges have translated into insufficient funding to conduct loss and damage work to the extent needed.**”

“**There is a gap in conducting research and projects on NELD and slow onset climatic processes.**”

“**It is difficult to understand and identify how to address loss and damage because of its conflation with adaptation and humanitarian aid.**”

- Gaps remain in the context of coordination of efforts. Actions are being undertaken in, for example, disaster risk management, adaptation, early warning systems, humanitarian aid, which are all crucial in tackling loss and damage. However, there is no central Loss and Damage strategy or process which can bring together all these elements and make sure that all the gaps are filled.

This is not an exhaustive list of the challenges identified but captures the key challenges.

FUNDERS

Of the actors interviewed as part of this work, 13.5%, many of whom had only recently begun working on Loss and Damage, mentioned that a major challenge is that many grantees and others in their network do not know of or use the term Loss and Damage. Some of them also suggested that grantees should provide clear information to funders on the anticipated outcomes of Loss and Damage activities/projects for which they seek financing, as well as how funders could support them.

ANALYSIS

In analysing this research, the key findings are highlighted as follows:

- There is evidently less focus on funding, capacity building and actions on the ground. To better understand how to best address loss and damage in a range of contexts more funding is urgently needed to scale-up activities focused on the local level.
- Of course, scaling up comes with challenges and obstacles. These should be better understood so that they can be overcome.
- The high amount of focus on research is great. However, it should be ensured that the findings from this research are easily available, communicated and practical.
- Advocacy is also great and should be further supported.
- Some actors are already collaborating on specific projects to address loss and damage in various areas, but only a few are capable of doing so.

Another finding is that the majority of the tasks that Loss and Damage stakeholders interviewed focus on, such as advocacy, grantmaking, research, and capacity building, are still ongoing and long-term. The on-the-ground

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B

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IV

“**To better understand how to best address loss and damage in a range of contexts more funding is urgently needed to scale-up activities focused on the local level.**”

activities to address loss and damage, however, are short term. It is important that activities to address loss and damage on the ground are scaled up and that there is adequate predictable and sustainable financial support for these efforts long-term. Addressing loss and damage from both extreme weather events and slow onset climatic processes requires significant efforts in the short, medium and long-term. These activities should take into account the on-going need to support frontline communities experiencing non-economic losses such as from the loss of territory, cultural heritage, agency, identity, Indigenous and local knowledge, biodiversity and ecosystems.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, loss and damage has been garnering greater attention. At COP 27, Parties operationalised the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, established a Loss and Damage fund, and established the Transitional Committee that will discuss the operational modalities in the run up to COP 28. More work is needed to be done collectively by stakeholders working on Loss and Damage to ensure that the Loss and Damage fund is fully operationalised and can deliver the support needed by developing countries to address loss and damage. Some actors have similar activities but are not working together; it is critical that all stakeholders working to address loss and damage collaborate and avoid duplication of effort.

According to the information gathered through this research, one of the challenges addressed by stakeholders working on Loss and Damage is a lack of sufficient funding. Given this, funders should focus on providing more finance dedicated to activities that address loss and damage, particularly on the ground. These activities should also be funded in the longer term so that they are meaningful and deliver assistance to address all forms of loss and damage including from extreme weather events and slow onset climatic processes. More focus is needed addressing NELD and conducting the research in this area.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

VI

Following an analysis of the information collected from the respondents, the following recommendations are made to ensure that Loss and Damage is prioritised in discussions, research, and on-the-ground actions.

Prioritising Loss and Damage: Loss and Damage should be recognised as a key issue of climate change in all regions of the world but mostly those on the frontlines of climate change. It is recommended that, in order to ensure that it is prioritised, Loss and Damage be included in countries' nationally determined contributions and national climate change and disaster risk management policies and plans. Loss and Damage must be addressed holistically, with no critical aspects overlooked, ranging from loss and damage caused by extreme weather events and slow-onset events to economic and non-economic loss and damage. In addition, various stakeholders must ensure that Loss and Damage doesn't become a side issue in time, energy or economic crisis.

Access to adequate funding: Adequate funding to address loss and damage on the ground should be made available and easily accessible by stakeholders ranging from the local to the international level, because loss and damage is the impact experienced as a result of historical contributions to climate change. As a result, finance for loss and damage must be offered in accordance with the principles of climate justice. As such, sources of long-term funding to address loss and damage must be identified and this funding should be predictable, easily accessible, long-term, and available to actors and communities at the local-level. This will guarantee that people in urgent need of financing to address loss and damage receive funding on time and without delay. Community involvement as key stakeholders: Communities are the ones who are directly affected by the climate crisis. As a result, they should be involved in any and all potential actions or projects addressing loss and damage, such as capacity building, advocacy, research, and all implementation processes. As one of the challenges addressed during this study is a lack of sufficient data on the loss and damage caused by climate change impacts, it is critical to include communities at the local level as they can provide on-the-ground information and data.

Capacity building: Whilst some funders interviewed have funded or are funding work to address loss and damage on the ground, they reported that very few grantees can differentiate Loss and Damage from adaptation. The respondents from both funding and implementation agencies emphasised the importance of capacity building for implementing organisations on the ground to fully comprehend Loss and Damage. This will help identify robust solutions to effectively addressing loss and damage.

“**In order to ensure that it is prioritised, Loss and Damage be included in countries' nationally determined contributions and national climate change and disaster risk management policies and plans.**”

“**Sources of long-term funding to address loss and damage must be identified and this funding should be predictable, easily accessible, long-term, and available to actors and communities at the local-level.**”

“**The respondents from both funding and implementation agencies emphasised the importance of capacity building for implementing organisations on the ground to fully comprehend Loss and Damage.**”

Addressing Loss and Damage in a human rights centred way:

The effects of the climate crisis exacerbate the risk of community displacement, which raises a number of issues such as conflict and violence, including violence against women and girls and child abuse. It is critical to have strong human rights protections that communities can use when they experience loss and damage. Existing human rights mechanisms must impose responsibilities on states regarding loss and damage in order to ensure that all people including indigenous people, people with disabilities and youth are able to use these mechanisms to interpolate these requirements in the proper manner in order to hold companies accountable for the loss and damage they cause. In addition, decisions within the UNFCCC process should reflect human rights; for example, human rights must be expressly integrated in all work plans of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and all functions of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage.

Avoiding duplication of Loss and Damage work:

Although it was observed in this study that some actors are already collaborating to conduct research and advocacy, there is still some duplication that must be avoided. Avoiding activity duplication will yield the most effective and efficient results. In this regard, Loss and Damage actors must devise a plan to coordinate their efforts in a wide range of areas, including advocacy, capacity building, research, and direct action to address loss and damage on the ground.

“**It is critical to have strong human rights protections that communities can use when they experience loss and damage.**”

“**Decisions within the UNFCCC process should reflect human rights.**”

“**Loss and Damage actors must devise a plan to coordinate their efforts in a wide range of areas, including advocacy, capacity building, research, and direct action to address loss and damage on the ground.**”

APPENDIX A: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDED IN THIS RESEARCH

We reached out to the following organisations:

1. ACT Alliance,
2. Allied for Climate Transformation by 2025 (ACT 2025),
3. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL),
4. Climate Analytics,
5. Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG),
6. CNCD 11.11.11,
7. DanChurchAid,
8. Development Initiatives (DI),
9. ENDA Energie,
10. Germanwatch,
11. Global Greengrants Fund,
12. Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR),
13. Greenpeace International,
14. International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD),
15. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED),
16. Loss and Damage Collaboration (L&DC),
17. Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC),
18. Open Society Foundations (OSF),
19. Overseas Development Institute (ODI),
20. Practical Action,
21. Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF),
22. Scottish Government - Climate Justice unit,
23. Stamp Out Poverty,
24. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI),
25. The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF),
26. The Jubilee Australia Research centre,
27. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), and
28. World Resources Institute (WRI)

REFERENCES

1. This paper defines “**Loss and Damage** (big ‘L’ and ‘D’)” as the policy agenda at all levels to address “**loss and damage**” (small ‘l’ and ‘d’), the impacts of climate change not avoided by mitigation and adaptation strategies. This is a broader definition than that contained in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

IMAGE CREDITS

1. Cover image: An unexpected side-effect of the 2010 flooding in parts of Pakistan was that millions of spiders climbed up into the trees to escape the rising flood waters. Image credit: [Trees cocooned in spiders webs after flooding in Sindh, Pakistan](#), DFID - UK Department for International Development, licenced under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

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