



KEY FACTS | IMPACT OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND LOSS AND DAMAGE

Economic cost

- By 2030, the financial cost of loss and damage for developing countries is estimated at between \$290-580 billion (USD) annually.ⁱ By 2050, the cost is estimated to reach \$1 to \$1.8 trillion (USD) yearly.ⁱⁱ
- Financing the cost of loss and damage is an intergenerational issue. Those who face the greatest costs are today's and future generations of children and youth in low-income countries.
- The climate crisis threatens to contribute a 30 percent decrease in Africa's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 2050.ⁱⁱⁱ
- A coalition of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, the Vulnerable 20 (V20), have lost an estimated \$525 billion in the last 20 years due to the impacts of climate change.^{iv}

Disasters and displacement

- The climate crisis, including the impacts of loss and damage, is driving displacement. Due to increased loss of land and access to resources, climate change could push more than 200 million people to leave their homes by 2050.^v In 2021, climate extremes internally displaced 22.3 million people. The gendered and age impacts of displacement are particularly severe for women and girls, who make up over 80 percent of people currently displaced by climate related events.^{vi}
- Extreme weather events already cause more than 20 million people to move to other parts of their countries every year.^{vii}
- From unprecedented heatwaves and forest fires in Europe in summer 2022 to increased drought and soil erosion leading to a growing global food crisis, with severe impacts in the Horn of Africa, the climate crisis is significantly increasing in the number of disasters—which are expected to increase from 400 in 2015 to 560 by 2030.^{viii}

Children and youth

- One billion children are at extremely elevated risk of the impacts of the climate crisis.^{ix}
- Children and youth, especially girls, in low-income countries are extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, not only due to the limited possibility to adapt to their context but also because they are not effectively included in climate change decision-making processes.^x
- Globally, young people today are facing deepening economic insecurity due to the climate crisis. Rising prices, job insecurity, displacement caused by climate change threaten livelihoods. With increased climate-induced loss and damage these threats are increasing.
- Climate-induced loss and damage will become even more severe and frequent in the coming years. Even if current climate policy commitments are met, a child born in 2020

will experience “a two- to seven-fold increase in extreme events, particularly heat waves, compared with people born in 1960.”^{xi}

Women and girls

- Women and girls are increasingly more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This is because they are the majority of the world's poor and more dependent on the natural resources threatened due extreme weather events.^{xii}
- Women and girls already experience unique barriers to sexual and reproductive health, education, safety, and livelihoods due to gender inequality and harmful social and gender norms.^{xiii}
- Climate crises increase girls' risk for child, early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, dropping out of school, gender-based violence and trafficking.^{xiv}

Global poverty

- Climate change is already pushing an additional 130 million people into poverty over the next decade. As loss and damage impacts continue to escalate, today's generation and future generations will face increased poverty.
- The climate crisis is rolling back decades of progress on addressing global poverty and human rights and jeopardizing all the global Sustainable Development Goals. Those who have contributed the least to cause climate change are the ones bearing the cost associated with addressing it for their future and generations to come.

Global inequality

- Rich countries have contributed an estimated 92 percent of historical emissions, are responsible for 37 percent of current emissions, and account for 15 percent of the global population.^{xv}
- While Africa has contributed only 3.8 per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions, it is the most vulnerable continent to the impacts of climate change and is already suffering severe loss and damage.
- 3.3 to 3.6 billion people are living in climate vulnerability driven by ongoing inequity patterns of marginalization, colonialism, and unstable socio-economic development. The recent IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report acknowledges that today's “development challenges causing high vulnerability are influenced by historical and ongoing patterns of inequity such as colonialism, especially for many Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”^{xvi}

Global hunger

- The climate crisis is fueling the global hunger crisis.^{xvii}
- If the average global temperature rises by 2°C from pre-industrial levels, it's estimated that an additional 189 million people are expected to be pushed into hunger.^{xviii}
- Africa will lose up to 30 per cent of current crops which will push significant numbers of Africans to food insecurity.
- Rising temperatures could result in food shortages for 130 million people in Asia by 2030.^{xix}

-
- ⁱ IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report, [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#), February 2022.
- ⁱⁱ Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, [Unpacking finance for Loss and Damage](#), November 2021.
- ⁱⁱⁱ M. Burke, S. Hsiang, S. & E. Miguel, [Global non-linear effect of temperature on economic production](#), *Nature*, 527, 235–239, 2015.
- ^{iv} Vulnerable 20 Group, [Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report](#), June 2022.
- ^v World Bank, [Climate Change Could Force 216 Million People to Migrate Within Their Own Countries by 2050](#), September 2021.
- ^{vi} UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, [Climate change exacerbates violence against women and girls](#), July 2022.
- ^{vii} UNHCR, [Climate change and disaster displacement](#), accessed August, 8, 2022.
- ^{viii} UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, [Our World at Risk Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future](#), 2022.
- ^{ix} UNICEF, [The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis](#), August 2021.
- ^x Balgis Osman-Elasha, [Women In The Shadow of Climate Change](#), UN Women, 2012.
- ^{xi} Wim Thiery et.al., [Intergenerational inequities in exposure to climate extremes](#), September. 2021. The study finds a "disproportionate climate change burden for young generations in the Global South." See also Save the Children, [Born into the climate crisis](#), 2021.
- ^{xii} Rachel Yavinsky, [Women more vulnerable to climate change](#), Population Research Bureau, December 2022.
- ^{xiii} UN, [Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#), accessed August 25, 2022.
- ^{xiv} Plan International, [Effects of climate change on girls' rights](#), accessed August 25, 2022,
- ^{xv} Historic emissions are from J. Hickel. [Quantifying national responsibility for climate breakdown: an equality-based attribution approach for carbon dioxide emissions in excess of the planetary boundary](#), *The Lancet, Planetary Health*, Vol. 4, Issue 9, e399–404, September 2020.
- ^{xvi} IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report Impacts, [Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers Headline Statements](#), February 2022.
- ^{xvii} Christina Lu, [How Climate Change Fuels Global Hunger](#), *Foreign Policy*, May 19, 2022.
- ^{xviii} World Food Programme, [Climate Action for People and the Planet](#), July 2022. See also: WFP and FAO, [Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: June to September 2022 Outlook](#), 2022.
- ^{xix} IPCC, [Special Report on Climate Change and Land, Chapter 5: Food security](#);