



FROM THE FRONTLINES

Youth call for action to address loss and damage caused by climate change

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SUGGESTED CITATION

Plan International Canada. (2022).
From the Frontlines: Youth call for
action to address loss and damage
caused by climate change. Toronto,
Ontario: Plan International Canada.

CONTACT

Plan International Canada
245 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 0B3
info@plancanada.ca
plancanada.ca

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The lead author and researcher of this brief is Ineza Umuhzoza Grace, an eco-feminist working for climate justice by amplifying youth voices and through policy research and advocacy with the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition. Kristen Ostling and Stu Solomon from Plan International Canada and Jessica Cooke from Plan International Global Hub are co-researchers and co-authors.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the youth who took part in consultations and shared their vision for the future and their experiences, concerns, and solutions to address loss and damage caused by climate change. Their voices are reflected throughout this brief and highlighted with direct quotes. This brief aims to amplify the perspectives of youth on the frontlines of the climate crisis and be a catalyst for action.

Many thanks to those who provided valuable input, feedback and insights: Sandra Isingizwe from the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition, and Rodayna Abuelwafa, Zeenia Faraz, Alana Livesey and Anjum Sultana from Plan International Canada.

Thanks to Plan International Canada, which contributed funding toward this report.



Ineza Umuhoza Grace

Global Coordinator
Loss and Damage Youth Coalition



Stephen Omollo

CEO
Plan International

FOREWORD

The devastating impacts of the climate crisis are increasing around the world. This year we have witnessed extreme flooding in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and South Africa; heatwaves in South Asia, United States, and Europe; and drought and food crisis in Western and Eastern Africa.

The science on climate change is clear. Global warming is already causing significant increases to the frequency of intensity of extreme weather events leading to loss of lives and livelihoods. The science warns us that the impacts from the climate crisis are going to get significantly worse unless urgent action is taken.

Communities and young people are feeling these impacts. We need to stand with them and support their call for urgent financing and concrete action to minimize impacts of the climate crisis. Communities and most affected areas at the frontlines of the climate crisis are often also exacerbated by other crises, including hunger, poverty, gender inequality, conflict and the Covid pandemic.

Loss and damage caused by climate change is already affecting millions of children's and youth's lives, particularly girls and young women. Passing on the escalating impacts of human induced climate change to future generations is a moral and leadership failure. The duty to act could not be more urgent. The rights and wellbeing of youth today, future generations and the planet are at stake.

Youth are calling for political leadership, action, and co-operation at all levels to stand with the over three billion people who live in countries highly vulnerable to climate change. Everyone has a role to play. Decision makers in all sectors and at all levels must heed that call.

Join us to make sure no one is left behind as we take steps towards climate justice by addressing loss and damage.



Plan International, Bangladesh, 2019

1 | INTRODUCTION



Climate justice will be achieved only if we address loss and damage critically and systematically. Otherwise, we are going to lose our planet and communities. Let us **act now together in solidarity for today's children and youth and for future generations.**"

– Ineza Umuhoza Grace, Rwanda

All children and young people should enjoy full and equal access to their rights, and this should not be hindered by the threat of climate change. Climate change is the greatest global, intergenerational, gender and social injustice of our time. It impacts the rights of the most marginalized most severely and magnifies gender inequalities, especially for girls and young women. Upholding girls' rights and strengthening their meaningful participation in climate decisions and actions must therefore be a priority.

Climate change is creating more frequent and intense extreme-weather events than ecosystems, communities and countries have experienced in the past. Over the past 20 years, more than four billion lives have been impacted and \$2.9 trillion has been lost to extreme weather events.¹ Those most affected often do not have access to the resources or knowledge to manage these shocks and stresses. Climate change risks are increasing, with impacts predicted to result in the loss of millions of lives and create significant social and economic costs for countries, particularly those that are least able to afford it. This trend risks reversing decades of progress on the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as on gender equality.

To overcome these impacts, countries have committed to the Paris Agreement, a global pact created to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage.² Upstream pathways to avert and minimize loss and damage include reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and taking proactive measures to reduce impacts by

strengthening actions to protect communities from the consequences of climate change (adaptation). When communities are unable to avoid climate-related impacts, because either they have insufficient resources and funding or the impacts cannot be adapted to, loss and damage occurs, requiring specific support to help people and communities manage and respond to these impacts.

Loss and damage from climate change is not a future problem – it is happening now. The climate crisis is causing severe damage and irreversible loss to people and the planet. Extreme weather events, including floods, storms, droughts, heat waves and wildfires, are becoming more frequent and more severe every year, leading to loss of life, land, coastlines, livelihoods, crops, livestock, ecosystems, biodiversity, and infrastructure.³ This is driving a vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty, vulnerability, and further marginalization.

The stakes are high for today's youth – the largest youth generation in history.⁴ They will bear the increasing burden of loss and damage. Already, one billion children are at extremely elevated risk of experiencing the impacts of climate change.⁵ Climate-induced loss and damage will become even more frequent and severe in the coming years, with ongoing impacts on the lives of children and youth, especially girls and young women. These impacts include a loss of homes, livelihoods and access to education and health services as well as increases in gender-based violence, disease, child, early and forced marriage and unions and unpaid care work for women and girls.

The climate crisis raises pressing intergenerational equity issues, such as what future climate change impacts those living today are imposing on future generations and how available natural resources can be used without threatening the sustainable functioning of the planet's ecosystems. Moreover, climate justice inevitably raises the issue of how to balance the rights claims of those living today with the rights claims of future generations. The children of today and tomorrow will inherit an increasingly uninhabitable planet. They will continue to bear the

brunt of the impacts, despite contributing the least, while remaining manifestly underprepared and under-resourced to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

This brief examines the meaning and impact of loss and damage through an intersectional, youth-centred, gender-equality lens. It presents an urgent call to action with four key recommendations leading up to UN Climate Change Conference (COP27).⁶

2 | WHAT IS LOSS AND DAMAGE?

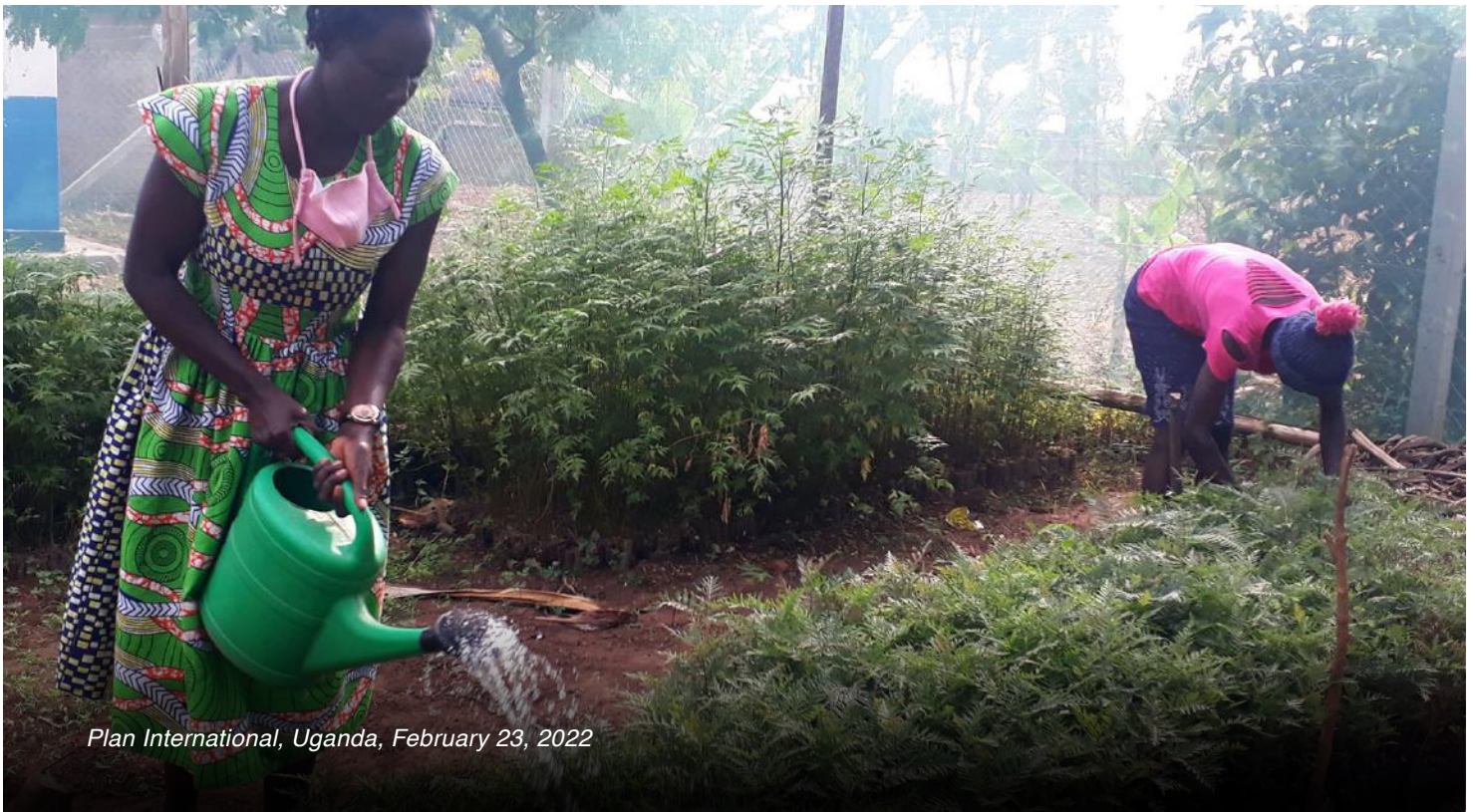
Loss and damage. These powerful words evoke the destructive impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided through mitigation (avoiding and reducing greenhouse gas emissions) or adaptation (adjusting to current and future climate change impacts).

Climate-induced loss and damage refers to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to. **Loss** refers to the consequences of climate change that cannot be brought back – for example, loss of life, biodiversity, cultural heritage, and Indigenous knowledge.

Damage refers to things that can be either restored or repaired – for example, houses, schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges.

The impacts of loss and damage due to climate change are categorized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as economic and non-economic as well as ecological.⁷

Economic losses are the losses and damages that affect goods, services and resources that have a market or economic value to the community, such as damage or destruction to infrastructure like houses, roads, schools, or health centres; reduced livelihood opportunities due to the loss of productive lands, damaged crops or a decrease in livestock health; and increases in food and water insecurity.



Plan International, Uganda, February 23, 2022

Non-economic losses are the losses and damages that cause incalculable loss to communities, such as missing education, training and health services; an increased risk of gender-based violence, early marriage, loss of life, infectious disease, malnutrition or mental health challenges; displacement and migration caused by the loss of territory or homeland or regions becoming uninhabitable; increased political destabilization and conflict due to competing for natural resources; and societal impacts from the loss of Indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage or hope for the future as well as the erosion of social cohesion.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has demonstrated the already extensive **ecological losses** due to climate change, such as loss of biodiversity, species extinction, ecosystem degradation, habitat loss, loss of forests and coastal erosion.⁸

The time for action on loss and damage is now. The impact on everyday lives is growing by the day.

3 | IMPACT OF LOSS AND DAMAGE ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES

WHAT DOES LOSS AND DAMAGE MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVERYDAY LIVES?

Like all disasters, whether rapid or slow onset, climate-induced loss and damage is felt the most by groups experiencing the greatest marginalization. An intersectional lens on loss and damage recognizes that across sectors and regions, the most vulnerable and marginalized people and systems – such as low-income nations and communities, women, children and youth – are disproportionately affected by the impact of human-induced climate change.

Extreme-weather events are having a major impact in countries most affected by climate change, particularly in lower-income countries, where the largest youth populations live globally.⁹ The adage “We don't inherit the earth; we borrow it from our children” is fitting when it comes to climate-induced loss and damage.

Children and youth today will face the worst loss and damage of any generation to date, despite being the least responsible for its cause. Loss and damage caused by climate change is the greatest intergenerational injustice youth face today – especially girls in low-income countries and countries that are most affected where communities are experiencing the severest impacts of the climate crisis daily.

The impacts of loss and damage from climate change are already being felt every day, with youth and children facing growing economic insecurity, inequality, poverty, hunger, lack of access to education and health services, threats to livelihoods, risks of gender-based violence and the loss of loved ones.



As the climate crisis escalates, people are losing their lives, people are losing their livelihoods, people are losing their cultures – **so there really is a need to put the people on the agenda.**”

– Vanessa Nakate, Uganda

ECONOMIC INSECURITY

The costs of loss and damage will be passed on from one generation to the next. While the human costs of loss and damage for today’s youth and children and future generations are incalculable, the estimated economic cost is staggering.

By 2030, the financial cost of loss and damage for developing countries is estimated at bn \$290-580 billion (USD) annually¹⁰ and, by 2050 is estimated to reach to \$1 to 1.8 trillion (USD) annually.¹¹

These costs represent threats to economic stability and security, especially for the poorest communities affected by climate shocks. The climate crisis threatens to lead to a 30% decrease in Africa’s GDP (gross domestic product) by 2050.¹² The Vulnerable (V20), a coalition of the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries, has lost an estimated \$525 billion over the past 20 years due to the negative impacts of climate change.¹³

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The increase in droughts, heat waves, cyclones and erosion and the rise in sea level are beyond what communities can mitigate, prevent and properly resource to ensure adaptation. Loss and damage also traps people in cycles of intergenerational poverty. Climate finance is urgently needed to support communities, and local actors are needed to address the growing climate loss and damage that children and youth are facing.



Extreme weather events such as cyclones, heat waves, floods, wildfires and droughts have caused loss and damage in Bangladesh. The coastal zone is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Although the loss of human life is minimized due to the early warning system, there is a significant amount of economic loss and loss of livelihoods, which is causing forced migration. **Decreased availability of food has led to malnutrition, and school dropout rates have increased child labour.”**

– Fatema, Bangladesh



Plan International, Uganda, April 15, 2021

INEQUALITY

Loss and damage threaten to increase inequality. Inequality is compounded by the fact that wealthy countries, home to 15 percent of the global population, have contributed an estimated 92 percent of historical greenhouse gas emissions and are responsible for 37 percent of current emissions.¹⁴ Between 1990 and 2015, the richest one percent of the world’s population were responsible for more than twice as much carbon pollution as the poorest 50 percent, or 3.1 billion people.¹⁵ While Africa has contributed only 3.8 percent to global greenhouse gas emissions, it is the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and is already suffering severe loss and damage.¹⁶

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The climate crisis is aggravating existing inequalities – within and among countries. Discriminatory social and gender norms mean that girls and women, as well as those marginalized by race, sexuality, gender identity, disability, ethnicity or economic status, are more affected by climate impacts and have the fewest resources and the least amount of knowledge when it comes to identifying and putting coping and adaptive strategies into action.

Countries that are highly exposed to climate-related hazards are also often the least prepared and the least resourced for undertaking climate action to respond to higher temperatures and increasing disasters. Approximately 3.6 billion people, more than half the world’s population, live in areas characterized as being highly vulnerable to climate change hazards, driven by long-standing patterns of marginalization, colonialism and unstable and unsustainable socio-economic development. The IPCC 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.”¹⁷

Women and girls face unique barriers to sexual and reproductive health, education, safety and livelihoods due to gender inequality. For them, climate impacts are heightened because in times of crisis, harmful social and gender norms are exacerbated, leading to an increase in child, early and forced marriage, gender-based violence and unpaid care work as well as limitations in accessing school.¹⁸



Poverty, inequality and economic contexts enhance our vulnerabilities to climate impacts. We are working hard to adapt and mitigate risk, but now the challenge for the region lies in implementation and obtaining the financial resources required to move from plans to action. The issue of **loss and damage is particularly relevant to our region and mostly for all the youth and children who hope for their future development.**”

– *Salomé Montero Solís, Costa Rica*

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Plan International, Mali, August 19, 2022

POVERTY, LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD INSECURITY

Climate-induced loss and damage affects poverty and livelihoods. Climate change will push an estimated additional 135 million people into poverty by 2030.¹⁹ The climate crisis is already rolling back decades of progress and putting the Sustainable Development Goal on ending extreme poverty by 2030 off track.

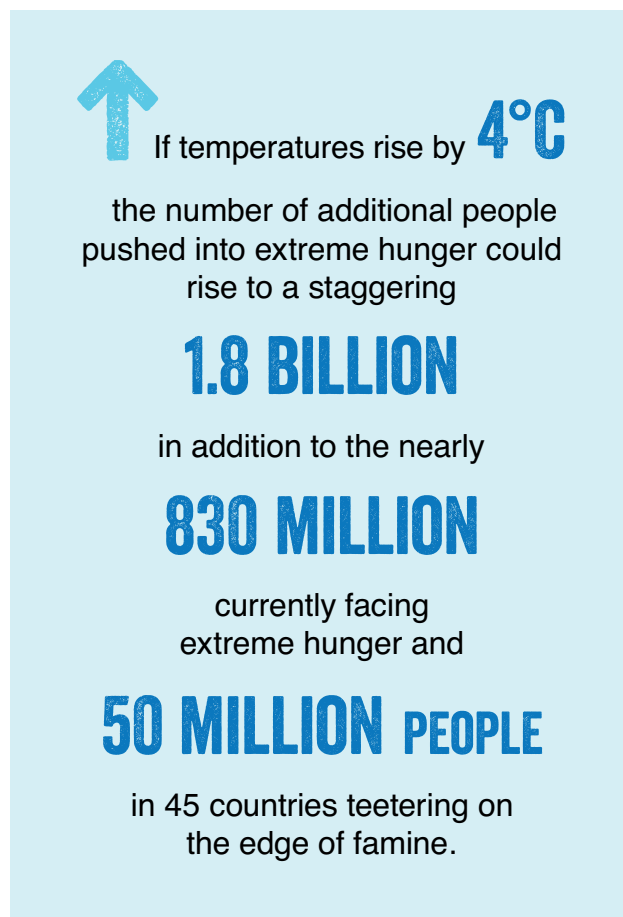


Women and girls represent 43 percent of the agricultural workforce in lower-income countries, where temperatures are heating up faster, making climate change and agricultural development an urgent gender issue.²⁰ Climate change threatens agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition, health and the potential to achieve key SDGs for poverty and hunger. The costs of managing climate impacts on reduced crop yields, threatened food systems and increased hunger have been estimated at \$1.4 trillion from 2020 to 2040.²¹ Climate change exacerbates the burden of work on women and girls in household care due to their gendered role as farmers on degraded lands, food providers with reduced production and caregivers required to travel farther and longer for water and biomass for cooking.

The climate crisis is fuelling the global hunger crisis. Food insecurity and hunger will increase in the loss and damage era.²²

Africa is the most vulnerable continent according to the recent IPCC report.²³ Warming of just 1.2 to 1.9°C is projected to increase the number of malnourished people in Africa by 25 to 95 percent by 2050.²⁴ If the average global temperature rises

by 2°C from pre-industrial levels, it is estimated that an additional 189 million people are expected to be pushed into hunger by 2030. If temperatures rise by 4°C, the number of additional people pushed into extreme hunger could rise to a staggering 1.8 billion,²⁵ in addition to the nearly 830 million currently facing extreme hunger and 50 million people in 45 countries teetering on the edge of famine.²⁶ Rising temperatures are projected to result in food shortages for an additional 130 million people in Asia by 2030.²⁷



When livelihoods are threatened due to extreme-weather events, women and girls face increased income insecurity. They are increasingly more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because they are the majority of the world's poor and more dependent on the natural resources at risk due to extreme-weather events.²⁸ As loss and damage impacts escalate, today's generation and future generations will face increased poverty.



Plan International, Bangladesh, June 2022



Extreme weather events such as cyclones, heat waves, floods, wildfires and droughts have caused loss and damage in Bangladesh. The coastal zone is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Although the loss of human life is minimized due to the early warning system, there is a significant amount of economic loss and loss of livelihoods, which is causing forced migration. **Decreased availability of food has led to malnutrition, and school dropout rates have increased child labour.”**

– Fatema, Bangladesh



My plea is on behalf of the millions of Nigerians in parts of the north who have lost their livelihoods because of the already shrunk Lake Chad. I also plead with you and member nations to share with me the concern for communities/ people forced to migrate due to soil loss who often encounter dangerous situations resulting in losses.”

– Lekwa Hope, Nigeria

DISASTERS AND DISPLACEMENT

Extreme weather due to climate change forces people from their homes and communities. From the European heat waves to the growing displacement and hunger crisis in Eastern and Western Africa to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan, 2022 has been a record-breaking tragedy of climate-induced loss and damage. Pakistan, for example, experienced catastrophic loss and damage – with one-third of the country underwater, 50 million people displaced, and one million houses damaged or destroyed by September 2022.

Pakistan experienced catastrophic loss and damage with

ONE-THIRD

of the country

UNDERWATER

The climate crisis, including the impacts of loss and damage, is driving displacement. Climate change and the resulting loss of land and access to resources could push more than 200 million people to leave their homes by 2050.²⁹ Extreme-weather events already cause more than 20 million people to move to other parts of their countries every year.³⁰ The gendered impacts of displacement are particularly severe for women and girls, who make up over 80 percent of people currently displaced by climate-related events.³¹ During times of displacement and migration, women and girls are at particular risk of sexual and gender-based violence as well as child, early and forced marriage and frequently lack access to health services. Children on the move lack access to education and training opportunities, protection mechanisms and the safety of their traditional communities.



Plan International, Fiji, June 8, 2020

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Climate-induced disasters and displacement will become even more severe and frequent in the coming years, with a greater impact on the next generation of children and youth. Even if current climate policy commitments are met, a child born in 2020 will experience two to seven times more extreme-weather events, particularly heat waves, compared with people born in 1960.³²



One of the major problems faced by island nations in the Pacific, especially here in Fiji, is the impact of sea level rise resulting from climate change. Sea level rise has led to an increase in coastal erosion and coastal inundation. Frontline communities have built seawalls over the years, but they've had to be rebuilt multiple times after being destroyed by the rough waves. We are calling for action to finance these communities to assist them in combatting the impacts of climate change they face daily and compensate them for the loss and damage suffered by their families."

– Selita, Fiji



In my country, millions of people are threatened by coastal erosion. A lot of buildings have been lost, and many people have been displaced. **World leaders cannot close their eyes to the obvious. Act on loss and damage financing now.**"

– Mamadou Sylla, Senegal



Plan International, Senegal, 2012



I come from the Mount Kenya region. In this part of Kenya, we mainly rely on rainfall, and we do rain-fed agriculture. When there is climate change and a variance in the amount of rainfall, we are majorly affected.”

– Sharon Gakii, Kenya



Kenya, June 17, 2021

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Decreased access to health and education because of the climate crisis has a major impact on youth, particularly young women. Climate change magnifies gender inequalities, resulting in unequal access to health, education and protection for girls. As the impacts of loss and damage increase, the barriers to accessing health and education increase – with more damage and destruction to hospitals, clinics and schools and roads to access them.


There are multiple direct and indirect costs to education due to loss and damage. Damage to school buildings and injury of students and teachers can result in young people missing education days, with girls less likely to return to school. If current trends continue, by 2025 climate change will be a contributing factor in preventing at least 12.5 million girls from completing their education each year.³³ Girls’ lack of access to education compounds their vulnerability as they have limited information about climate change, limited knowledge about what to do in a disaster and limited access to timely and life-saving early warning systems. Every dollar spent on girls’ rights and education would generate a \$2.80 return – equivalent to billions of dollars in additional GDP.³⁴ Dropping out of school affects



Plan International, Malawi, February 2022

their lifetime earnings and the local, national and global economies.³⁵ Reducing school interruption and educating girls means more working women with the potential to add up to \$12 trillion (USD) to global growth.³⁶

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 **\$12 TRILLION**
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Girls' education is strongly linked with impactful climate action. Countries that have focused on girls' education have suffered far fewer losses from droughts and floods than countries with lower levels of girls' education. For every additional year of schooling a girl receives on average, her country's resilience to climate disasters can be expected to improve by 3.2 points on the ND-GAIN Index, which measures country-level vulnerability to climate change alongside readiness to improve resilience.³⁷

Disasters caused by extreme weather events pose a significant challenge to the basic determinants of physical and mental health, including clean air, safe drinking water, nutrition, shelter and safety.³⁸ Women's and girls' health is endangered in climate change disasters by limiting their access to health care services as well as increasing risks related to sexual and reproductive health. Children experiencing trauma from extreme weather disasters require specific psycho-social support and protection. Moreover, with increasing awareness among youth of the climate crisis, the phenomenon of climate anxiety is justifiably growing.³⁹



In 2022, Malawi has felt the impacts of tropical storm Ana, which has affected 945,728 people and killed 46. **Education has been affected, and the livelihoods of many Malawians have been taken away.**"

– Brenda Mwale, Malawi



We can only make an effective change when the needs of the most affected populations are at the core of the decision making. The moment for climate action is now, and COP27 must deliver on its commitments to bring about systemic change."

– Carolina Oliveira Dias, Brazil

CHILD MARRIAGE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Climate shocks and stresses routinely place girls, especially during adolescence, at increased risk of gender-based violence, including sexual assault, resulting in trauma and unplanned pregnancies, human trafficking and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage.⁴⁰ They also cause disruption in access to sexual and reproductive health, family-planning services and maternal and postnatal care.⁴¹ Combined, these factors severely undermine their rights and abilities to build resilience and recover from climate change loss and damage disasters.

The increase in gender-based violence during or after extreme weather events is often related to “economic instability, food insecurity, mental stress, disrupted infrastructure, increased exposure to men, tradition and exacerbated gender inequality.”⁴² Climate change can also increase the likelihood of gender-based violence. A recent Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Rapid Assessment of the effects of drought on children and women undertaken in Somalia reported that 25 percent of respondents indicated increased prevalence of gender-based violence due to the climate change, including sexual assault, domestic violence, FGM (female genital mutilation), sexual harassment and abuse and child, early and forced marriage.⁴³ Abuses occurred most during population movement, collecting firewood and water and in communal areas such as latrines/showers. Further, 66 percent of respondents indicated there were no child-protection or gender-based violence services.⁴⁴

Child, early and forced marriage often occurs in communities and countries with the least access to resources and income-generating activities. Many of these resources and activities are significantly impacted by climate change, thereby increasing the likelihood of child, early and forced marriage. Interviews conducted by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with families and civil society organizations in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe highlighted that climate-related economic effects are a key driver of child marriage.⁴⁵ Further, according to the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Rapid Assessment in Somaliland, 36 percent of respondents reported an increase in cases of child, early and forced marriage due to the drought. Marrying a child is perceived as a coping strategy in response to the loss of assets and income after crises such as droughts and floods.⁴⁶



The recent flooding has wreaked havoc across Pakistan, and one-third of the country is underwater. The historic monsoon rains charged through villages, crop fields and thousands of homes, ripping apart lives and displacing 33 million people.

Pakistan’s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is less than 1 percent, but it is among the top 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change. **It is time to make the polluters accountable for the loss and damage** they are causing in developing countries and to move from solidarity to responsibility.

– Irfan Ullah, Pakistan



Our urgent call is for loss and damage to be recognized and financed so that communities will be compensated when they’re dealing with losses and damages associated with climate change.”

– Toini Amutenya, Namibia

The costs of loss and damage for future generations are immense. Current generations, with the active engagement of young people, must take urgent and wide-ranging action now to limit the amount of loss and damage experienced in a hotter world.

4 | CALL TO ACTION: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COP27 TO ADVANCE ACTION ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

What's at play at COP27 on loss and damage?

While loss and damage has been part of climate negotiations for over 30 years, it has been contentious. Progress has been glacial in climate negotiations, with little global progress on urgent actions to address the issue. Over the past nine COP climate negotiations, the G77 +China (G77+) negotiating bloc, which includes 80 percent of the global population, has consistently been united and vocal in its call for the establishment of a loss and damage finance mechanism.

Due to escalating impacts of loss and damage and the G77+ high-profile call for a dedicated financing facility, it is expected that loss and damage will be raised as a key issue at COP27. As outlined by the Egyptian Presidency of COP27, "loss and damage and adaptation must remain a priority, and agreements should be made on credible and effective measures to meet the needs of countries most affected by climate change and already managing loss and damage."⁴⁷ Civil society organizations are also ramping up efforts to ensure that loss and damage is on COP27's agenda.⁴⁸

Without urgent action, today's youth and future generations face massive ongoing increases in ecosystem degradation, loss of biodiversity and human insecurity.

Leading up to and at COP27, youth are calling for action.

1. COMMIT TO AND IMPLEMENT LOSS AND DAMAGE FINANCE TO ADDRESS AND LIMIT IRREVERSIBLE AND LIFE-CHANGING IMPACTS ON YOUNG PEOPLE.

Today's children and youth, especially girls and young women, are facing extreme and life-changing impacts of the climate crisis. Financing is urgently needed to address loss and damage and meet the existing and future needs and rights of the most vulnerable children and youth, considering intergenerational equity, gender equality and inclusion.

- Major emitting country governments must commit to establishing a loss and damage finance mechanism by providing new, additional, timely and accessible grant-based funding to support actions to address loss and damage. This funding should urgently prioritize those most affected by loss and damage, including low-income countries, Small Island Developing States, children, youth, young women and girls in local communities, to equip them to effectively address loss and damage.
- The new finance mechanism should ensure that financial support reaches local communities, including provisions for supporting women and youth-led organizations as well as girl-led organizations, working on loss and damage from a youth, gender equality and children's rights perspective.
- Ensure that decisions on the development of the loss and damage finance mechanism include policies and guidance on protecting and promoting all children and youth in all their diversity and their rights.
- Include loss and damage finance in the New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance and Global Stocktake with clear targets, transparency on funding, accessibility of finance streams and predictability of funds based on science and the current needs of communities to achieve the ambition of the Paris Agreement.
- Funding should include mechanisms to support non-economic losses, particularly

those magnified by gender, age and other intersectional barriers that increase unpaid care work and gender-based violence as well as a loss of education, Indigenous knowledge and sexual and reproductive health rights.

2. PRIORITIZE CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH’S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY IN THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE SANTIAGO NETWORK ON LOSS AND DAMAGE.

Youth, particularly young women and girls, face additional barriers in accessing technical assistance, knowledge and skills. The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage should be operationalized so they can be empowered to be resilient in the face of climate-induced disasters and loss and damage.

- Operationalize the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, including meaningful youth engagement, with a proper structure and a finance arm that is anchored in inclusiveness and transparency and with operational modalities that allow the network to be responsive to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable communities, including youth and children.
- Establish an advisory body, coordinating body and host agency to accelerate the operationalization of the network.
- Ensure that the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage has focal points at the national and international levels, a clear role for the Warsaw International Mechanism and a robust coordinating body with a mandate for meaningful youth engagement as a fundamental principle.
- Enhance accountability by ensuring that the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage reports, by 2025, the level of technical assistance provided to countries, including youth on the frontlines of loss and damage, and how this technical assistance translates into concrete action in communities.

3. IMPROVE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY ON THE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL AND INTERSECTIONAL NATURE OF LOSS AND DAMAGE BY ENSURING THAT THOSE WHO ARE MOST AT RISK ARE MEANINGFULLY CONSULTED AND ENGAGED.

Youth are under-represented in consultation and implementation processes that young people need to be engaged in, including programs to address loss and damage, national mitigation and adaptation efforts and the development and implementation of climate Nationally Determined Contributions and National Action Plans. Youth must be consistently and meaningfully engaged and prioritized in climate decision-making processes in line with the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.

Access to education is a growing challenge for girls in communities hardest hit by the climate crisis. With growing climate disasters, child, early and forced marriage is on the rise, forcing girls to drop out of school, denying them their right to education, including gender-transformative, inclusive and safe climate change education that could help them, and their families respond to extreme-weather events and develop strategies and skills to adapt to the effects of the climate crisis.

- Governments must support inclusion of youth in all their diversity, in all climate policy processes and actions, including actions to address loss and damage.
- Establish a youth advisory committee to formulate a meaningful, inclusive youth approach to making decisions and acting on loss and damage.
- Ensure that youth and children, including girls and young women, have access to information and capacity building and are systematically included as active stakeholders in climate change consultation and decision-making processes on the national and international levels.

- Funding for adaptation efforts, an upstream intervention to address loss and damage, must be scaled up and take a gender-transformative, age-responsive and inclusive approach to address loss and damage that promotes gender-equitable, rights-based, meaningful youth engagement and participatory climate action.

4. SUPPORT COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES MOST CLIMATE AFFECTED TO ASSESS THEIR LOSS AND DAMAGE RISKS USING ROBUST APPROACHES TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, INCLUDING AGE, GENDER AND INTERSECTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.

The climate crisis is the greatest injustice of our generation. Women, children and youth from marginalized communities are most affected, yet they are woefully under-represented in climate negotiations and decision making as active stakeholders. The rights of children and youth, including girls in all their diversity, must be at the heart of all work on loss and damage.

- Governments, civil society, the private sector and academia must centre intergenerational equity and gender equality, including for girls in all their diversity, in loss and damage policy processes and actions.
- Parties should finance, mainstream and prioritize implementation of the Action for Climate Empowerment agenda and the Gender Action Plan, including ensuring that all actions have an explicit gender, inclusion and age lens so they don't exacerbate existing inequalities.
- All decisions at COP and on Nationally Determined Contributions and National Action Plans should consider intergenerational equity, gender equality and children's and youth's rights.
- Mandate the Global Stocktake to take account of and report on the current state of global loss and damage and tangible actions that parties have taken to address it while also highlighting the existing gaps in current efforts.

- Loss and damage needs assessments must consider existing vulnerabilities and capacities specific to women, men, members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community as well as consider those who are most vulnerable, including children, minorities and disabled people living in extreme poverty and fragile contexts.

5 | CONCLUSION

The trends and impacts of loss and damage are devastating. Climate science and the voices from the frontlines of impacted communities clearly show that climate-induced loss and damage is happening now and is predicted to significantly increase causing devastating challenges for future generations of youth, particularly girls and young women. It is essential to ensure that the world's most vulnerable have the necessary financing, skills and knowledge to act in this climate crisis.

However, one of the losses we must overcome is loss of hope for the future. Today's generation of youth has mobilized the largest climate movement in history. Loss and damage is increasingly gaining attention in climate negotiations, which is a glimmer of hope that the world is starting to listen, understand and act.

COP27 must demonstrate political leadership, action and co-operation at all levels to stand with the over three billion people who live in countries highly vulnerable to climate change. Global leaders must show solidarity with low-income countries and countries that are the most climate affected by committing to realistic, science-based and practical actions to support establishing a loss and damage finance mechanism and scaling up adaptation efforts to support communities. Action is urgently needed to advance intergenerational equity and gender equality in efforts to address loss and damage in the countries and communities that are the most impacted.

Let us leave no one behind as we take steps towards climate justice by addressing loss and damage.

ANNEX

DEFINITIONS

Adaptation

Adaptation in the context of climate change refers to actions taken to reduce the negative impacts of climate change while taking advantage of potential new opportunities. It involves adjusting policies and actions because of observed or expected changes in climate. Adaptation can be reactive, occurring in response to climate impacts, or anticipatory, occurring before impacts of climate change are observed.

Gender-transformative climate action

A gender-transformative approach to climate action is intersectional and addresses the disproportionate impact of climate change on young women and girls. It contributes to the realization of women's and girls' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, explicitly addressing structural injustices, including unequal power relationships and systemic barriers to girls' and young women's meaningful participation and leadership in climate change solutions.

Intergenerational justice

The idea that present generations have certain duties towards future generations. Climate change raises pressing issues, such as which risks those living today are allowed to impose on future generations and how available natural resources can be used without threatening the sustainable functioning of the planet's ecosystems. Moreover, when one talks about the rights of future generations, this inevitably raises the issue of how to balance the rights claims of those alive today against the rights claims of future generations.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination come together and create unique dynamics and effects. The term was first coined by Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989.

Loss and Damage

"Loss and damage" is a general term used in UN climate negotiations to refer to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to or mitigate for.

Mitigation

Mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases. Mitigation can mean using new technologies and renewable energies, making older equipment more energy efficient or changing management practices or consumer behaviour.



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Plan International Canada Inc.

245 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 300
 Toronto, ON M4P 0B3
 Canada

1-800-387-1418
info@plancanada.ca
plancanada.ca



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