



# Addressing Climate Change Loss and Damage

## *Co-generating pathways for impact*

20 October 2022

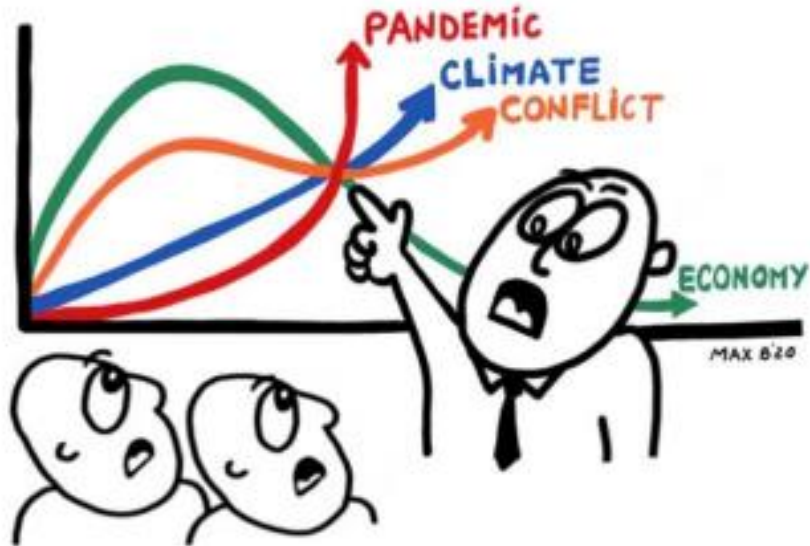
Ritu Bharadwaj, Principal Researcher and Team Leader, Climate Change Group

# What is Loss and Damage (L&D) and why do we need to address it now

Unprecedented extremes

Climate impacts exceeding the adaptive capacity

Impacts that cannot be prevented by adaptation and mitigation



- The disasters are collaborating better than we are!

Paul M Bisco / CartoonStock.com



Larger magnitude



Increased frequency



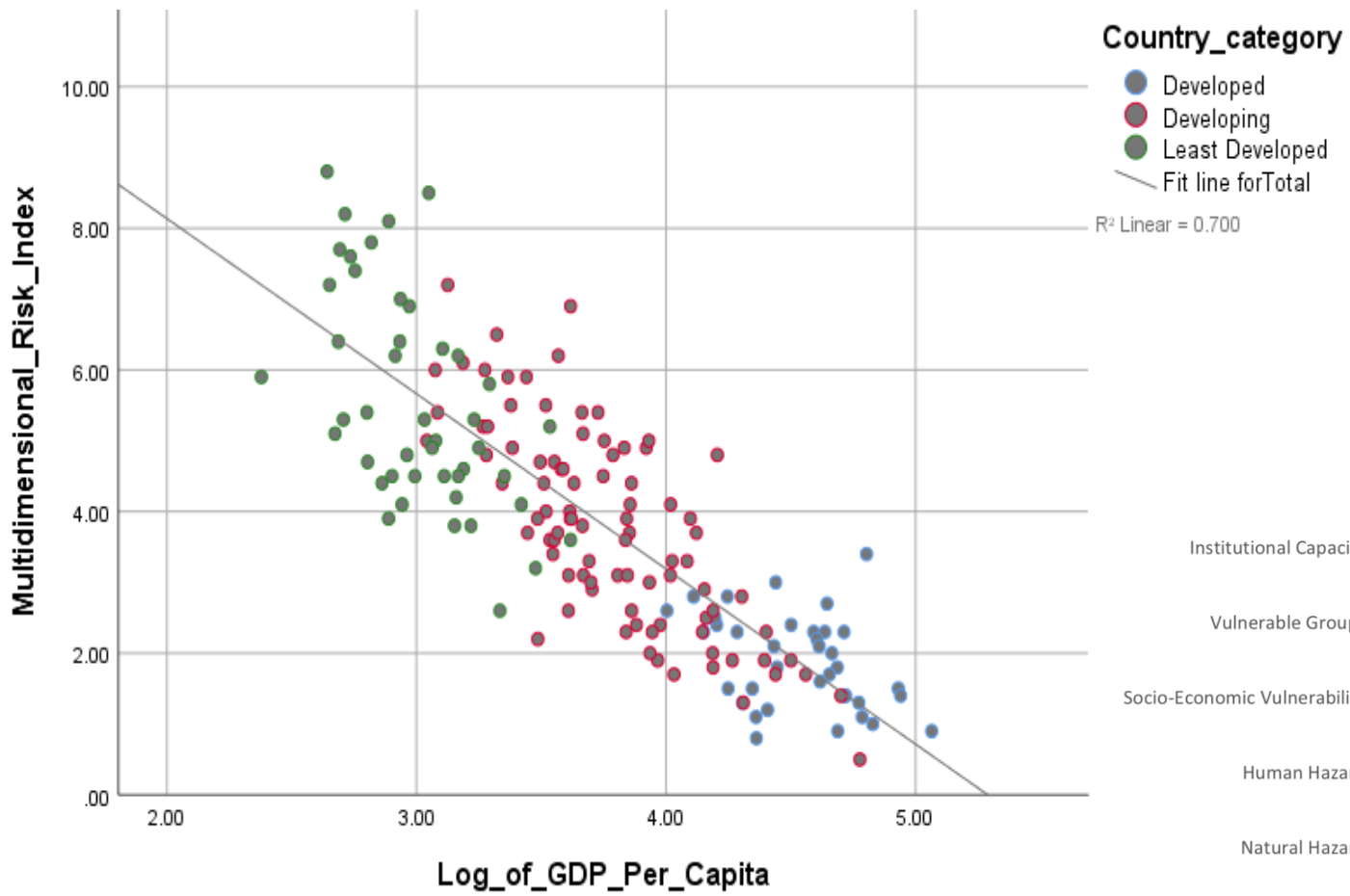
New locations



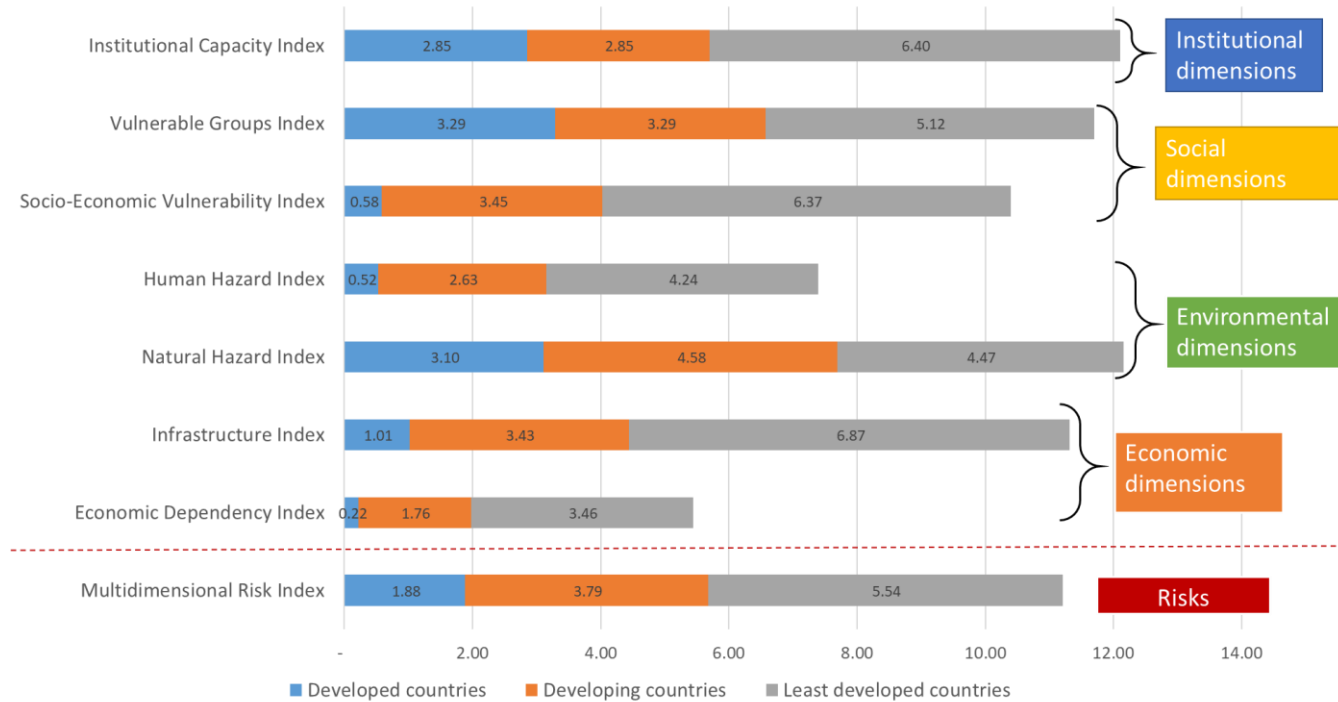
Different timing



New combinations



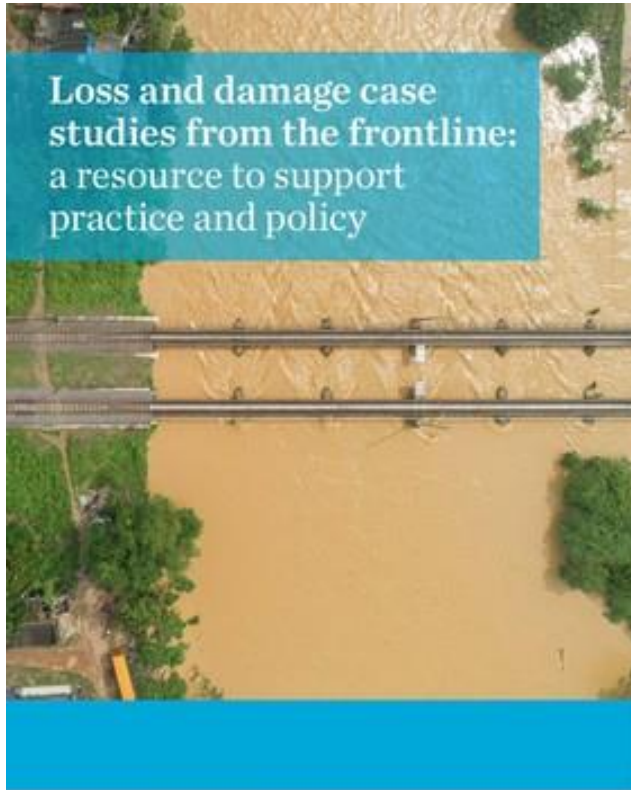
# Unequal impact



# Case Study Compendium

**Bottom up evidence generation – to contribute new set of evidence to guide deliberations on L&D**

# Approach to Bottom up evidence generation



1. Illustrate L&D impacts of climate change-related hazards such as droughts, floods, soil degradation, glacier melt, sea-level rise, salination, coastal erosion and biodiversity loss in 12 geographies
2. Various L&D impacts on the lives, living conditions and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people and on the ecosystems and infrastructure they depend on (and how different group experience the impacts differently)
3. How L&D impacts compound or exacerbate other risks (such as poverty, health, marginalisation, conflict and so on)
4. Impacts L&D is having at the level of community and society (such as access to basic services and institutions, population displacement or migration, loss of cultural heritage)
5. Existing coping and adaptation measures – both traditional and innovative – that are being employed by households and communities to manage L&D risks.
6. Highlight the existing gaps and challenges, and what needs to be done to help the communities to prepare, cope and recover from them
7. Explain the priorities for action on L&D at local level and national levels, sharing solutions, and providing recommendations.

# ‘Forced Displacement’ and ‘Distress Migration’ common consequence across different types of climate impacts and geographies

Case Study Location	
Mwaja village, Singida Municipal (Tanzania)	Pekalongan (Java, Indonesia)
Turkana County (Kenya)	Western Santo Island, Vanuatu
Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria and Niger)	The Cook Islands
Kasese District (Uganda)	Tuvalu (Pacific Ocean)
Chitrakoot (India)	Anuradhapura and Trincomalee (Sri Lanka)
Punakha (Bhutan)	Urir Char (Bangladesh)

Among those who get displaced or undertake distress migration, ones most poor and vulnerable **become victim to slavery and human trafficking**

# L&D create physical health, mental health, and well-being issues for people pushed into distress migration and those left behind

- Recurring L&D impacts and hardships are pushing people into despair and creating health issues. Recurring floods and drought, increase feelings of worry, sadness, anger and tiredness. Flooding also increases health budget of the community.
- Reduction in incomes and insecurity in livelihoods, have resulted in increased household stress and increased susceptibility to addiction, anxiety, suicides, emotional distress, domestic violence and other related issues.
- Displacements have resulted in overcrowding of camps, outbreaks of hygiene-related diseases like cholera, due to the lack of latrines and the use of contaminated water. Also causing drug and alcohol abuse and gender-based violence.
- Receiving areas inadequately prepared -poor shelter and unsanitary conditions, exposing them to diseases. Migrants are often forced to overwork in polluting working conditions without safety equipment causing lung diseases and accidents. Migrating single men are also susceptible to high-risk sexual behaviour exposing them to HIV/ AIDS/STD.
- Women left behind face additional responsibilities which lead to health and nutrition impacts. Water crisis further aggravates sanitation and hygiene issues, especially menstrual hygiene, making them prone to diseases.
- Children staying back or migrating are exposed to emotional trauma. When floods hit, schools and health clinics are destroyed. When droughts occur, children spend less time in school because they have to walk miles to collect water, get fatigued and this affected their ability to concentrate on their studies. Disruption to education heightens risk of trafficking, exploitation and child pregnancy.

# Deliberative Dialogue process



# What are the realities of Climate Change Loss and Damage and what should we consider in responding?

## What is the nature of L&D risks?

- Develop an operational framework for L&D
- Integrate secondary and tertiary impacts in L&D framing and response
- Climate impacts are dynamic and responses to them need to be dynamic too
- Early action is the key to protecting against loss of lives

## What are the critical elements of a framework for managing L&D risks?

- Learn from existing approaches to L&D risk management- Pathways approach, Social protection, Forecast based finance...
- Risk management tools can be customised to capture information to manage L&D
- Strengthen institutional capability for dealing with L&D
- Integrating risk into national planning processes
- Consider gender and intersectionality in responding to different types of L&D impacts

## How can citizens be engaged in defining the appropriate response to L&D risks?

- Community involvement and inclusion in decision making process
- Consider dimensions of L&D in terms that matter to the poor and marginalised
- Ensuring meaningful participation
- Create a space for mutual trust

# What type of action and support is needed to tackle Climate Change Loss and Damage?

## The use and misuse of climate science

- Tailor climate information for decision makers at different levels based on their needs.
- Incorporate the climate information needs of local level actors.
- Establish a communication and feedback loop between generators of climate information and decision makers (government and community).
- Combine different types of knowledge and information.
- Conduct continuous risk assessments.

## The dynamic interaction between adaptation and Loss & Damage

- Need for risk informed planning processes.
- Early Warning Systems are crucial but are not effective on their own.
- Communities need to be equipped to tackle loss and damage.
- Small-Medium events should be planned for and responded to.

## Institutional and governance mechanisms

- Climate change and loss and damage are development issues.
- Institutional and governance arrangements should facilitate alignment across Government and society.
- Longer-term thinking is needed.
- Improving the quantity, quality and uptake of adaptation research
- Participation and inclusion of those most vulnerable

# How can action and support be delivered to tackle Climate Change Loss and Damage?

## Localised delivery capacity

- Integration of local with scientific knowledge on L&D can improve delivery of support to the most contextually relevant actions
- The differentiated needs of vulnerable communities must be taken into account
- Formally connecting locally led organisations to the international decision making process such as Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) could be one way of institutionalising the role of CBOs
- Decentralising decision making power can foster more adaptive approaches

## Enabling agile and flexible action

- Cross sectoral coordination and policy harmonisation is crucial
- Long-term asset management should incorporate risk of L&D
- Risk information is vital for communities
- Flexibility in planning requires flexibility in financial management

## Enabling mobility and livelihood shifts

- Community participation and involvement is essential
- International community will need to play a pro-active role
- Communities need to be taken towards opportunities, not distress
- Relocation planning must be undertaken through 'whole of society' approach

# How can action and support be financed to tackle Climate Change Loss and Damage?

## What are the financing needs?

- Loss and damage finance must be separate from adaptation finance
- Loss and damage finance must reach the most vulnerable and the poorest
- Needs-assessments are critical

## How to get the finance to most vulnerable countries and communities?

- Principles can bring people together to understand how and why finance should flow between and within countries to reach the most vulnerable.
- There are a range of existing mechanisms through which L&D finance can be delivered to the local level
- Greater volumes of finance are needed to provide support

## What sources of finance are available and in what form it can be delivered?

- The appropriateness of different sources of finance for L&D will be different over different time horizons
- A dedicated fund to supply finance to L&D actions
- Process of experimentation is required in the delivery of finance
- Transparency on L&D financing could be improved by securing clarity on it conceptually

# Thank you

For more detailed findings and recommendation, please see our publication:

Harnessing Nationally Determined Contributions to tackle loss and damage in least developed countries <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2022-09/21081IIED.pdf>

Loss and damage case studies from the frontline: a resource to support practice and policy <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-10/20551iied.pdf>

Climate Change Loss and Damage: 4th Deliberative Dialogue Report <https://www.iied.org/20586iied>

Climate Change Loss and Damage: 3rd Deliberative Dialogue Report <https://www.iied.org/20476iied>

Climate Change Loss and Damage: 2nd Deliberative Dialogue Report <https://www.iied.org/20391iied>

Climate Change Loss and Damage: 1st Deliberative Dialogue Report <https://www.iied.org/20346iied>