

# Understanding Climate Change Loss and Damage and Links to Humanitarian Action

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# Climate-induced Loss and Damage

- Climate science and the limits to adaptation
- Commitments to avert, minimize and address loss and damage
- Sudden- and slow-onset disasters
- Economic and non economic effects
- "Loss" and "Damage"

# The humanitarian perspective

- Impartiality
- Rapid response
- Best practices

# The climate perspective

- A justice perspective
- Science-based
- A broad focus

# Way forward

- Financial flows
- Instruments
- Leaving no one behind

# LOSS AND DAMAGE

HORN OF AFRICA EXAMPLE



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# Introduction

- The discussion of loss and damage can be academic
- It may be numbers on a computer screen, usually of potential harm
- And when harm does happen, we struggle to link the harm to the cause. And deal with the loss and damage as a humanitarian disaster, an act of God.

# Loss and Damage in the HORN

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The HORN of Africa food crisis continues to deteriorate, with over 2.8 million people in need of urgent assistance and over 300,000 facing famine.

There are now considerations to include South Sudan and Karamoja region of Uganda where people are reportedly dying from hunger.

There are children, older persons, people with disabilities and women who are dealing with the effects of extreme weather events.

There are over 3 millions people from three countries, possibly 5 suffering the effects of extreme weather

"We get water from the borehole, and it's very salty, it's undrinkable. Nevertheless, we have no alternative." Says a resident of Sool and Sanaag in Somalia

"You can see the water creates a bad smell. It depends on the household, but some boil. We will use borehole water because we can't afford anything else. It affects all the community," explains Fadxa, a mother of five children who lives in Ceel Midgan village.



# Conceptual response to loss and damage

## Humanitarian Response

- Responding to an "Act of God"
- This what we do and have developed system for response.
- Governments declare emergencies
- Non-State actors have appeals
- This presumed short emergencies would exist within longer periods of non extreme weather

## Resilience building

- Some actors undertake anticipatory action
- It is less coordinated than Humanitarian response
- There still does not exist a formal method in which governments or non state actors declare anticipatory action urgency.
- When it is done informally, it is ignored.
- We saw the HORN of Africa Crisis coming.
- We know that climate change is going cause more problems in future.

## Development Approach

- Poverty reduction and inequity reduction is a sustainable method of tackling climate induced loss and damage.
- International finance, national finance is still not clearly targeted towards adaptation by people who are vulnerable to climate change.
- The socio and economic effects of climate change is a human rights issue.
- Progressive realization of human rights violations brought about through allocation of maximum available resources has to be at the center of global and national duty bearers.

# Last thoughts

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Loss and damage has a face. Its women, children, people with disabilities and older people who are most vulnerable to climate change

Extreme weather is becoming more normal, and chronic humanitarian emergencies is a new norm.

We have to work on resilience and longer-term development (Including Peacebuilding) even as we respond to emergencies

This is evolving to become the most urgent human rights issue of our time.

We have to progressively look at loss and damage through a rights-based approach framework as there are clear rights holders and duty bearers.

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# THANK YOU

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# Loss and Damage and Links to Humanitarian Action

Krity Shrestha, Practical Action

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In partnership with:





# The Alliance in words

**“The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk.”**

## **ZFRP definition of resilience**

**“The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.”**

## **Vision**

**Floods have no negative impact on people’s and businesses’ ability to thrive.**

## **North Star**

**To increase social, political and financial investment in community-based flood resilience-building through public, private and third sector partnerships.**



# Loss and Damage





# Non-economic loss and damage (NELD)





# National Framework on Climate Change Induced Loss and Damage



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Forests and Environment

National Framework on  
Climate Change Induced Loss and Damage  
(L&D)

October 2021

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# What next?

More climate finance – for risk reduction, adaptation and loss and damage

- Improved understanding and capacities of governments, civil society and the private sector to prioritize risk reduction, equity and justice in development planning
- Shift towards simple, low cost and greener indigenous technologies that are not a burden to communities and their environment



# Thank you

In partnership  
with:



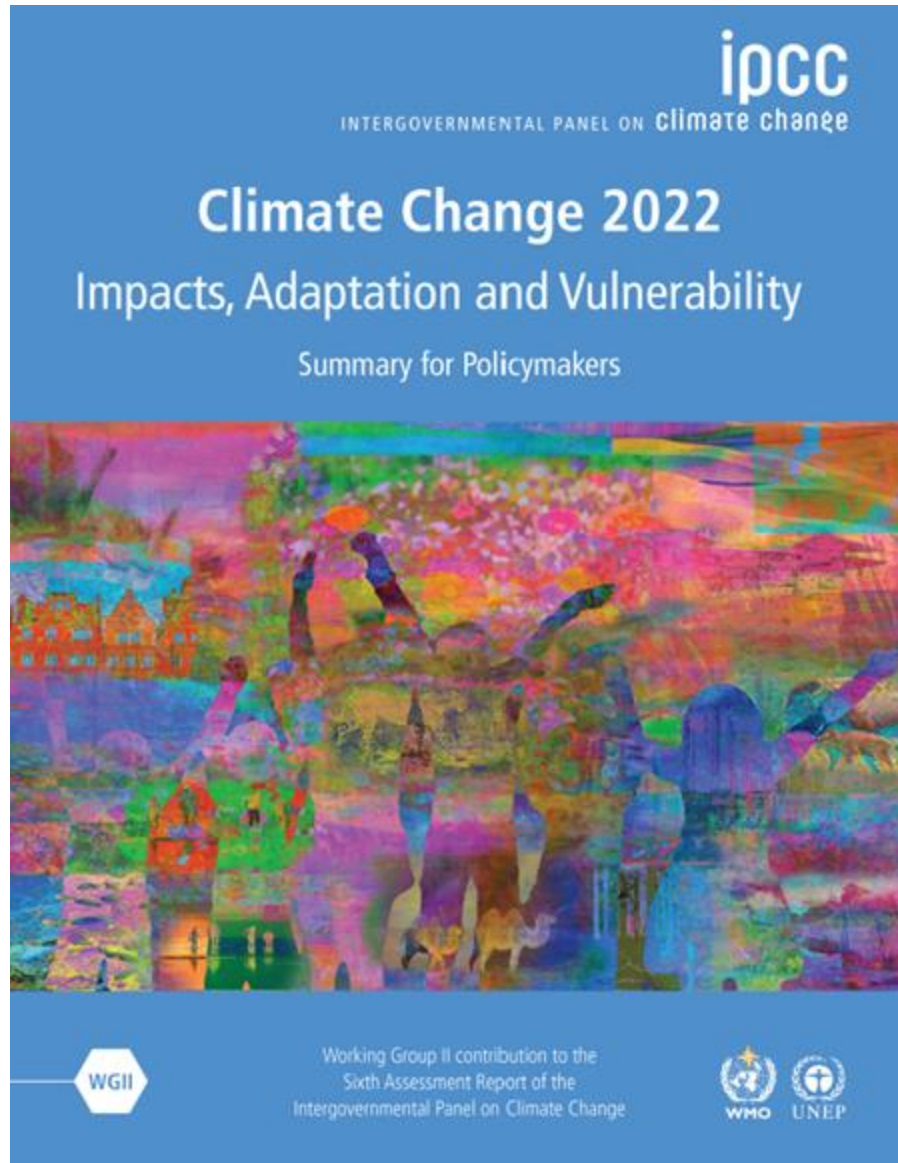


Loss & Damage

## A humanitarian perspective

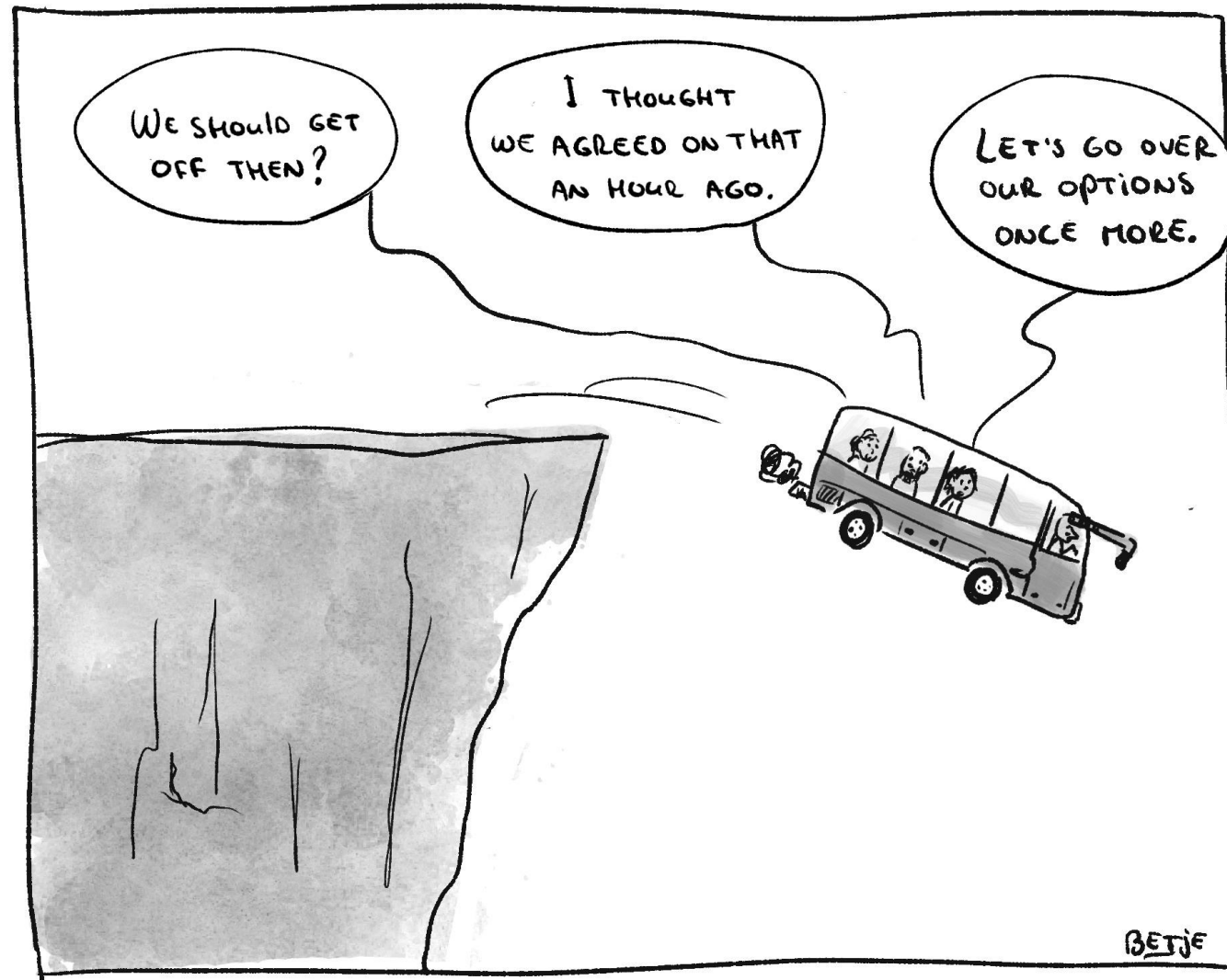
Bettina Koelle

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



- The Climate crisis is a **humanitarian crisis**
- Climate change has already **disrupted the lives of billions.**
- Climate Change doesn't act alone, but **marginalization makes impacts worse.**
- Consequences for humanity will get worse, and **sooner than we thought.**
- We can and **must act in a rapidly closing window.**





**Shift perceptions:**

The climate crisis is humanitarian crisis and urgent action is needed now

**Change the narrative:**

Prioritize the most vulnerable  
Locally led climate action

**Improve the financing:**

More adaptation funds, going to most vulnerable, accessible at the local level by local actors

**Improve and scale up action:**

Locally-led, anticipatory, multi-risk, effective, clear communication, innovation and practical solutions

**Shape the impact:**

Reduce the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis



ULTIMATELY, YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEND IT.  
BUT IF YOU SPEND IT NOW, IT WILL  
DO MORE GOOD.

# Key asks for COP27



**Increase the urgency and action to address the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis**



**Prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable in climate action**



**Increase the amount and accessibility of climate finance**



**Scale up effective climate action**



**Promote locally-led action on adaption**



