



LOSS AND DAMAGE AND DISPLACEMENT: KEY MESSAGES FOR THE ROAD TO COP 28

The Loss and Damage and Challenges of Human Mobility
and Displacement Working Group

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PREFACE

This advocacy brief calls for the mainstreaming of population displacement and other human mobility into policy and practice addressing loss and damage related to climate change. The messages below were developed by a working group convened by the Loss and Damage Collaboration.

The Loss and Damage and the Challenges of Human Mobility and Displacement working group is a coalition of practitioners, researchers, lawyers and activists working on human mobility at local, national and global levels. Representing a broad cross-section of voices, perspectives and interests, participants in the working group share the common conviction that climate change-related displacement must be central to efforts to assess and address loss and damage impacts, including cascading and intergenerational impacts on individuals, communities, societies and ecosystems. Since the beginning of 2023, its members have gathered and analysed empirical data on human mobility and loss and damage, identified existing 'good practices' and developed operational, policy and funding recommendations for policymakers and practitioners.

The messages in this brief are directly relevant to ongoing Loss and Damage negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They are intended to contribute to multiple Loss and Damage policy work streams under the UNFCCC, including the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements agreed to at COP 27; the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD); the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST); and the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG). These messages are also intended to inform the priorities of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM), the WIM's Executive Committee (ExCom), and specifically, the WIMs Task Force on Displacement (TFD) and Expert Group on Non-Economic Losses (NELs Expert Group). Furthermore, these messages are relevant to work undertaken outside the UNFCCC to address loss and damage, including the G7/V20 Global Shield Against Climate Risks (Global Shield) partnership initiative.

We hope that the themes and messages in this advocacy brief will inform and help catalyse discussions and debates leading up to COP 28 and beyond, engaging States and regional bodies, governmental organisations, NGOs, community-based organisations, policy makers, researchers, legal experts and others in positions to avert, minimise and address displacement and mobility-related loss and damage in the context of climate change.

“Climate-related displacement, both within States and across borders, undermines human rights, well-being and development, resulting in a broad range of adverse impacts on individuals, communities and societies, raising important questions and concerns regarding climate justice.”

“The messages in this brief are directly relevant to ongoing Loss and Damage negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).”

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KEY MESSAGES



Displacement, forced migration and other forms of involuntary human mobility must be central to addressing climate change-related loss and damage. Climate-related displacement undermines human rights, well-being and development, resulting in a broad range of adverse impacts on individuals, communities, societies and States, raising important questions and concerns regarding climate justice. Any comprehensive approach to addressing climate-related loss and damage must endeavour to avert, minimise and provide equitable and just solutions to the adverse impacts of displacement.

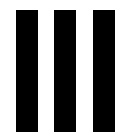
“**The impacts and needs associated with displacement are significant and should be accounted for in all operational and policy responses and financial assistance mechanisms addressing loss and damage.**”

- According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Synthesis Report (AR6)*, climate and weather hazards are increasingly leading to disaster displacement across the world, particularly in developing and least developed countries. As emissions grow and the limits to adaptation are reached, **displacement and other forms of involuntary mobility will become increasingly frequent and consequential** to communities affected by climate change.
- **States must deliver on their individual and collective commitments under the Paris Agreement to slash emissions** and limit average global temperature increases to 1.5°C and no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. They must also support the development of relevant regional and national policies to protect the rights of populations at risk of internal and cross-border displacement.
- **The occurrence of displacement is an indicator of loss and damage** that communities are suffering, both economic and non-economic. Displacement is generally a measure of last resort for people facing intolerable levels of risk, who cannot cope with hazards while remaining where they are, or whose ecosystems are becoming uninhabitable.
- **Displacement is a damage or loss in itself**, linked with people being forced to leave their homes, communities and habitats, thereby depriving people of their right to choose where and how they live.
- **Displacement is also a driver of loss and damage.** As stated by the IPCC, displacement generates and perpetuates socioeconomic and ecological system vulnerability in the context of climate change.
- **Existing loss and damage data collection systems and assessments do not systematically account for the occurrence of displacement** and are almost entirely blind to its duration and consequences.
- **Interventions to assess and address climate-induced loss and damage must account for displacement and its impacts** if they are to be comprehensive. Displacement, whether from sudden or slow-onset events, threatens to erode human rights **and should be addressed through comprehensive rights-based approaches.**
- **Displacement and its adverse effects are disproportionately experienced by segments of the population who are at particular risk** owing to gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, minority, migration or citizenship status, health conditions or disabilities or because they face the compounding effects of multiple crises, including conflict, violence, food and water insecurity, and inadequate shelter and health services. Participation of displaced people in the development and implementation of policy should reflect the diversity of displaced communities.

- **Displaced people and communities should be at the forefront of designing and implementing remedies and initiatives to address loss and damage**, including the allocation of resources. Centring the voices of those most at risk and understanding what affected people value and prioritize most may help identify practical and sustainable solutions that can advance strategies to address loss and damage.
- **The mobility aspirations of affected communities and the right of people to determine their own adaptation futures should be supported and prioritized** in all efforts to avert, minimise and address loss and damage. This obligation is fundamental toward Indigenous Peoples, people from Small Island Developing States, pastoralists and other groups with special dependency on and important connections to their lands. **People who choose to stay or whose capacity to move is limited by ill health or disability should be supported** to address the ongoing impacts of loss and damage and adapt in place.
- **Particular attention must be paid to cross-border displacement**, where there is an alarming lack of knowledge on its prevalence and consequences, leaving many displaced people without adequate rights protections and representation.
- **Climate finance mechanisms must adequately account for displacement and its short-term and long-term impacts.** These include the Loss and Damage Fund and its Funding Arrangements and the G7/V20 groups Global Shield Against Climate Risks (Global Shield). The development of new and additional (non-duplicative) sources of finance is crucial.
- **Overlooking displacement and its short-term and long-term consequences results in climate injustice and the under-assessment of climate-related impacts** on people, communities and societies. It can lead to a reversal of developmental gains, increased debt and a widening gap in funding available to avert, minimise and address loss and damage.

These messages are relevant for members of the Transitional Committee working to provide recommendations at COP 28 to inform the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements. The fourth meeting of the TC will commence on October 17, 2023. These messages should also inform discussions with Parties and Groups during the upcoming 19th meeting of the WIM ExCom from the 19-22 of September 2023; the seventh and eighth Technical Expert Dialogues (TEDs) on the NCCG (Autumn/Winter 2023); the consideration of outputs phase of the GST (November 2023); and the continued work to select the host of the secretariat of the Santiago Network and the nomination and election of members of its Advisory Board at COP 28 / CMA 5.

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER DISPLACEMENT



Population movements both across and within international borders (displacement, migration, planned relocations, immobility) happen along a continuum ranging from more-or-less-forced to more-or-less voluntary mobility. The drivers

of forced population movements happening in the context of climate change can be complex and vary according to contexts and conditions. However, the impacts of displacement on individuals, communities and societies are almost always detrimental. Cross-border displacement, internal displacement and other forms of forced mobility in the context of climate change must be central to Loss and Damage discussions, funding and responses.

“Displacement is one of the most detrimental outcomes of loss and damage, adversely impacting well-being and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and potentially reversing development gains for communities and entire nations.”

- Displacement may simultaneously be:
 - o An indicator of loss and damage incurred by people and communities
 - o A damage or a loss in itself, linked with people having to leave their homes, communities and habitats
 - o A cause of loss and damage – that is, a process leading to new loss and damage or a compounding of existing loss and damage
- As highlighted by IPCC AR6, displacement often occurs when limits to adaptation and resilience are reached. Displacement is one of the most detrimental outcomes of loss and damage, adversely impacting well-being and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights.
- Although data and models of future displacements are still inadequate and must be improved, current trends suggest that future displacement patterns are likely to be marked by the diminishing habitability of ecosystems caused by extreme heat, sea-level rise, flooding and water scarcity. Such changes would threaten the viability of development, livelihoods and human survival in affected areas, especially in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Small Island Developing States.
- Displacement, typically the result of life-saving decisions made under duress, often perpetuates and magnifies adverse climate change-related impacts, especially in the absence of preparedness planning and the provision of protections and assistance to displaced people. In the absence of durable solutions, the plight of displaced people worsens over time.
- Poorly conceived and implemented climate actions can also result in further loss and damage, including displacement. When planning and implementing climate actions, it is essential to anticipate and consider potential impacts on human mobility. Involving affected or potentially affected communities in planning, implementing and evaluating the outcomes of climate action is critical.

The above messages should inform bilateral meetings with Parties and Groups in preparation for the upcoming 19th meeting of the WIM ExCom, to be held from the 19-22 of September, and the seventh and eighth Technical Expert Dialogues (TEDs) on the NCQG (Autumn/Winter 2023). TED 7 will focus on 'quality' and 'transparency arrangements'. These messages are also relevant to the Global Stocktake (GST) intersessional in-person workshop that will be convened by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in October 2023. During the GST session, Parties and Groups will work to develop elements for phase three of the GST, 'consideration of outputs'. That, in turn, will inform the work of the Joint Contact Group, which will decide on the outcome of the GST at COP 28.

QUANTIFYING DISPLACEMENT IMPACTS

Existing loss and damage data collection systems and assessment methodologies do not systematically account for the occurrence of displacement and are mostly blind to its duration and long-term consequences, including the impact on populations experiencing protracted displacement. This results in an under-assessment of total loss and damage caused by climate change and a failure to address the full spectrum of adverse impacts suffered by people, communities, societies and States. Further development of knowledge products and tools to identify and quantify displacement-related loss and damage is a top priority.

“We must look at how needs and vulnerability evolve over time, particularly for people experiencing protracted displacement.”

- Quantifying the economic and non-economic costs of internal and cross-border displacement is essential for Loss and Damage discussions. The impacts and needs associated with displacement are significant and should be accounted for in all operational and policy responses and financial assistance mechanisms.
- Accurate assessment and quantification of displacement-related loss and damage require consideration of impacts and outcomes over the complete displacement cycle and not just the initial occurrence of displacement. We must look at how needs and vulnerability evolve over time, particularly for people experiencing protracted displacement.
- Our present ability to assess and quantify loss and damage associated with displacement is limited. Standard methodologies and efforts (e.g. disaster loss databases, Post-Disaster Needs Assessments) rarely account for displacement and its effects – particularly the indirect, cascading and long-term impacts on communities. Attention must be paid to displacement from both sudden and slow-onset events to achieve a more holistic understanding of displacement and its impacts.
- We need to do a better job of addressing the temporal dimension of disaster displacement. We must gather and assess longitudinal data on how people’s needs and ability to exercise their fundamental human rights are affected over the course of their displacement. We must bring durable solutions indicators and approaches into the Loss and Damage conversation.

These messages are relevant to the selection of the host of the Santiago Network’s secretariat. Parties and Groups need to ensure that the future host is able to deliver technical assistance via relevant organisations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs) that support empirically sound and robust displacement-related quantification methodologies and loss and damage assessments. Additionally, in the run-up to the 19th meeting of the WIM ExCom from the 19-22 of September, 2023, it is important for Parties and Groups to understand that WIM’s Taskforce on Displacement and NELs Expert Group can and should play a key role in developing relevant knowledge products and tools.

HOW DISPLACEMENT IMPACTS LIVES, COMMUNITIES AND STATES

Displacement threatens the totality of people's human rights and the well-being of communities and States. It results in a broad spectrum of interconnected adverse outcomes, affecting individual and collective economic and non-economic well-being. The cascading impacts of displacement on physical health, mental health, food and water security, livelihoods, economic security, social cohesion, culture, identity, and connections to loved ones and ancestors must all be accounted for when assessing and addressing the loss and damage suffered. It is essential to see that while non-economic loss and damage is consequential and commonplace, economic and non-economic loss and damages are not separate or discreet. For those affected, displacement-related economic loss and damage can lead to non-economic loss and damage and vice versa.

“ People displaced internally or across borders are among the most exposed to climate change-related impacts. Displacement threatens the totality of people's human rights and the well-being of communities and States.”

- Displacement can trigger a broad spectrum of complex, interconnected and often cascading impacts. Loss and damage resulting from displacement may lead to or exacerbate:
 - o Direct economic costs to people, communities, societies and States
 - o Loss of income and livelihoods
 - o Reversal of development gains
 - o Loss of land and land tenure
 - o Human rights abuses, including forced labour, forced marriage and various forms of discrimination and exclusion
 - o Loss of social protections, social welfare entitlements and social services
 - o Diminished personal security, often exacerbated by gender injustice, particularly for women and girls and gender non-conforming people
 - o Severe and disproportionate impacts on the lives and well-being of children and older adults, adversely affecting their health, education and security and exposing them to multiple forms of exploitation
 - o Heightened risk to the well-being of people living with disabilities, many of whom already struggle with the adverse effects of climate change on health, security, livelihoods and way of life
 - o Psychological impacts, including trauma, stress, uncertainty, depression and anxiety
 - o Reduced access to safe food and water

- Exposure to unsanitary conditions
 - Diminished health and reduced access to healthcare
 - Interruption of medical treatments critical for survival, including medicines, surgeries and other treatments, nursing care, mobility and communication aids and support for people with disabilities
 - Erosion of sexual and reproductive healthcare, health and rights
 - Disruption of education and reduced access to future educational opportunities
 - Loss of political representation
 - Family separation, which can be especially problematic for people with support needs (e.g., some older adults, children and people with disabilities)
 - Loss of 'place identity' and diminished agency concerning place of residence
 - Loss of traditional knowledge, land and culturally significant sites, which is especially problematic for Indigenous Peoples and others whose culture and livelihoods are deeply rooted in particular ecosystems and locations
 - Erosion of culture, religion and community cohesion
 - Loss of legal documentation impacting access to services, land tenure and free movement
 - Continued and potentially heightened exposure and vulnerability to environmental hazards in areas of displacement and resettlement and upon return
 - Conflict over access to and ownership of land and other natural resources threatened by loss and damage
 - Appropriation and colonisation of lands, increased extractivism and gentrification by outsiders
- Some of these impacts may directly result from people's movements (e.g., family separation and loss of a sense of place). Others may follow on from displacement, such as the loss of livelihoods, the erosion of psychosocial well-being, social discrimination or the loss of educational opportunities.
 - The impacts of displacement infringe on fundamental human rights, including the right to stay and the right to determine one's own mobility and adaptation pathways.
 - When displacement becomes protracted, its negative impacts can become magnified and compounded. Permanent or irreversible displacement can translate into irreparable loss for affected people and communities and affect the rights of future generations.
 - Loss and damage induced by displacement can occur beyond the physical boundaries of the community initially affected by a given climate hazard. The indirect, cascading effects of population movements can negatively affect communities and ecosystems in places of origin, transit and resettlement.
 - Some of the impacts of displacement are considered non-economic losses. However, many non-economic assets have quantifiable value for people and communities who require remedies. Improved tools are needed to assess and quantify these effects: for example, value-based approaches, comprehensive community assessments and value assessment tools used by insurance companies (for loss of housing, land, income and livelihoods).
 - The interplay of these impacts demonstrates that economic and non-economic loss and damage are not dichotomous. Displacement impacts cannot always be rigidly classified as 'economic' or 'non-economic'. Forced movement affects people in diverse ways, generating consequences across all dimensions of security and well-being. These adverse effects on individuals, communities and societies can be both short-term and long-term.

- The negative impacts of displacement are disproportionately experienced by segments of the population who face conditions of marginalization and exclusion before disasters and displacement occur. Conditions of differential and intersectional vulnerability and risks linked with gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, minority or migration status, health and disability are consequential and are usually exacerbated by displacement.

These messages are particularly relevant to Parties and Groups in selecting the future host of the Santiago Network’s secretariat. The prospective host must be able to deliver technical assistance via relevant OBNEs that can support ‘good practices’ on addressing loss and damage related to displacement, including displacement quantification methodologies for non-economic loss and damage (NELD). These messages should also inform bilateral meetings with Parties and Groups in preparation for the upcoming 19th meeting of the WIM ExCom from the 19-22 of September 2023, highlighting the role WIM’s Taskforce on Displacement and the NELs Expert Group can play in developing knowledge products related to the issues above.

These messages should also inform interventions and bilateral meetings with members of the Transitional Committee. They highlight the challenges displaced populations face and underscore why modalities such as small grant windows, national-level approaches and programmatic approaches are required for the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements.

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RESPONDING TO DISPLACEMENT

People displaced internally or across borders are among the most exposed to climate change-related impacts. Displaced people have lived experience, agency, knowledge, capacities and expertise that should be recognized, respected and mobilized. However, too often, displaced people have minimal access to resources and assistance. Climate-related displacement is severely under-resourced in existing funding arrangements aimed at averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. Existing climate funds rarely (and insufficiently) provide direct support to people displaced in the context of climate change.

“ Loss and damage mechanisms, including all funding windows and programmatic approaches, should facilitate predictable, additional (non-duplicative), rapid and concessional assistance addressing displacement.”

Overarching Needs and Challenges

- Responses to displacement sit at the juncture of different policy areas, including climate mitigation, climate adaptation, climate finance, Disaster Risk Reduction, migration and refugee policy, international diplomacy, humanitarian response, peacebuilding, disaster recovery and labour and social protection policies. Needs evolve over time and are subject to compounding, cascading and intensifying risks. More comprehensive legal and policy instruments and better alignment of operational responses are critically needed.
- There is also a need to develop international and regional instruments to provide legal and other protections to people displaced across international borders due to climate change.

- All mechanisms that address loss and damage, including all funding windows and programmatic approaches, need to address displacement. They should facilitate predictable, additional (non-duplicative), rapid and concessional assistance during all phases of displacement through to durable solutions.
- Non-climatic stressors, such as water pollution and unsustainable land use, should be considered and addressed. These are often easier to remedy than climatic stressors, and doing so may broaden the range of adaptation options available to communities and possibly minimise or prevent instances of displacement.
- Funding should be made available to and directly accessible by displaced people, communities, local authorities and response actors in an effective and timely manner to ensure that protections and transformative measures are implemented. Such funding should support work that protects the rights and addresses the needs of displaced people, including the right to durable solutions. Funding should be delivered in a manner that respects and does not degrade human dignity. Funding should also support regional, State and sub-national efforts to build and strengthen relevant institutional capacity and local systems.
- This has significant implications for the design and rollout of the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements and the scope of the technical assistance provided through the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD). These mechanisms should support specific efforts to avert, minimise and address displacement in a timely, flexible and effective manner and at an appropriate scale to support all affected people. This includes applicable modalities such as small grants windows and diverse disbursement modalities for funding and support in programmatic proposals for addressing loss and damage. The goal is to enable direct access by displaced persons in the case of the Fund and, in the case of the SNLD, help ensure that relevant organisations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs) are engaged.

Before Displacement Occurs

- Planning efforts need to reflect the right of people to determine their own adaptation and mobility futures including their right to stay or move.
- Expanding people's options *before* their safety, security and adaptive capacity are threatened is critical to minimizing the negative impacts they might suffer due to displacement. This requires assessing and anticipating future mobility pathways by understanding people's mobility and adaptation preferences, the risks people face, their adaptive capacity and the resources available to them, including those potentially available through loss and damage funding.
- Collecting robust displacement data disaggregated by gender, age and ability is essential as it will inform needs and aid loss and damage assessments.
- Priority should be given to supporting, through technical, financial and other forms of loss and damage assistance, the mobility preferences of affected populations, including in situations where people facing potential threats to habitability nonetheless choose to stay or cannot move due to ill-health or disability.
- When remaining *in situ* is not a viable option and people are compelled to move out of areas of risk, anticipating and enabling their movement is key to protecting fundamental human rights and restoring physical and psychosocial well-being. As detailed in the latest IPCC report (AR6), people's adaptive capacity is enhanced when they are supported with options to move in a safe and dignified manner.
- 'Averting' displacement does not simply mean 'avoiding movements from areas at risk or affected by climate change'. Regular rights-based labour migration and well-supported and participatory planned relocations that safeguard human dignity can also provide viable pathways for averting displacement. Monitoring and protecting human rights during mobility should be prioritized.

- Anticipatory finance schemes that include 'displacement' as one of the triggers for aid and development are already operational in many countries. Such approaches hold great potential and should be scaled up to address displacement risk.
- Minimising displacement and its impacts requires specific preparedness planning to ensure appropriate responses can be rolled out rapidly. Individuals and communities must be informed about Early Warning and Early Action systems. Displacement planning must be inclusive and participatory. It should address the possibility, or indeed the likelihood in certain contexts, that displacement might become protracted and require durable solutions (long-term, livelihood-transformative, rights-protective).

During Displacement

- Assisting and protecting displaced people is the responsibility of governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental humanitarian actors and is a component of disaster response essential to reducing the overall impacts of all climate hazards, whether sudden-onset or slow-onset.
- Swift responses to displacement, adequate in scale and appropriate to the needs of affected people and the risks they face, are vital to protecting the rights of those displaced. These include ensuring that all rights and protections afforded under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, regional instruments, international human rights law and State law are extended to internally displaced people and people displaced across international borders.
- Adequate funding and aid to support mobility choice and other human rights during mobility must be made available to displaced persons.

After Displacement

- Guaranteeing displaced people full enjoyment of their rights is central to minimizing the negative impacts suffered. This requires engagement by governmental and humanitarian actors over the entire displacement cycle and not simply during its initial or acute phases.
- Durable solutions – voluntary return home, local integration or resettlement elsewhere, including to a country other than one's own, with the ability to exercise one's fundamental human rights without discrimination on account of displacement – are essential components of recovery and rehabilitation. Adequate funding and guarantee of legal rights and protections are integral to this.
- The option to move and resettle safely and with dignity is essential to restoring what people have lost. So, too, is guaranteed and uninterrupted access to healthcare, mental healthcare, meaningful livelihoods, water and sanitation, and education – including in temporary settlements and foreign countries. People's universal human rights must be guaranteed in all places of return and resettlement.
- As recognized in the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205), full, productive, dignified and freely chosen employment accelerates recovery and resilience-building when accompanied by social protections and equal opportunity. Special efforts should be made to protect children and empower women, people with disabilities, migrant workers and refugees.

The sections above are especially relevant to members of the Transitional Committee. These messages should inform discussions with members around the speed, scale and scope of response required for displacement. These passages make clear why modalities such as national-level approaches, programmatic approaches and small grant windows are integral to making the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements successful in supporting displaced people. These messages above can also inform the work of Parties and Groups in selecting the host of the Santiago Network's secretariat. The host must be able to deliver technical assistance via relevant OBNEs that can support better responses to displacement.

ENSURING THE INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

Participation of displaced people should reflect the diversity of affected communities through the meaningful inclusion of all people – displaced women and men, LGBTQIA+ individuals, children and older adults, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants and refugees. Leveraging the entire range of perspectives, experience, knowledge and capacities of a community is critical to addressing the full spectrum of displacement-related loss and damage.

“**The mobility aspirations of affected communities and the right of people to determine their own adaptation futures should be supported and prioritized.**”

- Mechanisms that address loss and damage, including the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements, should be accountable and responsive to the needs of displaced people. All such mechanisms should be easy to access, including by people who might face specific challenges to obtaining assistance due to complications related to their displacement (e.g., loss of documentation or physical access barriers).
- Global, national and local level Loss and Damage policy development and loss and damage assessment must proactively include displaced people, guaranteeing their right to information and ensuring their meaningful and active participation.
- Understanding and prioritizing the mobility aspirations of affected people and communities is central to protecting their right to choose their places of abode and determine adaptation pathways. This obligation is fundamental with respect to Indigenous Peoples, people from Small Island Developing States, pastoralists and other groups with special dependency on and connections to their lands.
- Displaced people should not simply be seen as victims or survivors. Displaced people have lived experience, agency, knowledge, capacities and expertise that should be recognized, respected and mobilized. Displaced people must also be provided the opportunity to assert their rights and advocate for compensation and durable solutions in relevant multilateral fora – together and in solidarity with other displaced people and with proper language interpretation and support.

These concluding messages on ensuring meaningful participation and transparency are relevant to all Loss and Damage discussions under the UNFCCC — including on the Loss and Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements, Santiago Network, Global Stocktake, NCQG and WIM — as well as discussions outside of the UNFCCC such as those related to the Global Shield.

SUPPORTING MESSAGES

“Borders don’t stop loss and damage, neither should they threaten people exercising their right to human mobility. International protection of those looking for safety due to climate change is the duty of all States.”

“Planned, regular and safe human mobility is a catalyst for minimising loss and damage, resilience building and adaptation in the face of climate change. We must ensure the safety and rights of people on the move, especially children, youth, women, and other people in vulnerable situations.”

“The intersections of loss and damage and displacement in the context of climate change are clear. Loss and damage is a precursor to displacement and also happens after displacement and relocation have occurred. Addressing them separately doesn’t make sense. A human rights approach to addressing loss and damage should reflect and respond to the realities of what communities are experiencing on the ground.”

“To be displaced is to lose one’s home, possessions and livelihood, to leave behind community and cultural ties that make life rich and meaningful, and to risk falling into a situation of marginalization and dependency. Climate-induced displacement is the human face of loss and damage.”



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IMAGE CREDITS

1. Cover image: [Drowning in Despair](#), by [Jamil Akhtar](#) via the [World Meteorological Organization \(7289\)](#), licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#). Description: Residents of a village in District Sanghar in Sindh Province of Pakistan, gather to collect some emergency ration supplies after the devastating flood of 2022. This year has also had its share of floods, albeit slightly less than the previous year. Experts warn that this will probably become an annual occurrence. Pakistan has one of the smallest carbon footprints in the world while suffering from the worst effects of climate change and almost no disaster preparedness.

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