



# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: A GREEN BARGAIN FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Enhancing collaboration between the humanitarian and climate sectors to ensure no one is left behind

Executive summary

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For further information on the issues raised in this paper please email [advocacy@oxfaminternational.org](mailto:advocacy@oxfaminternational.org)

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Cover photo: Flooding in Blantyre, southern Malawi, following the heavy rains caused by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Photo: Thoko Chikondi / Oxfam.

# SUMMARY

The climate crisis is already with us. Previous Oxfam research has estimated that funding requirements for UN humanitarian appeals linked to extreme weather are eight times higher now than they were 20 years ago.<sup>1</sup> This is reflected in soaring humanitarian costs; since 2016 humanitarian appeals have increased by over 270%,<sup>2</sup> and in 2023 rose to over \$55bn.

While the need for humanitarian aid is staggering, it pales in comparison to the estimates of what is needed to address the climate crisis globally. The UNFCCC goal for mitigation and adaptation finance, set out in 2009,<sup>3</sup> was to reach \$100 billion per year by 2020, but this goal has never been met. UNFCCC's analysis from 2021 suggests that 'developing countries require at least \$6 trillion by 2030 to meet less than half of their existing Nationally Determined Contributions.'<sup>4</sup>

There can be no question that both the climate and humanitarian systems require far, far more support, including the development of new funding mechanisms to channel substantial finance to developing countries to assist them in addressing loss and damage. However, as funding changes in response to the impacts of the climate crisis, the humanitarian and climate finance systems must also develop a better understanding of each other and find new ways to address their common challenges.

To meet these needs, we must find ways to ensure that:

- **Funds from both climate and humanitarian finance are available in fragile and conflict-affected states**, and flow as directly as possible to those in need;
- **Funds are additional, and are accurately reported and tracked** to increase transparency and avoid double counting;
- **No one is left behind** where both climate and humanitarian finance and projects overlap in countries in crisis.

As the Transitional Committee develops recommendations on funding arrangements for loss and damage finance for those impacted by the climate crisis, and states prepare to meet at COP 28, we are at a crucial moment for the alignment of the climate and humanitarian responses (as well as development and peace) to address the new challenges posed by the climate crisis. In 2016, the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing called for a 'Grand Bargain between the big donors and humanitarian organizations'<sup>5</sup> to address the humanitarian financing gap. It may now be time for a 'Green Bargain' that brings together climate finance mechanisms and humanitarian donors to address the financing gap in responding to the needs of people in FCAS resulting from the climate crisis.

Potential loss and damage finance requires a nuanced, conflict and gender sensitive approach that emphasizes local responses, as well as gender and climate justice principles, while avoiding the risks of double

counting, complex barriers to finance and the potential for earmarked, parallel programming with narrow funding windows. Integrating these approaches into coordinated strategies should enhance the effectiveness of climate and humanitarian finance; improve resilience in the face of climate-induced crises; preserve development gains; and ease the pressures of accelerating climate impacts on the humanitarian system.

# NOTES

<sup>1</sup> T. Carty and L. Walsh. [2022] *Footing the Bill: Fair finance for loss and damage in an era of escalating climate impacts*. Oxfam. <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/footing-the-bill-fair-finance-for-loss-and-damage-in-an-era-of-escalating-clima-621382/>

<sup>2</sup> 2016 total requirement was \$20,272,432,393, whereas the 2023 funding requirement was \$55,206,575,675. <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/overview/2023>

<sup>3</sup> UNFCCC. Introduction to climate finance. <https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-climate-finance> Accessed August 2023; OECD. Climate Finance and the USD 100 Billion Goal. <https://www.oecd.org/climate-change/finance-usd-100-billion-goal/> Accessed 3 September 2023

<sup>4</sup> R. Kozul-Wright. [2023] *A climate finance goal that works for developing countries*. UNCTAD. <https://unctad.org/news/climate-finance-goal-works-developing-countries>

<sup>5</sup> IASC. About the Grand Bargain. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-the-grand-bargain> Accessed 3 September 2023

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