

POLICY BRIEF

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SOMALIA'S - LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSESSMENT



CAEP

IGAD Centre of Excellence
For Climate Adaptation and
Environmental Protection



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KEY FINDINGS

- Somalia is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change and loss and damages resulting from it. The University of Notre Dame's Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Ranking on vulnerability designates it as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change. Somalia emerged from six failed rainfall seasons since 2020, killing millions of livestock, decimating crops, displacing millions and leading to food insecurity for more than 8 million people, to *El Niño* floods from November 2023 that have impacted many regions leading to the deaths of more than 100 people and displacement of over 700,000 across the country. There is a significant and measurable risk from climate change resulting in crop failures, food and water insecurity, livestock deaths, destruction of homes and infrastructure, loss of livelihoods and displacement. Somalia's vulnerability is further exacerbated by its national circumstances, including challenges associated with human security and stability, environmental and economic capacities.
- Dedicated local-level studies on loss and damage are needed to understand further the extent of the economic and non-economic loss and damage (NELD) in the different regions of Somalia. These studies should cover various dimensions, such as economic, social, cultural and environmental factors, to provide a quantified and integrated assessment of loss and damage. Equal emphasis should be given to NELD, although it is a relatively new concept for researchers, practitioners and policymakers, and it is difficult to conceptualise the diversity of NELD issues in Somalia. Without considering NELD, there is a risk of understating the real implications of climate shocks as evidence indicates non-economic costs, such as harm to well-being, are far greater than actual asset losses, especially in poor and vulnerable settings such as Somalia, where disaster preparedness and management systems and other critical resources are limited.
- It is important to create a better understanding of climate change related risks and impacts, especially regarding loss and damage, among key policymakers, legislators, community leaders and government officials. Through dedicated awareness-raising initiatives, decision-makers can make more informed and evidence-based decisions and prioritise strategies for inclusive climate resilience and adaptation. If managed properly, this can also offer avenues for sustainable development, conflict prevention and inclusive peacebuilding.
- There is a need for enhanced transboundary risk management because loss and damage is often connected to transboundary climate impacts or exacerbated by transboundary developments (such as global supply chain disruptions). The IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy 2030-2023 is a regional framework that provides an opportunity to guide Somalia and other member states to design and implement adaptation actions that consider transboundary risks. This is especially important because transboundary risks are projected to increase across the

water, energy, and food sectors, as highlighted in the Sixth Assessment Report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

- There is an ever-growing need for enhanced climate finance towards addressing, averting, or minimising loss and damage in Somalia. This would mean securing public and grant-based funding from bilateral and multilateral funding entities, including the Global Environmental Facility and Green Climate Fund. Reliance on loans and other sources of funding could put more debt stress on the national economy and exacerbate poverty. With Somalia reaching the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Completion Point, there is a greater opportunity for investments and economic growth despite climate change and insecurity challenges.
- The loss and damage fund and funding arrangements established under the auspices of the UNFCCC provide new hope for countries like Somalia, which have few options regarding the availability of finance for loss and damage. The loss and damage fund operationalized in COP28 should be a capitalised, accessible and reliable

fund capable of efficiently and effectively providing finance for loss and damage. It should be designed to address the complex losses and damages of both economic and non-economic nature in a timely manner, especially in situations of fragility, conflict, or severe humanitarian needs.

- Considerations for integrating loss and damage in the NDC targets will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive assessment that depicts critical milestones on the pathways needed for Somalia to enhance resilience from climate-related shocks that cannot be addressed through adaptation only. This integration should be based on thorough climate risk assessments and vulnerability analyses to identify priority areas that require immediate attention.
- Actively promote and facilitate public participation, ownership and local engagement in the creation and evaluation of climate-related policies and legal frameworks. This will help ensure that vulnerable communities affected by climate impacts, including loss and damage, are meaningfully considered in decision-making processes.

INTRODUCTION

Somalia, situated in the Horn of Africa, is characterized by a diverse geography that includes semi-desert regions, highlands, and mountains. It boasts a strategic location with a coastline along the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. The majority of Somalia's terrain is arid and semi-arid, shaped by extreme climatic conditions and dependent on seasonal rainfall. The topography, while predominantly flat, features varied landscapes in certain areas. Possessing the longest coastline on the African mainland, Somalia has untapped potential for maritime industries and fishing. Agriculture forms the backbone of the country's economy, employing a significant portion of the population. In addition, nomadic livestock rearing contributes substantially to the agricultural sector.

Despite facing environmental challenges, Somalia shows resilience and progress. The nation's geographical position makes it vulnerable to climate change, leading to recurrent droughts, occasional floods, and rising temperatures. These climatic adversities impact agricultural production, food security, and the livelihoods of pastoral communities. Frequent and severe droughts, exacerbated by climate change, result in reduced crop and livestock yields, affecting both livelihoods and displacement. Rising temperatures contribute to heatwaves, which are projected to increase heat-related health risks. Environmental degradation, including vegetation loss, desertification, and deforestation, further aggravates these issues by contributing to land degradation and reduced agricultural productivity.

Somalia's socio-political landscape presents its own set of challenges, yet the country continues to make headway. Decades of unrest have significantly impacted its socio-economic framework, leading to compounded vulnerabilities. Despite these difficulties, significant strides have been made in governance and economic development. This progress, however, is tempered by the challenges of infrastructure development and the heavy reliance on subsistence farming and foreign assistance. In summary, Somalia's journey, though marked by significant challenges in various aspects, is a testament to the nation's resilience and potential for progress.

This policy brief provides a snapshot of an upcoming IGAD report on the assessment conducted on the impact of loss and damage² in Somalia. The study aims to analyse and understand the impacts of climate change, specifically focusing on loss and damage in Somalia. Beyond the quantifiable economic losses and damages, the study assesses the noneconomic consequences across different sectors like agriculture, livestock, economy, health, and the environment due to climate-related shocks and stresses such as droughts, floods and rising temperatures. By identifying areas and quantifying the economic implications, the study aims to inform policymakers, government officials, non-governmental organisations, and the international community about the urgent need for targeted interventions and support. Furthermore, it provides recommendations for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity within Somalia to mitigate risks while ensuring sustainable development in light of increasing climate challenges. This can also offer essential avenues for conflict prevention and inclusive peacebuilding if appropriately managed.



VULNERABILITY IN SOMALIA

As an LDC in Africa, one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, according to the IPCC, Somalia has been severely affected by the climate crisis, resulting in losses and damages, most notably in its agriculture and livestock sectors. The impact of climate change on these sectors is undeniable. The agricultural sector, which heavily relies on rainfall and irrigation methods, suffered greatly during the worst drought in the last 40 years, which began in 2020 and went up to late 2023. This led to crop failures and reduced productivity. Essential crops such as maize, sorghum, cowpeas, and sesame experienced decreased yields, affecting both consumption and exports. This has had an impact on food security and livelihoods in Somalia. Moreover, the livestock sector lost over 3.8 million animals³. This loss alone is enough to affect Somalia's GDP with significant consequences for communities.

The effects of climate change in Somalia are widespread across aspects of life – socioeconomic and environmental. The healthcare system is under strain due to increased climate-related diseases exacerbated by water scarcity and compromised sanitation facilities. The fragile infrastructure is also subjected to added pressure from climate-related disasters that disrupt service access.

The impact of climate-related shocks and stresses in Somalia extends beyond economic sectors. It also affects education and social services, leading to students dropping out of school due to losses of livelihoods, food insecurity and climate-related displacement and migration caused by the depletion of resources and other climate change-related impacts. This, in turn, poses long-term challenges to the country's development. Additionally, the rise in heat-related deaths is expected to be significant, further highlighting the vulnerability of Somalia to climate change.

The projected increase in climate risks and vulnerabilities in Somalia is expected to result in significant and growing losses and damages, including crop failures, livestock deaths, displacement, destruction of homes and infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods. The country's vulnerability to climate change is expected to worsen due to its limited capacity to adapt and respond to these hazards. The University of Notre Dame's Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Ranking on vulnerability designates Somalia as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change.

EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND SOCIAL IMPACTS IN SOMALIA

IMPACT SPANNING FROM NOVEMBER 2016 TO DECEMBER 2023



November 2016

The 2015-2016 heavy floods resulted in displacement of nearly a million people across Somalia especially along river shabele and Juba. Other regions including northern Somalia was at the same time experiencing worsened drought. These conditions lead to food insecurity, economic decline and displacement impacting more than 3.1 million people.



May 2017

Severe food insecurity affected 3.2 million people, with 102,263 treated for Severe Acute malnutrition (SAM) since January. It led to displacement, economic instability, food insecurity, vulnerability in children and health risks.



July 2018

Heavy rainfall during the Gu season brings hope for water resource replenishment, cropland restoration and improved livestock, but flooding aggravates vulnerabilities, affecting communities recovering from the 2017/2016 drought. This caused economic challenges and vulnerability.



July 2019

Severe climate shocks including drought and floods, conflict, displacement and evictions pushed Somalia into a humanitarian crisis. Prolonged drought affected 12 million people, exacerbating pre-existing needs such as protection, health, WASH and shelter. Additionally, economic disruption and increased vulnerabilities worsen the situation.



October 2020

The triple shock of climate-related flooding, desert locust infestation, and the COVID19- pandemic overwhelmed Somalia's vulnerable populations. An estimated 1.6 million people were impacted by floods in 2020 with more than 35 deaths and displacement of nearly 850,000 people.



May 2021

Four failed rainy seasons resulted in more than 3.2 million people in 66 Districts impacted, creating a humanitarian catastrophe. More than 169,000 people were displaced from their homes in search of food, water and pasture.



September 2022

The fifth consecutive failed rainfall season from September to December led to half of the 15 million population facing food insecurity. By end of Sep, more than 1.17 million people were displaced.



December 2023

Nearly six failed rainy seasons created the worst droughts in 40 years, resulting in the death of more than 4 million livestock, the failure of more than half of cereal harvests, and the displacement of millions. From November 2023, *Elnino* floods impacted 36 Districts, leading to the death of over 100 people, loss of livestock, crops, displacement of 1.1 million and destruction of critical infrastructure such as canal, bridges, etc.

Projections indicate that climate change will exacerbate the risks faced by Somalia in the following ways:

- Droughts are projected to become more frequent and severe.
- Floods are projected to become more frequent and severe.
- Sea levels are projected to rise, inundating coastal communities and agricultural land.
- Extreme heat waves are projected to become more common and severe.

Based on the main projections, Somalia faces the highest certainty in temperature rise projections. It already experiences some of the highest mean annual temperatures globally, especially in the southwest near the Ethiopian border, where temperatures exceed 29 °C on average. By 2030, temperatures in Somalia are projected to rise by 1.4 - 1.9 °C; by 2050, it is expected to increase by 1.5 - 2.3 °C, and by 2080, it could rise by 1.4 - 3.4 °C compared to pre-industrial levels. Coastal regions are expected to be less affected than the rest

of the country. The number of very hot days (daily maximum temperature above 35°C) will significantly increase throughout Somalia, particularly in central regions.

The exposure of Somalia's GDP to heatwaves, as highlighted in Somalia's climate risk profile, is also expected to increase substantially. Under a low emission scenario consistent with the Paris Agreement targets, the exposure is projected to rise from 8.3% in 2000 to 17.1% in 2030, 19.4% in 2050, and 22.7% in 2080. Under the medium to high emission scenario, exposure is projected to reach 19.0% by 2030 and 23.7% by 2050 and 2080. Additionally, sea levels are projected to rise with high certainty under both emissions scenarios. The median climate models indicate a sea level rise of 12 cm by 2030, 20 cm by 2050, and 36 cm by 2080 under low emission scenario, while it is projected to rise by 11 cm by 2030, 21 cm by 2050, and 42 cm by 2080 under the medium to high emission scenario⁴. This threatens coastal communities, including the capital city of Mogadishu, and may lead to saline intrusion in coastal waterways and groundwater reservoirs, rendering water unusable.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT IN SOMALIA

In Somalia, the complex relationship between climate change and conflict worsens the country's challenges. Disasters triggered by climate change, such as droughts and floods, intensify conflicts by increasing competition for resources like water and land⁵. Conversely, ongoing conflicts hinder efforts to address climate-related hardships, making it difficult to provide aid and causing damage to vital infrastructure like irrigation systems. It is worth noting that climate change exacerbates conflicts over access and control of land, water and pastures⁶, highlighting the risk of resource-related tensions for Somalia and with its neighbours⁷.

The severe impacts of climate change disrupt livelihoods that heavily rely on weather patterns, leading to a rise in displacement and migration due to climate-related factors. While safe and orderly migration can be a

successful climate adaptation strategy, displacement is a damage or loss in itself. People who are forced to flee from their homes and communities are deprived of their right to choose where and how to live⁸. Moreover, displacement generates and perpetuates vulnerability in natural and human systems in the context of climate change.

Furthermore, droughts and floods can link localized resource disputes with human security concerns related to opportunistic actors who exploit such situations. Climate change is a threat multiplier that exacerbates social and political pressures, creating instability risks for fragile states such as Somalia. Also, it presents risks of transboundary conflict over water, pasture and land resources due to shortages created by climate-related extended⁹.



LOSS AND DAMAGE CONCEPT

There is no agreed-upon definition of loss and damage within the UNFCCC. **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 when options exist but a community doesn't have the resources to access or utilize them. This could include the loss of coastal heritage sites due to rising sea levels or the loss of homes and lives during extreme floods¹⁰.

Contextual conditions are essential for understanding and defining loss and damage. The context in which loss and damage occur must be the primary defining factor for loss and damage. First and foremost, all action must be based on what can be "lost or damaged" in a given situation. The precise extent of loss and damage is unlikely to benefit from a standard definition; instead, it needs to be determined at the national level and validated through a procedure that may incorporate localised implications and contextual factors into the support modalities and considerations.

Loss and damage gained momentum in 2013 when Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed to establish the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM). The mechanism facilitates dialogue, fills knowledge gaps, and enhances action and support for those experiencing loss and damage.

The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage was established in 2019 at COP25 in Madrid to link developing countries with technical support providers.

In 2021, at COP26 in Glasgow, the Group of 77 (G77) and China jointly called for establishing a dedicated Loss and Damage finance facility. The proposal did not gain adequate support among developed countries, but it set the momentum. This was followed by an agreement to operationalize the network in 2022 at COP27 in Sharm-El-Sikh in Egypt. Loss and Damage finance was included on the formal negotiations' agenda for the first time, ushering in a new era of loss and damage discourse. A historic milestone was reached in COP28 in Dubai, with the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to keep up with the increasing cost of climate-related shocks such as floods, storms, drought, rising sea level among others¹¹.



ASSESSING ECONOMIC LOSS AND DAMAGE

Due to the impacts of climate change, Somalia is experiencing economic losses and damages across various sectors, including agriculture, livestock and social welfare. The heavy reliance on climate-sensitive sectors makes it more susceptible to climate-related hazards like droughts, floods and locust invasions. These events further worsen political instability and human security. The agricultural and livestock sectors, crucial for the economy, face challenges such as diseases, inadequate

veterinary services and strict export regulations. These difficulties, combined with rainfall patterns and resource depletion, have resulted in losses, including a significant decline in natural vegetation in 2016/2017. This has severely affected the lives and livelihoods of 6 million people. The droughts experienced during 2022/2021 alone caused an estimated loss of USD 1.3 billion in the sector¹².



Table 1: Estimated damages and losses to Agriculture sector from Somalia DINA Report Volume I¹²

Sector	Damages (USD million)	Losses (USD million)	Description
Agriculture - Crop Production	63.8	247.7	Reduced land cultivation and poor yields affected rain-fed staple crops (sorghum, cowpeas, and sesame) in Bay and Bokool, as well as irrigation crops (maize, sesame, rice, bananas, and tomatoes) in the Shabelle valley regions.
Agriculture - Livestock	350.7	1,300.00	Widespread death of over 6.4 million livestock due to water and pasture scarcity and disease. Poor families in the north faced %60-40 losses, and in the centre and south, losses ranged from %40-20.
Agriculture - Fisheries	0	10	Reduced landings led to income loss, forcing families to sell fishing gear. Losses include approximately USD 1.24 million in fishing gear assets. Restricted access to fishing grounds and diminished catches further compounded the impact.

The degradation of the environment also impact Somalia's tourism industry and vital infrastructure like transportation and energy systems.

This necessitates substantial investment in resilience-building measures for long-term sustainability.

Frequent disasters have significantly hampered Somalia's GDP growth trajectory by impacting household incomes and pushing a portion of the population below the poverty line. This economic strain is compounded by issues; for instance, the government

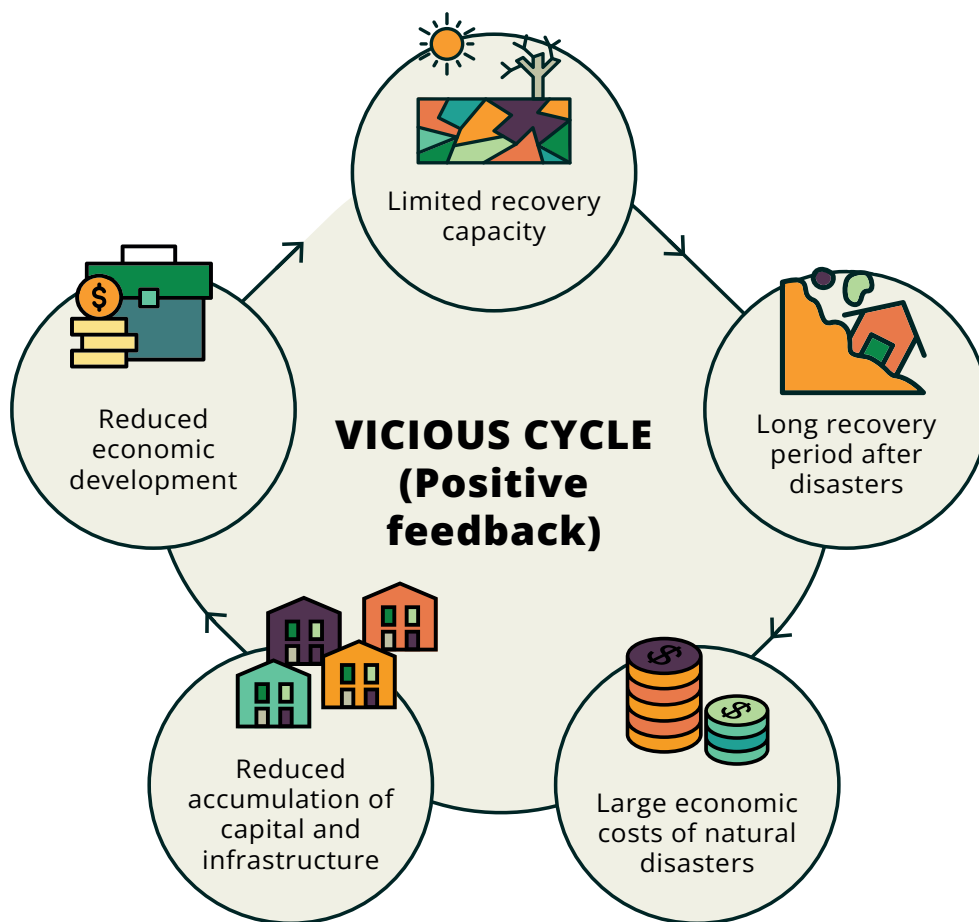
incurred around USD 1 billion due to the droughts, in 2021/2022 which led to increased inflation owing to rising import costs¹³.

The social sector, which encompasses healthcare, education, water supply, sanitation, and social protection, is also impacted by climate change. Natural - hazard - induced disasters cause disruptions in education, worsening health issues such as child malnutrition and a shortage of healthcare professionals in rural areas. The financial burden on

these sectors is also severe. Moreover, relocation leads to short-term and long-term setbacks while disrupting education and healthcare services, putting pressure on communities. This situation underscores the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

The increased frequency of climate shocks exacerbates Somalia's already precarious situation. It is grappling with slow economic growth, poverty, & growing financing needs for humanitarian aid and investments from public and private sources. This undermines long-term resilience-building measures.

Table 1: feedback loop that demonstrates the way natural disasters create economic stagnation and poverty¹⁴.



Without enhancing climate finance, including for loss and damage, the meagre resources available from within and outside the country will continue to go to firefighting one climate crisis after another, such as the impacts of the recent six failed rainfall seasons between 2023-2020 to dealing with full-blown *Elnino*

from November 2023 that continues to create a humanitarian catastrophe in more than 33 Districts. This will ultimately lead to slow development, increased demand for debt in Somalia's post-debt relief and higher costs of loss and damage in the near- and long-term.



ASSESSING NON-ECONOMIC LOSS AND DAMAGE

Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) refers to the climate-related losses of items, both material and non-material, that are not commonly traded in the market but whose loss is still experienced as such by those affected. Examples of NELD include loss of cultural identity, sacred places, human health and lives¹⁵. NELD impacts individuals, societies, and the environment. Given the almost infinite number of different ways

people assign value to things, capturing all types of Non-Economic Loss and Damage is immensely challenging. Despite this, assessments of Loss and Damage must ensure coverage of the non-economic dimensions. Failing to do so can distort our understanding of climate change impacts, discount and exclude the experiences of some, and skew future decision-making.

Table 2: Types of NELD and Impacts

Types of Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD)	Climate Shocks Impacts
Loss of life	Individual loss of life/harm
Loss of cultural heritage	Loss of traditional practices, sacred sites, language, erosion of identity. Climate change presents a further risk of inhibiting religious and spiritual practices
Mental and physical health impact	Causing direct injury or trauma, impacting water and air quality leading to diseases. Mental health impacts include anxiety, PTSD and depression
Migration and displacement as a form of social disruption	Disruption of traditional lifestyle, disintegration of social support systems, conflicts with host communities and exposure to risks of human trafficking
Loss of ecosystem and biodiversity	Impact on availability of ecosystem services, disruption of indigenous communities

Somalia is facing a critical challenge as it contends with non-economic losses and damages (NELS) due to climate change, which greatly affects the nation's cultural, social, and psychological fabric. These NELDs are crucial in understanding the full impact of climate change, going beyond financial implications to touch the core of Somali society and its cultural identity. In addition to environmental and socio-economic difficulties, climate change has intensified the loss of traditional knowledge, health, human mobility, cultural heritage, and biodiversity, profoundly disrupting the lives of its people.

The human cost of climate change in Somalia is immense. Frequent and intense droughts have led to severe water and food shortages, resulting in significant loss of life, particularly among the most vulnerable groups like children and the elderly. Between 2010 and 2012, a staggering 256,000 deaths occurred due to food insecurity and famine, while the period

from 2014 to 2018 saw up to 163,800 deaths related to drought crises¹⁶. Floods, too, have caused widespread displacement, destroyed homes and livelihoods, and led to waterborne diseases and further loss of life. The number of people needing assistance has soared, with about 7.7 million requiring aid in 2022, a 30% increase from the previous year¹⁷. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that "well-being losses" are significantly higher than actual asset losses, indicating the costliness of non-economic losses¹⁸. According to the World Bank, the projected annual cost of natural hazards to the world economy rises from \$300 billion to \$520 billion when non-economic losses like harm to well-being are taken into account. This is more felt in vulnerable countries such as Somalia, where significant multidimensional poverty exists.

Climate-induced disasters have severely impacted Somalia's cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. The country's rich heritage is under threat, encompassing

movable and immovable artefacts, oral traditions, social practices, and traditional skills. Moreover, if people are forced from their homes due to ongoing conflicts or disasters, they face a loss of ancestral lands and disrupted cultural connections and traditional ways of life.

The environmental NELDs in Somalia are profound, with territories and biodiversity facing irreversible changes. The decline in biodiversity, as highlighted in the Living Planet Report, jeopardizes crucial ecosystem

services and reduces the resilience and adaptability of these ecosystems. This loss directly affects communities that rely on these ecosystems for their livelihoods, posing threats to their food security and economic stability.

The cumulative effect of these NELDs in Somalia is alarming. It not only disrupts the socio-cultural fabric of the nation but also poses serious challenges to its future. The loss of life, displacement, erosion of cultural heritage, and biodiversity decline are interlinked issues that require comprehensive and culturally sensitive strategies for adaptation and resilience-building as well as addressing losses and damages. It is imperative for policy formulation and disaster risk management in Somalia to incorporate a broader perspective that recognizes and addresses these non-economic losses and damages, ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable aspects of society.



THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Somalia is grappling with the effects of climate change alongside various socio-economic hurdles. The consequences of these climate hazards and stressors have far-reaching economic implications that hinder consistent economic growth and stability. Consequently, poverty and economic inequality worsen, straining the nation's socioeconomic health. In addition, the changing climate imposes pressure on Somalia's healthcare and social services sectors. The scarcity of water and compromised sanitation services contribute to increased health emergencies, further burdening the healthcare system. Essential social services such as education face disruptions undermining the country's long-term development prospects.

NELD is a relatively new concept for researchers, practitioners and policymakers, and it is difficult to conceptualise the diversity of issues related to NELD in Somalia. Due to this inadequate comprehension, a significant void exists regarding the preponderance of the economic perspective in defining climate-related consequences within the area. Consequently, the comprehensive analysis of the effects of climate change is inadequate, leading to a reduced understanding of the interconnected elements of NELD in the context of policy actions that subsequently affect communities.

Despite these challenges, Somalia also possesses opportunities to cultivate resilience and embark upon a path towards sustainable development. Somalia

needs to capitalize on the opportunity to address these challenges including through seeking support for adaptation, diversification of the economy, involvement of local communities, development of effective policies, and technology utilization. To achieve this goal, it is crucial to strengthen relevant policies implementation and build institutional capacities at both Federal and State levels.

Investments in transboundary risk management and strong cooperation for regional climate adaptation will be key, given the fact that loss and damage is often connected to transboundary climate impacts or exacerbated by transboundary developments. This has been emphasized in the recently developed IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy 2030-2023 and provides an opportunity for Somalia to align actions with the strategy to address transboundary risks, including loss and damage¹⁹.

The assessment has shown the need to conduct further local studies to gain a more coherent understanding of the extent of economic and non-economic losses and damages in different regions of Somalia. By comprehending how climate change affects areas, particularly non-economic losses and damages, the country's policy-making process will have sufficient evidence for developing targeted and tailored interventions to meet the needs and priorities of the local communities.



CONCLUSION

The key findings of the assessment highlight the critical challenges and pressing need for comprehensive interventions due to climate-related loss and damage. The 2016-2017 drought alone was estimated to have caused over USD 3.25 billion in economic losses, alongside significant non-economic damages, including displacement, cultural erosion, and loss of human lives. Somalia's agriculture-centric economy, faces further threats from unpredictable weather patterns, leading to food insecurity and livelihood losses.

This calls for scaled-up climate finance, technical and capacity support to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in Somalia. On climate finance, the priority should be to secure funding through grants from multilateral funding entities like the Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund. It is crucial to prioritize public and grant-based funding, as relying on loans or other financial means could further strain Somalia's economy and worsen the poverty levels. Given the existing challenges faced by the country, taking on debt could have significant negative consequences not only for economic stability but also for social welfare.

The road to completion of reforms for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) is a welcome initiative to ease the burden on Somalia. Still, the double tragedies of climate change and insecurity continue to reinforce each other, undermining the enabling environment with severe ramifications for hard-won development gains and undermining current and future investments, including in agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, transport, blue economy, and tourism among others. Somalia's climate funding is far less than required, as is the case with many other conflict-affected nations. The Government estimated in 2021 that it would require about USD 5.5 billion annually in climate finance. However, estimates from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) indicated that just USD 321 million in climate financing inflows occurred in 2019–2020, less than %0.6 of the total amount needed. Therefore, it is

essential to enhance climate action and peace-building efforts to create an enabling environment for attracting significant climate finance and building resilience.

Another important aspect is integrating considerations for loss and damage into new and existing policies, strategies and legal frameworks. This integration should be guided by assessments of climate risks and vulnerability analyses so that policies can effectively address the critical issues. This would mean integrating climate considerations into all planning and legal structures across sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and infrastructure. This needs to be supplemented by enhancing the understanding of climate change science and its impacts in terms of loss and damage among policymakers. Policymakers, legislators and government officials need to have a grasp of the complexities of climate change to make informed decisions based on scientific evidence.

Furthermore, it is crucial to promote and facilitate participation as well as engage local communities in the formulation and implementation of climate related policies and legal frameworks. This participatory approach plays a role in developing policies that're not only effective but also fair and equitable. It fosters a policy making process where vulnerable groups—who often bear the brunt of climate impacts—can have a say, in shaping responses to loss and damage.

With the established loss and damage fund in COP28, there is a need to consider the urgency and scale of the challenge faced by countries like Somalia. Furthermore, the modalities and processes for access to be established by the COP decision have to be drawn in line with the realities of countries that are in need of the funds. Trigger mechanisms for access have to acknowledge and accommodate the specific circumstances of countries like Somalia, who are concerned not only with sea level rise but also with challenges associated with droughts, floods and loss of biodiversity.

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This brief is a snapshot of an upcoming IGAD CAEP report on loss and damage assessment in Somalia. Detailed context and assessments of both Economic and Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) will be provided in the aforementioned report to be published in February 2024.

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