

Strengthening Loss and Damage Response Capacity in the Global South (STRENGTH)

The impacts of climate change have proved highly uneven, with vulnerable communities and countries of the Global South hit the hardest. The resulting losses and damages are beyond the adaptive capacity of those communities and countries. The problem is getting even more catastrophic, as effective provisions for managing the cost of increasing climate related losses and damages are lacking across the Global South.

Small Island States [SIDS] are particularly on the verge of extinction. Mountainous countries like Nepal and downstream countries like Bangladesh are also experiencing severe climate change induced losses and damages, according to their respective country assessments, and emerging research.

Therefore, proactively averting losses and damages from human-induced climate change has become urgent particularly for the world's most vulnerable communities. Recognizing this urgency, Loss and Damage [L&D] has emerged as a pillar for tackling the climate crisis. The 27th COP in Sharm-El-Sheikh has agreed to establish a new financing mechanism for L&D.

However, this pillar is beset by a lack of clarity on basic principles of operationalization. Against this backdrop, this project was developed jointly by ICCCAD and IFSD and financially supported by IDRC.



Funded by:



IDRC · CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Objectives

The project's general objective is to understand and address the knowledge and capacity gaps of most vulnerable countries in the Global South so that they are better able to develop country level L&D policy and implementation mechanisms. Specific objectives include:

- To clarify key conceptual dilemmas around understanding and operationalisations of L&D at local, national and international levels
- To undertake country level diagnostic assessment of L&D as well as evolving policy and institutional practices
- To create learning opportunities for key research and policy champions in the case study countries and facilitate a cross-country knowledge sharing focusing on emerging issues and responses around L&D
- To provide training and capacity building opportunities to Least Developed Countries [LDCs], Alliance of Small Island States [AOSIS] and Climate Vulnerable Forum [CVF] to formulate coherent approach to L&D negotiation within UNFCCC system as well as enhanced representation of Loss and Damage situations in the Global Stock Take 2023
- To identify and recommend socially inclusive and gender equitable options for L&D response at national and sub-national level

Key Outcomes

Countries which are members of LDC, AOSIS and CVF will begin to start thinking more clearly and concretely about formulating national and sub-national L&D responses

Countries will be better able to and work collectively to develop common and coherent approaches to international policy negotiations within and beyond UNFCCC

Global L&D policy processes will be enriched by evidence from local level case studies and evidence, while coherent voice of LDCs will influence global L&D policy towards more responsive support to those vulnerable

Research Questions

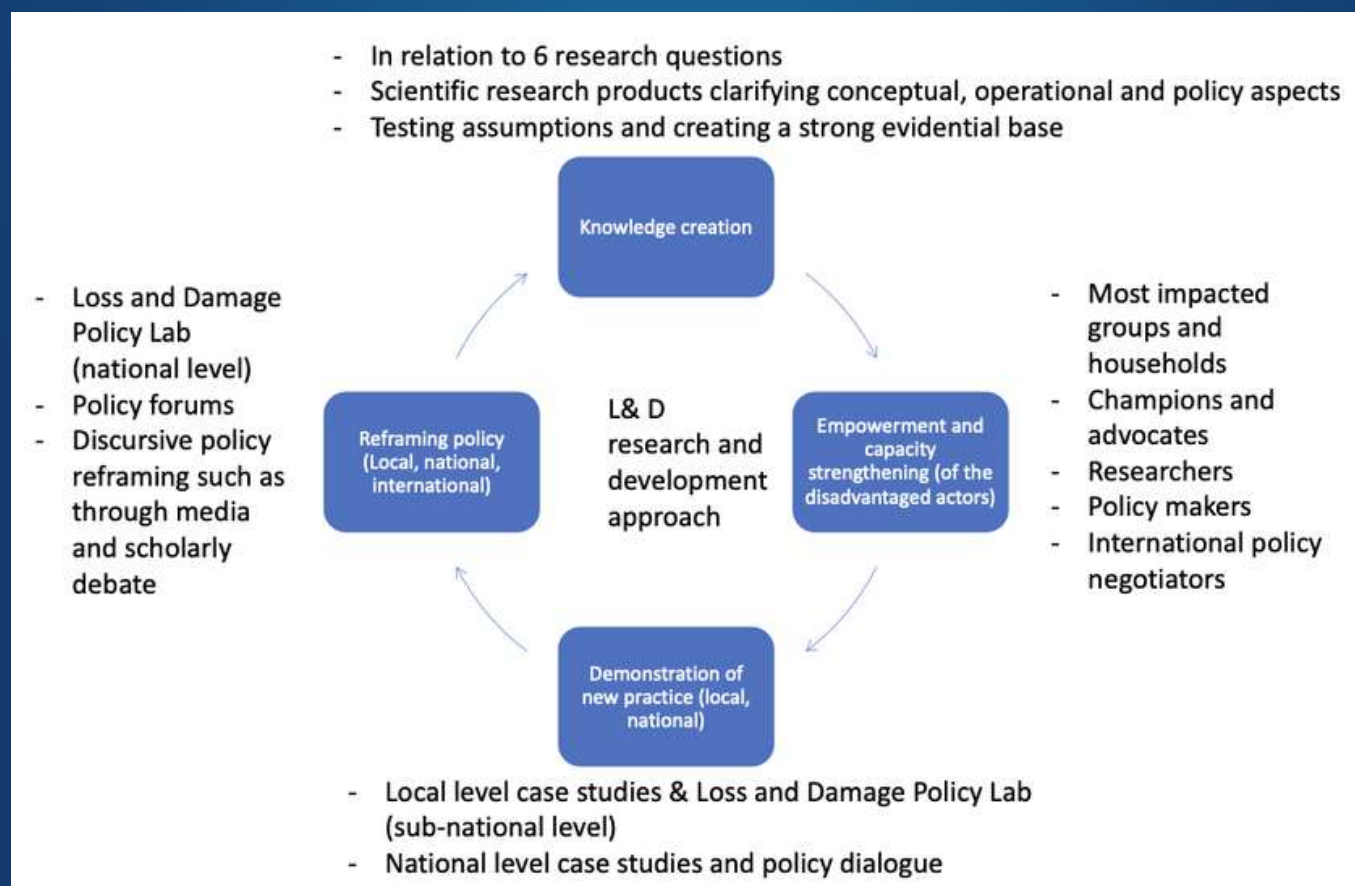
- What conceptual underpinnings differentiate L&D response from adaptation and disaster risk reduction? How can these three areas be integrated or synergised?
- How can practical and reasonable evidence systems for attributions, reporting, and verifications be developed and institutionalized in the context of limited data availability?
- What kinds of institutional arrangements are needed to activate locally led and community-based L&D response?
- What financial governance arrangements better support inclusive and equitable L&D action and delivery?
- How can the voices and knowledge of the most vulnerable groups, including women, the poor, disadvantaged groups and people with disability be heard in the L&D policy process from local to international level?
- What capacity building supports are needed as the most vulnerable countries begin to implement L&D response?

Research Approach

- This project will adopt participatory, inter-disciplinary, and action-oriented inquiry to generate knowledge that is usable, empowering and stimulates reorientation of policy at national and international levels.
- Researcher generated data and practice-based knowledge of stakeholders will be done to validate new knowledge.
- Dialectical epistemology' will be used to harness some of the knowledge that will emerge from the dialogues among actors rather than technical analysis from researchers.
- Primary data will be generated through empirical research and data analysis will be undertaken using multiple units of analysis.
- Cross-sectoral collaboration which is going to be achieved through the intervention of Loss & Damage Policy Lab [LDPL], ensuring the involvement of diverse stakeholders, especially those marginalised

Loss and Damage Policy Lab [LDPL]

Loss and Damage Policy Lab [LDPL] is a replica of policy lab methodology where its methodology and design is informed by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development [ICCCAD] work on policy-oriented dialogues which use local level stories as evidence and voice to influence policy perceptions. LDPL was created with the aim to bridge the gaps between the research, policy, and practice-based learning sectors through an approach that is inclusive, equitable, and empowering.

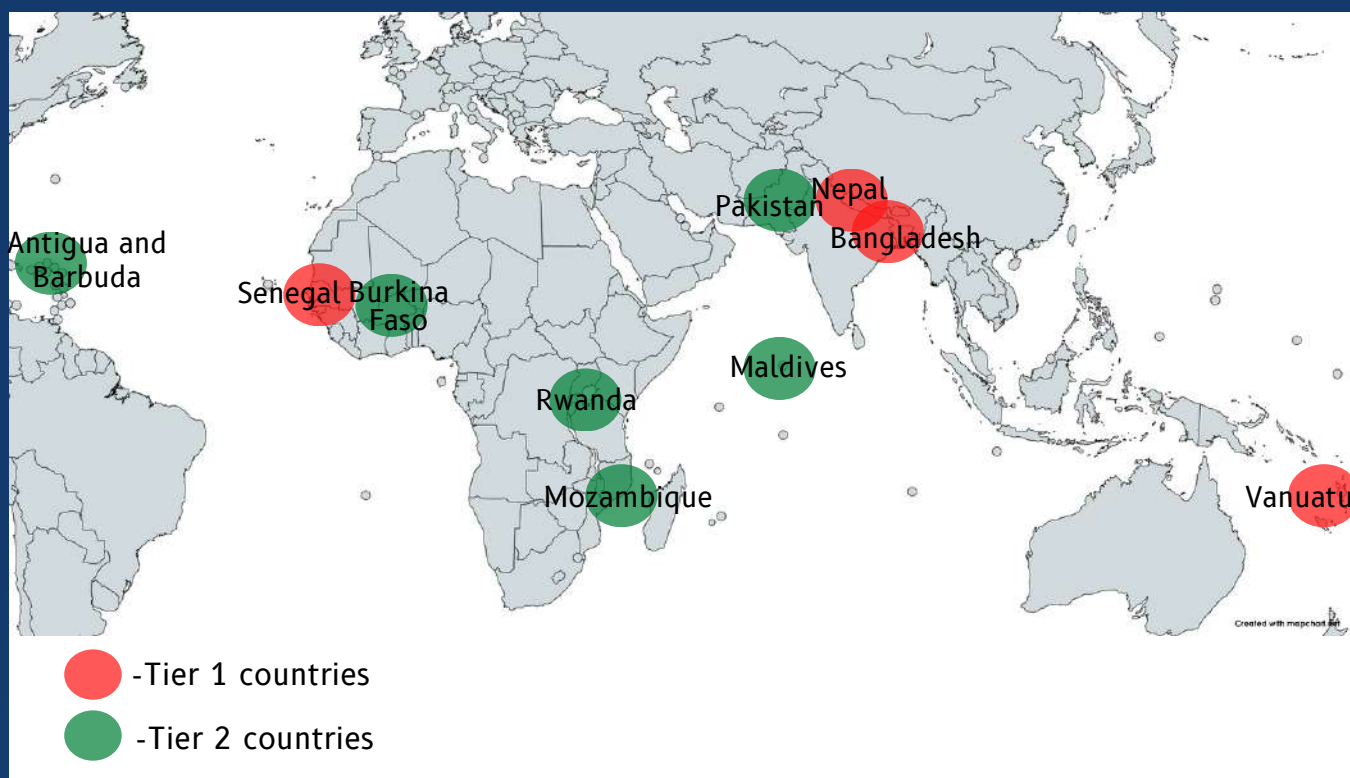


Loss and Damage Policy Lab Methodology ¹

¹ Ojha et al., "Loss and Damage Policy Lab [LDPL]: A Methodological Outline" [2022]

Countries

The projects covers 10 countries in total, divided into two tiers based on the focus of the project.



Tier 1 [T1] Countries: Nepal, Bangladesh, Senegal, Vanuatu

The focus of empirical research, with 1 local level case study within each country, which will focus on covering different climate-induced disasters

A national level diagnostic report will be produced. This will be used by country partners to design and pilot institutional and policy options to address losses and damages

Tier 2 [T2] Countries: Maldives, Pakistan, Rwanda, Mozambique, Antigua and Barbuda, Burkina Faso

Review will be based on secondary data consisting of national level policies. Further trainings and policy workshops around L&D operationalisation will be provided.

ICCAD is one of the leading organizations working on climate change in Bangladesh, focusing on research and capacity building.

IFSD is a research, development advisory, and consulting institute, specializing in linking research, policy, and practice across various sectors of international development and environmental management.

IDRC is a part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, which invests in research and innovation in developing countries for a sustainable world.