



Overview

Currently, most efforts to address non-economic loss and damage (NELD) are focused in the research and policy spaces. However, NELD is also emerging as a key consideration for humanitarian, climate and development actors who are working with communities affected by climate change across the Pacific. There is a gap in understanding how these actors can engage on the issue, for what purposes, and in which spaces. There is opportunity to develop and strengthen a shared understanding of key priorities and ways of working with communities on NELD. This paper seeks to address this knowledge gap to support humanitarian, climate, and development actors operating in the Pacific Islands to incorporate relevant NELD considerations in practice. It accomplishes this by a) strengthening operational actors' understanding of NELD; and b) exploring how operational actors can integrate and prioritise key aspects of NELD in their programs, strategies, and approaches through a shared agenda.

Methods



Non-economic loss and damage priorities for operational actors in the Pacific Islands: Building a shared agenda

Whilst recognising that non-economic impacts are distinctive and unique across contexts and communities in the Pacific Islands, there is a need to create a shared agenda for operational actors that supports national and local leadership. The paper discusses findings from research and identifies opportunities and actions in five key priority areas to contribute to a shared agenda for operational actors in efforts to address dimensions of NELD moving forward.

- 1 Strengthen contextual framing**

Many interviewees stated that understanding and addressing NELD in the Pacific Islands is a new and emerging area for operational actors and there is a key gap in understanding what the relevant priorities and needs are. They outlined a critical need to better comprehend NELD in the Pacific Islands by facilitating a bottom-up contextualised understanding of communities' experiences, needs and priorities.

**Strengthen contextual understanding of NELD experiences and impacts in the Pacific Islands to inform and contextualise global approaches.**
- 2 Improve understanding of the unique dimensions of NELD**

Research has demonstrated that NELD is a complex and multifaceted issue, and is understood and experienced in diverse ways across communities. As part of exploring the dimensions of NELD, Pacific stakeholders emphasised the need to understand the long-term and multi-generational psychosocial impacts for communities.

**Work with communities and local experts to explore the diversity of ways NELD is understood across dimensions that are unique to Pacific Islands communities.**
- 3 Support nationally led approaches**

Many Pacific Island governments are already considering and incorporating these approaches, although it may not always be labelled as NELD. There are opportunities to support stronger understandings of NELD at the national level to better streamline and promote these strategies where they already exist in climate change and DRM policies, and to identify opportunities to integrate NELD considerations in new policies and initiatives.

**Support the development of nationally-led approaches and priorities for addressing NELD**
- 4 Promote integrated approaches**

An integrated approach to NELD in the Pacific Islands that considers actions across the disaster management spectrum, as well as in climate adaptation and mitigation, and by different types of actors, is critical. This is well recognised in loss and damage research and by emerging initiatives such as in the humanitarian sector.

**Develop integrated approaches for averting, minimising, and addressing NELD across the disaster management continuum and climate mitigation and adaptation efforts**
- 5 Document impacts**

Pacific stakeholders highlighted that a priority for addressing NELD impacts is to capture and document community and indigenous practices and knowledge to preserve cultural history. Many stakeholders continue to identify the critical importance of doing this across Pacific Islands and communities.

**Support communities to document traditional knowledge and practices in a culturally sensitive way, and outline the NELD impacts they are experiencing in their own terms.**

Read the full paper [here](#). If you'd like to learn more about our work, please contact: [info@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org](mailto:info@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org)