

ADAPTATION GAP REPORT 2022, KEY MESSAGES

Climate change is landing blow after blow upon humanity, as seen throughout 2022: most viscerally in the catastrophic floods that put much of Pakistan under water. To avoid such impacts worsening, the international community must urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, as the 2022 edition of *UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report: Too Little, Too Slow – Climate adaptation failure puts world at risk* finds, the world must urgently increase efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already here and to those that are to come. Yet global efforts in adaptation planning, financing and implementation are not keeping pace with the growing risks.

Climate risks are rising as global warming accelerates. Both strong mitigation and adaptation are key to help vulnerable countries and communities cope with impacts of climate change.

- A multiyear drought in the Horn of Africa, unprecedented flooding in South Asia and severe summer heat across the northern hemisphere point to mounting climate risks, which are coming at only 1.1°C above pre-industrial temperatures.
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement point towards global warming of 2.4-2.6°C by the end of the century. Current policies, however, point to a 2.8°C temperature rise.
- According to the 6th Assessment Report of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world is facing climate risks that will intensify with each tenth of a degree.
- Adaptation must therefore take center stage alongside mitigation in the global response to climate change. However, even ambitious investments in adaptation cannot fully prevent climate impacts, so losses and damages must be addressed adequately.

More than eight out of ten countries now have at least one national adaptation planning instrument, and they are getting better and more inclusive.

- At least 84 per cent of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), up 5 per cent from last year, have established adaptation plans, strategies, laws and policies. About half of those have more than one planning instrument in place.
- One third of the 197 country Parties to the UNFCCC have incorporated quantified and time-bound targets, which are an increasing part of national adaptation planning.
- Nearly 90 per cent of planning instruments analysed display consideration for gender and/or historically disadvantaged groups, such as Indigenous peoples.

However, financing to turn these plans and strategies into action still isn't following. International adaptation finance flows to developing countries are 5-10 times below estimated needs and the gap continues to widen.

- International adaptation finance flows to developing countries are rising slowly. They reached USD 29 billion in 2020, as reported by donor countries, an increase of 4 per cent from 2019, representing 34 per cent of total climate finance.
- Combined adaptation and mitigation finance flows in 2020 fell at least USD 17 billion short of the USD 100 billion pledged to developing countries. Significant acceleration is needed if a doubling of 2019 finance flows by 2025 is to be met, as urged by the Glasgow Climate Pact, adopted at COP26 in 2021.
- Estimated annual adaptation needs are USD 160-340 billion by 2030 and USD 315-565 billion by 2050.

Implementation of adaptation actions is increasing but not keeping up with climate impacts.

- The number and volume of adaptation actions supported through international climate funds, multilateral finance, and bilateral donor support continues to rise.
- Actions are concentrated in the agriculture, water, ecosystems and cross-cutting sectors. They primarily address drought, flooding and rainfall variability.
- However, without a step change in support, adaptation actions could be outstripped by accelerating climate risks, which would further widen the adaptation implementation gap.
- Current adaptation practice falls woefully short of what is required, but there is good understanding how to improve effectiveness.

Considering the links between adaptation and mitigation action from the outset in planning, finance, and implementation can enhance co-benefits.

- More adaptation will be required, and more losses and damages will occur, if mitigation is insufficient. This makes both mitigation and adaptation intrinsically linked.
- Taking adaptation and mitigation jointly into account in planning, finance and implementation enhances the chances for co-benefits and limits potential trade-offs, such as hydropower reducing food security or irrigation increasing energy consumption.
- Some climate solutions effectively reduce climate risk and contribute to mitigation: particularly nature-based solutions like planting and conserving mangroves, restoring salt marshes or protecting peatlands.

Strong political will is needed to increase adaptation investments and outcomes.

- The war in Ukraine, global supply shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic have all contributed to an evolving energy and food security crisis, with costs of living as well as inflation surging in many countries across the world.
- However, these crises cannot be allowed to derail international efforts to increase adaptation. Unprecedented political will and far more long-term investments in adaptation are urgently needed to stop the adaptation gap widening.
- Nations must back the strong words in the Glasgow Climate Pact with strong action on adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, starting at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.