



unicef 
for every child

The UNICEF Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan

Executive Summary

For Every Child, A Liveable Planet

2023 – 2030

Summary

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss has put virtually every child in the world at risk. And 1 billion children – nearly half of the world’s 2.2 billion children – face extreme risks to their ability to survive, grow and thrive.

The failure to confront the greatest threat of this generation has created a child rights crisis – jeopardizing every child’s fundamental right to health care, healthy food, safe drinking water and sanitation, uninterrupted learning and protection from all forms of violence.

UNICEF is joining forces with other United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, civil society and young people to put children’s most urgent needs at the centre of the response to the planetary crisis.

UNICEF’s Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan marks a transformation of how we work. The focus of its strategies, operations and partnerships is now to help governments and communities build low-carbon, resilient essential services for children; equip young people to be champions for the planet; and accelerate a just transition to a nature-positive and carbon-neutral world through the influence of our advocacy, operations and supply chain.

Children and young people have not lost their optimism and hope for the future. Around the globe, they are raising their voices, taking action and demanding an urgent response to the planetary crisis. It is time to put global commitments and resources to work to support their demands and help realize their right to a liveable planet for every child.

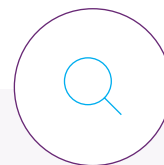
The defining challenge of our generation

The planetary crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss has created incalculable losses across the world – but none greater than to its children.

The crisis has already exposed nearly every child on every continent to climate and environmental hazards. One billion children – nearly half of the world's 2.2 billion children – live in countries at extremely high risk as determined by

UNICEF's groundbreaking Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI). In these high-risk countries, children face a vicious cycle of increasing exposures and vulnerabilities that greatly compromise their ability to survive, grow and thrive.

The stakes could not be higher. The CCRI (2021) shows that we live in a world where virtually every child is already exposed to a climate and environmental shock.



2 billion children

– almost 90 per cent of children globally – are exposed to high levels of air pollution



240 million children

face a high threat of coastal flooding



820 million children

face high exposure to heatwaves



920 million children

suffer from water scarcity



400 million children

are living in high-risk cyclone prone areas



600 million children

are at high risk of exposure to vector-borne diseases

This global emergency threatens decades of development and humanitarian gains. Today, more than three-quarters of United Nations humanitarian appeals involve an extreme weather event, up from just over one-third in 2000.* These mounting challenges – combined with existing economic crises, armed conflicts and the continued effects of the pandemic around the world – increase the imperative to act now.

Children are uniquely vulnerable and at a significantly higher risk of harm than adults. They eat and drink more and breathe more air per unit of body weight than adults. They are more likely than adults to be affected by malnutrition and succumb to illnesses that the triple planetary crisis may worsen, such as cholera, malaria and dengue. Children are at greater risk than adults from the

respiratory, neurological and other diseases caused by air pollution, whether from the use of solid fuels for cooking or heating within their homes or emissions from agriculture, transport or industry within the ambient air. Any deprivation due to environmental degradation or climate change during children's formative years can result in irreparable harm that impacts their entire lives.

Children face the greatest consequences of inaction.

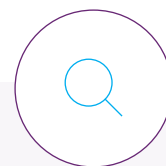
The most vulnerable children – those living in poverty, the youngest (under five years of age), the displaced, children living with disabilities and adolescent girls – often lack access to essential services like health care, water and education, making them even more susceptible to the daily negative impacts of climate change and environmental hazards. This lack of access to reliable and life-saving

* United Nations Children's Fund, *Monitoring the Social Costs of Climate Change for Low- and Middle-income Countries*, 2022, www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/Social_spending_monitor_3.pdf.

services reduces their resilience and ability to adapt to a changing environment, creating a vicious cycle that pushes them into deeper poverty and increases their vulnerability. For these children, mitigation efforts will come too late as most of the global warming they will experience between now and 2050 is due to emissions that have already been released.

There is a growing international consensus that protecting the planet is critical. Although global agreements are in place and widely ratified, **there is a global gap in efforts to protect all children, and especially those who are the most vulnerable**. The countries that are most vulnerable to this planetary crisis lack critical support. For example, only a small portion of global climate funds are allocated to meet their urgent needs.* This impedes their ability to build resilience and adapt. An even smaller share of this inadequate funding is targeted at adapting the social sectors that children in these countries depend on most in the crisis, such as health, nutrition, education, child protection, social protection and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and which are critical for climate change adaptation solutions.

Despite the disproportionate impact of the planetary crisis on children, they have so far been virtually invisible in relevant public policy debates – and in global commitments and investments. The deeply inequitable effects of the triple planetary crisis are exacerbated by a failure to put the needs of children at the centre of the response. This is evidenced by the fact that only 2.4 per cent of key multilateral climate funds serving the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement can be classified as supporting child-responsive programmes.**



A sample: Multilateral sustainability and climate agreements

- ↪ The **Paris Agreement** brings the world together in a common effort to combat climate change, adapt to its effects and mobilize climate finance.
- ↪ The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** guides the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development.
- ↪ The **Convention on Biological Diversity** promotes conservation, sustainable use and fair benefit-sharing of biological diversity.
- ↪ The **Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions**, amongst others, addresses different hazardous chemicals, waste and the protection of human health.
- ↪ Through **resolution 76/300**, the United Nations General Assembly recognized that there is a basic human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and in 2023, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) affirmed the obligations of government signatories to safeguard this right for children.
- ↪ The **General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change** affirms the children's right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment **and** issues interpretation of states' obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

* United Nations Children's Fund, *Analysis of the CCRI for Least Developed Countries, 2023*, www.unicef.org/media/135686/file/Analysis%20of%20the%20CCRI%20for%20Least%20Developed%20%20Countries.pdf.

** Children's Environmental Rights Initiative (CERI) coalition, *Falling short: addressing the climate finance gap for children, 2023*, <https://www.unicef.org/reports/addressing-climate-finance-gap-children>.

Protecting Children from the Worst Impacts of the Crisis Requires a Global Movement

The challenges vulnerable children face are formidable. And the solutions require more than any one individual, organization, government or business can provide. They require unprecedented global partnerships that leverage the unique strengths of each actor to achieve a level of impact that no one could achieve alone.

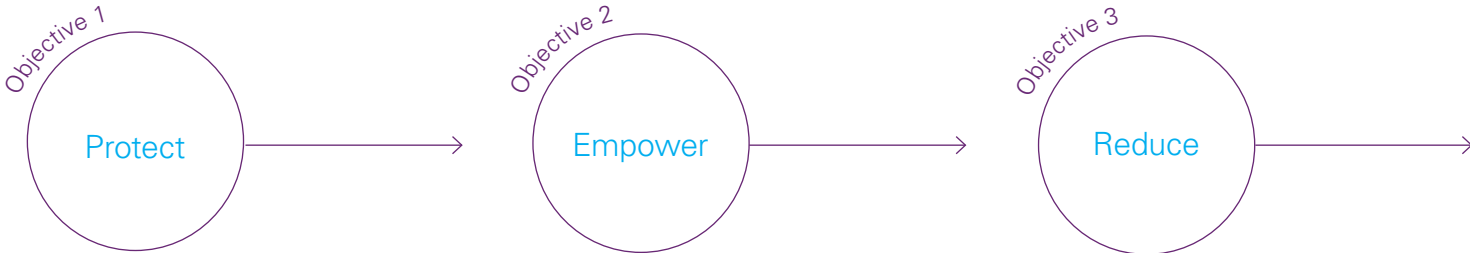
Children cannot wait for change. They deserve to be supported by a global movement focused on confronting the worst impacts of the planetary crisis and ensure that society’s most vulnerable victims – its children – are at the centre of the response.

An effective response can thus only partly be about UNICEF’s efforts. UNICEF is accelerating its partnerships with governments, United Nations agencies, the private sector and civil society to put children’s rights and participation at the centre of the response – advocacy, financing and on-the-ground implementation – to the planetary crisis.

UNICEF’s Commitment – the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan

The Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan is designed to galvanize efforts to fill global gaps to protect the most vulnerable children. It also reflects an ongoing commitment to fulfil the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Action Plan’s three objectives outline a road map to transform how communities, governments and global leaders can work together to prioritize the needs of children. This road map also captures how UNICEF itself intends to change so that it puts this effort at the centre of everything it does.



PROTECT the lives, health and well-being of children and the resilience of their communities by adapting essential social services to a changing climate, more frequent disasters and a degrading environment.

EMPOWER every child through their life course with the developmental opportunities, education and skills to be a champion for the environment.

REDUCE the emissions and environmental footprint within UNICEF, support its global network of partners to do the same, and advocate for the fulfilment of ambitious international sustainability and climate change agreements.

Objective 1

PROTECT the lives, health and well-being of children and the resilience of their communities by adapting essential social services to a changing climate, more frequent disasters and a degrading environment.

Children depend on essential services to survive, grow and thrive. Essential services are designed to meet the fundamental needs and rights of children – access to health care; nutritious food; uninterrupted quality education; safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene; and inclusive social protection systems.

The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, rising temperatures and other climate impacts threaten the ability to effectively deliver the social services children need. Equally important, the indirect consequences of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss – such as food insecurity, water scarcity and displacement – also increase the need for social services and place additional pressure on service providers.

Building the resilience of social services that children depend on is critical to reduce the risks they will face. The ability of communities to withstand and recover from disasters is dependent on three factors: durable infrastructures; informed, prepared and skilled local decision makers; and strong public systems – government policies, budgets and coordination – that underpin the delivery and management of social services.

While each community faces unique challenges that demand customized solutions, there are several interventions that have the potential to deliver transformational results at scale. These interventions require a collaborative, partner-driven commitment to:

- ↪ **Equip local communities with low-pollution and accessible infrastructure and services that can withstand shocks** – e.g., making health-care centres, schools, water supplies and nutrition services climate resilient and environmentally sustainable;
- ↪ **Train community members and service delivery professionals to respond to threats** by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and data they need to take action; and
- ↪ **Embed these foundational supports in government systems** through child-sensitive policies and budget allocations and financing structures that prioritize children’s most urgent needs and provide the financial means to implement these measures.

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A family poses in Garissa Country, Kenya,
at the UNICEF-supported, solar-powered
borehole facility.



These interventions are critical foundational investments toward sustainable and resilient social sectors. They demonstrate that action to protect the planet for children need not come at the expense of the very services children depend on for survival. Increased investments in green and resilient social services and child-centered development programmes can be mutually reinforcing for economies and the planet and lead to better results for children and their communities.

There are delivery mechanisms that offer opportunities for UNICEF and its partners to grow, scale and innovate with regard to ongoing programme commitments. These include programmes to:

i Align development and humanitarian agendas to build climate and disaster resilience

There is a powerful opportunity to leverage investments in protecting children before, during and after emergencies by systematically integrating climate change adaptation measures into disaster risk reduction, recovery and humanitarian response.

Climate shocks can exacerbate existing inequalities and compound other challenges, such as conflicts and poverty, further affecting children's well-being. They can lead to increased risks of injury, illness and even death; as well as result in long-lasting psychological effects on children. Climate shocks can disrupt children's access to education, cause malnutrition when agricultural systems are disrupted, and compromise access to clean water and sanitation. They can also lead to displacement and migration.

Aligning development and humanitarian approaches leads to better results for children and is a cost-effective way to strengthen the ability of vulnerable communities to withstand shocks over time. This work requires an emphasis on early warning systems, rapid responses and financing mechanisms that provide quick resources when and where they are needed most. It also requires building schools and health-care centres to be climate and disaster resilient as standard practice before a disaster and prioritizing low-carbon and environmentally sustainable approaches during recovery. These approaches must rely on data systems and policies that work with governments and communities across development and disaster management to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable children and the services they need.

ii Expand access to sustainable energy for health-care facilities, schools and WASH

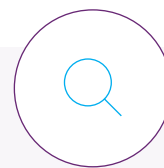
Energy is a critical enabler for the delivery of essential services for children – like health care, education and WASH. Communities lacking electricity cannot provide adequate health care delivery, which can lead to compromised health outcomes for children. Schools without electricity cannot function without lighting, cooling, heating or the ability to power computers or provide Internet access. Children without home electricity face greater indoor pollution from cooking and heating that relies on wood or other traditional energy sources. The lack of reliable energy places a disproportionate burden on young girls, who most often are tasked with gathering firewood and drinking water, as well as other energy-related chores.

UNICEF's Today & Tomorrow initiative:

UNICEF has deployed an award-winning innovative finance solution with the [Today and Tomorrow \(T&T\) initiative](#), the world's first integrated climate and disaster risk finance mechanism specifically targeted at and designed for children.

The **Today** pillar provides technical assistance and climate finance for child-centred climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and preparedness & anticipatory action to prevent and minimize climate risks and to, building longer-term climate resilience. The **Tomorrow** pillar delivers rapid financing for relief and resilient recovery after disasters through parametric insurance with an explicit focus on children.

Initially, the T&T initiative is being piloted for three years from 2023 to 2025 across eight countries and four cyclone basins – the Caribbean (Haiti), East African (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique), South Asian (Bangladesh) and Pacific islands (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu). The initiative is being expanded to other climate hazards and geographies.



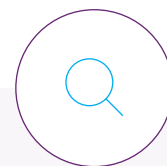
The provision of reliable and sustainable energy in schools, health-care facilities and WASH is critical to address the impact on children and promote their holistic development. To address the planetary crisis, we must transition rapidly to a net-zero economy based on sustainable sources of energy. For the transition to be just and equitable, we must ensure that we prioritize the provision of sustainable energy for the services that children need to survive and thrive. Social sectors, which account for between 11-17 per cent of global emissions,** must be a critical part of the Just Transition.** UNICEF supports the expansion of sustainable energy in many ways. This includes working with partners to implement energy efficiency and sustainable energy solutions in health-care centres, schools and water facilities (including in places that are hard to reach); working with communities and service delivery professionals to sustain systems; and supporting governments to integrate renewable energy provision into their social service policies and budgets. UNICEF's support is geared toward demonstrating the benefit of solutions that simultaneously address environmental sustainability while safeguarding child development.

iii Accelerate progress on sustainable WASH services in the areas most vulnerable to climate change

Access to effective water and sanitation systems is critical for a child's survival and health. Climate

change impacts such as droughts and floods damage water sources and sanitation facilities and contaminate water supplies. Unsafe water leads to water-borne diseases and exacerbates malnutrition and stunting. The impacts extend across other areas of child development such as health, education and nutrition. Cost-effective and low-carbon water solutions are available, but the installation and maintenance of water infrastructure is often too costly for many communities and governments to afford. There is a critical need to support governments to access climate finance for climate resilient WASH facilities and to scale up sustainable delivery models to accelerate progress on WASH services.

Sustainable and far-reaching change will only occur when governments prioritize children in their efforts to protect the planet and are adequately supported to do so. UNICEF will work with partners to strengthen efforts of governments in understanding the impact of the planetary crisis on children and to prioritize them in their climate and environmental policies and budgets as laid out by General Comment No. 26. It will accelerate partnerships across the public and private sectors to implement the most promising solutions that combine child development and planetary sustainability, and support governments with objective ways of measuring our collective progress, including as part of their national submissions to intergovernmental bodies (for example, the Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs]).



UNICEF's actions on building climate resilience to date include:

From 2018-2021, UNICEF supported governments on sustainability and climate programmes in 81 countries across essential social sectors, including:

- ↪ Stronger, climate-resilient, environmentally friendly and sustainable health-care facilities in 59 countries.
- ↪ WASH services targeted to address climate change-related WASH risks in 63 countries. From 2019 to 2022, UNICEF helped 22.2 million people gain access to climate resilient water services.
- ↪ Providing technical support to 27 countries to strengthen early warning systems targeted to children's needs.

* UNICEF internal data compilation (2023)

** Just Transition: "Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind." (International Labour Organization)

Objective 2

EMPOWER every child through their life course with the developmental opportunities, education and skills to be a champion for the environment.

For millions of children and young people, the destruction of the planet is personal. They have grown weary of waiting for others to solve the planetary crisis. And they have made it clear that they are not passive victims; they are crucial stakeholders who are prepared to drive environmental action by raising awareness, advocating for policy change, inspiring their peers and holding decision makers accountable.

An effective global movement requires the participation of children and young people – who are deeply impacted by the planetary crisis. They must be supported with the right resources and abilities to influence decisions. Their experiences, perspective and solutions can contribute immeasurably to systemic change.

The Action Plan emphasizes the role of children and young people in:

- ↪ Learning about climate and environmental threats to protect themselves and their communities and to develop a lifelong commitment to address the triple planetary crisis;

- ↪ Joining with other young people to take action to create a sustainable future; and
- ↪ Gaining valuable green skills that will help them participate in a new, inclusive economy.

i Educate children and young people on climate change and the environment.

Children and young people have demonstrated their potential to be champions for the planet. They need to be equipped with the information and tools they need inside and outside classrooms through programmes that:

- a. Make environmental sustainability education part of curricula and equip educators to teach disaster risk reduction;
- b. Provide parenting and early childhood development programmes that are environmentally sensitive;

© UNICEF/UN0326949/Patrick Brown
In 2019, Nur (yellow scarf) attended a workshop on installing and repairing solar panels that are ubiquitous in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Here she is learning how to prepare her tools for an installation.



- c. Work with public-private-youth partners to help young people gain the skills they need to participate in the green economy and develop sustainable and healthy lifestyles;
 - d. Expand access to informal and online learning tools, platforms and resources; and
 - e. Support governments to integrate environmental sustainability into education plans and budgets.
- ii Promote action to create a sustainable future.** Children and young people need pathways to take practical actions to protect the planet – through volunteerism, coordinated action and peer activation – to spark greater systemic change. This includes support to:
- a. Train young people to assess school safety in areas affected by or at risk of climate and environmental impacts;
 - b. Support youth-led volunteerism and social movements to foster sustainable practices and healthy lifestyles for children and young people; and
 - c. Engage young people in local volunteer activities they care about. For instance, this may include planting trees and leading community efforts to create and maintain urban gardens or green spaces that support local biodiversity, establishing and supporting energy efficiency and sustainable energy ventures, and acting on water conservation initiatives.

- iii Support advocacy that leads to results.** Children and young people have continuously demonstrated their ability to impact public policy, influence decision makers and build public support for environmental action at the local, regional and global levels. They need sustained support and investments in youth-led programmes and initiatives that:
- a. Foster youth engagement and champion positive change;
 - b. Train children and young people on effective advocacy, negotiations and campaigns;
 - c. Facilitate young people’s access to decision makers; and
 - d. Support efforts by young people to educate policymakers and other stakeholders.



UNICEF’s engagement with children and young people in climate action to date includes:

- ↪ Scaled young volunteer programmes in 40 countries around the world, engaging and mobilizing millions of volunteers – 1.5 million of whom engaged in environmental action – and reaching 200 million beneficiaries.
- ↪ Provided support to 63 countries to integrate climate risk and environmental issues into inter-government fora and teaching curricula using child-focused teaching methods and teacher training.
- ↪ Supported the climate engagement of 30 million young people in 100 countries on its mobile platform U-Report, which helped shape decision-making, climate policies and commitments around the world.

Objective 3

REDUCE the emissions and environmental footprint within UNICEF, support its global network of partners to do the same, and advocate for the fulfilment of ambitious international sustainability and climate change agreements.

To enhance its own immediate contribution to tackling the triple planetary crisis, UNICEF is committed to stepping up its commitment to drive reductions in emissions and pollution – the only long-term solution to the planetary crisis. The focus will be on increasing its internal commitment and working with partners to reduce the emissions and environmental footprint of humanitarian aid and social service delivery.

Reducing emissions within UNICEF's operations and supply chain:

In line with the [United Nations Secretariat Climate Action Plan](#), UNICEF is accelerating its efforts to reduce its environmental footprint – including setting a goal of reducing internal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from operations by 45 per cent by 2030* and continuing offsetting remaining emissions.

UNICEF has the largest procurement network in the United Nations system. More than 1,300 UNICEF staff based in 116 countries coordinate the procurement and

delivery of supplies around the world every day. For example, UNICEF has procured and delivered more than 150,000 refrigerators to programme countries, securing vaccine cold chain equipment benefitting close to one billion people since 2017.

UNICEF will drive sustainability throughout its value chain through a series of approaches. This includes tracking and reporting on environmental sustainability performance; increasing the use of renewable energy; accelerating the use of energy- and resource-efficient equipment and behaviour change campaigns; and establishing environmental targets, including energy, water, waste and travel reduction targets. UNICEF is developing a coordinated plan towards a documented and monitored UNICEF 'net-zero' or 'nature positive' strategy.

* 2010 baseline

© 2018 UNICEF Tanzania

In 2018-2019, technicians installed a system of 105 KW solar panels on the UNICEF Tanzania rooftop, allowing it to use power from the national grid only sporadically and at night to improve eco-efficiency. These panels should reduce carbon emissions by approximately 170,000-210,000 kg per year.



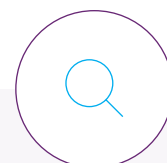
UNICEF is committed to working with its partners – notably in the private sector – to leverage its assets, purchasing power and networks to drive sustainability within its supply chain across humanitarian aid and key social sectors. For example, in health care, where reliable energy is critical for vital life-saving medical equipment, UNICEF has supported solarization initiatives in over 80 countries including off-grid energy systems for vaccine cold chain networks and electrification, and heating and cooling at health facilities and medical warehouses.

UNICEF will continue to accelerate sustainability through strategies such as:

- i** Changing procurement practices for social services to rely more on local resourcing and production;
- ii** Employing sustainable construction policies and practices in social services and testing green and innovative building practices in remote environments;
- iii** Using its purchasing power to send signals to markets on the need for sustainable products in essential services such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation; and
- iv** Nurturing and supporting product and service innovation.

Pursue rigorous Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS):

UNICEF will work towards a comprehensive framework to ensure that its work and that of its partners adheres to strict environmental and social principles. This will enable screening of all programmes to mitigate potential adverse impacts to the communities it serves, while also pursuing more sustainable approaches. Furthermore, UNICEF will establish safeguarding measures during the country programming planning and design process, which is an integral part of the terms of UNICEF's partnerships with governments. Additionally, an ESS framework will provide an important lever to extend UNICEF's impact by driving sustainability with its implementing partners, vendors and suppliers.



Transforming from within: UNICEF successes to drive sustainable change to date

UNICEF's commitments to sustainability include:

- ↪ Making environmental sustainability one of UNICEF's six [core values](#).
- ↪ Deploying an innovative environmental management software tool to collect, analyze and measure UNICEF's carbon footprint, water use, energy consumption, and waste generation across all our country offices.
- ↪ Establishing a dedicated internal fund for office eco-efficiency and disability access improvements.
- ↪ Reducing internal GHG emissions by 33 per cent since 2010, sourcing 32 per cent of its energy from renewable sources and offsetting all unavoidable emissions from its operations, including staff travel, through the purchase of carbon credits from the Adaptation Fund.

Partnerships for Progress

The only way to confront the planetary crisis for children is to galvanize a global movement, with many partners working in close collaboration. UNICEF's greatest gains in strengthening the capacity of communities and governments to uphold the rights of children have always happened in partnership with others. The realization of this Action Plan depends on UNICEF working hand-in-hand with other United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, philanthropy and civil society. At the country level, the Action Plan requires deepening the focus on child-focused sustainability and climate action as part of the work of all United Nations agencies in the United Nations Country Team. It also depends on the specialized expertise of its sister agencies, as well as working with local non-governmental organizations, knowledge institutions and the private sector in an effort that galvanizes all the key players in the ecosystem to act on behalf of children.

The successful implementation of the Action Plan relies on strengthening our partnerships with development agencies in key areas. These partnerships encompass humanitarian efforts, such as within the Interagency Standing Committee, the highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations system, where members work together to promote humanitarian principles and collectively make crucial decisions for on-the-ground operations. UNICEF also participates in targeted multi-agency initiatives, such as the Secretary General's Early Warning for All initiative, a US\$3.1 billion

effort for every person on earth to be protected by early warning systems by 2027.

Partnerships in specific child-critical social sectors include UN-Water with 30 United Nations organizations addressing water-related challenges as a unified front, and the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES), a prominent multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to advancing school safety.

Delivering solutions at scale can only be achieved with the expertise, ingenuity and reach of the business community. UNICEF's partnership approach ensures all major actors will need to come together with their respective strengths, such as in deploying innovative finance solutions that combine public capital to deliver privately provided insurance protection for the most vulnerable children from climate and environmental hazards.

The most critical partnerships will be with young people. This will require leveraging UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, which brings together youth organizations with public and private partners across the world to promote environmental action and green skills, as well as other platforms that support young people to meaningfully engage in developing climate and environmental policies.

© UNICEF/UN0729075/Mohamed Ragaa
In 2022, all around Egypt, members of 'environment and climate' clubs (an initiative led by the Egypt Ministry of Youth and Sports) welcomed the EGYOUTH4CLIMATE Caravan on its way to COP27. UNICEF was one of the caravan supporters.





© UNICEF/ UN0559401/Urdaneta
In 2021, a migrant pregnant woman is emergency evacuated from an Indigenous community in Panama to reach a Migrant Station, where UNICEF and partners provide maternal health care. Climate impacts and disasters are fueling increasingly risky human migration as individuals and families search for better places to live.

Conclusion

The road map to a sustainable future for children demonstrates that taking action on the planetary crisis need not come at the expense of protecting and expanding child development gains. Both can – and should – happen together.

Placing children at the centre of the world’s response to the planetary crisis has the potential to provide the critical watershed moment that will drive action to protect the health and well-being of children and lead to stronger communities and more resilient and inclusive economies.

For every child

Whoever she is.

Wherever he lives.

Every child deserves a childhood.

A future.

A fair chance.

That's why UNICEF is there.

For each and every child.

Working day in and day out.

In more than 190 countries and territories.

Reaching the hardest to reach.

The furthest from help.

The most excluded.

It's why we stay to the end.

And never give up.

