

Facts for young children in Malaysia

CHILDREN, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



The weather pattern in Malaysia is changing. Have you noticed these changes or heard any news about them?



Heavier rains that go on for longer periods of time



Hotter days



More frequent extreme weather events like:

- Floods
- Landslides
- Droughts
- Storms
- Wildfires

These are some of the effects of **climate change**.

Climate change is taking place rapidly. This is because there has been an increase in **greenhouse gases**. These gases result from human activities such as:

- The **burning of fossil fuels** (like coal, oil and gas) to produce electricity and to power transportation and industries
- **Deforestation** (forests being cleared and trees being cut down)
- Livestock farming, and use of chemical fertilizers and fluorinated gases.

Environmental degradation is the damage to our environment that is caused by:

- pollution
- changes in land use
- the growth of towns and cities (urbanization), human populations, and industrial areas.

Did you know?

1 In Malaysia, climate change and environmental degradation are **getting worse**.

2 Children are especially **affected**, in terms of:

- **health and safety** (when diseases are spread during floods, and when storms cause injuries)
- **education** (when landslides damage roads to schools and haze causes schools to close)
- **earning a decent living in the future** (when climate and environmental events disrupt livelihoods).

3 **Marginalized children are more at risk.** Such children may come from lower income families, do not have proper documentation, or have disabilities. Many live far away from schools and clinics, in areas prone to floods and landslides.

4 **Girls and boys are affected differently.**

Girls may be more physically affected by air pollution, floods and storms. Boys may end up dropping out of school to earn money if parents cannot work due to extreme weather.



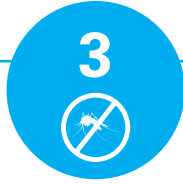
How are children's health and safety affected?



Floods can lead to injury, death, and more cases of diseases that are spread through contaminated water. In a flood, it is also difficult to keep ourselves and our surroundings clean. People often suffer from skin conditions, stomach problems, cholera and leptospirosis.



Air pollution causes all kinds of health problems. When the air is dirty, we may develop conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.



Diseases transmitted by vectors (like mosquitoes) can be more widespread depending on weather conditions. For example, heavy rainfall (which creates mosquito breeding sites) may result in more cases of dengue.



Exposure to chemicals, hazardous substances and waste can lead to serious health issues.



Make your voices heard.

Participate in platforms and forums where you can **contribute** your ideas and thoughts. Use social media to **raise awareness** of the dangers of climate change and environmental degradation.

What can you do?



Remind everyone that government policies should protect you.

Remember: Our country's **policies and laws** on climate change and environmental degradation must always **take into account children's rights**.

Demand for better education.



School lessons should include topics on climate change and environmental degradation. This will **empower you with knowledge and awareness** on taking climate and environmental action.

Find out more about how climate change affects you at <https://unicef.org/malaysia/reports/impact-climate-change-children>

