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Climate, Energy, Environment and DRR (CEED)
in UNICEF's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Our new Strategic Plan recognizes that climate change and environmental degradation are existential threats to a child's ability to survive, grow, and thrive and that all levers of the organization need to work together in a coordinated fashion. The new SP draws stronger links between responses to climate change with disaster risk reduction as children increasingly need holistic solutions that address both sudden-onset impacts of disasters, including those that are exacerbated by climate change — such as hurricanes and floods — and resilient solutions that promote climate-smart development for the long-term. The new SP activates all of UNICEF's levers of impact on these issues - our global programmes, our advocacy and communications infrastructure and our own operations and supply chain.

Global Programmes / Goal Areas:

Climate, energy, environment, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are both cross-cutting priorities (and thus embedded within each Goal Area), as well as having a dedicated result area in Goal Area 4. Across UNICEF Goal Areas, we have dedicated results based upon focused interventions where we have demonstrated our ability to deliver at scale, while the dedicated result area within Goal Area 4 tracks the broader outcome of child-friendly climate/environment and DRR government policies as well as UNICEF's implementation of cross-sectoral child-sensitive programming, strengthening of systems for disaster preparedness and critically — UNICEF's support to young people to be climate and environmental champions.

Building upon our collaborative advantage, there is a particular emphasis on strengthening the services and systems that children need to survive, grow and thrive to be resilient in the face of climate and environmental threats (including broader disaster risk reduction). Not only does this help ensure that we don't turn back the clock on the decades of progress we have made on child development but building adaptive capabilities to these growing threats has been neglected in global development and must be strengthened.

Moreover, both our emergency and development programmes prioritize reducing the harm to our environment: As part of the new Strategic Plan, we now have an organizational commitment to implement environmental and social standards for our programming as part of our corporate framework. This will complement a strengthened emphasis on multi-dimensional risk-informed programming. Climate, environment and DRR are also an intrinsic part of the risk informed programming approach and building resilience and have close links to our programmatic efforts on effectively bridging the humanitarian-development nexus.

Programmatic Priorities

Health	Education	Child protection	WASH	Social protection
Every child survives and thrives	Every child learns	Every child protected from violence and exploitation	Every child lives in a safe and clean environment	Every child has an equitable chance in life

Sectoral CEED-related output indicators

Address health risks in primary health care Climate & environmentally-smart health care facilities	Resilient education systems Sustainability education and green skills	Identify and protect the most vulnerable children and young people e.g. children on the move, Disaster Risk Reduction efforts	Climate-resilient WASH systems and services	Shock-responsive social-protection systems that effectively and rapidly respond to climate impacts and disasters

Cross-sectoral CEED-related output indicators

Cross-sectoral programming	Preparedness for disaster risk reduction	Supporting young people to be environmental champions

Cross-sectoral CEED-related outcome indicators

Child-sensitive climate/environment policies	Child-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies

Advocacy

Our new Strategic Plan recognizes that UNICEF must use its global voice and communications (a major asset in the UN system) to urgently call for climate action to ensure our children can inherit a sustainable planet. Climate change is one of the four global advocacy priorities for the organization where across all our offices we recognize the climate crisis as a child rights crisis, the importance of climate policies serving and involving young people, and increased financing and support for protecting the services they depend upon. A key element of these efforts is to use our data and analytics assets to better characterize the vulnerabilities that children face as a result of these growing threats, as well as to inform the targeting of proven humanitarian and development solutions.

Internal Sustainability

Our new SP has an explicit target to reduce our carbon emissions year-on-year, in congruence with the Secretary General's call for the UN system to be net-zero. We already offset all our unavoidable emissions through credits from the Adaptation Fund and have an established fund for initiatives to reduce energy, water and waste consumption. Environmental sustainability is also a criterion used in selecting our suppliers – and we are using the power of our procurement (the largest in the UN system) to drive sustainability in areas such as vaccine delivery, nutritional supplements, and educational supplies.

How is the SP helping advance the global agenda / SDGs on the issue being covered?

The SDG targets for climate and environmental action (the former which also includes targets for reducing mortality from disasters) are not on track. The structural cause of a degrading environment is a model of economic development in practice since the Industrial Revolution that relies on the combustion of fossil fuels and release of environmental pollution; this is a model that is no longer viable as the natural systems that govern the planet's climate and environment are on the verge of collapse. The new Strategic Plan recognizes that UNICEF has credible programmatic interventions to this challenge, as well as recognizing that effective action requires a whole-of-society approach with a focus on supporting future generations to be equipped to inherit and maintain a sustainable planet.

The new SP frames our response to these issues within UNICEF'S collaborative advantage:

Reaching every child with climate-smart and disaster resilient social services — The impacts of climate change (including disasters) are being felt by children now, and the science suggests that even under the most optimistic forecasts will worsen in the near term. However, protecting children and their communities from the impacts (adapting to climate change and reducing the risk and losses from all types of disasters) has traditionally been deprioritized in international climate action as compared to reducing emissions (mitigation). By orienting our global social service programmes towards climate, environment, and disaster resilience, the new SP attempts to help address this imbalance.

Advocate for child-centered climate/environmental/DRR policies and budgets — Children face the biggest brunt of the impacts of environmental degradation, disasters and climate change, but are often not recognized as the primary clients' action. The new SP leverages UNICEF's assets to explicitly link action on climate change to safeguarding children's rights.

Support and be led by young people — Young people are increasingly demanding action on climate change and environmental issues, and the new SP strives to use UNICEF's capabilities to support them through education, participation in community action and meaningful participation in policy development; recognizing that the best hope for a sustainable planet is if environmental sustainability becomes the new 'business as usual' for future generations.

Climate, Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

Indicator Information*	Indicator Description	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023	Milestone 2024	Target 2025
OC 4.8 — cross-sectoral	Number of countries developing, financing and implementing child-sensitive climate policies and programmes	40	65	80	100
OC 4.9 — cross-sectoral	Number of countries with child-sensitive disaster risk and recovery policies, strategies, plans at national, subnational and/or sectoral level	60	75	85	100
OP 4.3.1 — cross-sectoral	Number of countries implementing child-sensitive programmes that enhance the climate and disaster resilience of children, reduce environmental degradation and promote low-carbon development and environmental sustainability, with UNICEF support	40	65	80	100
OP 4.3.2 — cross-sectoral	Number of countries engaging children, adolescents and young people in action and advocacy to address climate change, unsustainable energy use and/or environmental degradation, with UNICEF support	60	75	85	100
OP 4.3.3 — cross-sectoral	Number of countries in which UNICEF supported the updating of government frameworks for preparedness and/or early/anticipatory action to be child-sensitive at the national and local levels	20	32	45	60
OP 4.2.4 — WASH	Number of countries that have developed a climate rationale for the impact of climate change and water insecurity on WASH services based on a comprehensive risk analysis	16	25	36	50
OP 1.4.4 — Health	Number of countries:				
	(a) Addressing environmental health risks in primary health care	(a) 20	(a) 23	(a) 26	(a) 30
	(b) Strengthening climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health-care facilities, with UNICEF support	(b) 59	(b) 62	(b) 65	(b) 68
OP 2.1.2 — Education	Percentage of countries with a resilient education system that can respond to humanitarian crises	33%	38%	43%	49%
OP 2.2.6 — Education	Percentage of countries institutionalizing holistic skills development to support learning, personal empowerment, environmental sustainability, active citizenship and/or employability and entrepreneurship	22%	29%	33%	42%
OP 5.2.4 — Social Protection	Number of countries with social-protection systems, including cash-transfer capacities that are able to effectively and rapidly respond to humanitarian crises	20	23	26	30
OP H1.1 — Advocacy & communications change strategy / cross-sectoral	Number of countries that took advocacy action that triggered policy change related to the UNICEF Global Advocacy Priorities:				
	(d) Increase access to clean water, and address environmental degradation and climate change	37	44	52	60
OP H8.1 — Risk-informed humanitarian & development / cross-sectoral nexus programming	Percentage of countries in which UNICEF contributed to the articulation of humanitarian-development-peace nexus priorities through engagement in common country assessment and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	≥85%	≥85%	≥90%	≥90%
OP H8.2 — Risk-informed humanitarian & development / cross-sectoral nexus programming	Percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on:				
	(a) Updated preparedness plan	(a) 86%	(a) 87%	(a) 88%	(a) 90%
	(b) Risk-informed programming	(b) 55%	(b) 60%	(b) 65%	(b) 70%
OP E3.6 — Decentralized & empowered internal governance & oversight change strategy / cross-sectoral	Percentage of country offices applying environmental, disability-inclusive and social standards in UNICEF programmes in line with UNICEF/United Nations standards	30%	42%	54%	65%
OP E3.7— Decentralized & empowered internal governance and oversight change / cross-sectoral	Percentage reduction in carbon footprint	27%	29%	32%	34%

* Indicator Information = OP (Output) or OC (Outcome); 1st number: UNICEF goal area or change strategy (with result area); 2nd & 3rd numbers: indicator numbers per the Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF) of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025; and Type of Indicator.