

Analysis of the CCRI for Least Developed Countries

#### **Published by UNICEF**

Climate, Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED).

3 United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017, USA

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Suggested citation: *Analysis of the CCRI for Least Developed Countries*. New York: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2023.

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This report presents an analysis of the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) for LDCs included in Global CCRI analysis. The analysis draws from Beta version of the Index as published in UNICEF's report *The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index*, 2021. The CCRI was developed by UNICEF in collaboration with the Data for Children Collaborative.

It is important to note that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (<20,000 sq/km) were not included in the global CCRI analysis due to a lack of reliability and availability of data. However, to present the findings in this report for the 5 SIDS identified as LDCs, a separate analysis was conducted using publicly available datasets that correspond to the components and indicators used in the CCRI methodology.

#### **Acknolwedgements**

The analysis of the CCRI for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was developed by Sophie Lee, UNICEF Climate, Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction (Lead Author and Project Manager) in collaboration with Margaretha Barkhof, UNICEF (Data Analysis, CCRI Methodology).

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## Foreword

**Brenda Mwale**Climate Change Youth Advocate

Almost every child and young person will face challenges associated with climate change and a degrading natural environment. UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index reveals that 1 billion children are at "Extremely High Risk" of the impacts of climate change. That is nearly half of all children. And it is happening today.



In my country, Malawi, we are experiencing floods every year. These floods cause tragic deaths and the displacement of thousands, including children. Malawi is experiencing its worst cholera outbreak in decades, which came when the country was recovering from the impacts of tropical storms Anna and Gombe. The aftermath of the two climate shocks damaged water and sanitation infrastructure, forcing families and their children to rely on unsafe water and exposing them to a greater risk of disease.

UNICEF's report shows how some children are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. The analysis reveals that 80 percent of the "Extremely High Risk" countries are Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Children in these countries face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple and climate and environmental shocks and high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services such as water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. This report also reveals the disconnect between where greenhouse gas emissions are generated, and where children and young people are experiencing the most intense climate-driven impacts. Whilst LDCs are the least responsible for rising global temperatures, we will pay the highest costs. And children will continue to suffer most of all.

UNICEF is launching this report at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha, Qatar, which is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to accelerate sustainable development in the places where international assistance is needed the most. The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) reminds us that global resilience depends on LDCs getting the support they need. Crucially, the DPoA recognises the need to invest in children and young people. The Programme outlines commitments to strengthen youth participation mechanisms to facilitate young people's meaningful engagement, especially for girls and young people in vulnerable situations, in policies and activities that enhance sustainable development efforts.

Children and young people must be part of the solution. I come from Mponela in Malawi, which is a community

where tobacco farming and using trees as an energy source in our homes is leading to increased deforestation around the Mpanda Mountain. I started my climate journey as a way of building community awareness of deforestation and its effects. In my community, girls and boys can also be negatively stereotyped and not seen as actors to bring positive change, so my advocacy was also a way to empower the youth and show the community that as youth we can influence change. I started an afforestation project which led to planting more than 150,000 tree seedlings by involving the community, climate education in schools as well as clean up events to raise awareness on waste management.

The younger generation require green skills training, climate education, and access to resources and green job opportunities, so we can drive climate change solutions. Mainstreaming youth has to be taken seriously if we are to build generational success. Let our visions, commitments, policies be with and for young people and children to help build the future we want. Let youth and children in LDCs be at the forefront from grassroot level to policy making level.

Remember, if there is no meaningful youth and child engagement, then there is no youth and child participation. Children and young people from LDCs must be included in all climate plans, policies, and decision-making, including in the implementation and review of the DPoA.

At the LDC5 conference, I will not only be attending as a delegate but also carrying the voice of millions of affected children and youth. I will call on LDC leaders to let LDC5 create a platform for dialogue on youth development in LDCs, to create a space for discussions on policies to empower young people and children in LDCs, and to enhance their role in implementing the new Programme of Action, as well as the 2030 Agenda.

Young voices must be heard, young demands taken seriously, and young people must be consulted on the things that will affect our future.

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# **Executive Summary**

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. It is a direct threat to a child's ability to survive, grow, and thrive. Children and young people are the least responsible for climate change, and yet will bear the greatest burden of its impacts.

Climate change is also deeply inequitable. UNICEF's report *The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index* (CCRI)<sup>i</sup> is the first child-focused climate risk index that ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services. The report reveals that approximately **1 billion children** live in one of the **33 countries**<sup>1</sup> classified as at "Extremely High Risk" of the impacts of the climate crisis. Children in these countries, like Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks, with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services such as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), healthcare, and education.

Understanding children's climate risks and vulnerabilities is essential for determining the full extent to which climatic and environmental threats may affect their well-being, if not their very survival.

Utilizing the global CCRI data, this report provides country-level assessments of children's exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks, stresses, and underlying vulnerabilities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – to help prioritize action, including appropriate adaptation measures for those most at risk. **It finds that**:

<sup>1</sup> Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Niger, South Sudan, Democratic Republic, of the Congo, Angola, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Sudan, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, India, Sierra Leone, Yemen, Haiti, Mali, Eritrea, Myanmar, and the Philippines.



million children are highly exposed to heatwaves



**950** 

million children are highly exposed to cyclones

**9** 79

million children are highly exposed to riverine flooding



**@** 55

million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding

This is likely to worsen as global average temperatures increase and weather patterns become more erratic

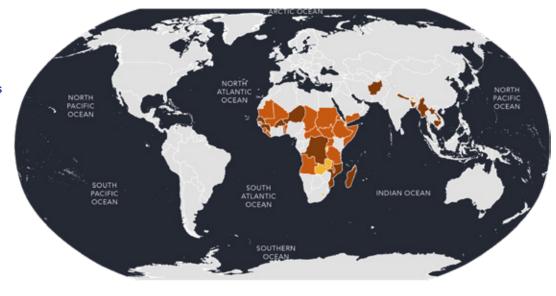
This is likely to get worse as highintensity cyclones (i.e., categories 4 and 5) increase in frequency, rainfall intensity grows, and cyclone patterns shift.

This is expected to intensify as glaciers melt and precipitation increases due to higherwatercontent in the atmosphere because of higher average temperatures.

This is likely to worsen as sea levels continue to rise, with the effects magnified considerably when combined with storm surges.

**Exposure to climate** and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses for LDCs included in CCRI analysis (Pillar 1 of the CCRI)

- Extremely High
- High
- Medium-High
  - Low-Medium
- Low
- No data



Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021. This map displays only the LDCs included in the CCRI analysis.



**25 125** 

million children are highly exposed to water scarcity



**3** 462

million children are highly exposed to vector-borne diseases, such as Malaria and **Dengue among others** 



**414** 

million children are highly exposed to air pollution that exceeds international limits of 10µg/m<sup>3\*</sup>



**& 249** 

million children are highly exposed to lead pollution due to exposure from contaminated air, water, soil, and food

This is expected to worsen as climate change increases the frequency and severity of droughts, water stress, seasonal and interannual variability, and contamination - and as demand and competition for water increases.

This is likely to worsen as temperature suitability and climatic conditions for mosquitos and pathogens that transmit these diseases spreads.

This is likely to get worse unless there is a reduction in fossil fuel combustion that causes air pollution.

\*The Annual Air Quality guideline has changed since this analysis to  $PM2.5 >= 5 g/m^3 (WHO, 2021).$ 

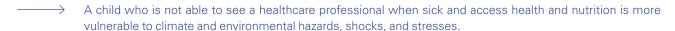
This is expected to worsen in the absence of more responsible leadcontaining product manufacturing, consumption, and recycling.

#### A lack of essential services increases child vulnerability to climate change in LDCs

All children face challenges associated with climate change and a degrading natural environment. Some children, however, are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others – depending largely on the availability, quality, equity, and sustainability of key and essential services for children, such as WASH, healthcare, nutrition, education, and social protection, among others. The resilience of services significantly affects the capacity of individuals and communities to manage and recover quickly from the impacts of climate shocks.

#### For example:

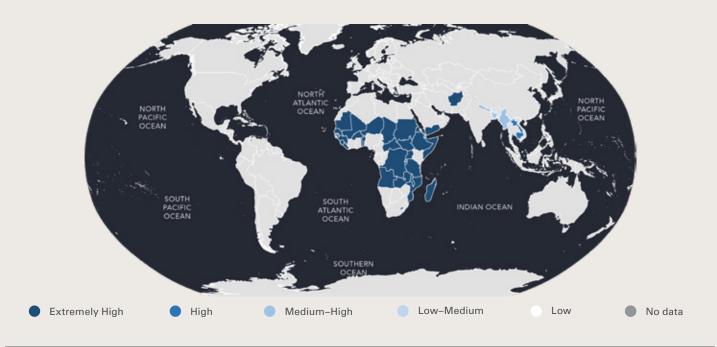








#### Child vulnerability for LDCs included in CCRI analysis (Pillar 2 of the CCRI)



Source: UNICEF, *The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index*, 2021. This map displays only the LDCs included in the CCRI analysis.

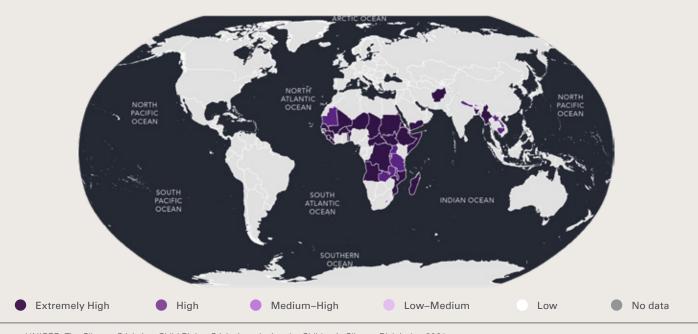
These underlying vulnerabilities, combined with high levels of fragility and displacement in LDCs, contribute to the erosion of development progress, pushing the most vulnerable children deeper into poverty, at the same time as increasing their risk of experiencing the worst and most life-threatening effects of climate change.

Increasing the resilience of essential services including WASH, health, nutrition, education, and social protection is essential to reduce the impact of climate change and prevent millions of children and their families from slipping into extreme poverty by 2030.

This report combines this growing body of new evidence with data on children's vulnerability to introduce the first comprehensive view of climate risk from a child's perspective in LDCs. It finds:

- ► Almost 80 percent (26 out of 33) of the "Extremely High Risk" countries identified by the CCRI are Least Developed Countries.
- ▶ 95 percent (39 out of 41) of Least Developed Countries are either "High Risk" or "Extremely High Risk," according to the CCRI.

#### The Children's Climate Risk Index for LDCs included in CCRI analysis



Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021. This map displays only the LDCs included in the CCRI analysis.

#### The Children's Climate Risk Index focused on LDCs

This report also highlights that children from LDCs – which globally contribute the least to climate change – will suffer the greatest consequences.

For instance, LDCs have a joint population of 1 billion, yet **contribute less than 1 percent of global emissions (0.98 percent)**. Moreover, the top 10 LDC countries with largest contribution to global emissions (percent of global CO2 emissions) **only produce 0.71 percent of global CO2 emissions**.

<sup>2</sup> The sum percentage of global CO2 emissions of 46 LDCs is 0.98% (rounded 1%). Calculated based on World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI) (2018) and World Population Prospects (WPP) Population data (2020 estimates).

<sup>3</sup> The sum percentage of global CO2 emissions of the 10 LDCs with largest contributions. Calculated based on World Bank WDI (2018) and WPP Population data (2020 estimates).

To avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis, comprehensive and urgent action is required. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), countries must cut their emissions **by at least half by 2030** to keep warming to no more than 1.5°C to avoid the worst impacts.

However, the world is off-track to reduce emissions, and children in LDCs are already suffering from the impacts of climate change – and those impacts will inevitably get worse, even with drastic reductions in global emissions. Climate finance flows are far short of what is needed to limit warming and adapt to 1.5°C, and the gaps are the widest for LDCs.

Adaptation and resilience building offers the most effective way to protect child lives and family livelihoods from the immediate and expected impacts. Unless governments, public and private sectors, and other key stakeholders invest heavily in adaptation and resilience of social services in LDCs now, children and young people will face increasingly high risks to their survival and well-being.

To develop effective adaptation measures, it is necessary to first understand the context-specific climate hazards that children in LDCs face. Adaptation and resilience measures must be based on a careful assessment of both the type, nature, and extent of population exposure to specific climate and environmental hazards, shocks, or stresses, as well as the degree to which children are vulnerable. Solutions must be appropriate to social and cultural contexts and must not take away the agency of local populations or overlook the crucial role of nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration and local knowledge in adaptation.

Protecting children in LDCs from climate change impacts requires a whole-of-society approach, including:



Increase investments in climate adaptation and resilience for key services for children;

Reduce global emissions;

Offering and scaling green skills training and capacity building;

Including children and young people in climate adaptation; and and resilience-building plans, policies, and decision-making.

Urgent and meaningful climate action in LDCs must be enacted now for and with today's children and young people; and for the future generations who will live in a world marked by our collective decisions.

#### **LDC5: From Potential to Prosperity**

UNICEF launched this report at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha, Qatar. The conference has been designed as a once-in-a-decade opportunity to accelerate sustainable development in the places where international assistance is needed the most.

The <u>2022-2031 Doha Programme of Action</u> reminds us that global resilience depends on LDCs getting the support they need. It is a call for extraordinary measures by all countries and for strengthened international and multilateral cooperation to address the climate challenges affecting LDCs. This Programme affirms commitments to scale up finance for adaptation to climate change, including through comprehensive multi-stakeholder resilience-building measures.

Importantly the Programme recognises the need of investing in children, adolescents, and youth, specifying pledges to expand youth participation mechanisms, to facilitate meaningful engagement of young people — particularly for girls and young people in disadvantaged situations —in policies and activities that support long-term socio-economic development.



# Climate Risk for Children in Least Developed Countries

LDCs are defined as low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. The LDC identification criteria include countries with low Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, low levels of Human Assets, and high Economic and Environmental Vulnerability. Each of the three criteria is assessed using key indicators that show long-term structural disadvantages.

Made up of countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and the Caribbean, at present, there are 46 countries classified by the United Nations as LDCs<sup>4</sup>. The Committee for Development Policy is mandated by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to review the list of LDCs every three years and make recommendations on the inclusion and graduation of eligible countries.

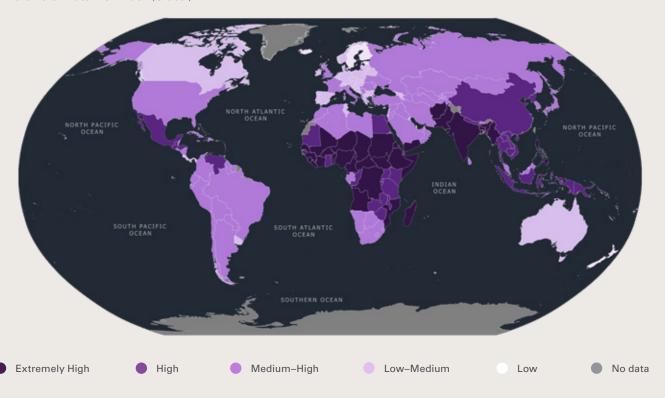
LDCs are considered LDCs, in part, due to variables that are also part of the CCRI. The same factors that drive a lack of development in LDCs also drive vulnerability to climate and environmental shocks.

#### LDCs and the Global CCRI

UNICEF's 2021 report *The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index* is the first child-focused climate index that ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on the availability, quality, equity, and sustainability of key and essential services.

The report reveals that approximately **1 billion children live in one of the 33 countries** that are considered at "Extremely-High Risk" to the impacts of climate change. Children in these countries, like **Central African Republic**, **Chad**, **Guinea**, and **Guinea-Bissau**, face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services such as WASH, healthcare, and education.

Map 1
The Children's Climate Risk Index (Global)



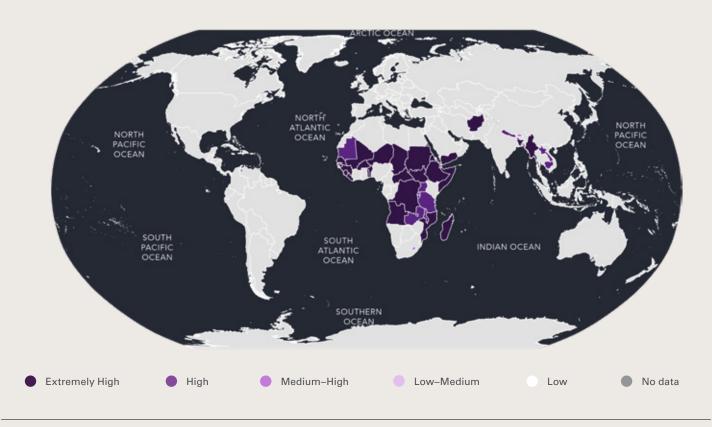
Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Angola, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cambodia, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, and Zambia. UNCTAD (2022).

Using the global CCRI data, this report measures the likelihood of climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses affecting children or vulnerable households and groups in LDCs. 41 of the 46 countries classified as LDCs are included in the CCRI analysis. The CCRI highlights that children from these countries that contribute the least to climate change will suffer the greatest consequences. It finds that:

- Almost 80 percent (26 out of 33) of the "Extremely High Risk" countries identified by the CCRI are Least Developed Countries.
- ▶ 95 percent (39 out of 41) of Least Developed Countries are either "High Risk" or "Extremely High Risk," according to the CCRI.

Map 2
The Children's Climate Risk Index for LDCs included in CCRI analysis

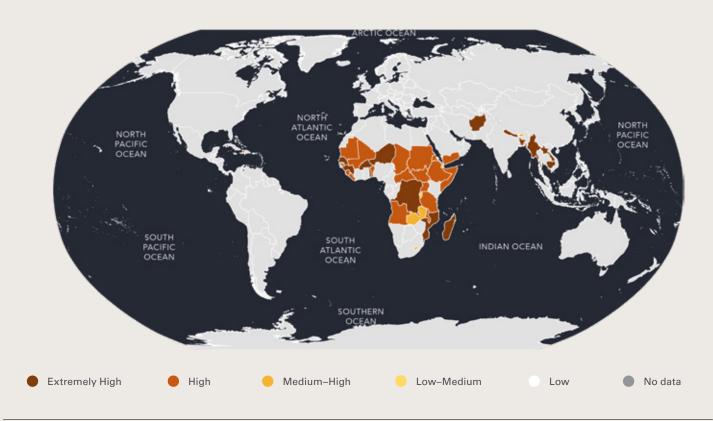


Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021. This map displays only the LDCs included in the CCRI analysis.

<sup>5 5</sup> Small Island Developing States that have a land area less than 20,000 sq/km were excluded from the CCRI analysis.

#### Children residing in LDCs experience high exposure to climate and environmental hazards

Map 3
Exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses for LDCs included in CCRI analysis (Pillar 1 of the CCRI)



Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021. This map displays only the LDCs included in the CCRI analysis.

According to the CCRI, in LDCs approximately:6

- ▶ **153 million children are highly exposed to heatwaves.** This is likely to worsen as global average temperatures increase and weather patterns become more erratic.
- **50 million children are highly exposed to cyclones.**<sup>7</sup> This is likely to get worse as high-intensity cyclones (i.e., categories 4 and 5) increase in frequency, rainfall intensity grows, and cyclone patterns shift.
- **79 million children are highly exposed to riverine flooding.** This is expected to intensify as glaciers melt and precipitation increases due to higher water-content in the atmosphere as a result of higher average temperatures.
- **55 million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding.** This is likely to worsen as sea levels continue to rise, with the effects magnified considerably when combined with storm surges.
- ▶ 125 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity. This is expected to worsen as climate change increases the frequency and severity of droughts, water stress, seasonal and interannual variability, and contamination and as demand and competition for water increases, resulting in depletion of available water resources.

The estimates of the number of children exposed to the different types of shocks are based on the 41 LDCs included in the CCRI.

<sup>7</sup> Estimate of children exposed to extensive cyclone winds using a 100 year return period.

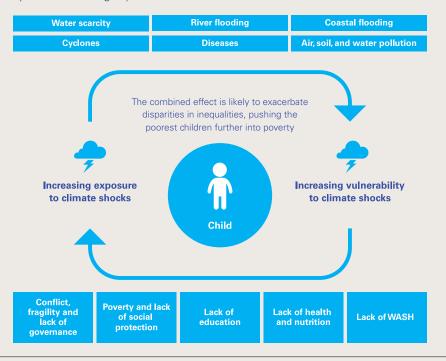
- ▶ **462 million children are highly exposed to vector-borne diseases**,<sup>8</sup> such as malaria and dengue among others. This is likely to worsen as temperature suitability and climatic conditions for mosquitos and pathogens that transmit these diseases spreads.
- 414 million children are highly exposed to air pollution that exceeds international limits of 10μg/m³.9 This is likely to worsen unless there is a transition to cleaner fuel sources.
- **249 million children are highly exposed to lead pollution** due to exposures from contaminated air, water, soil, and food. This is expected to worsen in the absence of more responsible lead-containing product manufacturing, consumption, and recycling.

#### Children's vulnerability to climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses

All children face challenges associated with climate change and a degrading natural environment. Some children, however, are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. This depends largely on the availability, quality, equity, and sustainability of key and essential services for children, including WASH, healthcare, nutrition, education, and social protection, among others. The resilience of services significantly affects the capacity of individuals and communities to manage and recover quickly from the impacts of climate shocks.

Unfortunately, not only does a child's lack of access to these essential services increase their vulnerability to climate change, but climate change is likely to make it more difficult for children to obtain access to those key essential services. Thus, a vicious cycle is created, pushing the most vulnerable children further into poverty, at the same time as increasing their risk of experiencing the worst effects of climate change. Moreover, vulnerabilities and exposures also interact with each other, potentially magnifying the effects. This vicious cycle is further exacerbated by a lack of recognition of children's voice and agency, which often undermines any capacity that children have to respond and adapt.

Figure 1
Children caught in a vicious cycle of increasing exposures and vulnerabilities face an increase in their overall level of risk.

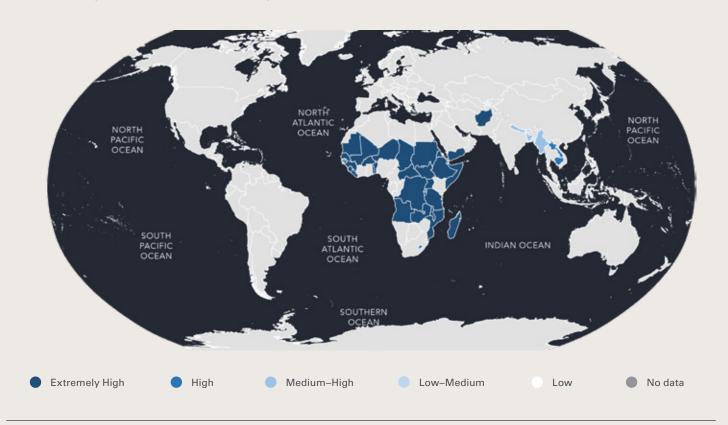


Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021

<sup>8</sup> Estimate of children exposed to at least one or more underlying factors (Malaria PV, Malaria PV, Aedes, Dengue, Zika).

<sup>9</sup> The Annual Air Quality guideline has changed since this analysis to PM2.5 >= 5 g/m3) (WHO, 2021).

Map 4
Child vulnerability for LDCs included in CCRI analysis (Pillar 2 of the CCRI)



Source: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021. This map displays only the LDCs included in the CCRI analysis.

There are several other compounding factors which increase vulnerability to climate change impacts in LDCs:

#### Resource dependence

Communities in LDCs are often resource dependent and have limited flexibility and diversity of livelihood options. Low economic diversification increases vulnerability, especially if there are no alternatives to rely on when climate and evironmental shocks occur. Those with greater opportunities to diversify their incomes, with better access to credit and financial services, and who have more flexibility to apply those resources—such as through insurance—are better able to recover.

In these countries, economies are often highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. Furthermore, LDCs frequently face severely constrained capacities to mobilize domestic resources and access capital markets. Whilst an abundance of natural resources can be useful for adaptation measures — such as the protection or restoration of forests and mangroves as part of nature-based solutions — those who depend solely on natural resources, such as for agriculture, often suffer the greatest losses.

#### LDCs and fragility

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), approximately **83 percent of LDCs** are considered fragile and extremely fragile contexts (27 LDCs considered Fragile and 11 Extremely Fragile). Benin and Timor-Leste are the most recent LDCs to enter fragile status (2020-2021). In the same period, the formerly fragile country of Eritrea entered extreme fragility. Overall, global fragility rose from 2020 to 2021, most likely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>10</sup> Calculated using OECD States of Fragility data (2022).

For children living in situations affected by fragility or protracted emergencies, climate change is a threat multiplier that adds another layer of complexity to their lives — exacerbating and disrupting their ability to survive. Poor quality and access to child services, weak economic management, challenges to social cohesion, and gaps in capacities of systems and institutions to deliver shock-responsive services, drive vulnerability for children in fragile settings. For example, compared with non-fragile contexts, children in extremely fragile settings are more than 8 times as likely to lack basic drinking water and almost 4 times as likely to lack basic sanitation. Further, 95 percent of new conflict-related displacements recorded worldwide in 2020 occurred in countries that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

#### LDCs and displacement

Millions of children are on the move globally, driven from their homes by the impacts of slow-onset disasters, environmental degradation, and sudden-onset disasters — exacerbated by climate change. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's (IDMC) 2022 Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2022 had the largest recorded number of internally displaced people — approximately 60 million, of whom 25.2 million were children. Many of these displacements were induced by climate-related hazards. Where the adverse impacts of climate change – such as water scarcity, crop failure, food insecurity, loss of land, and economic shocks – create challenging environments for children to live, learn, and thrive, migration can be a strategy to cope.

55

According to the global CCRI, one quarter of countries with "Extremely High" climate risk for children have very high levels of displacement – with more than 5 percent of the population displaced.\*

Between 2021-2022, the top 5 LDCs with the highest number of uprooted people (as a percentage of total population) were **South Sudan**, **Somalia**, **Central African Republic**, **Yemen**, and **Afghanistan**.<sup>11</sup> LDCs host over 27 percent of all people displaced across borders worldwide, and the number of refugees in LDCs stood at 7 million at the end of 2021.<sup>xi</sup>

In the context of displacement, children suffer a variety of increased risks, including those related to family separation, exploitation, violence and abuse, loss of education, and often physical and psychological trauma. Such vulnerabilities put displaced children at an increased risk of the future impacts of climate change. Children who are uprooted are also frequently excluded from resilience-building efforts, participatory planning, and youth-led decision-making on climate change. Thus, these children remain unheard, and their potential is overlooked. How governments manage displacement is therefore integral to protect displaced children from the worst impacts of climate change.



### Fragility, displacement, and climate change in LDCs: Lake Chad

In Chad, the Chari and Logone rivers, which flow from the south-east into Lake Chad, provide the only source of natural irrigation. \*ii Livelihoods are dependent on subsistence farming and livestock rearing, so access to water is essential. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has reported that Lake Chad, has diminished by 90 percent over the past 50 years owing to climate change and population pressures, including droughts and over irrigation.\*iii Water scarcity has also lowered crop yields and worsened pastures, driving families and young people from their homes in pursuit of more fertile land. As competition for access to Lake Chad and its precious resources has intensified, so too have tensions in the area, eroding social cohesion and resilience of communities and institutions, fuelling conflict and displacement.

<sup>11</sup> Calculated indicator: The total number of uprooted people is the sum of refugees and asylum-seekers, returned refugees, people internally displaced by conflict and violence, and people internally displaced by disasters as proportion of the total population. Calculated using UNHCR and IDMC data.

#### LDCs and global emissions

Climate change is deeply inequitable. The highest-risk places on Earth contribute least to the causes of climate change. According to the global CCRI, the 33 "Extremely High Risk" countries emit less than **10 percent** of global greenhouse gas emissions and the 10 most "Extremely High Risk" countries emit only **0.5 percent** of global emissions.

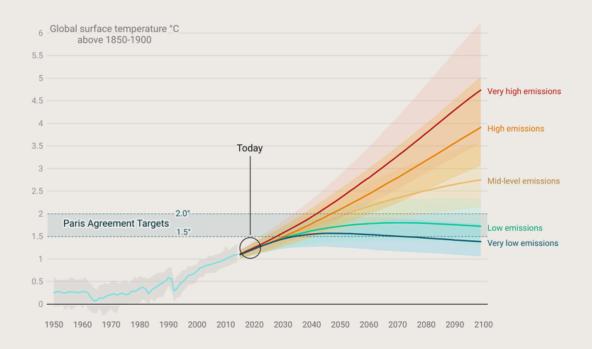
LDCs have a joint population of over one billion people yet contribute less than **1 percent** of global emissions – making them among the least responsible for causing climate change. Even the top 10 LDC countries with largest contribution to global emissions (percent of global CO2 emissions) only produce **0.71 percent** of global CO2 emissions.<sup>12</sup>

Conversely, the 10 highest emitting countries collectively account for approximately **two-thirds** of global emissions (**nearly 70 percent**)<sup>xiv</sup>, none of which are LDCs. This underscores the importance of high-emitter countries' responsibility to adequately support the most vulnerable children, including those in LDCs.

The only long-term solution to the climate crisis is a reduction of emissions to safe levels – reaching net-zero by 2050 to stay on course for warming that does not exceed 1.5°C. However, climate dynamics are such that mitigation efforts will take decades to reverse the impacts of climate change, and for the children on the frontlines in LDCs this will be too late.

Even with ambitious action to reduce emissions, we will be living in a world with higher global average temperatures than currently. This means more droughts, more flooding, and other climate related disasters are inevitable.

Figure 2
IPCC (2021) Global surface temperature change relative to 1850-1900



IPCC, 2021: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.

<sup>12</sup> The sum percentage of global emissions of 46 LDC is 0.98% (rounded 1%). Calculated based on World Bank WDI and WPP Population data (2020 estimates).

Adaptation and resilience building offers the most effective way to protect child lives and family livelihoods from the immediate and expected impacts.

While LDCs have demonstrated some progress in the process in climate adaptation and resilience building, such as formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR, they frequently lack the capacity and resources to address critical needs. Adaptation and resilience of key social services, including in the sectors of WASH, health, nutrition, education, social protection, and child protection are of prime importance especially of the most vulnerable in society, including children. The rapid projected growth of urban populations presents additional challenges in the provision of services, which must develop and grow at a faster rate in order to keep pace.

Achieving this requires an urgent scaling of adaptation finance delivered to LDCs, to support both projects that improve the resilience of infrastructure and social services, as well as capacity building activities that contribute to long term socioeconomic development.

#### Climate finance

#### **Current trends in climate finance**

In 2009, at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP) in Copenhagen, developed countries committed to a collective goal to mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 for climate action in developing countries, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation.\* This goal was formalised at COP16, in the Cancun Agreements\* and at COP21 in Paris, the annual USD 100 billion goal was extended to 2025, and Parties agreed that, prior to 2025, countries should set a new climate finance goal from the floor of USD 100 billion.\* Moreover, the COP 26 Decision -/CP.26 Glasgow Climate Pact urged developed country parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from 2019 levels by 2025.

The latest OECD climate finance report shows that total climate finance provided and mobilized by developed countries for developing countries reached **USD 83.3 billion in 2020**\*\*viii meaning that developed countries have fallen short of meeting the USD 100 billion goal.

Climate finance flows are far short of what is needed to limit and adapt to warming of 1.5°C. International adaptation finance flows to developing countries are 5-10 times below estimated needs and the gap is widening. Estimated annual adaptation needs are **USD 160-340 billion by 2030** and **USD 315-565 billion by 2050**.xix Moreover, without a significant increase in financing, adaptation activities may be outpaced by escalating climate hazards, widening the adaptation implementation gap even further.

Financial flows for mitigation continue to be heavily prioritized over adaptation investments. For example, of the total climate finance mobilised by developed countries in 2020, USD 48.6 billion (58 percent) was for mitigation, USD 28.6 billion (34 percent) for adaptation, and USD 6.0 billion (7 percent) for cross-cutting activities.\*\* Nonetheless, the volume and number of adaptation efforts supported by international climate funds, multilateral funding, and bilateral donor support is growing. Between 2016 and 2020, bilateral and international public finance devoted solely to adaptation more than quadrupled, reaching 36 percent of total public finance in 2020.\*\*

A limited portion of all private climate financing goes toward adaptation. Most private finance goes towards projects in middle-income countries, which are considered "low-risk." The nature of existing private finance mechanisms makes mobilizing private finance for adaptation difficult. For example, adaptation projects frequently lack the revenue streams required to garner significant private investment and tend not to focus on activities that increase the resilience of smaller actors, such as small enterprises and farmers.<sup>xxii</sup>

The provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to strike a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country-driven strategies. For LDCs, a greater proportion of climate finance must be provided for adaptation and resilience, including increased financing for nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.

#### Climate finance mobilized for LDCS

There is mounting evidence that climate finance providers are not strategically focusing adaptation support to the countries and population groups most vulnerable and in need. Between 2016 and 2020, the 46 LDCs represented just **17 percent** of total climate finance provided and mobilized by developed countries (USD 12.6 billion).<sup>xxiii</sup>

Of the total climate finance that has been mobilized for LDCs, almost half targeted adaptation (45 percent). \*\*xiv\* Agriculture, water, ecosystems, and cross-cutting sectors are the focus of actions and funds are particularly concerned with drought, flooding, and rainfall unpredictability. Adaptation finance remains highly concentrated, with more than 40 percent of total adaptation finance in LDCs directed to only 5 countries.\*\*\*

Public finance accounted for the vast majority (93 percent) of total adaptation finance provided and mobilized in LDCs in the 2016-2020 period<sup>xxvi</sup> and the share of bilateral public finance flows for adaptation pledged to LDCs increased from 17 percent in 2019 to 25 percent in 2020.<sup>xxviii</sup> The share of climate finance provided via grants was higher in LDCs than all recipient countries, representing 62 percent of grants and 37 percent of loans of total public climate finance.<sup>xxviii</sup> The provision of climate finance in the form of grants is essential in LDCs, as the true value of adaptation investments is reduced when finance is mobilized in the form of loans, due to loan repayments and interest, which most LDCs do not have the capacity to repay. In contrast, private climate finance mobilized by developed countries for LDCs remained extremely low (2 percent on average).<sup>xxix</sup>

There is an urgent need to scale up and develop innovative finance mechanisms and to better integrate public and private resources and instruments in various country, sector, and risk contexts. Governments and other funders must leverage and increase access to all available traditional, innovative, and alternative climate and risk-reduction finance mechanisms. This includes in domestic budgets; with bilateral, multilateral, private sector, international finance institutions; and through officially supported export credits, grants, or other highly concessional forms of finance to fill funding gaps and finance urgent and essential adaptation action in LDCs.

#### **Delivering effective and equitable climate finance**

To ensure climate finance for adaptation is delivered effectively and has an optimal impact in LDCs, funded adaptation projects must be appropriate to specific contexts and delivered through projects which are accepted by local communities – allowing them to live a life they value.

Investments must also be made into adaptation that are child sensitive, and which protect the rights and well-being of children from climate-related harm. This requires taking into consideration the specific adaptation needs and capacities of children and young people, prioritizing investment in low carbon and climate-resilient social services that reach children most at risk. It also requires that children and young people are meaningfully engaged as stakeholders in the development and implementation of adaptation solutions.

Climate finance should also be accompanied by transparent methods of tracking and reporting on financial flows. There is limited information available on the uses and impact of climate finance received by developing countries, as well as on activities undertaken. This is due in part to the non-mandatory nature of climate finance reporting responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as developing countries' limited capacity to gather such information.\*\*\* Thus, stronger metrics are needed to assess outcomes of adaptation finance and to measure the effectiveness of funds.

Additionally, there is a growing realization that international action must look beyond immediate climate-specific results to promote, enable, and accelerate the transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development more broadly. In this context, LDCs' integration of climate change policies and targets (such as those outlined in Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs]) into broader national development plans and procedures is a critical enabler of effective, country-owned climate action.xxxi These policies should reference domestic and international sources of finance identified with social sector ministries included in funding allocations. Further, children and young people must be recognized, included and influential in all climate policies and decisions that affect them.

To be **equitable**, investments must be made from high CO2-emitting countries to the lowest emitting countries. Adaptation must be prioritized for communities most at risk to protect children and families from experiencing vicious cycles of poverty and to ensure to leave no one behind. Further, a more equal distribution of investments must be provided across LDCs relative to vulnerability, especially in the form of grants or other highly concessional forms of finance, over loans.

LDCs frequently face challenges in accessing financing from multilateral climate funds, often due to the complexities of application process and a lack of adequate capacity to implement and/or manage international climate funding. XXXIII Thus, there is a need for greater support to ensure that LDCs are not excluded from financing opportunities due to a lack of technical capacity. Moreover, LDCs are also often least able to afford the investment to strengthen resilience due to high debt burdens. Debt-for-climate swaps and debt-for-nature swaps are forms of innovative finance that aim to free up fiscal resources so that governments can build resilience without creating a fiscal crisis or sacrificing investment on other development priorities. XXXIII

Additionally, many LDCs have a history of social difference and discrimination where race, caste, gender, and other characteristics privilege some members, while others are marginalized. The burden of climate impacts often falls disproportionately on those who are disadvantages including girls, women, people with disabilities, and children on the move. Climate action can exacerbate existing inequalities and discrimination due to deeply entrenched social norms and reduced access to resources, climate education and technologies, and finance. Thus, adaptation investments and planning must consider how climate-related vulnerability intersects with discrimination, to ensure an equitable share of investments.

Greater investments in climate finance need to be made by developed countries to LDCs. To benefit the most vulnerable children and communities, climate finance needs to be accessible, delivered as grants or other highly concessional forms of finance, and a much greater proportion of it must be dedicated to adaptation action that is focused on increasing the resilience of essential child services, including capacity-building projects for communities.



#### **COP27 progress for LDCs**

COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, was an opportunity to set a new pathway to prioritize adaptation for countries most vulnerable to climate change.

COP27 saw a landmark decision in establishing a fund to address loss and damage. This <u>decision</u> is a huge success for developing countries and communities on the frontlines, after decades of action taken by the LDC Group in demanding climate justice. However, significant work remains to ensure the established fund has adequate systems and resources to effectively respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people, including people in LDCs, who should be prioritised as beneficiaries and partners for change.

Progress was also made on adaptation, with Parties agreeing to initiate a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation, to be adopted at COP28. The framework will take into consideration, inter alia, the following themes: water; food and agriculture; cities, settlements, and key infrastructure; health; poverty and livelihoods; terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems; and oceans and coastal ecosystems. It will also include cross-cutting considerations: country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and fully transparent approaches, human rights approaches, intergenerational equity and social justice, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities, and ecosystems, and nature-based solutions. It aims to be based on and guided by the best available science and, *inter alia*, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems, community-based adaptation, DRR and intersectional approaches with a view to integrate adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions.

Parties "noted with serious concern" the gap between current levels of adaptation finance and needs, calling on countries to "urgently scale up their provision of climate finance." However, explicit commitments to doubling adaptation finance by 2025, agreed at COP26, was dropped, and is only referred to in the context of requesting the Standing Committee on Finance to "prepare a report on the doubling of adaptation finance" for consideration at COP28. The LDC Group continues to emphasize the need for financial assistance in allowing countries to implement NAPs.

A key decision will be taken in 2024 on the <u>new collective quantified goal on climate finance</u> (which will replace the USD 100 billion from 2025).

Further, COP27 did not result in an agreement on a more ambitious, accelerated energy transition to meet the 1.5-degree temperature limit. Limiting warming to 1.5°C is the only long-term solution to the climate crisis, therefore countries' emissions reduction efforts must be drastically increased so that global emissions are cut in half by 2030.



A child takes part in a discussion on "From the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis: Adaption Actions to protect African Children and Youth" at COP27.



# Methodology

This report provides a conceptual framework, a tool, and country-level assessments of children's exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses and underlying vulnerabilities in LDCs – to help prioritize action including appropriate adaptation and resilience measures for those most at risk.

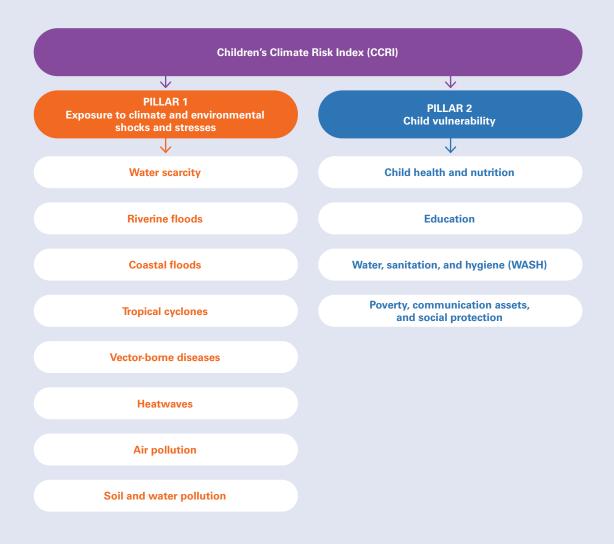
Understanding children's exposure and vulnerabilities is essential for determining the full extent to which climatic and environmental threats may affect their well-being, if not their very survival. To develop effective adaptation measures, it is necessary to first understand the context-specific climate hazards that children in LDCs face. Adaptation and resilience measures must be based on a careful assessment of both the type, nature, and exposure to specific climate and environmental hazard, shock, or stresses, as well as the degree to which children are vulnerable.

The CCRI is a composite index that aims to capture the exposure of children to multiple climate and environmental shocks, stresses, and hazards, and seeks to represent a balanced view of the different sectors involved in the well-being of children, focusing on aspects that could contribute to, or aggravate, child deprivation in the context of climate-related and environmental shocks and stresses.

The model has a multilayer structure, where the CCRI is built by bringing together a set of indicators across two pillars:

- Pillar 1 examines the exposure of children to currently monitored and recorded climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses.
- Pillar 2 examines child vulnerability and coping capacity, as reflected in children's rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It captures child-specific dimensions that make children particularly susceptible to shock or stress (as indicated in Pillar 1). It also includes variables that relate to community, national or institutional abilities (strengths, performance) to manage the impacts of shocks and stresses (including capacity to deliver services).

The CCRI approach adopts and aligns with the IPCC risk framework \*\*exiv\* and as such considers risk as being composed of the key domains of hazards, exposure to identified hazards, and vulnerability, where vulnerability has the components of both sensitivity (immediate impact of hazard) and adaptive capacity (ability to respond in the longer term). Thus, indicators are selected which reflect these key categorizations and more specifically, reflect them in relation to children's climate risks. In the CCRI, only components of sensitivity, immediately reflective of a child's experience, are included. However, the index as a whole is then compared to metrics of adaptive capacity in order to elucidate any potential relationships between them. This approach is adopted to provide a specific policy relevance to the work.



To identify children's climate risks in LDCs, researchers reviewed the global datasets for the 41 LDCs included in the CCRI and developed country profiles for each individual LDC, which included a breakdown of their CCRI score, Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 scores, and individual component scores. The use of indices made it easier to compare the underlying risk factors (with each area having a score of 0 to 10 on the final index) and the two pillars and all components of the model, where a higher score corresponds to a higher risk level or 'worse situation'. These scores were then analysed to produce a synopsis of the climate and environmental hazards and underlying vulnerabilities in each LDC. The CCRI data for each country profile was further supplemented using publicly available data obtained from a variety of sources including Governments, UN agencies, research institutes, and global organizations. A lack of reliability and availability of data for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (<20,000 sq/km) meant that they were excluded from the global CCRI analysis. For the 5 SIDS identified as LDCs, a separate analysis of publicly available datasets, which correspond to the components and indicators used in CCRI methodology, were used.

There are several limitations to the CCRI. For example, there are a variety of hazards, shocks, and stresses not captured in Pillar 1, such as earthquakes, volcanic hazards and other types of pollutants, and toxic exposures. Moreover, there is a lack of subnational data on child vulnerabilities (Pillar 2). In countries where a sub-national data CCRI was conducted, the analysis could examine where specific climate and environmental hazards interact with child vulnerabilities. Another limitation is forward-looking analysis. The current version of the CCRI only examines the current and near-term exposure of children to climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses as well as current child vulnerabilities.

Whilst this report aims to address the data requirements to fully comprehend children's climate risks in LDCs, including the 5 SIDS internationally classified as LDCs, significant data gaps remain. Such data is required to assist and guide domestic legislation and policies on adaptation. A key challenge in early action is reluctance to expend scarce financial resources on interventions that may prove unnecessary. There is also a lack of disaggregated (notably gender and age) and geo-referenced data including high-resolution hazards maps and gridded population data sets, which are essential for understanding current and future population exposure to climate and environmental hazards, to implement targeted adaptation measures. These data gaps are major barriers for the development of strong climate change rationales for LDC adaptation funding proposals. Therefore, better data collection from trustworthy data sources that are consistent over time and similar across contexts is required in LDCs. This can help to increase the visibility of child-specific climate risks and vulnerabilities and seek dedicated funding to increase the resilience of critical child services.

This is as much an attempt to present a unique and improved perspective on children's climate and environmental risk, as it is a call for more and better data. Only with stronger data and evidence will we be able to truly understand the risks facing children and respond to their needs accordingly.



For a more detailed description of the methodology, please see
The Climate Crisis is a Child's Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index.



# Country Profiles

# East Asia and the Pacific

The East Asia and Pacific region (EAPR) is home to 580 million children, with about 30 million in extreme poverty who are disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental degradation.\*\*

The region has some of the largest number of children highly exposed to multiple climate risks, including more frequent and severe floods, droughts, storms, vector-borne diseases, air pollution, salt-water intrusion and heatwaves. Within EAPR, Myanmar is ranked within the top 33 "Extremely High Risk" CCRI countries. Omitting LDCs, the EAPR region, with fast growing economies, is responsible for an increasing share of global greenhouse gas emissions, making up approximately one-third of global CO2 emissions. XXXXVI



Table 1
Estimates of children's exposure to climate related hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in EAPR

Country	Number of child	ren under 18 years	living in areas with	1		
	Water scarcity	Riverine floods (50 years)	Coastal flood risk	Extensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Intensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Heatwaves
Cambodia	110 thousand	2.9 million	290 thousand	880 thousand	-	220 thousand
Lao People's Democratic Republic	390 thousand	1 million	170 thousand	2.4 million	180 thousand	2.1 million
Myanmar	610 thousand	4.5 million	5.8 million	4.4 million	-	2.3 million
Solomon Islands	-	-	270 thousand	220 thousand	-	-
UNICEF EAP LDCs (4 countries)	1.1 million	8.4 million	6.5 million	7.9 million	190 thousand	4.7 million

 Table 2

 Estimates of children's exposure to environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in EAPR

Country	Number of children unde	Number of children under 20 years old exposed to		
	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 10 $\mu$ g/m3)	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 25 $\mu$ g/m3)	High pesticide pollution risk	Lead pollution
Cambodia	6 million	-	4.5 million	3.2 million
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.8 million	860 thousand	50 thousand	580 thousand
Myanmar	17.2 million	3.6 million	8.6 million	4.7 million
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	100 thousand
UNICEF EAP LDCs (4 countries)	26 million	4.5 million	13.1 million	8.5 million

Table 3
Estimates of children living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in LDCs in EAPR

Country	Number of children under 18 years old living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors*
Cambodia	6.1 million
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.8 million
Myanmar	17.3 million
Solomon Islands	240 thousand
UNICEF EAP LDCs (4 countries)	26.3 million

<sup>\*</sup>Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria, Plasmodium Vivax Malaria, Aedes, Dengue, Zika

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

# **Cambodia**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Cambodia; 2 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Cambodia has a CCRI score of **6.5** and ranks **46**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Cambodia at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Cambodia are highly exposed to include:



#### **Riverine flooding**

Almost half of the population of children in Cambodia (47 percent) are exposed to riverine flooding. The Mekong River and Tonle Sap River tributaries frequently overflow, inundating Kampong Cham, Kratie, Kandal, Prey Veng, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng, and Takeo. Cambodia is also prone to flash floods, especially during the monsoon season. Riverine flooding has caused significant damage to livelihoods, social infrastructure, and the economy in Cambodia. For example, according to the UNISDR, Cambodia loses approximately USD 250 million per year on average due to floods (just over 1 percent of GDP). XXXXVIII Effective flood risk management is needed to reduce potential losses and damages related to floods in the country. Climate models predict an increase in average annual rainfall, particularly during the wet season, which XXXXVIII is expected to raise peak discharge in rivers and streams, leading to an increased frequency, duration, and severity of flooding. However, upstream hydropower developments along the Mekong and its tributaries, may serve to counteract this, by causing a reduction in rainy season flows. XXXXIX



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Several arboviruses, including dengue and Japanese encephalitis, are rife in Cambodia and 6.1 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors according to the CCRI. For example, Cambodia's entire population of children are exposed to dengue, 96 percent of children are at risk of aedes, and 59 percent are exposed to zika. Research has shown that education facilities in Cambodia are high risk areas for vector-borne disease transmission, thus necessitating vector control methods in schools.<sup>xl</sup>



#### Soil and water pollution

The main industries contributing to soil and water pollution in Cambodia include agriculture, garment factories, brick kilns, rice milling, and rubber processing.xli Polluted water sources remain a primary concern, especially in rural areas given that limited WASH infrastructure exists outside of urban centres. Almost half of all children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution (48 percent), posing significant risks to physical and neurological development, especially in young children. Additionally, 4.5 million children (74 percent) live in areas with high pesticide pollution risk. Pesticide exposure can result in acute or chronic poisoning, with symptoms ranging from skin irritation to delayed development, reproductive abnormalities, cancer, and even death.



#### Coastal flooding

Coastal flood risk is high in Cambodia, scoring 7.1 on the CCRI, although riverine and flash flooding are more prominent. The coastal region on the Gulf of Thailand is vulnerable to cyclone and tsunami-induced storm surges, but to a lesser extent than other LDCs. Sea-level rise is expected to pose more serious threats to coastal communities in the future, which already face storm surges, high tides, beach erosion, and seawater intrusion.xiii Without adequate resilience measures, the impacts of coastal flooding will undoubtedly worsen, especially in fishing and agricultural communities in the country's south-western region.xiii

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **Health and nutrition**

Cambodia's health system has witnessed considerable advances over the past few decades. Preliminary findings of the Cambodia Demographic Health Survey (CDHS 2021-22) show that compared to 2014, overall child mortality and maternal mortality have improved, with substantial reductions in under-5 mortality, infant mortality and neonatal mortality. There has also been a decline in childhood stunting from 34 percent in 2014 to 22 percent in 2021, however the prevalence of childhood wasting, or acute malnutrition remains unchanged, at 10 percent over the past years. You Some provinces have wasting rates that exceed emergency levels over 15 percent. You Micronutrient deficiencies also remain persistent, especially for children and women of reproductive age, where an estimated 36.5 percent of Cambodian pregnant women were anaemic in 2019. You drivers of malnutrition likely include inadequate care and feeding of infants and young children, inadequate WASH, poverty, limited access to quality services and low maternal education. Climate models predict that by 2050, there could be up to 59 climate-related fatalities per million people in Cambodia due to a lack of food, under high emission scenarios (RCP8.5). You Greater investments into care for children, the rural poor, and maternal health are crucial to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

In comparison to other LDCs, Cambodia has relatively lower scores for other vulnerability components, including poverty assets and social protection, education, and WASH. Nevertheless, there are still areas of improvement to be made to increase the resilience and adaptiveness of essential child services.



#### **WASH**

Despite advancements in WASH systems and practices, children continue to be stunted and die from preventable WASH related causes, as a result of limited access to clean water, toilets and hand-washing facilities. Less than half of households have access to basic drinking water services (44 percent) and just 28 percent of households are drinking water from safely managed services. Access to hygiene and sanitation services has seen improvements. In 2020, 69 percent of households had at least basic sanitation and only 14 percent of the population had no handwashing facilities.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

In 2020, around 21 percent of Cambodian children lived in households with income below the national poverty line. Inadequate infrastructure and access to basic services remain key challenges keeping Cambodian children in poverty. For example, the absence of year-round access to all-weather roads impacts Cambodian food value chains, as well as to health, education, and other public services. Regarding social protection, only 10 percent of households are receiving child or family benefits and 38 percent of the population above the age of 15 are unable to come up with emergency funds. In the absence of adaptive and shock responsive social protection, poor children and families are likely to be pushed even further into poverty.



#### **Education**

Cambodia has made remarkable progress in education. The adjusted net attendance rate for children of primary school age was approximately 93 percent in 2014. Youth literacy rates also remain high at 92 percent. Nonetheless, Cambodian children continue to fall short of age-appropriate learning levels. For example, in primary schools, roughly a quarter of students in Grade 3 are unable to write a single word in a dictation exam and only 27 percent of 3 to 5-year-olds are developmentally on track in literacy and numeracy. We Recent national learning assessment results indicate only 55 percent and 26 percent of grade 6 students achieve minimum proficiency in Khmer language and mathematics respectively. Inadequate learning in early years, poor nutrition, a lack of qualified teachers and insufficient WASH infrastructure in schools are the main drivers of poor educational development. Discrimination towards disabled children still exists and many parents, particularly in rural and impoverished areas, do not see the value of education or cannot afford to send their children to school.

# Lao People's Democratic Republic



The Lao People's Democratic Republic or 'Laos' has a CCRI score of **6.7** and ranks **40**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Laos at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Laos are highly exposed to include:13



#### **Riverine flooding**

36 percent of children are exposed to riverine flooding in Laos, with areas along the Mekong River's low-lying plains being particularly vulnerable. Flash flooding and landslides are also frequently experienced hazards. These shocks are dangerous to children because of their quick onset and destructive nature, causing mass damage to critical infrastructure and leaving children and their families with little warning to prepare and respond. Without adaptation measures, the total population expected to be affected by riverine flooding annually is expected to double to over 80,000 people by 2030. However, because the potential for increased loss and damage from flash floods and landslides is poorly known, the number of people impacted could be substantially larger.

<sup>13</sup> The coastal flood risk indicator has been removed from the country profile description for Laos. Laos is a landlocked country which is not exposed to this type of shock. The scoring reflects limitations of the resolution of the coastal flood map used in the CCRI.



#### **Heatwaves**

In Laos, 76 percent children are exposed to heatwaves. Climate projections predict an increase in the probability of future heatwaves, along with a transition towards a chronically heat stressed environment, with up to 110 more days exceeding temperatures above 35°C, annually, under high emission scenarios. Wii Heatwaves and extreme heat exacerbate crop failure and food insecurity, with severe impacts on child nutrition, particularly for poorer communities operating subsistence and rain-fed agriculture. Without adaptation, the increased instances of extreme heat during the growing season of staple crops such as rice is expected to result in significant yield reduction in Laos. Viii



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

2.8 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Laos. Around 96 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 74 percent are exposed to zika, and 59 percent are at risk of aedes. The vectoral capacity for dengue fever in Laos is expected to increase in the future under a high emission scenario. Moreover, by 2070, approximately 1.9 million people are projected to be at risk of malaria annually under a high emissions scenario, this estimate reduces to about 1.6 million annually if there is a rapid reduction in global emissions. Such high exposure to vectors, which would be exacerbated by climatic risks like flooding, makes it critical to build the resilience of healthcare services and implement vector control measures.



#### **Air pollution**

Every child in Laos is exposed to ambient air pollution, which exceeds (PM2.5 >= 10 g/m3) and almost one third of children are exposed to levels of (PM2.5 >= 25  $\mu$ g/m3). Laos primarily relies on small-scale industries, where the primary causes of air quality issues include soil movement, stone, sand, building construction, land development for shelters, construction and road maintenance, and dirty roads. [xi]



#### **Tropical cyclones**

85 percent of children are exposed to extensive cyclone winds (within a 100-year return period). Five tropical cyclones have affected Laos over the past two decades, impacting over 1.5 million people and costing over USD 400,000 in damage, when combined with the effects of south-west monsoons. Cyclones encompass several hazards dangerous to children, including coastal flooding, storm surges, extreme winds, and lightning. As climate change accelerates, warmer ocean temperatures and rising sea levels are expected to increase the frequency of high-intensity cyclones (category 4 or 5). Cyclones that are more severe will cost more in lives lost and infrastructure damage.



#### Water scarcity

Laos scores comparably lower for water scarcity than other LDCs. Nonetheless, whilst Laos has an abundance of water – water scarcity is common in remote rural areas and drought is an increasingly pressing issue.





#### **WASH**

Inadequate WASH services remain a key challenge in Laos, where less than 20 percent of households are using safely managed drinking water services and 34 percent have limited hygiene services. Variety Access to safely managed sanitation services is much higher at 61 percent. Var In rural areas, open defecation is practised by around 26 percent of households, which pollutes surrounding environments and has devastating consequences on community health. Insufficient drinking water supplies, combined with poor sanitation, hygiene, and sewerage contributes to a high prevalence of diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and cholera in Laos. Moreover, just 66 percent of the 8,857 primary schools have access to both a water supply and toilets. Variety Inadequate WASH facilities in schools have a significant impact on enrolment, attendance, retention rates, and learning outcomes, particularly for girls and children living in rural areas, where school WASH facilities are poor.



#### **Health and nutrition**

In the last four decades, eight epidemics have occurred in Laos. Smallpox, malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery, dengue fever, and cholera outbreaks have been reportedly linked to the country's recurring floods and droughts in recent years. Ixvii The child mortality rate in Laos is approximately 42.5 per 1,000 live births for children under the age of 5. Ixviii Newborn complications, diarrhoea, and pneumonia are the leading causes of child mortality, and disproportionately affect children from low-income households. The most cost-effective, high-impact strategy for lowering death and morbidity is immunization of both mothers and children. Nonetheless, only 50 percent have access to their second measles vaccination. Ixix Malnutrition is also prevalent in Laos, where approximately one third of children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age. IXX



#### **Poverty and social protection**

Laos has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty in the last 25 years. Between 1993 and 2019, the poverty rate decreased by nearly half, from 46 percent to 18 percent. Rising farm revenues have aided poverty reduction, as agricultural households have transitioned from subsistence rice cultivation to commercial cash crop production. Notwithstanding, climate change is likely to threaten such progression. Families who rely on the agricultural sector are in danger of falling into poverty without sufficient adaptation and resilience measures and access to social safety nets. Further, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has made it increasingly difficult for farmers to diversify their livelihoods.



#### **Education**

In comparison to other LDCs, Laos has a lower vulnerability score for education. Laos has been successful in meeting the Millennium Development Goals objective of universal access to basic education with gender parity, with a primary education enrolment rate of almost 99 percent in 2017. Additionally, youth literacy rates remain high at around 93 percent. Whilst this shows great progress, around 70 percent of 5-year-old children are not enrolled in Early Childhood Education programmes, with those in hard-to-reach locations and from low-income households the most disadvantaged. Restricted access to early childhood education can have a significant impact on the number of repeated years and dropout rates in primary school. In addition, the learning results of students are poor, leaving youngsters lacking critical knowledge and skills needed to build their adaptive capacity.

# Myanmar



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Myanmar; all of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have data.

Myanmar has a CCRI score of **7.1** and ranks **31**<sup>st</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing Myanmar in the "Extremely High" risk CCRI category.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Myanmar are highly exposed to include:



#### **Coastal flooding**

Approximately one third of children live in areas of coastal flood risk in Myanmar. Sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding have significant impacts on coastal communities, particularly those reliant on agriculture, as coastal floods damage crops, salinize paddy fields and destroy farmland. Coastal flooding is also be caused by cyclones and storm surges, although levels of exposure to tropical cyclones are comparably lower than in other LDCs. Future sea-level rise will undoubtedly raise the risks of coastal flooding in Myanmar, necessitating investments in coastal flood protection measures.



#### **Riverine flooding**

Over a quarter of children in Myanmar are exposed to riverine flooding (26 percent), and the prevalence of floods has increased over the past two decades. Rainfall patterns are becoming increasingly variable, with shorter rainy seasons paired with irregular and heavy rainfall, increasing flood episodes. In July 2021, riverine flooding from monsoon rains affected over 125,000 people in the Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and eastern areas of Shan states. Landslides and flash floods are also common, particularly in mining districts. Inadequate shelters and flood protection measures also make refugee camps particularly susceptible to the impacts of flooding. For example, in August 2021, flash floods and a landslide devastated the Maga Yang camp which hosted 1,600 internally displaced people. Laxvi



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

17.3 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Myanmar. 96 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 85 percent are at risk of aedes, and 53 percent are exposed to zika. In 2018, 291 out of 330 of Myanmar's townships were malaria endemic. The burden of malaria has declined 82 percent from 2012 to 2017 to 2017 and annual malaria death rates dropped from approximately 3,800 a year in 2010 to 170 in 2020. The Notwithstanding, disease outbreaks are likely to increase with more frequent flood events, which create favourable conditions for mosquito breeding grounds.



#### **Air pollution**

In Myanmar, almost all children (99 percent) are exposed to ambient air pollution levels of (PM2.5 >=  $10 \mu g/m3$ ) and 21 percent are exposed to ambient air pollution levels of (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m3$ ). Smog-forming emissions from old vehicles and the burning of waste (household, industrial, agricultural) deteriorate the air quality in urban areas, especially in Yangon which is Myanmar's most polluted city. Levels of Indoor air pollution (IAP) are also high in Myanmar, where almost all rural households cook with highly polluting biomass. IAP is responsible for 62 percent of infant mortalities from acute lower respiratory infections in the country. Lexixi



#### Soil and water pollution

Mining and agriculture are leading causes of soil and water pollution in Myanmar. Communities living near mines are frequently exposed to toxic elements including, arsenic and lead, which leach into soil or surface water from mining waste. One quarter of children and adolescents under the age of 20 in Myanmar are exposed to lead pollution. The insufficient disposal of mining waste poses significant health risks, especially when agricultural activity is carried out on mine waste deposited farmland. Additionally, half of Myanmar's child population live in areas with high pesticide pollution risk. Pesticide exposure can result in acute or chronic poisoning, with symptoms ranging from skin irritation to delayed child development, reproductive abnormalities, cancer, and death. The poor management of pesticides also increases risks of harmful exposure. For example, farmers frequently exceed recommended doses and do not use adequate storage or protective equipment.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

In Myanmar, almost three quarters of households (74.5 percent) have access to basic hygiene services and around 61 percent have safely managed sanitation services. Description Approximately 9 million people, including 3 million children, remain without access to safe drinking water in the country. Description of schools have a restricted or non-existent basic drinking water supply and 4 out of every 10 schools have inadequate or non-existent basic sanitation and hygiene facilities. Description is also a challenge in health facilities, adding to the risk of neonatal deaths. Displaced families and children in camps in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan States are especially vulnerable to inadequate drinking water services, being unable to obtain clean drinking water or utilize banking services to purchase bottled water.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Access to adequate health and nutrition is beyond the reach of many children in Myanmar. Conflict has hugely disrupted the health sector, with threats and violence discouraging healthcare workers from delivering services. Child mortality under the age of 5 stands high at 45 per 1,000 live births and around one quarter of children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age. The highest risk factors for poor health in children under the age of 5 include low birth weight, childhood underweight, inadequate breastfeeding, and household air pollution. Further, maternal health outcomes are poor, with 250 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births and only 60 percent of babies are delivered by a qualified healthcare professional. IXXXVIII



#### Poverty and social protection

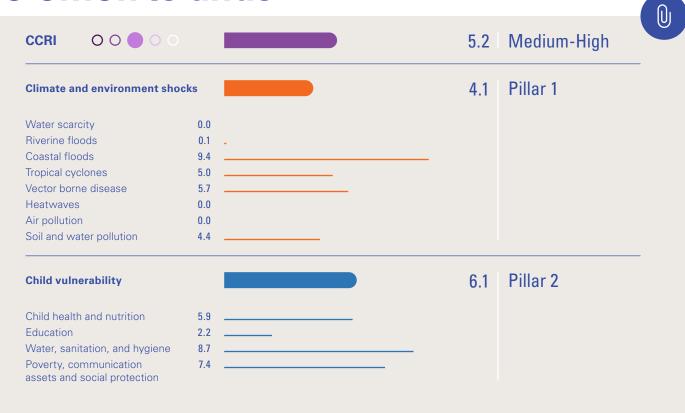
Following more than a decade of progress, the number of impoverished people is predicted to double in Myanmar, as a result of economic shock, virtual health system collapse, COVID-19 and rising violence following the military takeover in February 2021. Social protection in the country is limited, at only 6.3 per cent of effective coverage according to the ILO. Social Moreover, only one third of the population (over 15 years of age) are able come up with emergency funds when crisis hits and only 0.02 percent of GDP is spent on social safety nets.



#### **Education**

Myanmar has seen significant improvements in the education sector in recent years, achieving a primary school attendance rate of 92 percent<sup>xc</sup> and youth literacy rate of 95 percent.<sup>xci</sup> Nevertheless, access to a safe and consistent learning environment now presents a key challenge. Conflict, the COVID-19 epidemic, and social and political turmoil has displaced over 200,000 adults and children and resulted in 12 million school-aged children and adolescents having their education disrupted. Missed schooling has far-reaching effects for child development, mental health, and reduces an individual's adaptive capacity, making children in Myanmar even more vulnerable to climate change.

# **Solomon Islands**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Solomon Islands; 10 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

The Solomon Islands is a sovereign country consisting of 6 major islands and 900 smaller islands in the Pacific region. Whilst considered a SIDS, the total land area for the Solomon Islands exceeds 20,000 sq/km, at 27,990 sq/km, xcii warranting the islands' inclusion in the CCRI analysis. The Solomon Islands have a CCRI score of **5.2** and rank **72**nd out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in the Solomon Islands at "Medium-High" risk.<sup>14</sup>

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in the Solomon Islands are highly exposed to include:



#### **Coastal flooding**

Almost all children (99 percent) live in areas with coastal flood risk in the Solomon Islands. Coastal flooding threatens critical infrastructure, settlements, coastal food stocks, and livelihoods. For example, 72 percent of medical facilities fall within 500 m of the coast in the Solomon Islands. Varie Water resources in low lying coastal areas are especially at risk. Typically, coastal communities are dependent on surface water as aquifers, such as ponds and reservoirs, which are expected to become inundated and salinized, as a result of more frequent storm surges. The majority of Solomon Islanders live along the shore at sea level and movement out of coastal zones is limited, due to the upper area of the Solomon Islands being volcanic and rugged, making it unsuitable for human settlement and agricultural development. The western province's Roviana district is especially vulnerable to flood impacts due to its high population density. In addition, the Solomon Islands are in an area

<sup>14</sup> Many SIDS face serious and existential threats due to climate change that are not adequately reflected in the data, and not captured appropriately in a multi-hazard index.

which has experienced above-average rates of sea-level rise in recent decades. Between 1993 and 2010, projections suggest rises in the tropical western Pacific of 8 to 10 millimetres per year on average, compared to a global average rate of about 3.4 mm/year. xciv



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

An estimated 240,000 children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in the Solomon Islands. Regarding vector exposure, 77 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 41 percent are exposed to zika, and 30 percent are at risk of aedes. Children's malaria risk is substantially higher, at 82 percent<sup>15</sup>, with children under the age of 5 being among the most affected groups. Vector-borne disease risk increases during cyclone and flood events, as stagnant water creates ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.



#### Soil and water pollution

While data gaps related to coastal water quality exist, there is evidence of coastal pollution as a result of logging activities and poor waste management, with sewerage frequently released into the ocean and rivers.\*\* Water bores are highly susceptible to pollution from human and solid waste, particularly in settlements lacking proper drainage and septic systems. Water pollution worsens during flood events when latrines and wells overflow, and the salination of water supplies presents threats of water scarcity.\*\* Logging and mining are key drivers of pollution. For example, sites around the Gold Ridge mine in Gaudalcanal have metal and arsenic levels that exceed safe limits.\*\* Further, approximately 28 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution, which can have a negative influence on physical and neurological development.



#### **Tropical cyclones**

The tropical cyclone season occurs between November and April and passes through the Solomon Islands' exclusive economic zone at a rate of about 21 per decade. Around 27 percent of all cyclones are Category 3 or higher and cyclones are more frequent in El Nino years (39 per decade). Cyclone exposure is highest on the south-eastern islands of Makira, Ulawa, Rennell, and Bellona. Some climate models project that the Solomon Islands may experience a decrease in the frequency of tropical cyclones by 2100. Nonetheless, there is evidence that the maximum wind speed of cyclones and rainfall intensity may rise, increasing the severity of impacts on children, including an increase in fatalities and the destruction of critical infrastructure.



#### Wider disaster risks in the Solomon Islands

Alongside climatic hazards, the Solomon Islands are highly vulnerable to a variety of geophysical hazards excluded in the CCRI, including volcanos, landslides, tsunamis, and earthquakes. For example, in 2016 a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck 38 miles south-west of Kirakira, the provincial capital of Makira-Ulwara Province. Around 34,000 people were affected by widespread loss of homes, communal kitchens, food sources, and livelihoods in the provinces of Makira, South Malaita, and Guadalcanal.civ Numerous aftershocks, including a severe 6.9 magnitude second earthquake occurred and many communities fled to higher ground in fear of tsunami waves.cv Responding to disasters in the Solomon Islands is challenging given the isolation of many of the island populations. As a result, multi-hazard disaster management plans that emphasise community preparedness and resilience are critical.

<sup>15</sup> Exposure to both (Plasmodium falciparum (PF) and Plasmodium vivax (PV).

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene is a significant challenge in the Solomon Islands. Almost one third of households do not have access to drinking water from an improved source (within 30-minute round trip of their home) and 40 percent of schools have no drinking water service. Evi Moreover, 64 percent of the population do not have access to basic handwashing facilities including soap and water. Significant urban-rural disparities in the practice of safe WASH exists in the Solomon Islands. For example, in rural areas, 58 percent of households practice open defecation, compared to only 4 percent of households in urban areas. Evii Hazards such as flooding, and cyclones pose additional risks to the already limited WASH sector. For example, in 2020 Cyclone Harold destroyed the majority of WASH infrastructure across impacted Pacific Islands, including the Solomon Islands.



#### **Health and nutrition**

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the Solomon Islands' health sector. Neonatal and infant mortality rates are low at 8cix and 16cx per 1,000 live births respectively and child mortality rates are significantly lower than in other LDCs (19 per 1,000 live births). cxi Nevertheless, improvements in the healthcare sector can still be made. Inadequate WASH contributes to the prevalence of diarrhoea and other diseases and to high levels of malnutrition in the country. 29 percent of children under the age of 5 in the Solomon Islands are stunted for their age. Large-scale malaria outbreaks continue to occur in the Solomon Islands and access to healthcare services remains a key challenge due to the distribution of the population over several islands.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

The Solomon Islands are one of the poorest countries in the Pacific, where approximately 16 percent of children are living in households with income below the national poverty line.cxii Rural areas, such as Guadalcanal and Makira, are home to more than 80 percent of the poor, with many communities without government assistance to meet their basic living needs. exiii The main economic opportunities include mining, agriculture, fishing, and tourism, which are highly climate sensitive. There is limited data on social protection in the Solomon Islands. In 2005, social safety nets covered 1 percent of the poorest quintile, which was significantly lower than regional and income group averages (45 percent and 39 percent respectively). exive The deployment of shock responsive social protection is critical to protect the most vulnerable children, and to enable an inclusive and sustainable recovery.



#### **Education**

Significant data gaps exist for the education sector in the Solomon Islands, due to limitations of the current Education Management Information System (EMIS), which does not allow education authorities or schools to update information or access their own data. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development is in the process of addressing this, through transitioning to a new open source open EMIS, which will allow for more accurate and efficient data collection and usage. cxv In 2015, the net attendance rates for children of primary school age was 66 percent. cxvi Inadequate WASH remains a major concern in schools, for example 75 percent of schools lack hygiene services, and 64 percent have no sanitation services, and 40 percent have no drinking water services. cxvii This presents a significant disadvantage to girls in the Solomon Islands, as many are forced to miss school due to inadequate menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities. In 2021, early childhood education participation the Solomon Islands was the second lowest of the Pacific Islands (59 percent). cxviii Moreover, in 2019 there was a significant gap between primary gross enrolment rates and net enrolment rates in the Solomon Islands, indicating that a large proportion of under/overage children are enrolled at primary level, which is likely to be driven by late enrolment and high repetition rates. cxix



# Country Profiles

# **Eastern and Southern Africa**

The Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESAR) has some of the greatest number of children highly exposed to multiple climate risks, including severe floods, droughts, vector-borne disease outbreaks, soil and water pollution, and heatwaves.

Several significant climate related crises have recently affected ESAR, including the Tropical Cyclone Idai and Tropical Cyclone Kenneth in 2019, devastating desert locust swarms across East Africa in 2020, and the ongoing Horn of Africa crisis, where at least 10 million children are facing severe drought conditions as a result of four, possibly five consecutive wet seasons failing. CXX There are 14 LDCs in ESAR, half of which are ranked within the CCRI's top 33 "Extremely High Risk" countries. Climate change is anticipated to exacerbate the frequency, severity, and duration of extreme events in the region in the future, necessitating investments in adaptation to protect children from the most severe impacts.

<sup>16</sup> The Extremely High Risk countries in in ESAR include Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, and South Sudan.



 Table 4

 Estimates of children's exposure to climate related hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in ESAR

Country	Number of children under 18 years old exposed to / living in areas with					
	Water scarcity	Riverine floods (50 years)	Coastal flood risk	Extensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Intensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Heatwaves
Angola	7.4 million	1 million	-	-	-	7.5 million
Burundi	-	350 thousand	-	-	-	-
Eritrea	2.3 million	100 thousand	-	-	-	350 thousand
Ethiopia	12.4 million	2.5 million	-	-	-	43.4 million
Lesotho	750 thousand	90 thousand	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	670 thousand	2 million	1.6 million	12.9 million	8.8 million	4.5 million
Malawi	1.2 million	990 thousand	-	-	-	4.3 million
Mozambique	3.6 million	1.6 million	1.9 million	5.6 million	-	6.7 million
Rwanda	-	580 thousand	-	-	-	-
Somalia	3.5 million	1.2 million	60 thousand	-	-	3.5 million
South Sudan	2.9 million	1 million	-	-	-	4.6 million
Uganda	2.3 million	1.6 million	-	-	-	6.5 million
United Republic of Tanzania	5.6 million	1.9 million	320 thousand	-	-	6.1 million
Zambia	3.2 million	670 thousand	-	-	-	2.4 million
UNICEF ESA LDCs (14 countries)	45.8 million	15.7 million	3.9 million	18.5 million	8.8 million	90 million

 Table 5

 Estimates of children's exposure to environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in ESAR

Country	Number of children unde	Number of children under 18 years old exposed to / living in areas with			
	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 10 $\mu$ g/m3)	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 25 $\mu$ g/m3)	High pesticide pollution risk	Lead pollution	
Angola	14.7 million	370 thousand	80 thousand	4.7 million	
Burundi	6.5 million	150 thousand	140 thousand	3.1 million	
Eritrea	2.8 million	1.1 million	-	500 thousand	
Ethiopia	50.5 million	3.2 million	14.6 million	18 million	
Lesotho	160 thousand	-	5 thousand	570 thousand	
Madagascar	-	-	-	4.9 million	
Malawi	2 million	-	4.8 million	3.4 million	

Mozambique	2.9 million	-	30 thousand	5.7 million
Rwanda	5.9 million	290 thousand	5.2 million	1.3 million
Somalia	2.6 million	1.1 million	1.7 million	8.1 million
South Sudan	6.8 million	2.1 million	5 thousand	2.3 million
Uganda	24 million	4.2 million	90 thousand	5.2 million
United Republic of Tanzania	15.6 million	-	5 thousand	7.3 million
Zambia	8.9 million	-	90 thousand	1.2 million
UNICEF ESA LDCs (14 countries)	143.3 million	12.5 million	26.7 million	66.4 million

 Table 6

 Estimates of children living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in LDCs in ESAR

Country	Number of children under 18 years old
	living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors*
Angola	15.3 million
Burundi	6.6 million
Eritrea	2.8 million
Eritrea	44.7 million
Lesotho	
Madagascar	12.8 million
Malawi	10 million
Mozambique	16.2 million
Rwanda	5.3 million
Somalia	6.6 million
South Sudan	6.8 million
Uganda	24 million
United Republic of Tanzania	30.8 million
Zambia	9.7 million
UNICEF ESA LDCs (14 countries)	191.6 million

<sup>\*</sup>Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria, Plasmodium Vivax Malaria, Aedes, Dengue, Zika

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

# **Angola**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Angola; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Angola has a CCRI score of **7.9** and ranks **10**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, classifying children in Angola at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Angola are highly exposed to include:



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

An estimated 15.3 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Angola. Almost all children are at risk of PV and PF Malaria (100 and 99 percent respectively), 88 percent of children are at risk of aedes, and 74 percent are exposed to dengue. Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) remain one of the most effective ways to prevent disease transmission. However, in 2016, only 31 percent of Angola's population own ITNs<sup>cxxi</sup> As global temperatures rise, the geographical prevalence and transmission rates of vector-borne diseases are expected to increase. Such patterns are already evident in Angola, with recent outbreaks of dengue consistent with local climatic changes. exxii



#### **Water scarcity**

Almost half of Angola's child population (7.4 million children) are exposed to water scarcity, which is frequently experienced in the form of drought. In south-western Angola, an estimated 2.3 million people, nearly half a million of which are children under the age of 5, are suffering from the worst drought in 40 years. The drought has caused mass disruption to education and widespread food insecurity, with an estimated 1.3 million people facing severe hunger. While the drought has affected the entire country, it has been especially severe in six provinces, including Cuanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Namibe, Hula, and Cunene.



#### **Heatwaves**

In Angola, nearly half of the child population are exposed to heatwaves (49 percent). Heatwaves are most prevalent in the northern coastal regions, which experience an average of 8-10 heatwaves annually. CXXIV According to new UNICEF analysis, the percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency 17 is expected to rise dramatically from 5 percent in 2020, to all children under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. CXXIV Moreover, under low emission scenarios, the proportion of children exposed to high heatwave duration 18 is anticipated to rise by 55 percent from 2020 to 2050, reaching all children in Angola by 2050, under a high emission scenario. CXXIVI



#### Air pollution

In Angola, almost 96 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution levels of (PM2.5 >= 10 μg/m3). Air pollution in Angola is largely related to oil and gas exploration, mining, vehicle emissions and agricultural waste burning. <sup>cxxvii</sup> In 2016, approximately 118.5 deaths per 100,000 people were attributed to household and ambient air pollution. <sup>cxxviii</sup>



#### Soil and water pollution

Oil and gas exploration and mining are some of the leading causes of soil and water pollution in Angola. Several oil leaks and spills in the provinces of Cabina and Zaire have had significant impacts on community health and livelihoods. Exist For example, in 2021, an Angolan diamond mine discharged massive amounts of toxic water into the Kasai River Basin, resulting in 12 deaths, 4,400 people struck by illness and a total of 1 million people affected. Moreover, over a quarter of young people under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution in Angola.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Inadequate WASH is a significant underlying vulnerability in Angola, where WASH infrastructure is highly exposed to threats and lack resilience in both rural and urban areas. Approximately 57 percent of the Angolan population are using at least basic drinking water services. CXXXII Most water points in drought-affected communes are non-operational, resulting in a greater need for children to walk longer distances for drinking water, in turn increasing risks of absenteeism from school and gender-based violence (GBV) for girls. CXXXIII Further, only 52 percent of the population have access to basic sanitation services. CXXXIII The inadequacy of WASH provisions in Angola contribute significantly to the high prevalence of WASH related diseases, including diarrhoea, which is a primary cause of child mortality under the age of 5.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Angola's child mortality rate remains high at 69.4 per 1,000 live births. CXXXIV Alongside diarrheal disease, the greatest causes of death for children under the age of 5 in Angola include lower respiratory infections, preterm birth complications, asphyxia, and malaria. CXXXIV Despite significant efforts to reduce child malnutrition over past two decades, approximately half of Angolan children suffer from anaemia CXXXIV and around 38 percent of children under the age of 5 remain stunted. Climate change is exacerbating Angola's nutrition crisis. Facing the worst drought in 40 years, 3.8 million people are reported to have insufficient access to food. CXXXIVII With further climatic variation, lower than normal purchasing power and the coming lean season, poor households in Cunene, Huíla and Namibe provinces will continue to face "crisis" levels of food insecurity in 2023. CXXXXIII



#### Poverty and social protection

Almost one third of the population live below the national poverty line in Angola (32.3 percent). The Republic of Angola is Africa's second largest oil producer, driving the country's economic growth. To transform the state-led and oil-funded economic model into a sustainable, inclusive, private-sector-led growth model, high-level political commitment, and strong institutions are required. Social protection remains limited in Angola, at 10.5 percent of effective coverage. Between 2014-2017, 68 percent of the population above the age of 15 were unable to come up with emergency funds. The ethnic groups of southern Angola must receive priority in social protection programmes, due to their high vulnerability to climate risks and heavy reliance on natural resources.

<sup>17</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>18</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.



#### **Education**

Education in Angola is frequently disrupted by climate shocks. In 2019, droughts in southern Angola disrupted the education for 70 percent of the Cunene province's students, with many forced to miss school to fetch water for livestock. Call 1.2 million children are currently in need of education support in Angola following the prolonged drought call, with many children forced to miss school to fetch water for households and livestock. In particular, there has been an increase in dropouts among boys due to transhumance. Call The pandemic has further contributed to such issues. After COVID-19-related school closures, an estimated 30,000 children needed educational support.

### **Burundi**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Burundi; 3 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Burundi has a CCRI score of **6.1** and ranks **51**<sup>st</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Burundi at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Burundi are highly exposed to include:



#### Soil and water pollution

Inadequate WASH infrastructure and sanitation practices, are major drivers of water pollution in Burundi, causing significant health problems. Poor agricultural practices related to coffee and palm oil, are another significant driver. Moreover, high levels of deforestation, land degradation and poor waste management, exacerbates soil and water pollution. For example, in the city of Bujumbura, an insufficient landfill system is threatening human lives, with high amounts of heavy metals pouring out of the garbage, resulting in increased instances of cholera in people who collect food from the site. cxlv The landfill contaminates Lake Tanganyika, which provides over 90 percent of the water for Bujumbura. cxlvi Lead pollution levels are also high, with almost half of the population under the age of 20 exposed (48 percent).



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Malaria is one of the major epidemics experienced in Burundi. In 2020, 4.7 million malaria cases were reported, resulting in almost 3000 deaths. CXIVIII Moreover, Burundi has recorded an 18.2 percent increase in the number of cases from July to September (1,765,742 cases) in comparison with the same period in 2021 (1,494,250 cases). CXIVIII In addition, 75 percent of children are exposed to Zika. Changing temperatures, poor WASH conditions and stagnant waters during floods, are expected to exacerbate vector-borne disease risk factors in Burundi.



#### **Air pollution**

In Burundi, 97 percent of the total child population are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $10 \,\mu g/m3$ ). The main sources of poor air quality include domestic biomass energy, industrial pollutants, and domestic and agricultural waste burning. The city of Bujumbura has been identified as an area of consistently high ambient air pollution risk, which requires extensive air quality monitoring and city-wide planning to limit children's exposure when pollution levels are dangerously high. Poor indoor air quality is also a significant health risk to children. Approximately 55 percent of households cook indoors, most commonly in rural areas, and almost all households in Burundi (98.5 percent) use either wood, vegetable waste or charcoal for cooking. CXLIX



#### **Riverine flooding**

Floods are common in the larger river basins in Burundi, including the Congo and around the Lake Tanganyika area. Heavy rainfall has resulted in significant flooding in Burundi throughout the twentieth century, particularly in the 1960s when the level of Lake Tanganyika rose by 4 metres, flooding districts of Bujumbura and Gatumba. More recently, in 2020, flooding in the Bujumbura Province resulted in the first internal displacements in two years. Heavy rainfall, deforestation and soil erosion in mountainous areas commonly trigger mudslides and landslides, which have devastating consequences for children. Flash floods are also common, across all areas of the country.



#### Water scarcity

Whilst the CCRI has not identified water scarcity exposure as a significant hazard to children in Burundi, water scarcity in the form of droughts has been identified as a prominent hazard in the country by various sources. For example, according to the World Bank, droughts account for 67.8 percent of the distribution of natural hazards that occur in the country. The northeast of the country is the most vulnerable to drought, which suffers from water stress and crop failures. clii This situation is driving people to migrate to neighbouring countries, a phenomenon that has been occurring since 1998. cliii

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

In Burundi, approximately 62 percent of households have access to at least basic drinking water services. Improvements to adequate sanitation and hygiene services remain key challenges. For example, almost 94 percent of households have limited hygiene services and 39 percent have unimproved sanitation services. Low-quality infrastructure and a lack of upkeep of existing infrastructure, are primary impediments to achieving basic sanitation and hygiene. Frequent flooding puts further pressure on Burundi's WASH services.



#### **Health and nutrition**

The mortality rate for children under the age of 5 in Burundi is 52.6 per 1,000 live births. cliv While the country remained free of epidemics for most of 2018, malaria, measles, cholera, Rift Valley fever, COVID-19, and the risk of spill over from the Ebola outbreak in Uganda were identified as epidemic risks in 2022. clv Cholera outbreaks are particularly common along the flood prone areas around Lake Tanganyika and the Ruzizi plain. clvi Whilst cholera is more prevalent in the dry season, when water supplies are depleted, flooding can lead to the contamination of water sources as well as the destruction of sanitation infrastructure, increasing risks of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases. Burundi also has one of the highest malnutrition rates worldwide, and 51 percent of children under the age of 5 suffer from stunting. clvii The maternal mortality rate is high at 548 deaths per 100,000 live births, necessitating strengthening of both child and maternal healthcare systems.



#### Poverty and social protection

Burundi is one of the poorest African countries, where around 66 percent of children are living in households with income below the national poverty line. Claim Burundi also has the continent's smallest urban population (11 percent) yet the third greatest urbanisation rate (5.6 percent). Clix Living conditions remain challenging, with just 7 percent of the population having access to electricity. Clix Agriculture and livestock in Burundi account for 80 percent of employment, which is a highly climate vulnerable sector. Clixi Moreover, low incomes in the informal sector and among rural populations make it difficult for individuals to participate in contributory social protection schemes.



#### **Education**

Burundi scores comparably lower for the education vulnerability component than other LDCs (4.0). Youth literacy is one of the highest in the region, (88 percent) and the gross enrolment rate for the 2019–2020 academic year increased to 121.7 percent. Despite these advancements, in the same period, 110,000 Burundian students missed school due to natural disasters, including many climate-related events. For example, 78.5 percent of basic schools in Bujumbura's provinces of Gatumba and Rukaramu had to suspend classes for at least two weeks due to floods in 2019-2020. Moreover, during climate shocks, classrooms frequently serve as shelter for the displaced, disrupting the functioning of the school, in which children (both host community and internationally displaced people suffer.

### **Eritrea**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Eritrea; 9 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Eritrea has a CCRI score of **7.1**, ranking **31**<sup>st</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in Eritrea are classified as at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Eritrea are highly exposed to include:



#### **Water scarcity**

Eritrea's geographical location in the arid Horn of Africa makes the country highly vulnerable to water scarcity. A staggering 80 percent of Eritrean children are exposed to water scarcity. The most common forms of water scarcity include variable weather conditions and cyclical droughts. In June 2022 the Horn of Africa drought crisis left 300,000 people in need of assistance in the country<sup>clxiv</sup> Eritrea's annual economic performance is greatly impacted by water scarcity, due to a high reliance on rain-fed agriculture, which accounts for about one-third of the economy.<sup>clxv</sup>



#### **Air pollution**

In Eritrea, almost all children (99 percent) are exposed ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >=  $10 \mu g/m3$ ) and  $40 \mu g/m3$  are exposed to ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m3$ ). Food processing, the clothing and cement industries, vehicle emissions, and waste burning are leading contributors to Eritrea's poor air quality.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

An estimated 2.8 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Eritrea. 95 percent of children in Eritrea are at risk of PV malaria, 66 percent of children are at risk of aedes, and 34 percent of children are exposed to dengue. According to WHO, malaria, dengue fever and yellow fever are the main vector-borne diseases that may arise as a result of climate change in Eritrea. clxvi

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

The CCRI identifies inadequate WASH as the greatest underlying vulnerability contributing to children's climate risk in Eritrea. Just over half the population (52 percent) is using drinking water from basic services, and 30 percent of Eritreans are drinking from unprotected springs, wells, or directly from rivers and streams. In urban areas, access to improved sanitation remains a key challenge and water-borne diseases are rife.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Eritrea's child and maternal mortality rates are 38 per 1,000 live births and 480 deaths per 100,000 live births respectively. Alongside an increase in vector-borne diseases anticipated with climate change, the WHO predicts an increase in the number of children suffering from diarrhoea, schistosomiasis and malnutrition. distriction is already prominent, as evidenced by nearly half (49 percent) of all children under the age of 5 stunted for their age and almost a quarter of all pregnant women experiencing anaemia. The nutritional status for children in Eritrea has further deteriorated, as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on commodity and food prices, desert locust infestations, and droughts. Establishing and strengthening climate resilient healthcare systems in Eritrea will help reduce the severity of climate related health impacts on children, as well as the additional burden on healthcare staff and services.



#### Poverty and social protection

Several compounding factors have led to high levels of poverty in Eritrea, including decades of conflict, droughts, a high reliance on agriculture, inadequate WASH, low education levels and economic sanctions. Limited data exists on poverty levels in Eritrea. According to the most current accessible survey data, in 1996/1997, the poverty rate was around 70 percent. The country remains in a severe macroeconomic state, with an unsustainable debt burden and fragile financial and external sectors. These factors make social protection policies difficult to implement and necessitate adaptation finance in the form of grants rather than loans in the country.



#### Education

There is limited data for Eritrea's education sector. According to the most recent data, in 2010, primary and pre-primary age attendance rates both stood at 81 percent. clxxii Moreover, in 2018, youth literacy rates were high at 93 percent. clxxii COVID-19 and the Horn of Africa drought crisis have curtailed progress, with around 300,000 children and adolescents aged 6 to 17 years reported by the government as being out of school.clxxiii Unequal access to digital tools remains a major hurdle for teachers seeking to engage students in distance learning. As climate change accelerates, further disruptions to education are anticipated, which the education sector need to prepare for.

# **Ethiopia**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Ethiopia; 3 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Ethiopia is classified as one of the "Extremely High" risk countries, with a CCRI score of **7.6**, ranking **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Ethiopia are highly exposed to include:



#### **Heatwaves**

Approximately, 83 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in Ethiopia, which has a profound impact on children's health, nutrition, and educational outcomes. It is anticipated that the percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency19 will rise dramatically from approximately 7 percent in 2020, to all children under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. classiv Moreover, the number of children exposed to extreme high temperatures<sup>20</sup> is expected to double by 2050, under a high emission scenario from 3.5 to 6.8 million. class



#### Soil and water pollution

In Ethiopia, nearly one third (31 percent) of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution and 28 percent of children live in high pesticide pollution risk areas. Industrial and waste management activities are the leading causes of soil and water pollution. For example, research in Shashemane City has found increased levels of lead, nickel, cobalt chromium, and cadmium in soil samples around industrial sites. clxxvii In addition, leachate from unmanaged landfill sites in Koshe, Addis Ababa are a major source of similar chlorides and sulphates. clxxvii Unsafe levels of exposure to these pollutants can result in severe and long-lasting health consequences for children.

<sup>19</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>20</sup> Extreme high temperatures are defined as any area where, on average, 83.54 or more days a year exceed 35°C.



#### **Air pollution**

In Ethiopia, 96 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >=  $10 \,\mu g/m3$ ). Each year, approximately 70,000 fatalities are related to indoor and outdoor air pollution, which is expected to increase with a hotter, more drought prone environment. There are significant urban-rural disparities in the exposure to IAP, for example, in Addis Ababa, households use three times more clean energy for cooking when compared to rural areas. Using unclean cooking fuels in the home has a disproportionate impact on women and children.



#### Water scarcity

Almost one quarter of children in Ethiopia are exposed to water scarcity (24 percent), which is frequently experienced in the form of drought events. More than 8.1 million people in Ethiopia are currently affected by drought, of which more than 7.2 million people need food assistance and 4.4 million people need water assistance. Further, inadequate roads in drought prone areas is restricting humanitarian access. Water scarcity has also exacerbated conflict, especially in northern Ethiopia, which is expected to threaten displacement for up to 7.8 million people and poses grave threats to the rights and welfare of 3.9 million children. The deteriorated livelihood situation related to drought has also resulted in an increase in GBV, affecting the lives of millions of women and adolescent girls. In addition, there are increased reports of children fleeing to Kenya, Djibouti, and Somaliland to avoid impacts of the current drought.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

A staggering 44.7 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Ethiopia. 77 percent of children are at risk of PV Malaria and 73 percent are at risk of PF Malaria. Moreover, over one third of children in Ethiopia are exposed to both dengue and aedes. With increasing temperatures and shifting agroecological zones, the geographic prevalence of vector-borne is changing and are predicted to spread into higher altitudes in Ethiopia, making population groups in hard-to-reach areas particularly vulnerable.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

In Ethiopia, only 37 percent of households have access to basic drinking water services classified, a situation which is worsening with accelerating drought conditions. In addition, 65 percent of households have unimproved sanitation and around 54 percent of households have limited hygiene services. Classified Hadequate WASH is estimated to be responsible for 60 to 80 percent of communicable illnesses in the country and 50 percent of the consequences of undernutrition. Classified Hadequate Wash is estimated to be responsible for 60 to 80 percent of the consequences of undernutrition. There is a strong link between sanitation and stunting, and open defectation can lead to faecal-oral infections including diarrhoea, which can exacerbate malnutrition.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Evidence shows that maternal and child deaths have been in decline in Ethiopia since the year 2000. Yet, the maternal mortality rate remains high, at 401 deaths per 100,000 live births. A lack of access to quality antenatal, obstetric, and postnatal health services, especially in rural areas, is hampering further progress in reducing maternal deaths in the country. classification in mortality rates for children under the age of 5 has been more progressive, declining from 201 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to approximately 47 per 1,000 live births in 2021. classification in Ethiopia, accounting for 23 percent of deaths, or more than 70,000 children every year. classification resulted in admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition to be 37 percent higher in quarter 1 of 2022, than in the same period for 2021. classification in Ethiopia in Ethiopia, accounting the same period for 2021. classification with severe acute malnutrition to be 37 percent higher in quarter 1 of 2022, than in the same period for 2021. classification in Ethiopia since the year 2000. Yet, the maternal mortality and postnatal health services to quality antenatal, obstatic, and postnatal health services to quality antenatal, obstation, and postnatal health services to quality antenatal, obstation and p



#### **Poverty and social protection**

Vulnerability to climate impacts in Ethiopia, is exacerbated by the country's high levels of poverty and reliance on climate sensitive sectors, including agriculture, water, tourism, and forestry. One quarter of children are living in households with income below the national poverty line. CXC Such low economic power prevents many from being able to bounce back quickly after climate shocks, with 42 percent of the population unable to come up with emergency funds when hazards strike. Without adequate social protection mechanisms, this vicious cycle will push the most vulnerable children deeper into poverty.



#### **Education**

As children and young people comprise 48 per cent of the population, Ethiopia can lift itself out of poverty by ensuring children have access to quality education. CXCI Whilst youth literacy is relatively high (around 73 percent), around 61 percent of children remain out of school, including 2.6 million children of primary school age and many do not complete their education. CXCII As droughts become more frequent and severe, an increasing number of children are likely to miss and drop out of school. Dropout rates are anticipated to be higher for girls, in times of high-water stress, to allow them to perform water related duties. In addition, Ethiopia is Africa's second-largest refugee host country, placing additional pressure on regions which already face challenges in delivering quality services to their own host populations. CXCIII

## Lesotho



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Lesotho; All 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have data

Lesotho has a CCRI score of **5.4** and ranks **61**<sup>st</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Lesotho at a "**Medium-High**" risk. Lesotho scores higher for Pillar 2 vulnerabilities (score of 6.6) than Pillar 1 exposure to climate and environmental shocks (score of 4.0).

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Lesotho are highly exposed to include:



#### Water scarcity

In Lesotho, 88 percent of children are exposed to water scarcity, despite water being a historically abundant resource in the country. Lesotho relies heavily on its water supplies for foreign exchange, yet local communities often lack the infrastructure needed to benefit. Climate change is expected to impact the long-term viability of Lesotho's water security. The country has a history of drought, low precipitation levels, high aridity and increasing temperatures. Climatic variation is also expected to have a substantial impact on Lesotho's agricultural sector, causing rangeland degradation, desertification, and the depletion of biological diversity, which in turn increases risks of child malnutrition and food insecurity.



#### Soil and water pollution

62 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 years of age are exposed to lead pollution in Lesotho. Even at low levels, lead pollution can have devastating impacts on child physical and neurological development, in some cases causing death. Decades of large-scale mining for diamonds in Lesotho is a major driver of environmental pollution. For example, alarmingly high levels of nitrates have been identified in water samples close to tailing sites in Letseng and the Maloraneng village and mining pollution has made several water sources unsuitable for consumption. Exposure to soil and water pollution is exacerbated by other climate and environmental hazards. During floods, for example, trace elements can leach into previously uncontaminated areas.



#### **Riverine flooding**

Exposure to riverine flooding affects 11 percent of children in Lesotho, albeit levels of exposure are much lower than in other LDCs. Localised flooding from variable rainfall occurs regularly, having a negative influence on the environment, the economy, and society. A staggering 3.2 percent of Lesotho's GDP was lost because of devastating floods between 2010-2011. \*\*CVV\*\* Flash floods are also common in Lesotho. For example, in March 2018, flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall, alongside hailstorms in Quthing, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Thaba-Tseka districts impacted 1,418 people, and injured many children. \*\*CVCV\*\*

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Just 43 percent of households have access to basic drinking water services in Lesotho, 48 percent have access to safely managed sanitation services and only 6 percent have basic hygiene services. Exercise difficulties eradicating open defecation is a major impediment to achieving basic sanitation in rural areas (practiced by 29 percent of rural households). Education on safe sanitation and hygiene behaviours, are critical to prevent disease transmissions within communities with poor access to adequate WASH provisions.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Child and maternal mortality rates are high in Lesotho (73 per 1,000 live births and 544 per 100,000 live births respectively). Access to healthcare is limited, particularly in rural areas due to restricted transportation links. COVID-19 overburdened Lesotho's health-care system, making it difficult for healthcare professionals to cope with the additional needs of climate related illnesses. In 2021, 766,000 people were in need of health and nutrition services and in 2018, over one third of children under the age of 5 were stunted. Moreover, reductions in agricultural productivity brought on by future droughts are anticipated to cause a decrease in dietary variety and increase vitamin shortages.



#### Poverty and social protection

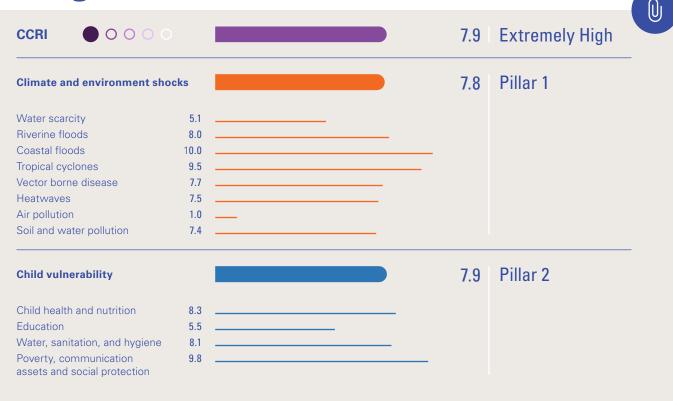
In 2020, 57 percent of children lived in households with income below the national poverty line in Lesotho. ci Poverty is highly concentrated in rural areas, where 75 percent of the population reside. In rural communities, economic diversification is low, leaving people with little opportunities to adapt to alternative livelihoods in response to climate change. Rural poverty is further stagnated by poor agricultural revenues and a drop in remittances which act as a buffer when shocks occur. Notwithstanding, Lesotho's expansion of social protection programmes in recent years have contributed to a reduction in inequalities and an increase in incomes for poor communities. For example, Lesotho's Child Grants Programme is an unconditional cash transfer safety net that serves around 70,000 children from the poorest households. civ



#### **Education**

In comparison to other LDCs, Lesotho has substantially better educational outcomes. In 2018, attendance rates for children of primary school age were high, at 97 percent, and 80 percent of children completed primary school. CV Whilst secondary school attendance rates are much lower, (55 percent for lower secondary and 22 percent for upper secondary) vouth literacy rates for adolescents (aged 15-24) are high, around 87 percent. COVID-19 had significant impacts on the education sector, endangering consistent education for nearly 450,000 students enrolled in public schools. Adapting education systems is crucial to prevent children in Lesotho from missing school due to future shocks.

# Madagascar



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Madagascar; 4 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Madagascar has a CCRI score of **7.9** and ranks **10**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, classifying children in Madagascar in the "Extremely High" risk category.

Madagascar is the second most exposed country in Africa to multi-disaster risks and has been impacted by 35 cyclones, 8 floods, and 5 severe droughts over the past two decades, affecting more than 5 million children. These environmental shocks and stresses have cost an estimated USD 1 billion in damages and have affected food security, WASH and school infrastructure, public health systems, environmental management, and quality of life.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Madagascar are highly exposed to include:



#### **Coastal flooding**

Coastal flood risk is high in Madagascar, because of rising sea levels, storm surges, and tropical cyclones. Critical infrastructure such as ports and roads are increasingly at risk from flooding and coastal erosion, as are key coastal ecosystems, such as the littoral forests on the sandy coastal plains of eastern Madagascar. Details between 5.71 and 6.54 metres of coastal erosion were detected in 1997, which is expected to increase exponentially, affecting community livelihoods in coastal settlements.



#### **Tropical cyclones**

Madagascar's children are frequently exposed to tropical cyclones due to the country's extensive coastline and location in the Indian Ocean. An average of 1.5 cyclones affects Madagascar annually, which is the highest number in Africa, with the cyclone season lasting from November to March. Crop loss, disease outbreaks, degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems, disruption of critical urban services such as water and electricity, severe flooding, and injury are all frequent impacts of cyclones in Madagascar. Several devastating cyclones have struck the nation in recent decades, including tropical Cyclone Enawo, which inflicted significant destruction to infrastructure and triggered widespread flooding, impacting a total of 52,000 people, and displacing 10,000 individuals.



#### **Riverine flooding**

Over the last 3 decades, Madagascar has seen around 30 floods and periods of excessive rainfall, which have impacted thousands of children. Coxiii The Socia, Betsiboka, Manambao, Mangoro, Tsiribihina, Mangoky, Manannara, and Onilahy rivers commonly overflow in times of high precipitation. Rivers provide most of the country's water demands for agricultural and human use, hence flooding has far-reaching consequences. Fianarantsoa has been identified as having a particularly high risk of flood loss, with an average annual loss of USD 4.9 million.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

12.8 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Madagascar. 99 percent of children are at risk of PV malaria and 94 percent are at risk of PF malaria. Children in Madagascar also have a 70 percent risk of aedes, a 58 percent risk of exposure to dengue, and 26 percent exposure to zika. A simple way to reduce children's exposure to disease transmission is using ITNs, which only 62 percent of children under the age of 5 were sleeping under in 2018. CCXV



#### **Heatwaves**

Approximately 35 percent of children in Madagascar are exposed to heatwaves. Young children and infants are particularly vulnerable to heat stress, due to their inability or lack of agency to regulate their body temperature and control their surrounding environment. Exposure to abnormal or prolonged heat also affects education, since high temperatures can make the classroom uncomfortable, causing children to become fatigued and lowering educational outcomes.



#### Soil and water pollution

According to estimates, pollution exposure accounts for more than one in five deaths in Madagascar. CCCXVI Major sources of soil and water pollution include deforestation and the mining industry. 35 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 in Madagascar are exposed to lead pollution, which significantly hampers children's health and development. Children's health risks associated with pollution can include conditions like cancer, starvation, preterm births, growth retardation, and respiratory illnesses. Exposure to pollution can also affect a child's development by causing them to miss school. More broadly, high levels of pollution can exacerbate poverty and undermine socio-economic development.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Madagascar ranks third lowest in the world in the use of unimproved water sources and basic sanitation. description of households have limited hygiene services and 42 percent of the population continue to practice open defecation, which pollutes surrounding environments and has devastating consequences on community health. Limited access to improved WASH has been linked to high levels of malnutrition and diarrhoea in children in the country.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Despite recent progress in Madagascar's health sector, child and maternal mortality rates remain high (66 per 1,000 live births and 335 per 100,000 live births respectively). Over one third of child mortalities under the age of 5 in Madagascar are caused by climate related diseases including respiratory infections, diarrhoea, and malaria. Additionally, only 41 percent of children aged 12 to 23 months have basic immunization coverage. Approximately, half of all children under the age of 5 are stunted in Madagascar, and nearly one fifth suffer from severe acute malnutrition, with rates of malnutrition peaking during climate shocks.



#### Poverty and social protection

Despite an abundance of natural resources, Madagascar is one of the world's poorest countries, with just over three quarters of the population living in extreme poverty. Country, for example, less than a quarter of the population have access to electricity. Climate change impacts in Madagascar are expected to destabilise livelihood systems supporting vulnerable children, increasing the need for shock responsive social protection measures to be rapidly implemented.



#### **Education**

Inadequate access to education is another factor increasing Madagascan children's vulnerability to climate change impacts. Whilst youth literacy rates are higher than other LDCs (80 percent), only 27 and 13 percent of young people are attending lower and upper secondary school. Coxxiii Primary education attendance is much higher (76 percent), however, only 56 percent of students complete primary education. Quality of education also remains a key issue, for instance, 97 percent of teachers lack a professional teaching diploma. Coxxii Access to high-quality education and climate smart education can significantly increase a child's future prospects, as well as improve their adaptive capacity.

### Malawi



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Malawi; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 has no data.

Malawi has a CCRI score of **6.7** and ranks **40**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Malawi at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Malawi are highly exposed to include:



#### Soil and water pollution

34 percent of children and adolescents (under the age of 20) are exposed to lead pollution, which can threaten children's health and cognitive development. Pollution from industry and agriculture frequently contaminate waterways, disrupting aquatic ecosystems and the fishing industry, which are vital for livelihood and food security. Additionally, nearly half of the population of children live in areas with high pesticide pollution risks, which can be exacerbated by other climate and environmental hazards. During storms and floods, for example, pesticides can leach into previously uncontaminated areas. Exposure to soil and water pollution can be significantly reduced with sound environmental management.



#### **Heatwaves**

43 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in Malawi. Heatwaves impact children's health directly through heat stress and the influx of heat related disease, and indirectly, through the impact of extreme temperatures on crop yields and livestock, which in turn affects nutrition. Climate projections show that exposure to high heatwave frequency<sup>21</sup> is estimated to increase to all children in Malawi by 2050, under both low and high emission scenarios.<sup>ccxxvii</sup>

<sup>21</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Approximately two thirds of the population are at risk of vector-borne diseases in Malawi. Carachiel Risks of malaria are particularly high, where the entire child population is at risk of both PV (unstable) and PF (stable) malaria. Children's risk of aedes is also particularly high (86 percent), whilst exposure to dengue and zika vectors are much lower (45 percent and 15 percent exposure). Nonetheless, as climate change alters transmission periods and geographic vector range, diseases like Dengue Fever and Zika Virus may become more common in Malawi in the future.



#### **Riverine flooding**

Whilst exposure levels are lower than in other LDCs, approximately 990,000 children are exposed to riverine flooding in Malawi.22 Areas along the Shire River basin have been identified as the most vulnerable to flooding. The major floods were recorded between 1967 and 2011, and the number of floods is expected to increase with a rise in inter-annual rainfall variability. Additionally, landslides are a common secondary hazard to flooding, which typically occur in Malawi's southern region.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Children's vulnerability to climate change is often exacerbated by inadequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in Malawi. Whilst around 87 percent of households have basic access to drinking water, less than half the population have access to improved sanitation services and 76 percent have limited access to hygiene services. COXXXXII Inadequate WASH significantly impedes children's health in Malawi. Approximately 6 million children are at risk of diarrhoea, cholera, and pneumonia, a figure which is expected to increase according to climate change projections.



#### Health and nutrition

Child and maternal mortality rates stand at 41.8 per 1,000 live births and 349 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births respectively. Malawi facing its biggest cholera outbreak in decades, with 38,566 cases and 1,254 deaths documented since the first case was reported a year ago (February 5, 2022). At the time, the country was still reeling from the effects of tropical storms Anna and Gombe, which devastated WASH infrastructure, forcing communities to rely on contaminated water and increasing their risk of developing this water-borne disease. In addition, Malawi continues to have one of Africa's highest rates of stunting, which affects over one third of children. Climate change is expected to impede advances in future food access and availability, with the great majority of Malawi's rural population dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Droughts also have a significant impact on child health and nutrition. For example, in 2015 a drought affecting 25 of Malawi's districts resulting in food insecurity for 2.8 million people. CCXXXIIII



#### **Poverty and social protection**

Just over half of Malawi's population (51.5 percent) remain below the national poverty line. Although multi-dimensional child poverty has declined from 63 percent in 2012 to 60.5 percent in 2017, most children in Malawi still suffer from multiple and overlapping deprivations. CEXXXIV Low agricultural productivity, limited livelihood opportunities in non-agricultural occupations, uncertain economic development, fast population expansion, and inadequate coverage of social safety net programmes all contribute to high levels of poverty and make children particularly vulnerable to climate change in Malawi. For example, less than 10 percent of households in Malawi receive family and/or child cash benefits as part of social protection schemes.



#### **Education**

Malawi has one of the highest primary school attendance rates in ESAR (94 percent). However, secondary school attendance is extremely low (28 percent for lower secondary and 17 percent for upper secondary level). For the most deprived children, tuition fees and associated education expenses, are key barriers to secondary school access. In addition, inadequate infrastructure, limited teacher training and insufficient learning materials, all contribute to low quality learning in Malawi. Climate and environmental shocks are expected to further impede children's access to good quality education in the country.

<sup>22 50</sup> years return period.

# Mozambique



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Mozambique; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 has no data.

Mozambique has a CCRI score of **7.9** and ranks **10**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Mozambique at "Extremely High" risk. Natural shocks continue to drive needs in Mozambique, highlighting the country's position as one of Africa's most vulnerable countries to disasters and climate change.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Mozambique are highly exposed to include:



#### **Coastal flooding**

Rising sea levels are a major driver of flooding in low-lying coastal areas of Mozambique, including the urban centre of Beira which lies only 4.9 meters above sea level.ccxxxvi The positioning of Mozambique's extensive 2,300 km coastline facing the Indian Ocean also puts many children at moderate risk of storms and cyclones, which are a major cause of flooding. For example, in January 2021, Tropical Cyclone Eloise caused widespread flooding in central Mozambique, damaging 17,000 homes, displacing 16,000 people, and causing over a dozen deaths.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

16.2 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Mozambique. 96 percent of children are at risk of aedes, 83 percent are exposed to dengue and 49 percent are at risk of zika. Malaria is also widespread in the country, with seasonal fluctuations and a peak season between December to April. Between 2011-2015 malaria accounted 42 percent of mortalities for children under the age of 5.ccxxxviii Vector disease risk increases during cyclone and flood events in Mozambique, as stagnant water creates suitable breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Increased risks of floods with climate change, makes adapting the healthcare sector in Mozambique critical, to protect children from illness and death related to vector-borne diseases.



#### **Heatwaves**



#### Soil and water pollution

In Mozambique, immediate action is required to prevent soil pollution and its consequences for the country's food and nutritional security. Human action and climate change are the primary factors threatening the condition of soils in the country. The improper use of agrochemicals, solid waste, and untreated wastewater are other sources of contamination, especially in waterways, which pose serious health concerns to children. Moreover, over one third of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution in Mozambique (34 percent), which can cause long lasting neurological, cognitive, and physical impairment depending on levels of exposure.



#### Water scarcity

Water scarcity is increasing in Mozambique, with droughts particularly frequent in the central and southern regions. Water scarcity frequently has negative effects on Mozambique's agriculture, coastal zone productivity, grazing areas, food imports, and livestock, in turn greatly affecting national food security. For example, food insecurity is still a major issue in southern and central Mozambique following droughts in 2022. Further, droughts and floods frequently occur within the same year in the country, giving agricultural land and communities little time to recover. Cox little time to recover.



#### Riverine flooding

Mozambique's positioning at the mouth of several international river basins renders the country highly susceptible to riverine flooding. Flood risks pose a constant threat to agriculture and the deliverance of essential child services, particularly when combined with cyclones or storm surges. [Convergence In India and India

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

The CCRI identifies inadequate WASH as the greatest underlying vulnerability contributing to children's climate risk in Mozambique. 37 percent of households continue to use unimproved sanitation in the country and over 6 million people (21 percent of households) continue to practice open defecation, which has a direct impact on community health and safety. CCXIV Moreover, 63 percent of households have access to basic drinking water services CCXIVI and data on hygiene is limited. Children and families affected by displacement and conflict confront the most severe WASH issues. Geographic disparities also exist. For example, in the northern provinces, such as Zambézia, just 30 percent of the population has access to safe water, and only 13 percent uses improved sanitation. In contrast, nearly 87 percent of the population in the southern province of Maputo has access to safe water, and 70 percent has access to and utilises improved sanitation.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Mozambique's child mortality rate is high (70 per 1,000 live births). Despite efforts to reduce preventable diseases, diarrhoea remains a primary cause of death among children. Maternal mortality rates are also high (289 per 100,000 live births) Nearly 40 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age, with areas Palma, Macomia, and Quissanga facing severe hunger. CCCALVIII Recent conflict and other shocks have led to increased food insecurity, with approximately 545,100 children in need of nutrition assistance in 2022. CCCALVIII 250.

<sup>23</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>24</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.

<sup>25</sup> UNICEF Nutrition sector estimate based on number of people displaced and host families. http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1154889/?iso3=MOZ



#### **Poverty and social protection**

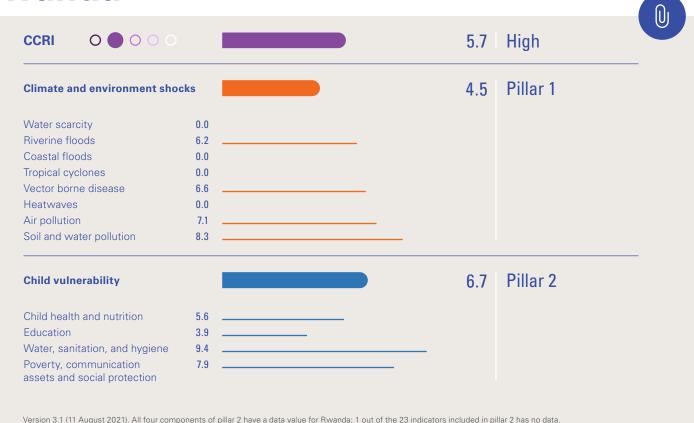
Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the globe, facing multiple development challenges including high poverty rates, low life expectancy and significant gaps in education levels. Mozambique's high exposure to frequent hazards including drought, cyclones, and disease outbreaks, exacerbates poverty. In 2014, the poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines was 46.1 percent and in 2020, an estimated 46.3 percent of children experience multidimensional poverty. Further, poverty levels have been exacerbated by instability and conflict. In the conflict zone of Cabo Delgado, 517,986 children were displaced, as of June 2022, coli one third of health facilities had been destroyed, and multiple water systems had come under attack, preventing children from access to essential services. The conflict has also created a protection crisis. Girls and boys are increasingly exposed to child rights violations, GBV and other protection risks related to displacement and in situations of children in armed conflict.



#### **Education**

Mozambique has demonstrated significant progress in the education sector in recent years, including eliminating school fees, offering direct funding to schools, and supplying free textbooks at the elementary level and the education sector receives the largest portion of the state budget (over 15 percent). These advancements have seen substantial increases in school attendance over the past decade. However, access to consistent, quality education remains a struggle, largely due to hazards and conflict. Following the return of many children to school after the COVID-19 pandemic, an escalation in violence in Cabo Delgado has continued the disruption of education for thousands of children. For example, in 2022, an estimated 522,000 children in Mozambique needed access to school.

### **Rwanda**



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Rwanda has a CCRI score of **5.7** and ranks **57**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Rwanda at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Rwanda are highly exposed to include:



#### Soil and water pollution

Soil and water pollution levels are dangerously high in Rwanda. The agricultural sector is a leading driver, with 87 percent of children living in areas with high pesticide pollution risks. Agriculture also contributes to the high levels of toxic Cadmium found in Rwanda's soils.cclv Moreover, 21 percent of young people (under the age of 20) are exposed to lead pollution, which can have severe impacts on physical and neurological health. Climate change is expected to increase pollutant levels in Rwanda, especially with increased rainfall and floods, which allow pollutants to be more easily transported. CClvi



#### **Air pollution**

97 of percent of children exposed to ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >=  $10 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). The greatest contributors of poor air quality in the country include the industrial sector, transport emissions and agricultural waste burning, and the city of Kigali has consistently high levels of air pollution.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

5.3 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Rwanda.

87 percent of children are at risk to PV malaria (unstable transmission) and 71 percent are at risk of PF Malaria (stable transmission). 61 percent of children are exposed to zika and just less than half of children are at risk of aedes (46 percent). Malaria is second highest driver of mortality in the country (behind AIDS), responsible for 23 percent of all deaths. cclvii As a result of climate change, malaria, tick bite fever, and schistosomiasis are all expected to have a greater influence on human health in Rwanda. cclviii



#### **Riverine flooding**

Riverine flooding is another frequent climate hazard impacting children in Rwanda, albeit exposure levels are lower than other LDCs (just 10 percent of children exposed)<sup>26</sup>. Regions in northern Rwanda (provinces of Gisenyi, Ruhengeri, and Byumba), south-western Rwanda (Gikongoro and Butare), western Rwanda (Kibuye, and Gikongoro), and northern part of Kigali, are the most vulnerable flooding. Colix The impacts of flooding in Rwanda have increased in severity in recent years, as a result of population growth and land scarcity, which has forced more people to dwell in flood-prone locations. In addition, heavy rainfall events in the northern and western provinces are causing flash flooding, landslides, and mudslides, resulting in significant infrastructure damage and fatalities.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Inadequate WASH makes children in Rwanda especially vulnerable to climate change. Only 12 percent of households have access to a safely manage drinking water service. Colori Access to safe sanitation and hygiene are also limited. Around 86 percent of households have no handwashing facilities colori and 32 percent of schools have no hygiene services. Children without access to adequate WASH provisions have a reduced capacity to respond to, and treat, climate-related diseases, and girls frequently miss school due to a lack of adequate MHM services.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Rwanda has seen significant advancements in its health sector in recent years, including a two-thirds drop in child mortality and success combating tuberculosis and malaria. An increase in both vector and water-borne disease outbreaks are expected with climate change in Rwanda. Without sufficient resilience measures, these outbreaks are predicted to have a major impact on children's health outcomes. A household survey in 2020 found that only 56 percent of children under the age of 5 were sleeping under ITNs, colavi which is a simple preventative measure to reduce vector-borne disease exposure. Child malnutrition is also expected to increase, due to the projected reductions in food insecurity anticipated with climate change. In 2020, around one third of Rwandan children under the age of 5 were stunted for their age.



#### Poverty and social protection

Rwanda has made substantial economic and structural reforms and sustained its steady economic growth rates for over a decade, until the COVID-19 pandemic hit. COLANTI Rwanda aspires to be a Middle-Income Country by 2035 and a High-Income Country by 2050. COLANTI Advances in poverty reduction have been assisted by political stability in Rwanda which has been maintained since the end of the genocide in 1994. COLANTI The country's poverty reduction efforts were weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic due to a combination of poor nutrition, limited health services, educational losses from school closures, and school dropouts. Moreover, social protection remains limited at 10.5 percent of effective coverage according to the ILO.



#### **Education**

Rwanda is one of the top performing countries in the education sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. Youth literacy rate is high at 86.5 percent, as are attendance rates in primary schools (94 percent in 2015). Celevii Nevertheless, further improvements can be made. Just 30 percent of adolescents attended lower secondary school and 15 percent of youth attended upper secondary school in 2015. Celevii Improvements to quality of education also requires significant attention. Further, various inequities exist in the education system, where 30 percent of disabled children are not enrolled in primary school and girls are more likely to drop out of schools than boys. Celeviii

<sup>26</sup> Estimated using a 50-year return period.

### **Somalia**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). 1 out of 4 components of pillar 2 has no data value for Somalia; 11 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Somalia has a CCRI score of **8.4**, ranking **4**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Somalia at "Extremely High" risk. Vulnerability to climate hazards is also exacerbated by, and a driver of, the longstanding humanitarian crisis in Somalia, in which conflict, insecurity, drought, floods and famine have impacted children for more than two decades.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Somalia are highly exposed to include:



#### Soil and water pollution

Water contamination is a persistent hazard in Somalia, especially in displacement camps and conflict zones, where WASH infrastructure is often compromised. A staggering 91 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution, which can have severe impacts on physical and neurological health. One quarter of children also reside in areas with high pesticide pollution risk. Pollution from pesticides leaches into water systems and has been linked with cancer including childhood leukaemia. It can also cause developmental delays and impact brain and behaviour development.



#### **Riverine flooding**

18 percent of Somalian children are exposed to riverine flooding. In 2021, river flooding in Jowhar, in the Middle Shabelle region displaced an estimated 66,000 people. Coloriv Flash floods are also common, which are especially dangerous to children due to their fast-flowing nature and quick onset. In May 2021, heavy Gu' season rainfall triggered flash flooding in Banadir, causing 25 fatalities, including 9 children. Coloriv Alongside death and injury, flooding in Somalia is detrimental to child nutrition and food security. For example, Somalia's cereal output in the Gu' season was estimated to be 40 percent below average in 2021 due to crop damage from flooding. Coloriv Indiana description of the Gui season was estimated to be 40 percent below average in 2021 due to crop damage from flooding.



#### **Water scarcity**

Over half the population of children in Somalia are exposed to water scarcity (54 percent). The regional drought situation in the Horn of Africa is threatening child survival and development. The drought was caused by below-average rainfall and has caused mass disruption to education and widespread food insecurity in Somalia, with approximately 7.1 million people facing food insecurity and 1.8 million children under the age of 5 expected to experience wasting by July 2023. cclxxvii The water shortages are affecting an estimated 6.4 million people. The limited access to safe water has triggered a spike in cholera, with 10,440 cholera cases, including 59 deaths. cclxxviii



#### **Heatwaves**

Over half of all children in Somalia are exposed to heatwaves. Children are more impacted by heatwaves than adults because they react more slowly to changes in ambient temperature and are more prone to health-related heat problems. Projections show that the percentage of extreme temperature days<sup>27</sup> could impact up to 75 percent of children in Somalia by 2050 under a high emission scenario. CCLXXIX Moreover, the city of Mogadishu is expected to be in a permanent state of heatwave throughout the duration of the warm season. CCLXXIX An increase in heatwaves will negatively impact critical sectors of the Somalian economy including agriculture and livestock, making it even more difficult for communities to recover when climate hazards occur.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

6.6 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Somalia. 94 percent are at risk of PV malaria (unstable transmission), 73 percent of children are at risk of aedes, and 63 percent of children are exposed to dengue. Frequent flood events in Somalia are expected to increase children's exposure risks to vector-borne diseases, as stagnant flood water creates favourable conditions for mosquito breeding grounds.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Inadequate WASH remains a key challenge in the country, where 28 percent of households continue to have limited access to drinking water services. COLONG Due to a lack of regulation of private water suppliers and extortionate fees, poorer households are often forced to source water from dangerous open wells. Moreover, 21 percent of households have no handwashing facilities and 23 percent of the population practice open defectation. COLONG Risks of contracting preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, and respiratory infections increase without access to clean water, toilets, and adequate hygiene. According to the WASH Cluster, 6.4 million people endure severe water shortages. COLONG The scarcity of safe water has resulted in an increase in acute watery diarrhoea and cholera cases. Since January 2022, 25 of the country's 74 drought-affected districts have registered 10,440 cholera cases and 59 deaths, resulting in a 0.6 per cent case fatality rate. COLONG The supplies the country of the cou



#### **Health and nutrition**

An estimated 6.5 million people lack access to healthcare services in Somalia. Chixxxv Child and maternal mortality rates are staggeringly high at 111.8 (per 1,000 live births) and 829 (per 100,000 live births) respectively. 4 out of every 100 Somali children die in the first month of life, 8 out of every 100 before their first birthday, and 1 out of every 8 before they reach the age of five. Chixxxvii Prematurity, hypoxia, delivery difficulties, or infections such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles, and neonatal diseases account for more than 80 percent of newborn deaths. Chixxxvii The risk of contracting preventable illnesses such as diarrhoea, acute watery diarrhoea, cholera, and respiratory infections is significant without adequate WASH. Moreover, Somalia is facing a severe food security crisis, exacerbated by the ongoing drought and frequent desert locust infestations. For example, admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition were 48 percent higher in quarter one of 2022 than in the same period for 2021. Colxxxviii

<sup>27</sup> Extreme high temperatures are defined as any area where, on average, 83.54 or more days a year exceed 35°C.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

20 years of violence has exacerbated extreme poverty in Somalia, where approximately 71 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Color The government fell apart in 1991, splintering the country. Despite the installation of a new administration, conflict in southern Somalia persists, with the revival of armed conflict between the federal government, the armed group Al-Shabaab and clan militias. Conflict, displacement, COVID-19, and prolonged drought have led to 5.1 million children in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023. Cox Inadequate social protection mechanisms make it difficult for Somalian families to cope with the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Just 0.18 percent of Somalia's GDP is spent on social safety net spending and only half of Somalia's population (above the age of 15) can come up with emergency funds. Multi-sectoral life-saving assistance, including the provision of social protection, including humanitarian cash transfers are imperative for Somalian communities to cope with the current crisis and increase their resilience to future shocks.



#### Education

Limited data sources are available for the education sector in Somalia. Drought, insecurity, and conflict have degraded children's access to education and their protective environment. More than 3.1 million children are out of school, and 900,000 are at risk of dropping out. CEXCII Without consistent, high-quality learning, Somalian children are less likely to be adaptive and empowered in their preparation, response, and recovery to future climate change.

### **South Sudan**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for South Sudan; 7 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

South Sudan has a CCRI score of **8.2** and ranks **7**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, classifying children in South Sudan as at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in South Sudan are highly exposed to include:



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Children in South Sudan experience significant exposure to disease vectors, including PF malaria (stable) (99 percent), aedes (99 percent), dengue (72 percent), and zika (24 percent) (percent of the total population of children under the age of 18). Increased instances of disease outbreaks are expected with climate change, which will place an additional burden on South Sudan's health sector. A simple way to reduce children's exposure to disease vectors is the use of ITNs, which only 42 percent of children under the age of 5 were sleeping under according to a health survey in 2017. CCXCIIII



#### **Heatwaves**

<sup>28</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>29</sup> Extreme high temperatures are defined as any area where, on average, 83.54 or more days a year exceed 35°C.



#### **Air pollution**

All children are exposed to ambient air pollution levels of (PM2.5 >=  $10 \mu g/m3$ ) in South Sudan and almost one third of children (32 per cent) are exposed to ambient air pollution levels of (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m3$ ). Waste burning, forest fires, and the widespread usage of small gasoline-powered generators all contribute to South Sudan's poor air quality, and the city of Juba experiences persistently high air pollution levels.



#### Water scarcity

43 percent of children are exposed to water scarcity in South Sudan. A major contributor to the present water crisis is the civil war that began in 2013. During the war, most of the country's water systems and infrastructure were abandoned or destroyed. Coxol The 2011 East African drought further aggravated South Sudan's water scarcity situation. During times of high water scarcity, resource conflict frequently arises between countries surrounding the Nile basin, which serves as South Sudan's primary water supply and is shared by ten other nations.



#### **Riverine flooding**

Flooding most frequently occurs between the months of July and September in South Sudan, when heavy rains cause the Nile River's tributaries to overflow. Areas of Jonglei, Unity State, Upper Nile, Warrap, northern Bahr el Ghazal, and parts of western and eastern Equatoria are often permanently under water during the flood season. CEXCEVIII In 2021, South Sudan experienced some of the worst flood events in decades, which resulted in food insecurity, displacement, disruption to education and increased risks of infection to water-borne diseases. CEXCEVIII As flood risk increases with rising global temperatures, strengthening the resilience of critical services such as healthcare, education and WASH is essential to protect children in South Sudan from the worst effects of flooding.



#### Soil and water pollution

The health of children in South Sudan is endangered by the exploration and production of the country's oil activities. Children are frequently exposed to open waste pits, waterways and soils contaminated by toxic chemicals and heavy metals. Exposure to these toxins can have severe consequences on child and maternal health and development. For example, research around the Paloch oil fields has found that pollution from the oil industries is linked to various health difficulties including female infertility, miscarriages, birth defects, and eye and skins irritations. Coxcit

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

WASH services are severely limited in South Sudan, where 37 percent of households continue to have limited drinking water services. Children are often forced to drink contaminated water to survive, placing them at danger of water-borne illnesses, such as cholera and diarrhoea, which continue to be primary causes of mortality among South Sudanese children. Further, sanitation and hygiene services in households, schools and healthcare facilities remain limited and 60 percent of households practice open defecation. Coci The impact of serious food insecurity and floods, linked to climate change, continue to put stress on WASH services. This is further aggravated by high levels of displacement due to of intercommunal violence.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Child and maternal mortality rates are staggering in South Sudan, at 99 per 1,000 live births and 1,150 per 100,000 live births respectively. Preventable infections such as diarrhoea, malaria, and pneumonia account for around 75 percent of total child mortality. Climate shocks, coupled with years of conflict have contributed to an increase in food insecurity, and high levels of malnutrition in South Sudan. In 2021, 1.4 million children under the age of five were acutely malnourished, and only 7 percent of children received an adequate diet. A further constraint to improvements in South Sudan's health sector is a lack of qualified healthcare professionals, making expenditures in health education and training essential to cope with climate-related diseases.



#### Poverty and social protection

Poverty levels are critically high in South Sudan, where 82.3 percent of people were living below the national poverty line in 2016. Several compounding factors contribute to such high levels of poverty, including food and nutrition instability, flooding, sub-national conflict, and disease outbreaks.

When climate shocks strike, approximately 76 percent of South Sudan's population (above 15 years of age) are unable to come up with emergency funds, necessitating an increase in social safety net investments to safeguard children and their families.



#### **Education**

Insufficient access to quality education remains a key challenge in South Sudan. The number of out-of-school children has increased dramatically following COVID-19, reaching 2.8 million in 2021. ccciv Girls make up the majority of out-of-school children in the country, due to several factors including poverty, child marriage, and cultural and religious beliefs. Moreover, a lack of skilled teachers, and poor quality of education materials can have detrimental effects on children's learning results. Further, the voluntary return of refugees from neighbouring countries, such as Uganda due to protracted closure of schools, has exacerbated pressures on the education sector.

# **Uganda**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Uganda; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Uganda has a CCRI score of **6.8** and ranks **37**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries, placing children in Uganda at "High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Uganda are highly exposed to include:



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

24 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Uganda. 60 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 82 percent are at risk of aedes, and 85 percent are exposed to zika. In 2019 Uganda had the largest number of malaria cases in ESAR, the third highest global burden of malaria cases globally and the eighth highest incidence of mortality. CCCV



#### **Air pollution**

98 of percent of Ugandan children are exposed to ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >= 10 µg/m3). The main sources of poor air quality include manufacturing, vehicle emissions and waste burning, and the cities of Kampala has been identified as a highly polluted city, where around 28,000 people die each year in the country as a result of air pollution. CCCVI



#### **Heatwaves**

Almost half the population of children are exposed to heatwaves in Uganda (47 percent). Heatwaves have a significant impact on the beef and dairy cattle industry, as well as on crop yield and production quality in the country. In addition, exposure to abnormal or prolonged heat can affect education in Uganda, since high temperatures make the classroom uncomfortable, causing children to become fatigued, lowering educational outcomes.



#### Soil and water pollution

Water pollution is one of the most detrimental environmental hazards in Uganda. Lake Victoria, which is the primary source of fresh water for Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania has become highly polluted, as a result of poor land management and agricultural practices, untreated wastewater and industrial waste. The pollution has resulted in significant hyacinth growth, depleting fish stocks, reducing biodiversity and increasing costs of water treatment, which in turn increases children's exposure to harmful pathogens. Climate-induced displacement is expected to increase competition for Lake Victoria's water resources, further putting livelihoods, and food security in jeopardy. Moreover, deforestation and mining are significant drivers of soil pollution, and 20 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution.



#### **Riverine flooding**

Exposure to riverine flooding affects 1.5 million children in Uganda. Nearly 50,000 individuals and more than USD 62 million in GDP are affected annually by floods. CCCVIII Both flash floods and slow-onset floods, are frequent, especially in cities, low-lying areas, areas along riverbanks, and swamplands. The nation's capital, Kampala, as well as the northern and eastern regions are the places most vulnerable to flooding. CCCIX



#### Water scarcity

Over 2 million children are exposed to water scarcity in Uganda. The "livestock corridor," which runs from western and central Uganda to mid-northern and eastern Uganda, are the most susceptible to drought. CCCX A heavy dependence on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources make communities particularly vulnerable to periods of drought. For example, 80 percent of Uganda's rural population are dependent on subsistence agriculture. CCCXI Children's risks to drought and water scarcity are expected to increase in future years, because of environmental degradation, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, and a lack of community-level disaster preparedness in the country.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Access to adequate WASH is limited in Uganda, where only 39 percent of households have access to basic drinking water services, 45 percent of households have no handwashing facilities and 58 percent of households have unimproved sanitation services. Water-borne diseases are rife in Uganda, where diarrheal disease is one of the top three killers of children, killing approximately 33 children each day. Climate related hazards such as floods, exacerbate the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Improving access to climate resilient WASH services and infrastructure can considerably reduce Ugandan children's health risks related to climate change.



#### **Health and nutrition**

The mortality rate for children under the age of 5 is high in Uganda at 42.1 per 1,000 live births. Children living in rural areas, areas of high poverty and with uneducated mothers are the most likely to die before reaching the age of 5. Maternal mortality rates are also high in the country, at 375 deaths per 100,000 live births. The majority of child and maternal fatalities are caused by preventable diseases and conditions, such as poor quality of treatment during delivery, unsafe abortions, hypertensive disorders, infections, postpartum haemorrhage, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and HIV. CCCXIV Child malnutrition rates are also high in the country, more than one third of young children – 2.4 million – are stunted, and half of children under the age of five and are anaemic.



#### Poverty and social protection

Uganda is one of the youngest countries globally, where over half of the population is under the age of 15 and 41 percent of the population lives in poverty. CCCCVVII Economic growth has slowed significantly in recent years, following exogenous shocks including droughts and COVID-19, with growth since 2011 barely surpassing the country's high population growth rate of 3 percent. CCCCVVII Additionally, Uganda has Africa's highest refugee population, with over 1.6 million people seeking sanctuary in the country CCCCVVIII, putting strain on already limited resources.



#### **Education**

## **United Republic of Tanzania**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for United Republic of Tanzania; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 has no data

The United Republic of Tanzania or "Tanzania" has a CCRI score of **6.7** and is ranked **40**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 countries and regions, placing children in Tanzania at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Tanzania are highly exposed to include:



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

30.8 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Tanzania. 86 percent of children are exposed to aedes, 60 percent to dengue, and 45 percent to zika. Moreover, 99 percent of children are at risk of PV malaria (unstable) and 97 percent are at risk of PF malaria (stable). Climate change is expected to spread of vector-borne diseases, into previously unaffected areas. For example, Tanzania has already seen the spread of malaria into Tanga, Kilimanjaro, and Arusha Highlands. CCCCXXIII Moreover, increased periods of rainfall during El Nino events, has been linked to an increase in disease vectors, including malaria in the country.



#### **Heatwaves**

Approximately, 20 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in Tanzania. According to recent UNICEF analysis, it is anticipated that the percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency30 will rise dramatically from 17 percent in 2020, to 100 percent of children under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. CCCCXIV During heatwaves, infants and small children are more likely to die or suffer from heat stress because they are unable or lack agency to regulate their body temperature and control their surrounding environment. A greater frequency of heatwaves is also expected to have a substantial impact on children's education, as extreme temperatures cause many children to miss school or become fatigued, worsening their learning outcomes.

<sup>30</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.



#### **Water scarcity**

Approximately 5.6 million children are exposed to water scarcity in Tanzania. Tanzania has a water intensive economy, where agriculture, agro-processing, mining, tourism, and energy generation are the primary industries. Agriculture consumes the majority of available water resources, accounting for around 89 percent of overall consumption in Tanzania (against a global average of 70 percent). Droughts have a significant influence on Tanzania's water dependent economy, for example, weather-related disasters, notably drought, generate an estimated USD 200 million in yearly losses in the agricultural sector. CCCCXXVI Moreover, poor crop yields because of drought significantly undermine efforts to alleviate poverty and food insecurity in the country. Tanzania urgently needs to enhance the management of its water resources, especially as, levels of water scarcity are anticipated to worsen with climate change.



#### Soil and water pollution

In Tanzania's major towns and cities, solid and liquid wastes are frequently left untreated. Soil and water are frequently polluted as a result, which poses a serious health risk to people who live in poorer areas. Moreover, marine pollution is significant due to a lack of sewage systems in areas like Dar es Salaam, affecting marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Further, nearly one quarter of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution in the country, which can have livelong impacts on development and well-being.



#### Riverine flooding

Almost 2 million children are exposed to riverine flooding in Tanzania. Flooding can have disastrous effects on agriculture, food security, health, groundwater supplies, hydropower generation, and the economy. For example, in 2020, approximately 20,000 people were affected by floods and landslides, as a result of the "Vuli" and "Masika" rains, many of which required food and WASH assistance. CCCXXVIII



#### **Coastal flooding**

Whilst the country's overall coastal flood risk scores lower on the CCRI than in other LDCs, the impacts are significant for children and families living in coastal areas. The low-lying metropolis of Dar-es-Salaam, which houses approximately 5 million residents has been identified as an areas of high flood risk. The country's mangroves, groundwater resources, coastal infrastructure, and livelihoods are all at risk from coastal flooding, erosion and rising sea levels.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Inadequate WASH is a significant vulnerability in Tanzania, where 39 percent of households have unimproved sanitation and 35 percent have limited hygiene services. \*\*ccxxviii\*\* Inadequate access to WASH comes at a high cost, squandering resources which can be put into the resilience of other key services. For example, Tanzania is predicted to spend 70 percent of its health expenditure on preventable WASH-related illnesses. \*\*ccxxix\*\* Homes, schools, and health centres that lack proper WASH facilities create breeding grounds for infections that kill children and impair their capacity to thrive. The most vulnerable are girls, disabled children, and children living in rural areas.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Recent advances in the health sector, such as regular vaccination, Vitamin A supplementation, HIV prevention, and improved management of common childhood diseases has saved the lives of thousands of Tanzanian children. Preventable illnesses including malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and newborn disorders continue to take the lives of Tanzanian children daily. In addition, malnutrition remains a significant barrier to child development, with almost one third of children under the age of 5 stunted for their age, which can have irreversible, life-long implications.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

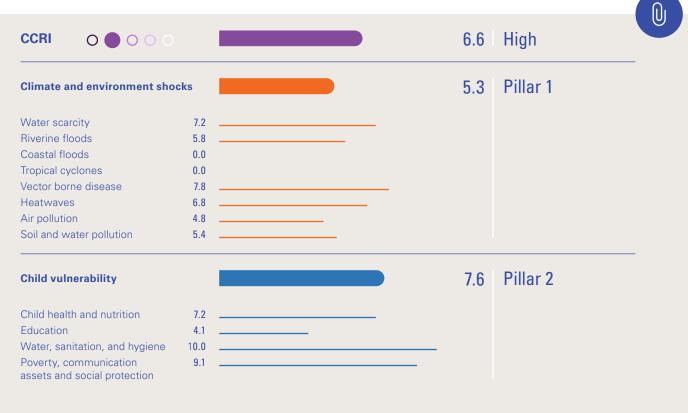
Tanzania's poverty rate has seen a steady decline over the past decade from 34.4 in 2007 to 26.4 in 2017. CCCXXXI Nevertheless, living conditions remain inadequate for many. For example, just below one third of the population have access to electricity, with rural areas and poorer households disproportionately affected. In addition, coverage of social safety net programmes remains limited, with annual social safety net spending accounting for only 0.38 percent of the country's GDP. In addition, around 61 percent of the population over the age of 15 are unable to come up with emergency funds.



#### **Education**

Tanzania attained virtually universal access to primary education in 2007. However, enrolment of primary school-aged children has since declined. In 2016, 81 percent children attended primary school, 28 percent of adolescents attended lower secondary school and just 3 percent of youth attended upper secondary education. Primary school-aged children from low-income households are 3 times less likely to attend school than those from higher-income families. Poor gender parity is also a key issue, with school dropout rates significantly higher for girls in Tanzania, largely due to early marriage and teenage pregnancy. Whilst youth literacy rates are moderately high, (85.8 percent), poor quality education remains a significant problem and many Tanzanian children fail to acquire core learning goals including literacy, numeracy, and life skills.

## Zambia



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Zambia; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 has no data

Zambia has a CCRI score of **6.6** and ranks **45**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Zambia at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Zambia are highly exposed to include:



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Zambian children experience various exposure to disease vectors, including aedes (91 percent), dengue (49 percent) and zika (32 percent). Additionally, malaria is a major public health issue, which is endemic throughout the country. Such high risks to vector-borne diseases make the need to adapt healthcare systems imperative in Zambia, especially as climatic variations can bring longer transmission seasons and increase exposure across a larger geographic range.



#### Water scarcity

In Zambia, one third of children are exposed to water scarcity. Meteorological droughts have had significant impacts on Lake Kariba, which experiences dangerously low water levels. Such impacts have resulted in critical reductions in power generation, given that 95 percent of Zambia's power supply comes from hydroelectricity. These energy reductions have negatively affected socioeconomic activities in both Zambia and neighbouring Zimbabwe. The water scarcity situation in Zambia is projected to worsen with future climate change, as maximum and minimum temperatures increase, levels of rainfall decrease, and as heatwaves increase in duration and frequency.



#### **Heatwaves**

Almost one quarter of children in Zambia are exposed to heatwaves (24 percent), resulting in significant heat stress in the country. New UNICEF analysis has revealed that the percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency<sup>31</sup> will rise dramatically from 14 percent in 2020, to 100 percent of children in Zambia, under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. CCCXXXXIX Moreover, the proportion of children exposed to high heatwave duration<sup>32</sup> is expected to increase from 4 percent in 2020 to between 86-100 percent by 2050 under various emission scenarios CCCXI



#### **Riverine flooding**

Approximately, 600,000 children are exposed to riverine flooding in Zambia. Both slow-onset and flash flooding are common in Zambia. For example, in January 2022, an estimated 15,000 individuals were affected by flash flooding in Zambia's southern province. The flooding significantly affected agriculture, inundating 8,000 hectares of crops and carried animals like goats and poultry away. CCCCALI In Namwala, 500 households were displaced and forced to live in schools, where their access to basic needs including safe WASH, and food were limited. CCCCALI Whilst this hazard score is lower than comparable LDCs (5.8), an increase in the frequency and intensity of flood events are expected with climate change.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Despite significant WASH improvements in recent years, around 22 percent of households in Zambia continue to use drinking water from unimproved sources, over half the population have no access to handwashing facilities (51 percent) and 37 percent have unimproved sanitation services. Without access to adequate WASH provisions, healthcare professionals have a reduced capacity to treat an increased burden of climate-related diseases. Inadequate access to WASH also affects dropout rates in schools in Zambia, especially for girls who have specific MHM needs.



#### Health and nutrition

In Zambia, child and maternal mortality are rates high at 57.7 per 1,000 live births and 213 per 100,000 live births, respectively. The leading causes of child mortality include vaccine-preventable illnesses (e.g., tuberculosis [TB], polio, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus), HIV, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and malnutrition. Over one third of Zambian children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age, which has been linked to poor sanitation in the country. Food insecurity mostly affects disadvantaged rural communities and intensifies rises following heatwaves and droughts.



#### Poverty and social protection

Recent economic progress saw Zambia meeting the criteria for LDC graduation for the first time in 2021. Nonetheless, significant socio-economic challenges remain and Zambia's growing youthful population is expected to put significant pressure on the growing demand for social services. In 2020, 58 percent of Zambian children were living in households with income below the national poverty line. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* Moreover\*, according to the ILO, one quarter of the country is covered by effective social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* Approximately 86 percent of the population (over the age of 15) are unable to conjure up emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by emergency funds and only 0.8 percent of public expenditure is spent on social protection. \*\*CCCCLVIV\*\* In the country is covered by the covered by the country is covered by the cover



#### **Education**

Zambia's CCRI score for education is considerably lower than other LDCs. Youth literacy rates stand high, at 92 percent. Zambia has almost achieved universal primary education completion levels, with government figures indicating a 91.8 percent completion rate at Grade 7. CCCXIVIII Nonetheless, significant regional disparities exist, with the northern area recording 81 percent and the southern capital city Lusaka, approximately 79 percent. CCCXIII Improvements to equity and quality of education are key areas for Zambia to focus on. For example, girls continue to be at a disadvantage, with higher of dropout rates than boys, as well as lower levels of transition into secondary levels.

<sup>31</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>32</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.



## Country Profiles

# Latin America and the Caribbean

Children in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are at the forefront of a rapidly changing climate. Extreme temperatures, and shifting precipitation patterns are already having a negative impact on hydrological systems, biodiversity, and livelihoods particularly in the Andean mountains, Amazon rainforest and Caribbean islands. Among the most vulnerable are the children of Haiti, the regions' only LDC.



Table 7
Estimates of children's exposure to climate related hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in LACR

Country	Number of child	ren under 18 years	rs old exposed to / living in areas with					
	Water scarcity Riverine floods Coastal flood Extensive Intensive Heat (50 years) risk cyclone wind (100 years) (100 years)							
Haiti	100 thousand	230 thousand	-	4.2 million	4.2 million	2.5 million		
UNICEF LAC LDCs (1 country)	100 thousand	100 thousand 230 thousand - 4.2 million 4.2 million 2.5 million						

 Table 8

 Estimates of children's exposure to environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in LACR

Country	Number of children unde	Number of children under 20 years old exposed to			
	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 10 $\mu$ g/m3)				
Haiti	1.4 million	-	30 thousand	4.6 million	
UNICEF LAC LDCs (1 country)	1.4 million	4.6 million			

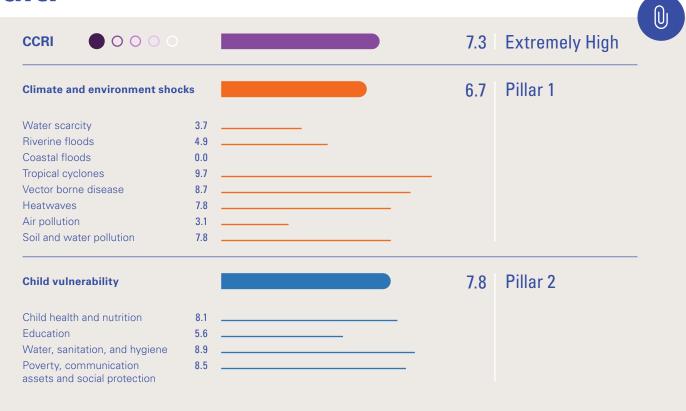
Table 9
Estimates of children living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in LDCs in LACR

Country	Number of children under 18 years old living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors*
Haiti	4.2 million
UNICEF LAC LDCs (1 country)	4.2 million

<sup>\*</sup>Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria, Plasmodium Vivax Malaria, Aedes, Dengue, Zika

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

### Haiti



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). The stated 0 for coastal floods for Pillar 1 refers to no data. All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Haiti; 7 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Haiti has a CCRI score of **7.3** and is ranked **29**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 countries and regions, placing children in Haiti at "Extremely High" risk. Whilst considered a SIDS, the total land area for Haiti exceeds 20,000 sq/km, at 27,560 sq/km<sup>cccl</sup>, warranting the country's inclusion in the CCRI analysis.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Haiti are highly exposed to include:



#### **Tropical cyclones**

Haiti's tropical positioning and exposure to high levels of moisture carried by trade winds makes this country highly susceptible to cyclones. From 1988-2018, 37 tropical storms have made landfall or passed by Haiti, 26 of which caused loss and damage and 13 of which were classified as tropical cyclones. Over the last 30 years, tropical storms and cyclones caused at least 73 child casualties annually and affected further 70,000 children (aged 0-14 years) per year on average, with annual damages totalling approximately USD 100 million, primarily in communities on the southern peninsula. Cacili



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Haitian children are exposed to a number of vector-borne diseases, including aedes (95 percent), dengue (94 percent), Zika (88 percent) and PF malaria (60 percent stable and 38 percent unstable transmission). Malaria incidence in Haiti fell 64 percent between 2010 and 2017, owing mostly to the usage of ITNS. As global temperatures rise, the prevalence of vector-borne illnesses is expected to grow into the Haitian highlands impacting the 50,000 people living in communities over 1,000 meters above sea level who have previously been unaffected. CCCIII



#### **Heatwaves**

Almost 60 percent of children under the age of 18 are exposed to heatwaves in Haiti. Heatwaves affect the children in urban areas most severely, where 2.5 million children currently live in urban slums with poor building quality, lacking access to WASH and little green spaces, all of which limit children's capacity to cope with heat stress. Cocilii An increase in the frequency and severity of marine heatwaves is expected to disrupt coastal fisheries, a main source of livelihood for families in Haiti. Such disruptions will affect food security and may, result in school dropout and an increase in child labour to guarantee the family's survival.



#### Soil and water pollution

Lead pollution is a serious threat to children's health and development in Haiti, where 94 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to unsafe lead pollution levels. For example, research in Port-au-Prince has found dangerous lead concentration levels ranging from 40  $\mu$ g/L to 90  $\mu$ g/L and high Chromium (III) risks have also been measured in groundwater and drinking water. Cocliv

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Access to WASH services in Haiti are limited. 1.9 million people lack access to safe water and around 23 percent of the population lack access to basic handwashing facilities. CCCIV Open defectaion remains prevalent, particularly in rural areas, which 31.5 percent of the population practise. CCCIVI The threat of acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal illnesses, cholera, and malaria is growing in southern Haiti, where over 500,000 children lack access to adequate WASH and shelter. CCCIVII Children with poor access to adequate WASH provisions have a reduced capacity to respond to, and treat, climate-related injuries and diseases.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Maternal and child mortality rates are staggering in Haiti, at 480 per 100,000 live births and 58.6 per 1,000 live births respectively. CCCCVVIII While diarrhoeal infections already accounted for 8 percent of all mortalities among children under the age of five globally in 2019, they accounted for up to 10.7 percent of deaths among Haitian children. CCCCIX In 2022, Haiti experienced a resurgence of cholera after over 3 years of no reported cases. This resurgence has spread to all parts of the county affecting over 13,000 people, including 283 deaths (December 2022). CCCIX The outbreak has taken place amid a complicated humanitarian crisis, which is increasing the disease burden and impeding response efforts. In addition, an estimated 168,000 children suffer from acute malnutrition, particularly in Port-au-Prince, which experiences the highest prevalence of acute malnutrition globally at 6.5 percent. CCCCLVXI Health risk is increased by the scarcity of doctors in the nation, with only one available for every 1,400 people. CCCCLXXI



#### Poverty and social protection

Children in Haiti are among the poorest children in the world, suffering from multiple deprivations which are exacerbated by climatic changes. Haiti is also the poorest country in the LAC region, with one of the lowest GDP per capita, at USD 2,925 (2020), less than a sixth of the regional average of USD 15,092. CCCIVIII COVID-19, political instability, rising gang violence, and fragility are stagnating Haiti's economic growth and social development. Institutional weaknesses and sheer rates of impoverishment make social protection schemes difficult to implement in Haiti. Moreover, climate change and environmental degradation, such as deforestation and soil erosion, are major drivers of migration, especially from rural areas, where people can no longer sustain livelihoods ccclaiv, and remittances are increasingly becoming an adaptive strategy.



#### **Education**

Access to education remains a key challenge in Haiti. Whilst attendance rates for primary level remain high at 86 percent, only 28 and 21 percent of youth attend lower and upper secondary school. In addition, over the past 2 years, over 3 million students have been unable to attend school owing to political and security issues, as well as COVID-19 lockdowns. Moreover, without adequate DRR infrastructure, earthquakes significantly affect 'children's rights to education.



#### **Earthquakes**

Alongside climatic hazards, Haiti is highly vulnerable to natural/geophysical hazards, including earthquakes. For example, in August 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, struck south-western Haiti, causing hospitals, schools and homes to collapse, claiming hundreds of lives, and leaving communities in crisis. Approximately 82 health facilities and 56 water supply systems were severely damaged or destroyed, and an estimated 260,000 children, were estimated to need humanitarian assistance. The devastation also set back significant advancements made in social protection and highlights a greater need for building community preparedness and resilience.



## Country Profiles

# Middle East and North Africa

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is the hottest and driest region across the globe, which is warming at a rate twice the global average and is experiencing increased aridification. By 2050, the region could be as much as 4°C warmer, which significantly exceeds the 1.5°C target set by the Paris Agreement.

Climate aggravated water scarcity is one of the greatest threats to child survival and development in MENA. The region contains 14 out of 17 of the most water stressed countries worldwide according to SDG 6.4.2 and almost 90 percent of children live in areas of high or extremely high-water stress. Coclavi Increasing water scarcity and devastating sandstorms, threaten the lives and well-being of the most vulnerable children in the region, particularly those living in LDCs.



Table 10
Estimates of children's exposure to climate related hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in MENA

Country	Number of children under 18 years old exposed to / living in areas with					
	Water scarcity	Riverine floods (50 years)	Coastal flood risk	Extensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Intensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Heatwaves
Djibouti	30 thousand	10 thousand	-	-	-	140 thousand
Sudan	11.2 million	20 thousand	20 thousand	-	-	1.2 million
Yemen	9.4 million	310 thousand	20 thousand	-	-	530 thousand
UNICEF MENA LDCs (3 countries)	20.6 million	340 thousand	40 thousand		-	1.9 million

Table 11
Estimates of children's exposure to environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in MENA

Country	Number of children unde	Number of children under 20 years old exposed to		
	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 10 $\mu$ g/m3)	Lead pollution		
Djibouti	250 thousand	240 thousand	5 thousand	60 thousand
Sudan	21 million	20.8 million	-	12.5 million
Yemen	13.3 million	13.3 million	140 thousand	13.8 million
UNICEF MENA LDCs (3 countries)	34.5 million	34.3 million	140 thousand	26.4 million

Table 12
Estimates of children living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in LDCs in MENA

Country	Number of children under 18 years old living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors*
Djibouti	320 thousand
Sudan	21 million
Yemen	12.2 million
UNICEF MENA LDCs (3 countries)	33.6 million

<sup>\*</sup>Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria, Plasmodium Vivax Malaria, Aedes, Dengue, Zika

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

## Djibouti

CCRI O O O O		5.8	High
Climate and environment shoo	ks	4.3	Pillar 1
Water scarcity	3.2		
Riverine floods	2.8		
Coastal floods	0.0		
Tropical cyclones	0.0		
Vector borne disease	6.8		
Heatwaves	5.8		
Air pollution	7.5		
Soil and water pollution	3.8		
Child vulnerability		6.9	Pillar 2
Child health and nutrition	7.7		
Education	7.0		
Water, sanitation, and hygiene	5.0		
Poverty, communication assets and social protection	7.9	<del></del>	

Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Djibouti; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Djibouti has a CCRI score of **5.8** and ranks **56**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Djibouti at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Djibouti are highly exposed to include:



#### **Air pollution**

In Djibouti, 76 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 25  $\mu$ g/m³), exceeding the WHO recommended maximum limits (PM2.5 >= 5  $\mu$ g/m³). The construction sector, agricultural outputs, and vehicle pollution are the greatest contributors to poor air quality in Djibouti. CCCIAVVII



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Children in Djibouti also experience high exposure to several vector-borne diseases. For example, 91 percent of children are exposed to dengue and 88 percent of children are at risk of aedes, which causes several debilitating illnesses. Conversely, children's exposure to zika is significantly lower than other LDCs, at just 6 percent, however this may increase in the future as temperature suitability and climatic conditions for various disease vectors shift. Research suggests that an additional 1.3 billion new people could be exposed to zika virus risk by 2050. CCCLEVIII Djibouti's health-care systems must be prepared for, and made resilient to, the additional burden of climate-related diseases.



#### **Heatwaves**

Heatwaves are another environmental risk to children in Djibouti, albeit this risk level is significantly lower than in other LDCs (44 percent of children are exposed). Children in urban areas have been identified as particularly vulnerable to heat stress due to the urban heat island effect. For example, the capital, Djibouti City, is one of the world's hottest inhabited cities, with a hot desert marine climate, and temperatures ranging from 35°C to 45°C from May to September. CCCLIXIX CCCLIXX

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Djibouti has made remarkable progress in the provision of safe drinking water services in recent years. Approximately 76 percent of households have basic water service delivery. CCCLXXI However, access to adequate sanitation and hygiene services remain a key challenge. Only 37 percent of households have access to a safely managed sanitation service. CCCLXXII Moreover, 64 percent of Djibouti's rural population continue to practice open defectation CCCLXXIII which pollutes surrounding environments and has devastating consequences on child health. Improving access to adequate WASH should remain a key priority in Djibouti to reduce children's vulnerability to climate change, including the ongoing drought.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Over the past 20 years, Djibouti has made considerable improvements in children's health, with child mortality rates falling from 91.3 in 2004 to 54.1 in 2021. Coclaviv Nonetheless, the maternal mortality rate remains high, at 248 per 100,000 live births. One of the primary causes for the insufficiency of maternal healthcare is the lack of healthcare providers, with only 7.3 midwives and nurses per 10,000 inhabitants. Across the country, overall acute malnutrition rates exceed the WHO emergency threshold of 10 percent. The peak is reached in the Obock region, where 25.7 percent of children under five suffer from acute malnutrition. Coclaviv Areas of the world with weak health infrastructure, that already struggle to provide adequate health-care services, will experience even greater strains on resources with climate change.



#### Poverty and social protection

Poverty levels are high in Djibouti and have not reduced much since 2013, with an absolute poverty rate of 21 percent (2017) compared to 23 percent in 2013. CCCLXXVII Additionally, whilst the percentage of uprooted people in Djibouti remains low at just 3 percent, the country receives an enormous number of refugees from Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea and is a favourable transit country for Gulf states, putting strain on already limited services and resources. CCCLXXVIII COVID-19 was hard hitting to Djibouti's economy, which saw a decline in economic growth from 7.1 to 1 percent, pushing many families into further poverty. CCCLXXVIII Resilience to shocks including pandemics and climate hazards remains low in the region due to a lack of social protection and financial inclusion.



#### **Education**

Out of school rates for children of primary and secondary school age Djibouti remain high at 33 percent and around 48 percent respectively, and are particularly high in the Obock and Tadjourah districts. Cochical The main barriers to school attendance include: absence of birth certificates, limited class sizes and community beliefs, such as that children are 'too young' 'not interested' or are required to help their families. Cochical Alongside, high dropout rates, quality of education remains a key challenge. Nonetheless, remarkably during COVID-19, distance learning, transmitted on radio and television from Djibouti, was able to reach more than 94,000 out of the 130,000 students enrolled in basic education, which may be a useful technology to continue education for children forced to miss school as a result of heatwaves or other shocks in the future.

## Sudan



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Sudan; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Sudan has a CCRI score of **7.6** and ranks **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in Sudan are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Sudan are highly exposed to include:



#### **Air pollution**

In Sudan, 99 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution of (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ) exceeding the recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit (PM2.5 >=  $5 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). The largest contributors to air pollution in the region include oil extraction and processing, cement manufacturing, vehicle emissions, and waste burning. Pollutants of particular concern to health include carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, which cause respiratory and other diseases, that can be fatal to children.



#### Water scarcity

Over half of all children in Sudan are exposed to water scarcity (53 percent). Between 1990 and 2014, droughts were the second most frequently recorded hazard, accounting for 15 percent of Sudan's disasters. Coclaxxiv Droughts caused by variable rainfall are particularly problematic for the agricultural sector in Sudan, where 70 percent of farmers rely on rainfed farming. Coclaxxiv Consequently, drought is a major driver of poverty for rural families. Droughts are expected to increase in frequency with future climate change, especially in Sudan's southern region. Coclaxxiv Investments to help the agricultural sector prepare for future droughts are critical to reduce food insecurity risks, prevent malnutrition, and keep children out of poverty.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Vector disease risk is high in Sudan, where 99 percent are at risk of PV malaria (unstable transmission), 93 percent are at risk of aedes, and 27 percent of children are exposed to dengue. In 2019, Sudan experienced an increase in outbreaks of malaria, dengue fever, Rift Valley fever and chikungunya, owing to increase in heavy rainfall. The rise of the outbreaks can be linked to the recent heavy rainfall in the country that have left significant pools of stagnant water, which are breeding sites for a variety of vectors such as mosquitoes and houseflies. CCCLXXXVIII Exposure to these vectors, and increased risks of compounding climatic factors, makes adapting the healthcare sector in Sudan critical to protect children from the deadly impacts of vector-borne diseases.



#### Soil and water pollution

Waterways and soils in Sudan are extremely contaminated. The oil industry is a major contributor to pollution, exposing children to various toxic chemicals and heavy metals. For many local governments, a lack of funding and resources poses a major barrier to effective water treatment. In addition, 57 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution, which can have significant consequences for children's health and well-being.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

In Sudan, 60 percent of households have access to basic drinking water services, and 37 percent have access to at least basic sanitation. CCCLXXXVIII Inadequate WASH is the primary cause of child mortality and contributes significantly to acute malnutrition. In addition, Sudan has the highest prevalence of open defecation in MENA, which nearly a quarter of households (over 10 million people) practise. CCCLXXXIX Open defecation poses significant public health risks, including cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and polio.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Poor health and nutrition cause significant vulnerability in Sudan. Child mortality rates are high at 54.9 percent per 1,000 live births and diarrhoea, pneumonia, and malaria account for more than 30 percent of under-five mortality. Cases of chikungunya and dengue are increasing, and the recent measles epidemic provided a major setback to Sudan's goal of eliminating measles by 2020. Maternal health is also poor in the region, where only 27 percent of mothers receive postnatal care and maternal mortality rates are high at 295 per 100,000 live births. Additionally, Sudan is one of 14 nations that account for 80 percent of the world's stunted children, where over one-third of children under the age of 5 (2.3 million) are stunted for their age. CECCK



#### Poverty and social protection

In Sudan, nearly half of the population — around 20 million people live in poverty, with limited access to basic necessities, such as food and clean water. \*\*cccxci\*\* The country is endowed with fertile land, natural resources, a young labour force; nonetheless, decades of conflict and the oil-rich south's secession in 2011 has resulted in a downward economic trend. According to IMF data, GDP declined by half between 2011 and 2019. \*\*cccxcii\*\* In addition, Sudan is one of the biggest host countries for refugees globally. In 2022, 4 million people were uprooted people in Sudan, including 3 million internally displaced by conflict and violence and 85,000 internally displaced by disasters. \*\*31 In the context of displacement, children suffer a variety of increased risks, including those related to family separation, exploitation, violence and abuse, loss of education, increased vulnerability to physical and psychological trauma, all of which, place displaced children at an increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.



#### **Education**

Nearly 3 million Sudanese children, aged 5 to 13, are not in school. Only 68 percent of students attend primary school, and by lower secondary, this halves to 31 percent. Conflict, societal values on the importance of education, and poverty all contribute to low attendance rates. In addition, inadequate WASH services for MHM and socio-cultural norms around the traditional roles of women prevent many girls from attending school. Moreover, quality of education is a significant concern given a lack of teacher training. For example, in 2016 out of a total of 7,315 engaged instructors in south and east Darfur, the Ministry of Education recognised 3,692 unqualified teachers. Coccasion

<sup>33</sup> Calculated indicator: The total number of uprooted people is the sum of refugees and asylum-seekers, returned refugees, people internally displaced by conflict and violence, and people internally displaced by disasters as proportion of the total population. Calculated using UNHCR and IDMC data.

### Yemen



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Yemen; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Yemen has a CCRI score of **7.4** and ranks **26**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Yemen at "Extremely High" risk. Children's vulnerability to climate hazards is also exacerbated by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where approximatley 13 million children require humanitarian assistance as a result of catastrophic conflict.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Yemen are highly exposed to include:



#### **Air pollution**

In Yemen, 99 percent of the child population is exposed to ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >= 25  $\mu$ g/m³), exceeding the recommended maximum ambient air pollution of (PM2.5 >= 5  $\mu$ g/m³). Children residing in the largest city, Sana'a are consistently exposed to high pollution risks.



#### **Water scarcity**

Even before the current conflict broke out, Yemen was one of the world's most water-scarce countries. 70 percent of children at risk of water scarcity, as a result of high aridity, rapid groundwater depletion and inadequate water infrastructure. Groundwater supplies are expected to be drained in the next two decades, lowering agricultural productivity up to 40 percent. Heavy rains are regularly followed by protracted dry spells, resulting in severe drought, desertification, and land degradation. Climate change is expected to prolong Yemen's drought periods, as a result of greater rainfall variability and temperature rise. Water resource management has been a priority for Yemen's adaptation planning over the past decade. For example, some water conservation has been achieved by reusing treated wastewater and grey water from mosques, as well as by employing irrigation-saving strategies. Percentification water scarcity are needed to protect vulnerable children.



#### Soil and water pollution

Major causes of water pollution in Yemen include poor sanitation, a lack of sewage treatment plants, overuse of fertilisers and pesticides and manufacturing emissions. Activities related to crude oil production and petroleum refining are also significant sources of pollutants. For example, the possibility of an oil spill from the FSO Safer tanker, which stores 1.1 million barrels of crude oil just off the coast of Yemen, poses a huge risk to children. CCCXCVIII In addition, nearly all children and adolescents under the age of 20 (95 percent) are exposed to lead pollution. Lead pollution can cause serious health problems, including irreparable damage to brain development, neurological systems, and vital organs, even resulting in death.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Malaria risk is present throughout the year in Yemen, and 91 percent of children at risk of PV malaria (unstable transmission). Other vectors of concern include Aedes (46 percent risk) and dengue (42 percent child exposure). Dengue is endemic in urban and semi-urban settings along Yemen's Red Sea and Arabian Sea coasts and was recorded in 204 districts, including rural areas, between 2019-2020.cccxcix Children's exposure to zika is much lower than other LDCs (4 percent), however the conjunction of increasing Aedes aegypti infestation with large, impoverished/displaced populations and inadequate public health infrastructure is expected to put some countries in MENA at an increasingly higher risk.<sup>cd</sup>

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

More than 17.8 million people lacked access to safe WASH services in 2022, including 9.2 million children. cdi The country continues to experience regular outbreaks of cholera, measles, diphtheria and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Poor access to adequate WASH is linked to the inadequate living conditions in Yemen. In September 2021, 4 million people were internally displaced, including 2 million children. diii Implementing WASH interventions in displacement camps and conflict zones proves difficult given the insecurity, a lack of WASH funding and inadequate infrastructure. Climate change is expected to worsen the WASH situation for vulnerable children in Yemen. For example, for two consecutive years in August (2021 and 2022), periods of heavy rainfall have destroyed shelters of internally displaced people and flooded WASH infrastructures. Consequently, there is a critical need to increase the resilience of WASH systems to protect vulnerable children.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Yemen's healthcare system is on the brink of collapse after 8 years of conflict, large scale displacement and climate shocks which have left almost 21.9 million people, half of whom are children, in desperate need of basic healthcare. Child and maternal mortality rates are high at 61.9 per 1,000 live births and 164 per 100,000 live births respectively. Many healthcare institutions are closed or only provide rudimentary services. In 2022, 2.2 million children under the age of 5 were facing acute malnutrition, Cdv, and 37 percent have stunted growth for their age. Without adequate funding for healthcare, hospital support will cease, resulting in a widespread disruption in fundamental life-saving healthcare for children and mothers. Moreover, in 2021, millions of doses of over ten types of lifesaving vaccinations, including those for polio, measles, and COVID-19, were expected to expire due to a break in the cold chain.



#### Poverty and social protection

Yemen is facing several development challenges including high poverty rates, low life expectancy and significant malnutrition. The national poverty rate stands at 48.6 percent and poverty levels have been greatly affected by instability and conflict, which prevent children from accessing critical services needed to survive. Conflict has slowed economic development, plummeted household income, and driven millions into poverty. According to the UNDP, if the conflict continues, Yemen will have the world's deepest poverty, second-worst gender development imbalance, lowest calories per capita, and second-worst decline in economic activity relative to 2014. Calvii Improved access to cash based social safety nets is essential to reduce extreme poverty and vulnerability and increase individual, household and community resilience in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen.



#### Education

Access to education remains a key challenge in Yemen. Attacks on schools since conflict began in 2015 has had a devastating impact on millions of children's access to learning. In 2013, school attendance rates were low, especially for children of lower and upper secondary school age, at 39 percent and 29 percent respectively. Calvilli In addition, only 63 percent of children complete primary education. The double threat of conflict and climate shocks have worsened educational outcomes for children in recent years. For example, in September 2021, a combination of conflict and heatwaves resulted in the closure of schools in Aden, Abyan, Hadramout and Shabwa in the southern region. Calvilli In 2015 has had a devastating impact on schools should be seen acceptance of schools should be supported by the school of the schoo



# Country Profiles

# **South Asia**

Children in South Asia are in constant danger, facing high levels of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks, including riverine flooding, air pollution, soil and water pollution and coastal flooding. The South Asian region (SAR) consists of 4 LDCs.<sup>34</sup> Afghanistan and Bangladesh are among four South Asian countries where children are at "Extremely High" climate and environmental risk, while children in Bhutan and Nepal experience relatively lower risks.

<sup>34</sup> The LDCs in the SAR include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.



Table 13
Estimates of children's exposure to climate related hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in SAR

Country	Number of child	Number of children under 18 years old exposed to / living in areas with					
	Water scarcity	Riverine floods (50 years)	Coastal flood risk	Extensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Intensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Heatwaves	
Afghanistan	12.2 million	1.7 million	-	-	-	4.5 million	
Bangladesh	4.4 million	36 million	38.5 million	19.5 million	-	12.5 million	
Bhutan	-	20 thousand	-	-	-	200 thousand	
Nepal	8 million	1.8 million	-	-	-	3.8 million	
UNICEF SA LDCs (4 countries)	24.7 million	39.5 million	38.5 million	19.5 million		20.9 million	

Table 14
Estimates of children's exposure to environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in SAR

Country	Number of children unde	Number of children under 20 years old exposed to		
	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= $10 \mu g/m3$ )	Lead pollution		
Afghanistan	17.9 million	17.9 million	10.4 million	19.5 million
Bangladesh	52.3 million	52.3 million	27.6 million	35.5 million
Bhutan	270 thousand	250 thousand	-	20 thousand
Nepal	10.7 million	10.6 million	-	6.7 million
UNICEF SA LDCs (4 countries)	81.2 million	81.1 million	38 million	61.7 million

Table 15
Estimates of children living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in LDCs in SAR

Country	Number of children under 18 years old living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors*
Afghanistan	14.9 million
Bangladesh	53 million
Bhutan	170 thousand
Nepal	10.1 million
UNICEF SA LDCs (4 countries)	78.2 million

<sup>\*</sup>Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria, Plasmodium Vivax Malaria, Aedes, Dengue, Zika

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

## **Afghanistan**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Afghanistan; 6 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Children in Afghanistan are considered at "Extremely High" risk. The country has a CCRI score of **7.6** and ranks **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Afghanistan's climate and environmental risks are heavily compounded by the ongoing severe humanitarian crisis.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Afghanistan are highly exposed to include:



#### **Air pollution**

In Afghanistan, all children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ), exceeding the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit. Mortality attributed to ambient air pollution is estimated at 11,000 deaths annually. cdxi Household air pollution is responsible for an estimated 27,000 deaths per year, with children and women being especially vulnerable due to their domestic responsibilities. cdxii During the winter months pollution often rises, owing to increased use of polluting fuels (e.g., wood, coal, kerosene) and inefficient heating technologies.



#### Soil and water pollution

Water quality mapping research has found high levels of nitrates, fluoride, and arsenic in groundwater supplies in many areas of Afghanistan. Caxiii caxiv The primary source of pollution is agriculture, which contributes pesticides, nitrates and microbial contamination into soil and water systems. At present, 58 percent of children are living in areas with high pesticide pollution risks. Other major pollution sources include insufficient infrastructure, septic tanks, and leachate from informal waste dumping. Caxiv Additionally, children's risks of lead poisoning are amongst the highest globally. 94 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution, which can seriously harm physical and neurological development.



#### **Water scarcity**

Afghanistan is highly water scarce, suffering from regular droughts which greatly impact livelihoods and the economy. 68 percent of Afghan children are exposed to water scarcity. Despite significant water supplies from mountain runoff, water resources are not adequately distributed and the continued loss of glacial mass, is leading to reduced runoff, which will increase future drought frequency. The south-eastern region is especially drought prone and areas such as the Western Heart Province are experiencing water resource conflicts, affecting children's safety. Agriculture provides a significant level of livelihood and sustenance in Afghanistan, employing approximately half of the working population. Toroughts and other climate related hazards are, therefore, a constant danger to community livelihoods and food security.



#### **Heatwaves**

One quarter of all children in Afghanistan are exposed to heatwaves. The national average monthly maximum temperature is approximately 20°C, with maximum temperatures in July averaging 33°C. Catxix These national averages conceal significant subnational variances, including in the cities of Kandahar and Herat, which have typical July maximum temperatures of 40°C and 37°C respectively. Catxix Recent projections under high emission scenarios show that extreme heatwaves in Afghanistan might occur as frequently as every 1-2 years, affecting the health and well-being of children, who are more susceptible to heat stress than adults. Catxii Catxiii

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Despite substantial WASH progress over the last 10 years, only 28 percent of households have access to a safely managed drinking water service. Color access to safe water sources contributes to significant health risks for Afghan children, where diarrhoeal illnesses are the second most common cause of death for children under the age of 5, after acute respiratory infections. Color work women and children are disproportionately affected by the lack of safe piped water due to their water related responsibilities. In addition, sanitation and hygiene remain poor in the country with just 38 percent of households having access to basic handwashing facilities and 28 percent have unimproved sanitation services. Color work was a safely managed drinking water service.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Inadequate access to health and nutrition makes children in Afghanistan more vulnerable to climate change. Afghanistan has high child and infant mortality rates at 45 deaths per 1,000 births and 58 per 1,000 live births respectively and in 2018, 40 percent of Afghan children died before their first birthday. Maternal mortality rates are also high at 638 per 100,000 live births. Thousands of Afghan women die every year from pregnancy-related causes, the majority of which are preventable. Afghanistan has one of the world's highest rates of stunting in children under the age of 5, at 41 percent. More than half of the population are estimated to face crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity and 7.2 million people are estimated to need nutrition assistance.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

The economic crisis in Afghanistan is expected to continue, where 64 percent of households are unable to meet their basic needs. This is coupled with a historic third La Niña drought, harsh winters, and other climate-related risks. According to OCHA, between April and September 2022, over 32,000 people have been displaced by conflict, 57 percent of which were children.cdxxix In the context of displacement, children suffer a variety of increased risks, including those related to family separation, exploitation, violence, and loss of education, which make children increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts. A greater coverage of social protection mechanisms is essential for Afghan children to better respond and recover to future shocks, including extreme winters and sudden onset-disasters.



#### **Education**

More than three decades of continuous conflict have wreaked havoc on Afghanistan's education system. Despite recent progress in increased enrolment, primary school completion remains a frequent problem for girls, who often miss school due to security risks, a lack of adequate sanitation facilities and traditional gender norms. Moreover, attendance rates are lowest in the poorest and most distant parts of the country, especially in mountainous areas. Those who do attend school often obtain a low-quality education, since just 48 percent of teachers possess the required academic teaching requirements. Attempts to strengthen Afghanistan's education system are severely hampered by the ongoing humanitarian crisis and accelerating impacts of climate change.

## Bangladesh



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Bangladesh; 2 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Bangladesh has a CCRI score of **7.6** and ranks **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Bangladesh at "Extremely High" risk. According to the IDMC, Bangladesh recorded over 4 million internal displacements as a result of disasters in 2020. cdxxxi

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Bangladesh are highly exposed to include:



#### **Coastal flooding**

73 percent of children are living in areas of coastal flood risk in Bangladesh. Coastal flood risk occurs largely because of sea-level rise and monsoons, with two thirds of Bangladesh's land sitting below 5 meters above sea level. Communities around the Bay of Bengal face particularly high flood risk, where homes are becoming increasingly inhabitable, forcing many people to permanently move.



#### **Riverine flooding**

68 percent of Bangladeshi children are exposed to riverine flooding. Bangladesh is located on the Brahmaputra River Delta, which has several distributaries that are prone to flooding. Floods are most prevalent during the monsoon season (June to October), which brings enormous volumes of precipitation. Himalayan meltwater is also a substantial contributor to flooding. Flood events are extremely dangerous for children, who often face increased risks of injuries and drowning. Every year, more than 19,000 children lose their lives due to drowning in Bangladesh, with an average of 53 child mortalities daily, according to Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey 2016. cdxxxiii Beyond the immediate risks of death and injury, floods also increase instances of diarrhoea outbreaks and frequently disrupt children's education and learning.



#### **Air pollution**

Bangladesh has one of the highest levels of air pollution worldwide. 99 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ), which exceeds recommended maximum ambient air pollution limits. Moreover, Bangladesh has one of highest burdens of child mortality associated with IAP. 89 percent of Bangladeshi families utilize solid fuels, including wood, agricultural waste, and cow dung for cooking and heating, which are major sources of household air pollution, resulting in the deaths of approximately 8,500 children each year. Cdxxxiv



#### Soil and water pollution

Rivers and groundwater are frequently polluted in Bangladesh, as a result of growing urbanisation, industrialization, and poor infrastructure. High levels of arsenic, chloride and manganese degrade water quality in Bangladesh. High levels of exposure to arsenic has been linked to cardiovascular disease, cancer, and infectious diseases. Moreover, an estimated 1 million people are at risk of lead poisoning, including a staggering 35 million children, which is largely the unsafe disposal of lead-acid batteries. Pregnant women exposed to high amounts of lead risk miscarriage, stillbirth, early birth, and low birth weight and young children are more sensitive to lead's toxicity, which can result in long term development problems as well as death.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**



#### **Heatwaves**

Over 12 million children are exposed to heatwaves in Bangladesh. The country experiences some of the highest maximum temperatures in Asia, with an average monthly maximum of 30°C. cdxxxvii Bangladesh now sees approximately 70 days per year with a Heat Index of more than 35°C, indicating a high frequently heat-stressed environment. cdxxxviii Dhaka has been identified as a city which faces some of the greatest heat-related health impacts worldwide and is rapidly approaching a permanent state of heatwave. cdxxxviii cdxxxix Exposure to abnormal or prolonged heat and humidity without relief or adequate fluids often causes children to miss out on schooling.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **Health and nutrition**

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of newborn mortalities worldwide, at 62,000 every year. The main causes of newborn deaths include prematurity, sepsis and conditions arising from delivery complications, like asphyxia. Maternal mortality is high at 241 per 100,000 live births, which could easily be preventable with improved antenatal healthcare systems. Improving education for mothers is also essential, as newborns with less educated mothers are 2.3 times more likely to die within the first month. Bangladeshi children are also highly vulnerable to water-borne diseases. Approximately, 7 percent of child deaths under the age of five are caused by diarrheal disease in Bangladesh, with the highest transmission rates observed during flooding. dviii Floods, droughts and heatwaves are all environmental drivers of vector and water-borne diseases. As hazards increase with intensity and frequency, Bangladeshi children will be increasingly exposed to climate related diseases, necessitating the development of resilient healthcare systems.

Inadequate nutrition is also significant in Bangladesh, where 30 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted and around 28 percent of babies are born with low birth weight. Progression on the alleviation of malnutrition has been slow. For example, the FAO has calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh's national undernourishment rate only declined from 16.6 to 15.5 percent between 2004 and 2016. Calculated that Bangladesh could be also a calculated that Bangladesh could be als

In comparison to other "Extremely High Risk" countries, Bangladesh has a relatively lower scores for other vulnerability indices. However, improvements to strengthen the climate resilience of Bangladesh's sectors can still be made.



#### **WASH**

Most households in Bangladesh have access to drinking water in Bangladesh (59 percent of access safely managed drinking water services and 39 percent access basic drinking water services). drinking water services and 39 percent access basic drinking water services). drinking water services are quality of water is compromised with bacteriological contamination resulting from poor sanitary practices, availability of undesirable chemical contamination such as arsenic – with over 10 per cent of sources contaminated drinking – and seawater intrusion, resulting from climate hazards, such as floods, landslides, and cyclones. Bangladesh has been successful in significantly reducing open defectation; nevertheless, more work is required to obtain safely manage sanitation, as well as to guarantee the safety and privacy of girls and women. Environmental pollution in the form of unregulated sewage endangers the availability of the country's scarce freshwater resources and contributes to disease transmission.



#### Poverty and social protection

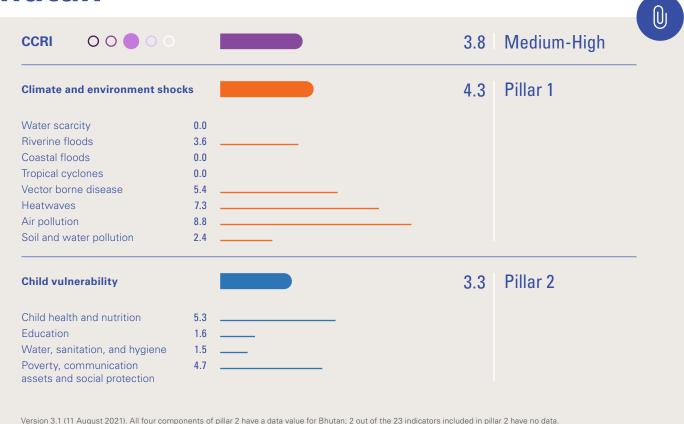
Bangladesh has achieved significant progress in poverty reduction, thanks to the country's strong economic growth. Bangladesh has reduced severe poverty by half and attained a lower middle-income status in 2015. The country is on track to graduate from its LDC status in 2026. The poverty head count ratio at national poverty levels is currently 24.3 percent, substantially lower than other comparable LDCs. Social protection coverage has also improved, with over 130 social protection programmes installed, however the system remains highly fragmented with overlapping objectives, low budgets, and disparities in access. Color in the country is on track to graduate from its LDC status in 2026. The poverty head count ratio at national poverty levels is currently 24.3 percent, substantially lower than other comparable LDCs. Social protection coverage has also improved, with over 130 social protection programmes installed, however the system remains highly fragmented with overlapping objectives, low budgets, and disparities in access. Color in the country is on track to graduate from its LDC status in 2026. The poverty head count ratio at national poverty levels is currently 24.3 percent, substantially lower than other comparable LDCs. Social protection coverage has also improved, with over 130 social protection programmes installed, however the system remains highly fragmented with overlapping objectives, low budgets, and disparities in access.



#### **Education**

Bangladesh has seen significant progress in improving primary education access and equity in recent years. Primary school attendance stands high, at 86 percent, as do primary school completion rates at 83 percent. Columbia However, issues with higher education levels remain. Only 58 percent of adolescents attend lower secondary, and 48 percent of youth attend upper secondary education. Columbia Drop-outs rates are largely related to child marriage for girls and child labour for boys. Moreover, children living in disaster-affected areas, children with disabilities, and the poorest children are most at danger of being kept out of school. For example, children with disabilities are seven times more likely to be out of school than other children, while married girls are over four times more likely to be out of school than their unmarried friends. Collimbia house in Bangladesh are seriously exposed to climate hazards, with floods, cyclones, extreme heat, and droughts frequently disrupting their education. Collimbia Horeover, a lack of qualified teachers, inadequate facilities, poor nutrition, and food security all obstruct high-quality education.

## **Bhutan**



Bhutan has a CCRI score of **3.8** and ranks **111**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Bhutan at "**Medium-High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Bhutan are highly exposed to include:



#### **Air pollution**

In Bhutan, 94 percent of the total child population are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ), exceeding the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $5 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). The main sources of poor air quality include the construction industry, vehicle emissions, wood burning stoves, and burning of household and farm waste. Pollution levels are highest from November to March, due to the need to heat individual homes and air pollution levels in the areas of Thimpu and Phuentsholing have been reported as continuously high. Indoor and outdoor air pollution are also considerable drivers of pneumonia in Bhutan, which is the leading cause of mortality for children under the age of  $5.c^{cdlxxviii}$ 



#### **Heatwaves**

73 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in Bhutan. The country's tropical and lower altitude experiences the greatest danger of extended exposure to excessive heat, at least once every five years. Collective Recent projection analysis, estimates that the percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency and high heatwave duration will reach all children in Nepal under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. Collective These projections demonstrate the need for greater adaptation measures to shield children from the worst effects of heat stress, including heat rash, heat-related cramps, exhaustion and stroke.

<sup>37</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.

<sup>38</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

Dehydration can also occur because of extreme heat stress, which is a prevalent cause of hyperthermia and mortality in babies and small children. Children are also more likely to miss school due to heat exhaustion or to help in the workforce, due to a decrease in labour productivity during heatwaves



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Children in Bhutan are also vulnerable to vector-borne diseases, with exposure to dengue and the aedes mosquito the most significant risks (99 and 95 percent of children under the age of 18 at risk, respectively). For example, in 2019, Bhutan experienced its first nationwide dengue epidemic, with almost 6000 cases, and children especially vulnerable. Calixxxii With rising temperatures and altering agroecological zones, zika and malaria are anticipated to migrate into Bhutan's higher altitude regions as their geographic ranges change. Calixxxiii calixxxiiii



#### **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**

Whilst not captured in the CCRI, Global Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are a significant concern in Bhutan, given their sudden onset and potential to cause substantial damage to communities in river valleys. The northern part of the nation is particularly at risk to these hazards, where 25 glacial lakes at dangerous risk of rupture are located. cdlxxxiv Rising average temperatures accelerates glacial retreat and melt, increasing the volume of water in glacial lakes, which in turn increases risks of a GLOF. cdlxxxv Bhutan's disaster preparedness and climate adaptation plans must address the real potential of a GLOF hazard occurring.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Vulnerabilities related to WASH in Bhutan are considerably lower than in other LDCs. Significant improvements in WASH have been made in recent years. 92 percent of households have access to basic hygiene services and 65 percent of households have a safely managed sanitation service. Collective Nonetheless, WASH challenges are particularly prominent in schools and monastic institutions. Water for handwashing with soap and functional toilets are unavailable in one out of every five schools and almost one third of schools do not have separate restrooms for females, resulting in major concerns for MHM for adolescent girls. Collective According to a recent needs assessment survey, around 44 percent of teenage schoolgirls miss school due to menstruation. Collective in the construction of the construction.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Despite the country's relatively high levels of food sufficiency, malnutrition remains a prevalent problem for children in Bhutan, where approximately, 22 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted, and almost 12 percent of babies are born with a low birthweight. Child and maternal mortality rates are considerably lower than other LDCs, at 26.7 per 1,000 live births and 183 per 100,000 live births respectively. Nonetheless, almost two out of every five women still give birth outside of a hospital, with women in rural areas especially excluded from inadequate birth and postoperative care. Moreover, routine immunization coverage is high in Bhutan, improving from 86.7 per cent (2020) to 95 per cent (2021), which protect children from falling serious ill from preventable diseases.cdxc In monastic schools, severe skin diseases, worm infestations, and diarrhoea, are frequent challenges associated with a lack of adequate sanitation infrastructure and poor personal hygiene.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

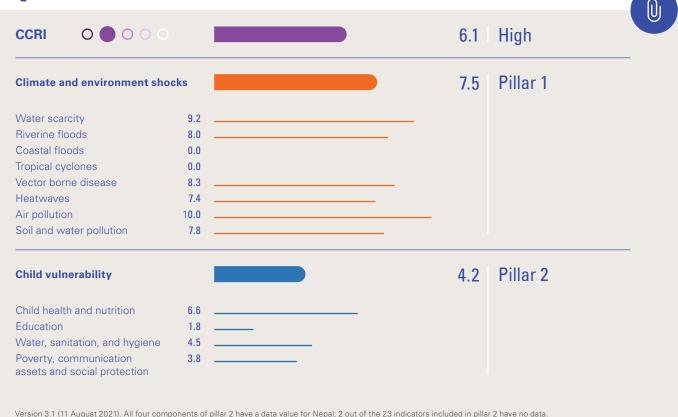
Bhutan's poverty headcount ratio at the national level is relatively low (8.2 percent), and the country is on track to graduate from its LDC status in 2023. Despite these advances, Bhutan's high reliance on agriculture and forestry makes families highly vulnerable to climate shocks. In times of crisis, the poorest are often forced to sell their livelihood assets such as land, livestock, and farming tools to access basic services or resources, such as food or shelter. Some social protection schemes pre-exist in the country, including statutory programmes for old age, disability, and employment injury. However, only 13.5 percent of effective social protection coverage is focused on children. cdxci



#### **Education**

Bhutan has seen tremendous success in improving education outcomes, achieving almost universal education in the past decade. Net attendance rates are high for primary school children (95 percent). Nonetheless, net attendance rates for lower and upper secondary school children are significantly lower at 53 and 24 percent respectively. Calculation for children aged 3 to 5 remains a key challenge, with most centres inaccessible for rural and hard to reach communities. Children with disabilities continue to face stigma and exclusion from school. Although in 2018, the opening of 2 new inclusive schools has served 650 children with disabilities. Children and young people frequently move internally, hoping to have better access to education and employment.

## Nepal



Nepal has a CCRI score of **6.1** and ranks **51**<sup>st</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Nepal at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Nepal are highly exposed to include:



#### **Air pollution**

Air pollution in Nepal is a serious public health risk. All Nepalese children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m3$ ), exceeding the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $5 \mu g/m3$ ). According to the WHO, the annual average air pollution concentration in Nepal is 4.9 times higher than safe air quality limits and is a leading risk factor for death and disability, responsible for 133 fatalities out of 1,000,000 annually. Collin Collin Manufacturing, construction, transport, and waste are the leading sectors contributing to Nepal's poor air quality. Pollution levels vary seasonally, with the greatest levels occurring during the dry season (December to April). Air pollution levels also differ at various altitudes, with the highest levels recorded in the morning and evening in plain and valley locations, and in the afternoon in higher altitudes. The cities of Kathmandu, Lumbini, Nepalgunj, Bhairahawa, and Chitwan are particularly dangerous for children, given their persistently high air pollution levels.



#### **Water scarcity**

Despite vast river basins flowing from glaciers in the Himalayan range, water scarcity affects three quarters of all children in Nepal. The lowland plateaus frequently experience water stress, as a result of long dry spells. Droughts are increasing in frequency, especially in the winter and along the western Terai plains, which are already relatively dry due to the late monsoons. Droughts have a variety of consequences for poor families and communities, including crop failure, livestock loss, income drops, food insecurity as well as rising food prices. In the northern region, mountain dwellers are increasingly forced

to build new settlements at lower altitudes. cdliv Water scarcity is also accelerating mobility. According to recent projections, under all emission scenarios, the likelihood of droughts is expected to increase in Nepal, with the median annual drought probability expected to rise by least 10 percent between 2080-2099. cdlv



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

According to the CCRI, 10.1 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Nepal. 90 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 75 percent are at risk of PV malaria and 71 percent are at risk of aedes. Whilst not included in the CCRI, Japanese encephalitis, visceral leishmaniasis, and lymphatic filariasis are also common vector-borne diseases in Nepal. Most are native to Nepal's lowland Terai and hills; however, population exposure is anticipated to grow as climate change permits vectors to spread to higher altitudes. Calvi



#### **Riverine flooding**

The bulk of Nepal's agricultural land and infrastructure is situated along drainage basins that are vulnerable to flooding. The major causes of flooding are periods of intense rainfall and glacier melt and flood risk is highest in the country's southern lower altitude region. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of extreme river flows in Nepal. cdlvii For example, according to climate models, a once-in-a-century flood event in Nepal is expected to become a once-every-50-year or once-every-25-year occurrence. cdlviii GLOFs are also a major concern.



#### **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)**

Whilst not captured in the CCRI, Nepal faces an increasing threat from GLOFs. Approximately 1,000 glacial lakes are known to exist in the country, the number of which is growing due to glacial melt in the Himalayas. Glacial lakes categorised as catastrophic in their GLOF risks include Phoksundo Tal, Tsho Rolpa, Chamlang North Tsho, Chamlang South Tsho, and Lumding Tsho. Chamlang South Tsho, and Lumding Tsho, and an analysis of the Lumding Tsho, and an analysis of tsho and Lumding Tsho, and an analysis of tsho and an ana



#### Soil and water pollution

Nepalese children face serious health risks related to water and soil pollution. Arsenic pollution of groundwater is common in the 20 Terai districts, where underground water is utilised as drinking water, without purification — placing an estimated 0.5 million people are at risk of arsenic poisoning. Additionally, over half of the Nepalese population under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution (57 percent). Exposure to arsenic and lead can have devastating impacts on children's physical and neurological development, in some cases causing death.



#### **Heatwaves**

35 percent of Nepalese children are exposed to heatwaves. Children are affected by heatwaves more than adults, as they adjust more slowly to changes in environmental temperatures and are more vulnerable to heat-related health risks. Alongside health implications, heatwaves significantly affect children's educational outcomes. New UNICEF analysis, has estimated that the percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency<sup>35</sup> will almost double from 56 percent in 2020, to all children under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. cdlxiii Moreover, the proportion of children exposed to high heatwave duration<sup>36</sup> is expected to increase by 68 percent from 2020 to 2050 under low emission scenarios, reaching all children in Nepal by 2050 under high emission scenarios. cdlxiv These projections demonstrate the need for greater adaptation measures to shield children from the worst effects of heat stress.

<sup>35</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>36</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.



#### **Earthquakes**

Nepal is a high-risk country for natural hazards including earthquakes. While earthquake exposure is not directly related to climate change, it is significant in the context of a changing climate. Increased precipitation and higher temperatures alter the stability of the landscape, making children more vulnerable to mudflows, avalanches, GLOFs, and landslides which can be triggered by earthquakes. Calve Earthquakes and their secondary hazards, often have devastating consequences for children, including fatalities, injuries, and damage to critical infrastructure. For example, in 2015 two successive 7.8 and 7.3 magnitude earthquakes struck Nepal, resulting in 9,000 fatalities, one third of which were children. Calve Critical child services, suffered severe damage during these events, including considerable harm to safe water supplies, damage to 70 percent of birthing facilities, and caused the displacement of nearly one million students from their schools. Calve is displacement.

#### **Underlying vulnerabilities**

In comparison to other LDCs, Nepal has a lower vulnerability score (4.2), which can be attributed to the enormous development efforts made in recent years. Nonetheless, improvements to increase the climate resiliency of key social services can be made.



#### **WASH**

Whilst vulnerabilities related to WASH in Nepal are far less severe than in other LDCs, further advances to ensure universal access to improved and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services needs to be made. 73 percent of households in Nepal have access to a basic drinking water service, yet less than half the population have access to basic sanitation. Calkix In addition, 10 percent of the population continue to practice open defecation and 30 percent of schools have a limited drinking water service. Calkix The risk of contracting easily preventable illnesses such as diarrhoea and cholera in Nepal is significant without adequate WASH.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Nepal has made great progress in the health sector over the past two decades. For example, since 2010, the country has been proclaimed polio-free. Colixxii Child and maternal mortality rates are far lower than other LDCs, at 27.3 per 1,000 births and 186 per 100,000 live births respectively. Inadequate nutrition remains a prominent health problem, as indicated by 30 percent of children under the age of 5 being stunted, and around 22 percent of babies are born at a low birth weight. Climate change is also projected to increase the risks of water-borne illness transmission in the country. For example, higher temperatures have already been linked to an increase in diarrhoea incidence in Nepal. Colixxiii



#### **Poverty and social protection**

Nepal's CCRI component score for poverty and social protection is much lower than comparable LDCs. Nevertheless, climate change will disproportionately harm Nepal's poorest communities. For example, employment in heavy manual labour, is frequently among the lowest paid occupations, while simultaneously being the most vulnerable to productivity losses owing to heat stress. cdlxxiv Further, impoverished communities usually have the least assets and resources to adapt to climate change. For example, poor farmers are often less able to pay for local water storage and irrigation facilities in Nepal. cdlxxv Moreover, the relationship between food price increases and a rise severe poverty is well established in Nepal. cdlxxvi Despite higher government expenditure than other LDCs, (2.06 per percent of GDP spent on Social Safety Nets), social protection coverage is low and fragmented, with many eligible populations excluded from receiving entitled benefits. Around one quarter of the population (aged 15 years+) are unable to come up with emergency funds. Thus, social protection programmes are critical to protect poor children in Nepal, from experiencing the worst impacts of climate change.



#### **Education**

Nepal has achieved substantial educational development in recent years. Youth literacy rates are considerably high for an LDC, at 92.4 percent and just over 5 percent of the country's GDP expenditure is put into the education sector. Nonetheless, the country still faces many challenges. There are significant inequities, with poverty, social marginalization, disability, migration, child labour, societal norms, and gender prejudice all major hurdles to school enrolment and attendance. In addition, only 11 percent of school buildings are earthquake resistant. Safe learning facilities and DRR education can make the difference between life and death for millions of children in Nepal. Nepal's Comprehensive School Safety Master Plan, supported by UNICEF, will ensure that all school buildings are safe and earthquake resistant and that school management bodies, and local communities are equipped to strengthen the resilience of schools and the capacity of their students.



# Country Profiles

# **West and Central Africa**

13 out of the 15 LDCs in the West and Central Africa region (WCAR) are among the 33 "Extremely High Risk" countries identified by the CCRI. Children from 6 of these LDCs are in the top 10 of the most climate change affected countries worldwide, with Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau occupying the top spots.

WCAR hosts several climate change hotspots, where strong physical and ecological effects of climate change intersect with large populations of poor and vulnerable communities. The region has experienced several serious climate-related crises, including the ongoing crisis in the Sahel region of West Africa, in which floods and droughts lead to a protracted food and refugee crisis and perpetuates multi-dimensional poverty, which continues to affect people in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. Caxciv The burden of other shocks and stresses including wide-spread governance issues, armed violence, and epidemics adds to overall child vulnerability, perpetuates multi-dimensional poverty and protracted humanitarian crises.

Children in WCAR represent only 11 percent of the world's child population. Yet, the region also represents one third of global deaths of children under the age of 5, one third of out-of-school children (primary and lower secondary school age), and one fifth of stunted children worldwide (29 million). Calcolor These development deficits are further jeopardized by climate change impacts. Despite these challenges, the region has incredible assets to overcome foreseen disasters. More than 230 million people under the age of 24 make up WCAR's young, active population, who must be empowered and supported, to be the driving force behind climate action.



Table 16
Estimates of children's exposure to climate related hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in WCAR

Country	Number of child	ren under 18 years	s old exposed to /	living in areas with	1	
	Water scarcity	Riverine floods (50 years)	Coastal flood risk	Extensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Intensive cyclone wind (100 years)	Heatwaves
Benin	200 thousand	890 thousand	-	-	-	2.6 million
Burkina Faso	9.1 million	540 thousand	-	-	-	950 thousand
Central African Republic	20 thousand	350 thousand	-	-	-	2.3 million
Chad	2.7 million	1.9 million	-	-	-	100 thousand
Democratic Republic of the Congo	140 thousand	4.9 million	-	-	-	13.8 million
Gambia	5 thousand	100 thousand	760 thousand	-	-	-
Guinea	180 thousand	560 thousand	2.2 million	-	-	2.1 million
Guinea-Bissau	-	70 thousand	470 thousand	-	-	40 thousand
Liberia	10 thousand	590 thousand	-	-	-	1.5 million
Mali	2.9 million	2 million	-	-	-	180 thousand
Mauritania	770 thousand	360 thousand	5 thousand	-	-	820 thousand
Niger	11.1 million	1.6 million	-	-	-	50 thousand
Senegal	5.5 million	390 thousand	1.1 million	-	-	4 million
Sierra Leone	-	240 thousand	130 thousand	-	-	2.8 million
Togo	20 thousand	480 thousand	1.7 million	-	-	2.2 million
UNICEF WCA LDCs (15 countries)	32.7 million	15 million	6.4 million	-	-	33.4 million

Table 17
Estimates of children's exposure to environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses in LDCs in WCAR

Country	Number of children unde	Number of children under 20 years old exposed to		
	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 10 $\mu$ g/m3)	Ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 25 $\mu$ g/m3)	High pesticide pollution risk	Lead pollution
Benin	5.6 million	5.6 million	4.6 million	3.1 million
Burkina Faso	10.7 million	10.7 million	20 thousand	9.1 million
Central African Republic	2.7 million	2.7 million	5 thousand	1.7 million
Chad	8.7 million	8.7 million	-	7.9 million
Democratic Republic of the Congo	47.1 million	32.4 million	26.5 million	23.9 million
Ghana	1 million	1 million	400 thousand	540 thousand
Guinea	6.9 million	6.9 million	20 thousand	4.5 million
Guinea-Bissau	960 thousand	960 thousand	-	550 thousand
Liberia	2.2 million	2.2 million	1.2 million	1.5 million
Mali	11.1 million	11.1 million	-	9.7 million
Mauritania	2 million	2 million	-	480 thousand
Niger	13.7 million	13.7 million	110 thousand	12.5 million
Senegal	7.9 million	7.9 million	270 thousand	1.9 million
Sierra Leone	3 million	3 million	2.2 million	2.3 million
Togo	3.8 million	3.8 million	1.7 million	1.5 million
UNICEF WCA LDCs (15 countries)	127.3 million	112.5 million	37 million	81.3 million

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

Table 18
Estimates of children living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in LDCs in WCAR

Country	Number of children under 18 years old living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors*
Benin	5.9 million
Burkina Faso	10.7 million
Central African Republic	2.7 million
Chad	8.7 million
Democratic Republic of the Congo	46.7 million
Gambia	1.1 million
Guinea	7 million
Guinea-Bissau	990 thousand
Liberia	2.4 million
Liberia Mali	2.4 million 11.1 million
Mali	11.1 million
Mali Mauritania	11.1 million 2 million
Mali Mauritania Niger	11.1 million 2 million 13.7 million
Mali Mauritania Niger Senegal	11.1 million  2 million  13.7 million  8.5 million

<sup>\*</sup>Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria, Plasmodium Vivax Malaria, Aedes, Dengue, Zika

Source: CCRI index (Beta version) (All absolute numbers rounded to the nearest decimal of a million, nearest ten thousand if greater than or equal to 10,000 or nearest five thousand if less than 10,000)

# **Benin**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Benin; 3 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Benin has a CCRI score of **7.6** and ranks **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Benin at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Benin are highly exposed to include:



## **Air pollution**

Air pollution is a significant environmental hazard for children in Benin. The most recent data shows that 95 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ), which substantially exceeds the recommended maximum ambient air pollution limits (PM2.5 >=  $5 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). The bulk of the sectors contributing to Benin's poor air quality operate in Cotonou, the country's largest city, which has chronically high levels of air pollution. These industries include palm oil processing, textile manufacture, and food processing. cdxcvi



## Soil and water pollution

Soil and water pollution significantly hinder children's health and well-being in Benin. Approximately half of children and youth under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution. Depending on levels of exposure, lead exposure can cause severe health problems including irreversible damage to brain development, nervous systems, and various organs. Children under the age of 5 years, are at the greatest risk of suffering lifelong neurological, cognitive, and physical damage and even death. To percent of children also reside in areas with high pesticide pollution risk. Pollution from pesticides leaches into water systems and has been linked with cancer, including childhood leukaemia. It can also cause developmental delays and can impact brain and behaviour development.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

5.9 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Benin. 99 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 95 percent are at risk of aedes, and 75 percent are exposed to zika. Such high risks to vector-borne diseases, necessitates vector control measures in Benin, especially as the frequency of flooding increases, which can create favourable environments for mosquito breeding grounds.



## **Riverine floods**

Over 800,000 children are exposed to riverine flooding in Benin. In 2010, when heavy rains caused the Ouémé River to burst its banks, Benin saw its worst floods since 1963, killing 40 people and displacing 100,000 more. cdxcviii More recently, in October 2021, 38 out of 77 communes were struck by riverine flooding as a result of torrential rainfall, damaging 50 primary schools and causing least 9 fatalities. Agricultural losses anticipated from riverine flooding are expected to push the poorest families into further poverty, without adequate social protection systems in place. Climate projections show that flooding is likely to become more frequent and destructive in Benin, with particular concern for reoccurring flooding in urban areas, including Cotonou, Portio Novo, and Parakou.



#### **Heatwaves**

Benin has been identified as a country with a high extreme heat hazard classification, di where 44 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves. During heatwaves, children are especially susceptible, with newborns and small children being the most likely to die or suffer from heatstroke, due to their inability or lack of agency to regulate their body temperature. Heatwaves also make the classroom unpleasant, reducing educational outcomes for children and can lead to school absenteeism of pupils and teachers.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Despite significant improvements to drinking water provisions, around 44 percent of households in Benin have no access to handwashing facilities and over half of households continue to practice open defecation. dii Inadequate access to sanitation and hygiene increases children's risks to water-borne diseases, including diarrhoea, which was responsible for 11 percent of infant mortalities in 2016. diii Climate-related shocks like flooding, further exacerbate health risks, through compromising safe water supplies, increasing the likelihood of diarrhoea outbreaks. Thus, improving WASH services is essential to protect children in Benin from disease outbreaks, especially, as flooding becomes more frequent and severe.



# **Health and nutrition**

Child mortality rates are staggering in Benin, at 84 per 1,000 live births in 2021. Malaria is the leading cause of mortality in children under the age of 5, although figures are improving, with the large-scale implementation of ITNs and other malaria prevention measures. Other significant causes of death in children under the age of 5, include pneumonia, diarrhoea, and sepsis. Maternal mortality rates are also high, at 397 per 100,000 live births. In 2017, research revealed that approximately 10 percent of Benin's population was food insecure and chronic malnutrition affects 32 percent of children. Dietary habits, malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, and mothers' health are among the main factors driving child malnutrition in the country. Food insecurity mostly affects disadvantaged rural communities and intensifies following shocks, such as the country's annual floods.



# **Poverty and social protection:**

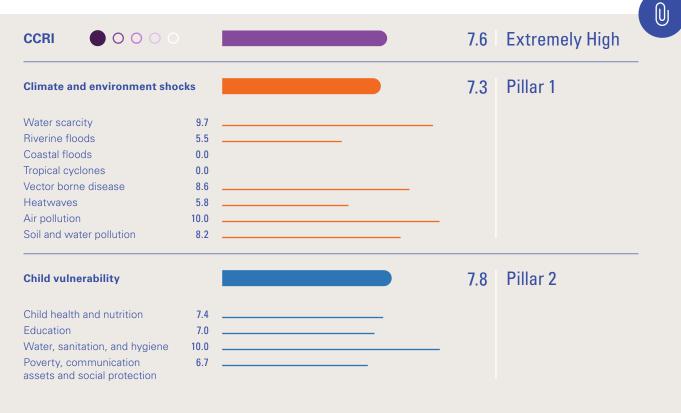
Poverty levels are high in Benin, where approximately 38.5 percent of the population are living below the national poverty line. Some of the major development problems stem from Benin's high reliance on agriculture, which employs 70 percent of the working population and accounts for 32 percent of Benin's GDP. dvii The limited economic diversity and poor flexibility of livelihood options makes Benin highly vulnerable to external shocks, including climate and environmental hazards. At present, 57 percent of the population (aged 15 years and older) struggle to come up with emergency funds when in need. Government authorities in Benin need to build their capacity to better manage climate change and disaster risks.



## **Education**

Even today, nearly 1.6 million school-aged children in Benin do not have access to education. distance from schools, the economic costs of education, and gender-related socio-cultural norms all affect children's access to education. Whilst progress in gender parity in education has been demonstrated, traditional gender norms for women and girls, including early marriage, often results in girls attending school on a part-time basis or to drop out entirely. For example, in cycle one of secondary school, girls enrol at a 20 percent lower rate than males. dix Moreover, girls' transportation, safety from assault and sexual harassment by teachers and peers are all lacking in schools, as are adequate sanitation facilities for MHM. Children from low-income families are believed to have a 30 percent lower access rate to schools than children from wealthy families. dx In addition, just 61 percent of the population between 15-24 years of age are literate in Benin, restricting livelihood options, especially for poorer and rural communities leaving them more vulnerable to climate change.

# **Burkina Faso**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Burkina Faso; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 has no data

Burkina Faso has a CCRI score of **7.6**, ranking **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in Burkina Faso are considered at "**Extremely High**" risk. Burkina Faso is situated at the epicentre of a multidimensional humanitarian crisis affecting the Sahel region, which is driven by a combination of factors including armed violence and insecurity, demographic pressures, climate change, and governance issues.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Burkina Faso are highly exposed to include:



# **Air pollution**

Ambient air pollution is a significant environmental risk for children in Burkina Faso. Recent data shows that the country's entire child population is exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). Like all countries of the Sahel, Burkina Faso is subject to dust storms and dusty winds ("Harmattan"), which is a significant driver of poor air quality. Pollution levels vary by season, with greater levels occurring during the dry season (November to March) and air pollution in Ouagadougou is reported as consistently high.<sup>dxi</sup>



# Water scarcity

Burkina Faso has been in 'quasi-drought' conditions since the early 1970s, due to erratic precipitation and low water retention in soils. Droughts conditions occur most frequently in November and December, when humidity levels average 10 percent, especially in the north, where rain falls just twice a year. Water scarcity is expected to increase in variability and incidence with climate change, which will negatively impact crop yields and pastoralist activities. Droughts have also resulted in migration from the central plateau to east and western areas, which is causing overcrowding and environmental deterioration in receiving areas.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

10.7 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Burkina Faso. All children are at risk of PF and PV malaria transmission and 93 percent of children are exposed to dengue. The poor WASH conditions in the country, with significant standing water and inadequate sanitation increases risks of disease outbreaks, especially for malaria. dxvi



# Soil and water pollution

Artisanal gold mining is a large source of soil pollution in the country, where the use of cyanide to recover gold presents a danger to human health. Cyanide is a rapidly acting, potentially fatal chemical that even at small levels poses significant health risks, which children are considered more vulnerable to. dxvii dxviii In the Zougnazamiline settlement, 20 percent of people are exposed to soil polluted with cyanide. dxix Alongside cyanide, the CCRI identifies lead pollution as a significant hazard in Burkina Faso where 80 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to dangerous levels. Children under the age of 5, are at the greatest risk of suffering lifelong neurological, cognitive, and physical damage and even death from lead poisoning. dxx



## **Riverine flooding**

Whilst scoring much lower on the CCRI than other Pillar 1 components (5.5), riverine flooding is increasingly impacting children in Burkina Faso. Severe flood events have occurred repeatedly over the last 30 years, particularly in the north and centre of the country. In 2020, Burkina Faso experienced the worst flooding in a decade, which affected over 100,000 people and caused one of the world's food security challenges of the decade. dxxi

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



### WASH

Inadequate WASH remains a significant challenge in Burkina Faso, where an estimated 3 million people require access to WASH services in the country. dxxiii 31 percent of households have limited drinking water services, 64 percent of households have no access to handwashing facilities, and around 40 percent of households continue to practice open defecation. Children with poor access to adequate WASH provisions have a reduced capacity to treat climate related diseases.



# **Health and nutrition**

Underlying vulnerabilities related to child health and nutrition make children particularly vulnerable to climate change in Burkina Faso. Approximately 2.9 million people require life-saving health care services in the country, yet an estimated 1 million people are completely isolated and unable to access essential services. Burkina Faso's hot and dry environment is conducive to meningitis outbreaks and cholera epidemics. Moreover, children's nutritional outcomes are poor; over 180,000 children are suffering from severe wasting, and one-quarter of children under the age of five are stunted. Climate variability and hazards are already placing a major constraint on child nutrition. This was demonstrated by the floods in 2020 which forced 15 percent of the population into famine-level food insecurity.



## **Poverty and social protection**

The economy in Burkina Faso is mostly reliant on agriculture, which employs 80 percent of the population – and is a highly climate sensitive sector. The country faces several development challenges that contribute to high levels of poverty, including inadequate access to healthcare, education, WASH, and social protection mechanisms, resulting in 41 percent of people living below the national poverty line. Ongoing conflict is preventing children's access to vital services and impedes relief delivery to the most vulnerable communities. Moreover, growing insecurity, conflict, and violence, especially in bordering areas, has led to the internal displacement of more than 1.7 million people in Burkina Faso, 60 percent of which are children.



## **Education**

School attendance has become increasingly challenging with the ongoing humanitarian crises. Since the escalation of unrest and conflict in Burkina Faso, schools have become favoured targets of non-state armed groups, resulting, large-scale displacements of populations, school evacuations, and psychological trauma in many children. Fortunately, digital learning modalities including the radio education programme established by UNICEF and Ministry of National Education, Literacy, and Promotion of National Languages and its partners have contributed to continuity of learning for affected children. Similar contingency plans are essential, as climate shocks increase in frequency and severity, to ensure that children's education needs are met, even in times of climate induced displacement or school closure.

# **Central African Republic**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Central African Republic; 6 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

The Central African Republic (CAR) has a CCRI score of **8.7** and ranks **1**<sup>st</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in the CAR at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in the CAR are highly exposed to include:



## **Air pollution**

100 per cent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m3$ ) in the CAR. Air pollution poses threats to health, particularly in urban centres such as the capital of Bangui<sup>dxxix</sup>, as well as the large rural population that predominantly relies on solid biomass energy such as wood for cooking fuel. Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) in the country are derived from sectors such as the energy, waste, agriculture, bushfire, and land-use sectors, and pose health risks which include breathing problems, chronic diseases and premature mortality.



## **Vector-borne diseases**

According to the CCRI, 2.7 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in CAR. All children are at risk of malaria (PV unstable and PF stable transmission), 99 percent are at risk of aedes, and 98 percent are exposed to both zika and dengue. Such high levels of exposure, increase the need for vector control measures, including the provision of ITNs for children, which were only used by half of children-under 5 in 2019. dxxx



## **Heatwaves**

83 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in the CAR. Children are affected by heatwaves more than adults, as they adjust more slowly to changes in environmental temperature and are more vulnerable to heat-related health risks. A rise in the frequency of hot days, high temperatures, and the duration of heatwaves is expected in the CAR, especially in the northern region. By 2085, the estimated increase in the duration of long-lasting heatwaves is expected to rise 7 to 81 days. dxxxi The impact of rising temperatures will undoubtably impact vital sectors of the CAR's economy, such as forestry, agriculture, and livestock, thus impacting nutrition and food security.



# Soil and water pollution

Soil and water contamination are persistent issues affecting children in the CAR. Approximately 65 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution, posing significant risks to physical and neurological development, especially in infants and young children. Moreover, mining in the CAR is causing serious damage to the environment, including soil erosion and pollution of waterways due to the use of chemicals and heavy metals, including mercury which is used in gold mining. dxxxiii



## Riverine flooding

Riverine flooding is responsible for the greatest share of economic and human losses caused by natural disasters in the CAR. Several major flood disasters have occurred over the past decade, with the most regularly recorded flood incidents occurring in and around the capital of Bangui. For example, floods in Bangui in 2021 harmed 2,589 children, with considerable damage to vital infrastructure including the destruction of 94 water wells and 107 latrines, hindering access to safe water and sanitation. dxxxxiii

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Inadequate WASH remains a key factor increasing children's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Just 17 percent of the population have access to basic handwashing facilities including soap and water and approximately 34 percent of households continue to use drinking water from unimproved water sources. dwxxiv WASH conditions are particularly poor for internally displaced communities in the CAR, due to limited infrastructure and services. In 2022, 664,000 people were internally displaced due to conflict and disasters, the majority of which were women and children. dxxxv Implementing WASH interventions in highly vulnerable areas proves difficult given the insecurity induced by armed groups', as well as physical obstacles such as poor road conditions.



## **Health and nutrition**

The poor health situation in the CAR is a product of the multiple crises affecting the region, including extreme fragility, poor governance, and climate impacts. Common health problems include HIV/AIDS, communicable diseases including measles, malaria, and diarrhoea, as well as noncommunicable diseases like diabetes, with favourable conditions developing for many of these diseases during the dry season. Many of these illnesses contribute to the CAR's extremely high maternal mortality and child mortality rates (829 per 100,000 live births and 100 per 1,000 respectively). Food instability, malnutrition, and undernutrition are also major concerns for children. Approximately 40 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted and the number of children who require treatment for severe wasting is anticipated to increase by 10 percent in 2023.



# Poverty and social protection

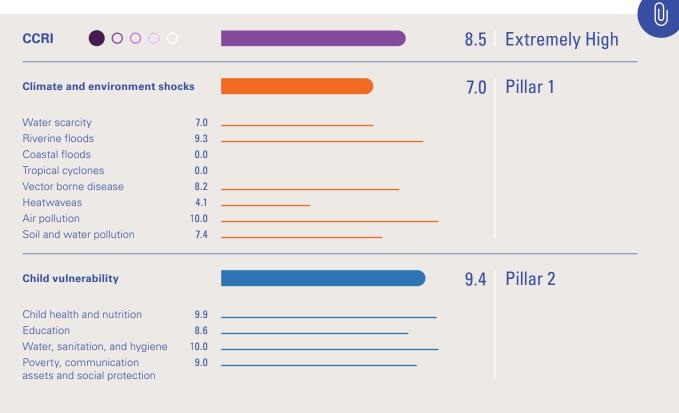
Despite great agricultural potential, extensive mineral and forest resources, the CAR remains one of the poorest countries globally. In 2020, it was estimated that nearly 71 percent of the population lived below the international poverty line (USD 1.90 per day). documents of conflict has led to weak institutions, limited access to basic services and high levels of violence. Almost 70 percent of the population above the age of 15 are unable to come up with emergency funds and just 1 percent of households receive child/family cash benefits. Due to the combined effects of conflict-related violence, price increases linked to the war in Ukraine and the consequences of climate change, 3.1 million people, including 1.4 million children, are estimated to require humanitarian assistance in the CAR in 2023.



## **Education**

Children in the. The CAR has some of the lowest levels of education worldwide. In 2019, 73 percent of children primary school age attended education and lower and upper secondary attendance rates were notably low, at 13 and 5 percent respectively. directly directly affected by poor access to education, with many females lacking access to secondary education. In 2018, only 38 percent of young people between 15 to 24 was literate, limiting their capacity to access job markets and seek a diversity of livelihood opportunities. Moreover, school closures are common in the CAR due to natural disasters and conflict. Children with lower levels of educational attainment are more vulnerable to climate and environmental shocks, as they often lack the knowledge and skills to manage risks.

# Chad



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Chad; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Children in Chad are considered at "Extremely High" risk, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions and scoring 8.5 on the CCRI.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Chad are highly exposed to include:



## **Air pollution**

In Chad, the entire child population is exposed to ambient air pollution levels of (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m3$ ), exceeding WHO international pollution limits (PM2.5 >=  $5 \mu g/m3$ ). In 2017, air pollution was the third leading risk factor for premature death, accounting for 10 percent of all deaths. dxii In the same year, exposure to household air pollution caused an average loss of over 2 years of life expectancy, while exposure to ambient air pollution caused a loss of nearly 1 year and 6 months. dxiii Chad's oil, textile industries, as well as vehicle emissions and waste burning, all contribute to the dangerous air pollution levels.



## **Riverine flooding**

1.8 million children are exposed to riverine flooding in Chad, with areas along the Lake Chad Basin particularly vulnerable. The 2021 rainy season saw record rainfall in the country, resulting in flooding in 20 out of 23 provinces, affecting 388,000 people mostly in the central, eastern, and southern regions. dxliii Flash flooding is also common, for example, in 2020, nearly 120,000 people were displaced by flash floods caused by heavy rainfall in Chad. dxliv Children are especially vulnerable to flash floods because of their quick onset and destructive nature; leaving little time to prepare and respond.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

According to the CCRI, 8.7 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Chad. 71 percent of children are exposed to dengue and the entire child population is at risk of PV malaria. Between July- September 2020, 27,540 cases of the Chikungunya virus, transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, were reported across 3 provinces in Chad. dxiv As the transmission potential of vectors increase with climate change, larger outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, are expected in the country.



# Soil and water pollution

As the third largest oil exporter in Sub-Saharan Africa, large-scale oil extraction is a substantial source of water and soil contamination in Chad. Research along the Chari River has found high levels of heavy metal concentrations in Chad's water systems, which can lead to severe health implications for children. The example, 85 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution in Chad, which can have devastating impacts on human health.



# **Water scarcity**

Approximately 31 percent of children are exposed to water scarcity in Chad. Lake Chad, which is the main source of food security and livelihoods has depleted by 90 percent since the 1960s. dxivii Northern Chad, which stretches into the Sahara Desert, is another area which experiences high water scarcity; here, the dry season lasts from November to March, with little to no rain. dxiviii Water shortages have a significant impact on the region's farmers and pastoralists, as a result of desertification and soil degradation. The depletion of water resources has also forced women and girls to travel longer distances to fetch water, disrupting girls' education.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



### **WASH**

In Chad, 32 percent of households are using drinking water from unimproved sources and 44 percent of households have no handwashing facilities. dxiix The lack of access to adequate WASH leads to frequent diarrhoea and malabsorption, which contribute to malnutrition, particularly in young children. In addition, Chad has the highest prevalence of open defecation in WACR, which is practiced by 64 percent of households. Deen defecation poses significant public health risks, including cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and polio. Children who suffer from existing WASH-related illnesses are less able to respond to climate shocks and hazards.



# **Health and nutrition**

Climate change and ongoing conflict are deteriorating Chad's already fragile healthcare system. The mortality rate for children under the age of 5, is persistently high, at 107 per 1,000 live births in 2021. Pneumonia is one of the largest drivers of child mortality, causing the deaths of 17,800 children in 2018. Moreover, vaccination coverage is low; according to the 2017 vaccination coverage survey only 22 percent of children aged 12-23 months were fully vaccinated. Low vaccination coverage, combined with the precarious situation of the health system exposes Chad to recurrent disease outbreaks, such as the measles epidemic in 2018. In addition, Chad has one of the highest maternal mortality rates globally, at 1,140 per 100,000 live births and many mothers die in delivery without receiving any medical assistance. Climate shocks greatly impact children's nutritional status in Chad, where 35 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted. Insufficient precipitation in the rainy seasons in recent years have led to a decrease in agricultural productivity and deficits in grazing areas, leading to food insecurity. The cost of staple food remains high in the region, meaning that the most impoverished communities cannot afford to eat and trade flows around the Lake Chad basin have been largely disrupted by armed conflict. Countries with weak health infrastructure, that already struggle to provide adequate health-care services, like Chad, will experience even greater strains on resources with climate change.



# **Poverty and social protection**

Poverty levels are high in Chad, where 42 percent of the population live below the national poverty line. There is a high reliance on climate sensitive sectors, including agriculture and livestock, which are frequently impacted by shifting weather patterns and frequent droughts. In the poorest areas, where economic diversification is low, opportunities to adapt to alternative livelihoods are limited, pushing people further into poverty. Additionally, limited government capacity and low social protection coverage, mean that 60 percent of the population (aged 15 years+) unable to come up with emergency funds. Government support is urgently needed for the poorest and most vulnerable children, who will be disproportionately affected by climate change in Chad.



#### **Education**

Chad's education sector is characterized by a low level of schooling. Less than half of primary aged children attend school (43 percent) and just 14 percent of adolescents of lower secondary age. div Youth literacy rates are staggeringly low, at less than 31 percent for ages 15 to 24, meaning that over 2 million youth are unable to read or write. Moreover, there is little access to higher education, and professional training, limiting opportunities for youth to participate in both formal and green economies. Humanitarian crises in neighbouring countries have added significant pressure, with more than 600,000 refugee children in need of education. div Climate change is expected to cause more frequent disasters, and repeated disruptions, increasing the need to strengthen the resilience of the education sector, to ensure that school for Chad's children is not stopped for good.

# **Democratic Republic of the Congo**



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Democratic Republic of the Congo; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has a CCRI score of **8.0** and ranks **9**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in the DRC are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in the DRC are highly exposed to include:



# Soil and water pollution

Mining for diamonds, gold, and coltan are significant drivers of soil and water pollution in the DRC, due to the use of chemicals and heavy metals. Exposure to chemicals can significantly hinder children's cognitive and physical development. Children in DRC are especially vulnerable to the impacts of lead poisoning, with almost half of all children and adolescents under the age of 20 exposed to lead pollution (49%). Additionally, 56 percent of children live in areas with high pesticide pollution risks, which could be significantly reduced with sound environmental management.



## **Air pollution**

All children in DRC are exposed to ambient air pollution levels higher than the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution of (PM2.5 >=  $5 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). The key causes of air pollution include waste burning, mining, mineral processes, forestry and the cement industry and DRC has been identified as one of the countries with the most widespread use of solid fuels globally. Indoor air pollution levels are also high. Cooking with wood and coal, as widely practiced in the DRC, can harm children's developing lungs, causing acute respiratory infections and exposure in utero can leads to lower birthweight and contribute to stillbirth. divi



## **Heatwaves**

Almost 30 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in the DRC. Children in urban areas have been identified as particularly sensitive to the impacts of heat stress, as a result of the urban heat island effect. divii Annual temperatures are anticipated to rise between 1.7°C to 4.5°C by the end of the century in the country and heatwaves are projected to become more frequent and longer in duration. diviii According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by the end of the century, the number of hot days and nights is expected to rise by 58 percent and 86 percent, respectively.



## **Vector-borne diseases**

Children in the DRC experience high exposure to vector-borne diseases, with 88 percent of children exposed to zika, 86 percent at risk of aedes and 85 percent exposed to dengue. The DRC is also one of the world's most malaria affected countries, where malaria was responsible for 38 percent of total morbidity and 36 percent of mortality in the DRC, in 2018. dix Disease risk is exacerbated by other climate hazards, including flooding, which compromises safe drinking water and creates favourable sites for mosquito breeding grounds.



## **Riverine flooding**

4.9 million children are exposed to riverine flooding in the DRC. Flood risk is greatest along the river Congo, which frequently floods during periods of heavy equatorial rainfall. For example, in December 2022, flooding induced by heavy rainfall affected nearly 39,000 households in the capital city of Kinshasa, resulting in 120 fatalities and 282 homes destroyed, leaving many families homeless. Low-income communities tend to live in the most flood prone areas, pushing the most vulnerable into further poverty. Mudslides and landslides are frequent secondary hazards to flooding, especially in the country's mountainous regions. In addition, soil erosion and waterlogging of fields as a result of flooding, frequently lowers agricultural yields, increasing risks of food insecurity.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

The DRC has tremendous water potential, holding over half of the African continent's water reserves. Nonetheless, access to water remains a key challenge. Around one third of households continue to use unimproved drinking water services. dixii Moreover, access to adequate sanitation and hygiene services remains limited, where 42 percent of households have no handwashing facilities. dixiii The increasing frequency and intensity of flooding is expected to exacerbate WASH challenges in the DRC, including damage to sanitation infrastructure and potential increases in water-borne diseases, including cholera. dixii



# **Health and nutrition**

Inadequate access to healthcare services is a key challenge for children in the DRC. Maternal and child mortality rates are high (473 per 100,000 live births and 79 per 1000 live births respectively). Diseases such as Ebola and Zika virus are expected to become more prevalent with climate change in DRC, exploiting the already overburdened health system, which struggles to address present health needs. Chronic malnutrition affects 43 percent of children aged 0 to 5 in the country, resulting in 41 percent of children under the age of 5 considered stunted for their age<sup>dixv</sup> The additional burden of WASH related diseases including diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera from climate change undermines the ability of children to utilize food, further driving adverse nutritional and health outcomes of children.



# Poverty and social protection

The DRC is among the five poorest countries in the world and is home to one in every six people living in extreme poverty. dixvi Nearly 64 percent of the population, or just under 60 million people, lived on less than USD 2.15 per day in 2021. dixvii The DRC's rapid urbanization rate and mass movements of people due to chronic conflict in several provinces, is exacerbating poverty. Children in the poorest families have low resilience to climate shocks. For example, only 1.3 percent of households with children receive child or family cash benefits and just 0.68 percent of DRC's GDP is spent on social safety nets.



# **Education**

Over the last few decades, the DRC has made great progress toward universal primary education. The net primary school attendance rate has grown from 52 percent in 2001 to 78 percent in 2018. dixviii Nonetheless, 7.6 million children aged 5 to 17 years old remain out of school and only 5 percent of children aged 3 to 5 years old attend preschool, affecting their early cognitive and social development. Furthermore, repetition and dropout rates at the primary school level are high. Despite the DRC government's promise of free primary education, direct and indirect expenditures related to schooling including, registration fees, school materials, and uniforms remain key barriers to enrolment in schools.

# The Gambia



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Gambia; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

The Gambia has a CCRI score of **6.8** and ranks **37**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 countries and regions, placing children at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in The Gambia are highly exposed to include:



# **Coastal floods**

67 percent of children reside in coastal flood risk areas in The Gambia. The capital city of Banjul is particularly exposed, sitting less than 1 metre above sea level.dlxx Coastal flooding and subsequent erosion, has various impacts on coastal livelihoods, including, infrastructure damage, harm to fisheries, and a loss of freshwater resources due to salination and mangrove migration. The implementation of coastal protection measures is essential to prevent significant loss and damages from the devastating impacts of coastal floods. For example, in Banjul, youth activists, as part of the Clean Green Gambia initiative, with funding from an EU partnership with the Belgian city of Ostende, have planted over 7,000 coconut trees along Banjul beach, to act as a natural flood barrier.



# **Air pollution**

93 of percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ) in The Gambia. The agricultural industry, vehicle emissions, and waste burning all contribute to poor air quality in Gambia. There are also seasonal fluctuations in air pollution levels, with significant levels of pollution occurring during the dry season (May to September).



# Soil and water pollution

Soil and water pollution are a major hazard in The Gambia, where 42 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 years are exposed to lead pollution and 35 percent of children are living in areas with high pesticide pollution risk. Water pollution in coastal areas is also seriously threatening marine biodiversity, including contributing to the depletion of mangrove forests, a natural barrier against flooding. dlxxiii



## **Vector-borne diseases**

1.1 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in The Gambia. The entire child population in are at risk of PV malaria and PF malaria. In addition, 98 percent of children are exposed to both dengue and aedes. Disease risk is exacerbated during periods of flooding, which creates favourable sites for mosquito breeding grounds. Such high exposure to these vectors, makes strengthening healthcare services and implementing vector control measures critical.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **Health and nutrition**

There has been a steady decline child mortality in The Gambia from 58 per 1,000 live births in 2016 to 48 per 1,000 live births in 2021. dixxiii Nonetheless, Gambian children continue to suffer from preventable health complications and diseases. The most common causes of child mortality and morbidity in the Gambia include malaria, diarrhoeal disease, malnutrition and respiratory infections. Moreover, the country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, at 597 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017. Families with poor health status are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Moreover, outbreaks of water-borne diseases have been linked to flooding in some parts of the country and drought conditions in others.



#### **WASH**

In recent years, progression in access to safe drinking water has been made and only 0.1 percent of households are practising open defecation. Nonetheless, 74 percent of Gambian households have limited hygiene services and 40 percent have unimproved sanitation services. dixxiv Moreover, in spite of 84 percent of primary schools gaining access to basic handwashing facilities that meet national standards, significant disparities exist between the urban and rural schools. Water quality is also a major concern, with around 73 percent of families at risk of E. coli faecal contamination. dixxv



# Poverty and social protection

Vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by the country's high levels of poverty, where there is a high reliance on the agrarian sector, which is highly sensitive to climate change. 48.6 percent of the population live below the national poverty line and public expenditure as a proportion of GDP lags behind international commitments (health 8 percent against 15 percent, child protection under 1 percent against 3 percent and education 14 percent against 20 perc cent). dixxvi A lack of available data made measuring indicators related The Gambia's social protection and economic empowerment difficult in the CCRI analysis.



# **Education**

Low school attendance remains a key problem in the Gambia. Whilst attendance rates for primary school aged children is moderate, at 78 percent, lower and upper secondary attendance rates are far lower, at 44 and 31 percent respectively. dixxviii Completion rates for children are also low, with only 62 percent of children finishing primary education. dixxviii Children who experience consistent learning and complete their education are more likely to be adaptive and empowered in their climate change response. Improving equity in access to learning is also important in The Gambia. At present, many girls leave school earlier than boys due to social norms, such as child marriage.

# Guinea



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Guinea; 5 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Guinea has a CCRI score of **8.4**, ranking **4**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in Guinea are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Guinea are highly exposed to include:



## **Coastal flooding**

Coastal flooding is a major hazard in Guinea, where almost one third (32 percent) of the child population live in areas with coastal flood risk. Sea level rise is occurring along Guinea's coastline, causing increased salinization, and flooding, affecting agriculture, drinking water quality, loss of infrastructure, and devastation of mangrove ecosystems. Coastal floods have particularly devastating impacts on food security in Guinea, through damage to fisheries, loss of freshwater supplies and the salination of rice fields. dlxxix Coastal flooding also furthers the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, through providing larger vector habitats and by dispersing pathogens from wastewater and sewage, especially in urban areas. To protect children from these impacts, the development of coastal protection measures, are critical in Guinea's coastal zones.



# **Air pollution**

In Guinea, 98 of percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution level (PM2.5 >= 25  $\mu$ g/m³), exceeding the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit. Such high levels of air pollution pose significant health risks to children in Guinea including respiratory illnesses, chronic diseases, and premature mortality. Deforestation, the agricultural industry, transport, aluminium refining, and mining are the greatest contributors to poor air quality in Guinea.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

7 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Guinea. All children are at risk of PV malaria and PF malaria, 99 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 92 percent are at risk of aedes, and 75 percent are exposed to zika. Disease risk is exacerbated during periods of coastal flooding, which creates an additional burden of vector-borne diseases. A cost effective method to reduce children's exposure to vector-borne diseases is through the provision of ITNs, which were only used by 38 percent of children under the age of 5 in Guinea, in 2021. dixxxi



# Soil and water pollution

Soil and water pollution are widespread environmental hazards threatening children in Guinea. 64 percent of young people under the age of 20, are exposed to lead pollution in the country. The main sources of pollution include the accumulation of solid and liquid waste decanted into rivers and the sea, faecal pollution which is rife in urban areas, and the spillage of toxic substances associated with oil and mining activities. Pollutants have disproportionate impacts on child health, as children breathe faster than adults and take in more air per unit of body weight.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



### WASH

Inadequate WASH increases children's vulnerability to climate change impacts in Guinea. 36 per cent of households lack access to basic water services, while 70 per cent lack access to basic sanitation. dixxxiii Access to safe drinking water is also a key challenge, with Guinea's rural villages disproportionately underserved, with too few sources of potable water in places that are far apart.

The 2014 and 2021 Ebola outbreaks highlight the importance of strengthening WASH services and health-related preventive measures at all levels in Guinea. Moreover, flash flooding in the Kankan Region has worsened the WASH situation, by destroying more than 300 water points and over 400 latrines, impacting nearly 30,000 people.



### **Health and nutrition**

Child mortality rates are high in Guinea, at 98.7 per 1,000 live births. Several epidemics have impacted Guinea in recent years, including haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg), measles, polio, and malaria. Notably, the resurgence of the Ebola virus disease in 2021 put significant strain on Guinea's healthcare system. In 2023, more than 2.7 million children under 5 years of age will require polio vaccinations, while 735,610 will need measles vaccinations, following the underutilization of health services during COVID-19 and the 2021 Ebola outbreak. dixxxv Moreover, Guinea has a global acute malnutrition incidence of 9 percent, and a national severe wasting rate of around 4 percent, signifying an emergency nutrition situation.



### **Poverty and social protection**

Poverty is widespread in Guinea, where approximately 57 percent of children lived in households with income below the poverty line in 2020. dixxxvii Vulnerability to climate change occurs against a fragile political situation, weak essential social services delivery and a high risk of spill over of the central Sahel conflict, amplified by the porous border with Mali. Around 57 percent of the population (aged 15+) are unable to come up with emergency funds and an estimated 1.7 million people are in need social protection services in 2023. dixxxviii When floods and other disasters strike, rural areas are often the hardest hit, due to a high reliance on agriculture and lack of access to national safety net programmes.



### **Education**

In Guinea, approximately, half of youth (56.9 percent) aged 15 to 24 are literate, which reduces opportunities for youth to escape poverty and enter the green economy. School attendance rates are low in the country (66 percent for primary years, 32 percent for lower secondary and 13 percent for upper secondary) and just 45 per cent of children complete primary school.dlxxxix Further, an estimated 4 million children are at risk of dropping out of school in the event of another epidemic resurgence.dxc

# Guinea-Bissau



Guinea-Bissau has a CCRI score of **8.4**, ranking **4**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in Guinea-Bissau are considered at "**Extremely High**" risk. Whilst

considered a SIDS, the total land area for the country exceeds 20,000 sq/km, at 28,120 sq/km<sup>dxci</sup>, warranting the islands' inclusion in the CCRI analysis.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Guinea-Bissau are highly exposed to include:



# **Coastal flooding**

Coastal flooding is a major environmental hazard in Guinea-Bissau. The coastal zone covers two-thirds of the country's land area, and approximately half of the child population (47 percent) live in areas with coastal flood risk. Sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and floods have a substantial impact on coastal populations, particularly in lower altitudes. Saltwater intrusion is a major driver of water scarcity, while ocean acidification is reducing marine productivity and fish supplies, threatening regional food security. The capital city of Bissau, a vital economic hub, has been identified as an area of significant coastal flood risk. Furthermore, projected sea -level rise is expected to endanger the lives and territories of indigenous tribes living in the Bijagos archipelago off the coast of Guinea-Bissau.



# **Air pollution**

Guinea-Bissau's air pollution poses a significant threat to child health. 97 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 25 g/m3), which is much higher than the WHO's recommended limit (PM2.5 >= 5 g/m3). Poor air quality in Guinea-Bissau is driven by agricultural processing, vehicle emissions and waste burning. Associated health risks for children include respiratory infections, chronic illnesses, and early mortality.



## **Vector-borne diseases**

Around 990,000 children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Guinea Bissau. 99 percent of children are at risk of PF Malaria., 94 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 96 percent are at risk of aedes, and 75 percent are exposed to zika. Whilst risks of exposure are high, the widespread use of ITNs by 97 per cent of households in Guinea-Bissau helps reduce infection rates. dxcii Moreover, during periods of flooding, transmission rates increase because stagnant flood water creates favourable mosquito breeding grounds.



# Soil and water pollution

The leading drivers of soil and water pollution in Guinea-Bissau, include the use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides in agriculture, as well as the release of hazardous industrial waste into the environment. dxciii According to the CCRI, over half of the country's population under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution (54 percent), which can have devastating impacts on physical and neurological development.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

In Guinea-Bissau less than a quarter of households have access to a safely managed drinking water service (24 percent), just 12 percent are using safely managed sanitation services and 69 percent have no handwashing facilities. dxciv Moreover, faecal coliform contamination frequently makes protected open wells, unsuitable for human consumption. Despite these challenges, significant advancements have been made in the eradication of open defecation. During 2016-2018, a total of 611 communities were certified Open Defecation Free, putting the country on course to fulfil the 2030 sanitation goals. dxcv The integration of WASH service delivery in education and health facilities has supported this progress, creating synergies between community WASH systems strengthening and social and behaviour change efforts.



# **Health and nutrition**

Both child and maternal mortality rates are high in Guinea-Bissau (74.3 per 1,000 live births and 667 per 100,000 live births respectively). Some of the most prevalent illnesses affecting children, include malnutrition, malaria, TB, and cholera. dxcvi Chronic food insecurity sweeps the nation, which is exacerbated by irregular rainfall and fluctuating food prices, for both local cashew production and rice importation. dxcvii Poor nutrition has been linked to stunting in 28 percent of children under the age of 5 and low birth weight in 21 percent of babies.



## Poverty and social protection

Since its independence in 1974, Guinea-Bissau has been plagued by political instability, resulting in a lack of growth and high levels of poverty. In 2021, an estimated 52 per cent of children were experiencing at least three deprivations simultaneously. diversi Major drivers of poverty include, dependence on cashew nuts as the main export commodity, reduced tax revenues, a GNI per capita of USD 760 in 2020, high public debt (79 per cent of GDP), limited fiscal space, and limited public sector investments. diverse High unemployment rates, rising prices of basic commodities, limited social safety nets and weakened informal solidarity mechanisms have led to increased hardship for families, including children. Moreover, approximately 85 percent of the population are dependent on agriculture, which is a highly climate sensitive sector. de



## Education

Guinea-Bissau has some of the lowest school attendance rates for adolescents and youth globally. In 2019, only 10 percent of pupils of lower secondary age attended school and 7 percent of upper secondary students. dei Whilst primary school attendance rates are much higher (69 percent), only 27 percent of children complete primary education. The risks of children dropping out of education indefinitely has heightened over the past few years, largely because of COVID-19, which saw increases in early marriage and pregnancies, particularly in rural areas.

# Liberia



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Liberia; 3 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Children in Libera are considered at "Extremely High" risk. The country has a CCRI score of **7.5** and ranks **22**<sup>nd</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Liberia are highly exposed to include:



## **Riverine flooding**

Riverine flood risk is widespread in Liberia, where one quarter of children are exposed, owed to the vast number of rivers, aquifers and catchments and periods of high rainfall. Many of the country's urban centres have been built on critical flood zones including the capital city of Monrovia. Beyond the immediate risks of death and injury, flooding in Liberia's urban centres, causes overflow of sewerage, damage to urban infrastructure and leaching from hazardous waste landfills. In rural areas, agricultural losses from floods impacts local food security and child nutrition, pushing the poorest families into further poverty.



## **Coastal flooding**

Whilst data limitations prevented the identification of coastal flooding as a significant risk factor in the CCRI, coastal flood risk is high in the country. Monrovia is particularly vulnerable to flooding, as a result of sea-level rise and an increase in the frequency of high-intensity storms. These climate change-related impacts contribute to coastal erosion, waterlogging and coastline retreat, endangering coastal communities. Compounding these challenges further, sea-level rise and urban encroachment into the Mesurado Wetland in Monrovia's centre endangers the region's ecological services and fisheries.



# **Air pollution**

Air pollution levels are a threat to child health and wellbeing in Libera, where 90 of percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution level (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m3$ ), which substantially exceeds the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit (PM2.5 >=  $5 \,\mu g/m3$ ). Large contributors to poor air quality include the mining and timber industry, palm oil processing, waste burning, transport emissions and inefficient fuel burning.



# Soil and water pollution

In Liberia, iron ore pollution from mining, pesticide runoff from agriculture, and industrial operations are the main contributors to poor soil and water quality. deiv Approximately 60 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution, which can have a negative influence on a child's physical and neurological development, including mortality in some cases. In times of flooding, water pollution risks increase, as latrines and wells overflow, causing water contamination. Moreover, standing water creates favourable conditions for water and vector-borne diseases.



## **Vector-borne diseases**

According to the CCRI, 2.4 million children are estimated to live in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Liberia. 96 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 85 percent are exposed to zika, and 65 percent are at risk of Aedes. Malaria is endemic to Liberia and is a leading cause of mortality, with pregnant women and children under the age of 5 years old among the most affected groups. In 2020, there were an estimated 1.8 million cases and over 4,500 deaths attributed to malaria in the country. dev Such a high exposure to these vectors, and increased risks of compounding factors such as floods, makes strengthening the resilience of Liberia's healthcare sector critical to protect children from morbidity and mortality related to vector-borne diseases.



### **Heatwaves**

An estimated 62 percent of children in Liberia are exposed to heatwaves. A rise in the frequency of hot days, high temperatures, and hot evenings, especially in the northern interior regions is expected with climate change. Under a high-emission scenario, 'hot' days are expected to occur 24 to 65 percent of the time by mid-century, and 29 to 90 percent of the time by the end of the century. The fastest rise will occur in July, August, and September, although the 'hot season' will begin earlier and remain longer. The impact of extreme heat is expected to impact vital sectors of Liberia's economy, including forestry, agriculture, and livestock.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



### WASH

Despite substantial progress in the provision of safe drinking water, advancements in sanitation and hygiene are falling short. For example, whilst 75 percent of households are using drinking water from at least basic sources, only 18 per cent of households have at least basic sanitation services. deviii Over one third (38 percent) of the population still practice open defecation, which can have severe consequences for community health and safety. Moreover, there is a 34 percent difference in basic hygiene coverage between urban and rural schools. dex Climate change is projected to increase flood risk in Liberia, which is expected to increase outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, cholera, and diarrheal infections.



## **Health and nutrition**

Libera's child mortality rate is high, at 76 per 1,000 live births. The main causes of death include neonatal causes, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and measles, many of which are easily preventable diseases. Achieving progress in the eradication of these preventable diseases has been severely hampered by high levels of malnutrition, the 2014 Ebola outbreak from neighbouring Guinea, and COVID-19. In addition, access to medical services remains a key challenge in the country, where nearly one-third of children and adults live more than 5 km from a health centre. dexii



# Poverty and social protection

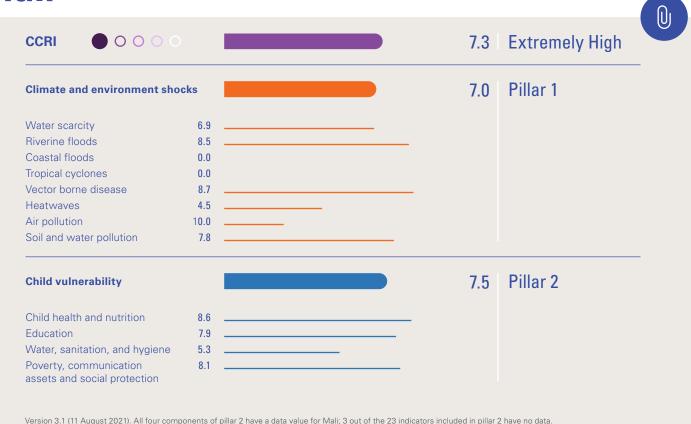
Approximately, 52.7 percent of children live in households with income below the national poverty line in Liberia. dexiii Around 68 percent of the country's poor live in rural areas where the poverty rate stands at 71.6 percent, more than twice as high as in urban areas (31.5 percent). dexiv Moreover, in 2021, 2.3 million Liberians were unable to achieve their basic needs. dexiv Poverty in Liberia is expected to rise in the short-term, owing to rising food prices, reduced mineral commodity prices, and the impacts of climate change. dexvi Government authorities must increase their capacity to manage climate and disaster related risks in Liberia, to prevent children falling into deeper poverty, as a result of climate change.



## **Education**

Access to high quality, consistent education has been a constant struggle for children in Liberia. The education system has been severely impacted by the long-term repercussions of the 14-year civil war, where just a few schools remained open during the conflict and 60 percent of school buildings were damaged or destroyed. dexvii Additionally, children have experienced major disruptions to learning following the 2014 Ebola outbreak and COVID-19. Attendance rates are low in the country, at 43 percent for primary aged children and 14 and 12 percent for lower and upper secondary age. To prevent further disruptions to education, contingency plans including the implementation of hybrid learning approaches and remote learning modalities should be put in place in Liberia.

# Mali



Mali has a CCRI score of **7.3** and ranks **29**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, which classifies children in Mali at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Mali are highly exposed to include:



## **Air pollution**

Air pollution is a significant hazard to children in Mali, where the entire child population is exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m^3$ ). Dust storms and transport emissions are two of the greatest contributors to Mali's poor air quality. Pollution levels vary seasonally, with the peak levels occurring during "Harmattan", which spans from November to March and impacts all the Sahelian countries.



## **Vector-borne diseases**

Approximately 11 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Mali. According to the CCRI, 99 percent of children are at risk of aedes, 84 percent are exposed to dengue and all children are at risk of PV malaria vectors. According to a household survey, only 79 percent of children under the age of 5 slept under a ITN in 2018. dexviii ITNs are one of the most simple and cost-effective measures to reduce children's risks of infection to vector-borne diseases.



### **Riverine floods**

Over 3 million people have been affected by major flooding disasters in Mali over the past 30 years, resulting in significant loss of life, damage to infrastructure and economic losses. dexix An estimated 2 million children are exposed to riverine floods (using a 50-year return period). Flood risk is particularly high in the Niger river delta, which can be flooded for up to 5 months of the year. dexix Agricultural expansion and inadequate land management practices, have significantly increased the likelihood of flooding, erosion, and sedimentation in Mali. dexi Flood protection measures are essential to mitigate against the impacts of flooding in Mali. Government authorities should also provide community education on how to best prepare and build resilience to future flood events.



# Soil and water pollution

High levels of sodium, chloride, sulphate, and nitrates have been detected in urban areas in Mali, caused by poor sanitation, residential waste, and industrial activity. dexxii In addition, 85 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to unsafe levels of lead in the country. Even at low levels, lead pollution can have devastating impacts on a child's health, in some cases causing death. Increased flood occurrences in Mali as a result of climate change are predicted to increase water pollution threats.



## Water scarcity

27 percent of children are exposed to water scarcity in Mali. Droughts caused by unpredictable rainfall are conducive of Mali's local climate, and various traditional strategies are used by communities to adapt to drought conditions throughout the country. Poor water management, overuse and contamination of fresh water supplies in Mali's neighbouring countries can also impact levels of water scarcity, given that the region is highly dependent on transboundary water resources, where 50 percent of Mali's water supply comes from outside the country's boundaries.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Children in Mali have been identified as especially vulnerable to inadequate WASH. While approximately 83 percent of households have access to basic drinking water services<sup>dexxiv</sup>, improvements to sanitation and hygiene services have been slow-moving. 53 percent of households continue to have a limited hygiene service and 32 per cent have unimproved sanitation.<sup>dexxv</sup> Outside of households, only half of Mali's schools have improved water sources, and fewer than 20 percent have separate functioning, bathrooms for boys and girls.<sup>dexxvi</sup>



# **Health and nutrition**

In Mali, one out of every ten children die before the age of five, and one out of every 30 infant dies during the first month of life, often from preventable diseases. dexxviii Only 45 percent of Mali's children have received all their essential vaccines, and 14 percent have received none. dexxviii HIV is a significant health challenge in Mali, where more than half of HIV-positive infants do not survive their first two years of life. dexxix Maternal outcomes are also poor in the region. Per 100,000 live births 562 mothers die in Mali, owing to several factors, including a lack of adequate antenatal, obstetric, and postnatal health services, Malnutrition is also common in Mali, where 22 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age.



# Poverty and social protection

Mali is characterised by a low-income economy that remains undiversified and highly reliant on agriculture, making the country highly vulnerable to climate shocks and fluctuations in commodity prices. The national poverty rate stands at 41.9 percent and 90 per cent of the country's poverty is concentrated in the south's highly populated rural areas, including Sikasso, Mopti, and Segou. dexxxii Mali's development has been greatly affected by instability and conflict since the military coup of 2012.



## **Education**

Mali's education has significantly improved over the past decade. Nonetheless, an estimated 2 million children aged 5 to 17 remain out of school<sup>dexxxiv</sup>, and over half of the country's young people aged 15 to 24 remain illiterate. High out-of-school rates in Mali are largely a result of household poverty, child labour, child marriage, fragility, and a shortage of schools close to children's homes. Females and children from the poorest families have the greatest danger of not enrolling or dropping out of school. For example, just 74 percent of girls are engaged in primary basic education, compared to 86 percent of boys. dexxxv In addition, the lack of trained teachers, text materials, and a low-quality schooling contribute to poor learning outcomes for many children in Mali.

# Mauritania



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Mauritania; 3 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Mauritania has a CCRI score of **6.7** and ranks **40**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, placing children in Mauritania at "**High**" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Mauritania are highly exposed to include:



## **Air pollution**

Air pollution is a significant hazard experienced by children in Mauritania. In this country, 97 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \,\mu g/m^3$ ), which is exceeding the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit (PM2.5 >=  $5 \,\mu g/m^3$ ). Food processing, oil production, mining, and vehicle emissions all contribute to poor air quality in Mauritania.



## **Vector-borne diseases**

An estimated 1.9 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Mauritania, where 92 percent of children are at risk of aedes, 48 percent are exposed to dengue and 93 percent are at risk of PV malaria. Despite high levels of exposure, only 50 percent of households had access to at least one ITN in 2015. dexxxvi In 2018, the WHO reported 174,000 cases of malaria in Mauritania. dexxxvii Climate change is anticipated to affect malaria transmission periods, as well as the geographic range of vector-borne diseases. The general malaria risk in Mauritania is expected to decrease as temperatures rise. dexxxviii However, some areas are predicted to become more vulnerable to malaria, for example, especially as flooding becomes more common. dexxxix



### **Riverine floods**

Approximately, 360,000 children are exposed to riverine flooding in Mauritania. Flood risk in the south and east regions and along the Senegal River valley are particularly high. For example, in 2020, 10,000 people in Bassiknou, Adel Begrou, Amourj, and Néma were affected by flooding induced by heavy rainfall. dexl Flash flooding is also common, which children are especially vulnerable to because of their quick onset and destructive nature; leaving children with little warning to prepare and respond.



### **Heatwaves**

39 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in the country. Heatwaves and extreme temperatures are most prevalent in the North, which has an arid climate that extends into the Sahara Desert. Climate models show that the air temperature over Mauritania is projected to rise between 2.0 and 4.5°C by 2080 and the annual number of very hot days (daily maximum above 35°C) is projected to rise substantially. dexli The percentage of children exposed to high heatwave frequency is expected to rise dramatically from zero percent of exposure in 2020, to 100 percent children under both high and low emission scenarios by 2050. dexlii Moreover, the proportion of children exposed to high heatwave duration to rise from 5 percent in 2020, to 97 percent of children in by 2050, under a high emission scenario. dexliii

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



### WASH

Inadequate WASH is a key vulnerability in Mauritania. In 2020, 72 percent of households had access to basic drinking water services and almost half of households (49.8) had at least basic sanitation. dexliv Open defecation remains prevalent especially in rural communities, where it is practised by 58 percent of households. dexliv Water availability per capita is expected to fall by 2080, owing primarily to population expansion and modelling predicts indicate that water conservation measures will be essential across Mauritania after 2030. dexlivi



### **Health and nutrition**

Climate change adds a significant burden to the health sector in Mauritania. Morbidity and mortality from vector-borne illnesses (such as malaria), water-borne diseases associated with extreme weather events including floods (such as diarrhoea and cholera), and respiratory disorders, are among the top health issues in Mauritania. dexivii In 2019, one quarter of the population in Mauritania experienced severe food insecurity dexiviii and in 2021, 17.4 percent of children under the age of 5 were stunted. dexiix Furthermore, the accelerated influx of refugees has put significant strain on social services, including health and nutrition systems. Approximately, 80,600 refugees were registered in 2022, including nearly 9,200 new arrivals and 5,570 Mauritanians returning from Mali. Many had lost assets, properties, and livestock as they escaped violence. Returning pastoralist herds are estimated at 800,000 herd of livestock, putting further pressure on already scarce resources, and sparking fears of tensions with the host population over water resources.



## Poverty and social protection

Despite the country's vast natural resources, in 2014, 31 percent of the population lived below the national poverty line declinated and an estimated 16.6 percent of the population lives below the extreme poverty line. The deterioration of resources, recurring climate shocks, incoherent policies, weak governance, and limited adaptive capacity in the agricultural sector are some of the main factors contributing to poverty, especially in rural areas. Access to social protection is higher than other LDCs, for example almost 62 per cent of the population (aged 15 years and older) can produce emergency funds in times of crisis and annual social safety net spending accounts for 3.43 percent of GDP. Nonetheless, children in the poorest families experience low self-sufficiency and exclusion from social protection mechanisms, thus reducing their resilience to climate and environmental shocks.



## **Education**

Attendance rates for primary and lower secondary aged children remain low in Mauritania, at 59 and 29 respectively. deliv There is little access to higher education, technical education, and professional training. The refugee crisis has added further pressure on the educational system. For example, in 2020, only 6,800 children out of 29,000 in the M'Berra refugee camp were accessing formal education. deliv As climate change causes more frequent disruptions, this greatly increases chances that education for many children in Mauritania could be stopped for good.

<sup>39</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>40</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.

# Niger



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Niger; 2 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Niger has a CCRI score of **8.2** and ranks **7**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, indicating that children in this country are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Niger are highly exposed to include:



# **Air pollution**

Air pollution levels are considered unsafe in Niger, where the entire population of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m^3$ ), which substantially exceeds the WHO recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit (PM2.5 >=  $5 \mu g/m^3$ ). Mining, petroleum, cement and brick industries, Sahara Desert dust, and transport emissions are the largest contributors to Niger's poor air quality.



# Water scarcity

Niger is located in the Sahel region, which is prone to high levels of water scarcity. Surface water in the Sahel is scarce, meaning that groundwater is the major source of water for many communities. Water supply in the Sahel region is also unevenly distributed, difficult to reach owing to underdeveloped infrastructure, and crosses national boundaries, posing significant water management issues. For example, 90 percent of water in Niger comes from water sources beyond the country's borders<sup>dclvi</sup>, which in times of high scarcity often results in resource conflict or forced migration. Approximately 81 percent of children in Niger are exposed to water scarcity, a figure which is expected to rise as rainfall declines, temperature rises, and more frequent droughts associated with climate change, reduce surface and groundwater supplies and accessibility.<sup>dclvii</sup>



# Soil and water pollution

Waterways and soils in Niger are highly contaminated. Oil extraction and artisanal mining are the leading drivers of pollution in the country, which frequently pollute soils and waterways with heavy metals and trace elements. A staggering 88 percent of children in Niger are exposed to lead pollution, which even at low levels, can have devastating impacts on child physical and neurological development.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

13 million children in Niger are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors. 97 percent of children are at risk of aedes, and 67 percent are exposed to dengue, both of which cause debilitating illness in children. Malaria is endemic throughout the country, although malaria cases have decreased significantly in recent years, owing mostly to the usage of ITNs, which 95 percent of children under the age of 5 slept under in 2015. deliviii



### Riverine flooding

Flood risk is greatest along the flood plains of the Niger River which runs across south-west Niger and is the country's sole permanent river. From January to August 2021, flooding affected over 158,000 people across all eight of Niger's regions causing 60 fatalities and increased cholera outbreaks in several of these regions. Flooding in Niger has also a significant impact on levels of food insecurity. In the 2021 rainy season, torrential rains destroyed 6,000 hectares of cultivable land and caused the death of over 10,000 cattle, forcing many children and families to be displaced. In September 2022, the country registered 28,885 households affected by floods, along with 179 deaths.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



### WASH

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains low in Niger, with significant disparities between rural and urban areas. For example, 86 percent of households in urban areas have access to basic drinking water services, compared to 39 percent of rural households. delxii Moreover, 68 percent of the population practices open defecation, which has major ramifications for community health and safety. delxiii Outside of households, 63 percent of schools have no sanitation services delxiv and 74 percent of healthcare centres have limited sanitation. delxv Children without access to adequate WASH provisions have a reduced capacity to respond to, and treat, climate-related diseases.



# **Health and nutrition**

Child mortality has reduced significantly in recent decades, from 326 per 1,000 children under the age of 5 in 1990 to 80 in 2021. Nonetheless, the majority of child fatalities remain preventable. Water-borne diseases are among the top causes of mortality among children under the age of five in the country. Meningitis, cholera, and other epidemics are widespread and recent conflict and flooding have both interfered with essential services. Maternal mortality rates remain high, where approximately one in every 188 women die during pregnancy, childbirth, or after delivery. delivvi Malnutrition is widespread across Niger, where approximately 1.6 million children are estimated to require nutrition assistance in 2023. delivvii Poor nutrition is a leading cause of stunting which affects 44 per cent of children under the age of 5 in the country. deciviii Pockets of highrisk food insecurity and wasting are expected to remain throughout 2023, particularly in areas facing insecurity, drought and flooding.



# Poverty and social protection

High levels of poverty in Niger make children even more vulnerable to climate change. The national poverty rate stands at 42 percent and Niger's economy is highly undiversified, with agriculture accounting for 40 percent of GDP. delain In times of crisis, the poorest communities are often forced to sell their livelihood assets such as land, livestock, and farming tools in order to access basic services or resources. Poverty levels have also been greatly affected by high fragility and conflict. Niger is experiencing a security crisis in areas bordering Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Mali, where armed groups have repeatedly attacked security personnel and civilians. delax In some areas of Niger climate change is responsible, in situations where conflict arises over the fight for water resources which are becoming scarcer. In addition, the large influx of refugees entering Niger, particularly from Nigeria and Mali are putting further strain on already limited resources.



# **Education**

The education sector continues to face significant challenges, related to conflict and insecurity. Insecurity-related closures of 890 schools were reported as of September 2022, affecting about 78,000 students. delxxi 60 percent of children are out of school at the primary and lower secondary levels, making children and adolescents particularly vulnerable to the effects of conflict. Moreover, less than half of youth aged 15-24 are literate, impacting their opportunities to enter both the formal and green economies. Poor gender parity is also significant with parents being hesitant to enrol girls in school due to safety concerns, long distances to school, and social norms around child marriage.

# Senegal



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Senegal; 3 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data.

Senegal has a CCRI score of **7.5** and ranks **22**<sup>nd</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, indicating that children in Senegal are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Senegal are highly exposed to include:



## **Coastal flooding**

Over 1 million children live in coastal flood risk areas in Senegal. Sea-level rise, storm surges, coastal erosion, and flooding all have significant impacts on coastal communities, particularly those reliant on fishing, agriculture, and tourism. The measured decline rate of Senegal's shoreline from coastal erosion is estimated between 1-2 metres per year, with the most severely affected coastal regions being those between Joal and Djiffer and between Saint-Louis and the Mbao-Bargny.



## **Air pollution**

93 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution levels (PM2.5 >=  $25 \mu g/m3$ ), which exceeds the recommended maximum ambient air pollution limits (PM2.5 >=  $5 \mu g/m3$ ). The main sources of poor air quality include agriculture, vehicle emissions, waste burning and the mining industry. Pollution levels vary seasonally, with the maximum levels occurring during the Harmattan season (November to March) and the capital city, Dakar has persistently high levels of air pollution.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

An estimated 8.4 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Senegal. Malaria is both endemic and epidemic to the country. In addition, 96 percent of children are at risk of aedes which is linked to several diseases including yellow fever and the chikungunya virus. Disease risk increases during times of flooding, and a reduction in the use of ITNs by children under the age of 5 (from 65 percent in 2019 to 46 percent in 2021) is continuing the high burden of vector-borne diseases.



# Water scarcity

Water scarcity is high in Senegal, which 65 percent of children are exposed to. Climatic variability, including a late rainy season, an uneven geographical distribution of rainfall, and premature ends to the rainy season, are common causes of drought in the region. Drought is most common in the northern and central arid and semi-arid Sahelian regions. dclxxiv Water scarcity has a significant impact on food security and child nutrition in Senegal, as water stress and droughts can significantly reduce crop yields, especially when coupled with locust invasions. dclxxv



### **Heatwaves**

Almost half of the child population are exposed to heatwaves in Senegal (47 percent). The highest temperatures experienced in May and June. delaxivi Research has found a significant increase in seasonal average temperatures in north and north-eastern Senegal, where thresholds exceeding the 90th percentiles (42°C maxima and 27°C minima). Heatwaves and extreme temperatures are a significant cause of heat-related morbidity, especially in women and children.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Access to adequate WASH remains poor in Senegal, with a nearly two-fold gap between urban and rural communities. For example, 43 percent of urban households have no handwashing facilities compared to 69 percent of rural households. delxxviii Moreover, 72 percent of schools in Senegal have no access to hygiene services and 82 percent of hospitals have basic water services. delxxviii delxxiix Inadequate WASH in schools and healthcare centres especially pose challenges for girls who often miss or drop out of school due to a lack of adequate MHM.



## **Health and nutrition**

Child and maternal health outcomes are poor in Senegal. Maternal and child mortality rates remain high (315 per 100,000 live births, and 38.6 per 1,000 live births respectively). delxxxx delxxxxii Senegal has been a leader in WCAR, reducing child stunting prevalence by 17.9 percent from 1992 to 2017. delxxxii Nonetheless, 66 per cent of children between the ages of 6 and 59 months are anaemic, and paediatric HIV and acute respiratory infections remain serious health challenges. delxxxiii Cost, distance, a lack of information and care-seeking behaviours in crucial areas, including treating common children infections, maternal health, and child nutrition make it challenging for families to access and use services.



## Poverty and social protection

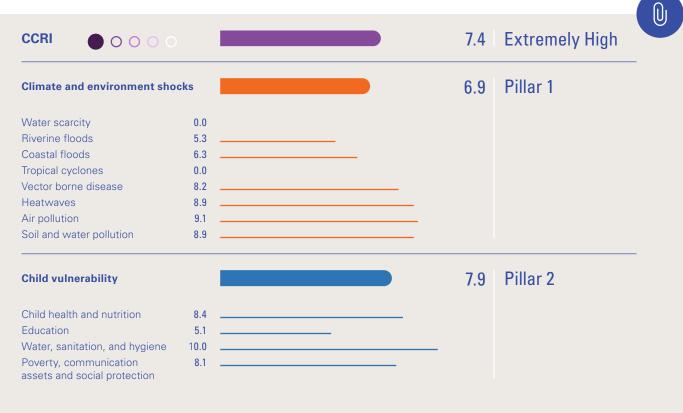
Senegal is a youthful country, where children account for 48 percent of the overall population, including one-third of all children under the age of five. delaxxiv In Senegal, one in every second family with children is poor, with one-third facing both monetary and multidimensional deprivation in essential social services. delaxxiv These difficulties have been exacerbated by population increase, the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in frequency and severity of hazards. Additionally, just 42 percent of the population (aged 15+) are unable to come up with emergency funds and only 1 percent of households receive child/family cash benefits. When floods and other hazards strike, rural areas are often the hardest hit, due to a high reliance on agriculture and lack of access to national safety net programmes.



## **Education**

Access to education remains a key challenge in Senegal. Only 31 percent of adolescents attend lower secondary school and 17 percent of youth attend upper secondary school. delaxxvi Primary education attendance is much higher (61 percent), however, less than half of children enrolled in primary education complete their schooling. delaxxvii A staggering 70 percent of youth aged 15-24 are illiterate, significantly reducing opportunities for youth to escape poverty and enter the green economy. Children with lower educational attainments are also more vulnerable to climate and environmental shocks and stresses.

# Sierra Leone



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Sierra Leone; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 have no data

Sierra Leone has a CCRI score of **7.4** and ranks **26**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions, indicating that children in Sierra Leone are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Sierra Leone are highly exposed to include:



## **Air pollution**

91 percent of children are exposed to levels ambient air pollution of (PM2.5  $>= 25 \mu g/m3$ ). The main contributors to air pollution in the country include mining, manufacturing, transport emissions and the refining industry. Such high levels of air pollution significantly hamper children's health and development in Sierra Leone.



# Soil and water pollution

Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources, including mineral reserves and agricultural land. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining is a major driver of soil and water pollution, especially in rural areas. delaxxviii Mercury and cyanide are the two principal pollutants linked with gold mining, both of which pose dangerous risks to human health. Further, over half of children and adolescents under the age of 20 in Sierra Leone are exposed to lead pollution (57 percent) and 66 percent of children are living in areas with high pesticide pollution risk.



### **Heatwaves**

86 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves in Sierra Leone. According to UNICEF analysis, under high emission scenarios, the entire child population in Senegal is estimated to be exposed to high heatwave frequency<sup>41</sup> and 93 per cent of children are projected to be exposed to high heatwave duration<sup>42</sup>. delixxix The agricultural sector is highly vulnerable, posing significant risks to food security and agriculture, which is the largest sector of Sierra Leone's economy.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

An estimated 3.2 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Senegal. 98 percent of children are exposed to dengue, 71 percent are at risk of aedes, and 83 percent are exposed to zika. In addition, 99 percent of children are at risk of both PV and PF malaria. In 2016, malaria was the cause of almost 4 in 10 hospital consultations in Sierra Leone, with children under the age of 5 are most vulnerable to morbidity and mortality attributed to the disease.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



## WASH

Inadequate access to basic sanitation and hygiene are major challenges in Sierra Leone. Only 2.5 percent of households have access to basic sanitation facilities, while 53 percent and 64 percent, respectively, do not have access to basic water services or handwashing facilities. Diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and worm infestations are all exacerbated by a lack of access to WASH services. Boys and girls frequently miss school owing to illness and diminished cognitive function brought on by worm infestations.



### **Health and nutrition**

Sierra Leone has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world at 1,120 per 100,000 live births. descrii Maternal fatalities account for 36 percent of all deaths among women aged 15 to 49, the major direct causes of which are obstetric haemorrhage, hypertension, obstructed labour and sepsis. descrii Mortality rates for children under the age of 5 years are also among the highest in the world (104.6 fatalities per 1,000 live births). descriv More than 70 percent of under-five mortalities are caused by preventable newborn conditions, malaria, acute respiratory infection and diarrhoeal illnesses. descriv Nutritional outcomes are also poor, over a quarter of children under the age of 5 stunted for their age. descriv Climate change is expected to worsen malnutrition in children in Sierra Leone, especially as droughts become more frequent. Undernutrition, weak health-care infrastructure and poor child and maternal health are key indicators of child's climate vulnerability.



# **Poverty and social protection**

Sierra Leone's poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line stands at 56.8 percent. Whilst a significant amount of people has access to mobile phones (86 mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 people), only 23 percent of the population have access to electricity. Unemployment rates are high, particularly among youth (60 per cent) and approximately 67 per cent of youth are illiterate, making it incredibly difficult for young people to compete for the few opportunities. dexevii Just 0.9 percent of the country's GDP is spent on social safety nets and 58 percent of the population (above the age of 15) are unable to come up with emergency funds. Alongside social protection services, government authorities need to build their capacity to manage climate change and disaster risks.



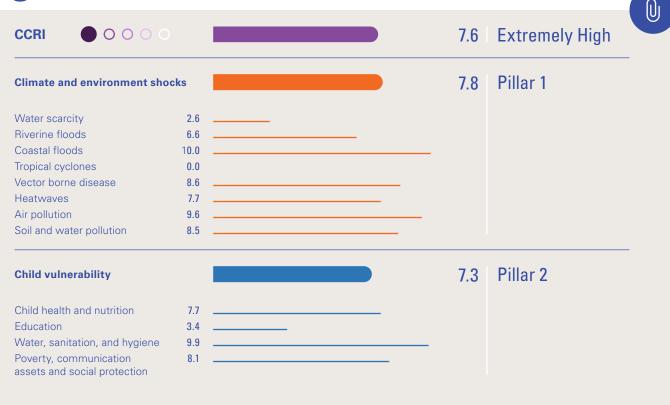
## **Education**

Access to quality education and completion of school remain key challenges for children in Sierra Leone. Whilst primary school attendance has seen vast improvements (82 percent) attendance rates for lower and upper secondary school are significantly lower (36 and 29 percent respectively). dexeviii Significant barriers to school attendance include poverty, gender discrimination, long distances to schools, social norms, and practices such as, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and an unsafe learning environment. Children with lower educational attainments are more vulnerable to environmental shocks and stresses.

<sup>41</sup> High heatwave frequency is defined as any area where there are on average 4.5 or more heatwaves per year.

<sup>42</sup> High heatwave duration is defined as any area where the average heatwave event lasted 4.7 days or longer.

# Togo



Version 3.1 (11 August 2021). All four components of pillar 2 have a data value for Togo; 1 out of the 23 indicators included in pillar 2 has no data.

Togo has a CCRI score of **7.6** and ranks **15**<sup>th</sup> out of the 163 CCRI countries and regions. Children in Togo are considered at "Extremely High" risk.

According to the CCRI, the climate and environmental shocks that children in Togo are highly exposed to include:



# **Coastal flooding**

Togo has a 56-kilometer coastline, and almost half of the child population are living in areas with coastal flood risk (45 percent). Coastal flooding poses significant threats to the country's economy, with the coastal zone accounting for 70 percent of all economic activity. dexcix The sectors most affected by coastal flooding include fishing, agriculture, and tourism. Coastal floods also pose risks to safe drinking water services, which are frequently damaged or compromised by salinization. Coastal flood measures are imperative to protect children and future generations in Sierra Leone, where climate projections estimate sea-level rise of up to 0.16m in 2025, 0.34m in 2050, and 0.74m by the end of the century.



## Air pollution

Air pollution is a major challenge in Togo, where 98 percent of children are exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 >= 25  $\mu$ g/m³), which significantly exceeds the recommended maximum ambient air pollution limit (PM2.5 >= 5  $\mu$ g/m³). The largest contributors to poor air quality in Togo include the mining and cement industries, vehicle emissions, and waste burning. Additionally, a relationship between increased dust during the harmattan, rising temperatures, and higher evaporation has been linked to poor air quality in Togo, with cross-border health repercussions across the Sahara.

<sup>43</sup> Based on an RCP2.6 emissions scenarios.



### **Vector-borne diseases**

3.8 million children are living in areas exposed to one or more disease vectors in Togo. The entire child population is exposed to malaria, 99 percent of children are at risk of dengue, 96 are at risk of aedes and 62 percent are exposed to zika. Disease risk increases during flooding, as stagnant water creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Nonetheless, areas of endemic and seasonal malaria risk, are likely to decline across Togo and other parts of Western Africa, as temperatures surpass mosquito heat tolerance, particularly in Sahelian nations where warming is expected to be quicker.



# Soil and water pollution

A primary cause of pollution in Togo is Phosphate mining, which presents significant health risks to children, especially in the coastal region. dcciii 36 percent of children and adolescents under the age of 20 are exposed to lead pollution in the country and 44 percent live in areas of high pesticide pollution risk. Unsafe levels of cadmium in soils have also been identified in parts of Togo, the main sources of which include agriculture, industrial facilities, and waste sites. dcciv Surface and groundwater pollution are a leading cause of cholera outbreaks in the country, which are linked to heavy rainfall and flooding. dccv



#### **Heatwaves**

In Togo, 57 percent of children are exposed to heatwaves, which have significant impacts on child health, and wellbeing. Heat stress and the related risks of cardiovascular and respiratory illness are major risks associated with heatwaves and extreme heat. Heat stress is most severe in Togo's northern locations, where children and the elderly are the most affected. dccvi



## **Riverine flooding**

An estimated 480,000 children are exposed to riverine flooding in Togo<sup>44</sup>. Although there is some flooding in Togo virtually every year, there were ten significant floods between 1983 and 2010, and the past four years have seen especially widespread and destructive floods that have devastated infrastructure and farmland. decvii The repeated floods have eroded arable land and leached vital nutrients from topsoils, significantly affecting agriculture. Land management practices such as deforestation may increase local flood risks in Togo in future years.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



# WASH

Access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene is a significant challenge in Togo. Just under half of Togolese households have access to basic drinking water services (49 percent) and approximately 74 percent have no handwashing facility. decriii Moreover, 45 percent of households open defecation, which is largely practised in rural areas (70 percent of households). decix Water-borne diseases are rife in the country, with communities frequently experiencing cholera outbreaks. Improving sanitation and hygiene services is essential to protect children in Togo from further disease burdens, especially as flooding becomes more frequent and severe.



### **Health and nutrition**

Togo has a decentralised healthcare system, and the country's health status is marked by high mortality rates (63 per 1,000 live births for children under the age of 5 and 396 per 100,000 live births for mothers). decx decxi HIV/AIDS, diarrhoea, TB, pneumonia, and malaria remain the top causes of mortality across all age groups. Nutritional outcomes are also poor, almost a quarter of children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age (24 percent). decxii The ebola virus disease pandemic in WCAR, as well as the meningitis and lassa fever epidemics in the country's central and northern areas in 2016, exposed significant flaws in Togo's healthcare sector. The most severe climate related health risks in Togo include increased risk of food insecurity, flood and drought-related mortality and displacement, heat stress, and a rise in infectious illnesses.



## Poverty and social protection

Togo remains one of Sub-Saharan Africa's poorest countries. More than half of the population lives below the national poverty line (55.1 percent of the population). decxiii Poverty is strongly connected to malnutrition; food insecurity at the household level and is widespread across the country, but especially in the northern regions. The surge in armed conflict across the central Sahel has also spread to Togo, a previously unaffected area. As of 29 July 2022, 1,868 people from Burkina have been displaced in the spill over zones and 1,562 internally displaced people are placing additional strain on an already fragile network of basic social services. decxiv

## **Education**

44 Calculated using a 50 year return period.



Access to education remains a challenge in Togo, particularly for adolescents and girls. Whilst 91 percent of children of primary school age are attending school, just 53 per cent of adolescents are attending lower secondary and only 24 percent of youth attend upper secondary school. decxy Gender disparities exist in Togo's education sector. For example, in each level of schooling except pre-primary, there are 10 percent fewer girls enrolled than boys. decxy Disparities in education also exist between urban and rural areas, with secondary schools particularly sparce in rural areas. Despite this, youth literacy rates in Togo are higher than in other LDCs (84 percent) and 5.4 percent of the country's GDP is spent on the education sector.



# Country Profiles

# Small Island Developing States

Out of the 46 LDCs, 41 are included within the initial CCRI dataset. The remaining 5 are Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that have a land area less than 20,000 sq/km and were not part of the 2021 CCRI dataset due to data availability limitations. While many SIDS face serious and existential threats due to climate change, the data did not adequately reflect this reality well enough to be captured appropriately in a multi-hazard index.

The 5 SIDS that are classified as LDCs include:

- Kiribati
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- ▶ Timor-Leste
- ► Tuvalu
- Union of the Comoros

Children living in SIDS are on the front lines of climate change, despite contributing relatively little to the greenhouse gas emissions that are fuelling the climate crisis. These nations confront a variety of threats, including severe climatic events like floods, droughts, and cyclones, increasing average temperatures, rising sea levels and a high burden of climate-sensitive diseases. SIDS' high climate vulnerability also relates to their distance from global markets, limited and fragile resource bases, difficulty to attain economies of scale, and vulnerability to economic shocks. The impacts of climate change in SIDS are multifaceted, including salination, bleached reefs, eroded coastlines, degraded ecosystems, disrupted economies, infrastructure damage, poverty traps, lost lives, and endangered livelihoods.

In recent years, the leaders of SIDS have been a powerful force in calling for immediate global action to protect populations all around the world, including children and future generations whose basic survival is threatened.

This report aims to address the data requirements for the contexts of the 5 SIDS that are also LDCs through a separate analysis offered here.



# **Kiribati**

Kiribati is a SIDS located in the central Pacific Ocean, which consists of 32 coral atolls and one raised limestone island. The country is divided into three primary island groups: the Gilbert group in the west, the Phoenix group in the centre, and the Line group to the east. decxlii These islands cover an area of 811 km² and the population was approximately 119,446 in 2020, 51 percent of which lived on the island of South Tarawa, where the capital of Tarawa is situated. As an extremely isolated and low-lying island nation, Kiribati is one of the most vulnerable to climate variability and sea-level rise and it's large maritime area represents significant challenges, including in the provision of supplies.

The climate and environmental hazards children in Kiribati are exposed to include:



## **Coastal flooding**

The coral atolls of Kiribati are narrow, barely a few hundred metres wide, and have a maximum elevation of 2 metres above sea level in several places, decivity putting children and families are at significant risks of coastal flooding. Several communities on the outlying islands, such as Tebunginako and Abaiang, have already been forced to relocate as a result of coastal flooding.

Kiribati's major urban centre, Tarawa has also been identified to have high coastal flood risk, threatening Kiribati's economy. In addition, the population of Kiribati are frequently exposed to coastal erosion and inundation during spring tides, storm surges, and severe winds. By 2050, 18 to 80 percent of Buariki, north Tarawa, and up to 50 percent of Bikenibeu, south Tarawa, are anticipated to be inundated. Furthermore, a reduced return period of exceptionally high sea-levels, driven by climate circulations, is expected to put Kiribati at risk of wave-driven flooding, emphasising the necessity of coral protection adaptation measures. Some estimates suggest that without adequate adaptation, wave-driven flooding will render several of Kiribati's island groupings uninhabitable by the mid-twentieth century.



# **Tropical cyclones**

Kiribati's islands are frequently exposed to storm surges that occur on a 14-year cycle. decxiviii Whilst climatic patterns often protect Kiribati's islands from direct cyclone path, consequences can still be felt when storms pass within a few hundred km. For example, in March 2015 Cyclone Pam brought widespread flooding and destruction to Kiribati's coastal infrastructure and sea walls. decxiix Warmer ocean temperatures and rising sea levels are likely to increase the frequency of high-intensity cyclones (category 4 or 5)decl, which could be more costly in terms of deaths and damages in low lying areas of Kiribati. There is also a high risk of loss of livelihoods for fishermen, with entire communities economically dependent on fisheries in Kiribati. In addition, there are concerns that cyclones will strip Kiribati's low-lying islands of their vegetation and soils, posing significant threats to food security.



#### **Extreme Heat**

Kiribati's location on the equator, brings average yearly temperatures of 27.5°C and regularly experiences high maximum temperatures, with an average monthly maximum of 30.8°C. decli Families in Kiribati are generally well adapted to these high yet stable temperatures. Yet, as climate change brings fluctuations in Kiribati's temperature regimes, an increase in heat-related illness and mortalities may occur, without adequate adaptation and resilience measures. For example, research in the Australasian region has found that annual health-related mortalities could rise by 211 percent by 2030. decli Moreover, marine heatwaves in the western tropical Pacific region are expected to pose an additional threat to Kiribati's children.



# Water scarcity

Rainwater collection and groundwater are the primary sources of water on Kiribati's islands, both of which rely heavily on rainfall for replenishment. Saline intrusion poses significant threats to water security and human health due to the salinization of ground water and drinking water sources. For example, the salinization of drinking water has been linked to an increase in the incidence of hypertension during pregnancy in the Pacific region. In May 2022, the Kiribati Government declared a State of Disaster due to drought which has affected the entire country (approximately 120,000 people). It does not brought increasing challenges and threats in terms of water contamination, brackish water, water accessibility and water

availability. Climate models predict that hydrological events including heavy rainfall, droughts, and storms will become more intense and frequent in Kiribati over time. decivi These changes are expected to increase risks of bacterial and pollutant contamination in water sources and affect subsistence agriculture, posing additional threats to child nutrition and food security. decivii In Kiribati, challenges with legislation and regulation enforcement of water supplies exacerbate the vulnerabilities to water scarcity in the face of climate change.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Disease burdens for dengue fever and the chikungunya virus are particularly high in Kiribati. In 2015, over 12,000 people on South Tarawa and Betio were infected with chikungunya virus and dengue fever, according to Kiribati's Ministry of Health and Medical Services. declix Malaria and zika risks are significantly lower in Kiribati than in other LDCs.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Only 15 percent of the population in Kiribati are using safely managed water services, just 27 percent have access to safely managed sanitation services, and around 31 percent have limited hygiene services. declx declxi In addition, almost 30 percent of the population are still practicing open defecation, declxii which can pollute surrounding environments perpetuating a vicious cycle of disease and poverty. Improving WASH services is essential to protect children in Kiribati from malnutrition and disease burdens, especially as coastal flooding becomes more severe with projected sea-level rise.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Kiribati's health sector has seeing remarkable progress in recent years. Average life expectancy at birth has risen from 60 years in 1990 to 66 years in 2015. decixiii Communicable illnesses, such as diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections, have also decreased in prevalence. However, Kiribati is one of only three Pacific Island countries that failed to meet any of the Millennium Development Goals for Health. decixiv Child and maternal mortality rates remain moderately high, at 48.2 per 1,000 live births decixv and 92 per 100,000 live births respectively. decixvi The main health concerns include TB and leprosy, levels of which are among the highest in the Pacific. decixvii In addition, an estimated 15 percent of children stunted for their age. decixviii Ciguatera poisoning is another health concern in Kiribati, caused by the consumption of reef fish contaminated with ciguatoxins. decixix Climate change is anticipated to increase the incidence of ciguatera poisoning, alongside water-borne and vector-borne illnesses in Kiribati, including dengue fever, diarrhoea, and cholera, where densely populated urban areas, such as Tarawa's capital city expected to be particularly hard hit. decixx



# Poverty and social protection

In Kiribati, primary economic activities are subsistence farming and fishing, which are highly sensitive to climate change. Kiribati is also highly dependent on imported food, fuel, and external aid. dcclxxi In 2020, the overall unemployment rate was 30.6 percent, while the youth unemployment rate was 54 percent, with female youth unemployment 14.2 percent higher than male young unemployment. dcclxxii Rates of poverty are highest in South Tarawa, which is home to around 47 percent of the population and serves as a hotspot for internal migration from the outlying islands. dcclxxiii Whilst South Tarawa offers employment, higher education and social services, which are not accessible elsewhere in Kiribati, it also has the greatest prevalence of basic needs poverty (24.2 percent of the population). dcclxxiiv These factors, along with the country's low food and water security, increases children's vulnerability to climate change.



#### **Education**

Kiribati has made remarkable progress in delivering access to education for children over the last decade. In 2019, 96 percent of children attended pre-primary and primary school education and 81 percent of children attended lower secondary school education. declaxive In addition to attendance, 94 percent of children have gone on to complete their primary school learning. declaxive Nonetheless, improvements in higher education access for children on the outer islands are needed. Future climate change could threaten the progress made in the education sector, if flooding and storm surges damage school infrastructure and leads to climate induced displacement. Consequently, investing in climate resilient infrastructure and remote learning methods is critical in Pacific Island states, to ensure minimal disruption to education in times of shock.

# São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) is an island country in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. STP is the second smallest and second-least populated African sovereign state, consisting of two main archipelagos and four islets. STP is among the least responsible for climate change, as a state that acts as an absolute sink of greenhouse gases, contributing to the sequestration of CO2, yet the islands remain highly sensitive to climate change and STP's population have a limited potential to absorb and adapt without significant investments.

The climate and environmental hazards children in STP are highly exposed to include:



#### **Coastal flooding**

Flooding is common for coastal communities across the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe, which are frequently inundated by sea water, as a result of sea-level rise and storms. Coastal flooding and erosion have a significant impact on fisheries, which comprise 20 percent of the nation's workforce. declaxviii In the upper regions, flash floods, mudslides and landslides, are common along the mountainous slopes during heavy rains. Between 2014-2016, extensive floods were experienced in the villages of Praia Gamboa, Santa Catarina, Ribeira Afonso, Malanza, and Io Grande, destroying houses and resulting in significant fatalities. declaxix



#### **Extreme Heat**

Rising temperatures are anticipated to pose serious threats to the population's health in STP including an increase in the prevalence of heat stress. Climate models predict that 85 to 100 percent of days could be classified as 'hot'45 in STP by the end of the century under various emission scenarios. declxxx This increase is expected to result in a greater number of children at risk of heat-related illnesses including dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat rash, and heat-related deaths. declxxxi Infants and small children are especially vulnerable during high heat conditions because they are incapable or lack agency to regulate their body temperature. Without adaptation measures, an increase in the number of hot days is also expected to affect livelihoods, socioeconomic output, and reduce labour productivity.



# **Vector-borne diseases**

Malaria is a significant risk all year around throughout the islands, which is transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitos, mostly during night-time hours. Whilst there has been a decrease in the overall disease burden for Malaria between 1990-2019, the mortality in children under 5 years of age climbed during this period and was higher than in all other age groups and remained the group with the highest disease burden of malaria in the country. declaxxiii Disease risk increases during flood events, as stagnant water creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the likelihood of malaria epidemics. A lack of adequate disease protection measures, including ITNs, which only 62.6 percent of children under the age of 5 slept under in 2019, according to a health survey, will continue the high rates of malaria transmission in the islands. declaxxiii Additionally, research has revealed that dengue vectors are prevalent in STP, declaxxiii whereas no previous or present zika transmissions are known to have occurred on the islands. declaxxv



# Water scarcity

The availability of groundwater is affected by several climatic factors in STP, including increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation and river flows, a longer dry season "gravana", as well as the salination of water supplies because of sea-level rise. declaxxivi Water scarcity presents risks of crop failure, livestock death, and income losses, which can result in food insecurity and rising food costs. A reduction in the availability of fresh water for drinking and hygiene also places children at an increased exposure to diseases such as cholera, typhoid, acute respiratory infections, and diarrhoea.

<sup>45</sup> A 'hot day' is a day when maximum temperature exceeds the 90th percentile threshold for that time of the year.



# Soil and water pollution

Water quality is poor across the islands of STP, due to a lack of suitable water treatment systems, and poor sewage treatment. Deforestation for construction and charcoal are major drivers of marine pollution, as a result of shipping and illegal waste dumping at sea. dcclxxxviii Land pollution and upstream activities such as dam building is also contributing to the pollution in marine environments. dcclxxxviii Further, pollution in coastal zones is degrading habitats critical to health, well-being, and livelihoods including estuaries and wetlands. The preservation of coastal trees, mangrove forests, and coral reefs in STP are particularly important because they operate as natural coastal flood barriers.

## **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

In STP, only 36 percent of households have a safely managed drinking water service and 28 percent of the population have no access to handwashing facilities. dcclxxxix Poor drainage and inadequate wastewater treatment are two serious problems which the islands are confronted with. Inadequate drainage often results in urban flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, particularly in the capital city of São Tomé. dccxc Open defecation is practised by approximately 43 percent of the population, having significant impacts on community health and water quality. dccxci Furthermore, poor sanitation and polluted water sources increase risks of water-borne illnesses, including cholera and typhoid in children.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Inadequate access to healthcare services makes children in STP especially vulnerable to climate change. Child and maternal mortality rates are significantly lower than in other LDCs at 15.4 (per 1,000 live births) and 130 (per 100,000)<sup>dccxciii</sup> dccxciii Nonetheless, children and mothers still suffer from significant health problems, including TB, malaria and HIV. Malnutrition is also prevalent across the islands, where around 12 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted for their age<sup>dccxciv</sup> and almost half the population of women of reproductive age were iron deficient in 2016. dccxcv Climate related hazards, such as flooding have the potential to damage healthcare infrastructure and disrupt service delivery. An increase in climate-sensitive illnesses will also put significant strain on already overburdened health facilities.



#### Poverty and social protection

High poverty rates and low economic growth makes the population especially sensitive to the impacts of climate change in STP. According to World Bank estimates, around one-third of the population lives on less than USD 1.90 per day in STP. dccxcvi Poverty is most prevalent in urban areas and in the southern districts including Caué and Lembá. dccxcvii Agriculture (especially cocoa) accounts for a major portion of the country's economy, and the country remains heavily reliant on imports for commodities. In addition, the country's youthful population, with 79 percent of the population below the age of 35 places significant strain on key services and often requires that children enter the workforce at a younger age. dccxcviii COVID-19 worsened the situation for many families on the islands, pushing 8,000 new households into poverty in 2020. dccxcix Strengthening shock responsive social protection in STP is essential to protect the most vulnerable children from falling into deeper poverty.



#### **Education**

Access to adequate education remains a key challenge for children in STP. While primary school attendance rates are high (94 percent), lower and upper secondary school attendance rates are much lower (52 percent and 20 percent, respectively). decc COVID-19 has disrupted children's learning in STP, with all 209 schools closed in March 2020, resulting in 30,000 children and adolescents absent from school. decci Fortunately, digital learning modalities were accessible to 70 percent of pre-school, basic and secondary school students and back to school packages were established to meet the needs of 6000 vulnerable children. Similar contingency plans are essential as climate shocks increase in frequency and severity in STP, to ensure that children's rights to education are met even in times of climate induced displacement or school closure.

# **Timor-Leste**

Timor-Leste is a SIDS in Southeast Asia which consists of the eastern side of Timor, the surrounding islands of Atauro and Jaco, and Oecusse, an exclave on the island's north-eastern side bordered by Indonesian West Timor. The land area for Timor-Leste is approximately 15,007 km² and the typical climate is tropical, humid with distinct rainy and dry seasons.

The climate and environmental hazards children in Timor-Leste are exposed to include:



#### Water scarcity

Water scarcity is a leading stressor threatening children's well-being in Timor-Leste. Recent El Nino events have increased drought risks in the east and south of the country (particularly in Lautem and Viqueque). deceiv Moreover, environmental degradation in upland water catchments significantly impairs the natural water collecting capacity of ecosystems that serve rural communities. Water supply to rural communities is projected to deteriorate in the future without a solid adaptation strategies and funding, with negative implications for children's health.



#### **Heatwaves/Extreme heat**

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) classifies Timor-Leste's heat hazard as 'medium,' implying that there is a greater than 25 percent chance that the country will experience at least one period of prolonged exposure to extreme heat, resulting in heat stress, in the next five years. decevi Heatwaves events are projected to increase in duration and with higher temperature extremes in Timor-Leste. decevi These temperature changes are anticipated to reduce the reliability of food and cash crop production, impacting household food and nutrition security and income, particularly during the lean season. deceix Longer heatwave events will pose significant health challenges, especially for newborns and infants who are more sensitive to heat related illnesses such as dehydration.



## **Riverine flooding**

High inter-annual rainfall variability across Timor-Leste, with a 40 percent difference year-to-year, makes the predictability of high rainfall events and flooding difficult. deccx Nonetheless, various flood events have been recorded in recent years. For example, in April 2021, 33,835 households were affected by flooding across all 13 municipalities, which resulted in 44 recorded fatalities. deccxi Flash floods and landslides are also common hazards associated with high rainfall. Children are especially vulnerable to these hazards because of their quick onset and destructive nature, which leaves children and their caregivers little warning to prepare and respond.



## **Coastal flooding**

Coastal flooding is a significant threat in Timor-Leste which contains a 706 km coastal zone. Climate projections show that sea-level rise could increase by ~10cm in Timor-Leste by 2030, and up to 60cm by 2090. document Coastal flooding poses risks of, disruption to infrastructure, groundwater salinization, lowered agricultural yields, and harm to coral reef health, all of which affect child nutrition and livelihoods, especially in fishing communities. document Unsustainable fishing techniques on coral reefs, mangrove harvesting, and sand, plant, and coral exploitation along the north coast are leaving Timor-Leste's coastal zones increasingly vulnerable to coastal erosion and flooding. document based solutions and adaptive costal management techniques are essential to protect children from the impacts of future floods in Timor-Leste as sea levels rise.



#### Air pollution

In 2020, Timor-Leste's annual mean concentration of CO2 PM2.5 was approximately 19 g/m3, which exceeds the WHO recommended guideline level of 5 g/m3. dccxv Outdoor air pollution can have direct and often severe consequences for children's health. Women and children are also at great risks for disease related to IAP in the country, where approximately 93 percent of the population primarily use solid fuels for cooking. dccxvi In 2012, 62 per cent of an estimated 500 child deaths due to acute lower respiratory infections were attributed to household air pollution in Timor-Leste. dcccxvii Tackling IAP requires sustained, nationwide efforts to raise awareness of the risks associated with open wood fires as well as the dissemination of both cost-effective and culturally acceptable clean fuel alternatives.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Children in Timor-Leste also experience high risks of exposure to vector-borne diseases. Dengue fever is a major public health concern, with cases increasing from 975 in 2019 to 1,450 in 2021, of which children under the age of 5 are most vulnerable. decexviii Climate change is expected to increase the disease burden of a range of diseases including, dengue and Japanese encephalitis, as a result of expanding transmission sites and altering mosquito breeding grounds. Such risks are of concern given that areas of good progress are vulnerable to reversal such as, for example, the elimination of malaria, which has been a landmark achievement for Timor-Leste.



## Soil and water pollution

Inadequate sanitation and wastewater infrastructure, as well as industrial and domestic pollution are leading causes of water contamination in Timor-Leste, which pose significant risks to children's health. Poor water-waste management and frequent pools of stagnant water contribute to various water and vector-borne disease outbreaks, especially during periods of flooding. Land management practices including slash and burn, tree felling for fuel and open grazing have significantly reduced soil quality in many areas, leading to deforestation and soil erosion. These practices reduce soil quality, increase soil pollution levels, and heighten risks of landslides.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Whilst access to basic levels of drinking water services is generally quite high in Timor-Leste (around 85 percent of the population), decexxii water is largely obtained from rain-fed water sources such as springs and wells, which can easily be compromised, including by hazards like floods. Water management in rural areas remain inadequate, especially during periods of droughts, when water resources that animals use dry-up. Approximately 15.5 percent of households still have unimproved sanitation services and one quarter of households practice open defecation in rural areas (26.5 percent). decexxiii Moreover, 34 percent of schools in Timor-Leste have no sanitation services, decexxiii which can impede children attending school, especially girls who have specific MHM requirements. In addition, one quarter of all hospitals have limited water services, preventing proper sanitation and hygiene to keep patients safe and well. decexxiiv Climate change is predicted to make access to safe water more difficult and less predictable in Timor-Leste, particularly during periods of drought linked to El Nino occurrences. As a result, improving water access for households, schools, and health centres is critical, especially in rural areas.



### **Health and nutrition**

The WHO has identified infectious, and vector-borne diseases, exposure to IAP, heat related deaths and under-nutrition as the main health issues for Timor-Leste related to a changing climate. decexxiv Child mortality rates remain high (50.5 per 1,000 live births). decexxiv In addition, child morbidity remains high, with climate related illnesses such as dengue and Japanese encephalitis placing significant burdens on healthcare services. Maternal mortality rates are also high, at 142 deaths per 100,000 live births. decexxiv Regarding nutrition, over 100,000 families are estimated to have insufficient food for a substantial period of the year in Timor-Leste, with food shortages most severe during the periods of October to March and especially in upland areas. Subsistence farmers and female-headed households have been identified as among the most food insecure groups. decexxix Further, 46.7 percent of the population of children under the age of five were stunted for their age in 2020.



# Poverty and social protection

42.6 percent of Timor-Leste's child population are living in households with income below the national poverty linedcccxxxi, with rural areas disproportionately poor. Most rural households are subsistence farmers, relying heavily on favourable climatic conditions for food and nutrition. Such limited livelihood diversity makes it increasingly difficult for farmers to recover from shocks. Unemployment is high, employment opportunities in the formal sector are generally limited and the majority of the population does not have a steady source of income. dcccxxxiii Moreover, electricity centres, such as those in Dili, frequently struggle to reach rural settlements.



# **Education**

Timor-Leste has made tremendous progress in the education sector since regaining independence in 2002. Attendance rates for primary school aged children are high at 90 percent, although school attendance rates decrease for lower and upper secondary levels (54 and 38 percent respectively). decexxxiv Disparities in levels of education between urban and rural communities exist. For example, illiteracy affects 37 percent of adolescents in rural areas aged 15-24, compared to 6 percent in urban areas. decexxxv Approximately 50 percent of schools in the country lack access to electricity, with even fewer having consistent access. decexxvi Access to improved water sources is also approximately 50 percent in schools, while basic sanitary facilities are lacking in 35 percent of primary schools. decexxxvii

# Tuvalu

Tuvalu is a SIDS located in the south Pacific Ocean, which consists of 9 atolls that stretch 579 km in length and is internationally recognised as one of the most climate vulnerable states globally. Tuvalu has a surface area of approximately 26 km² and a population of roughly 11,800 inhabitants as of 2020.dcccxxxviii

The climate and environmental hazards children in Tuvalu are exposed to include:



# **Coastal flooding**

Tuvalu has an average elevation of 3 metres above sea level, which have been rising at a rate of about 5 mm per year since 1993 and are projected to rise another 0.4-0.9 metres by 2090. decent Sea-level rise has contributed significantly to coastal erosion and the salinization of freshwater supplies in Tuvalu, having negative influence on agriculture, fisheries, water resources, human health, and ecosystems. Key national infrastructure including government buildings, utility infrastructure, and the airport lie in an area exposed to storm surge and coastal flooding. Coral reefs play an important role in Tuvalu's coastal defences and economic output by contributing to local fish stocks. Climate change has increased reef exposure to bleaching events, exacerbating the damage already done by humans. Moreover, sand mining in coastal areas, has eroded coastal defences and made coastal areas increasingly vulnerable.



## **Tropical cyclones**

Between 2000-2016, 13 tropical cyclones were recorded in Tuvalu. decedii Cyclone events have significant impacts on livelihoods and the Tuvalu economy. For example, in 2015, Cyclone Pam impacted several of Tuvalu's islands including Nui, Nukufetau and Nanumaga. In Nui, widespread destruction left 71 families (40 percent of the population) displaced and in Nukufetau, large areas of the island's seawall were damaged from storm surges and wave action. decediii The cyclone also resulted in increased incidences of diarrhoea and minor skin infections in children under 12, and many sanitation facilities in temporary shelters were non-functional. decediiv Local food security was also compromised, for example, in Nui, 100 percent of vegetable, banana, and pulaka crops were affected. decediiv Projected sea-level rise is expected to enhance damages and impacts caused by future cyclone induced storm surges, as is the prospect of increased wind speed and precipitation severity.



# **Extreme heat/Heatwaves**

Tuvalu experiences high maximum temperatures on a frequent basis, but, typically has a highly consistent temperature regime, with an average monthly maximum of 31°C. decextivii The western tropical Pacific has been identified as a global hotspot for climate induced marine heatwaves, which are expected to negatively impact marine ecosystems and livelihoods, which are adapted to exist under highly stable temperature regimes. decextiviii Further research is required to fully comprehend the implications of climate change, as well as its connection with the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomena, for Tuvalu's future temperature regime and potential heatwaves.



## Water scarcity

Tuvalu's fresh water supply is nearly completely dependent on rainfall. The groundwater reserves which are currently accessible are frequently brackish and unfit for human consumption. Sea-level rise is anticipated to exacerbate risks of salt intrusion into groundwater and soils and the salinization of water-supply infrastructure. decexlix Model predictions on future precipitation trends are highly uncertain for Tuvalu and there is disagreement among models covering the Polynesia region, with some predicting declining annual precipitation and others increases. decel The connection between climate change and ENSO, which is currently poorly understood, is expected to have a significant impact on future rainfall patterns. Deficits in rainfall may produce an increase in meteorological droughts in the region, although modelling is limited due to projection issues related to the nation's small land mass, sensitivity to El Niño, the remote pacific location and a lack of historical data.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

There are two main vector-borne diseases of concern in Tuvalu: dengue fever and lymphatic filariasis. deceiii In 2019, Tuvalu experienced a significant dengue outbreak, where the majority of the 210 confirmed cases were experienced by children aged 5-9 years of age. deceiiii

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### WASH

Tuvalu has seen significant success in the WASH sector, improving its water coverage to 98 percent, which is much higher than the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories' average. deceiv Nonetheless, access to improved sanitary facilities is more limited, at 83 percent of coverage, with lower sanitation coverage in rural areas. deceiv Inadequate access to sanitation is linked to the transmission of cholera and dysentery, which are exacerbated by climate hazards such as floods and cyclones. Around 4 percent of the population still practices open defecation, deceive which is comparably lower than other LDCs.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Access to adequate healthcare is a challenge in Tuvalu, which has only one hospital located on the main island of Funafuti and 11 healthcare centres on the outer islands, which are staffed by nurses providing primary care and preventative treatments. deceivi Patients who require advanced clinical treatment must be sent to overseas facilities, which can be difficult during extreme weather events. Sexual health and reproductive health services are also limited, with 24 percent of married women without access to family planning and Tuvalu has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the Pacific. deceivii Child and maternal nutritional challenges are also prevalent, where 37 percent of children have stunted growth and around 6 percent experience wasting. deceix There is also a high proportion of obesity among children (21 percent considered obese). deceix Many health vulnerabilities in Tuvalu are related to climate change including extreme weather-related trauma, heat-related illnesses, impaired water and food safety and security, vector-borne diseases, zoonoses, respiratory illnesses and noncommunicable diseases. deceix Despite these challenges, Tuvalu's child mortality rates have progressively declined in recent years, reaching 21.3 per 1,000 live births in 2021 and immunization coverage is mostly adequate.



# **Poverty and social protection**

In 2020, 27 percent of children were living in households with income below the poverty line in Tuvalu. decelviii A lack of opportunity for young people reinforces poverty cycles and has resulted in harmful behaviours such as drug and alcohol misuse, as well as mental health difficulties. decelviv Geographical disparities exist across Tuvalu' islands, where the likelihood of a household being poor is over 30 percent higher in the outer Islands than in the main island of Funafuti. decelving Poverty alleviation is severely hampered by a lack of comprehensive social protection in Tuvalu. Traditional community safety nets such as churches play a vital role, but their capacity to respond to shocks is limited. In addition, Tuvalu's Government lacks the financial resources required to meet adaptation needs necessitating external finance contributions.



# **Education**

Enrolment in early childhood and primary education remains a key challenge in Tuvalu. decelvir For example, the net enrolment rate for primary education fell from almost universal 97.4 percent in 2013 to 82 percent in 2020. decelvii decelviii Indirect and direct costs of schooling prevent children from socioeconomically disadvantaged households from accessing education. Furthermore, a lack of school transportation presents a significant barrier to disabled children and students in remote areas. Moreover, climate hazards often result in disruptions to child education, as a result of infrastructure damage or the use of schools as refuge points. For example, during Cyclone Pam, Nui's primary school was used as an evacuation centre, resulting in the suspension of learning programmes. decelvix

# **Union of the Comoros**

The Union of the Comoros or 'Comoros' is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, north-east of Madagascar and consists of 4 major islands: Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Mohéli (Mwali), Mayotte (Maore) and Anjouan (Ndzuani) and several smaller islands. Comoros is one of the most climate-sensitive nations in the world due to its location and geography.

The climate and environmental hazards children in Comoros are exposed to include:



## **Coastal flooding**

Most of the Comoros' population and cities are situated in the coastal zone, where coastal flooding poses serious dangers to well-being and livelihoods. Climate models predict a 4 mm/year increase in sea level annually in Comoros, and a total increase of 20 cm by 2050. decxivii The anticipated impacts of sea level rise include the infiltration of salted water into coastal aquifers; an increase in the occurrence of malaria and a decrease in crop yields, agricultural production, and fisheries. Moreover, 10 percent of the country's coastal inhabitants are expected to be displaced because of inundation. decxiviii Sea-level rise and resultant flooding will also destroy significant coastal infrastructure, valued at USD 400 million, including critical infrastructure such as WASH facilities and healthcare centres.



# **Tropical cyclones**

Cyclones threaten Comoros annually and have increased in frequency in recent years. In 2019, Cyclone Kenneth, centred west of Ngazidja, brought torrential rain and 70 km/h winds which swept throughout Comoros. The cyclone caused widespread coastal flooding and significant water contamination of community water tanks due to debris and salinization. 345,130 people were affected, and 3 million people displaced. dcxx The cyclone also impacted food security, with 63 percent of food crops damaged, and caused a loss of 2,055 animals. dcxxi The cyclone severely disrupted education, damaging 465 classrooms, half of which were entirely destroyed. dcxxii As the intensity of tropical cyclones increases with climate change, investments to help communities on the islands of Comoros to better prepare for and increase their resilience to the impacts of tropical storms will be essential to protect children in Comoros.



## **Water scarcity**

On the islands of Comoros, water resources are limited, and often unable to fulfil population demands. This situation is projected to worsen as demands increase. For instance, in 2002, the daily average water consumption was around 28,600 m3, which is anticipated to increase to 46,498 m3 by 2025, and 79 200 m3 by 2050. decxxiii The main drivers of water scarcity in the Comoros islands include deforestation, the fragile equilibrium between fresh and salt water in Grande Comore and Moheli, buried septic tanks contaminating groundwater, inadequate WASH infrastructure, and a decline in the quantity of rivers and quality of ground water, especially in Anjouan and Moheli. decxxiv Sea-level rise is expected to contribute to the salination of fresh water supplies and the impact of tides on underground water results in change in water salt content. decxxiv Further, agricultural productivity and food supply in the Comoros have recently been affected by a prolonged drought that has delayed fruit ripening, dried out grasses, and reduced pasture area. decxxiv To ensure that children's right to water is upheld, Comoros' water supply networks must be better managed and maintained.



#### **Vector-borne diseases**

Malaria is endemic in the Comoros and is one of the leading causes of child mortality. Whilst malaria outbreaks have largely been confined to lowland areas, climate change is predicted to extend the geographic range of the disease into the highland communities of Comoros. decxxvii Improved mosquito survival with changing climatic conditions may also allow the normally seasonal pattern of breakouts to be extended to year-round infection. In addition, children in Comoros are also at risk to dengue and Chikungunya transmission.



# **Volcanos**

In addition to risks to climate related hazards, volcanic hazards are also prevalent in the Comoros. The Karthala Volcano, located near Grand Comore's southern edge is particularly active, having erupted more than 20 times since the 19th century. dccxxviii Volcanic eruptions and related hazards, such as floods, landslides, and toxic gas exposure, can have serious effects on children's lives. Whilst the islands have largely escaped mass disruption, two eruptions in 2005, displaced 10,000 people and left approximately 120,000 people without clean drinking water due to ash contamination in water cisterns.

Disaster Management efforts which incorporate both DRR and climate change adaptation measures, are essential to reduce the vulnerabilities of populations at risk of compounding hazards. Working with communities to build their capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from shocks, is essential to enhance overall community resilience.

# **Underlying vulnerabilities**



#### **WASH**

Communities in Comoros continue to have limited access to potable water, as well as inadequate sanitation and hygiene provisions. For example, almost two out of every three families (61 percent) do not have access to upgraded toilets and must rely on uncovered latrines. decxxx Inadequate WASH systems remains a prominent issue in education and healthcare facilities. For instance, 88 percent of schools have no drinking water service. decxxxi Regions of the islands that receive the most precipitation and inundation are also more susceptible to outbreaks in water-borne diseases. The water industry in Comoros has chronic governance issues, with data not effectively maintained to provide for a thorough grasp of Comoros islands' WASH profile, to ensure that the most vulnerable families receive WASH assistance. Thus, improved monitoring and child-centred risk assessments are essential to identify where children are in the greatest need for climate resilient WASH services.



#### **Health and nutrition**

Child and maternal mortality rates remain high in Comoros, 61.3 (per 1,000 live births) and 273 (per 100,000) respectively. documents between the disorders linked to climate shocks, drinking untreated water and poor food quality, are major causes of morbidity and death, particularly among young children. Other significant health concerns include malaria and acute respiratory infections. Malnutrition remains prominent, with almost one quarter of the population unable to meet the daily minimal nutritional requirements, approximately 23 percent of children under the age of five are stunted for their age. documents disparities in health outcomes and access to health services exist between Comoros' islands, urban and rural populations, and sexes.



#### **Poverty and social protection**

The Comoros' economy is still recovering from the successive shocks of Cyclone Kenneth which saw a decline of GDP from 3.6 percent (2018) to 1.8 percent (2019). dccxxxv The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted Comoros' post-cyclone rebuilding efforts and further declined GDP to 0.3 percent in 2020. dccxxxvi A quarter of the country's residents live just below the national poverty line and a further 10 percent of the population is at danger of falling below the national poverty threshold if met by further shocks. dccxxxvii In 2018, over half of children aged 0 to 4 years of age were affected by more than one deprivation and 9 percent of these children were affected by multiple deprivations in the areas of health, nutrition, and hygiene. dccxxxviii Resilience to shocks remains low in the region due to the inadequate coverage of social protection and low financial inclusion.



#### **Education**

Access to quality education remains a key challenge for children in Comoros. In 2012, attendance rates for primary school aged children were relatively good (84 percent), however lower and upper secondary attendance rates were lower (49 and 27 percent respectively). decxxxix Furthermore, by the age of 18, children in the Comoros have finished only 8.4 years of schooling on average. decxl Girls gee rally receive fewer years of education than boys, and the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy is two to three times that of similar LDCs. decxli Preschool education still remains experimental, and many families favour non-traditional learning environments like Koranic institutions. Schools typically lack qualified teachers, adequate infrastructure and sanitation facilities, and regional disparities in education access are prevalent.



# Recommendations

# **Community-based approaches**

Localization of climate action, including support for local governments and building resilient communities, is extremely important because community members understand local needs and are on the front line of climate change adaptation action. A community-based approach to adaptation is one where those who are affected by decision-making are included as key partners in the development of adaptation plans and strategies. Placing children and local communities at the centre of climate action, ensures that children will be better protected; their adaptive capacity to identify, develop, and sustain climate change solutions will be strengthened; and their representation and participation is prioritized in decision-making. Child-centred risk assessments are an important participatory technique to ensure that consideration is given to how the risks associated with various shocks and stresses can affect children, their caregivers, and their communities. These risk assessments should inform wider community-based disaster risk management policies and action plans which involve the inclusion of local people's values and knowledge in formulating and implementing DRR and climate adaptation measures.

#### **Nature-based solutions**

Nature-based solutions involve collaborating with nature to address societal issues, benefiting both human well-being and biodiversity. Nature-based solutions include actions involving the protection, restoration, or management of natural and semi-natural ecosystems; the sustainable management of aquatic systems and working lands; or the creation of novel ecosystems in and around cities. These solutions are created and implemented with the full participation and permission of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. deceix Whilst an important method in all LDCs, nature-based solutions are particularly important in SIDS given that protecting or restoring coastal ecosystems (mangroves, reefs, and salt marshes) can shelter communities and infrastructure from cyclones, storm surges, and coastal erosion. Moreover, coastal habitats — especially mangroves — sequester carbon, so restoration also contributes to climate change mitigation.

Photo: young people plant mangroves in Kiribati to lower cyclone risk in their community from coastal flooding.

# 'The whole-of-island' or 'whole-of-ecosystem approach'

Responding to the complex needs of LDCs requires developing approaches that are customized to local economies, cultures, contexts, capacities, and building holistically modelled systems that incorporate ecosystems, reefs, weather, climate, and people. Typically implemented in SIDS, the whole-of-island approach entails strengthening resilience to climate change and its associated hazards across all sectors of social and economic life, as well as developing more robust ecosystem-based approaches that employ cutting-edge techniques, technologies, and know-how to protect the environment and promote a healthier planet. deceixxi In the Pacific SIDS, Ridge-to-Reef methods provide an example of a whole-of-ecosystem approach to coastal protection. The Ridge-to-Reef approach aims to provide a holistic intervention for protecting coastal areas by focusing on environmental degradation in the uplands that affect coastal ecosystems through sedimentation, by restoring the shoreline and protecting marine ecosystems, and by reducing people's exposure and vulnerability to these hazards. decelxxii At the same time, Ridge-to-Reef approaches directly engage and provide benefits to local communities.

## **Hazard-specific recommendations**



# **Air pollution**

- Develop regulations for the open burning of waste.
- Switch to cleaner fuels and energy, install quality filters on smokestacks, apply low carbon strategies in industry, improve stoves, and adopt cleaner cooking and heating fuels to reduce household air pollution.
- Install air ventilation systems in schools, healthcare centres, and homes.
- ▶ Reduce polluting traffic and industries around schools and play areas.
- Monitor air quality systematically and limit child exposure to air pollution when levels are high.
- ► Encourage citizens to become "air aware" through the provision of information on air quality in their communities so that they can make informed decisions to take action.



# Riverine and coastal flooding control measures

- Apply nature-based solutions, including coral reef restoration, strengthening natural embankments and mangrove replanting.
- Where appropriate, install hard protection measures such as sea walls and groins (requires significant finance and community consultation).
- Implement nature-based riverine flood control measures, including protecting and expanding wetlands and widening natural flood plains.
- Construct and/or retrofit flood-resistant infrastructure.



# **Tropical cyclones**

- Strengthen integrated risk surveillance, monitoring, and early warning systems.
- Take early action and implement anticipatory action measures i.e., established evacuation plans and teaching children how to respond during cyclone events, especially in schools.
- Strengthen natural embankments and mangrove replanting.
- Install cyclone-related coastal flood defense measures e.g., sea walls.
- Retrofit critical infrastructure to avoid exposure and damage.
- Maintain and construct cyclone shelters.



#### **Vector control measures**

- Provision of ITNs for children and indoor residual spraying.
- Clear stagnant water and drain blockages to reduce favourable conditions for mosquito breeding grounds.
- ▶ Implement community-based vector surveillance.
- ▶ Provide community education on methods to reduce vector exposure.



# **Heatwave adaptation measures**

- ► Retrofit critical infrastructure such as schools and health centres using heat-tolerant materials e.g., cool roofs.
- ► Train healthcare workers on the management of heat-related illnesses.
- Use climate-smart agriculture to increase crop resilience to extreme temperatures and heatwaves, to reduce risks to food security.
- Support the growth of urban green spaces and safe public water supplies.
- Limit exposure through early identification through monitoring systems and increased education and awareness.



# Water scarcity adaptation measures

- Support rainwater harvesting, diversifying water supply sources, and expanding current sources.
- Increase water storage capacity, greywater recycling, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, and watershed management.
- Develop regulatory systems that address water scarcity, including over-extraction of groundwater, water accounting, and data monitoring and analysis.
- Rehabilitate urban water distribution networks and treatment systems to reduce water leakage and contamination.
- Develop climate-resilient water sources, including the use of deeper groundwater reserves through solar-powered water networks.
- Implement climate-smart agriculture to increase crop resilience and reduce risks to food security.



# Soil and water pollution management

- Implement soil pollution management: including natural attenuation, in situ impermeable barriers, phytomanagement, exclusion zones, and change of land use in contaminated areas.
- Implement water pollution management: including investing in adequate sewage piping and water treatment systems, household and industrial waste disposal, and building and maintaining flood and storm water drains.
- Support community education on safe water management and waste practices to reduce contamination.

#### **Climate-smart services for children**

Adaptation and resilience building offers the most effective way to protect family livelihoods and children's lives from the immediate and expected impacts in climate change. Specifically, this will require:

#### **Climate-smart WASH infrastructure and services**

Ensure that WASH infrastructure and services are sustainable, safe, and resilient to climate and disaster risks through WASH-sector specific climate and hazard vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning and enhancing WASH-related knowledge, aptitude, and practices at institutional, community and individual levels, considering impacts of climate change. Expand access to renewable and off-grid energy sources, such as solar, to ensure resilience of systems, as well as clean and low carbon approaches to safely managed water supplies.

Integrate climate-risk screening for rural and urban water supply systems, ensuring that the quality of water resources from urban and rural service providers is monitored, and that watershed zones are protected, including during disasters. Synergies can be developed in intervention areas with conservation programmes to strengthen ecosystem services, such as water, nutrients, and through implementing erosion control. Governments are supported to integrate the climate rationale into key national climate, environment, DRR, sustainable energy documents, strategies, commitments, and plans to ensure it is integrated as a national climate priority in NAPs and NDCs.

Improve reliability and durability of services by focusing on demand-side water management strategies, to guarantee water availability year-round, including during meteorological, hydrological, and agricultural droughts, as well as integrated water management. This can empower water user groups that include marginalized users. As well preventing evaporative and spillage losses, this will help guarantee an adequate provision of freshwater resources. This also includes improving water resource assessments, sustainable water withdrawal, efficient use, early warning, and action to prevent situations where there is a depletion of water supplies and disaster-proofing water supply in areas exposed to hazards and climate-related shocks. This may also involve expanding partnerships with business actors to build stronger markets, with a focus on accelerating resilient and safe WASH services and products and frontier technologies.

#### **Climate-smart health services**

**Develop climate smart strategies for health system infrastructures** by supporting the health sectors to develop climate resilience and adaptive strategies for new and existing health system infrastructure. This includes equipping health systems with new infrastructures, including the provision of renewable energy for health clinics and the reduction of healthcare waste. This contributes both to low-carbon development as well as resilience to climate and disaster shocks.

Ensure environmental determinants of children's health are reflected in prevention and treatment strategies. This includes improved monitoring of environmental threats such as air pollution. It also includes identifying the changing health threats that children face due to climate and environmental factors and prioritizing health responses accordingly. This includes ensuring that climate and environmentally sensitive diseases are integrated into national and local disease surveillance mechanisms, as well as introducing policies and actions to reduce environmental threats to children's health, such as air pollution or lead pollution.

**Support health sectors to better adapt and respond to environmental determinants of health.** This includes investing in quality maternal and newborn care services, sustaining immunization programmes, and supporting preventive, promotive, and curative services for pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, and other child health conditions. It can also involve supporting adolescent health and well-being and providing age-specific health information. Such actions require strengthening health systems to deliver integrated services for children.

### **Climate-smart food and nutrition**

Increase capacity at community levels to assess local vulnerabilities to shifting food availability and diets, and sustain nutritional security for children, particularly during early childhood. Developing and promoting local food chains will reduce the impact of trade disruptions and any disasters on food security. Localizing food systems will also generate jobs and income and increase the offer and consumption of fresh produce. Considering shorter value chains will significantly reduce emissions associated with the long-distance food trade.

**Establish anticipatory action mechanisms like climate risk monitoring and early warning systems** to reduce the effects of hazards on agri-food systems by linking nutrition actors and services to such systems at national, sub-national, and community levels.

Incorporate nutritional requirements and goals into climate adaptation plans of the agricultural and social welfare sectors, which meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups, including children.

#### **Climate-smart education systems**

Integrate climate change education in teaching, learning, and curriculum: Climate change, DRR, and environmental education must be incorporated into formal and non-formal curriculum and textbooks, as well as professional development for educators. Climate change must also be part of the mental health and psychosocial support schools offer, as well as school leadership and management training programmes. Digital learning also offers significant opportunities. Green skills and transition to green jobs for adolescents and youth will be key to ensuring they can participate in the growing green economy. Skills-based learning is also essential to empower children, adolescents, youth, and teachers to actively participate in the shaping of adaptation and climate-resilience activities in schools, and to encourage them to become part of the solution to climate change. Improved education which builds knowledge and skills will also contribute to improved sustainability practices and a reduction in emissions at individual, institutional, and communal levels.

**Invest in climate resilient education systems.** Climate change must also be integrated into education sector plans, and education must be part of climate change plans and financing. Targeted climate change frameworks that include both mitigation and adaptation strategies can be developed, as well as contingency plans for emergencies, including the implementation of hybrid learning approaches and remote learning modalities. Coordination with multi-stakeholders is also key to ensuring a strong and supportive enabling environment.

Invest in climate resilient infrastructure and DRR. This includes conducting multi-hazard, child-centered risk assessments focused on the education sector, integrating climate change into Education Management Information Systems, and ensuring schools receive early warning on disasters - including those related to climate change. This also includes establishing procedures and protocols for disaster preparedness and risk reduction for schools and early childhood development centers, including the implementation of the <a href="Comprehensive School Safety Framework">Comprehensive School Safety Framework</a>. Investing in safe school guidelines and climate-resilient education infrastructure, supporting access to clean and sustainable energy sources, and climate and disaster-proofed WASH— helps ensure schools are safe for all children, especially girls.

#### **Climate-smart social protection**

**Adaptive and shock-responsive social protection systems.** This includes improving the connection between social protection and early warning systems and climate data. It also requires a more humanitarian approach to be able to activate and respond timely to shocks and stresses, reaching the right people at the right time through methods like the pre-registration of vulnerable households. decelexiii The outreach of social protection programmes and structures to assist populations in a scalable and more sustainable way may be also beneficial for assuming an anticipatory approach. By connecting them both, climate risks can be proactively managed to reduce humanitarian needs and prevent climate shocks from becoming major humanitarian crises.

Doing so requires improving multi-hazard and risk-informed public finance management (PFM) processes so they can act beyond expenditure and disbursement by assessing and accounting for multi sector investments (linked to prevention, DRR, preparedness, response, and recovery), including investments in shock responsive social protection. This may also involve the use of innovative national, regional, and international climate finance tools for risk reduction, retention, and transfer due to the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters and slow onset events. Bringing a strong gender lens to adaptive and shock-responsive social protection can also build resilience through child benefits, family-friendly policies such as maternity benefits, and childcare or livelihoods programmes.

**Find synergies between climate finance and social budgets for children**. This includes identification of child-sensitive risk markers in climate finance mechanisms, as well as identifying where social budgets contribute to climate and environmental goals. Solutions must be devised that address the economic and non-economic losses and damages due to climate change and disasters, especially for the most marginalized, including children, to increase the adaptive capacities of the impacted population. Innovation and private sector investment must be utilized, where possible, and financial inclusion fostered for the poorest people by delivering cash transfers via mobile money mechanisms and electronic transfers, including in remote areas.

Integrate climate, disaster, and environmental dimensions into child poverty analysis at sub-national levels. UNICEF measures child poverty according to access to water and sanitation, play, nutrition, information, housing, health, education, and clothing. Incorporating a climate and environmental lens to child poverty analysis, as either a dimension or as an overlap, can help provide a picture of not only the potential for climate and environmental shocks and risk, but also provide a basis for targeting specific programmes and services to help families mitigate and adapt to the impacts, protect assets, and reduce child poverty.

#### **Climate-smart child protection systems**

Ensure that children are safe and protected from the impacts of climate change and associated disasters, including children who are forced to migrate internally or across borders. Climate change stands to alter and disrupt child protection systems in many ways. When social and institutional systems breakdown due to a shock, children are increasingly susceptible to exploitation, abuse and physical harm. Even more vulnerable are boys and girls who are from poor families, children with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and refugees/migrant families. Child protection systems need to be made responsive to the increasing frequency and severity of these types of shocks. Migration as an adaptive strategy (both voluntary and forced) is already a reality for many children and their families impacted by the climate crisis. Without adequate protections put in place, children will increasingly be at risk of exploitation and abuse when on the move.

**Ensure children have continuation of learning when they move.** Children need to be provided with a continuity of learning even when forced to migrate. While there is no substitute to consistent formal education, one such innovative platform that can support children in the move is a "learning passport." A "learning passport" is a digital, personalized platform that ensures displaced children and young people can continue their studies and have their achievements recorded, wherever they are. Every user has a personalized record of their learning history, that is unique to them, and can be taken across physical and digital borders subject to context. Whilst digital methods are important, supporting educational systems to physcially accept students who have relocated is crucial.

**Establish legal frameworks for children to access their rights.** Children typically have limited access to formal judicial mechanisms. A framework with recommendations and a strategy for its implementation for children and young people, caregivers, civil society, and governments can support the empowerment of children to advance climate and environmental justice. Specifically, this includes addressing education, expression, and access to remedy and safety. The draft General Comment 26, on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, is one example of authoritative guidance on how children's rights are impacted by the environmental crisis and what governments must do to uphold these rights.

Address increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices as a result of climate-related disasters. Disasters increase the risks of different forms of violence, abuse, and harm especially for children and women. Actions focus on working with government, partners, and communities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to different forms of GBV, including child marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse. There is a strong need to reduce risks of GBV across all sectors in humanitarian and climate-related preparedness and response including for education, health, nutrition, WASH, social protection, and child protection.



#### Child-centred disaster risk reduction

The increasing frequency and severity of disaster events — exacerbated by an accelerating climate crisis, environmental degradation and lagging risk governance systems — require that all children need immediate action to build resilience. Natural hazard monitoring, forecasting, and multi-hazard early warning are all gaining traction in LDCs but are failing to be matched sufficiently by DRR measures that equip people with the information and skills they need to protect themselves when disasters strike. Few LDCs have comprehensive and child-centred DRR plans in place and **none of the "Extremely High Risk" countries, according to the CCRI, have an extremely high (>80 percent) score on the adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR.** A comprehensive DRR strategy is a critical component to better protect children from the impacts of climate change.



# **Call to Action**

Across the globe, climate change is taking a significant toll on children's development, well-being, survival, and future potential. As this report has illustrated, nowhere is this more acute than in LDCs.

Children in LDCs face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental hazards, shocks, and stresses, and a high vulnerability to climate change due to inadequate access to essential services.

**LDCs contribute less than 1 percent of global emissions (0.98 percent)**<sup>46</sup> – placing them among the least responsible parties for causing the crisis. Even the **top 10 LDC countries with largest contribution to global emissions only produce 0.71 percent of global CO2 emissions**. This underscores the importance of high-emitting countries' responsibility to take immediate action to support the most vulnerable children, including those in LDCs.

The only long-term solution to the climate crisis is a reduction of emissions to safe levels – reaching net-zero by 2050 to stay on course for warming that does not exceed 1.5°C. However, climate dynamics are such that mitigation efforts will take decades to reverse the impacts of climate change, and for the children on the frontlines in LDCs, this will be too late.

Even with ambitious action to reduce emissions, everyone will be living in a world with higher global average temperatures than present. This means more droughts, flooding, and other climate-related disasters are inevitable. Urgent action is required today to improve the protection of children most at-risk, which includes:

<sup>46</sup> The sum percentage of global emissions of 46 LDC is 0.98% (rounded 1%).



# 1. Increase investments in climate adaptation and resilience for key services for children

To protect the health, safety, learning, and opportunities of every child, the social services they rely on – WASH, health, education, nutrition, social protection, and child protection - must be adapted and made resilient to the growing impacts of climate change.

Adaptation finance in child critical sectors remains critically underfunded and resourced, and climate finance mobilised by developed countries remains far short of commitments made and what is required to respond to the needs of children and families in LDCs. The failed collective goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion in climate finance per year, by 2020, for developing countries must be made up urgently, and the adaptation and resilience needs of LDCs adequately reflected in the new collective quantified goal on adaptation for 2025.

Capacity building and finance for adaptation to climate change must be scaled up including through comprehensive multistakeholder resilience-building measures for LDCs, leveraging the Green Climate Fund and existing measures and initiatives including (but not limited to) the National Adaptation Plan Global Network and the United Nations Capital Development Fund's Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility. documents and other funders must leverage and increase access to all available traditional, innovative, and alternative climate and risk-reduction finance mechanisms, to fill funding gaps and finance urgent and essential adaptation action in LDCs.

As outlined in Article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement, the provision of scaled-up financial resources should be intended to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country driven strategies, and the priorities and needs of developing country parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the LDCs, considering the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation.



## 2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The latest IPCC Working Group II report is clear that there is no climate resilient development for vulnerable countries above 1.5°C. The very survival of children in LDCs is at stake. To avert the worst impacts, comprehensive and urgent action is required to close the 2030 emissions gap. Countries must cut their emissions by at least 50 percent (compared to 2010 levels) by 2030, and net zero by mid-century to keep warming to no more than 1.5°C.



#### 3. Offer and scale green skills training and capacity-building

Every child should have the education and green skills to adapt to a changing climate and environment, to prepare and respond to disasters, and to create a more sustainable world. Green skills-building — such as the ability to gather and interpret climate data and identify and implement climate-friendly technologies, empowers young people to participate in the growing green economy and lay the path from livelihoods that will be less viable due to climate change. Climate change education enables children and young people to participate in climate adaptation, and resilience activities; to influence household behaviour; and ultimately drive greater national action and commitments to address and respond to the climate crisis. Children should also have access to DRR education, including all aspects of school and community disaster management, and learn safety rules for specific hazards.



# 4. Include children and young people in climate adaptation and resilience-building plans, policies, and decision-making

National climate change and DRR policies, plans, and finance should prioritize building the adaptation and resilience of essential social services that children depend on most. They must be inclusive and supportive of all children and young people's rights, participation, and roles as stakeholders and drivers of change. This includes integrating child sensitivity indicators and identifying adaptation measures which target priority social services into NDCs and NAPs.

Further, children and young people must be included and consulted on all national, regional, and international climate negotiations and decision-making processes, including contributing to the implementation and review of the 2022-2031 Doha Programme of Action. This requires commitments to strengthen meaningful child and youth participation mechanisms, in policies and activities that enhance sustainable development efforts.

Every child and young person in LDCs – should be protected from the worst impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as provided with the resources and capabilities to be part of the solution in addressing the planetary crisis.

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