



unicef   
for every child

# A Liveable Planet for Every Child

UNICEF's Strategy-at-a-Glance for Climate, Environment,  
Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction — CEED (2022-2030)

## Summary

Virtually every child on earth is already affected by climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Action is falling short, which means that the impacts upon children and young people will worsen in the coming decades. Children will bear the brunt of impacts, particularly those in communities that have contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions.

The best investments we can make for children **now** are to ensure the services they need to survive, grow and thrive are resilient to climate and environmental shocks and to support them with the education and skills they will need to adapt and create a green transition and better world.

UNICEF will make this the focus of our on-the-ground implementation and advocacy in the over 190 countries and territories in which we work — every child deserves a liveable planet.

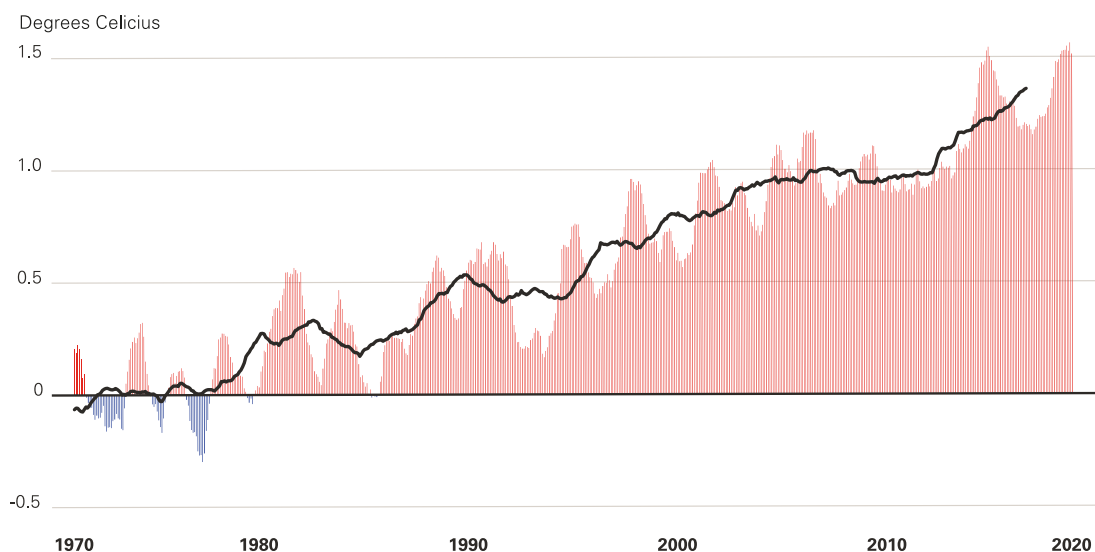
## The Urgency of Now

A planetary crisis<sup>1</sup> is upon the world's children, and it is worsening. Every child is already affected by at least one climate or environmental shock and over one billion are at extremely high risk. The number of climate-related disasters has increased by nearly 35% since the 1990s.<sup>2</sup>

About 40% of the world's plant species is at risk of extinction.<sup>3</sup> About one-third of children globally are exposed to lead and 600 million children are projected to be living in areas of extremely high water stress by 2040.<sup>4</sup>

### The world is getting hotter

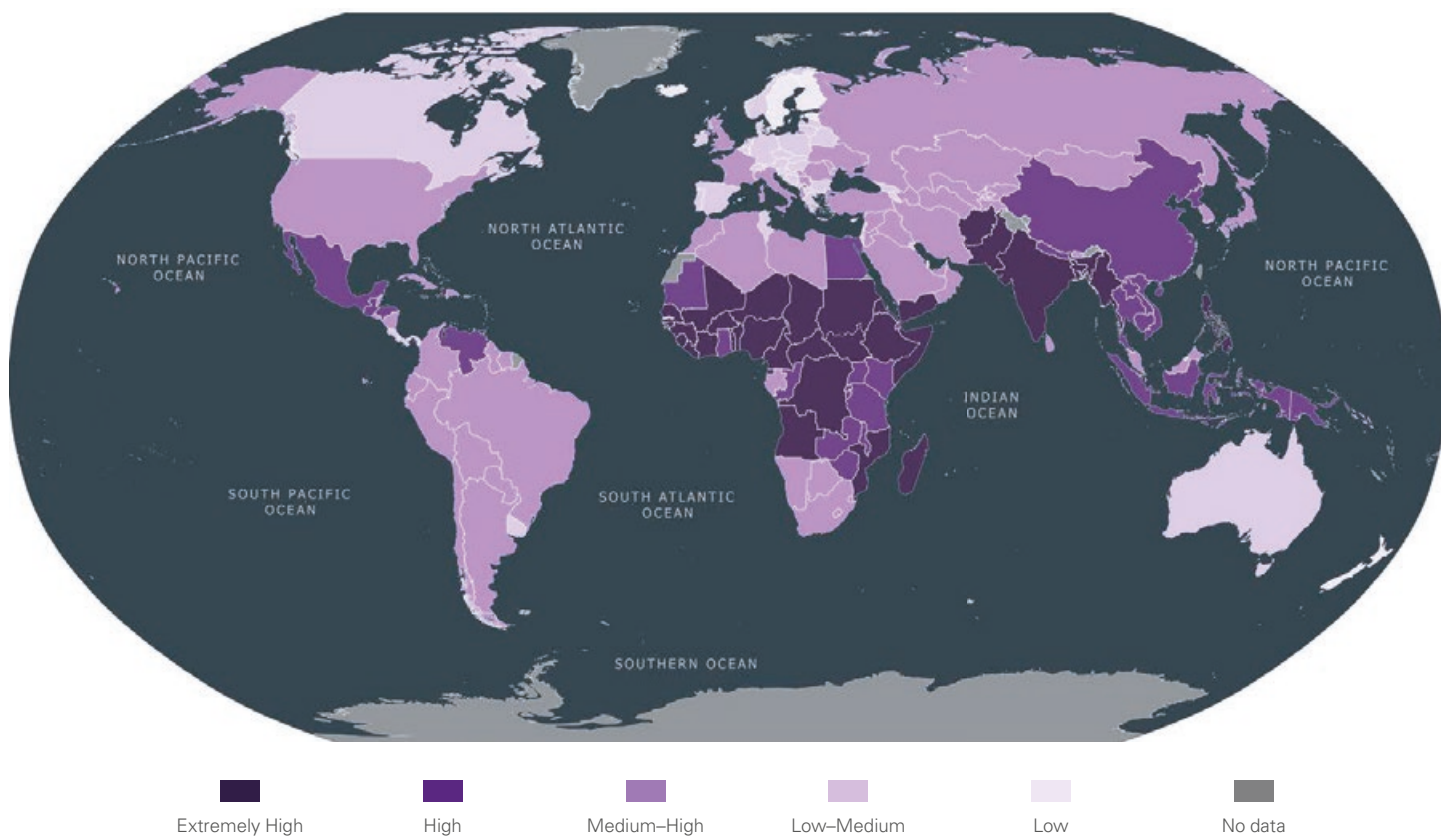
Global land surface temperature anomalies over time (baseline: 1951–1980)



Source: Cowtan, Kevin & National Center for Atmospheric Research Staff (Eds). "The Climate Data Guide: Global surface temperatures: BEST: Berkeley Earth Surface Temperatures." Retrieved from <https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-data/global-surface-temperatures-best-berkeley-earth-surface-temperatures>. Note: Temperatures are in Celsius and reported as anomalies relative to the January 1951 – December 1980 average. Bars are monthly temperature anomalies (global land-surface averages). Five-year moving averages are centred at the month (rounding down if centre is between months).

## Over a billion children are at extremely high risk to climate and environmental impacts

The Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)



Source: The CCRI is composed of many indicators across climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses, as well as child vulnerability.

See full report: *The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index*. New York: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2021.

Note: The designations in the map do not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or the delimitation of any frontier.

**Children bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change.** Close to 90 per cent of the burden of disease attributable to climate change is borne by children under the age of five<sup>5</sup>. A child that can't go to school due to a climate shock, such as a cyclone, is a child who loses out on learning opportunities. And especially when these shocks occur repeatedly, the child's future potential is at risk. A child who can't get access to safe and clean water (due to a drought, for example) or adequate healthcare is less likely to survive — even compared with adults. Children are cognitively, physiologically, and physically more vulnerable to climate impacts and environmental pollutants.

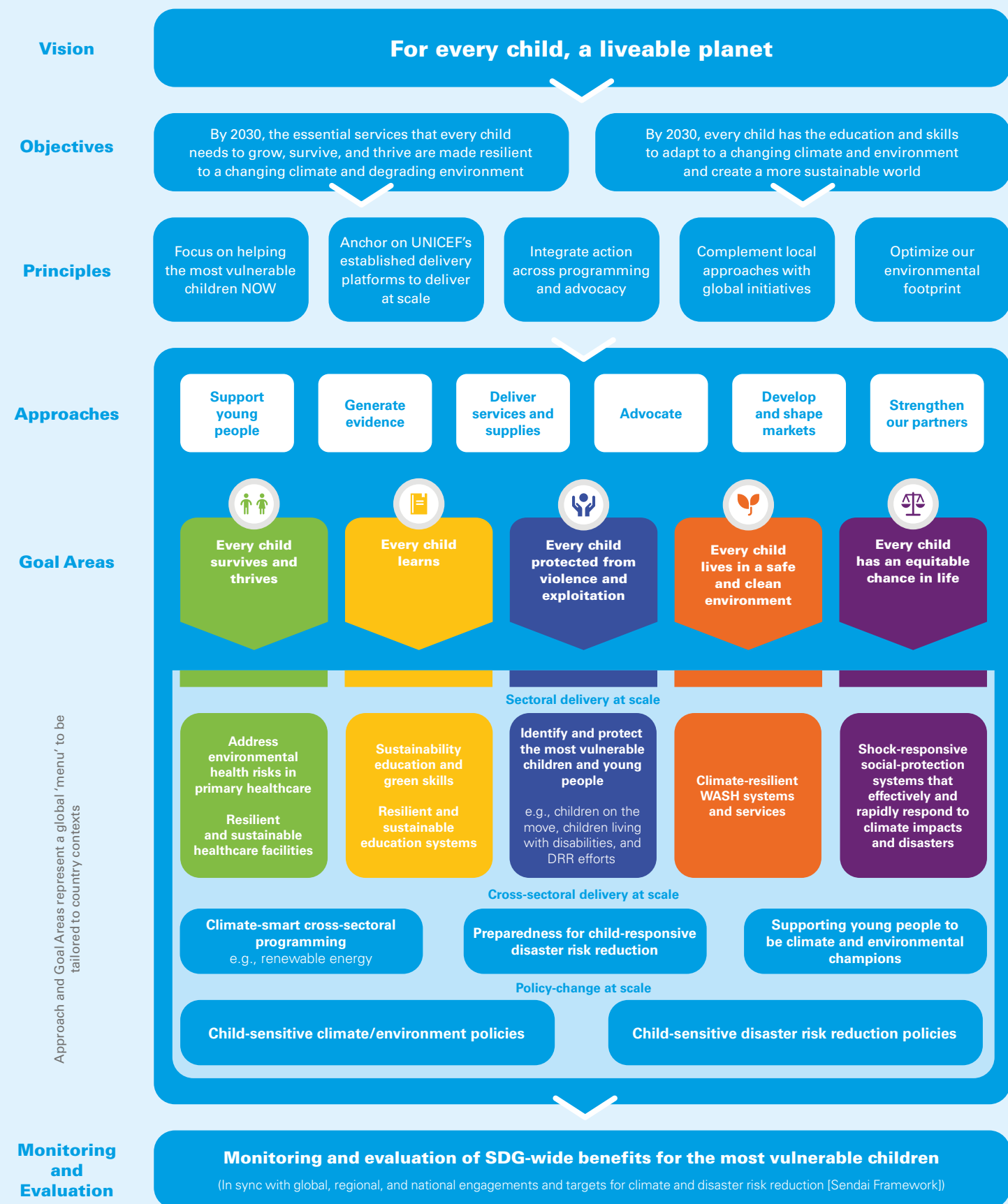
**Reducing emissions and pollution is the only long-term solution — and will come too late for the most vulnerable children.** Climate dynamics are such that mitigation efforts will take decades to reverse, and most of the global warming that we experience between now and 2050 is predominantly due to emissions that have already been emitted.

The best contributions that UNICEF can make to help children now are to:

- **Strengthen the resilience and continuity of social services to climate and environmental impacts, including disasters.**
- **Support and empower children and young people to adapt and create a better world.**
- **Advocate with governments and business partners to put children first in their own sustainability plans, budgets and actions towards a green transition.**
- **Ensure that we embody sustainability within our own global programming, operations, and supply chain.**

# UNICEF's Strategic Framework for Climate, Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction

Sets out a vision, objectives, and principles to guide our programming and advocacy, as reflected in the UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2022-2025



## Programming Principles

The following principles will guide all of UNICEF's efforts to contribute to our goal of having a liveable planet for every child.

- **Focus on what can help the most vulnerable children now.** Our focus is on implementing solutions that are informed by risk assessments for children in the near term and delivering them at scale, with a priority on the most vulnerable children.
- **Anchor in UNICEF's strengths and established capacities.** We will leverage our strong in-country capacities in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection, as well as our expertise in child-responsive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian and emergency response.
- **Have a unified approach across advocacy, programming and operations.** We will engage all of UNICEF's levers of influence across advocacy, programming and operations to safeguard the planet for children.
- **Complement localized / Country Office interventions with opportunities to programme rapidly at scale.** We will strengthen the primacy of tailored solutions that best serve local communities and the 190 countries and territories in which we work through global partnerships and resources to further scale.

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## Programming Approaches

Catalysing transformational sectoral change through to programming at scale will require the following approaches:

### **Generate evidence**

Conducting analysis and generating the right information so we and our partners can prioritize children most in need, in the most efficient way.

### **Implement resilient services at scale and deliver supplies**

Delivering life-saving supplies to children, reducing the risks of disasters and climate shocks, and providing climate and environmentally-smart social services, including in water and sanitation, healthcare, education, nutrition, child protection, and social protection.

### **Strengthen capacity of partners**

Working with communities, governments and public and private institutions to better understand climate risks, the green transition, as well as ways to build resilience to disasters and longer-term climate and environmental shocks.

### **Advocate**

Utilizing our voice and credibility so that decision-makers act in the best interests of children, and an enabling environment is created so that climate and environmental policies are directed to children and sustainably financed.

### **Develop and shape markets**

Convening and building new partnerships between the private and public sectors to create new shared value, sustainably provide goods and services as well as mobilize the broader business community's contribution to address climate and environmental risks and disasters.

### **Support children and young people**

Ensuring that the voices, perspectives and ideas of children and young people are heard at the highest levels, and that they have the education and skills necessary to be agents of change in their communities.

## Result Areas

We will focus on the following result areas, which are a part of UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

### WASH

We will shift our global water and sanitation programming to be climate resilient by ensuring all our interventions are based upon a climate rationale for the impact of climate change and water insecurity on WASH services.

### Health

We will reduce the health impact of climate and environmental degradation on children by addressing related risks in primary health care and strengthening climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare facilities.

### Nutrition

We will promote healthy diets for children and priority adaptation actions for climate-resilient nutrition that is good for children and the planet.

### Education

We will strengthen the capacity of education systems and services to continue to deliver in the face of climate and environmental shocks. We will expand our programmes on education and skills building on sustainability, energy, and disaster risk reduction.

### Child Protection

We will ensure that governments have systems in place to prevent unsafe migration, displacement, child labour, institutionalization, violence, or abuse of children affected by climate and other shocks.

### Social Policy

We will ensure that social safety nets for children are responsive to climate and environmental shocks and stresses, i.e., sudden and slow-onset disasters.

### Supporting Children and Young People

We will increase our support to engage children, adolescents and young people in action and advocacy to address climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and disaster risk.

### Disaster Risk Reduction

We will expand our focus on strengthening government capacities for preparedness and/or early/anticipatory action to be child-responsive and risk-informed at both the national and local levels, including local solutions that recognize the value of biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

### Cross-sectoral Programming

We will advance solutions such as the scale up of sustainable energy across our own operations and supply chain and in our humanitarian response and development programmes in water, sanitation, health, education, nutrition, child protection, and social protection. This is to mitigate climate change and environmental pollution and also to recognize the key role that energy plays in child development outcomes.

We will also continue to build the pipeline of promising innovative solutions with a focus on those with a proven scalable business model, ensuring these are accelerated through technical and financial support, and global visibility.

### Our own Greening

We will accelerate the implementation of environmental and social standards across the organization. We have been carbon-neutral since 2015 by offsetting unavoidable emissions, and are driving up ambition in reducing emissions, water-use, and waste generation.

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## Notes

- 1 Climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss.
- 2 IFRC (2020). *World Disasters Report 2020: Come Heat or High Water*.
- 3 Royal Botanic Gardens (2020). *State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020*.
- 4 UNICEF (2020). *The Toxic Truth. Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of future potential*.
- 5 Sheffield, P. E., & Landrigan, P. J. (2011). Global climate change and children's health: threats and strategies for prevention. *Environmental health perspectives*, 119(3), 291-298.