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for every child

CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL

IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

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In the vibrant tapestry of East Asia and the Pacific, let our collective commitment to climate action weave a sustainable future, where the rising sun symbolizes not just a new day, but a new era of environmental responsibility

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Indonesia

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The challenge

The climate crisis profoundly affects children's well-being, education, safety, and stability. The East Asia and Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate and environmental hazards. UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) reveals that 140 million children face water scarcity, 120 million are highly exposed to coastal flooding, 210 million to cyclones, and 420 million face high levels of air pollution, with these numbers expected to rise. Children in this region also face six times more climate-related shocks today, than their grandparents did when they were children 50 years ago.

These climate shocks intersect with non-climate crises like COVID-19 and economic challenges, creating complex 'polycrises' with interdependent impacts. Climate related events exacerbate environmental issues, which create ripple-effects across a wide range of areas that matter for children. The region also grapples with earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and the compounding effect of multiple hazards, particularly impacting marginalized populations.

At the same time, the East Asia and Pacific region is responsible for an increasingly large share of global greenhouse gas emissions, as it is home to fast-growing economies with high resource intensity and polluting industries. The region is responsible for one third of global CO2 emissions.

Climate change is also impacting the health, nutrition, education, and well-being of children in numerous ways, particularly in low-income communities and unfortunately, the social services provided to children lack resilience to climate shocks and stresses.

Inadequate institutional capacities hinder low-carbon development and climate-resilient development. Accessing climate finance remains difficult due to information gaps, readiness issues, and complex requirements. Children and youth, despite being heavily affected, often lack participation in climate policy development.

Urgent action is imperative to secure a safer, resilient future for children and their communities.

The solution

To accelerate action and deliver on climate change for children, UNICEF EAPRO has worked to reduce children's vulnerability to climate change by:

- Creating the enabling environment for net-zero social services through renewable energy expansion, particularly solar energy in WASH, education and healthcare, while training young people on solar energy and prioritizing the needs of vulnerable children.
- Developing climate-smart social services for the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, education, nutrition, social protection and child protection sectors.
- Strengthening climate policies at national and regional levels and ensuring disaster risk reduction (DRR) in climate plans, while engaging children and youth in climate advocacy and action.
- Supporting and strengthening early warning systems to enable communities to prepare, respond and recover from climate shocks.
- Creating knowledge through risk assessments and developing guidelines for risk-informed programming.

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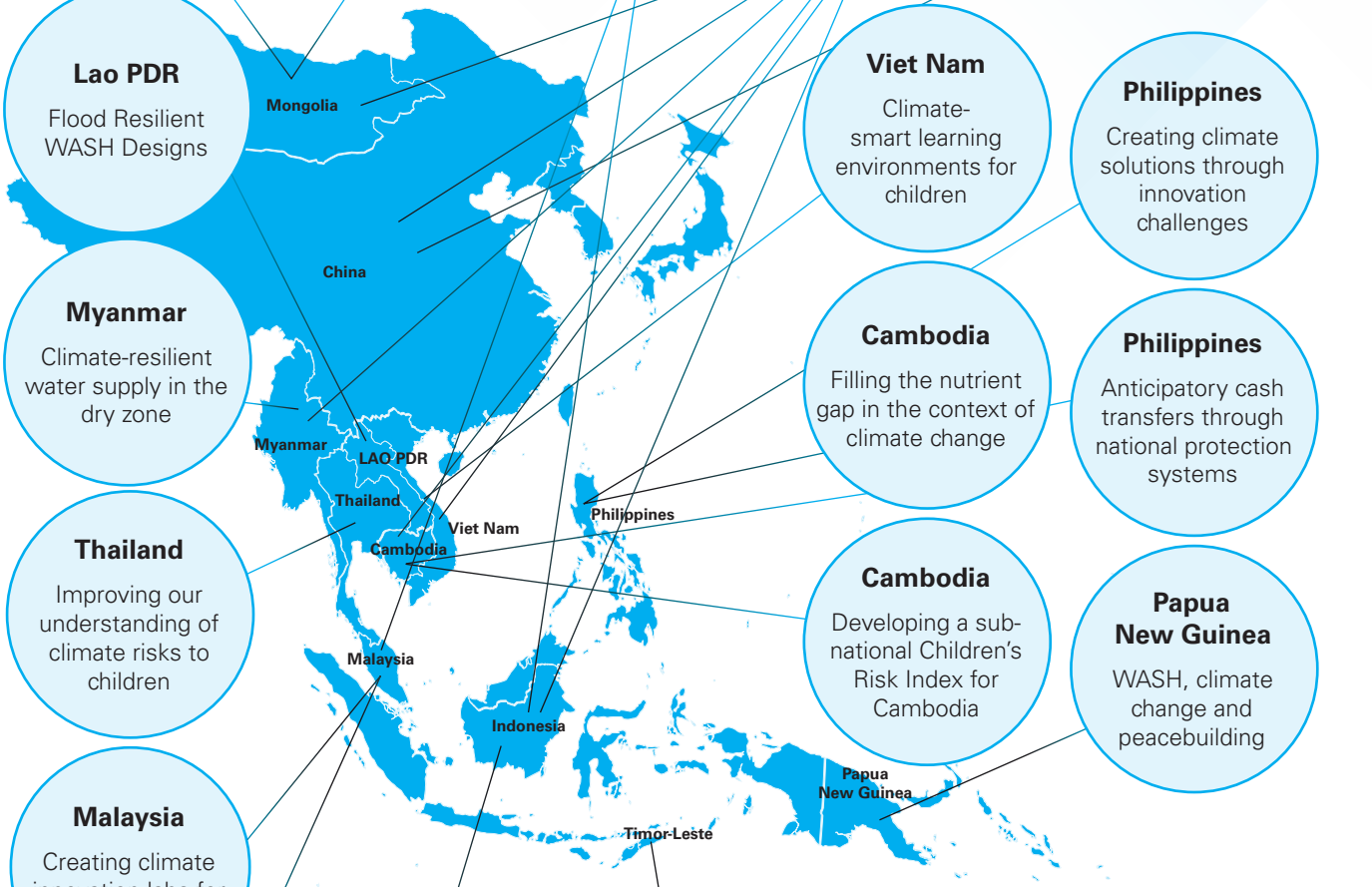


Cambodia

Developing a sub-national Children's Climate Risk Index for Cambodia

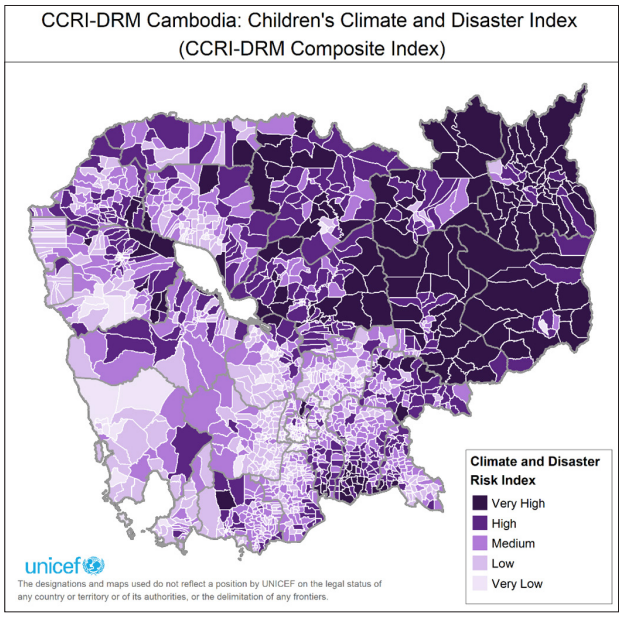
UNICEF Cambodia is collaborating with Ministry of Environment of Cambodia to adapt the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) to the commune level of Cambodia, which is a collaborative exercise involving a range of actors with the aim to produce an open, shared risk analysis that can be used by a wide range of actors for decision-making processes. This initiative is supported by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

Objectives

- Support the implementation of child-centered multi-hazard risk analysis at subnational level for risk-informed programming and emergency preparedness.
- Support cross-sector coordination and decision-making processes based on a common understanding of risk.
- Serve as foundation for emergency response prioritization processes.
- Serve as a foundation for implementing climate-smart programmes across health, education, WASH, nutrition, social protection and child protection.

Outcomes

- A sub-national Children's Climate Risk Index for Cambodia dashboard that is publicly available
- An interactive map to visualize and analyze sub-national climate and disaster risks and underlying risk factors
- An analytical report highlighting key findings
- A policy brief summarizing key issues and recommendations for senior government officials and other decision-makers



What is next?

- ✓ Dissemination and training to government officials on how to use the results to inform planning and programming
- ✓ Solution development with youth to reduce the risk index in high-risk communes
- ✓ Awareness raising campaign with youth engagement in high-risk communities
- ✓ Advocacy in policy dialogue and mainstreaming into national climate and sectoral policies, strategies and commitments, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions.

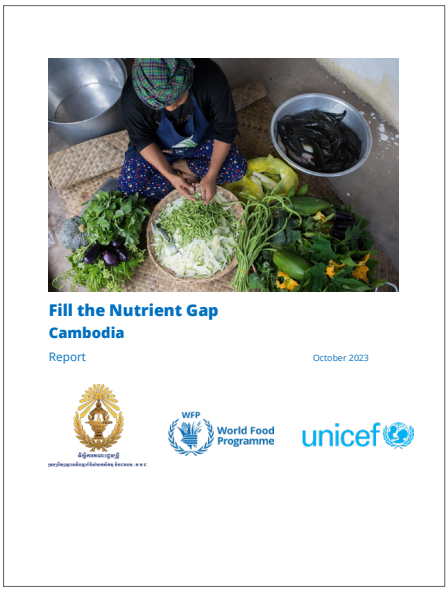
Cambodia

Filling the Nutrient Gap in the Context of Climate Change

The *Fill the Nutrient Gap* analysis was conducted in Cambodia in 2022–2023 by the World Food Programme and UNICEF in collaboration with the national Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, line ministries, UN agencies, development partners, NGOs, and private sector actors. The analysis built a deeper understanding of the barriers that households face in accessing nutrient-adequate diets and to generate evidence on the contributions that health, food, and social protection systems can make to address barriers. For the first time in Cambodia, the analysis also informed measures to fill identified nutrient gaps in the context of climate change.

Objectives

- Support the design of the third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2024–2028
- Implement the National Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030
- Informing cross-sectoral initiatives to accelerate progress toward enhancing human capital development and transition to a middle-income economy by 2030

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Outcomes

Study findings include:

- Changes in climate will lead to reduced nutrient content, diversity and availability of foods
- Climate change will increase food prices, reduce incomes and further compromise access to healthy diets
- Preparedness for climate shocks needs to be strengthened to build resilience
- Win-win solutions or for climate mitigation and adaptation such as the introduction of fortified rice and short-duration rice varieties; and the improvement of rice irrigation practices

What is next?

✓ Based on findings, work across sectors to improve access to healthy diets for all.

✓ Strengthen cooperation among food, health and social protection systems to secure positive nutrition outcomes in economic, human capital development, and climate ambitions.

✓ Continue to support the government to reach its national goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, by considering healthy diets through a multisectoral approach that includes agriculture, rural development, environment, disaster risk management, health, and research on the nexus of climate change, nutrition and food systems.

China

Climate-resilient sanitation in Qinghai

Since 2021, UNICEF and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) in China have partnered to implement the Special Climate-resilient Sanitation Project in Qinghai Province. Qinghai is not only the poorest province in the country, but also faces challenges due to its high elevation, cold and arid climate. UNICEF and MARA jointly developed innovate, climate resilient sanitation facilities for rural schools, health and social service centres. The sanitation facilities are gender responsive and inclusive of people with disabilities. The experiences are being shared within China and with other countries through South-South exchange.


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Objectives

- Identify and introduce innovative climate-resilient sanitation facility models that respond to local climate conditions and changes.
- National and sub-national governments and private sector have strengthened capacities to deliver and promote climate-resilient and gender-responsive sanitation and environmental programmes.


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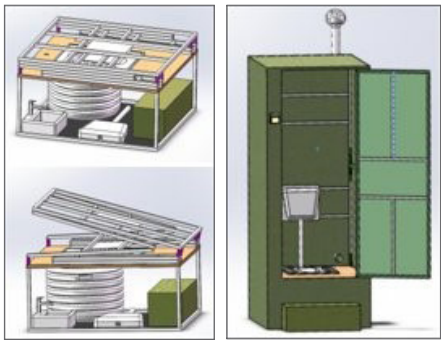
Outcomes

- More than 3,500 beneficiaries and three different models of climate resilient sanitation facilities have been designed and tested in rural schools, township hospitals and rural social service centres. The different models use solar heating, water saving devices, and convert human waste to fertilizer.
- An innovative 'Toilet in a Box' in being tested for emergency response and remote areas.
- Government agency registered four new patents for sanitation technologies and started replicating best practices from the pilot sires to other high-altitude areas of Qinghai.
- Two South-South technical exchanges on climate-resilient water systems and rural sanitation were facilitated between officials from Chinese ministries and officials from other 14 countries.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What is next?

- ✓ Technical trainings on climate resilient sanitation will be carried out at the provincial level and the county level to reach ten counties in Qinghai province.
- ✓ Knowledge-sharing and replication of successful practices and technical solutions in partnership with MARA to benefit other developing countries through South-South Cooperation.
- ✓ Mobilize additional government commitments, innovative finance and business engagement mechanisms to scale up sanitation access.

Indonesia

Leveraging Scale by Influencing National Frameworks

In Indonesia, UNICEF has supported the government to integrate climate change into national WASH sector plans. This includes the national SDG 6 Plan and accompanying roadmaps for the country to eliminate open defecation and achieve universal access to safely managed water, safely managed sanitation, and hand hygiene. UNICEF is supporting a comprehensive approach towards embedding climate resilience in all facets of policy and decision making, both at national and sub-national level, making sure WASH services are accessible at all times, even when climate shocks take place.

Objectives

- Climate resilience is integrated in the national and local WASH agenda, and WASH sector contributes to reducing its carbon footprint
- National level polices are backed by capacities, tools and finances to enable climate resilient WASH services in communities and public places

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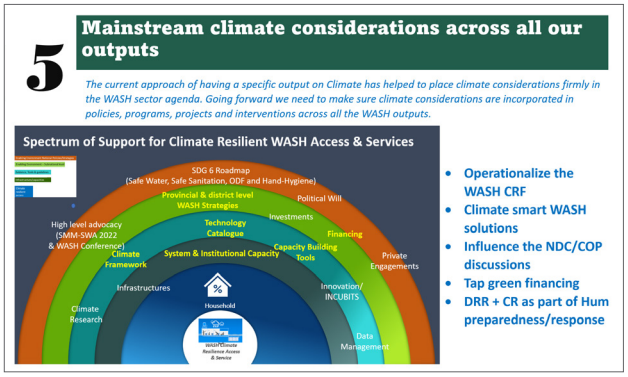

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Outcomes

- Shifting the WASH framework within government systems has a catalytic effect, and potential to leverage considerable additional funds in Indonesia
- National WASH Climate resilience framework rolled out in six provinces
- Tools, guidelines and capacities of sector practitioners developed
- Climate resilient WASH interventions demonstrated in over 150 Primary Health facilities.

What is next?

- ✓ Continue to support the government to make sure climate considerations are incorporated in sub-national programs, projects and interventions in at least six provinces
- ✓ Scale-up the implementation of climate resilient WASH interventions in primary healthcare facilities to 18 districts across seven provinces
- ✓ Support climate resilient and greener WASH interventions in communities and in school settings.

Lao PDR

Flood Resilient WASH Designs

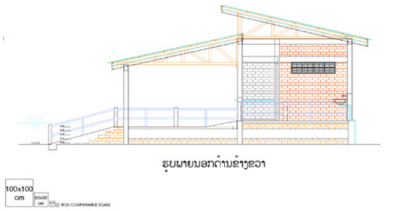
Following recurrent flooding events in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) impacting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services requiring extensive humanitarian support, UNICEF embarked on a programme for "*Climate Resilient WASH Service Provision*". Jointly with the Government of Lao and USAID activities aimed to integrate longer-term disaster risk resilience (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) measures in Xiengkhouang, Saravane Savannakhet and Attapeu Province.

Objectives

- Review of the disaster risk reduction and recovery efforts in Southern Laos following the floods and identify lessons learned.
- Development of flood-resilient WASH infrastructure designs to inform the construction of flood-resilient facilities nationally.
- Government agencies have the capacity to plan and respond to WASH needs during emergencies.

Outcomes

- A total of 13,237 people (6,944 women) were supported by the project with improved and climate resilient WASH services in their household.
- A total of 4,155 children (1,960 girls) were reached through WASH improvements in schools.
- A total of 21 primary schools and 9 health centres were supported with improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene.



©UNICEF/LAO PDR

What is next?

✓ UNICEF will continue to support the Government of Lao PDR to build climate resilient and more equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services utilizing lessons from the *Climate Resilient WASH Services Programme*.

This includes the following:

✓ Replication of flood-resilient toilet designs in other provinces and sharing approaches with WASH sector stakeholders.

✓ Develop guidelines for climate resilient water safety planning in collaboration with Government of Lao PDR, WHO, SNV and other sector stakeholders.

Malaysia

Making schools resilient to climate shocks

The School Disaster Risk Reduction Education Programme is a collaborative initiative with the Malaysian Ministry of Education to increase awareness on and build resilience of students to disasters. The activities conducted together with partners are designed to include fun, engaging and interactive activities so school students can gain basic knowledge on DRR including (i) understanding the different types of disasters, particularly those that are frequently occurring; and (ii) understanding the actions, steps that should be taken to build preparedness before, actions that can be taken during and after disasters.

Objectives

- Promotion of DRR education in schools in Malaysia
- Increase of teachers and students' capacity in DRR preparedness
- Production and increased availability of educational materials and resources in DRR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Outcomes

- School programmes implemented in the top 1 per cent of at-risk primary schools in Malaysia by 2025
- 100 teachers directly trained as master trainers for school DRR modules, who can then train other teachers
- 2000 school students participated in the school DRR education programme
- Development and distribution of DRR educational materials and resources for schools, teachers and students

What is next?

✓ Development of enhanced DRR modules through more activities with state education officers, teachers and students.
✓ Training of teachers from schools located in at-risk areas
✓ Expand the pilot program (initially six schools) to at-risk schools often impacted by disasters

Malaysia

Creating climate innovation labs for young people

Youth Environment Living Labs (YELL) is a collaborative initiative by UNDP and UNICEF om Malaysia, supported by the NGO Amanah Lestari Alam that aims to address the challenges faced by young Malaysian in taking climate and environmental action. YELL uses the following strategies:

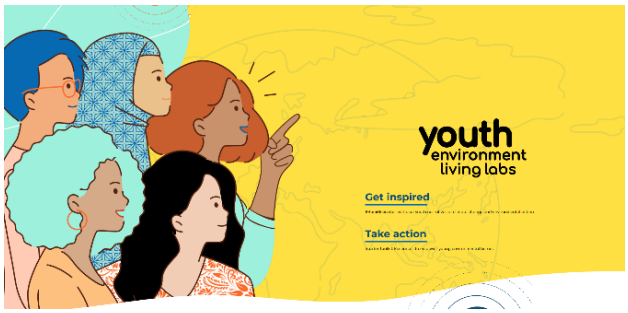
- Connecting young environmental movers and advocates, leveraging national and subnational networks to amplify climate and environmental issues
- Advocating jointly on youth empowerment, climate and environmental futures, and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals
- Running youth-led action-learning projects in collaboration with network partners to empower young people in addressing climate and environmental issues
- Documenting and sharing learnings, both successes and failures, to inform and inspire a growing youth movement

Outcomes

- 5 million youth and community members with increased participation in the environment and climate agenda
- 100 seed funded projects implemented by youth-environment individuals and entities with guidance and support
- 20,000 youth benefitted from YELL
- 30 organizations partnering to provide skills building opportunities
- 120 youth capacitated with green skills
- 150 youth, local leaders and environmental organizations recruited to the YELL network

Objectives

- To localize climate narratives by emphasizing local and indigenous perspectives on nature and the environment to address the knowledge and resource gaps among local youth
- To strengthen the ecosystem of actors to support and hold the space for youth to engage as agents of change in environmental policy and action



www.yell.my

What is next?

✓ Implementation of three program pillars to achieve the objectives: 1) 'Exploraction' (a seed-funding program that supports youth-led projects on environmental action; 2) 'Conservocation' (a work placement program for career paths in conservation and sustainability); and 3) 'Network Resource Hub - YELL's website' (an open-source platform for learning and teaching resources and networks)

✓ Scaling-up of YELL through mobilizing resources to provide more opportunities for young people in Malaysia to take action.

Myanmar

Climate-resilient water supply in the dry zone

Pon Tat village is located in Myanmar's central dry zone and faces persistent water scarcity. Often, people are forced to rely on brackish water from remote hand-dug wells in stream banks to secure water. To bring safe and reliable drinking water to people in the village, UNICEF worked with local experts, engineers, and community members to construct an infiltration gallery well. The water supply system was designed to withstand risks from climate change and disasters and uses clean solar energy. Household now access to safe and reliable drinking water through household meters and taps, which also reduce water wastage.

Objectives

Ensure safe and reliable water supply for people in Pon Tat village, through a climate resilient system that addresses long-standing water scarcity issues.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Outcomes

- 971 people (468 male, 503 female) have access to safe and reliable drinking water that is climate-resilient and uses renewable energy
- Construction of a riverbank filtration water system and standardization of this system through a manual on construction of infiltration gallery wells for irrigation and drinking water in water scarce areas
- Water meters improve water management and reduce water waste

What is next?

✓ UNICEF will work with other communities in the dry zone to implement these climate-resilient water systems, using similar approaches such as infiltration gallery wells, solar-powered systems, and household meter connections.

✓ UNICEF will work with other communities to construct collector wells in dry stream beds, and develop a manual the publication of a manual on construction of collector wells in dry stream beds in local languages

Mongolia

Using solar energy for cooking, heating, and insulation products

To withstand low temperatures in winter, many households in urban and peri-urban areas burn coal, causing high levels of air pollution. Nearly 345,000 households live in traditional Mongolian ger and one-family buildings and use coal-fired stoves. Therefore, UNICEF undertook feasibility and piloting of heating and insulation packages in 2018, which resulted in the design of a clean and efficient cooking, heating and insulation products (CHIP) package for households living in traditional 'ger' tents.

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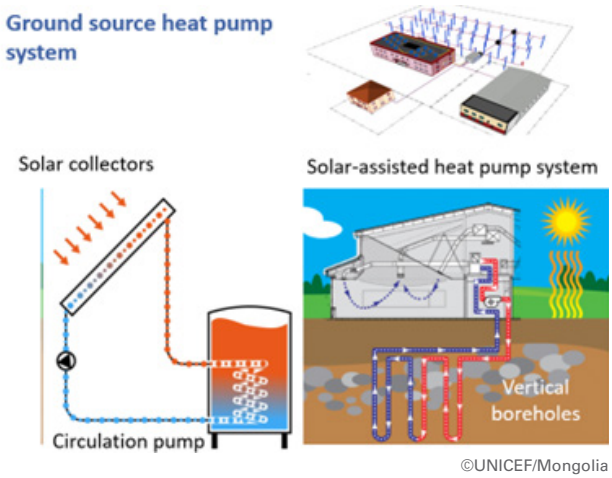
Objectives

- Reduce climate risks, vulnerability, and exposure of children to air pollution.
- Accelerate the transition from coal-based heating to low-carbon heating technologies via:
  - Air to air heat pumps powered by solar PV to individual families living in ger and single-family detached buildings
  - Ground source heat pump technology system installation in kindergartens and health facilities

Outcomes

- 5,000 families in ger areas use CHIP technologies for cooking and heating.
- 100,00 families adopt the use of sustainable technologies
- At least 10 banking and financial institutions provide tailored and inclusive financial products and services to households complimentary to subsidies and green loans
- Local market for low carbon heating technologies is accelerated through locally suitable business models, technology demonstration, and value chain development for replication and scale-up



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What is next?

- ✓ Continue working closely with local governments to mobilize funding including state and local government budget allocation.
- ✓ Building partnerships with the private sector for technical know-how and innovation and resource mobilization.
- ✓ Work with local communities to increase the willingness and readiness to transition to clean technology.

Mongolia

Understanding how climate change affects food security and nutrition

UNICEF and FAO assessed how climate change has been impacting food and nutrition security in Mongolia, including household food security through access to safe, affordable, and sufficient food; child feeding and care practices; and environmental health and access to health services, and how these trends are evolving in a business-as-usual setting.

Objectives

- Assess how climate change has been impacting food and nutrition security in Mongolia, including household food security and environmental health and access to health services.
- Define the risk profile of the country in relation to climate impacts on food and nutrition security.
- Propose interventions and policy recommendations to enhance adaptive capacity and reduce and/or mitigate risks of climate change.


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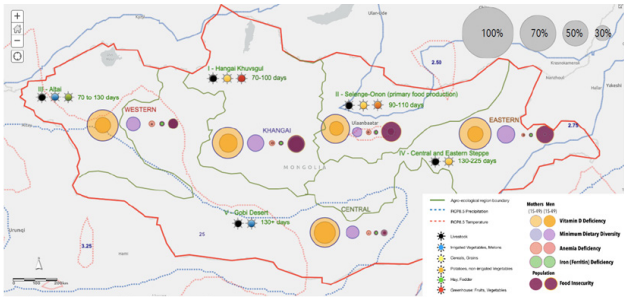

Outcomes

Results of the study include:

- Children in regions with less precipitation had lower body mass index
- Cumulative precipitation was a significant predictor for weight-for-age and weight-for-height z-scores and body mass index

Results served as basis for improved policies to address the nutritional needs of children as a result of the climate crisis.

What is next?

- ✓ Support the national government in meeting National Determined Contributions targets for GHG reduction in the areas of livestock and agriculture.
- ✓ Guide local governments in investments related to the improvement of the quality and productivity of drought-tolerant livestock breeds.
- ✓ Work with national and local governments in information dissemination on alternative climate-resilient food products with higher nutritional value.

Pacific Islands

Reducing emissions with sustainable cold chains for vaccines

UNICEF Pacific brings solar-powered vaccine refrigerators to primary healthcare (PHC) facilities across the 14 Pacific Island countries and territories. This initiative enables remote islands to have sustainable access to the cold chain equipment that they need to safely transport, store and provide essential vaccines for children. The latter while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the health sector, contributing thus, to climate change mitigation and providing access to climate and disaster resilient equipment capable to operate even in emergencies.

Objectives

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental footprint of primary healthcare facilities
- Improve resilience of primary healthcare facilities to climate shocks
- Improve efficiency and effectively of vaccine delivery for children through strengthened vaccine storage and transportation capacity
- Enhance children's health status, especially for zero-dose children in remote and rural areas.

Outcomes

- Over 500 vaccine refrigerators powered by solar energy have been installed in PHC facilities across eight Pacific Island countries.
- Over 27,800 children reached with improved vaccine access, reducing the number of zero-dose children in remote and rural areas of the Pacific Island countries and territories.
- 534 PHC facilities reduced dependency on fossil fuels and transitioned to renewable energy sources.
- 2,755 health workers improved their capacity in using and maintaining equipment, as well as monitoring.

What is next?

- ✓ Providing comprehensive training to healthcare providers on using and maintaining solar-powered systems.
- ✓ Conduct a thorough assessment of equipment quality and installation teams before beginning the project.
- ✓ Engaging healthcare providers and community members in planning and implementing the project and addressing their concerns.
- ✓ Stronger promotion of gender equality, disability & social inclusion.

Papua New Guinea

WASH, climate change and peacebuilding

Climate change and environmental degradation are exacerbating water scarcity and water quality challenges. In the Goroka district, the Zogizoe River is the source for the district town's drinking water system. Upstream along the Zogizoe are eight communities that take their drinking water directly from the river. The landowners along the river, including the eight communities, by law, have the right to receive royalty payments from those using the river's water. Unfortunately, local authorities of the district town and town water supply do not always pay their royalties; the communities and landowners have expressed their dissatisfaction and frustration by sabotaging the town's water supply. In order to address the root causes of conflict over water, UNICEF, the National Research Institute and the NGO Touching the Untouchables started a Water for Peace project in Goroka district, which brought all parties together for a joined conflict analysis and discussions on how the conflicts could be resolved.

Objectives

- Bring together the various' river stakeholders so that they can discuss the challenges and find common solutions.
- Train river users and other stakeholders in conflict resolution while understanding others' challenges and needs.
- Identify technical and managerial gaps and gain trust from communities.
- Provision of climate-resilient infrastructure to support river users.


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Outcomes

- Members of all eight communities, landowner associations, local government and the town's drinking water suppliers were trained on conflict resolution.
- Youth participants from the communities were trained in sanitation and community-based water safety planning.
- Memorandum of understanding signed by community members, landowners and the town's water suppliers.
- 9,000 litre storage tanks and a small treatment plant, to ensure a safe and sustainable drinking water supply that will be resilient to climate change

What is next?

- ✓ Continue dialogue strengthening among community, government and other stakeholders.
- ✓ Further youth empowerment in conflict resolution and their involvement as key stakeholder within peacebuilding process.
- ✓ Make sure that the Memorandum of understanding is followed, and values as reciprocity, equity, mutual benefit, communication and transparency are always understood and reflected in water-related conflicts.

Philippines

Anticipatory cash transfers through the national social protection systems

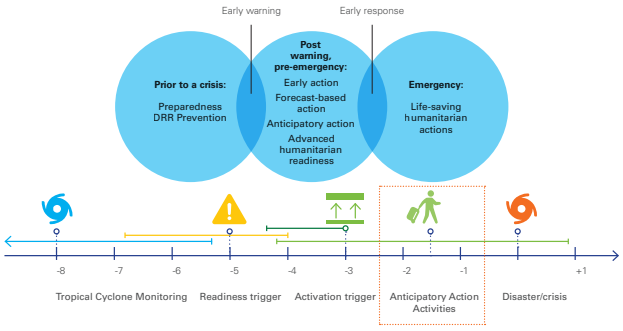
UNICEF is part of an innovative pilot that seeks scale-up the quality and quantity of humanitarian action to people at risk from forecasted Category 4 Typhoons. The pilot covers highly vulnerable municipalities in Bicol Region (Region V) and Eastern Visayas (Region VIII).

Objectives

- Reach 250,000 people when typhoon hits- with multi-sectoral interventions through the Central Emergencies Response (CERF) funding.
- Benefit more than 30,000 children with 30 per cent of children's estimated minimum expenditure basket for nutrition, education, WASH and child protection services.

Outcomes

- Two simulations in the target provinces testing readiness of the systems to inform the drafting of the Anticipatory Cash Transfers Guidelines.
- When a category 4 typhoon takes place, UNICEF will provide an unconditional cash top-up to around 21,000 Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) households, including 30,000 children, in the target areas three days before the typhoon predicted landfall.



What is next?

- ✓ Test operational procedures of Land Bank Philippines to inform future cash delivery ex-ante as opposed to the usual response, contributing to localization and sustainability of this approach.
- ✓ Expand the anticipatory cash transfer system to more vulnerable people in typhoon prone regions of the Philippines.

Philippines

Creating climate solutions through innovation challenges

The Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System is the country's premier state-funded science high school that has been regularly holding a Kids Innovation Challenge and Science Research Summit among its students from all 16 campuses nationwide, as part of its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics curriculum. This year, PSHS and UNICEF have partnered to develop cost-effective nature-based and sustainable solutions for human fecal waste degradation and ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation during emergencies.

Objectives

- Design competition for a cost-effective prefabricated household toilet for use in emergencies.
- Design competition for a cost-effective rainwater collection kiosk with water filtration design that could be for household or institutional-level use.
- Research on cost-effective and sustainable solutions for human fecal waste degradation for coastal communities.

Outcomes

- The Kids Innovation Challenge received 160 design ideas from 16 regional campuses
- 24 wining designs related to:
  - Prefabricated household toilet system using sustainable materials (*e.g.* Foldable prefabricated toilets for harsh environments, prefabricated latrines using soy wax, portable eco-friendly compost toilet systems).
  - Rainwater collection kiosk with a water filtration system (*e.g.* Rapid response rainwater collector, zeolite-based filtration and rainwater harvesting kiosk.

What is next?

- ✓ Demonstrate effectiveness of the students' design innovations and research solutions on water and sanitation through prototype development and field testing.
- ✓ Facilitate the engagement of communities, local government and the private sector for potential investment in the production, use and deployment of the designs.
- ✓ Provide complementary learning platforms to students and opportunities to share their design and research solutions.

Timor-Leste

A nature-based solution to water springs recharge for rural communities

Timor-Leste's rural water supply relies on small, gravity fed water systems originating from mountainous springs. Both the quantity (yield) and flow rate (volume per minute) of these springs are vulnerable to reduction or disruptions due to climate change and environmental degradation. Deforestation of steep slopes has led to erosion and reduced water retention in catchments, making them more vulnerable to evaporation over prolonged dry periods. As a solution, UNICEF is working with civil society and the government to mobilize communities to restore and protect catchments, ultimately increasing water retention and ensuring climate-resilient water supply in rural areas.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Objectives

Increase the climate resilience of rural water supply for people in Timor-Leste by increasing water retention in water catchments through nature-based solutions and community participation.

Outcomes

- 7,500 persons in 15 sub villages benefitted from more resilient water supply
- 115 nature-based structures were constructed, leading to 27,849 cubic meter additional water retention capacity
- 716 community members (male 386, female 330) were trained on catchment restoration and protection


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What is next?

- ✓ Standardization and documentation of tools and protocols for community-based water catchment management.
- ✓ Generating evidence of resulting water quantity and quality improvements.
- ✓ Scaling up the model in line with the Water Resources Management Policy.
- ✓ Building government, stakeholder and community capacity in water catchment management and monitoring.

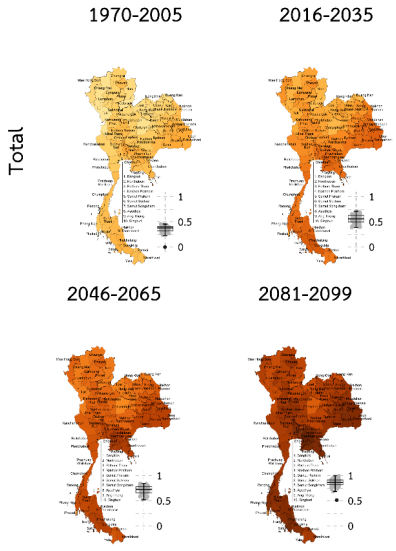
Thailand

Improving our understanding of climate risks to children

This study developed climate risk maps by overlaying key climate indices and child-related non-climate indices to identify the areas within Thailand most exposed to climate impacts with high concentrations of children. The climate risk indices used to develop the risk maps were calculated from both climate and non-climate drivers. The climate drivers were based on high-resolution climate data from the downscaling of three General Circulation Models (GCMs) under two future climate change Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenarios of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and atmospheric concentrations, air pollutant emissions and land use in the twenty-first century. While RCP4.5 is an intermediate scenario, RCP8.5 represents the scenario without additional efforts to constrain emissions. The non-climate drivers consisted of socio-economic variables closely associated with children.

Objectives

- Produce evidence on the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on children, so they can later be reflected in local policies and programmes.
- Assess both the current and projected impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as policy measures, on children.
- Provide actionable recommendations to the Government, including possibilities for expanding public and private partnerships.



Outcomes

- Two regions (northeast and south) face the highest risk of climate change after incorporating children-related factors.
- Policy recommendations to reduce the risks and impacts of climate change on children. The latter include climate awareness-raising among children, construction of climate-proof infrastructure, child-friendly early warning system, climate adaptation finance support, and health system strengthening.

What is next?

- ✓ To sustainably scale-up the pilot to other high-risk areas.
- ✓ To promote impact assessment result with other relevant government agencies to act on different recommendations such as social protection on child-sensitive shock- responsive for holistic disaster management response.
- ✓ To conduct a deep analysis on other recommendations to provide data and support to relevant government agencies such as a landscape analysis and develop, simulate, and cost evidence-based scenarios for retrofitting existing school infrastructure in Thailand, especially those located in areas with greatest risk for different climate shocks.

Vanuatu

Climate resilient drinking water safety and security planning

Every year, climate-related disasters threaten water and sanitation services for people across Vanuatu. To better manage risks, UNICEF worked with the Department of Water Resources to strengthen and scale up climate resilient drinking water safety and security plans (DWSSP) for rural water supply. This approach ensures not only water safety, but also water security, by focusing on the ability of communities to access enough water all year round. Under the approach, communities identify low and no-cost improvements to water safety and security that they can carry out independently, and apply for to the government's Capital Assistance Program to make higher cost improvements. By strengthening community management of rural water supply, the DWSSP approach also builds community capacity, which is critical for climate and disaster resilience. In 2023, the Department of Water Resources, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and UNICEF successfully received funding from the Green Climate Fund to scale up this approach.

Objectives

Integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation measures in assessment and planning to improve long-term sustainability of WASH services in emergency and non-emergency times.

Outcomes

- 396 community DWSSPs have been completed
- 36% of the communities with DWSSPs have completed low and no cost improvements to strengthen water safety.
- 32% have either completed projects or have construction under way.
- Over 10% of the most at need rural population has been reached with projects funded through the government Capital Assistance Program.

What is next?

- ✓ The Department of Water Resources is scaling up the approach, including with Green Climate Fund resources, and has a target of completing 2,000 DWSSPs by 2030
- ✓ The DWSSP approach has been adapted for schools and healthcare facilities
- ✓ Advocacy for donors to put funds into the Capital Assistance Program so that the Government can support greater WASH improvements in communities with DWSSPs.

Viet Nam

Climate-smart learning environments for children

In this initiative, UNICEF is supporting the government, schools, and working with the private sector to demonstrate innovations for green and climate smart schools. By engaging with students, UNICEF is building the skills of adolescents to solve climate-related challenges in their communities. With government, UNICEF is advising on policies that will protect children from climate-related disruptions.

Objectives

- Build school climate resilience through green WASH facilities and innovative technologies.
- Enhance government policies, frameworks, and plans to ensure sustainable climate-resilient WASH solutions.
- Children and adolescents are engaged as agents of change through innovative child and adolescent-led initiatives.

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Outcomes

- 130,000 children and adults, including direct and indirect beneficiaries, have access to climate-resilient WASH services.
- 28,700 children and adolescents engaged in nationwide innovative child and adolescent-led initiatives.
- A first net-zero toilet was piloted in one school, with a system that uses solar energy to treat wastewater for reuse at the school
- Assessment and national guidelines on applications of renewable energy and energy efficiency for rural water supply

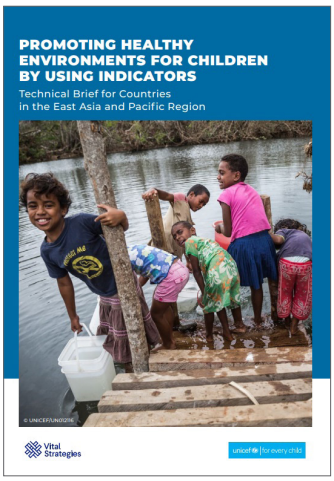
What is next?

- ✓ Capacity building for children and adolescents as agents of change on topics like air, water and ground water pollution.
- ✓ Demonstrate that renewable energy and net zero toilets provide climate-resilient WASH services for schools, children, and households in vulnerable communities.
- ✓ Advocate for governments to scale up climate smart WASH solutions
- ✓ Strengthen the national enabling environment for renewable energy in the WASH and education sector, including advocacy at the national and sub-national levels.

Multi-country

Improving indicators for children's environmental health

In Myanmar, China, Indonesia, and Cambodia, UNICEF is working to understand environmental risks to children's health to influence national policies. Health conditions caused by environmental exposure – such as in food, water, air and soil – can lead to lifelong disease and disability, as well as premature death. Many of these hazards are caused by human activities such as lead in soil from mining, pesticides in agriculture and air pollution from energy, industry and transport. Environmental health hazards also include naturally occurring exposures, such as arsenic in groundwater, events like flooding and extreme weather, and zoonotic diseases. Poor protective measures and access to health services combined with their development stage make children especially vulnerable.



Objectives

- Establish a basis for assessing environmental risks to children's health to prioritize policies at both the national and subnational levels in Myanmar, China, Indonesia, Cambodia.
- Support the development of an evidence-based monitoring and evaluation framework for environmental health risks to children.
- Provide a template for identifying sets of children's environmental health indicators at subnational levels to address local concerns.

Outcomes

- Improved surveillance of children's environmental health indicators.
- Improved policies and interventions aimed at addressing leading determinants of children's environmental health.
- Reduced environmental risk factors and improved children's health.

What is next?

- ✓ Make children's environmental health data available through an online platform, letting the public know that their environment is being monitored for potential threats. It also empowers individuals to learn more about their environment so that they can adapt or improve their lifestyles and habits to improve their health.
- ✓ Development of additional data sets to highlight specific exposures, outcomes or challenges facing children. This would enable champions to elevate the issue, advocate for additional data collection and improvement, and formulate policies that can influence trends in a positive direction.

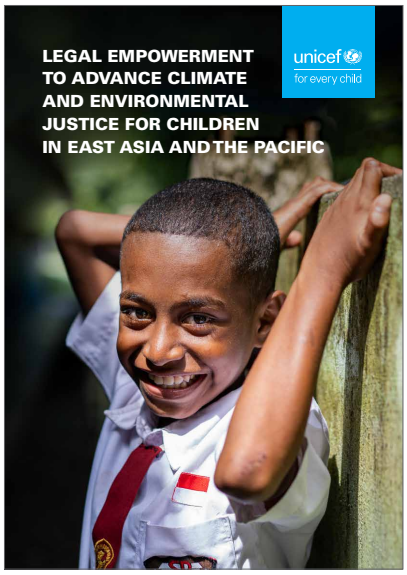
Multi-country

Legal empowerment to advance climate and environmental justice

Hundreds of millions of children across the East Asia and Pacific region are at high risk due to the global environmental and climate crisis. These children, and the future generations to come, will grow up living with the consequences. Recognizing the challenges, UNICEF launched a region-wide study of the status of children's empowerment to voice their concerns, seek remedies when they suffer environmental harm, and take action on their own.

Objectives

- Promote the legal empowerment of children to enjoy their rights to a healthy environment.
- Reflect how children can advance their rights through non-legal pathways.
- Present case studies that reflect on how children can advance their rights through non-legal pathways.



Outcomes

- Children are empowered with a mechanism that enables them to hold duty-bearers to account – and a basis for action.
- Four-step legal empowerment strategy that encompasses education, expression, access to remedy, and safety.
- Multi-country guidance materials on legal empowerment; designed for both children and adults.
- Evidence creation based on eight case studies that display litigious and non-litigious strategies employed by children and young people to advance climate and environmental justice causes.

What is next?

✓ Support the legal empowerment of children to advance climate and environmental justice with targeted recommendations for children and young people, caregivers, civil society actors, intergovernmental organizations and States.

The time for action is now

The world is at a critical moment. Children, especially those least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, will bear the brunt of the impacts unless we act now.

UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office is accelerating solutions for children in these critical areas:

- Low-carbon and net zero social services that use renewable energy, enabling children to grow up in clean and safe environment.
- Climate resilient social services, so that children not only survive but also thrive, before, during and after climate-related shocks.
- Institutional capacity through better policies, legislation, access to climate finance, and equipping children and young people with what they need to become agents of change.

Our mission is clear: a liveable planet for every child. We are dedicated to integrating child-centred approaches into all our efforts from advocacy to programming to sustainability. Together with governments, civil society, and children themselves, we are steadily progressing towards this vision. Join us to create a better world for generations to come.

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Protecting the environment is not an obligation; it's an expression of love for our shared home

Nataliza Fernandes de Jesus, 23
YPAT member
Timor-Leste


2023 Pacific Early Childhood Deve
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