



WORLD VISION POLICY POSITION
CLIMATE ACTION

World Vision calls on governments, corporations and the international community to:



Support the realisation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), and the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030);



Strengthen social accountability and foster greater participation of those most affected by climate change, especially children;



Ensure climate action targets the most vulnerable communities and is child-centred, inclusive and supports women's economic and social empowerment;



Scale up investment in programmes that protect and restore environmental assets to support vulnerable communities' food security and livelihoods, and mitigate climate change; and



Support communities to build their resilience to climate change and prepare, mitigate, cope with and recover from the immediate impacts of climate-related disasters.

OUR POSITION

World Vision believes that responding to climate change is a justice issue. Climate justice represents the interdependence of human rights, development and climate action. We see climate justice as an approach that places children at the centre of the climate crisis and brings about solutions good for people and the planet by upholding their rights. Our Christian faith leads us to believe every person is created in God's image and deserves life in all its fullness.

We seek to protect the rights of the most vulnerable children and ensure that climate change decision-making processes are participatory, transparent and accountable, including for children and youth. We believe that climate action must target the most vulnerable communities and protect and restore environmental assets that support the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and mitigate climate change. We believe that we must support communities to build their resilience, to adapt to climate change, and to prepare, mitigate, cope with and recover from the immediate impacts of climate-related disasters.

World Vision believes that every child has the right to both a healthy and safe environment today and a sustainable future.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS CREATING A CRISIS FOR CHILDREN

The unfolding crisis disproportionately burdens the most vulnerable children, in particular those living in informal urban settlements, fragile and developing contexts, despite being the least responsible for it.

- **Climate change threatens child rights** risking 25 years of gains made in child health and reducing child mortality,ⁱ with increasing risks of vector borne diseases, under-nutrition, diarrheal diseases and heat stress.ⁱⁱ Severe droughts and extreme weather also affect families' livelihoods, contributing to an increased risk of violence against children including child labour and child marriage.ⁱⁱⁱ Over 2 billion people around the world suffer food insecurity,^{iv} while 1.3 billion people live on degraded agricultural land^v and over 160 million children live in areas of high or extremely high drought severity.^{vi} Up to 100 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030.^{vii}
- **Climate change is a threat multiplier, amplifying existing vulnerabilities and inequalities**, including those based on age, gender, class, ethnicity, ability, and land-rights. Threatened livelihoods and competition for resources have proven to put women and girls at increased risk of sexual violence.^{viii} Girls and boys living in urban slums and informal settlement often have much greater exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather events.
- **Climate change is having severe humanitarian consequences.** More frequent and severe natural hazards are amplifying already high levels of humanitarian need globally, through the destruction of livelihoods, reduced access to essential public services and displacement. By 2050, the World Bank estimates that an additional 143 million people across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America could be internally displaced as a result of slow onset impacts of climate change including water stress, crop failure and sea-level rise.^{ix}

OUR RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

"We, as children and young people, have an important role in ensuring good climate policies. It is very crucial that we can gain climate-related knowledge and equip ourselves with the skills to raise our voices to hold to account our leaders. Children can also come up with innovative solutions considering the climate crisis and environmental sustainability." Dola, aged 15, Bangladesh

In order to effectively address the climate crisis, we must take concurrent actions to end global poverty and inequality, support at-risk communities to build resilience, and reduce global climate and environmental impact to create a climate-safe future.

Our response to the climate crisis focuses on:

- Advocating for climate justice by increasing the voice and agency of children;
- Advocating for greater global action to address climate change;
- Reducing our own environmental impact;
- Supporting communities to build sustainable and climate-smart livelihoods;
- Restoring the natural environment and mitigating climate change; and
- Partnering with the most vulnerable to reduce climate risks and respond to disasters.

World Vision partners with vulnerable children, families and communities to reduce their exposure to climate risks.

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ⁱ Philipsborn, P and Chan K (2020), Climate Change and Global Child Health, <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/141/6/e20173774.full.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Bennett M, Friel S (2014), Impacts of Climate Change on Inequities in Child Health, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4928733/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Chuang E, Pinchoff J, and Psaki S (2018), Brookings Institution, How Natural Disasters Undermine Schooling, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2018/01/23/how-natural-disasters-undermine-schooling/>

^{iv} FAO (2019), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, (2019), <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition>

^v UNCCD (2017), Global Land Outlook – First Edition, https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-09/GLO_Full_Report_low_res.pdf

^{vi} UNICEF (2019), Fact Sheet: Climate Crisis is Child Rights Crisis, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fact-sheet-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis>

^{vii} World Bank (2016), Shockwaves – Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22787/9781464806735.pdf>

^{viii} WHO (2002), World Report on Violence and Health, Chapter 6 – Sexual Violence, https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/chapters/en/

^{ix} World Bank (2018), Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29461>