

Ending Violence against children while addressing the global climate crisis

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Climate Change and Children

Climate change has a severe impact on children's lives, and cases of violence against children have been on the rise.

A child's life doesn't occur in isolation but rather in combination with specific social and economic circumstances.

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Critical global challenges: climate change and violence against children

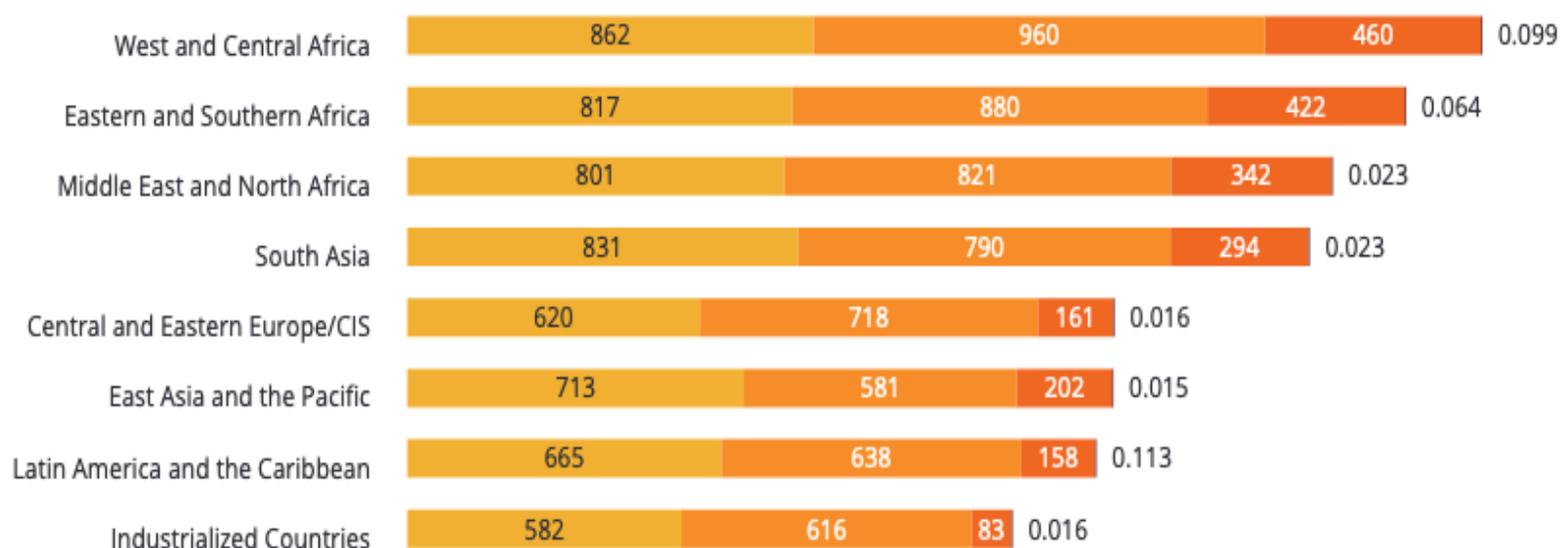
- At the current pace, global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels at early 2030s. (IPCC, 2021)
- 1 billion children are at extremely high risk of climate change. (UNICEF, 2021)

Links between the two are not always obvious, but they exist in terms of both causes and solutions.

- Eliminating violence against children - SDG 5, 8.7, 16.2.
- Combating climate change - SDG 13 and SDG 1, 2, 12 and 15.

Tackling climate change can also impact positively in certain contexts where children are at high risk of experiencing violence.

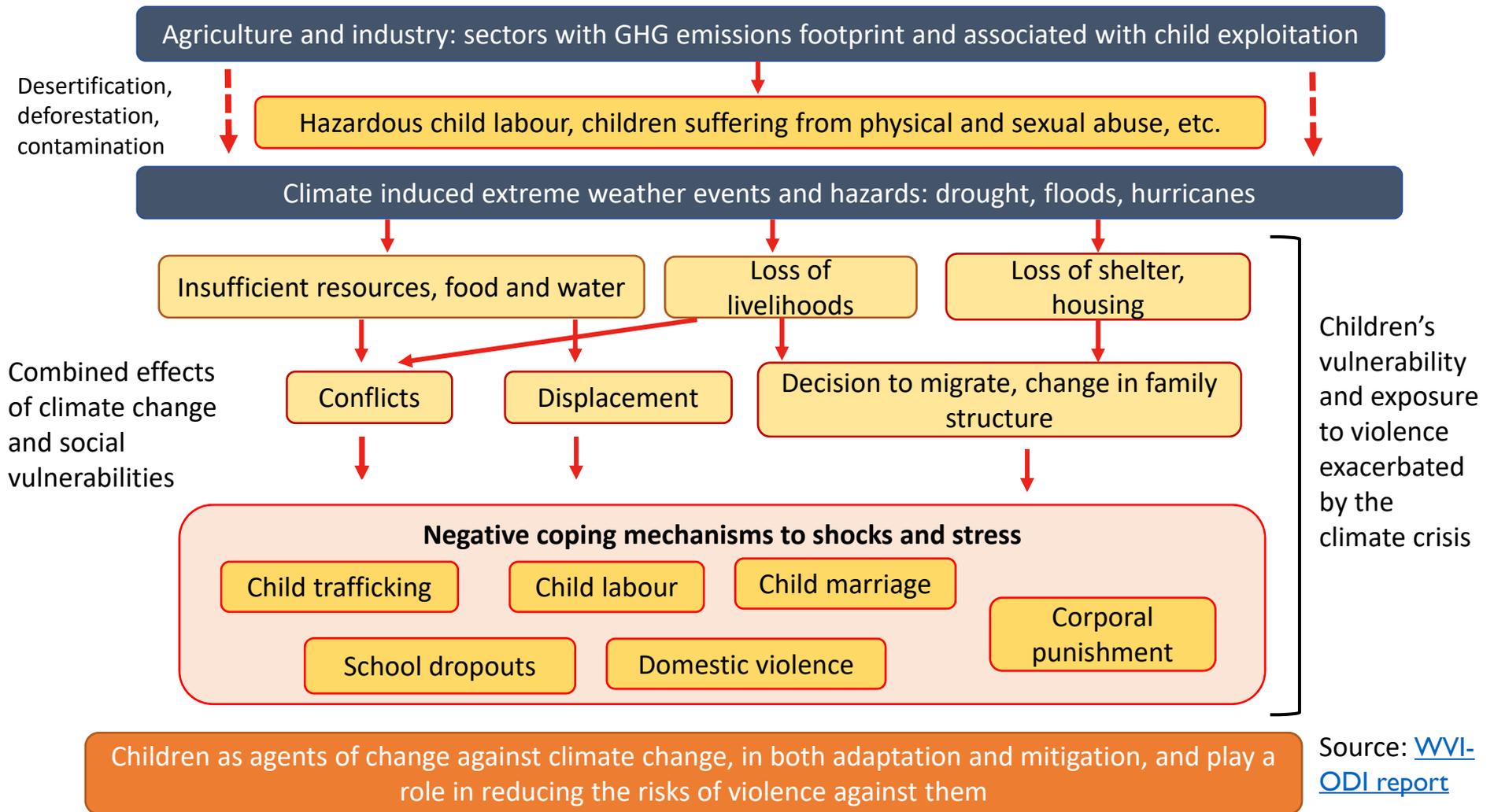
Regional burden of violence against children (2015)



Numbers abused per 1,000 children in that age cohort

- Corporal punishment (1-14 years)
- Bullying and physical fights (13-15 years)
- Physical and sexual violence against adolescent girls (15-19 years)
- Child homicide (0-19 years)

Source: Shiva Kumar and others 2017 for Know Violence in Childhood 2017.





The Kenya Case

Arid and Semi-Arid Lands make up to **89%** of Kenya, with approximately **38%** of the Population. Climate impacts are particularly pronounced in these areas where the economy and rural livelihoods are highly dependent on climate-sensitive activities.

Impacts are already being felt: increasingly frequent and severe droughts and floods, more erratic rainfall, and higher average temperatures affecting food production and water availability.

Climate's influence on a child's life

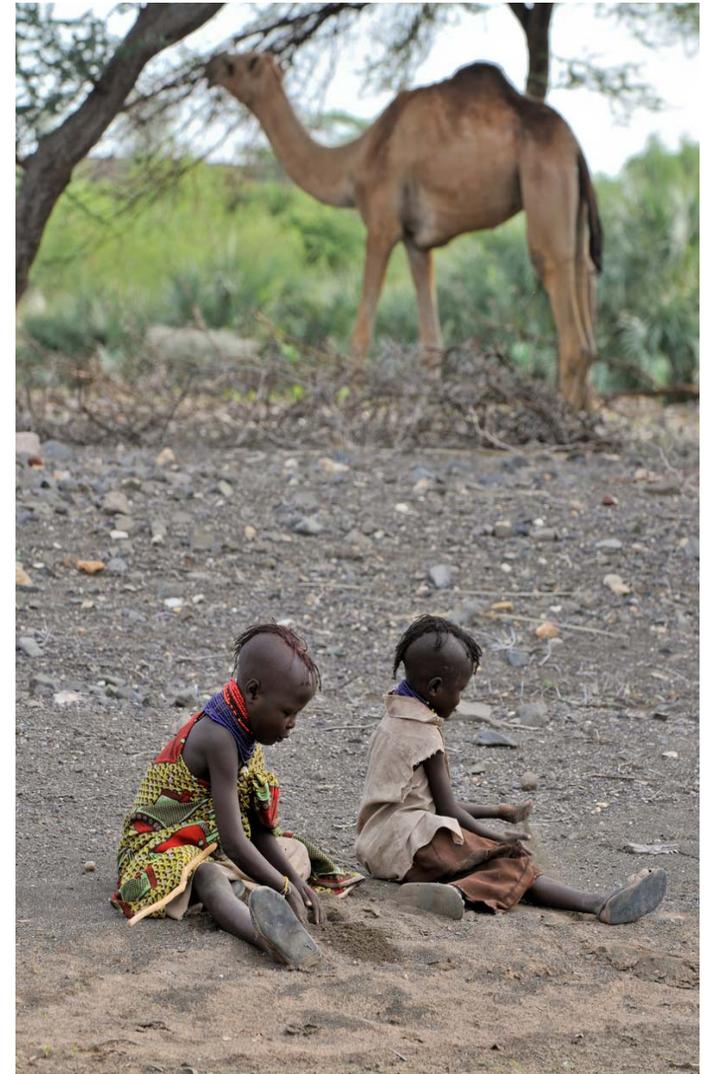
Prolonged drought leads to some of the families losing their source of livelihoods, especially those that are purely climate dependent. The stress to provide for the family and replenish their livelihoods has led to:

Families forcefully marrying off their children in exchange for livestock (meat/milk) or food and money to cope with food shortage/scarcity, and to maintain the social status of the family. This can be accompanied by FGM (Marsabit County has an 80% prevalence to FGM).

Increased cases of violent theft of Livestock by armed raiders after death of their livestock caused by the prolonged droughts and floods. Children and women are often victims; others are killed and raped in the process.

Parents and guardians leave their children with relatives as they migrate to other areas to find alternative livelihoods and or herd their animals. Some of the children in this situation are often defiled/ raped or exposed to child labour.

Harsh climatic condition has led to lack of water and food families. Families move to urban areas and some of the children are forced into child prostitution and child labour to help sustain their family and acquire their basic needs.



Tackling climate change and addressing violence against children



Promotion of alternative livelihoods and climate smart agriculture

Promotion of **alternative livelihoods** - such as beekeeping, gums and resins, ecotourism- relieves the pressure from over-reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods and increases resilience to climate-related shocks. There are **3,034** Households currently involved in 5 value chains.



Regreening initiatives – Ecosystem Restoration

Though promotion of reforestation initiatives such as **Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration**, tree nurseries and reseedling we are replenishing fodder and pasture in the rangelands and promoting agroforestry. These programmes are geared towards reducing the conflicts over pasture and water where children are always victims.



Climate Adaptation - Disaster Risk Management

Development and mainstreaming of **participatory Community Disaster Risk reduction** and **Community Disaster Risk Management** plans to equip the communities with knowledge on the management of disasters and the recovery after the disasters. This is done alongside child participation and child protection trainings.