

**CLIMATE  
EDITION**



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# ALLIANCE POST

**Reimagining  
Early Years  
Crisis Response**

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**MOVING MINDS**  
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# ACRONYM GLOSSARY

ARNEC	Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood
COP	Conference of the Parties (UN Climate Change Conference)
CRESTA	Climate Responsive ECCD Systems Thinking Approach
CS	Climate Services
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECDAN	Early Childhood Development Action Network
ECDiC	Early Childhood Development in Crisis
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EiE	Education in Emergencies
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services (India)
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IMD	India Meteorological Department
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ISSA	International Step by Step Association
LABE	Literacy and Basic Education (Uganda)
LLO	Locally Led Organisation

LMICs	Low- and Middle-Income Countries
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MIS	Management Information System
MMA	Moving Minds Alliance
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
REACH Network	Reporters for Early Childhood in Humanitarian Crisis Network
RLO	Refugee-Led Organisation
SEEDS	Sustainable Early Education and Development System
SEL	Social and Emotional Learning
SWANA	Southwest Asia and North Africa
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation



## Message from the Interim Director and Cochair

For young children, climate change is not a matter of global emissions rates or temperature trends. It is felt in the body, through hunger, illness, heat, and stress. It is experienced in relationships when caregivers struggle to provide stability amid uncertainty. And it is reflected in the environments children depend on to learn, play, and thrive. It is the missed meal after a failed harvest, the closure of an early learning centre following a flood, or the fear and uncertainty of a child seeking comfort in a caregiver's arms as crisis unfolds around them.

As this edition of the Alliance Post makes clear, there is also a growing recognition that young children cannot remain on the periphery of climate discussions. I am grateful to our guest editor, **Evelyn Santiago**, Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), whose leadership has helped advance the important message that young children must be central to climate adaptation, resilience, and recovery actions. I am also delighted to welcome ARNEC to the Moving Minds Alliance.

What struck me most while reading the contributions in this issue is how far the conversation has evolved. We are moving beyond simply recognising that climate change affects young children and beginning to understand the specific pathways through which those impacts occur, the systems that can help buffer children from harm, and the actions needed to build resilience from the earliest years.

In India, **Nikita Jawa** asks what it would look like to move from early warning to early action, ensuring that climate forecasts trigger concrete measures to protect nutrition, health, and early learning services before crises occur. In Kenya, **Rev. Kigen Kipchirchir Benard** highlights the need for climate financing and adaptation policies that explicitly prioritise young children, particularly in communities facing recurrent drought and displacement. **Hernán Marisquirena** challenges us to rethink climate services, exploring how climate and child development data could be brought together to better anticipate risks, identify vulnerable children, and target support more effectively.

**Shelina Bhamani** and **Misbah Shams** argue that mainstreaming ECD as a central pillar of climate policy, across government ministries, academia, and the development sector, is essential to protecting children's learning and development in the face of escalating climate shocks. **Caroline Dusabe** and **Taimur Tahsina** argue that targeted financing for climate-resilient Early Childhood Care and Development systems, anchored in approaches such as CRESTA and mainstreamed into National Climate Adaptation Plans, is both a just and high-return investment in protecting young children's development, well-being, and humanity's future.

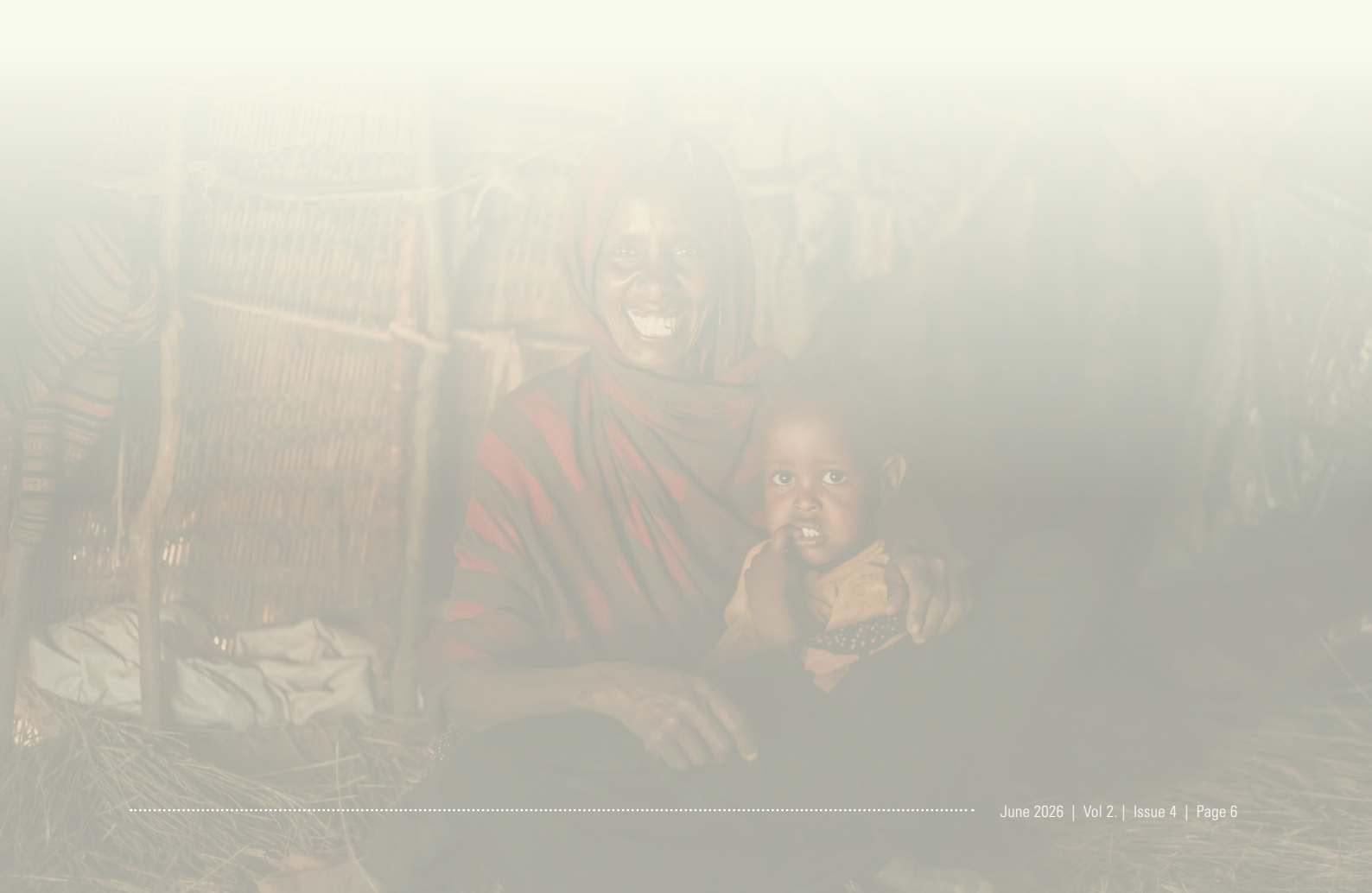
**Dr Joan Lombardi's** SEEDS framework reminds us that meaningful progress will require bridging two worlds that have too often operated in separate spheres: climate action and early childhood development. The framework illustrates how stronger connections across nurturing care, family support, workforce development, community engagement, financing, and research can help build more resilient futures for young children.

Contributors also challenge us to broaden our understanding of resilience. **Dr. Faten Skafi** highlights the growing evidence linking climate-related shocks to children's mental health and wellbeing, particularly in contexts already affected by conflict and displacement. **Ilayda Cihan** reminds us that resilience is not built solely through infrastructure, services, or policies. It is also built through the relationships that surround young children, the well-being of caregivers, and the strength of communities. Her reflections challenge us to think not only about protecting children, but also about supporting caregivers and strengthening the social fabric that enables families and communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from crisis.

Taken together, these reflections suggest an important shift for our sector. As our understanding deepens, we are moving beyond seeing climate change as a challenge to individual sectors and beginning to recognise its far-reaching implications for the systems, relationships, and institutions that shape children's lives.

The answers will not come from any single organisation, discipline, or sector. They will emerge through **collaboration between climate scientists and early childhood practitioners, between humanitarian and development actors, between policymakers, researchers, communities, caregivers, and young people themselves.** The challenges are significant, but so too is our growing understanding of what is possible when we invest in young children, strengthen systems of care, and work collectively toward a more resilient future.

**Katie Murphy** PhD, MPH





## Putting young children at the center of climate actions: A moral imperative

Reflections of the Guest Editor

The Asia-Pacific Region is at the forefront of the climate crisis, with countries across South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands consistently ranking among the highest in the Climate Risk Index. The region continuously suffers from disasters caused by extreme weather events, such as floods, heatwaves, rising sea levels, cyclones, and droughts, which have recently increased in scale, frequency, and intensity.

Yet what these climate risk rankings often fail to capture is what climate change is doing to young children.

*Young children are the least responsible for climate change, yet they are the most affected by it.*

A scoping study commissioned by the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) in 2022 highlighted how young children's health, nutrition, early learning, safety and security are compromised by different climate risks. It emphasised the need to differentiate the impact based on developmental stages and specific vulnerabilities due to gender, disability, location, and ethnicity, which exacerbate the uneven burden on children.

Since 2019, ARNEC has been at the forefront in highlighting the interlinkages between early childhood development (ECD) and climate change. While many see climate change as an environmental issue, we see it as a child development and a child rights issue. We have been advancing the ECD and climate agenda, building on a framework for action that focuses on (i) increasing knowledge and raising awareness on how young children are affected by climate change; (ii) strengthening the capacity of our national partners for more effective advocacy and influencing; and (iii) strengthening partnerships for collective action.

As a regional network, ARNEC's strength lies with its partners and members. ARNEC's ability to organise and convene for greater impact is at the core of its existence. Building on this unique advantage, we mobilised partners in the countries to catalyse advocacy campaigns on ECD and climate change.

Working closely with partners in Indonesia, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, ARNEC has played a catalytic role in placing young children at the forefront of climate discussions across the Asia-Pacific region.

In Bangladesh, for example, ARNEC, in partnership with the Bangladesh ECD Network, facilitated national dialogues linking climate change, disaster risk reduction, and ECD, resulting in a Multi-Sectoral Working Group involving key ministries, academia, development partners, and civil society organisations. The national network has now engaged the media and academic partners, providing greater visibility to their ECD and climate change campaign.

In Bhutan, the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) and CARE Bhutan, a national NGO, worked together in integrating climate resilience into national priorities, including the 13th Five-Year Plan. One significant milestone was the development of the Environment and Climate Change Education Guide for ECCD Centres, providing frameworks and pedagogical approaches to embed climate education in early learning.

In Indonesia, the Holistic-Integrative ECD Coalition (HI-ECD) has worked with ARNEC in advancing an ECD and climate campaign called “ECORISE”, which helped create a shift, from awareness to action, in addressing climate risks. Through social media campaigns and youth-led discussions, issues such as air pollution, waste management, and water use were amplified, linking them to children’s health. Campaign messaging highlighted the large-scale disposal of diapers and promoted environmentally friendly alternatives, reaching parents, educators, and local communities.

ARNEC has demonstrated how thought leadership and partnership can advance an important agenda, such as ECD and climate change. Back in 2019, there was very little discussion, even within the regional ECD community, about climate change as it specifically relates to young children. There was limited understanding of the intersection of ECD and climate change.

Today, we see a different picture. There is now increased awareness, understanding, and recognition that young children are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and that their voices need to be heard. We see discussions happening at the global, regional, and national levels. We see actions and solutions being adapted at the country level. We are proud to have been part of the growing ECD and climate advocacy and actions in the countries, aimed at building a climate-responsive ECD system.

While we see many gains, further efforts are needed to ensure that young children are central to climate action through policies, programmes, and financing. ARNEC has worked tirelessly to help place young children at the centre of climate discourse across the Asia-Pacific region, but more needs to be done.

It is in this context that we truly welcome and appreciate the Climate Edition of the Moving Minds Alliance Post. The featured articles clearly reflect insights and solutions in addressing critical gaps in the ECD and climate space. These include the importance of generating and using data and evidence in anticipating climate-related risks and ensuring climate-responsive ECD interventions; the need to integrate ECD into climate policies of various stakeholders; the urgency to increase climate financing to support young children; and the need to take a deeper look at how climate-related shocks affect the overall well-being of children, especially the youngest population. This Climate Edition is an important addition to the growing knowledge on how we can help build a more resilient system for young children.

As ARNEC joins the Moving Minds Alliance, we look forward to working together to protect young children’s right to a clean, healthy, secure, and sustainable environment. Young children are the most vulnerable to climate threats, but they are also our most valuable asset in fighting the climate crisis. Investing in young children through holistic, inclusive and high-quality ECD programmes is one of the most effective pathways to building climate resilience and ensuring sustainable development.

The climate challenges young children face today are beyond their control, and we must protect their well-being and development, as the consequences they endure today will have a lasting impact on their lives.

**Their future is at stake. We must put young children at the center of climate actions.**

**Evelyn D. Santiago**

Executive Director, ARNEC

# The Earliest Years in the Hardest Places

Children aged 0–8 in climate and conflict : A midyear snapshot

By [Lola Ayanda](#) and [Nour Jarrouj](#)



**1 in 6**<sup>1</sup>

children globally in or fleeing active conflict



**13M**<sup>2</sup>

children affected by conflict and displacement



**101,000+**<sup>3</sup>

Children **under 5** in Gaza are facing acute malnutrition

**3.8%**<sup>4</sup>

of crisis aid reaching early childhood development

## CRISIS BY CRISIS

**Sudan:** **Nine million** internally displaced; **55%** children.<sup>5</sup>

An estimated **4.2 million** children face acute malnutrition in 2026, including **825,000** severe cases.<sup>6</sup> Malnutrition in North Darfur's Um Baru hit **52.9%** in February - nearly twice the famine threshold.<sup>7</sup> UNICEF's Sudan appeal is **16%** funded.<sup>8</sup>

**SWANA (South West Asia & North Africa) -**

**Gaza:** **101,000** children under **5** projected acutely malnourished by June 2026. A regional escalation from 23 February 2026 displaced **1.2 million** children.<sup>9</sup> More than **56,000** Gazan children<sup>10</sup> have lost one or both parents.<sup>11</sup>

**Syria:** Renewed violence in northeast Syria displaced **200,000** people, half of them children.<sup>12</sup> Children in Syria continue to face killing, displacement, and discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and religion; the Syrian transitional government must act urgently to protect the youngest children and girls.

**Afghanistan:** Nearly **3 million** Afghan returnees arrived in 2025, 60% families with children, returning to a hollowed-out system.<sup>13</sup> As of May 2026, **700,000+** more families have returned.<sup>14</sup>

**Southern Africa:** La Niña flooding from December 2025 affected **1.9 million** people across Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and South Africa.<sup>15</sup> Rapid attribution science confirmed human-driven warming substantially intensified the rainfall.<sup>16</sup> Children in Mozambique carry a **40%** baseline malnutrition rate before each new shock.<sup>17</sup>

## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS AND DONORS

- 10% for Early Childhood Development in Crisis (ECDiC). Commit at least 10% of humanitarian and development aid in crisis-affected countries to early childhood development. Embed this in national aid strategies and UN planning.
- Reverse ODA cuts. The consequences for child survival are measurable. Ring-fence ECDiC allocations and restore funding levels.
- Integrate ECDiC into climate finance. The Loss and Damage Fund and Green Climate Fund must include early childhood outcomes as core resilience indicators.
- Fund the full Nurturing Care Framework. Go beyond health and nutrition. Responsive caregiving and early learning need dedicated, protected funding streams.
- Multi-year, flexible funding. Protracted crises require sustained investment. Short project cycles are structurally incompatible with child development timelines.
- 25% to locally-led organisations. Community-rooted actors are the most effective and sustainable delivery channel. Direct funding accordingly.<sup>23</sup>

## THE FINANCING GAP

MMA's Left Behind (October 2025) found only **3.8%** of total crisis aid went to early childhood development in emergencies between 2018 and 2023.<sup>18</sup> Responsive caregiving and early learning received just **0.43%**, less than half a cent in every aid dollar.<sup>19</sup>

USAID's dismantling removed **\$224M**, 32% of all ECDiC humanitarian funding in 2023.<sup>20</sup> Simultaneous ODA cuts from the UK, Germany, France and the Netherlands compound the damage. A Lancet Global Health study (January 2026) projects 4.5 million child deaths by 2030 if cuts continue.<sup>21</sup> Oxfam estimates a child **under 5** could die every **40 seconds** by 2030.<sup>22</sup>

## WHAT ADVOCATES CAN DO

- i. Name the youngest. Demand that policy debates explicitly disaggregate data and responses for children aged 0–8, not just ‘children’ as a broad category.
- ii. Connect climate and early childhood. Children aged 0–8 are the highest-risk group for climate harm. Advocate for their inclusion in every Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plan.
- iii. Challenge ODA narratives. Counter the framing that aid cuts are ‘savings’. Use the Lancet, Oxfam projections and Moving Minds Alliance financing analysis to make the human cost visible to media, parliamentarians, and the public.
- iv. Demand age-disaggregated data. Push humanitarian actors and governments to report on 0–5 and 0–8 as standard. Invisible data means invisible children.
- v. Lift locally-led voices by ensuring genuine participation in decision-making. Move beyond consultation and platform-sharing. Local ECDiC experts with lived experience of conflict and displacement must hold substantive roles in policy design, financing decisions, and national programming. Advocate for their direct inclusion in strategic forums, not as data sources, but as decision-makers.
- vi. Hold leaders to prevention. Advocate for early warning systems, social protection floors and pre-positioned ECDiC capacity in fragile states, before the next crisis hits.

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<sup>3</sup>[IPC, Gaza Strip Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot, projections through June 2026.](#)

<sup>4</sup>[Moving Minds Alliance / Causal Design, Left Behind: The Funding Gap for Young Children in Crisis, October 2025.](#)

<sup>5</sup>[UNICEF, ‘1,000 Days of Agony’ press release, 9 January 2026.](#)

<sup>6</sup>[UNICEF, 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children: Sudan.](#)

<sup>7</sup>[IPC, Sudan Malnutrition Alert, North Darfur, 5 February 2026.](#)

<sup>8</sup>[UNICEF, Sudan Child Alert, 28 April 2026.](#)

<sup>9</sup>[IPC, Gaza Strip Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot 2026.](#)

<sup>10</sup>[UNICEF, Humanitarian Crisis for Children Deepens After One Month of War in the Middle East, 30 March 2026.](#)

<sup>11</sup>[UNICEF, Children in Gaza Need Life-Saving Support, ongoing situation report.](#)

<sup>12</sup>[Joining Forces Alliance, Addressing Southern Africa Climate Shocks, May 2026.](#)

<sup>13</sup>[UNHCR, 2025 Afghan Returns - One Year Recap](#)

<sup>14</sup>[UNHCR / IOM, Afghanistan Returnee Monitoring Update, 2025. Nearly 3 million returnees recorded; 60% were families with children returning to severely degraded health, education and protection systems.](#)

<sup>15</sup>[World Weather Attribution, Human-Driven Warming Amplified Extreme Flooding in Southern Africa, 29 January 2026.](#)

<sup>16</sup>[Joining Forces Alliance, Addressing Southern Africa Climate Shocks, May 2026.](#)

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<sup>18</sup>[Moving Minds Alliance / Causal Design, Left Behind: The Funding Gap for Young Children in Crisis, October 2025.](#)

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<sup>20</sup>[Oxfam America, What Did USAID Do and What Are the Effects of USAID Cuts?, 2026.](#)

<sup>21</sup>[Spiegel et al., Lancet Global Health, January 2026. doi:10.1016/S2214-109X\(26\)00008-2.](#)

<sup>22</sup>[Oxfam, A Child Under Five Could Die Every Forty Seconds by 2030 Due to US Aid Cuts, January 2026.](#)

<sup>23</sup>[The Grand Bargain \(2016\), Workstream 2: More support and funding tools for local and national responders. Signatories committed to channelling at least 25% of humanitarian funding as directly as possible to local and national responders by 2020. IASC / OCHA, Grand Bargain Annual Independent Report, 2023.](#)



## The Fragile Climate of Care

**Ilayda Cihan**, Early Childhood Researcher & MHPSS Specialist

In the global context of the climate crisis, children, despite contributing the least, face some of the highest immediate risks and will bear the longest and most cumulative consequences. This is not simply because children are more vulnerable than adults, but because our world is becoming increasingly unsafe to grow up in, with each passing moment. While recognising the climate crisis with its multi-compounded and complex nature, care systems have remained largely focused on immediate and material impacts, with limited attention to longer-term psychosocial and relational dimensions of children, families, and communities. It is therefore essential to rethink how care programmes are designed and delivered, centring their lived, relational, and longer-term psychosocial dimensions.

In its very nature, the climate crisis is deeply relational, disrupting children's connections with caregivers, peers, and communities where they experience a sense of safety, connectedness, belonging, and hope that are essential for survival, recovery and development. Nevertheless, to date, our efforts have narrowly focused on only the child-caregiver relationship dynamic, seeing it as transactional flow of care, moving from caregiver as provider to child as passive recipient. The role of protecting and supporting children is primarily placed on caregivers, without sufficient recognition of the impacts on caregivers themselves or the broader disruptions to caregiving systems. Public and other social structures are often positioned as secondary actors in this responsibility, which bypasses the role of community and other social structures.



▶ The Greats, The Power Of We | © Aysha Tengiz

**"I" continue to exist, though damaged and maybe even permanently changed. "You" continue to exist, though distant and hard to relate to. But "we" no longer exist as a connected pair or as linked cells in a larger communal body."**

**Erikson, Erik.** Identity: Youth and Crisis. 1976. Pg.154

This is not to suggest that broader systems should replace caregivers' responsibilities. Rather, it highlights the absence of the social ties through which children and families are held and supported, beyond institutional structures. This approach shows a significant gap in the distribution of care responsibility in the context of the climate crisis and overlooks the critical role of intermediary social systems connecting children, caregivers, and communities in situations of crisis and emergency.

Further, our efforts fall short in containing the holistic caregiver-child dynamic by seeing them as basic care providers, emotional buffers, or protection zones for children, without engaging with them as human being with lived condition.

The 'oxygen mask' analogy is tirelessly circulated to demonstrate that when we are overburdened, facing adversity, or experiencing chronic stress, we cannot

provide care, engage meaningfully, be responsive, or sustain the relational stability that human need for safety and recovery. Undoubtedly, caregivers themselves need access to stable support and resources that strengthen their capacity to survive, cope, and sustain (firstly) their own wellbeing.

Caregivers are also survivors of climate shocks, conflict, displacement, and poverty. Further, they experience these conditions alongside their children and are rights-holders in need of protection and support while navigating stress, shock, grief, loss, and uncertainty. Without recognizing how adversity can significantly disrupt caregivers' physical, socio-economic, and emotional resources by inhibiting their capacity to experience, and offer care with safety for both themselves and others, any intervention risks reinforcing the very cycles of disempowerment that affect both children and caregivers, and communities.

This makes it essential to create spaces where caregivers are supported, centring social, emotional, and institutional support within our care models. Equipping caregivers with locally rooted resources, and fostering agency, self-efficacy, and connectedness through such support, can help both caregivers and children process the emotional turbulence that accompanies abnormal and crisis events. With close attention to gender, norms, roles, and expectations, this can further support survival and recovery processes by reinforcing coping practices and rituals, restoring relational stability. Building on existing local knowledge and practices enables us to develop more constructive and sustainable responses to the immediate and longer-term impacts of climate-induced disruption.

Despite genuine efforts to move beyond linear care

models, a more coordinated and collective shift is needed. This shift must be grounded in the understanding that protection, recovery, and healing happen in and through relationships, not in isolation or disconnection.

**In order to overcome the impacts of the climate crisis in any real sense, efforts must focus on building care systems that foster, empower, and sustain both new and existing relationships where safety, connectedness, belonging, and hope can emerge and grow.**

This cannot fully happen within isolated family bubbles alone, without engaging the wider social fabric that human life is rooted in. Strengthening social and communal connections is essential to sustaining and sparking collective capacities to care, respond, act, and recover in the face of climate crisis.

Together, these arguments call on all stakeholders, from policymakers and funders to NGOs, researchers, and community actors, to rethink how care is understood and organised within the context of the climate crisis. Care cannot be reduced to individual roles or isolated relationships, but must be understood as embedded in social and relational systems that enable us to survive, resist, adapt, and recover.

The focus must shift from designing *for* caregivers and communities to working *with* them, recognising caregivers as active agents and strengthening community-based psychosocial and relational support as core elements of climate response. Without this shift, efforts will continue to overlook what sustains children, families, and communities in the face of ongoing disruption.

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# Climate Change and Mental Health of Early Childhood: A Comprehensive Review of Evidence in a Global and Arab World Context

**Dr. Faten Skafi**, Lebanese University

While climate change is generally associated with rising temperatures, water shortages, and environmental degradation, its effects extend beyond physiological changes. In addition, climate change threatens human psychological well-being. Young children under the age of five are among the most vulnerable groups, as early childhood represents a critical window for development.<sup>1</sup>

Despite growing awareness of climate change's adverse health effects, most research remains focused on physiological rather than psychological impacts.

## Climate-Related Psychosocial Risks

The literature identifies both direct and indirect pathways through which climate change produces adverse mental health outcomes.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, the effects of climate change manifest indirectly through socio-economic and social issues such as poverty, poor nutrition, and displacement.<sup>2</sup> Poor socio-economic status, food insecurity, and other related problems can increase caregiver stress. As a result, it becomes difficult to provide supportive care.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, in fragile settings like the Arab region, exposure to climate-related risks increases, and children are more exposed.<sup>3</sup>

Although evidence suggests that children under five are disproportionately affected by climate change, their psychological health needs remain largely unaddressed.<sup>2</sup>

In the Arab world, climate risks are compounded by overlapping crises, including conflict, displacement, and economic instability, which amplify adverse psychological effects on children.<sup>3</sup>



▶ Early childhood care environments play a critical role in climate resilience | © JZA photography/AMNA

## Impact Mechanisms

There exist several mechanisms for transferring the effect of climate change into adverse outcomes among early childhood:

- direct exposure to environmental changes<sup>4</sup>
- caregiver-mediated exposure<sup>1</sup>
- service disruption<sup>5</sup>
- psychosocial awareness<sup>6</sup>

These mechanisms frequently overlap, particularly in fragile settings such as those across the Arab region.

## Protective Factors

A range of protective factors can buffer children against these negative outcomes. These include:

- responsive caregiving and relationships<sup>1</sup>
- social protection services<sup>5</sup>
- access to early childhood development services<sup>7</sup>
- nature- and play-based programmes<sup>8</sup>

However, many of these protective factors are significantly weakened during periods of crisis.

## Previous Studies

### Worldwide Literature

Existing worldwide research reveals numerous associations between climate change and psychological health. Exposure to climate-related events increases the risk of developing anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).<sup>4</sup>

Several conceptual models of climate change and mental health have identified multiple impact pathways, including direct exposure, socio-economic stress, and social disruption.<sup>9</sup> Also, it was found that toxic stress caused by exposure to adversities during early life is detrimental to development.<sup>1</sup>

### Arab Region Literature

Similar research from the Arab region indicates high exposure to climate risks, including water shortages and environmental stress.<sup>3</sup> In the context of the Arab region, climate change leads to additional stress among people, including psychosocial stress resulting from displacement, poverty, and instability.

Most research, however, focuses on other population groups, leaving a significant data gap for early childhood in the Arab region. Furthermore, there is no sufficient amount of mental health resources in the Arab countries.<sup>10</sup>

## Synthesis

Based on worldwide and Arab-region literature reviews, several common points can be made:

- both direct and indirect pathways influence children via climate change;
- early childhood is highly exposed and at the same time understudied;
- the Arab region experiences higher exposure to climate change in connection with crises;
- child-oriented data and programmes are absent.

## Policy Gaps

In spite of sufficient evidence, many policy gaps persist:

**First**, climate policies rarely integrate early childhood development or mental well-being considerations.<sup>3</sup>

**Second**, siloed sectoral approaches hinder effective coordination between climate, health, and education policies.<sup>5</sup>

**Third**, inadequate financing is provided for children-specific services, especially in crisis situations.<sup>10</sup>

**Fourth**, many programmes are implemented without accounting for culture-specific factors.<sup>3</sup>

**Finally**, inadequate data gathering limits policymaking.<sup>6</sup>

## Recommendations

- **Integrate early childhood mental well-being into climate policies.** Early childhood development and psychosocial support must be embedded in climate policy frameworks.<sup>3</sup>
- **Strengthen cross-sector coordination.** Climate, health, and education sectors must work in concert rather than in silos.<sup>5</sup>
- **Expand access to mental health services.** Adequate, ring-fenced funding must be allocated for developmentally sensitive care for children in crisis settings.<sup>10</sup>
- **Support caregivers and families.** Parental psychological well-being and responsive caregiving must be actively promoted and resourced.<sup>1</sup>
- **Design culturally grounded programmes.** Interventions must be adapted to the specific cultural contexts and communities they serve.<sup>3</sup>
- **Prioritise prevention and resilience.** Preventive, resilience-based approaches are more effective and sustainable than reactive responses.<sup>7</sup>

## Conclusion

Climate change poses a serious and multifaceted threat to the mental health of young children. There are several mechanisms by which the effects of climate change are transferred, including direct and indirect pathways and systemic disruptions.<sup>4</sup>

While climate risks for early childhood receive much attention in global research, the level of vulnerability in the

Arab region and data availability remain understudied.<sup>3</sup>

However, there is a chance to mitigate such risks. Various protective measures, such as responsive caregiving and family support, can be employed.<sup>7</sup>

Tackling the problem is essential to achieving sustainable development goals in health, education, and the environment.

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# From Early Warning to Early Action: Strengthening Climate-Responsive Systems for Early Childhood in India

**Nikita Jawa**, Researcher

## Climate Risk and Early Childhood Development

Climate-related hazards are increasingly shaping the developmental environments of young children. Along India's eastern coastline, cyclones, flooding, and extreme weather events pose recurrent risks to communities. Recent cyclones, including Fani (2019), Amphan (2020), and Yaas (2021), illustrate shifting climatic patterns in the Bay of Bengal, where there is growing evidence of increasing storm intensity linked to rising sea surface temperatures.<sup>1</sup>

India has made notable progress in disaster risk reduction, particularly in early warning dissemination and large-scale

evacuations. States such as Odisha have been widely recognised for reducing cyclone-related mortality through coordinated preparedness and response mechanisms. For instance, while the 1999 Odisha Super Cyclone resulted in around 10,000 fatalities, Cyclone Phailin (2013) resulted in approximately 40–45 fatalities following the evacuation of nearly 1 million people in advance, reflecting significant improvements in early warning systems and evacuation capacity of the state.<sup>2</sup>



**However, as climate risks evolve, a critical policy question emerges: to what extent do existing early warning systems translate into timely, child-centred action, particularly for children in the early years?**



▶ Heavy monsoon rains have triggered flooding in parts of New Delhi after the Yamuna River overflowed, highlighting the growing impact of climate-intensified rainfall in northern India.

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Despite progress, young children remain underrepresented in climate and humanitarian response systems. Nearly **one billion children** globally face extremely high risk from climate impacts, a figure that reflects both their elevated exposure and heightened physiological vulnerability.<sup>3</sup>

## Climate Shocks and Their Implications for Young Children



Young children are among the most vulnerable to climate shocks, as disruptions in care, nutrition, and early learning during these years can have lifelong consequences. The first six years of life represent a critical window for cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development, making continuity of services during crises particularly important.<sup>4</sup>

In India, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme delivers these services through Aanganwadi centres. During extreme weather events, however, service delivery can be disrupted due to damage, access constraints, or the repurposing of centres for emergency response. UNICEF situation reports following Cyclone Fani documented disruptions to services affecting children and caregivers across affected districts.<sup>5</sup>

These disruptions can lead to:

- Interruptions in nutrition services, increasing risks of undernutrition<sup>6</sup>
- Greater exposure to water-borne and vector-borne diseases<sup>7</sup>
- Disruptions to early learning, climate-related events have interrupted schooling for millions globally
- Psychosocial stress linked to displacement and caregiver distress

In regions exposed to recurrent climate shocks, such disruptions may occur repeatedly, increasing the risk of cumulative developmental impacts over time.

## From Disaster Preparedness to Developmental Protection

India's disaster management systems provide a strong foundation for climate resilience. Investments in forecasting, early warning, and community preparedness have significantly improved response capacity.

India's digital public infrastructure, including platforms such as Poshan Tracker and UDISE+, offers an opportunity to integrate climate-responsive early warning systems with service delivery, enabling real-time identification of vulnerable populations and targeted responses. However,

these systems have largely focused on hazard mitigation rather than continuity of development services. Addressing this requires moving from parallel systems, across climate, health, nutrition, and education, to integrated, child-centred response architectures.

In cyclone-prone states such as Odisha, early warning systems enable timely evacuations. Yet, there is scope to strengthen how these warnings translate into action for young children:

- Early warnings are not always linked to ICDS preparedness actions
- Frontline workers may lack structured, child-focused response protocols
- Data systems across sectors are not fully interoperable
- Relief responses may not consistently address child-specific needs such as safe play spaces, infant feeding support, and psychosocial care

These represent opportunities to extend existing systems towards a more anticipatory, child-centred approach.

## Operationalising Early Action to Early Childhood Development

Strengthening climate-responsive ECD systems requires shifting from early warning to early action, where risk information triggers predefined responses for young children.

This includes:

- Linking climate data with service delivery systems to identify vulnerable populations in advance
- Establishing clear protocols that translate alerts into service-level actions
- Equipping frontline workers with guidance and tools for response
- Enabling flexible service delivery to maintain continuity during disruptions
- Engaging caregivers and communities in preparedness efforts

This shift ensures that early warning systems support not only immediate safety, but also the continuity of developmental services for young children.

## Recommendations

**1. Embed child-centred triggers within early warning systems:** Early warning protocols should include actionable triggers for ECD services- for example, pre-positioning Take-Home Rations (THR), outreach to vulnerable households (e.g., children under three or malnourished children), and advance planning for Aanganwadi service continuity.

**2. Link climate alerts with existing service delivery MIS:** Climate data (e.g., IMD alerts) can be integrated with platforms such as Poshan Tracker and UDISE+ to identify high-risk geographies, map vulnerable children, and notify corresponding frontline workers. Anticipatory action approaches, such as forecast-based financing, can be adapted within India's digital systems.

**3. Strengthen Aanganwadi-level preparedness protocols:** States can introduce standardised checklists for Aanganwadi workers, including contingency planning for nutrition delivery, identification of alternative service locations, and coordination with local health and disaster response systems.

## Conclusion

As climate risks intensify, protecting early childhood development in crisis contexts is increasingly urgent. India's progress in disaster preparedness demonstrates the potential of anticipatory systems to reduce harm. The next step lies in ensuring that early warning systems are systematically linked to timely, child-centred action.

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# Climate Shocks and Disrupted Early Learning

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## Climate Shocks

There were times when weather and climate terms we used to hear were spring, winter, summer, and fall but in the recent years, all we could hear all around us is heat stroke, smog, floods, glacier melting, earthquakes and land sliding. How we, many adults and even children view climate and seasons have drastically changed in past two decades. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan is among the top 5 most vulnerable countries to climate change (UN-Habitat Report, 2023). Over the years, Pakistan has witnessed extreme climate events affecting millions of people across the country.

## Scale of Impact on Young Children

The early years from conception to 8 years are a crucial period of a child's development, during which the brain develops rapidly. Experiences and exposures during this crucial developmental phase shape the child's future. Adverse events like climate shocks, such as extreme temperatures, floods, heavy rainfall, earthquakes, and pollution, can significantly affect young children's well-being, which could lead to long-term developmental issues. Young children are among the vulnerable population to these emergencies due to their physical and psychological needs. According to Lai & La Greca (2020), approximately 175 million children are affected by disasters worldwide. In Pakistan, around 112 million children are at risk of climate-related disasters and displacement (UNICEF, 2024). Recurring climate shocks, including heavy rainfall, floods, and extreme temperatures, have affected the existing fragile and unstable system, including the education system in Pakistan.

## Climate Shocks through a Developmental Lens

Rapidly changing climate patterns have far-reaching consequences for the development of young children. Sudden rainfall in unprepared communities not only disrupts infrastructure and mobility but also increases the risk of post-rain diseases, food insecurity, and the closure of safe play spaces, forcing parents to compromise on essential needs such as outdoor play. Similarly, during heatwaves, most homes in Pakistan, particularly those near the poverty line, lack natural ventilation, cooling systems, and reliable electricity. Sharp rises in temperature adversely affect children's health, appetite, sleep, hydration, and overall safety, rendering both homes and classrooms increasingly unsuitable for young children. Air pollution affects the very mobility of young children and bound parents and schools to keep children locked indoors when they need the most sensory and outdoor exposure. The state is responsible to design climate responsive ecological architecture of support for young children but saving lives in an economically challenging country becomes a priority of time.



▶ Climate resilience starts with the spaces where young children learn and grow.

©Cities for Children, Islamabad, Pakistan.

## Climate Shocks through an Educational Lens

Changes in weather patterns have been identified as a major contributor to disruptions in children's education and learning. According to UNICEF (2023), 40 million children face disruption in their education because of disasters caused by climate change, and this number is even higher in developing countries. The entire education sector is systemically impacted. Climate hits the educational infrastructure. Destruction of school infrastructure leads to school closures and disruption of the education cycle. The strongest school infrastructure is also converted into temporary shelters, and road blockages, displacement, and economic loss disrupt sustained early years learning and education. Learning gets disrupted. The climate is not limited to disasters but have a potential to impact the learning routine. Over the past two years, Pakistan has repeatedly announced school closures in response to extreme heat, sudden cloudbursts, severe smog, and landslides. Schools and learning systems are not fully equipped to continue learning using a hybrid model. Besides, many children in Pakistan live at, below, or just above the poverty line, where parents often lack the resources and training to support learning in home environments. These constraints exacerbate an already severe learning crisis. At the same time, teachers are insufficiently prepared to adapt instruction to contexts of crisis and recovery, while curricula and learning experiences remain largely classroom-dependent, limiting their relevance and resilience.

## Pakistan's Emerging Climate Response

Efforts have been made to prepare systems to respond to the climate emergencies and changes. Climate curriculum, teachers training, school preparedness drives and policy changes have been some of the most significant development, but ECD remains a limited area of focus. Pakistan has signed a COP29 a declaration on children, youth and climate action committing to integrating child rights and education into mainstream climate policy soon.

## Recommendations

- **Policy Makers:** Ensure that Early Childhood Development (from conception to age eight) is mainstreamed as a central pillar of climate policy. Plan climate response and recovery beyond the provision of temporary shelters, food aid, and infrastructure rebuilding. Prioritize the development of climate-resilient ECD ecosystems, with a specific focus on safeguarding learning and the continuity of early education. Make it mandatory for all ministries to integrate ECD as a dedicated component within their national action plans.
- **Academia:** Designing courses for all professionals and making it mandatory for bankers, teachers, healthcare providers, development practitioners, social scientist on understanding climate shocks and designing interventions to support young children in crisis.
- **Development Sector:** Target continuation as a priority with rebuilding and recovery. Particularly, interventions for out of school children. Each organization should take a certain % and ensure learning continuation.
- **Individuals:** Treat climate emergency as economic emergency. Individual actions today will provide a large-scale positive impact for children in future. Present, future and their future depend on climate responsive actions we take today.

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# From Climate Data to Child Impact: Rethinking Climate Services

Hernán Marisquirena, ECDAN fellow

Climate services, broadly defined as the provision and use of climate data to support decision-making, are central to how countries anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate risks.<sup>2 3</sup>

Early childhood development (ECD), encompassing the period from conception to age eight, is a period that shapes lifelong outcomes.<sup>4 5</sup> It is also a period of heightened vulnerability. Climate-related shocks, including food insecurity, disease outbreaks, displacement, and disruptions to health, nutrition, and education services, directly threaten children's development.<sup>2</sup> In 2024 alone, extreme weather events disrupted the education of at least 242 million students across 85 countries.<sup>6</sup>

Despite these risks, climate adaptation strategies rarely account for the specific needs of young children.<sup>2</sup> This is a critical gap, and a missed opportunity. **What if climate services could tell us not only when a drought is coming, but which children will be most at risk, and why?** By combining child-focused data with climate information, decision-makers can strengthen risk analysis, anticipate impacts more precisely, and design more targeted and effective responses. If climate strategies are to be effective, equitable, and sustainable, they must start with those most vulnerable, young children.

## Why ECD belongs in Climate Services

The case for integration rests on three pillars.

**First, the protection of the most vulnerable.** Nearly 90% of the disease burden from climate change falls on children under five.<sup>8</sup> Young children are also early signals; their rising malnutrition rates and respiratory illnesses can indicate broader community-level crises, making them valuable for early warning systems.<sup>7</sup>

**Second, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.** It is far more cost-effective to anticipate and prepare for climate shocks than to respond to their consequences.<sup>9</sup> ECD investments build adaptive capacity from the earliest stage of life, with returns that compound across generations.

**Third, intergenerational justice.** Climate change disproportionately burdens future generations.<sup>3</sup> Embedding ECD into climate strategies ensures adaptation plans invest in long-term solutions, not just immediate risk management.

## How ECD data can strengthen Climate Services

A wealth of child-focused data already exists, from UNICEF nutrition surveys and WHO health databases to national education monitoring systems,<sup>6,10</sup> yet this data is rarely integrated into climate forecasting models.<sup>17</sup>

Connecting these datasets could enable powerful new applications:

- **Malnutrition and drought forecasting:** Combining child stunting surveillance with drought projections could enable targeted food aid to be pre-positioned before crises reach their peak.
- **Heat exposure and infant health:** Linking neonatal health records with temperature anomaly data to shape caregiver early warning alerts.
- **Education continuity under extreme weather:** Linking disaster databases with school attendance records to pre-position climate-adaptive school infrastructure.
- **Air quality and respiratory health:** Integrating air pollution monitoring with paediatric health data to generate real-time alerts for young children.
- **Mental health and climate stressors:** Linking mental health surveillance data with climate disruption indicators to target psychosocial support for children and caregivers in highest-risk communities.

## What ECD brings to the table

Beyond data, ECD programmes offer structural assets that climate services often lack. Community-based ECD centres already serve as trusted entry points for families across health, education, and social protection, making them ideal platforms for disseminating climate information and delivering early warning alerts.<sup>4</sup>

Caregivers, preschool teachers, and community health workers are also frontline observers. Their daily contact with children generates hyperlocal data, such as rising heat-related illness or drops in attendance, that can complement and validate climate models.

There is also a strong argument for transdisciplinarity, bringing together scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and communities to co-produce solutions. Climate services have developed structures to do this across sectors; ECD stakeholders are well placed to engage and contribute child-centred expertise.

## Five entry points for integration

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### 1. Embedding ECD into Climate Services governance

Advocating for child-sensitive considerations in global and national climate frameworks, including through the [Global Framework for Climate Services and National Frameworks for Climate Services](#).

### 2. Linking ECD and climate information systems

Establishing data-sharing protocols between WMO, UNICEF, WHO and national ECD agencies; developing new child-specific vulnerability indices and climate thresholds.

### 3. Developing climate-sensitive ECD programmes

Incorporating climate risk screening into programme design and evaluation; developing climate-smart infrastructure standards for early learning centres.

### 4. Strengthening local climate services for families and caregivers

Ensuring climate information is accessible and actionable; using ECD delivery platforms to disseminate climate information; and supporting the co-development of localised, child-sensitive early warning alerts for families and ECD professionals.

### 5. Securing resources for joint ECD and climate services efforts

Have ECD and CS organisations develop joint funding proposals that position ECD as a core component of sustainable climate adaptation.

## Recommendations

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### For policymakers

- Mandate inclusion of child-sensitive indicators in National Frameworks for Climate Services and national adaptation plans.
- Promote inter-ministerial collaboration between climate, health, education, and social protection agencies to jointly track and respond to climate impacts on young children.

### For funders and philanthropic organisations

- Support pilot projects that integrate child-focused data with climate forecasting models and demonstrate proof of concept and cost-effectiveness at local or national level.
- Prioritise climate finance windows that explicitly include early childhood dimensions.

### For INGOs, local organisations, and ECD networks

- Engage with [Regional Climate Outlook Forums](#) and national meteorological agencies to advocate for child-sensitive advisories.
- Leverage existing ECD community networks - centres, health workers, parenting groups - as platforms for climate information dissemination, community monitoring, and frontline data collection.

## Conclusion

Climate services are becoming more sophisticated, but without a child-centred lens, they will continue to miss where risk begins. Integrating ECD into climate services shifts the focus from reacting to crises to anticipating their impact on the youngest lives. The opportunity is clear: to redesign climate action so it protects not only systems, but futures.

This article draws on a report developed as part of the [Early Childhood Development Action Network \(ECDAN\)](#)'s 4th cohort of [Knowledge Fellows](#), which explores how integrating ECD into climate services can strengthen climate adaptation efforts.



▶ Kids playing in a River. Mojowarno, Jombang Regency, East Java, Indonesia.  
© **Muhammad Alwi Rizqillah/Unsplash**

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# Financing a Climate-Resilient Future: Advancing Child-Centred ECD Policy in Kenya

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Climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern, it is a present and escalating crisis for young children, particularly in fragile and climate-vulnerable settings. Globally, nearly 1 billion children (almost half of the world's children) live in countries at extremely high risk from climate and environmental shocks.<sup>1</sup> In sub-Saharan Africa, recurrent droughts, floods, and food insecurity are intensifying risks to early childhood development (ECD), with long-term consequences for health, nutrition, and cognitive outcomes.

In Kenya, the situation is especially urgent. Approximately 12 million children face moderate to very high climate and disaster risk, including 2.4 million in counties classified as very high risk, and nearly 9 million exposed to drought and water scarcity.<sup>2</sup> These realities demand a shift from fragmented responses to integrated, child-centred climate policies and financing systems that prioritise early childhood resilience.

## Climate Risks and Early Childhood Vulnerability

Young children are disproportionately affected by climate shocks due to their physiological and developmental sensitivity. Exposure to extreme heat, malnutrition, water scarcity, and displacement can lead to lifelong deficits in physical growth, learning, and emotional wellbeing.

In the Horn of Africa, prolonged drought cycles have driven acute food insecurity, with millions of children under five facing stunting and wasting.<sup>3</sup> Climate-induced displacement further disrupts access to health services, early learning, and protective caregiving environments, core pillars of nurturing care.

Despite these risks, ECD remains underrepresented in climate policy and financing frameworks at both global and national levels.

## Policy Gaps in Kenya's Climate and ECD Landscape

Kenya has made progress in climate governance through instruments such as the Climate Change Act (2016) and National Climate Change Action Plans. However, explicit integration of ECD within climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction frameworks remains limited.

Key gaps include:

**Fragmented policy alignment** between climate, health, education, and social protection sectors

**Insufficient targeting of young children** in climate adaptation strategies

**Limited decentralised capacity** to implement child-responsive climate programmes at county level

**Weak data integration**, particularly linking climate risk data with child development indicators

This disconnect results in missed opportunities to protect children at the moments when early support matters most.

## Financing Challenges and Opportunities

Globally, climate finance flows remain largely focused on adult populations and physical infrastructure, with minimal allocation to child-sensitive sectors such as early childhood services.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, in Kenya, domestic budgets for ECD and climate adaptation often operate in silos, limiting their combined impact.

However, there are emerging opportunities to address these gaps:

- **Shock-responsive social protection systems**, such as Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme, can be expanded to include ECD-sensitive interventions during climate shocks
- **Child-centred climate finance tools**, including climate-tagged budgeting, can help track and prioritise investments benefiting young children
- **Blended financing models**, combining public, donor, and private sector resources, can scale innovative ECD solutions in climate hotspots

Evidence from similar contexts shows that integrating ECD into resilience programming improves outcomes across nutrition, education, and health systems.<sup>5</sup>

## Towards Integrated and Scalable Solutions

**To build climate-resilient ECD systems, Kenya must adopt a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. This includes:**

Embedding ECD priorities within national and county climate policies

Strengthening community-led adaptation strategies that support caregivers and local knowledge systems

Leveraging digital and climate data systems for early warning and targeted interventions

Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, such as heat-safe early learning spaces and water-secure health facilities

Importantly, solutions must be equity-driven, ensuring that marginalised populations, including pastoralist, arid, and refugee communities, are prioritised.



▶ In Kakuma, young children learn about climate action early as refugee leader Leani Kibingila leads a tree-planting activity through the Eco Camps initiative. © House of Hope Community

## Recommendations

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### For policymakers

Integrate ECD explicitly into climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and social protection policies. This includes developing child-sensitive climate indicators and ensuring alignment across national and county frameworks.

### For funders and philanthropic organisations

Increase dedicated financing for child-centred climate resilience, including support for scalable ECD interventions in high-risk regions. Adopt climate finance tracking mechanisms that prioritise early childhood outcomes.

### For INGOs, local organisations, and ECD networks

Strengthen the evidence base on climate–ECD linkages, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan African contexts where data gaps are most acute. Promote data integration across climate, health, and social systems to inform targeted, evidence-based interventions.

## Conclusion

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Climate change is fundamentally reshaping the environments in which children grow, learn, and thrive. Without urgent action, millions of young children in Kenya and across the Global South risk being left behind.

Investing in child-centred climate resilience is not only a moral imperative, it is a strategic one. By aligning policy frameworks, scaling innovative financing, and prioritising early childhood within climate action, Kenya can build a more resilient, equitable future for its youngest citizens.

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# Financing a Climate-Resilient and Biologically Protective Early Childhood Development System: Lessons from the Solomon Islands and Bangladesh



**Caroline Dusabe & Tahsina Taimur**, Save the Children

From 10-11 April 2026, Tropical Cyclone Maila (Category 5) hit Solomon Islands and parts of Papua New Guinea, destroying basic infrastructure and devastating communities. In Solomon Islands, 81 schools, including Early Childhood Centres (ECE) centres and health facilities, were destroyed, and hundreds of families experienced food shortages and displacement from their homes. Initial reports from the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) flagged an elevated risk of malaria and waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea. Due to their small size and dependence on adults for care and protection, young children are among the most affected in disasters. Additionally, the unique developmental needs of children are rarely fully considered in disaster responses.

This situation is not unique to Solomon Islands. Climate change-induced hazards, such as cyclones, flooding, extreme heat, and sea level rise, exacerbate

the challenges facing young children growing up in middle- and low-income countries. Globally, 17 million babies under the age of one breathe in toxic air, while flooding and other climate-related events affect the food security of 500 million children (UNICEF, 2017). Climate change-induced disruptions also affect caregivers' ability to provide care for their children. Stressed caregivers deprioritise high-quality, playful interactions with young children, and caregiver stress can also be transferred to children. Therefore, investment in climate-resilient Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) is emerging as an urgent issue. To address this challenge, Save the Children has been piloting the Climate Responsive ECCD Systems Thinking Approach (CRESTA). CRESTA proposes a seven-step process for community members and ECCD actors to work together to identify, design, pilot, and scale context-appropriate climate-resilient ECCD interventions.



▶ Save the Children team distributing food and other supplies to communities affected by TC Maila in April 2026 © Collin Leafasia/Save the Children

In Bangladesh, a CRESTA pilot was designed to strengthen the resilience of young children (0-8 years) and their caregivers in climate-vulnerable, low-income urban communities, particularly among Ready Made Garment (RMG) workers in areas such as Gazipur and Savar. The pilot responds to growing evidence that extreme heat, flooding, and pollution are significantly disrupting children's health, early learning, and development, while also affecting caregivers' livelihoods and capacity to provide nurturing care. Despite high awareness of climate risks, communities lack adequate institutional support, climate-ready infrastructure, and adaptive systems.

CRESTA introduces a systems-based model that integrates ECCD with health, nutrition, child protection, and livelihood support. The approach is structured around three pillars: (i) physical resilience through climate-proof learning environments and child health services; (ii) social resilience by strengthening caregiver capacity and ensuring learning continuity; and (iii) institutional resilience through multi-sectoral coordination among government, NGOs, and private sector actors.

**A key feature of the pilot is sustained parent sensitisation, translating climate awareness into practical caregiving actions.** The CRESTA pilot aims to demonstrate a scalable model for climate-responsive ECCD systems that safeguard children's development and well-being in Bangladesh's increasingly climate-stressed contexts.

In Solomon Islands, CRESTA will be used for co-designing the post-cyclone response, with an emphasis on strengthening recovery efforts and resilience against future disasters. Utilising a strengths-based approach, the design will incorporate traditional knowledge and community assets to deliver solutions that protect children's physical, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes. The design recognises the impact of climate disasters on the young bodies and developing brains of children and aims to offer a biologically protective system around the child and the restoration of high-quality and positive developmental conditions necessary for optimal child development.

But approaches like CRESTA are constrained by limited climate financing for ECCD, as major climate change programme funders often overlook children's specific development needs and vulnerabilities during disasters.

**Investing in building young children's climate resilience, including their emotional and psychosocial resilience, is an important step in supporting children's development and preserving human capital.**

Investment in early childhood development carries one of the highest returns on investment for any country. For every dollar invested in quality early childhood programmes, a country can average seven dollars in return on investment over time (Heckman, 2017). A recent advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) also puts responsibility and obligation on States to address the adverse impacts of climate change on the rights of children, including the right to health and education (ICJ, 2025). But States cannot do this alone. Multistakeholder efforts are needed to support government efforts, including through mainstreaming ECCD into National Climate Adaptation Plans.

#### Key Policy Asks:

- Allocate financing for a climate-resilient ECCD system, including earmarking specific funds for climate resilience and adaptation programmes in early childhood education centres
- Mainstream ECCD into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- Track and report the impacts of climate-induced disasters on young children with age and gender disaggregated data to inform age and developmentally appropriate responses

Targeted financing for a climate-resilient and biologically protective ECCD system can be used for the following and other climate mitigation and adaptation actions:

## Climate Resilient ECE Financing Areas of Work

Climate Proofing ECE and Health Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrofitting and constructing climate resilient ECE classrooms, playgrounds and Health centres using indigenous architecture</li> <li>• Solarisation of ECE and Health centres</li> <li>• Relocation of ECE centres from the sea front</li> <li>• Enhancing heat protective measures in ECE infrastructure designs</li> </ul>
Development and Implementation of Climate Change and Environmental Education Curriculum for ECE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum development</li> <li>• Development and distribution of children's books and other instructional materials on climate change and environmental education</li> <li>• Capacity building of teachers on new curriculum</li> </ul>
Development of Remote and Alternative Learning Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of remote and alternative learning modalities for periods of school closure and disaster induced learning disruption</li> </ul>
Disease Surveillance and Early Warning Systems for Climate Hazard Induced Disease Outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up of disease surveillance systems</li> <li>• Early and rapid disease response</li> <li>• Capacity building of teachers on hygiene and disease prevention</li> <li>• Risk communication and community engagement on common climate induced health hazards</li> </ul>
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in ECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHPSS services for teachers, health workers and parents/caregivers</li> <li>• Psychosocial First Aid training for teachers</li> <li>• Mainstream healing through the arts strategies in ECE classrooms</li> </ul>
Learning and Research on the Impacts of Climate Change on ECCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and documentation of the impacts of climate change on ECCD environments</li> <li>• Utilisation of research for policy and planning purposes</li> </ul>

Table 1: Climate Resilient ECCD Financing Areas of Work

## Conclusion

Children contribute the least to climate change, yet they are affected now and will inherit its impacts in the future. Funding and implementing national climate-resilient ECCD programmes would help ensure that we are doing all that we can to protect young children, their futures, and the future of all humanity. Financing a climate-resilient and biologically protective ECCD system is not only a just but also a right investment to preserve human capital and ensure a sustainable future for all.

## References

- <sup>1</sup><https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/12/638402-millions-babies-mostly-south-asia-risk-brain-damage-breathing-toxic-air-unicef>
- <sup>2</sup><https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/the-climate-responsive-early-childhood-care-and-development-eccd-systems-thinking-approach-cresta>
- <sup>3</sup>Heckman, J. J. (2017). *There's more to gain by taking a comprehensive approach to early childhood development*. Chicago: The Heckman Equation. [http://www.fundingthenextgeneration.org/nextgenwp/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/F\\_Heckman\\_CBAOnePager\\_120516.pdf](http://www.fundingthenextgeneration.org/nextgenwp/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/F_Heckman_CBAOnePager_120516.pdf)
- <sup>4</sup>Save the Children (2024). *The Climate Responsive Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Systems Thinking Approach (CRESTA)*. <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/the-climate-responsive-early-childhood-care-and-development-eccd-systems-thinking-approach-cresta>
- <sup>5</sup>The International Court of Justice (2025). *Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change*. <https://icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20250723-adv-01-00-en.pdf>
- <sup>6</sup>UNICEF (2017). *17 million babies under 1 year old breathe toxic air; the majority live in South Asia*. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/babies-breathe-toxic-air-south-asia>

# A Sustainable Early Education and Development System (SEEDS)

## Eight steps to climate adaptation and mitigation

**Dr. Joan Lombardi**, Director, Early Opportunities Initiative

Young children and families are feeling the impact of climate change all around the world. Through no fault of their own, young children are growing up in communities facing extreme weather events, including heatwaves, hurricanes, flooding, and air pollution, with long-term consequences for their health, nutrition, and early learning. Millions upon millions of children are already experiencing harmful impacts on their health, nutrition and early learning. The early childhood community, along with parents, youth and community partners can raise awareness and call for immediate action, improved policies and increased investments.

**The Sustainable Early Education and Development System (SEEDS) is a framework that can be used at the local, national or global level to help integrate early childhood into climate adaptation plans and to begin to think more about mitigation.** The framework encompasses eight strategies organised into two categories. The first directly supports children and the adults in their lives, covering nurturing care, integration of nature, workforce preparation, and family support. The second builds more sustainable infrastructure, including facility strengthening, community planning, financing and policy partnerships, and research and data collection. This framework can be used to help programmes and communities to think through the ways they can link early childhood services to environmental issues.



## Focusing on children and adults in their lives

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1.

### **Supporting nurturing care**

Young children need care that promotes healthy development and builds resilience throughout the early years. This becomes even more important for children facing adverse conditions brought on by climate change. Every child should be assured of the five core elements of nurturing care: health, nutrition, safety and security, responsive caregiving and early learning.

2.

### **Integrating nature and sustainability into early childhood**

Providing opportunities for children to interact and understand the natural world should be a core element of early childhood services. An increasing body of evidence indicates that interactions with nature in the early years promote curiosity and healthy development. Nature classrooms, outdoor learning, and practices that promote sustainability can provide the core content in early learning curriculum. Healthy foods, kitchen gardens and farm to table initiatives should be integrated into all early childhood programmes.

3.

### **Workforce preparation and support**

The early childhood workforce (including teachers, home visitors, community health workers and many others) provides essential support to young children and families. Too often, early childhood workers go unrecognised and under-resourced. This undermines their ability to provide nurturing care and respond to the increasing demands of heat and other extreme weather. They need resources and increased capacity to respond, to prepare for emergencies, and to integrate sustainability into their programmes.

4.

### **Family support and action**

Extreme weather events take a toll on family life. Parents feel stress and worry about the impact on their children. They wonder how to respond and increasingly are not prepared for the displacement that might occur. They need the time, resources and information to assure the social and economic security of their families, as well as to better understand how to help their children and their communities live a more environmentally friendly life and take action on policies that put them at risk.

## Securing the foundation for Success

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5.

### Facility strengthening

Early Childhood centers and family childcare homes provide a web of support for children and families in neighborhoods everywhere. Providing resources for improved facilities is a critical step to ensure they are strong, clean and healthy enough to meet the demands of a changing climate and to protect children from environmental hazards. Schools and childcare facilities also provide critical support during emergencies and must be equipped and prepared to respond.

6.

### Community planning

No single programme or group of families can face the issues of a changing climate alone. Communities across the country and around the world are developing climate adaptation plans, integrating nature and energy efficiency and increasing efforts to reduce carbon emissions and address other environmental risks. The early childhood community should play a central role in these planning processes, by partnering with other groups, and raising issues faced by young children and families.

7.

### Financing and policy partnerships

The major challenge of the climate crisis is changing policies that are directly related to environmental protection and the financing that supports clean and renewable energy. These are topics that may feel distant from the daily work of child development professionals. This is why partnerships between environmental groups and early childhood groups are essential. We know what young children need; we see the impact of heat, rising waters, air pollution, storms and other weather events. Together our voices are stronger as we build on the various perspectives and expertise needed to make real change.

8.

### Research and data collection

There is increasing data about climate change and children- from individual stories, to reports from parents, to measuring pollution levels which are taken in by the lungs of young children at their most vulnerable stage. We need more researchers to document impact, evaluate solutions, and integrate what is known about children's developmental status with the climate patterns that affect them. By documenting and disseminating this information, we have a better chance of convincing others that it is in the best interest of all of us to move to a more sustainable future.



## Building Momentum for Early Childhood in Crisis

Across the Moving Minds Alliance, 2026 is proving to be a year of real momentum; from landmark publications and new country-level coalitions to expanded journalist networks and a growing community of researchers. We are delighted to share these highlights with our partners and invite your continued collaboration.



### i. MMA Reconnect 2026 - You're Invited

29 July 2026 | 1:30-4:00 PM (UK Time) | Virtual via Zoom

MMA Reconnect 2026 is our open-house gathering, and this year we are expanding it to welcome not only MMA members but also strategic partners and aligned networks like yours. It is an opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and identify ways to collaborate to strengthen advocacy for the early years.

Attendees will join one of three parallel advocacy workshops:

- **Measuring Advocacy Impact:** How do you know your advocacy is working?
- **Advocacy Tools for Influence:** Building champions, shaping key messages, and strengthening coalitions.
- **Media & Journalism for Advocacy:** Meaningfully engaging journalists as co-advocates for ECD in crisis settings.

This meeting will be conducted in English, with translations available in Arabic, French and Spanish.

[Click here to register and select your preferred workshop](#)

## ii. Strengthening Partnerships & Advocacy Tools

Our partnership and advocacy workstreams have been consolidating their efforts, with Project Teams 1 and 2 recently merging into a unified Global Advocacy and Partnership Team. This brings together global engagement, contextualised advocacy tools, and equitable partnership frameworks under one collaborative roof.

### a. Ethical Partnership Framework - Now Published

A major milestone: the [Ethical Guide for Equitable Partnership](#) with local and refugee-led organisations is now publicly available. The guide sets out a five-step Capacity-Sharing Cycle and addresses funding equity, decision-making power, and community-led programming. It is designed for INGOs, UN agencies, donors, governments, and local actors alike. We encourage you to share it widely.

### b. Advocacy Resources - Growing Collectively

The Alliance is building a live, community-powered advocacy infrastructure. Our refreshed website is currently in progress. When it launches, it will feature:

- A Global Advocacy Messaging Bank, co-created with members across diverse contexts
- A Calendar of Advocacy Events spanning Nigeria, Syria, Colombia, and beyond, with opportunities to add events from your region or globally
- Additional tools and resources to strengthen advocacy for early childhood development in crisis settings.

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## iii. Country-Level Progress: Nigeria, Syria & Colombia

The Alliance has deepened its engagement in three priority countries, with new financial analysis documents and coalition infrastructure underway.

- **Nigeria:** We are pleased to welcome [Arome Agenyi](#) as our new Coalition Coordinator. Arome brings a demonstrated commitment to locally led advocacy, deep expertise in power dynamics, and experience with Sterling One, Plan International, and ActionAid. The Nigeria Domestic Financial Analysis of ECD in Crisis is also now available. You can download the [Full Report](#), [Factsheet](#) and [Policy Brief](#).

- **Syria and Colombia:** Both country profiles, Domestic Financial Analysis of ECD in Crisis, have been completed, with Arabic and Spanish translations underway and will be shared soon

## iv. Generating and Promoting Knowledge for Policy

### a. Research Fellowship: Bridging Evidence and Policy

The 2025–2026 Research Fellowship Programme is in its final stages. This cohort's Fellows have conducted research on climate change, early childhood development in crisis, and mental health. Over the coming months, we will publish their findings alongside dedicated policy briefs and a compendium report. In the meantime, have a look at the [Compendium Report from the previous cohort](#)

We are also excited to announce that the 2026–2027 Fellowship cohort has launched, with Fellows representing 10 countries: Argentina, Nigeria, Malawi, Ethiopia, Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

### b. REACH Network - Journalism for Advocacy

The REACH (Reporters for Early Childhood in Humanitarian Crisis) Network continues to expand its reach. This year, we are partnering with 10 investigative journalists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the DRC, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Venezuela, and Yemen to produce advocacy stories that amplify the voices of children and caregivers in crisis.

This builds on a [successful first cohort](#) spanning India, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, and Sudan. We have also published the [Early Childhood Journalism Handbook](#) as a practical resource for journalists working in humanitarian settings.

In collaboration with [LBE Uganda](#), we have recently launched a country chapter of the REACH Network in Uganda. If you would like to connect with any of the REACH journalists, explore partnering to set up a country chapter, or share resources to enhance their contextual reporting, please contact [lola.ayanda@movingmindsalliance.org](mailto:lola.ayanda@movingmindsalliance.org).

### c. Early Evidence Podcast **New Episode Out Now, Episode 3, Part 1**

How can we better support children's mental health in crisis settings? In this new episode, we explore mental health and psychosocial support through frontline perspectives, highlighting what truly works to protect and nurture children's wellbeing in fragile contexts.

Hosted by [Jamila Razzak](#) (MMA Expert Advisory Group), with insights from [Grace Boutros](#) (Amna Refugee Healing Network) and [Muneera Rasheed](#) (ECD & Mental Health Practitioner, Pakistan), the conversation brings together practical tools, lived experience, and critical reflections from the field.

- Released on 3 June 2026
- Listen: <https://youtu.be/1XB4hLUce90>
- See a summary transcript of the discussion [here](#)
- Help amplify these insights. Ready-to-use messaging is available [here](#) for sharing with your networks.

We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to building on this momentum together.

[The Moving Minds Alliance Core Team](#)

## Featured Resources

Type	Year of Publication	Publisher	Link/Title
Policy Brief	2026	Moving Minds Alliance (MMA)	<a href="#">Financing ECD in Crisis in Nigeria: From Fiscal Invisibility to Child-Level Results</a>
Factsheet	2026	MMA	<a href="#">Financing ECD in Crisis Settings in Nigeria: A Factsheet for Journalists and Advocates</a>
Blog	2026	MMA/Van Leer Foundation (VLF)	<a href="#">The Multigenerational Legacy We Can All Be Part Of</a>
Podcast	2026	MMA	<a href="#">MHPSS and SEL in Crisis Contexts – Local Practice, Tools, and Learning</a>
Report	2026	MMA/Whole Child Advisors	<a href="#">Financing Analysis of ECD in Crisis in Nigeria</a>
Guide	2026	MMA	<a href="#">Ethical Framework for Building Equitable Partnerships with RLOs and LLOs</a>
Blog	2026	VLF	<a href="#">Breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma in crisis zones</a>
Blog	2026	Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs	<a href="#">Researchers, negotiators, and policymakers convene at Yale to advance the science of peace</a>
Report	2026	MMA	<a href="#">Moving Minds Alliance 2025 Annual Report</a>
Webinar	2026	MMA/Results Canada	<a href="#">Nurturing Futures Webinar EP4: Uniting Sectors for Holistic Early Childhood Development in Crises</a>
Handbook	2026	MMA	<a href="#">Early Childhood Journalism Handbook</a>
Webinar	2026	MMA/ChildArise	<a href="#">Film Screening: When Children Speak, We Learn</a>
Bulletin	2026	MMA	<a href="#">Alliance Post ECD + Nutrition Edition</a>
Guide	2025	Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN)	<a href="#">Opportunities for ECD within Climate Financing</a>
Coffee Table Book	2025	ARNEC	<a href="#">Coffee Table Book - Resilient Futures</a>
Toolkit	2025	ARNEC	<a href="#">A Toolkit for Communication and Advocacy on Early Childhood Development and Climate Change</a>
Brief	2024	ECDAN	<a href="#">At a Glance: Climate Change and Young Children</a>

## Upcoming Sector Events

July 7 – 15,  
2026

UN DESA / ECOSOC

### [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\) 2026](#)

**Location:** UN Headquarters, New York, USA

The central UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Convenes government delegations, UN agencies, civil society, and development actors for high-level policy dialogue and Voluntary National Reviews. Essential for any organisation working on development policy, child rights, or humanitarian advocacy.

➔ [Learn more on the HLPF website](#)

July 29  
2026

1:30 –  
4:00 PM  
UK Time

Moving Minds Alliance (MMA)

### [MMA Reconnect 2026 - Open House & Advocacy Workshops](#)

**Location:** Virtual | Via Zoom

MMA Reconnect 2026 is an open house gathering designed to strengthen collective momentum across the Moving Minds Alliance and beyond. This year, the event expands its reach to welcome not only MMA members but also strategic partners and aligned networks, bringing a wider community of advocates together to connect, exchange, and act.

Attendees will choose one of three parallel breakout workshops:

- Workshop 1: Measuring advocacy impact - How do you know your advocacy is working?
- Workshop 2: How to use advocacy tools to influence states and funders? Building champions, key messaging, and coalition building.
- Workshop 3: Media & Journalism for Advocacy - How can we meaningfully engage journalists as co-advocates for ECD in crisis settings?

➔ [Register and select your preferred workshop via Zoom](#)

August  
24 – 26,  
2026

### [DIHAD 2026 - Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition](#)

**Location:** Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE

The world's leading humanitarian aid and development event in the MENA region.

This 22nd edition brings together 20,000+ attendees from 160+ countries, including UN agencies, NGOs, government bodies, and the private sector. The 2026 theme explores the 'humanitarian reset' and examines what structural transformation means for the sector. Features 200+ speakers, workshops, and a major exhibition.

➔ [Learn more on the DIHAD website](#)

September  
8 – 28,  
2026

High-Level Debate opens 22 September | UN General Assembly

### [UNGA 81 - High-Level General Debate](#)

**Location:** UN Headquarters, New York, USA

The UN's annual convening of heads of state and world leaders. The High-Level General Debate in late September sets the global policy agenda for peace, development, and human rights. Hundreds of side events, civil society gatherings, and advocacy sessions are held throughout New York during this period, making it a key moment for INGO and NGO visibility and engagement.

➔ [Visit the UN General Assembly website for side event information](#)

October  
21 – 23,  
2026

International Step by Step Association (ISSA)

### [ISSA Conference 2026 - Advancing Integrated Early Childhood Systems](#)

**Location:** Lisbon, Portugal | Pre-conference events: October 21

A landmark gathering for the global early childhood field, co-hosted by ISSA, the Learning for Well-Being Institute, and APEI, in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation, the OECD WISE Centre, and Act for Early Years. This year's theme centres on advancing integrated early childhood systems that place every child's wellbeing at the heart of coordinated action across sectors, disciplines, and services. Building on 25+ years of convening diverse ECD voices, ISSA Conference 2026 is also an official event on the journey to the first-ever International Finance Summit for Early Childhood in 2027. The 2024 edition drew 450 professionals from 50+ countries.

➔ [Register & learn more on the ISSA Conference 2026 website](#)

October  
21 – 22,  
2026

### [AidEx Geneva 2026 & Development 2030](#)

**Location:** Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland | FREE to attend

The world's largest annual event for humanitarian aid and development, 3,000+ delegates from 80+ countries. 2026 theme: 'Beyond Delivering More with Less, Leveraging Innovation, Partnerships and new financing models to transform humanitarian delivery.' Co-located with Development2030, examining the future beyond the SDGs. All conference sessions, networking reception, and exhibition are free. Delegates include UN agencies, Red Cross, local and international NGOs, donors, and the private sector.

➔ [Register FREE on the AidEx website - registration opens closer to the date](#)

November  
9 – 20,  
2026

World Leaders' Summit: November 11 – 12 | UNFCCC

### [COP31 - UN Climate Change Conference 2026](#)

**Location:** Antalya Expo Center, Antalya, Türkiye

The 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. Hosted by Türkiye with Australia as COP31 President of Negotiations. Features official climate negotiations, the Leaders' Summit, country pavilion presentations, thematic days (including on climate and humanitarian crises), and hundreds of civil society side events. A critical moment for NGO advocacy on climate, displacement, and child welfare. The Green Zone is open to civil society, the private sector, and academia.

➔ [Register via the UNFCCC website - organisations can apply for pavilion space \(EOI closes 18 June 2026\)](#)

December  
5 – 8,  
2026

NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children)

### [NAEYC Centennial Annual Conference 2026](#)

**Location:** Walter E. Washington Convention Centre, Washington, DC, USA

NAEYC's landmark centennial conference, celebrating 100 years of early childhood education. Various sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities across research, policy, and practice for ECD professionals globally. Registration opens July 2026.

➔ [Visit NAEYC website - registration opens July 2026](#)

# Opportunities

## Jobs, Grants & Fellowships

Deadline

June 19 2026	<p><b>Grand Challenges Canada</b> • Permanent, Full-Time</p> <p><a href="#">Manager Learning and Reporting</a></p> <p>The Manager, Learning and Reporting, will support the Senior Director, Policy in delivering the 2026 Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) Policy Framework, with particular focus on learning and reporting.</p> <p><a href="#">Learn more</a></p>
June 19 2026	<p><b>Grand Challenges Canada</b> • Permanent, Full-Time</p> <p><a href="#">Manager, Strategy</a></p> <p>The manager will be responsible for providing strategic support in executing the CSPO's vision and ensuring the smooth functioning of the strategy team. The role will also be shaped in large part by the manager's individual preference and the working relationship between the manager and the CSPO.</p> <p><a href="#">Learn more</a></p>
June 21 2026	<p><b>Moving Minds Alliance</b> • Damascus preferred, other cities considered</p> <p><a href="#">Syria National Coordinator Consultancy</a></p> <p>The national coordinator consultant will be responsible for supporting the National Syria coalition in developing, implementing, and achieving its future advocacy strategy, and for developing the structure and processes underpinning the work.   <a href="#">Learn more</a></p>
15 July 2026	<p><b>Jerusalem Fund</b> • Up to \$5,000 • NGOs eligible</p> <p><a href="#">Grants for Humanitarian Assistance to Palestinians</a></p> <p>Small grants of up to \$5,000 to support humanitarian relief, education, community development, and cultural preservation for Palestinian communities.   <a href="#">Learn more</a></p>
26 July 2026	<p><b>Ford Philanthropy</b> • Global • Fully funded</p> <p><a href="#">2026 Ford Philanthropy Fellowship</a></p> <p>Fully funded programme for entrepreneurs and community leaders driving social impact. Provides training in leadership, business skills, and community development with mentorship and a global network.</p> <p><a href="#">Learn more</a></p>
27 July 2026	<p><b>Atlantic Fellows</b> • International • Fully funded</p> <p><a href="#">Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity 2027 - Indigenous &amp; Pacific Leaders</a></p> <p>Leadership development programme for Indigenous and Pacific leaders advancing community-driven social change initiatives.   <a href="#">Learn more</a></p>
31 Dec 2026	<p><b>Aurora Humanitarian Initiative</b> • Rolling • Global</p> <p><a href="#">Aurora Research Grants: Empowering Grassroots Humanitarians</a></p> <p>Supports in-depth research on grassroots humanitarians working in conflict-affected and crisis settings worldwide. Open to researchers and civil society organisations.   <a href="#">Learn more</a></p>

**Note:** Deadlines are indicative and subject to change. Always verify on the official organisation website before applying.

**Compiled:** June 2026.

Triannual Bulletin

# ALLIANCE POST

Reimagining Early Years Crisis Response

**Cover photo:** Flooding caused by heavy seasonal rains has submerged makeshift shelters in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip, highlighting how climate driven weather extremes exacerbate risks for people living in displacement ©Hassan Jedi/Anadolu/IRC



SCAN TO SEND US FEEDBACK



Concept and Production: Lola Ayanda

Design: Odunmbaku Olagoke

Website: [movingmindsalliance.org](https://movingmindsalliance.org)

Linkedin: Moving Minds Alliance

X: MovingMindsECD

Youtube: MovingMindsAllianceECD

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Moving Minds Alliance is a multi-stakeholder alliance advocating for early childhood development in every crisis response, leveraging the strengths of diverse actors from the local to the global.

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We invite you to contribute photos, articles, and think pieces to the next edition. Please contact us at [comms@movingmindsalliance.org](mailto:comms@movingmindsalliance.org) to share your content or ideas.