



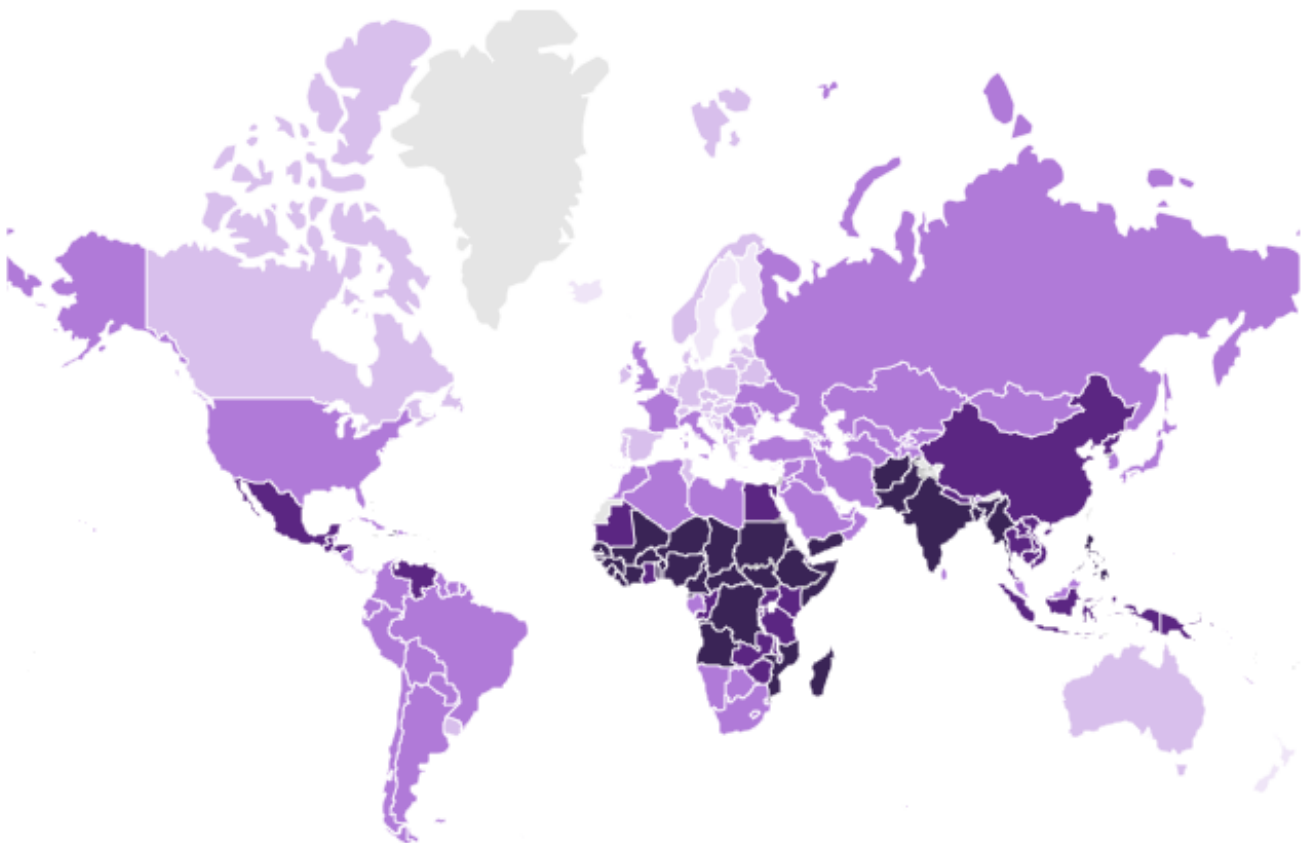
Children's Climate Risk Index: UNICEF

Why in News

Recently, the [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) in collaboration with [Fridays for Future](#) launched a report named '**The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index**'.

- It is the **first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective**.
- Earlier an analysis, based on [Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative \(ND-GAIN\) index](#), had shown the impact of [Climate Change](#) on children across the world.

Level of Climate Risk on Various Countries



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● Extremely High ● High ● Medium-High ● Low-Medium ● Low ● No data

Key Points

- **Children's Climate Risk Index:**

- It **ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks**, such as [Cyclones](#) and [Heatwaves](#), as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.
- **Pakistan** (14th), **Bangladesh** (15th), **Afghanistan** (25th) and **India** (26th) are among four South Asian countries where children are at **extremely high risk** of the impacts of the climate crisis.

▪ **Indian Scenario:**

- **India is among four South Asian countries** where children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their health, education, and protection.
- It is estimated that **more than 600 million Indians will face 'acute water shortages'** in the coming years, while at the same time [Flash Flooding](#) is to **increase significantly** in the majority of India's urban areas once the global temperature increase rises above 2 Celsius.

- Twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the most polluted air in 2020 were in India.

▪ **Global Scenario:**

◦ **Countries With Maximum Vulnerability:**

- Young people living in the **Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau** are the most at risk of the impacts of climate change.
- These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with **a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education.**

◦ **Impact of Climate and Environmental Hazards:**

- Nearly every child around the world is at risk from at least one of the climate and environmental hazards which are [Coastal Flooding](#), [Riverine Flooding](#), [Cyclones](#), [Vector Borne Diseases](#), [Lead Pollution](#), [Heatwaves](#) and [Water Scarcity](#).

- An estimated 850 million children - 1 in 3 worldwide - live in **areas where at least four of these climate and environmental shocks overlap.**
- As many as 330 million children - 1 in 7 worldwide - live in **areas affected by at least five major shocks.**

◦ **Inequitable Impact:**

- There is a disconnect between **where** [GreenHouse gas \(GHG\) Emissions](#) are generated, and **where children are enduring the most** significant climate-driven impacts.

- The children from **countries least responsible will suffer most of all.**

- Climate change is deeply inequitable. While **no child is responsible for rising global temperatures, they will pay the highest costs.**

◦ **Children are More Precarious:**

- Compared to adults, children require more food and water per unit of their body weight, are less able to survive extreme weather events, and are **more susceptible to toxic chemicals, temperature changes and diseases, among other factors.**

◦ **Nations Not Meeting the Climate Goals:**

- The majority of the carbon emission reduction pledges for 2030 that 184 countries made under the [Paris Agreement](#) aren't nearly enough to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- Some countries won't achieve their pledges, and **some of the world's largest carbon emitters will continue to increase their emissions.**

▪ Recommendations:

◦ Increase Investment:

- Increase **investment in climate adaptation and resilience** in key services for children.

◦ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- Countries must cut their emissions **by at least 45% (compared to 2010 levels) by 2030 to keep warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.**

◦ Provide Climate Education:

- Provide children with **climate education and greens skills**, critical for their adaptation to and preparation for the effects of climate change.

◦ Include Young People in Decisions:

- Include young people in all national, regional and international climate negotiations and decisions, including at [COP \(Conference of the Parties- A climate Convention\) 26](#) (It will be held in Glasgow, UK in November 2021).

◦ Ensure Pandemic Recovery is Inclusive:

- Ensure the **recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic is green**, low-carbon and inclusive, so that the capacity of future generations to address and respond to the climate crisis is not compromised.

Way Forward

▪ Meet the Goal:

- In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, **global net man-made emissions of carbon dioxide must be nearly halved by 2030**, and reach **[“net zero” by 2050.](#)**

▪ Scale up Social Protection System:

- Scale up **adaptive and shock-responsive social protection systems** – such as grants for pregnant mothers and children - to **address the increasing impacts of climate change on children and their families.**

▪ United approach towards child rights:

- More countries need to work towards their commitment in the **[Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)** to ensure every child is protected from poverty, for example by providing universal child benefits to improve children’s well-being and build resilience.

[Source: DTE](#)