

E) MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

How climate change can drive the institutionalisation of children



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The accelerating climate crisis is already **hitting the world's most vulnerable hardest**. It puts livelihoods at risk and increases economic precariousness. It leads to greater insecurity, food insecurity, scarcity of water and greater internal and external migration. These factors **increase pressure on families and the vulnerability of children to becoming institutionalised**.

As the climate crisis hits, **communities are weakened**. Weakened communities are less resilient and able to support families in difficulty. Domestic violence and violence against children thrive as the social fabric is put under pressure and systems break down.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL



By building the capabilities and resilience of families and communities, and addressing the root causes of family separation, the care reform process will contribute to the delivery of SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

The role of climate change in the care reform process

Governments are under increasing pressure to respond to the immediate impact of the crisis. In this context, long-term planning and structural processes such as care reform may be deprioritised, which only leads to further weakening of the capacity to adapt to climate change. It is vital that **funding is not redirected from issues of child protection or social protection, as strengthening family and community resilience is critical to climate change adaptation strategies**.

A key role of the care reform process is to build sustainable, resilient communities that are better able to withstand the climate pressure to come. In this case, by strengthening child protection systems and building social protection systems we can create healthy, stable environments for children, even when the external environment is under threat.

Care reform won't address the root causes of climate change, but it contributes to measures to protect communities against the impact of climate change through specific elements of crisis/disaster preparedness and response.

Global initiatives to tackle climate change must keep sight of the need for a **people-centred and human rights-based approach**. Investing in a process that puts children and families at the heart of resilient communities should form an integral part of any effort to fight climate change.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS: CLIMATE CHANGE

- ♥ Ensure that modelling and predictions around the impact of climate change include an assessment of the effect on communities, families and children. Use this analysis to prioritise the development of ways to build the capabilities and resilience of families, strengthen the adaptability of communities, and prevent institutionalisation – ensure this is linked into emergency preparedness and response activities (See section 2.3d)
- ♥ Ensure the care reform process assesses the potential impact of climate change on social, economic and environmental forces, and how they may be compounded by existing stigma and discrimination in the system. This is likely to impact on the child protection risks that children face. Use this insight to develop services that can address these challenges and keep children under the protective support of a family.