



Save the  
Children

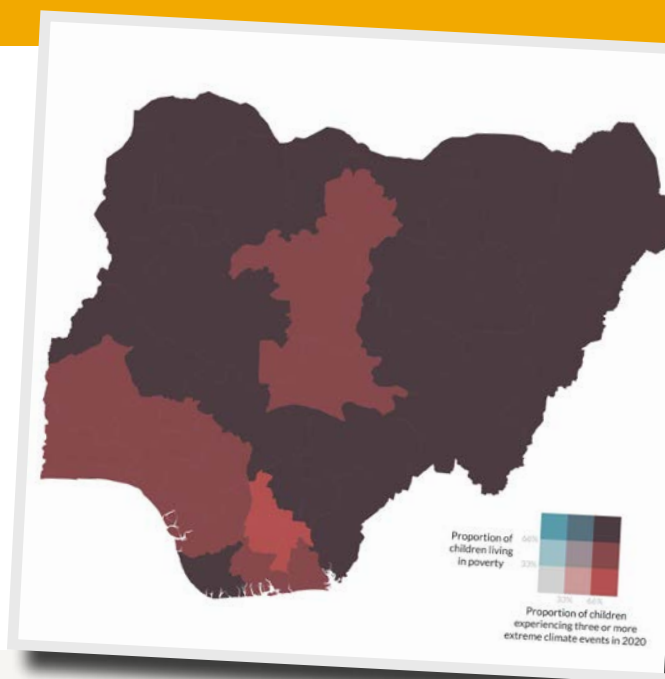


## Tackling the climate and inequality crisis for children Nigeria Data Snapshot

### Introduction

The children in Nigeria are immensely impacted by the effects of climate change including exposure to air pollution, coastal floods, droughts, heat waves and other extreme weather conditions. Several situations in the country like internal conflict/insecurity, hikes in food prices, health and nutrition crisis, and inadequate access to education further compound these problems.

With all this in mind, it is not surprising that Nigeria ranked 2nd out of 163 countries with an 8.5 [Extremely High] risk rating, according to the Children's Climate Risk Index (UNICEF 2021). However, it is important to act now to prevent this from getting worse to ensure that Nigerian children are adequately protected, can learn in safe environment, and survive.



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**I witnessed a flood and saw a very small girl crying because her house was washing away; I was crying too. I could not do anything so I prayed to God to have mercy, I wished I could have helped her.**

10 - year-old, child

Children living  
in poverty:

65%



Children affected  
by climate risk:

86%



Children affected by  
both poverty and climate:

56% (58 million)

# 1

## Are Nigeria's climate policies sufficiently ambitious & focused on children?

The Nigerian government outlined its commitment to climate action in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The country's NDCs include a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2030, with an ambition to further reduce emissions by 45% if adequate international support is provided. The Nigeria Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (NCCPRS) was approved as a result, its main goal is to support low-carbon, high-growth economic development and create a climate-resilient society.

The Nigerian government has also taken steps to enhance climate resilience for vulnerable communities, a particularly critical area of reform in a country characterised by significant economic inequality. The Climate Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Security aims to boost sustainable agriculture practices, improve food systems, and enhance nutrition standards for the most vulnerable communities.

Unfortunately, the country is one of the least funded when it comes to climate finance provisions, despite its potential for carbon reduction activities and the vulnerability of its people especially children to climate impacts. The government alone may not provide the needed funding, and private-sector involvement is required, however, the private sector in Nigeria is yet to recognize climate change as a risk factor.

Is the NDC child-sensitive?	Child Sensitive
Does the NDC identify children as a vulnerable group?	Yes
Is the NDC rights-based (human rights and intergenerational justice)?	Yes

Does Nigeria have a Net Zero target?
YES: 2060, in policy document.
Are Nigeria's climate policies sufficiently ambitious?
SOMEWHAT: Rated Almost Sufficient by climateactiontracker.org



Farmers cannot harvest their crops because of flooding; some had to borrow money to plant crops and are now in poverty" - 14-year-old, girl

# 2

## Is Nigeria investing in children and ensuring no child is left behind?

Nigeria has recognized the importance of investing in its children and has taken steps to ensure that the future of the country is secured through the development of its young children especially through education. The government has implemented various initiatives such as the Girl-Child Education Program, Education Trust Fund, the National Program on Immunization, and the National Malaria Control Program aimed at improving health and quality education to children. More so, at the subnational levels, most states have undertaken steps to adopt and implement child protection laws including setting systems, structures and funding for implementation. Education at public schools is subsidized and there are pockets of free maternal and child health care in some states, e.g. Jigawa state. Despite these investments, approximately 54 % of children in Nigeria are multidimensionally poor, facing at least three deprivations across seven dimensions of child rights including nutrition, healthcare, and education (source: Multidimensional Child Poverty Analysis using Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis). This analysis reveals that more work is needed to improve the lives of children.

	Is progress inclusive?	Are all groups on track to meet the SDG target?
Stunting (SDG2)	X	X No group
Under-five mortality (SDG 3)	X	X No group
Out-of-school, primary (SDG 4)	✓	X No group
Child marriage (SDG 5)	X	X No group

SPENDING ON SOCIAL SECTORS (% GDP)		
Health	Education	Social protection
0.5%	3%	0%



In the dry seasons, the cost of living becomes hard so people are able to eat for just two days and turn to crime to find the money to eat. - 12-year-old boy

# 3

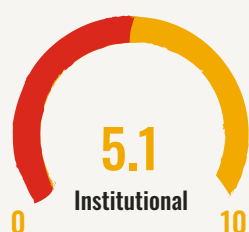
## Is Nigeria doing enough to protect and support children affected by crisis?



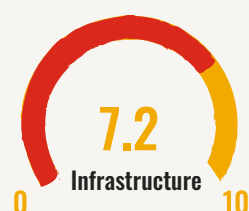
Nigerian children continue to suffer the impact of crises. A protracted conflict has been raging in North-East Nigeria for 12 years now and has caused, directly and indirectly, the deaths of about 350,000 people. Children younger than five account for some 324,000 of these deaths, more than nine out of 10 of those killed, with 170 dying every day (UNDP, 2021). Thousands of children in the region have been killed, maimed, abducted, displaced, and experienced multiple violations of their human rights. Even though the government is making effort to curb the crisis in the country, a lot more needs to be done for the children.

### DATA ON LEVEL OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

**Inform** Index - lack of coping capacity (0 is best score, 10 worst)



**Institutional capacity** includes Disaster Risk Reduction and Governance



**Infrastructure** includes communication, physical infrastructure, access to health systems

#### DOES NIGERIA HAVE CHILD-SENSITIVE CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANS?

Does the NDC have child-sensitive adaptation commitments for:

	<b>Health</b>	No
	<b>Food Security and Nutrition</b>	No
	<b>Education</b>	Yes
	<b>Social Protection</b>	No

# 4

## Are children's rights to be heard and participate in decision making upheld?

Increased participation of children in issues affecting their lives can have positive and far-reaching effects on their health and socio-economic conditions. The Federal Government inaugurated the Children's Parliament in 2003 to enhance children's participation. Since then, 26 States have inaugurated children's parliaments. The main challenge is to make these Parliaments truly representative of the broad categories of Nigerian children, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

#### CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE POLICY MAKING

<b>NDC process was overall inclusive and participatory</b>	Yes
<b>NDC recognises children as drivers of change</b>	No

**Civic space** Civic space refers to the environment that enables civil society to enjoy freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, and expression; it requires respect in policy, law, and practice to protect these fundamental rights. An open and pluralistic civic space is a prerequisite condition for making development and peace sustainable.

**CIVICUS Measure of civic space.**

Repressed



## Is Nigeria receiving sufficient support to tackle the climate & inequality crisis?

There are many obstacles that are limiting the money available domestically to spend on children. Fuel subsidies amounted to over one-quarter of all revenue raised in 2022 and are expected to continue to be a significant cost. With rising fuel prices, the Federal Government has been forced to borrow to meet commitments on marginally increasing spending on health, education, and social protection. Interest payments on this debt are likely to continue to rise and constrain fiscal space to invest into children in the longer term; a growing trend amongst lower-and-middle-income countries. There is an essential need for urgent reform that will close the financial gap to deliver national development plans and meet SDG targets.

Nigeria is a signatory to international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and has accessed climate finance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). International organizations and NGOs are also providing support to Nigeria. For instance, the World Bank is supporting Nigeria's renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Oxfam is implementing programs to empower women and promote climate-resilient agriculture in Nigeria.

Overall, while Nigeria still faces significant challenges in addressing climate change and inequality issues, it is receiving support from various sources to address these challenges.

**Between 2016 to 2020, high-income countries committed to provide only \$0.09 per person per year in adaptation finance to Nigeria.**

**This paled in comparison to the estimated \$12.20 per person per year that Sub-Saharan Africa needs for adaptation by 2020.**



### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT:

- Prioritise implementation of the Nigeria Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (NCCPRS) with ensuring adequate financing by intersectoral collaboration.
- Climate Action should be child-led and emphasis should be placed on children's protection, learning and survival.
- Child participation in climate issues should include the most marginalized and vulnerable children especially those living in hard to reach communities.
- Ensure more funding is made available to expand coverage through social protection, social safety nets and other shock responsive programmes for the most affected communities and vulnerable populations.
- Create enabling environment to encourage private sector investment in appropriate climate action. This includes promoting Public Private Partnership to build sustainable and affordable innovative climate solutions.
- Develop innovative approaches to provide additional resources to support citizens vulnerable to climate change.

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**We try to tell adults things about us and how the community is affecting us, but they don't listen to us because we are small. - 12-year old boy**



**Save the Children**

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**For further information on how climate and inequality is affecting children, click the link to explore other country snapshots:**

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/collection/generation-hopenational-data-snapshots>

\* "Inclusive progress means that the gaps between the most and least deprived children are closing over time." For more, see the GRID guide where we describe this more in detail: [https://www.savethechildren.net/sites/www.savethechildren.net/files/grid\\_guide\\_md.pdf](https://www.savethechildren.net/sites/www.savethechildren.net/files/grid_guide_md.pdf), and the Child Atlas ([childatlas.org](http://childatlas.org))