



## Embedding child-responsive outcomes within the Baku Adaptation Roadmap and Belém-Addis Vision

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### Introduction

As Parties prepare to respond to the call for submissions in [Decision -/CMA.7](#) para 30, UNICEF, Save the Children and Young Lives provide suggested areas of focus for the workshops and technical papers to ensure that children and youth are centred in the Baku Adaptation Roadmap and Belém-Addis Vision.

Children constitute a high proportion of the global population, particularly in the global south, and are uniquely susceptible to climate change impacts due to their distinct physiology, behavioural characteristics, and developmental needs, yet targeted responses to these specific needs are often underprioritized in climate policies and financing. The importance of incorporating cross-cutting considerations within the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), including children and youth, was underscored by several Party Groups and Parties during COP30 negotiations and is reflected in the decision text as follows:

1. Decision -/CMA.7 para 10 “recalls paragraph 10(c) of decision 3/CMA.4, paragraph 13 of decision 2/CMA.5 and paragraph 21 of decision 3/CMA.6 and emphasizes the importance of cross-cutting considerations, including by acknowledging the contributions of **children, youth, people with disabilities**, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, people of African descent and migrants to adaptation, and the importance of consideration of **gender, human rights, intergenerational equity** and social justice, and participatory and fully transparent approaches...”
2. Decision -/CMA.7 Annex para 1 and 1(a) highlight that “Adaptation is context-specific, and capturing progress in adaptation in a comprehensive manner requires contextual information, which may be reflected through the **disaggregation of indicators**, as appropriate... Indicators may be disaggregated, as appropriate, by: (a) Social categories, which may include demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as vulnerability, gender, **age**, disability, race, socioeconomic status, status as Indigenous Peoples, status as migrants, as well as **children and young people**...”

As the implementation of the GGA moves into its next phases, it remains critical to centre the needs and capacities of children and young people within the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR) and the Belém-Addis Vision on adaptation, reflecting both on decision language from COP30 and previous Party submissions on the BAR (Box 1). Children’s survival and wellbeing depend fundamentally on whether the UAE Framework’s targets on climate-resilient social services (health, water and sanitation, nutrition and social protection) are implemented in practice. Centring children therefore requires a stronger focus on how Parties can operationalize these targets through concrete delivery pathways on the ground.

This brief provides suggestions for the focus of workshops under the BAR and how prioritizing children and youth can contribute to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen cooperation and facilitate adaptation planning and implementation. It also highlights the need for synergy between the BAR and the policy alignment process and technical work of the Belém-Addis Vision to strengthen the implementation of the UAE Framework targets and support the operationalization of the Belém Adaptation Indicators.

<b>Box 1. Party submissions under the BAR emphasizing the importance of considering children and youth</b>	
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize engagement with local communities, Indigenous peoples, women, and <b>youth</b></li> </ul>
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve experts and observers in the process: “This includes amongst other <b>children and youth</b>, women and indigenous peoples”</li> </ul>
AILAC, Grupo Sur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC and IPCC could provide technical support by promoting standardized methodologies for robust risk assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supported by disaggregated data on gender, race, <b>age</b>, social status, disabilities, geographic and cultural background</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Broad engagement (explore ways to promote involvement of multiple stakeholders, including vulnerable groups... <b>youth</b>, among others)</li> </ul>
Türkiye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge between national and global adaptation efforts, with particular attention to the <b>children and youth</b> in adaptation processes</li> <li>• “To ensure the right of future generations to live in a healthy and balanced environment, <b>indicators related to children’s needs</b> should be prioritized”</li> </ul>

### Translating UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience targets into child-responsive climate action

**UNICEF, Save the Children and Young Lives recommend that Parties consider the following recommendations and steps as they define the scope of the BAR, to ensure that:**

- Sectoral adaptation efforts are **guided by the targets** of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, which include child-sensitive modalities.
- National planning processes, particularly in **sectors critical to children’s wellbeing** such as water and sanitation, health (physical and mental), education, nutrition, social protection and human mobility are aligned with the Framework’s goals and include specific measures to address the impacts of climate change on children and young people.
- Progress is made towards a shared understanding of practical implementation pathways that may accelerate the delivery of the UAE Framework targets across sectors, levels of government and partner systems for those most in need. This includes clarifying **what capacities, institutions and delivery mechanisms are required** to translate the UAE Framework targets into operational programmes, particularly in systems which children depend on for their survival and wellbeing.
- **Multi-sectoral, child-specific climate risk assessments** are integrated into national and subnational planning to ensure that sectoral adaptation efforts are informed by the latest data and vulnerability analyses. Global, high-resolution and open-source data on the exposure of children to climate hazards is now available through UNICEF’s forthcoming Global Children Hazard Database (March 2026; see Box 2 below). **Understanding who is most vulnerable to climate impacts and the risks they face will ensure effective operationalization of the targets under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.**
- **The Baku Adaptation Roadmap and Belém-Addis Vision leverage the best available child-focused data and tools** as key sources of information for facilitating implementation of the Belém Adaptation indicators and targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience in line with [Decision 2/CMA.5](#), para 38(d).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> (d) The opportunities for building on the best available science, including collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other organizations, to provide information relevant to facilitating implementation of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, including in relation to the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 above; to developing indicators, metrics and methodologies; and to identifying adaptation capacity gaps, challenges and the needs of developing countries.

To support these efforts, Parties could consider focusing workshop sessions and technical support under the BAR on:

1. Sharing knowledge, experience and information on incorporating vulnerable groups, including children and youth, within the targets and indicators. This topic would support [Decision 2/CMA.5 para 38\(a\)](#).<sup>2</sup>

Parties could embed the following within the Baku Adaptation Roadmap and explore these concepts at a workshop:

- Conducting comprehensive **impact, vulnerability and risk assessments** to ensure that no one is left behind.
  - Identification of **high-impact interventions required to target specific vulnerable groups, including children**, that can be scaled through implementation of National Adaptation Plans as well as through Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund readiness proposals (Decision -/CMA.7 para 17, 18, and 19).
  - Ensuring **meaningful participation of children, youth and other key stakeholders** in the design and monitoring of sectoral adaptation efforts under the Baku Adaptation Roadmap process.
  - How the development or updating of **climate-resilient sectoral adaptation plans**, including sector-specific roadmaps can support and align with national adaptation priorities and the UAE Framework's 2030 targets.
  - Identifying sectoral gaps like [education, mental health and human mobility](#) that are critical for adaptation efforts and how these might align with national planning and priorities already identified across NAPs.
  - Proposals for **sectoral implementation platforms or partnerships**, inspired by the success of mechanisms such as the NDC Partnership, to support technical coordination, capacity building and financing alignment at country level to promote adaptation interventions that target children and other vulnerable groups
  - **Developing practical implementation pathways for the UAE Framework targets**, including the capacities required by sector ministries, local governments and service providers to deliver climate-resilient social services for children, and approaches for integrating adaptation into routine planning and budgeting systems.
2. [Strengthening linkages between thematic and dimensional targets, exploring synergies with other global processes or implementation-oriented topics.](#)

Workshops could also support Parties in identifying synergies not only within the thematic targets (Decision 2/CMA.5, para 9), but also **between thematic targets and the dimensional targets** (para 10), including risk assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation and learning. Strengthening these linkages is essential to ensure the UAE Framework functions as an integrated implementation framework rather than a set of parallel targets.

Parties could also consider dedicating a workshop session to advancing implementation of the UAE Framework **in coordination with existing global agendas**, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Aligning adaptation targets with these established frameworks can help accelerate delivery, reduce duplication, strengthen national ownership, and ensure that adaptation action achieves both resilience and development outcomes for children.

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<sup>2</sup> (a) The exchange of knowledge, experience and information related to implementing the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, including in relation to efforts to achieve the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 above, with the aim of fostering implementation.

3. [The Secretariat’s forthcoming technical paper under the Baku Adaptation Roadmap \(Decision -/CMA.7 para 29\) could address implementation-oriented questions, including:](#)
  - What institutional and capacity-building approaches enable delivery of UAE Framework targets in social sectors most critical for vulnerable groups, including children and young people?
  - How thematic targets can be implemented through integrated service systems that reach children and vulnerable communities?
  - How can Parties build on SDG and Sendai reporting and delivery mechanisms to operationalize adaptation actions efficiently?
4. [Dedicating an additional workshop under the BAR to data disaggregation. Data disaggregation is critical for revealing disparities and monitoring the differentiated impacts of climate change and will enable Parties to more effectively implement and monitor adaptation interventions – linking the Baku Adaptation Roadmap to the Belém-Addis Vision.](#)

Children, particularly those under the age of 5, are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and at a significantly higher risk of physical harm than adults. **Incorporating robust data on the impacts of climate change on children will strengthen global progress on inclusive adaptation that protects one of the largest and most vulnerable cohorts of the global population.**

Parties have expressed concern over the technical feasibility of collecting and reporting on disaggregated data. Understanding the technicalities behind data disaggregation will ensure smoother operationalization of the indicators – and, more broadly, successful adaptation interventions that appropriately consider the needs and capabilities of vulnerable groups. By including statistics and monitoring professionals in a BAR workshop with a focus on disaggregation, Parties will have the opportunity to exchange best practices and learn from experts.

This can include sharing and developing plans for Parties to incorporate the disaggregation of data by age, gender, disability and other categories (Decision -/CMA.7 Annex para 1(a)) when **testing the Belém Adaptation Indicators**, and integrating the UAE Framework targets and Belém Adaptation Indicators into reporting and planning processes (Decision -/CMA.7 para 11 and 12), during the Belém-Addis Vision’s two-year policy alignment process, to ensure the unique vulnerabilities and needs of children and young people are reflected. Parties can further explore plans for piloting indicators and how other agencies, stakeholders and practitioners can support these efforts (-/CMA.7 paras 11, 25).

Additionally, **child-responsive data already exists** at the global, national and sub-national level. UNICEF’s **Global Child Hazard Database** (Box 2) will be released later this year, identifying children’s exposure to multiple, overlapping climate hazards from global to a 10km<sup>2</sup> grid level, using pixel-based multi-hazard analysis. The Global Child Hazard Database can be leveraged as a tool to support Parties in developing or updating their NAPs via monitoring, evaluation and learning efforts, thereby supporting Parties in their work on the thematic and dimensional targets.

**Box 2. Grounding the Baku Adaptation Roadmap and Belém-Addis Vision in the best available child-focused data and evidence**

The Global Children Hazard Database compiles a wide range of hazard data, primarily focusing on climate and environmental indicators, but also including geophysical hazards and conflict. The data is collected at the highest resolution available to provide a detailed picture of risks at the sub-national level. Key hazards include:

- **Climate Hazards:** Riverine Floods, Coastal Floods, Tropical Storms, Agricultural Drought, Meteorological Drought, Heatwaves, Extreme heat, Fires, Dust and Sandstorms.
- **Climate-Sensitive Hazards:** Vector-borne diseases (e.g., Malaria), and Air Pollution.
- **Geophysical Hazards:** Earthquakes, Volcanoes

Using the newly released under-18 population layer at high resolution, the database includes estimation of number of children, boys and girls exposed to each one of the above hazards as well as to multiple hazards. Exposure analysis shows the potential/probability of children's exposure to a hazard happening in any given year and includes children's population estimates from 2024.

Two new metrics, multi-hazard count and multi-hazard intensity help us understand the number of children exposed to different number of hazards and at different intensity levels respectively. **Multi-hazard count** quantifies the number of distinct climate-sensitive hazards that a specific, smaller geographical area is exposed to (up to a 100-meter grid level, which can be aggregated to different administrative levels). This can be used to quickly pinpoint hotspots where children are exposed to a disproportionately high number of climate hazards. **Multi-hazard intensity** can distinguish between areas that experience frequent but mild events and those that face less frequent but more devastating high-intensity events. The indicator goes beyond counting hazards and assesses the severity or magnitude of each hazard, combining them into a composite intensity score at a high resolution.

The database also includes children's exposure to unique hazard combinations. For example, ~67 million children are exposed to tropical storm, drought and extreme heat in India, and it is now possible to spatially map and locate where they are.

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For more information on how these organizations can support governments in implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, please reference Annex 1.