

# Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)

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**In news**– UNICEF's 'The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis report' Introduced the Children's Climate Risk Index recently.

## About the report

The 'Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis' is the **first climate report to combine high-resolution geographic maps detailing global environmental and climate impacts with maps that show regions where children are vulnerable** due to an array of stressors, including poverty and lack of access to education, health care or clean water. **Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg**, founder of **Fridays for Future**, the youth-led global climate strike movement also collaborated with UNICEF in launching this report.

## Children's Climate Risk Index(CCRI)

- 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.
- **It provides the first comprehensive look at how exactly children are affected by the climate crisis.**
- It **offers a road map** for policymakers seeking to prioritise action based on those who are most at risk.
- The index shows the likelihood of a child's ability to survive climate change.

## Key findings

- Approximately 1 billion children, **nearly half the world's child population live in countries that are at an "extremely high risk"** from climate impacts.

- **Almost every single child on the planet has been exposed to at least one climate or environmental stressor**, such as air pollution, flooding, heat waves, tropical storms, flooding or drought.
- The report found that 850 million children, approximately one-third of the world's child population are exposed to four or more stressors.
- The CCRI found that 1 billion children are highly exposed to exceedingly high levels of air pollution, 920 million to water scarcity.
- It further adds that 820 million are exposed to heat waves, 815 million to lead pollution, 600 million to vector-borne diseases, 400 million to tropical storms, 330 million to riverine flooding, and 240 million to coastal flooding.
- The CCRI reveals a worrisome inequity regarding who must ultimately deal with the consequences of climate change.

### **Status of India & its neighbors**

- As per the UNICEF report, **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.
- **Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries** where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, **with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.**
- However, Nepal is ranked 51st, Sri Lanka 61st and Bhutan is ranked 111th, with children at relatively lower risk.
- **CCRI has placed India as one of the 33 extremely high-risk countries** with flooding and air pollution being the repeated environmental shocks .
- It is estimated that more than **600 million Indians will face 'acute water shortages'** in the coming years.
- 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.
- The 33 extremely high-risk countries for children including the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau collectively are responsible for a mere nine percent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), **originally known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.**
- It is a **United Nations agency** responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- It was **created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946**, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers in countries that had been devastated by World War II.
- In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was extended to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere.
- In 1953 it became a permanent part of the United Nations System, and the words "international" and "emergency" were dropped from the organization's name, though it retained the original acronym, "UNICEF".

**UNICEF's activities include** providing immunizations and disease prevention, administering treatment for children and mothers with HIV, enhancing childhood and maternal nutrition, improving sanitation, promoting education, and providing emergency relief in response to disasters.