

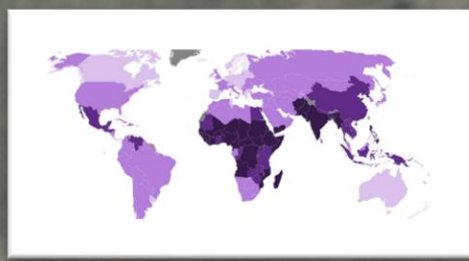


Child-responsive NAPs and NDC 3.0

*West and Central Africa: Placing children at
the centre of climate policies and strategies*

Webinar on Child-responsive National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDC 3.0, 16 July 2024.

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. Children continue to bear the brunt of climate change impacts and will face these increasingly as the crisis deepens. This is particularly the case in West and Central Africa, where children are the most exposed to climate risks globally.



West and Central African countries rank at the top of UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index (2021)



Nationally Determined Contributions 2.0



references



rights-based



multisectoral



inclusive



<https://ndcsforeverychild.unicef.org/>

151 NDCs reviewed

 Category A

4 of 4 criteria for child sensitivity

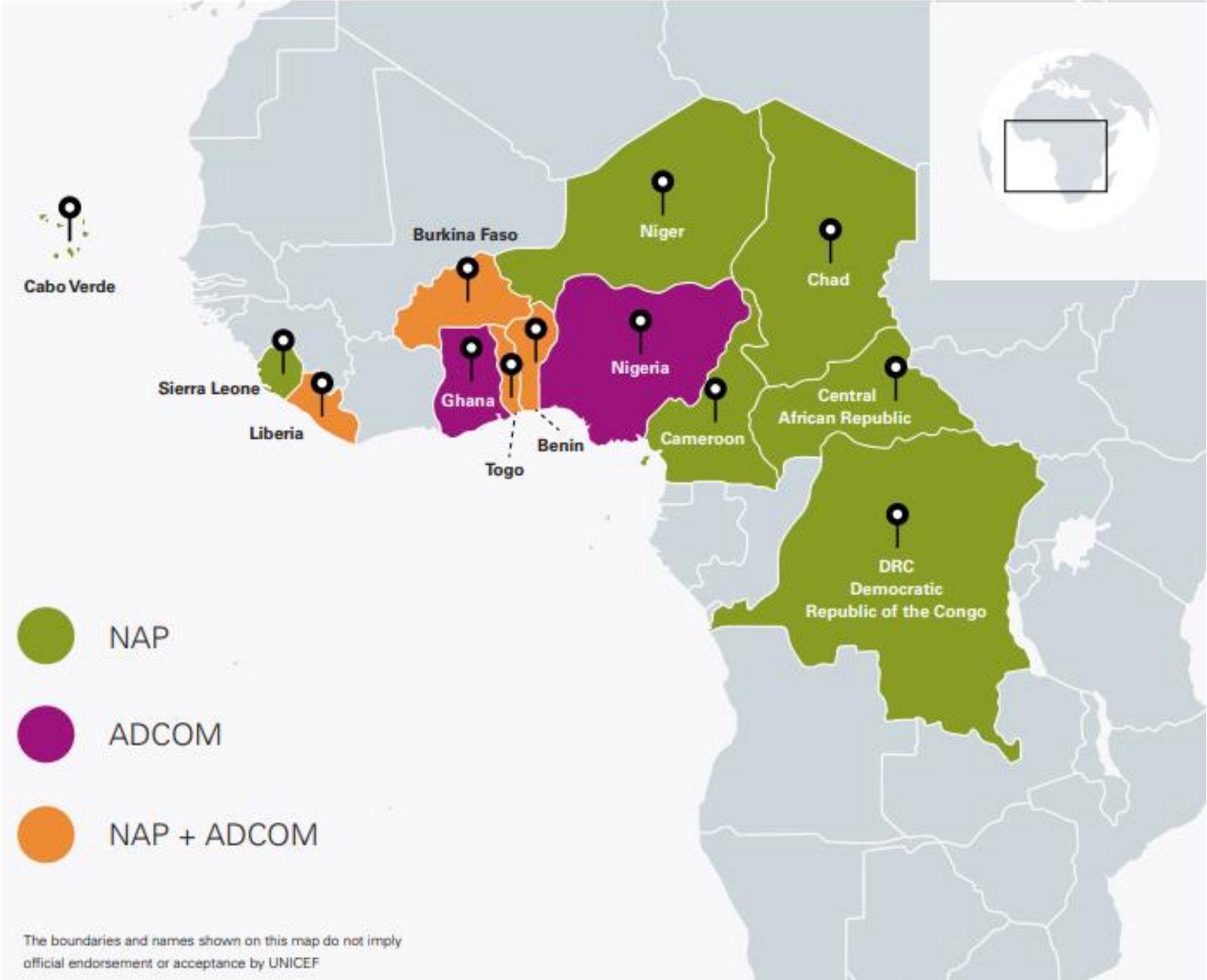
 Category B

3 of 4 criteria for child sensitivity

 Category C

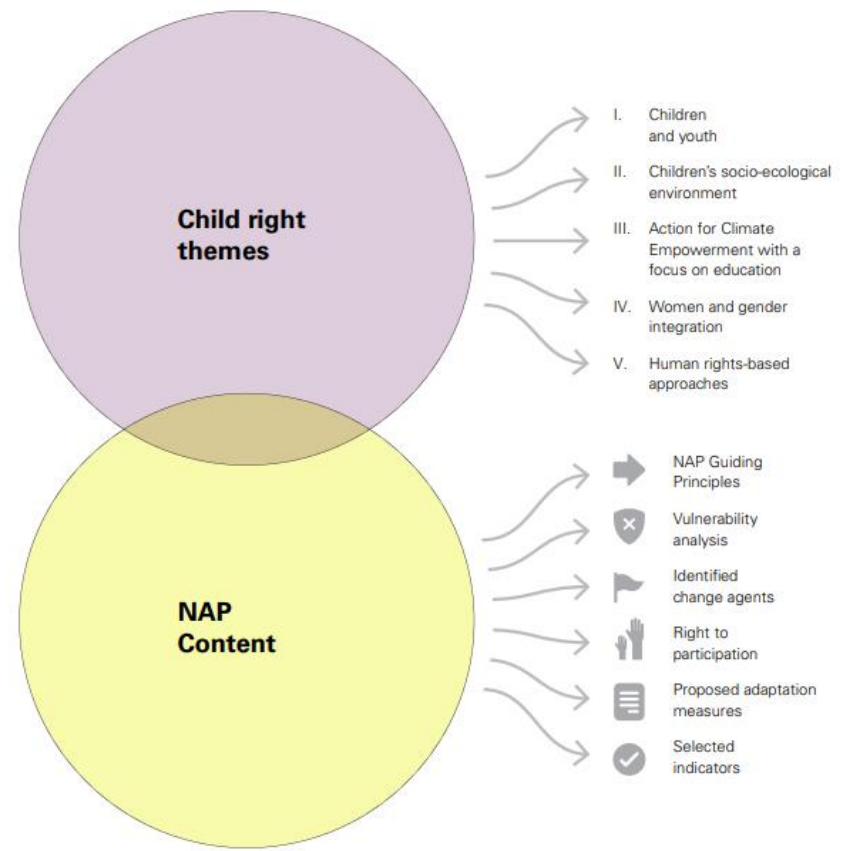
0-2 of 4 criteria for child sensitivity

National Adaptation Plans in West and Central Africa



→ As of July 2024, 11 countries from West and Central Africa had communicated their NAP

CHILD-CENTRED NAP REVIEW





**Legal arguments for
child-responsive
climate policies**

Child-responsive climate policies: a new child rights paradigm



In 2022, the UNGA recognized the right to a healthy environment by:

161 votes in favor, 0 again, 8 abstentions

In August 2023, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) explicitly affirmed **children's right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in General Comment No. 26**, which specifies that States are responsible not only for protecting children's rights from immediate harm, but also for foreseeable violations of their rights in the future due to States' acts—or failure to act—today.

Child-responsive climate policies: a new child rights paradigm



General Comment No.26

“Since climate change-related impacts on children’s rights are intensifying, a sharp and urgent increase in the design and implementation of child-sensitive, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive **adaptation** measures and associated resources is necessary”

“The **mitigation** objectives and measures should also clearly indicate how they respect, protect and fulfil children’s rights under the Convention. States should transparently and explicitly focus on children’s rights when preparing, communicating and updating Nationally Determined Contributions”



COP28 outcomes on child rights

Global Stocktake at COP28

9... *Reaffirms* that sustainable and just solutions to the climate crisis must be founded on **meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders**, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and governments, women, and **youth and children**, and *notes* that the global transition to low emissions and climate-resilient development provides opportunities and challenges for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

178...*encourages* Parties to implement **climate policy and action that is gender-responsive, fully respects human rights, and empowers youth and children.**

182... *requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its sixtieth session, to hold an expert dialogue on children and climate change to discuss the **disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and relevant policy solutions in this regard**, engaging relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in this effort.



UNICEF approach: national and intergovernmental policy progress for children

- Mainstream children's rights, including their participation, in relevant national and intergovernmental policies and processes, based on data/evidence-driven approach
- Make the case for child-sensitive investments
- Empower young people with the education and skills they need to influence environmental policies

Intergovernmental level

UNICEF engagement and technical assistance to Parties in UNFCCC process, leading to major breakthroughs at COP28:

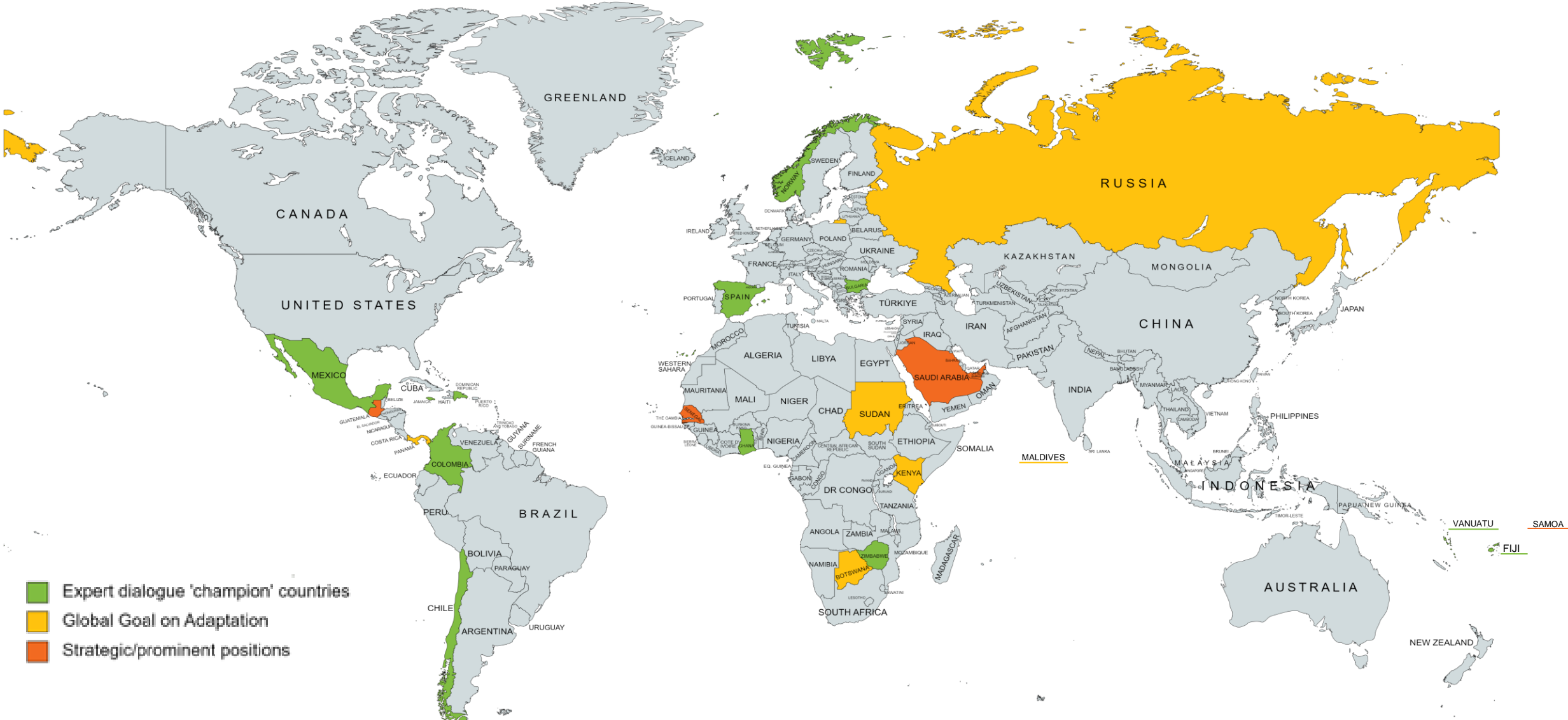


National level

Supporting mainstreaming of children's rights in **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) revision** and **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)**



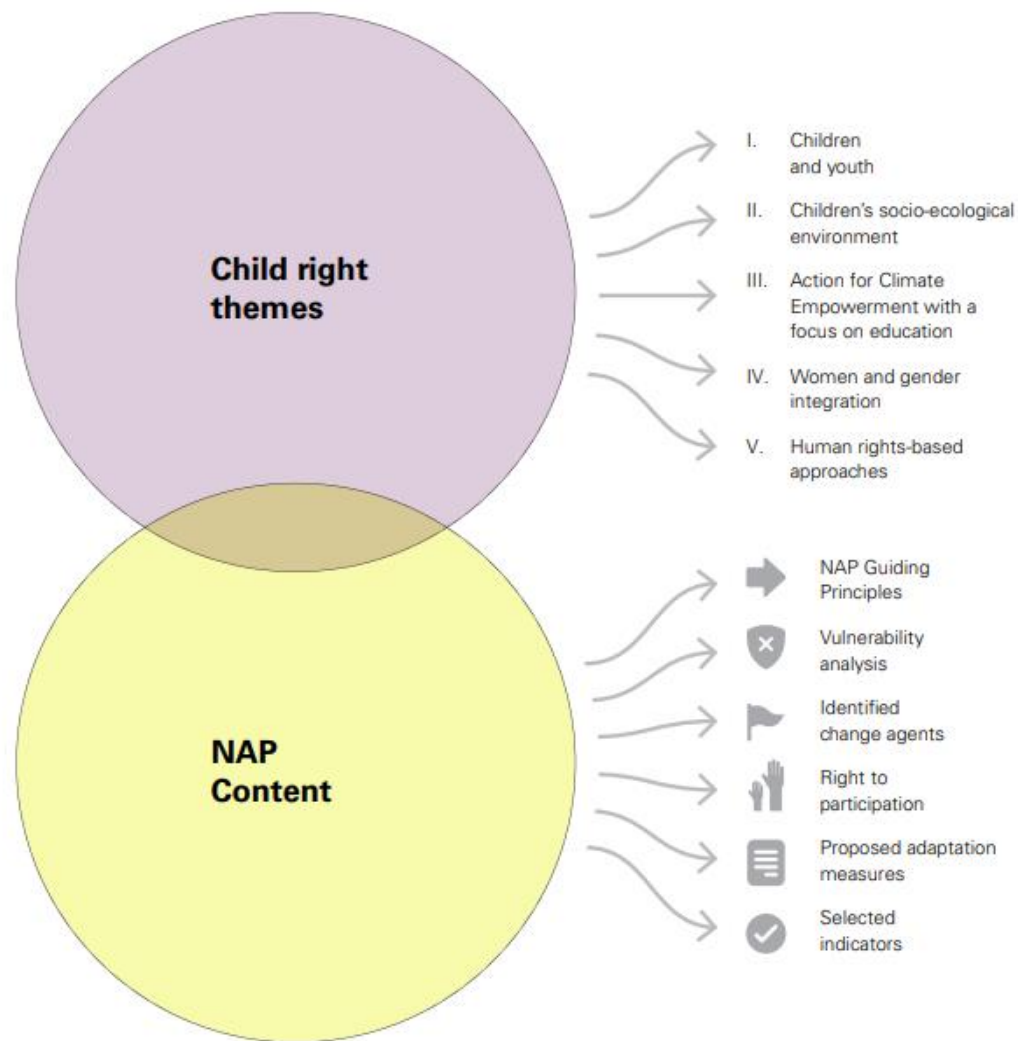
COP28 engagement with Parties





Child-centered NAP review: key findings

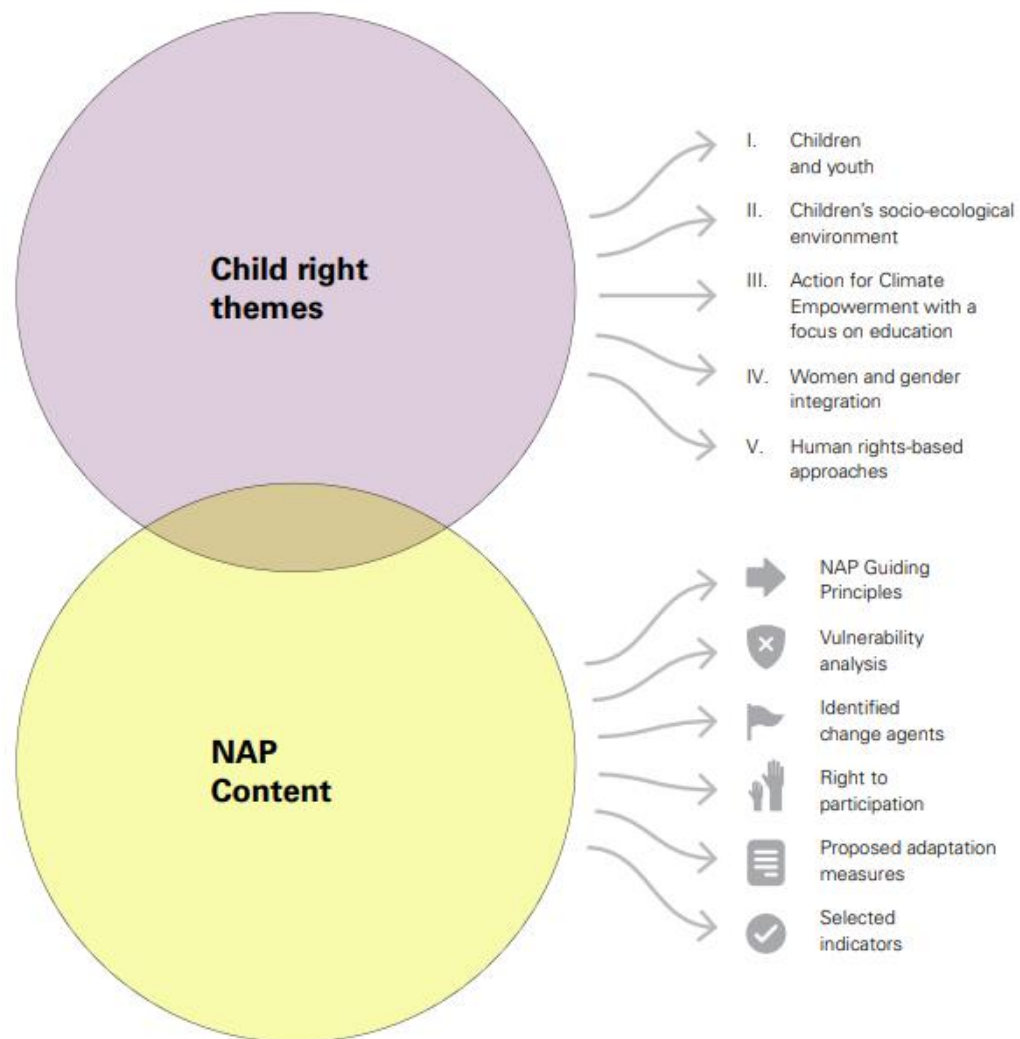
Guidance and key findings



Guidance for theme: children and youth

Explicit references to children and young people are essential to integrate child-responsiveness into NAP formulation and implementation. Children must be included in the NAP Guiding Principles, the vulnerability analysis (covering child-sensitive themes and sectors), the proposed adaptation measures and the indicators selected to track NAP implementation. More importantly, children and young people must be presented as agents of change, not only as highly vulnerable groups, and their right to participation in the NAP formulation and implementation should be recognized. In addition, child vulnerability must be disaggregated based on gender, age and other criteria. It is also important for NAPs to take into account the interests of future generations.

Guidance and key findings



Highlights for theme: children and youth

Reviewed NAPs and ADCOMs include references to children, but not to the extent required, especially given the fact that in all of the corresponding countries, children represent more than half of the population. Several NAPs identify children among the groups to focus on in their Guiding Principles, along with other vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly and people living with disabilities. Child vulnerability is associated to several sectors and issues, primarily health, nutrition, energy, poverty and disaster risks. Other themes are more neglected, such as the impacts of climate change on child protection [...]

Theme: children and youth

“For the most part, women and children are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, their unique knowledge and perspectives also provide opportunities for inclusive, equitable, and efficient adaptation responses and coping strategies”



Liberia

Theme: children's socio-ecological environment

“Individuals and families are the most affected by the national adaptation strategy, because they represent the ultimate social link. They can also act very concretely, by reducing their vulnerability through spontaneous adaptation or by communicating/transmitting awareness messages”



Cameroon

Theme: Action for Climate Empowerment with a focus on education

Climate policies “*rarely take into account the specific needs, knowledge and skills of students, who are sustainable levers of change that can contribute to combating and adapting to climate change and other potential disasters*”



Chad

Theme: women and gender integration

A NAP recommends to “*develop tools to support the mainstreaming of gender and issues related to vulnerable groups (gender assessment guides, participatory methodology, use of a gender marker, checklist of projects/programmes)*”



Cabo Verde

Theme: human-rights based approaches

“By increasing poverty, displacement, immobility and eroding social networks, conflicts contribute to the vulnerability of marginalized populations. Moreover, climate change could be a contributing factor to future conflicts, especially with regard to the scarcity of productive land and the lack of water”



DRC



Call to action

Cristina

José

Jaimie

Call to action for child-responsive climate policies and strategies

*“UNICEF is calling on parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in the region and beyond, to take urgent action to protect the lives, health, and well-being of children and future generations, by **integrating robust and ambitious child-responsive elements into the formulation and implementation of their NAPs and NDC***

***3.0.** In addition, countries are exhorted to allocate a substantive amount of international climate finance and assistance to child-focused interventions in order to **address the climate finance gap for children**”*

UNICEF NAP PUBLICATION – including Guidance on integrating child-responsive elements into NAP formulation and implementation

<https://www.unicef.org/wca/reports/child-responsive-adaptation-west-and-central-africa>



ENGLISH

FRANCAIS

PORTUGUÊS



**CHILD-RESPONSIVE ADAPTATION
IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA:**

**Placing children at the centre
of climate adaptation policies
and strategies.**

A child-centred review of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Adaptation Communications from West and Central Africa, including guidance on integrating child-responsive elements into NAP formulation and implementation.



UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office – May 2024



**L'ADAPTATION RÉPONDANT AUX
BESOINS DES ENFANTS EN AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST ET EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE:**

**Placer les enfants au centre des
politiques et stratégies d'adaptation
au changement climatique.**

Une étude centrée sur l'enfant des Plans nationaux d'adaptation (PNAs) et des communications relatives à l'adaptation en Afrique de l'Ouest et en Afrique centrale, comprenant des conseils pour intégrer des éléments répondant aux besoins des enfants dans la formulation et la mise en œuvre des PNA.



Bureau régional de l'UNICEF pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et l'Afrique centrale – mai 2024



**ADAPTAÇÃO SENSÍVEL ÀS
NECESSIDADES DAS CRIANÇAS
NA ÁFRICA OCIDENTAL E CENTRAL:**

**Colocar as crianças no centro das
políticas e estratégias de adaptação
às alterações climáticas**

Uma análise centrada na criança dos Planos Nacionais de Adaptação (PNA) e das Comunicações de Adaptação da África Ocidental e Central, incluindo orientação sobre a integração de elementos relativos à criança na formulação e na implementação dos PNA.



UNICEF, Gabinete Regional da África Ocidental e Central – maio de 2024

Thank you!

To learn more, please contact:

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