

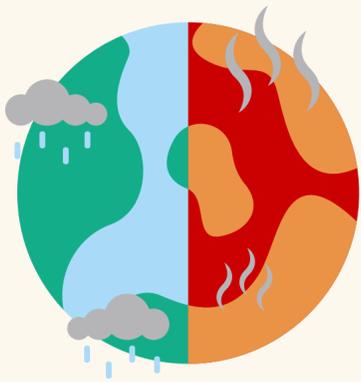
Children's Rights and Climate Change

CRC General Comment 26:

Clean and healthy environment and safe climate are important for all children's rights. Governments should consider children's rights in all decisions made about climate change and consider climate change in all decisions being made about children.

Children's Voices from Cambodia

CRC-Cambodia organized multiple consultations with children members of Child and Youth Led Networks: to support their participation in climate decision-making



Issues children face

- Air and water pollution
 - Loss of biodiversity and natural resources
 - Deforestation
- 'even if there re-planting, it takes time for a tree to grow'*
- Harmful agricultural practices
 - Improper waste disposal and plastic overuse
- 'burning garbage everywhere'*
- Heatwaves, heavy rain, storms, floods, droughts
 - No safe shelter during floods
 - Limited awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies
 - Not being included in local development plans
 - Inaccessible climate education and limited awareness campaigns with focus on children

How these issues affect children?

Our physical and mental health are affected. We have lung problems when breathing polluted air, but also from lack of food because of poor harvest.

Families worry about income and how to cover costs. They cannot support their children's education. Some children stop studying and start working to support family.

Some parents need to go to other places or abroad to look for work.

Schools are far away, roads are not safe, and getting worse during floods.

Classrooms are not adapted. We feel exhausted and cannot focus, especially in the afternoon hours. We are not able to learn, our performance is low.

I worry that future generations of children will no longer benefit from nature. I don't want to see deforestation, or a lack of rain. There is already no water in my home now.



Children's Recommendations

- Protect community lands and forests from commercial concessions (renting).
- Promote locally relevant educational content (in local languages) on climate change and sustainable practices.
- Construct climate-resilient schools and safe infrastructure.
- Disseminate weather and disaster information in child-friendly formats such as storytelling and community events.
- Enable child and youth clubs to engage in climate-related activities and public awareness.
- Establish platforms for children to speak at commune or sangkat meetings on climate issues
- Ensure proper treatment and sanitation of waste.



2025 July