



BRINGING CHILDREN TO THE CENTER OF CLIMATE ACTION

BASIS FOR INCORPORATING A HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK IN THE
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FROM CLIMATE
CHANGE IN VENEZUELA

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CHANGE IN VENEZUELA

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[...] Children have the right to inherit a world that they can prosper in. The climate crisis is an existential threat that we pass to the children of today (and future generations) – who have made the least contribution to the climate crisis, and often have the least say in how it is mitigated and managed [...]

UNICEF (2024)

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Executive summary

Climate Change is a global threat that undermines many of the rights of children and adolescents. The vulnerability of this age group stems from their developmental stage, increased susceptibility to disease, dependence on adult care, and a limited capacity to circumvent hazards and impacts.

For this reason, different international organizations have continuously warned about the urgency of establishing policies to protect the rights of children and adolescents in the context of climate change, with special attention to the most vulnerable groups.

This report aims to contribute to knowledge about the impact of climate change on the human rights of children and adolescents, both globally and in the specific context of Venezuela. It will also examine the measures implemented by the Venezuelan State in order to develop effective strategies for their protection in the context of the climate crisis affecting the country.

The following are the main results obtained from this study:

The adverse effects of climate change increase the susceptibility of children and adolescents to physical, psychological, and social harm attributable to socio-natural disasters; they increase the risk of vector-borne and heat-related diseases or conditions, pollution and malnutrition. Climate change also exacerbates pre-existing problems such as poverty and social conflict, also driving human displacement.

In the case of Venezuela, the lack of public information makes it difficult to assess the situation of children's rights in relation to climate change. However, the available data allows inferring that children and adolescents in Venezuela, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups, are being seriously affected by different factors that violate their rights.

In this regard, the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes fundamental criteria for the protection of children in these situations, complemented by contributions from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF, among others.

While the Venezuelan government has reported on the adoption of measures to protect the rights of children and adolescents from the effects of climate change,



Climate education. Retrieved from: <https://educompetitividad.co/>

including domestic and international legislation, joint initiatives and government action at different levels, no information was obtained to assess their impact, continuity, and technical robustness.

Based on this analysis, recommendations are made to the Venezuelan state, civil society organizations, and the international community to begin developing a roadmap for incorporating a human rights framework for the protection of children and adolescents from the negative effects of climate change in Venezuela.

The recommendations to the Venezuelan State include establishing a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan that prioritizes the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents and strengthening social protection for children and adolescents. Civil society is encouraged to strengthen their monitoring and advocacy capabilities in climate change-related issues. Finally, the international organizations are called to strengthen their mechanisms of cooperation with both the Venezuelan State and civil society.

Introduction

Today, all children¹ around the world are faced with serious risks related to the effects of climate change. According to UNICEF, an estimated 169 million children in Latin America and the Caribbean live in areas affected by at least two climate and environmental hazards, and 47 million live in areas affected by at least four types of climatic events.² Furthermore, children under 5 years of age bear 88% of the global disease burden associated with climate change.³

Children and adolescents are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of their developmental stage and their increased susceptibility to diseases, dependence on the care and protection of adults, and a limited capacity to circumvent hazards and impacts.^{4 5}

This situation becomes even more serious among children and adolescents living in the least developed countries, belonging to groups marginalized or neglected by the State, living in poverty, or members of minorities.

These facts reveal an alarming reality: children are bearing a disproportionate burden of the adverse effects of climate change, and the situation is worsening. This makes climate change a human rights issue.

Therefore, it is essential that governments and society at large take urgent measures to protect children from the impacts of climate change, and that these actions be carried out within a human rights framework.⁶

This report aims to contribute to knowledge about the impact of climate change on the human rights of children and adolescents, both globally and in the specific context of Venezuela. It will also examine the measures implemented by the Venezuelan State in order to develop effective strategies for their protection in the context of the climate crisis affecting the country.

1 In Venezuela, a child is defined in Article 2 of the 2007 Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents as any person under twelve years of age. The same Article defines an adolescent as any person aged twelve to eighteen. Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the applicable law, majority is attained earlier. This report will use both terms interchangeably as they are not legally contradictory.

2 UNICEF (2021) La crisis climática es una crisis de los derechos de la infancia: Presentación del Índice de Riesgo Climático de la Infancia. Nueva York: Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia. <https://www.unicef.org/media/109906/file/The%20Climate%20Crisis%20is%20a%20Child%20Rights%20Crisis%20.pdf>

3 UNICEF (2025) Prospects for Children: Building Resilient Systems for Children's Futures. chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcapjpcglcfindmkaj/<https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/10341/file/UNICEF-Innocenti-Prospects-for-Children-Global-Outlook-2025.pdf>

4 Proulx K, Daelmans B, Baltag V, y Banati P. (2024) Climate change impacts on child and adolescent health and well-being: A narrative review. J Glob Health. 2024 May 24;14:04061. doi: 10.7189/jogh.14.04061

5 OMS (2020) Cambio climático para profesionales de la salud: un libro de bolsillo. <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/52950>

6 ONU Comité de los Derechos del Niño (2023) Observación general núm. 26 relativa a los derechos del niño y el medio ambiente, con particular atención al cambio climático. CRC/C/GC/26. <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsqklirKQZLK2M58RF%2F5F0vHrWghmhZPL092j0u3MJAYh1pG8vX%2BTbapbdwymBZbuwwrM7i1mmfJdZAM9BCgcqUGCNIrEBHJEziU6qaXYp>

The document is structured in four sections: The first of them presents the findings of a documentary review of current knowledge about the impact of climate change on children at global and domestic levels. The second offers an analysis of children's human rights in this context. The third section reviews the actions undertaken by the Venezuelan State to fulfill its obligations regarding these issues. Finally, a series of recommendations is set forth in the fourth section, addressed to the Venezuelan State and national and international organizations tasked with the protection and assistance of children.

Sources of information

Documentary research was conducted on academic articles, technical reports and documents addressing the topics of this paper, published by domestic and international institutions, organizations and government agencies. Media articles reporting on the actions of the Venezuelan government for the protection of children and adolescents in the context of climate change were also reviewed. Finally, the results of a technical meeting held by Clima21 with organizations advocating the defense and protection of children's rights in Venezuela were incorporated to analyze the differential impact of climate change on this age group.

Artificial intelligence tools such as Copilot and Gemini were employed to explore bibliographic information and specific data on the situation of children and adolescents in the context of climate change. These tools were also employed to improve the writing of some sections.

Results

Effects of climate change on children

A summary of the known effects of climate change on children and adolescents includes:

Increased susceptibility to physical, psychological and social harm attributable to the occurrence of disasters

Children are more vulnerable and less prepared to withstand and survive extreme weather events that can cause socio-natural disasters.

Many children are affected by emergencies resulting from extreme weather events because they lack the capacity to withstand their harmful effects.⁷

After the critical phase of a disaster, affected children are more likely to suffer from physical health problems such as gastrointestinal, respiratory, skin or soft tissue infections, zoonotic diseases, and vector-borne infections.^{8 9}

In some countries where climate disasters are common, an increase in the prevalence of low birth weight and malnutrition in children under the age of three has been found.¹⁰

Following a disaster, children in affected areas may experience long-term psychological effects such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, fear, depression, or learning impairment. In some cases, these symptoms persist for years.^{11 12 13}

Additionally, these disasters can negatively affect school attendance, educational facilities and teaching staff.

Similarly, there may be an increase in violence, both within and outside children's homes, which can have a negative impact on them.¹⁴

7 UNICEF (2021) Citado previamente.

8 Lai, S. B. y La Greca, A. (2020) Understanding the Impacts of Natural Disasters on Children. Child Evidence Brief. No. 8. <https://www.srce.org/research/understanding-impacts-natural-disasters-children>

9 Carazo Gallego, B. y colaboradores. (2024) Diagnóstico y tratamiento de infecciones tras inundaciones. Documentos SEIP. https://www.seipweb.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Doc.Infecc_DANA.pdf

10 Seballos, F., Tanner, T., Tarazona, M. y Gallegos, J. (2011) Children and Disasters: Understanding Impact and Enabling Agency. <https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/children-and-disasters.pdf>

11 Lai, S. B. y La Greca, A. (2020) Citado previamente.

12 Proulx K, y colaboradores. (2024) Citado previamente.

13 Lai, S. B. y La Greca, A. (2020) Citado previamente.

14 Proulx K, y colaboradores. (2024) Citado previamente.



Children in a flooded school. Retrieved from: Tal Cual Digital

Increase in vector-borne diseases and diseases attributable to the effects of heat and pollution.

The interactions between changing climate patterns and environmental degradation are creating conditions for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases. This situation will particularly affect those living in areas where disease vectors are more prevalent and adequate health systems are more limited.¹⁵

It is considered that climate change and the degradation of ecosystems will very likely alter the distribution, transmission, and survival of infectious vectors and pathogens, although disease-specific patterns of change are difficult to predict.

Currently, there are concerns about the effects of climate change on the distribution, morbidity and mortality rate of diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and malaria, among others.^{16 17 18 19}

¹⁵ UNICEF (2021) Citado previamente.

¹⁶ UNICEF (2021) Citado previamente.

¹⁷ Childs ML, Lyberger K, Harris M, Burke M, Mordecai EA. Climate warming is expanding dengue burden in the Americas and Asia. medRxiv [Preprint]. 2024 Jan 9;2024.01.08.24301015. doi: 10.1101/2024.01.08.24301015.

¹⁸ OMS (2020) Cambio climático para profesionales de la salud: un libro de bolsillo. <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/52950>

¹⁹ Chitre S.D., Crews C.M., Tessema M.T., Pléštytė-Būtienė I., Coffee M. y Richardson ET. (2024) The impact of anthropogenic climate change on pediatric viral diseases. *Pediatr Res.* 95(2):496-507. doi: 10.1038/s41390-023-02929-z

Meanwhile, the increase in temperatures associated with climate change, such as extreme heat, can have serious effects on children's physical and mental health, education, and even nutrition.²⁰ Infants and young children are highly vulnerable to exposure to high temperatures.²¹

Some studies suggest a possible connection between exposure to extreme temperatures and miscarriages and stillbirths.²²

Likewise, climate change can increase air pollution,^{23 24} which may contribute to more acute respiratory health problems among children and adolescents.²⁵

Climate change can also negatively affect water quality due to rising temperatures, flooding, storms, droughts, and rising sea levels.^{26 27}

Extreme weather events such as floods and storms can expose children and adolescents to a diverse range of pathogens and chemicals, increasing the rates of infections and gastrointestinal problems,²⁸ affecting their immune function, and increasing the risk of chronic diseases and neonatal death.^{29 30 31}

The adverse effects of climate change on human health are being observed in real-time, but uncertainty remains about the more profound, long-term effects.

20 Proulx K, y colaboradores. (2024) Citado previamente.

21 UNICEF (2021) Citado previamente.

22 Helldén D, y col. (2021). Climate change and child health: a scoping review and an expanded conceptual framework. *Lancet Planet Health*. 2021 Mar;5(3):e164-e175. doi: 10.1016/S2542-5196(20)30274-6. PMID: 33713617.

23 Jacob, D. J., y Winner, D. A. (2009). Effect of climate change on air quality. *Atmospheric Environment*, 43(1), 51–63. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2008.09.051

24 WHO (s.f) Climate impacts of air pollution. <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/air-quality-energy-and-health/health-impacts/climate-impacts-of-air-pollution>

25 Proulx K, y colaboradores. (2024) Citado previamente.

26 Caretta, M.A., A. Mukherji, M. Arfanuzzaman, R.A. Betts, A. Gelfan, Y. Hirabayashi, T.K. Lissner, J. Liu, E. Lopez Gunn, R. Morgan, S. Mwanga, and S. Supratid, 2022: Water. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 551–712, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.006.

27 Bates, B.C., Z.W. Kundzewicz, S. Wu and J.P. Palutikof, Eds., (2008) *Climate Change and Water*. Technical Paper of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC Secretariat, Geneva, 210 pp. <https://archive.ipcc.ch/pdf/technical-papers/climate-change-water-en.pdf>

28 IPCC (2022) Resumen para responsables de políticas [H.-O. Pörtner, DC Roberts, ES Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Tignor, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem (eds.)]. En: *Cambio climático 2022: impactos, adaptación y vulnerabilidad. Contribución del Grupo de trabajo II al sexto informe de evaluación del Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático* [H.-O. Pörtner, DC Roberts, M. Tignor, ES Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Reino Unido y Nueva York, NY, EE. UU., págs. 3-33, doi: 10.1017/9781009325844.001 .

29 Hélden, et al (2021) Citado previamente.

30 Center of Development Child. University of Harvard (2024) A Cascade of Impacts: The Many Ways Water Affects Child Development. Working Paper N° 2. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/working-paper/water-affects-child-development/>

31 Polanco Rodríguez, Á.G., Álvarez Cervera, F.J. (2021). Water Pollution and Climate Change. In: Brears, R.C. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Climate Resilient Societies*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-42462-6_45



Wayuu migrant children. Retrieved from Anadolu Ajansi.

Rising levels of malnutrition and hunger

Climate change negatively affects the basic elements of food production: soil, water and biodiversity, reducing the availability, diversity and quality of food.^{32 33 34} It also creates conditions for the emergence of new pests and diseases that affect crops and animal production.³⁵

The increase in extreme weather events, such as extreme heat, floods and droughts, is the main driver of hunger in many countries. These events impact the food security of the affected families for up to five years.³⁶

At the same time, the effects of climate change add up to those derived from social conflicts and inequality, impacting the ability of families to access food.³⁷

Additionally, the increased frequency and intensity of droughts can lead to severe water shortages and a higher prevalence of dehydration, kidney problems, muscle cramps, fatigue, and death.³⁸

32 UNICEF (2023) The global climate crisis is a child nutrition crisis. UNICEF Agenda for Child Nutrition and Climate Action. <https://www.unicef.org/media/150356/file/The%20Global%20Climate%20Crisis%20is%20a%20Child%20Crisis.pdf>

33 IASC Task Force on Climate Change (2009) Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Hunger. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2014-11/IASC%20submission%20on%20CC%2C%20food%20insecurity%20and%20hunger.pdf>

34 Belesova, K., Agabiirwe, C. N., Zou, M., Phalkey, R., y Wilkinson, P. (2019). Drought exposure as a risk factor for child undernutrition in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review and assessment of empirical evidence. *Environment International*, 131, 104973. doi:10.1016/j.envint.2019.104973

35 Save the Children (2023) Citado previamente.

36 CARE (2024) Breaking the Barriers. <https://www.care.org/resources/breaking-the-barriers/>

37 Save the Children (2023) How does climate change cause hunger? <https://www.savethechildren.net/blog/how-does-climate-change-cause-hunger>

38 Acción contra el Hambre (2021) ¿Qué enfermedades causa el no tomar agua? <https://accioncontraelhambre.org/es/actualidad/que-enfermedades-causa-el-no-tomar-agua>

...el impacto es mucho mayor en niños sin cuidado familiar, con discapacidades, en pobreza, en zonas rurales, en zonas de conflictos e indígenas.

Rising poverty levels

The relationship between climate and child poverty is complex and circular: climate shocks increase poverty, while poverty, in turn, heightens vulnerability to climate shocks ³⁹.

Additionally, the direct and indirect effects of climate change on children and adolescents and their families can force them into poverty or exacerbate the situation of those already living in poverty.^{40 41}

Particularly vulnerable are children and adolescents living in poverty, belonging to minorities, and residing in temporary or unstable housing in areas exposed to hazards and with fewer means to invest in risk reduction measures.^{42 43}

The climate crisis fuels the perpetuation of poverty and hinders children's access to education. According to UNICEF, at least 242 million students worldwide experienced school disruptions due to climate events in 2024. This situation could worsen as nearly half of the world's children live in countries at very high risk of climate and environmental crises.⁴⁴

Increased levels of social conflict and human displacement

The climate crisis intensifies the risk of violence against children by magnifying the challenges of poverty, displacement and school disruption that favor the contexts and circumstances in which this type of violence occurs.^{45 46}

39 Global Coalition to End Child Poverty (2023) A Disproportionate Burden: Children in Poverty Bearing the Brunt of the Climate Crisis. <https://www.endchildhoodpoverty.org/publications-feed/climatechange>

40 Global Coalition to End Child Poverty (2023) Citado previamente.

41 Helldén et al. (2021) Cited previously.

42 Dominey-Howes, D. (2021) You can't talk about disaster risk reduction without talking about inequality <https://theconversation.com/you-cant-talk-about-disaster-risk-reduction-without-talking-about-inequality-153189>

43 Helldén y colaboradores (2021) Citado previamente.

44 UNICEF (2025) LEARNING INTERRUPTED: Global snapshot of climate-related school disruptions in 2024. <https://www.unicef.org/media/167116/file/Global-snapshot-climate-related-school-disruptions-2024.pdf>

45 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (2022) The climate crisis and violence against children. <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/the-climate-crisis-and-violence-against-children.pdf>

46 Datzberger, S., Howard-Merrill, L., Parkes, J., y Kator, S. I. (2024). How do extreme weather events contribute to violence against children? Child Abuse & Neglect, 158, 107093. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2024.107093>

Although climate change increases the risk of violence for all children, the impact is far greater for children with disabilities; children living in poverty, rural areas or conflict zones; indigenous children, and children without parental care.

Furthermore, criminal networks and armed and terrorist groups take advantage of the vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change to traffick, exploit, and recruit children.

Climate change is also a driving factor in human mobility. Worryingly, climate-related human mobility is predicted to increase in the coming decades.⁴⁷

Forced displacement linked to climate impacts can increase the hazards faced by children and their families. After a disaster, children may be separated from their parents or caregivers, increasing their risk of exploitation, trafficking and abuse.

Climate change can also disrupt access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation, exposing children to malnutrition and different diseases, among other problems.⁴⁸

Together, the effects of climate change on children can bring psychological distress to them and their families.⁴⁹ The impact of a disaster, the experience of displacement or dispossession, the loss of family ties, and other forms of harm can lead to the appearance of symptoms of post-traumatic stress, depression and other mental health problems.⁵⁰

47 Traore Chazalnoël, M., Ionesco, D. y Elisabeta Duca, I. (2020) Children on the move: why, where, how. <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/1161/file/Children%20on%20the%20Move:%20Why,%20Where,%20How?%20.pdf>

48 UNICEF (2023) Citado previamente.

49 Vigil, S., Steiner, C., Kim, D., Flores, D., and Davis, M. (2024): Climate change, vulnerability and migration: Impacts on children and youth in Southeast Asia. World Vision International and Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok, Thailand. https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/SEI-WV-Children-ClimateMigrationReport-LongVersion_Final_Web%205.pdf

50 Traore Chazalnoël, M., Ionesco, D. y Elisabeta Duca, I. (2020) Citado previamente.



Child sick with dengue fever. Retrieved from: Fides News Agency

Situation of children and adolescents in Venezuela in the context of Climate Change

There is no access in Venezuela to official information regarding epidemiological and health statistics,^{51 52 53} nor on any aspect of the country's environmental situation.⁵⁴

55 56

51 Provea (2021) Derecho a la Salud. Situación de los Derechos Humanos en Venezuela. <https://provea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/09Salud-2.pdf>

52 Carvajal, A. y Oletta L. J. F. (2011). RSCMV. Noticias Epidemiológicas No 29. Embarazadas en situación de emergencia, incluyendo los desastres naturales. Recuperado de: <http://opsu.sicht.ucv.ve/bvd/pdf/RSCMV.pdf>

53 Colectivo de Derechos Humanos SURGENTES, et al. (2025) Situación de salud en Venezuela. <https://surgentes.org.ve/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Informe-Situación-Salud-Vzla-segunda-version-120325.pdf>

54 Suarez Piña, R. y Álvarez Iragorry, A. (2024) Cobertura de noticias ambientales en Venezuela refleja ausencia de respuestas del Estado ante degradación ambiental. <https://clima21.net/informes/la-situacion-ambiental-de-venezuela-una-mirada-desde-los-medios-de-comunicacion/>

55 Provea (2024) Venezuela sin glaciares ni información pública: Opacidad estatal niega soluciones a la crisis ambiental. <https://provea.org/actualidad/derechos-sociales/ambiente/venezuela-sin-glaciares-ni-informacion-publica-opacidad-estatal-niega-soluciones-a-la-crisis-ambiental/>

56 Clima21 (2023) Derechos humanos y gestión de desastres en Venezuela: Una historia de silencios olvidos y omisiones. <https://clima21.net/informes/derechos-humanos-y-gestion-de-desastres-en-venezuela-una-historia-de-silencios-olvidos-y-omisiones/>

Furthermore, even though children and adolescents account for nearly 30% of the Venezuelan population⁵⁷ and are highly vulnerable to climate change,⁵⁸ no disaggregated data on the impact of this phenomenon on this age group is known to exist.

Despite this, it is possible to extract some data on health, environmental and risk management issues that allow for a preliminary understanding of the current situation.

An essential premise for diagnosing the situation of children and adolescents in the context of climate change is to recognize that a significant portion of them are being seriously affected by a complex and widespread humanitarian crisis that adds up to the effects of climate-related emergencies and the worsening of the national political crisis.^{59 60 61}

In this context, the following aspects stand out:

Effects on health and nutrition

Climate change, combined with natural climate variability, creates favorable conditions for the proliferation of vectors of diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and Oropouche fever.^{62 63} In this regard, the Venezuelan Society of Infectology warned of an increase in the reports of dengue cases across the national territory in 2023, and, to a lesser extent, of Zika and chikungunya cases.⁶⁴

Research conducted in Venezuela has found a significantly higher prevalence of dengue infections in individuals under 15 years of age compared to adults.^{65 66 67 68}

57 UNICEF (2023) Country Office Annual Report 2023 – Venezuela. www.unicef.org/media/152496/file/Venezuela-2023-COAR.pdf

58 ACFIMAN-SACC (2018) Primer reporte académico de cambio climático (PRACC) https://acfiman.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/primer_reporte_academico_PRACC.pdf

59 UNICEF (2025) Venezuela. Situation Report No. 2. [https://www.unicef.org/media/167551/file/UNICEF%20Venezuela%20Situation%20Report%20No.2%20\(Year-End\)%20-%2031%20December%202024.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/167551/file/UNICEF%20Venezuela%20Situation%20Report%20No.2%20(Year-End)%20-%2031%20December%202024.pdf)

60 HumVenezuela. (2023). Informe de seguimiento a la emergencia humanitaria compleja en Venezuela: noviembre 2023. <https://humvenezuela.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Informe-de-Seguimiento-de-la-EHC-HumVenezuela-Noviembre-2023-2.pdf>

61 REDHNN. (2023). Análisis de tendencias sobre la situación de derechos humanos de niñas, niños y adolescentes en Venezuela. www.redhna.org/wp-content/uploads/Analisis-de-Tendencias-sobre-la-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-en-Venezuela.pdf

62 Patz, J. A., Githeko, A. K., McCarty, J. P., Hussein, S., Confalonieri, U., & de Wet, N. (2003). Climate change and infectious diseases. En A. J. McMichael, D. H. Campbell-Lendrum, C. F. Corvalán, K. L. Ebi, A. K. Githeko, J. D. Scheraga, & A. Woodward (Eds.), *Climate Change and Human Health: Risks and Responses* (pp. 103-132). World Health Organization.

63 Hartinger, S. M., et al.. (2023). The 2023 Latin America report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: the imperative for health-centred climate-resilient development. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas*, 20, 100470. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2023.100470>

64 Aulino, C. (2024) Sociedad Venezolana de Infectología alerta repunte de dengue en el país #16Feb. <https://www.elimpulso.com/2024/02/16/sociedad-venezolana-de-infectologia-alerta-repunte-de-dengue-en-el-pais-16feb/>

65 Espino C., Comach G., Sierra G., Guzmán D., Camacho D., Cabello de Quintana M., et al. (2010). Incidencia de infecciones sintomáticas y asintomáticas por virus dengue en Maracay, Venezuela: 2006–2007. *Bol. Mal. Salud 1 Amb., [S.l.]*, v. 50, n. 1, p. 7-16, jun. 2010. ISSN 1690-4648. Disponible en: https://ve.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1690-46482010000100007

66 Molina-Gamboa, J. A., Pérez-García, M. D., y González-Reyes, R. E. (2018). Comportamiento clínico del dengue en niños del municipio Cúa, estado Miranda, Venezuela. 2014. *Medisur*, 16(3), 367-374. Disponible en: <http://www.medisur.sld.cu/index.php/medisur/article/view/3547/2328>

67 Rodríguez-Morales, A. J., et al. (2015). Pediatric dengue epidemiology in Venezuela, 2000-2011: Age-related differences in incidence and severity. *The Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*, 4(4), 301-308.

68 Espino C., Comach G., Sierra G., Guzmán D., Camacho D., Cabello de Quintana M., et al. (2010). Incidencia de infecciones sintomáticas y asintomáticas por virus dengue en Maracay, Venezuela: 2006–2007. *Bol. Mal. Salud 1 Amb., 50(1)*, 7-16. Disponible en: https://ve.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1690-46482010000100007

In 2023, 69.1% of the population suffered severe water supply restrictions, 86% were exposed to water unfit for human consumption, and 23.9% were disconnected from the sewage system.

Venezuela also faces serious problems with access to water and sanitation. In 2023, 69.1% of the population suffered severe water supply restrictions, 86% were exposed to water unfit for human consumption, and 23.9% were disconnected from the sewage system.⁶⁹

The lack of official data creates difficulties in accurately assessing the recent impact of this situation; however, global trends suggest that these risks are increasing due to climate change.

In addition, recurring droughts have increased the risk of water shortages and pollution and threatened the food security of the local population,⁷⁰ mainly in arid and semi-arid areas across the country.

There is no official data on the impact of droughts on the child population, but research conducted in the Colombian Guajira region indicates that these phenomena have significantly contributed to an increase in mortality, malnutrition, and the prevalence of diseases in the child population, especially under 5 years of age.^{71 72}

As a result of climate change, the frequency, duration, and intensity of periods of unusually high temperatures are increasing. This situation overlaps the increase in temperatures resulting from environmental variability and the lack of urban environmental management.⁷³

69 HumVenezuela. (2023) Informe de seguimiento de la emergencia humanitaria compleja en Venezuela: noviembre 2023. <https://humvenezuela.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Informe-de-Seguimiento-de-la-EHC-HumVenezuela-Noviembre-2023-2.pdf>

70 Suarez Piña, R. (2023) Las mujeres son quienes más padecen la sequía en la Guajira venezolana. <https://efectococuyo.com/cambio-climatico/las-mujeres-son-quienes-mas-padecen-la-sequia-en-la-guajira-venezolana/>

71 Contreras, D., Voets, A., Junghardt, J. et al. (2020) Factores que influyen en la mortalidad infantil durante la sequía de 2012-2016 en La Guajira, Colombia. *Int J Disaster Risk Sci* 11, 87-104 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13753-020-00255->

72 Save the Children (2024) “Nos agotamos buscando agua” – Niños y niñas indígenas Wayuu luchan contra el hambre, las enfermedades y la escasez de agua, mientras Colombia siente el impacto del fenómeno del Niño. <https://savethechildren.org.co/nos-agotamos-buscando-agua/>

73 Córdova Sáez, K. (2011). Impactos de las islas térmicas o islas de calor urbano, en el ambiente y la salud humana: Análisis estacional comparativo: Caracas, octubre- 2009, marzo- 2010. *Terra*, 27(42), 95-122. http://ve.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1012-70892011000200005&lng=es&tlng=es.

In this regard, Venezuela stands out for consistently recording some of the highest average annual temperatures since instrumental records began.⁷⁴ Furthermore, it is one of the Latin American countries showing an upward trend in heat-related death estimates, and where children under one year of age have experienced a significant increase in heatwave exposure.⁷⁵

Effects related to extreme weather events

Venezuela is a country at high risk of extreme weather events. According to the 2023 Latin America Report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change, the country has a very high exposure to disasters and extreme weather events, being the third country in South America with the highest associated risk index.⁷⁶

Indicative of this situation is that the frequency of floods in Venezuela has increased over the years, with 13 events reported between 2001 and 2020, compared to seven between 1980 and 2000.⁷⁷ Between 2008 and 2022, 23 disaster events were reported in Venezuela. Floods displaced 236,000 people from their homes during this period.⁷⁸

Likewise, Venezuela experienced 51 tropical waves during the 2024 rainy season, which affected 47 municipalities in 17 of the 24 states, with damage to houses, schools, healthcare facilities and public services. More than 75,200 people were affected, including 28,400 children.⁷⁹

This situation generates a strong perception of insecurity among families. Forty-five percent of households responding to a national survey identified socio-natural disasters as the second greatest risk to their lives after crime.⁸⁰ Despite this context, only 2% of households have access to early warning systems.⁸¹

74 Berkeley Earth (2025) Global Temperature Report for 2024. <https://berkeleyearth.org/global-temperature-report-for-2024/>

75 Hartinger, S. M., et al. (2023). The 2023 Latin America report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: The imperative for health-centred climate-resilient development. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas, 33,* 100746. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2023.100746>

76 OIM (2023) Movilidad ambiental y climática en América del Sur. Fact sheet: República Bolivariana de Venezuela. https://lac.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd12601/files/documents/2024-07/oim_mecc_factsheet_venezuela.pdf

77 Universidad de California en Berkeley. (2025) Venezuela. Crisis climática, desplazamiento y el derecho a quedarse. https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/case-studies/venezuela#footnote9_s3boo8q

78 Othering & Belonging Institute. (s.f.). Venezuela case study: Climate refugees. University of California, Berkeley. <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/case-studies/venezuela> [<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/case-studies/venezuela>]

79 UNICEF (2024) Situation Report No. 2. [https://www.unicef.org/media/167551/file/UNICEF%20Venezuela%20Situation%20Report%20No.2%20\(Year-End\)%20-%2031%20December%202024.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/167551/file/UNICEF%20Venezuela%20Situation%20Report%20No.2%20(Year-End)%20-%2031%20December%202024.pdf)

80 HumVenezuela (2023) Citado previamente.

81 UCAB (2023) ENCOVI 2023: los hallazgos más destacados sobre las condiciones de vida de los venezolanos. <https://www.ucab.edu.ve/guayana/encovi-2023-los-hallazgos-mas-destacados-sobre-las-condiciones-de-vida-de-los-venezolanos/>



Children in flood. Retrieved from: Vatican News

As a result of these events, Venezuela ranks 60th among the 158 countries where children are most at risk due to climate change and environmental degradation, according to UNICEF.⁸²

After the risk to their lives, one of the most severe impacts of these events on children is the fact that these situations force many families to abandon their homes, leaving them without access to adequate housing or education, and in a situation of great stress and increased exposure to disease.⁸³

Likewise, socio-natural disasters can affect school facilities, preventing or hindering their activities. Although there are no exact figures on school disruption or the number of school facilities damaged by this type of disaster in the country, media reports compiled over the past three years draw a worrying picture.

⁸² UNICEF (2021) Citado previamente.

⁸³ Othering & Belonging Institute. (s.f.). Citado previamente.

Human Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Context of Climate Change

The extent and magnitude of the triple planetary crisis, comprising the climate emergency, the collapse of biodiversity and pervasive pollution, is an urgent and systemic threat to children's rights globally.

*Committee on the Rights of the Child*⁸⁴

A clean, healthy and sustainable environment is essential to children's rights in itself and for the full enjoyment of other rights. Conversely, environmental degradation, especially climate change, undermines these rights, impacting the most vulnerable groups of children and those living in areas highly exposed to climate change.⁸⁵

General Comment No. 26 (2023) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child combines the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with considerations regarding climate change.⁸⁶ Among the most relevant aspects of the analysis, the Committee (numbers in parentheses refer to articles in the CRC):

Recognizes that climate change affects the best interests of the child⁸⁷ by endangering their life, growth and well-being, as well as the infrastructure necessary for their well-being (Article 3).

Underlines that children's right to life is threatened by climate change and environmental degradation. Furthermore, these problems are closely linked to poverty, inequality, and conflict (Article 6).

Highlights the rights of children in climate-related displacement. Children displaced due to Climate-related events have the right to not be separated from their parents (Article 9); the right to migrate, and the right to maintain contact with their families (Article 10).

Emphasizes children's right to have a voice on climate-related issues. This implies their right to education and information on climate change issues;

⁸⁴ ONU Comité de los Derechos del Niño (2023) Observación general núm. 26 relativa a los derechos del niño y el medio ambiente, con particular atención al cambio climático. CRC/C/GC/26. <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsqkirkQZLK2M58RF%2F5F0vHrWghmhZPL092J0u3MJAYh1pG8vjX%2BTbapbdwymBZbuwwrM7i1mmfJdZAM9BCgcZqUGCNIrEBHJEziU6qaXYp>

⁸⁵ ONU Comité de los Derechos del Niño (2023) Citado previamente.

⁸⁶ ONU Comité de los Derechos del Niño (2023) Citado previamente.

⁸⁷ The concept of the child's best interests is aimed at ensuring both the full and effective enjoyment of all the rights recognized in the Convention and the holistic development of the child. It is a right, a legal principle, and a rule of procedure in itself. Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño (2013) Observación general N° 14 (2013) sobre el derecho del niño a que su interés superior sea una consideración primordial. <https://www.refworld.org/es/ref/polis/legal/crc/2013/es/95780>

the right to have their views on the climate crisis taken into account, and their right to protest the lack of climate action without harassment (Article 12).

Recognizes that climate change and environmental degradation have a disproportionate impact on children's health. Therefore, it emphasizes the urgency of taking measures to protect their health in the context of climate change (Article 24, particularly 24.2.c).

Warns that climate change is affecting the right to an adequate standard of living. Therefore, all necessary measures must be taken to guarantee this right (Article 27).

Notes that climate change hinders children's right to education. The effects of climate change can result in the destruction or damage of school infrastructure, lower attendance and higher dropout rates (CRC Article 28). Furthermore, Article 29.1.e of the Convention requires children's education to promote environmental respect.

General Comment No. 26 also underlines the obligation of the States to protect children and adolescents from climate change, stemming from their duty to maintain a clean and sustainable environment.

This implies:

- The obligation to act with due diligence to adopt appropriate preventive measures to protect children against reasonably foreseeable environmental harm and violations of their rights, paying due consideration to the precautionary principle.
- Collecting reliable and up-to-date information on environmental harm and its impact on children's rights in order to design and evaluate public policies, as well as collecting disaggregated data to identify the differential effects of environment-related harm on children, paying attention to groups of children most at risk.
- Guaranteeing freedom of expression, access to accurate environmental information, and protection against misinformation; encouraging the participation of children in decision-making processes on environmental and climate crisis matters.

For its part, UNICEF^{88 89} urged States to ensure that all decisions and actions prioritize the best interests of the child, preceded by the assessment of their impact on children's rights. The UN agency also recommends increasing investment in climate adaptation and resilience in key services such as water, sanitation, health, and education, as well as incorporating environmental education to prepare children for climate change.

Regarding the impact of climate change on health, UNICEF urges the implementation of measures that prioritize children, such as the training of caregivers, strengthening climate-resilient primary care services, ensuring access to nutritious food and clean water, improving disaster preparedness, and adopting child-sensitive social protection measures.

UNICEF also urges the implementation of international commitments such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, and the 2030 Agenda. It also highlights the importance of international cooperation to protect children's rights in contexts of displacement and migration due to climate events or armed conflict, ensuring inclusive legislation and administrative measures.

For its part, the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action,⁹⁰ presented during the COP25 in Madrid in 2019 and signed by 64 countries, including Venezuela, urges states to bear in consideration the rights of children in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The document also urges States to invest in adaptation and mitigation measures that respond to their needs, strengthen the capacity of children and young people through environmental education, and enhance their participation in climate change processes. It also mentions the possibility of establishing an international Commission for Children and Future Generations.

It is equally important to highlight that the Paris Agreement adopted a human rights-based approach, identifying children, along with other groups, as a key sector for climate action.⁹¹

88 UNICEF (2024) Una amenaza para el progreso: Cómo abordar los efectos del cambio climático sobre la salud y el bienestar de la infancia. Nueva York. https://www.unicef.org/media/159601/file/A_Threat_to_Progress_190824%20ES.pdf

89 UNICEF (2021) Citado previamente.

90 UNICEF (2019) Declaración sobre los Niños, Niñas, Jóvenes y la Acción Climática. <https://www.unicef.org/es/declaracion-ninos-ninas-jovenes-accion-climatica>

91 UNFCCC (2015) Acuerdo de París, 2015. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/spanish_paris_agreement.pdf

Actions taken by the Venezuelan State on the protection of children and adolescents from the effects of climate change

The Venezuelan government has reported on the adoption of various measures to protect the rights of children and adolescents from the effects of climate change. Although most of them are not directly linked to climate change, their implementation could strengthen the protection of this group from the impacts of this global crisis. These measures include legal aspects, participation in international agreements, and government action.

Legal measures:

Article 78 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV) recognizes children and adolescents as full subjects of rights. Consequently, it guarantees their protection through dedicated legislation, agencies and courts, which must operate under the mandates of the Constitution and the international treaties ratified by the country, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This constitutional protection is specifically developed in the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (LOPNNA). This law covers a wide range of fundamental rights for children and adolescents, such as access to health care, education, food, housing, identity, and a healthy environment, as well as protection from violence and exploitation.

Article 31 of the LOPNNA establishes the right of children and adolescents to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, as well as to the preservation and enjoyment of the natural landscape. Other articles, such as Article 8 (right to life), Article 32 (right to health), and Article 64 (the shared responsibility of full development), further support their right to grow up in a safe, healthy, and ecologically balanced environment.

Other legal and public planning instruments, such as the *Plan de la Patria* (Homeland Plan) and the *Misión Madre Tierra Venezuela* (Mission Mother Earth Venezuela),⁹² incorporate aspects related to environmental conservation and the fight against climate change, but fail to contain specific provisions aimed at protecting children and adolescents from the effects of the climate crisis.

International agreements:

Venezuela has signed a significant number of international environmental agreements and treaties that are essential for safeguarding children and adolescents from the effects of climate change. These include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),⁹³ the 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC,⁹⁴ and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁹⁵

The UNFCCC establishes the general framework for global climate action, with the ultimate objective of stabilizing the climate system through the management of greenhouse gas concentrations and promoting adaptation to their negative effects. This action shall benefit all people, both present and future generations.

The preamble to the Paris Agreement urges Parties to respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health and the rights of children, among other groups.

Under this Agreement, the primary obligation of the Parties is to develop and submit a climate action plan known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with the objective of defining national policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.

Venezuela presented its NDC in 2017, with an update in 2021.⁹⁶ This document established adaptation as a national climate priority, integrating it with the fight against poverty, the right to development, and the SDGs. Despite this commitment, the country still does not have a National Adaptation Plan.^{97 98 99}

92 González, K. (2025) Maduro anuncia la creación de la Gran Misión Madre Tierra Venezuela. <https://ultimasnoticias.com.ve/mas-vida/maduro-anuncia-la-creacion-de-la-gran-mision-madre-tierra-venezuela/>

93 Naciones Unidas. (1992) Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático. <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/convsp.pdf>

94 Naciones Unidas. (2015). Acuerdo de París. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/spanish_paris_agreement.pdf

95 PNUD (s.f.) ¿Qué son los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible? <https://www.undp.org/es/sustainable-development-goals>

96 República Bolivariana de Venezuela (2021) Actualización de la Contribución Nacionalmente Determinada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela para la lucha contra el Cambio Climático y sus efectos. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Actualizacion%20NDC%20Venezuela.pdf>

97 FAO (2024) Venezuela avanza hacia un Plan Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático en los sectores de Agricultura, Pesca y Recursos Hídricos. <https://www.fao.org/venezuela/noticias/detail-events/fr/c/1711474/>

98 Clima21 (2023) Resumen de la situación de los derechos humanos ambientales en Venezuela 2022. <https://clima21.net/noticias/resumen-de-la-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-ambientales-en-venezuela-2022/>

99 Clima21 (2022) Derechos humanos y gestión de desastres en Venezuela: Una historia de silencios, olvidos y omisiones. <https://clima21.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Informe-05-Desastre-ESP-14-01.pdf>

This document also indicates that the National Institute of Statistics (INE) was instructed to disaggregate and publicize data and information related to the groups at highest risk, including children and adolescents. No publicly available information indicates that this disaggregation has been carried out or disseminated for consultation.

The NDC presented by Venezuela also establishes the promotion of political participation in climate management matters among “*social movements, non-state actors, productive sectors, academics, and the People’s Government Councils.*” No mention is made of the promotion of the participation of children and adolescents within the framework of the rights established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Regarding the SDGs, UNICEF established a set of recommendations for countries reviewing the progress of the goals related to children, including SDG 13 (Climate Action).¹⁰⁰ There is no public record of these guidelines being used to assess Venezuela’s progress toward SDG 13.

During the COP28, held in 2023, the Venezuelan government, represented by the Minister for Ecosocialism, signed the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, an initiative promoted by UNICEF. There is no public information detailing the actions implemented by the Venezuelan government to follow up on the commitments made in this declaration.¹⁰¹

Government action:

The Venezuelan government has stated that it is implementing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on children. However, different organizations and researchers have pointed out that the Venezuelan government has failed to fulfill its responsibilities on human rights matters, especially in areas such as health, food, education, and environmental protection, among other aspects.^{102 103 104 105}

Furthermore, the government has been developing joint actions with international organizations to formulate programs aimed at promoting climate resilience.^{106 107 108}

100 UNICEF (2023) KEY ASKS 2023. SDG National Reviews. <https://www.unicef.org/media/138156/file/SDG%2013%202023%20rev.pdf>

101 UNICEF (2019) Citado previamente.

102 HumVenezuela (2023) Informe de seguimiento a la emergencia humanitaria compleja en Venezuela. <https://humvenezuela.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Informe-de-Seguimiento-de-la-EHC-HumVenezuela-Noviembre-2023-2.pdf>

103 REDHNN (2020) Derechos de papel II. <https://www.redhnn.org/noticias/derechos-de-papel-ii>

104 REDHNN (2020) Sin respuestas urgentes de protección a niños, niñas y adolescentes en la situación humanitaria de Venezuela. <https://www.redhnn.org/noticias/derechos-de-papel-salud-en-postracion>

105 Herrera-Cuenca, M. (2021) Understanding children’s undernutrition in Venezuela. *EBioMedicine*, 67, May 2021 DOI: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2021.103367

106 UNICEF (2023) El Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ecosocialismo firmó la Declaración sobre Niñez, Juventud y Acción Climática en la COP 28. <https://www.unicef.org/venezuela/comunicados-prensa/el-ministerio-del-poder-popular-para-el-ecosocialismo-firm%C3%B3-la-declaraci%C3%B3n-0>

107 UNICEF (2023) UNICEF aprueba un nuevo programa de cooperación con la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. <https://www.unicef.org/venezuela/comunicados-prensa/unicef-aprueba-un-nuevo-programa-de-cooperaci%C3%B3n-con-la-rep%C3%BAblica-bolivariana-de>

108 UNICEF (2024) Lucha contra el cambio climático en Venezuela: Un enfoque juvenil en el ecosistema marino. <https://www.unicef.org/venezuela/blog/lucha-contra-el-cambio-clim%C3%A1tico-en-venezuela-un-enfoque-juvenil-en-el-ecosistema-marino>

No information could be found on the potential achievements of these actions.

Regarding climate change adaptation, the Venezuelan State is failing to comply with its legal obligation to establish and implement a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, essential for protecting the population from its effects.

The omission explains why Venezuela currently ranks 143rd out of 187 countries in the ND-GAIN Index compiled by the U.S. University of Notre Dame, which assesses climate change vulnerability and preparedness. This indicator also shows a sharp decline over the past twenty years.¹⁰⁹

Regarding the obligation of the State to promote education to empower all members of society to participate in climate action,¹¹⁰ it is crucial to acknowledge that, by various accounts, Venezuela's education system -particularly basic education- is in a severe crisis that impedes children's access to quality learning.^{111 112 113 114}

Although the updated NDC presented by Venezuela details education policies directed at basic and higher education (pp. 113 and 116, respectively), a lack of information remains on the degree of implementation of these measures and their potential effect on adaptation objectives.

Similarly, in the case of non-formal or non-school education, a significant number of news articles found in the media have reported on various climate change-related educational activities carried out by different State agencies, but most of them appear to be unsystematic, unconnected and not based on adequate and up-to-date educational models.¹¹⁵

109 The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (s.f.) ND-GAIN Country Index. <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

110 UNFCCC (s.f.) Action for Climate Empowerment. <https://unfccc.int/es/node/201712>

111 HumVenezuela (2023) Citado previamente.

112 REDHNA (2024) Análisis de tendencias sobre la situación de derechos de NNA en Venezuela, ago 2023 a feb 2024. <https://www.redhna.org/informes/analisis-de-tendencias-sobre-la-situacion-de-derechos-de-nna-en-venezuela-ago-2023-a-feb-2024>

113 Provea (2023) Derecho a la educación. Situación de los Derechos Humanos en Venezuela. <https://provea.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/06-Educacion-Provea-2023.pdf>

114 Sinergia (2023) Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible En Venezuela 2016-2022 Revisión de cumplimiento a medio término (2016-2022) Revisión a medio término. <https://acsineria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SINERGIA-ODS-en-Vzla-Revision-a-medio-termino-2023.pdf>

115 Álvarez, A. (2018) Educación ambiental y cambio climático. Cap. II.5. En: ACFIMAN-SACC, 2018: "Primer Reporte Académico de Cambio Climático 2018: Contribución de los Grupos de Trabajo I, II y III al Primer Reporte Académico de Cambio Climático (PRACC) de la Secretaría Académica de Cambio Climático (SACC) de la Academia de Ciencias Físicas, Matemáticas y Naturales (ACFIMAN) de Venezuela". [Villamizar, A., E. Buroz Castillo, R. Lairat Centeno, & J. A. Gómez (Eds.)]. EDICIONES ACFIMAN – CITECI, CARACAS. https://acfiman.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/primer_reporte_academico_PRACC.pdf

Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the information analyzed, it is possible to state that:

- A strong scientific consensus exists among international child protection institutions on the seriousness of climate change as a global threat to the rights of children and adolescents.
- International organizations have been continuously warning about the urgency of establishing policies to protect the rights of children and adolescents in the context of climate change, with special attention to the most vulnerable and neglected groups.
- Acting in this direction is an inescapable ethical obligation: children and adolescents are not responsible for the climate crisis yet they are among the groups most vulnerable to its adverse effects, and they will also inherit the consequences of our current actions.
- Venezuela faces significant challenges on the matter. On the one hand, there seems to be no political will to establish and maintain the policies and actions necessary to move forward in this regard. On the other, the information available on the situation is extremely scarce, insufficient, and, in many cases, nonexistent.

In this context of inaction and lack of information, harm to children from climate change-related events risks intensifying steadily. This adds up to the fact that forecasts of the future impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly alarming.

For these reasons, it is imperative to continue urging the Venezuelan State to act urgently to develop public policies guided by the principle of the best interest of children and adolescents, and to bring them to the center of climate action.

Likewise, it is crucial to raise awareness among Venezuelan civil society about the serious threat that climate change poses to children and adolescents, and incorporate this conversation as a cross-cutting topic in their protection and advocacy efforts.

Seeking to contribute to achieving these objectives, a series of recommendations are presented to the Venezuelan State, Venezuelan civil society, and the international community. These recommendations are based on the research conducted and

the contributions of the consulted organizations in the field of protection and assistance of children and adolescents in Venezuela.

The objective of the following recommendations is to define key topics for setting a comprehensive roadmap to advance toward the protection of children and adolescents from the effects of climate change.

Recommendations to the Venezuelan State:

- **Legislate on the Protection of Children from Climate Change:** It is necessary to define a legislative agenda focused on strengthening the protection of children and adolescents from the effects of climate change. This involves amending or enacting laws to explicitly recognize their right to a healthy and safe environment, as well as the obligation of the State to protect them from the adverse impacts of a changing climate.
- **Establish a National Adaptation Plan with a focus on Children:** It is urgent to establish a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan that prioritizes the comprehensive protection of children. This plan must integrate a children's rights-based perspective into all national climate change-related policies, strategies and actions, guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 26 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Declaration on Children, Young People, and Climate Action.
- **Evaluate the differential Impact of Climate Change on Children:** A comprehensive assessment of the differential impact of climate change on the rights of children and adolescents is urgently needed. This includes promoting research and epidemiological surveillance, as well as defining mechanisms to assess the impact of extreme weather events and the effects of climate change on children's food and water security. The information collected must be made publicly accessible.
- **Incorporate Climate Change Education:** The integration of climate change education into all levels and modalities of the national education system is proposed, including non-formal education programs. This education should prioritize learning strategies to strengthen climate resilience among the population and the training of teaching staff on climate change issues and pedagogical methods. Creating awareness and information campaigns on different media is also encouraged, including advertising, learning materials, community events, and collaborations with media outlets.

- **Encourage the participation of Children and Adolescents in Climate Change Management:** The active participation of children and adolescents in the discussion and management of climate change-related issues must be promoted through the provision of safe spaces where they can share their concerns, express their opinions, bring up solutions and be heard.
- **Strengthen Social Protection:** Ensure that vulnerable families with children have effective access to protection mechanisms for health, food, housing, and other basic needs in response to climate-induced situations.
- **Establish strategic alliances** with different non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the national and international private sector, as well as international organizations for the protection of children and adolescents' rights, in order to expand and strengthen actions aimed at increasing climate resilience among children and adolescents and their families.

Recommendations to Venezuelan Civil Society Organizations:

- **Strengthen capabilities for monitoring the impacts of climate change on children and adolescents:** Develop and implement systems for documenting and monitoring the effects of climate change on the rights of children and adolescents. This involves collecting data disaggregated by age, gender, and location, with special attention to situations that might provide grounds for future legal action at the domestic and international levels to demand accountability for climate change-related rights violations.
- **Establish advocacy campaigns:** Promote effective advocacy campaigns to ensure the integration of the human rights framework into climate change policies and programs, both at home and abroad.
- **Promote education and participation of children and adolescents in climate change management issues:** Design and implement educational programs tailored to diverse groups and geographic, social, and cultural contexts. Simultaneously, create safe and accessible spaces where children and adolescents can freely express their opinions and actively participate in environmental management issues.

Recommendations to the International Community:

- **Strengthen cooperation mechanisms with Venezuela:** Provide technical and financial support to both the Venezuelan State and civil society organizations for the implementation of measures and projects aimed at protecting the rights of children and adolescents in the face of climate change.
- **Consolidate international oversight mechanisms:** Strengthen international oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure that the Venezuelan State fulfills its obligations on the matters.

