



Save the Children



PAN-AFRICA BRIEF

GLOBAL GIRLHOOD REPORT 2023:

GIRLS AT THE CENTRE OF THE STORM

HER PLANET, HER FUTURE, HER SOLUTIONS


The climate crisis is already changing girls' lives and futures.

Girls across Africa are facing growing challenges as the climate crisis increasingly impacts the continent, leading to a range of extreme weather patterns. In southern parts of Africa, girls are enduring devastating cyclones and floods.¹ Meanwhile, the Sahel, Eastern, and Horn of Africa regions - home to the highest rates of child marriage - are grappling with severe droughts. Climate-induced migration is also on the rise in Western, Southern, and Central Africa. Right now, longer-lasting droughts and the war in Ukraine have combined to create a hunger crisis the size and severity of which has not been seen before. More than 23 million people, including girls and their families, across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are facing severe hunger,² while 9 West and Central African countries are experiencing major food crises.³

By the end of 2022, at least 1.85 million children across sub-Saharan Africa were displaced within their home countries because of climate-induced disasters, nearly doubling numbers from the previous year.⁴ An estimated 12.5 million girls in 30 climate vulnerable countries will experience schooling disruptions due to climate-related events - 22 of these countries are in Africa.⁵ Girls in lower-income countries - often former or current colonies - face the biggest challenges, while high-income countries, which are chiefly responsible for the climate crisis, experience fewer impacts.

Unlike many other parts of the world, the effects of the climate crisis are keenly felt at the household level in Africa. When rain falls, food security and family income are put at risk. When floods occur, homes and farms are swept away. These hardships directly affect children, and threaten their rights, including but not limited to their right to survival, development, protection, health, and education.⁶

What is the climate crisis?



Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane trap heat around the Earth. In the right amounts they create a blanket that keeps the planet at a stable temperature. But human activity - including burning fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal - has increased the amount of greenhouse gases so that the blanket is getting too thick, causing the Earth to get hotter. And as the world heats up, the climate is changing. This is causing a crisis that includes slow changes like rising sea levels and prolonged droughts, as well as sudden and extreme weather such as heatwaves and storms. Without the ability to quickly adapt and bounce back, these changes are contributing to increased poverty, inequality and other harms to children.ⁱ

What is colonialism and how is it linked to climate change?

The wealthiest 1% of countries account for 23% of global carbon dioxide emissions, in stark contrast to the bottom 50%, which accounted for only 16% between 1990-2019 alone.⁷ Africa, a continent disproportionately impacted by climate change is responsible for just 4% of global greenhouse gases - a disparity that reflects historical and continuing injustices linked to colonialism.⁸

This imbalance and lack of accountability from high-income countries is part of a longer story of injustices and inequality shaped by the ongoing impacts of

colonialism. Colonialism involves taking control of the sovereignty, resources and people of a territory and committing various human rights violations and abuses in this pursuit. Some of the ongoing impacts of colonialism can be seen in unfair trade relationships and international institutions that are dominated by higher-income countries. In regard to the climate crisis, the result of colonialism is that those who have contributed the most to the climate crisis have been the least impacted, and girls in formerly or still colonised lower-income countries face the greatest challenges.



ⁱ For more information, see UNICEF's climate handbook for children, [Our Changing Climate](#)

Climate disasters are a threat multiplier, meaning that they increase existing threats and inequalities.⁹ Unexpected and slow-onset climate disasters increase risks of harm that particularly affect girls, including gender-based violence and child marriage.

Across the continent, the impacts of more frequent climate disasters like floods, cyclones, wildfires and heatwaves include:

- ⇒ Exposing girls to risk of sexual harassment and abuse in the chaos, overcrowding and lack of safe services in the aftermath of a disaster.¹⁰
- ⇒ Pushing families into poverty, which can lead to harmful coping strategies such as child labour and child marriage.ⁱⁱ
- ⇒ Driving families and wider communities to leave their homes, forcing girls out-of-school and increasing risks to them such as child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence.
- ⇒ Reducing girls' access to the food and services they need to be safe, healthy and make decisions about their lives and bodies.

Despite these impacts on girls, less than 2% of national climate plans globally mention girls and less than 4% of projects name or meaningfully consider girls for inclusion in activities, for consultation or investment.¹¹

ⁱⁱThis report uses the UNICEF definition of child marriage, which includes informal marriage-like unions.



We are seeing and living the climate crisis. We have seen the drought ruin our farm. Now the sun is very hot, everything is so dry and the trees are dying. You can't walk along the road because the dust is so bad. The dust is everywhere... Without climate change I would have had a better life. That is something that really upsets me.

Amina, 17, climate activist in Baidoa, Somalia.

Photo: Michael Tsegaye / Save the Children



Patricia, 10, and her friends with their new school bags on the way home after a cyclone in Madagascar.

Photo: Ny Antsa Tatarasoa / Save the Children



Case study: Drought, conflict, displacement, poverty and child marriage in Ethiopia

Asma, 14, grew up in a family of 12 and has lived in a displacement camp for 5 years. Asma remembers losing close family members during the conflict in her country, which forced her family to move from their home. Asma's family was then forced into poverty due to drought, as they are pastoralists and are dependent on livestock for their income. When the family lost their livestock due to the conflict and drought, they had no income and struggled to access food and water.

When a wealthy older man approached Asma's parents and asked to marry her, her parents agreed due to their economic situation.

"Because he was a wealthier person than us, my parents advised me that if I got married to him my life would become better than theirs. I told [my friends] that my parents wanted me to marry an older man. My friends told my teachers and then my teachers offered me advice. Eventually my teachers came to my parents and told them how I would be affected. They tried more than four times and finally my parents accepted [their recommendation]."

Asma, 14 was photographed by Ethiopian photographer Mahader Haileselassie as part of a series of images showing the devastating impact extreme weather events like droughts can have on girls' lives and the children campaigning for change in their communities.



Case study: Kuji and Kpemeh – Cousins and champions for ending child marriage in the changing Sierra Leonean climate

19-year-old Kuji's life became difficult after the death of her father when she was just 9 years old. Without his support Kuji had to drop out of school and when she was 15 years old she became pregnant. Determined to pursue her education, Kuji took on manual labouring jobs and collected firewood to sell in order to pay for her own school fees and resume her education.

Kuji's cousin, Kpemeh was also forced to leave school early. When Kpemeh was just 12 years old, a man expressed his interest in marrying her. As subsistence farmers, her parents felt financial pressure, and agreed to the marriage. Kpemeh resisted the marriage for the next three years. Eventually she was forced to move to another village to seek support from her relatives, including her cousin, Kuji.

"I said if you are planning a marriage for my cousin then I am going to report you. And my elder sister urged me not to say anything to avoid family dispute, and I said I don't even care..."

Cousins Kpemeh, 18, and Kuji, 19, walk hand in hand in Kailahun, Sierra Leone.

Photo: Shona Hamilton/GCCU Save the Children.

"I vowed to fight for her."

Thanks to Kuji, the case was reported to the village chief, the marriage was stopped and Kpemeh was able to go back to school. Now the cousins are close friends and do everything together, including advocating to end child marriage in their community.

Kuji and Kpemeh's stories show how poverty and financial shocks – including due to climate change – increase risks for girls. Kpemeh sees how climate change is impacting girls' access to education and power to make decisions about their own lives.

"The climate has changed and our parents rely on farming. Rain does not fall when it is supposed to fall... Plants are destroyed... Because our families are poor, if this situation persists it could hinder our schooling. Because poverty will stop you from going to school."

Kuji, 19, studies at home with her 3-year-old son in Kailahun, Sierra Leone.

Photo: Shona Hamilton/GCCU Save the Children.

How the climate crisis is increasing risk of child marriage



- »» In parts of **Ethiopia** worst hit by drought and food shortages, rates of child marriage rose by 119% in 2022 compared to 2021.¹²
- »» In **Zimbabwe**, there have been recent reports of girls initiating their own marriages in the hope of increasing their access to food.¹³
- »» Analysis of historical data shows that a 10% increase or decrease in rainfall is associated with a 1% increase in child marriage, **globally**.¹⁴
- »» In early 2023, **Malawi** experienced one of the worst tropical cyclones on record. A government report found that the destabilizing impact of Cyclone Freddy on the educational system, especially the presence of internally displaced people in schools, exposed girls to risks of gender-based violence, including child marriage.¹⁵
- »» Heavy rainfall in **Niger** in 2022 resulted in severe flooding that left over 2.6 million students out of school; this disproportionately affected girls increasing the risk of child marriage.¹⁶
- »» There was a significant increase of the risk of child marriage as a coping mechanism for families under pressure in **Mozambique** during and after natural disasters.¹⁷ The 2019 cyclones, which displaced 2 million, increased reports of child marriage in tent settlements.¹⁸

PP

I am afraid of the arrival of the cyclones because of the difficulties we are going to face: we are forced to leave our houses for fear of collapse, our daily life is also destroyed because we have nothing to eat, our crops are flooded or blown away

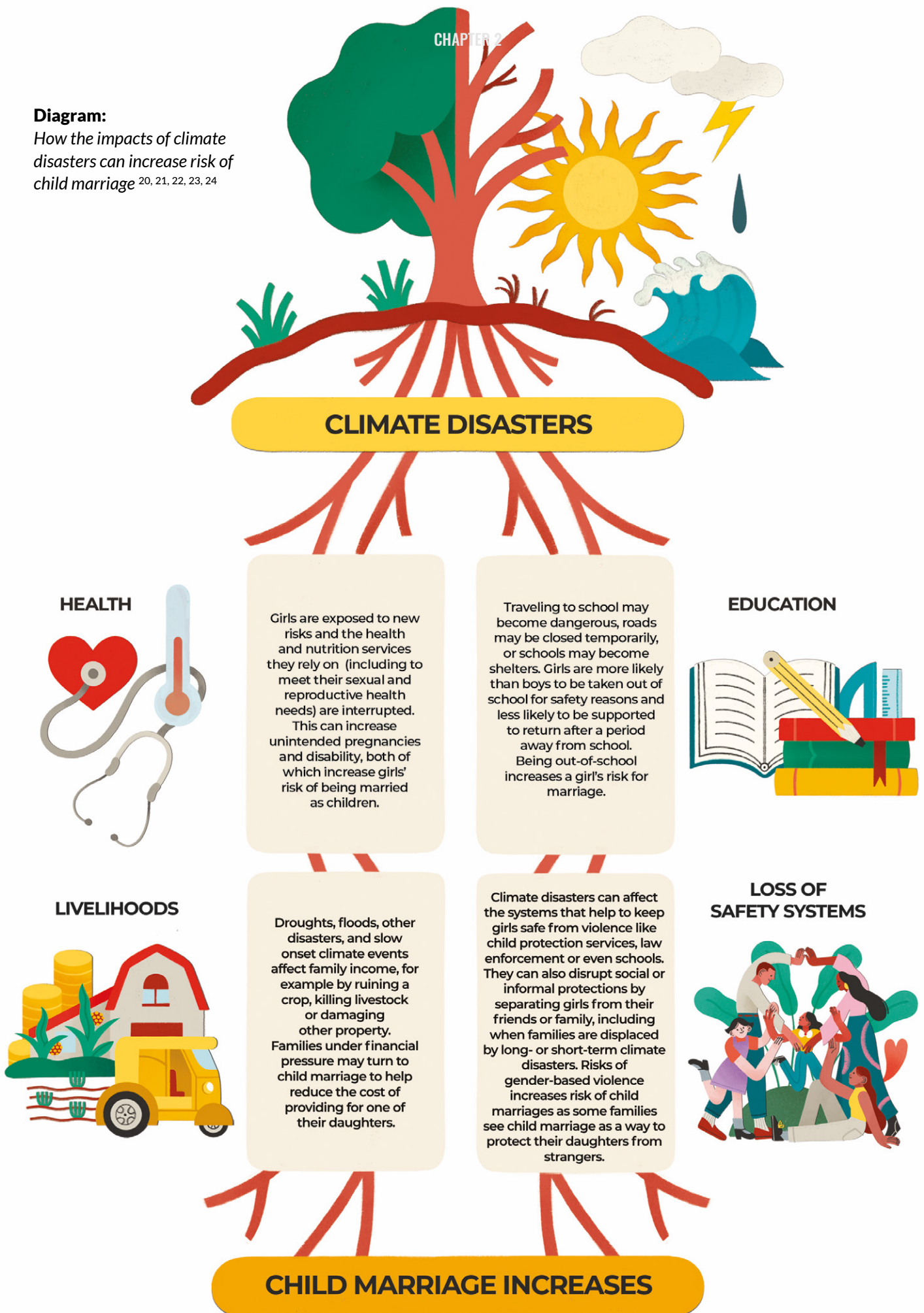
Patricia, 10, Madagascar.

PP

I got married at 15 because I was seeing that my married friends had enough to eat, had enough clothes. And I was suffering; one day I was eating, one day I wasn't. So I preferred to find a husband so that I could live a normal life.

Theresa Januario, 25, Mozambique.¹⁹

Diagram:
How the impacts of climate
disasters can increase risk of
child marriage^{20, 21, 22, 23, 24}



NIGERIA: Two girls' experiences of the climate crisis

KATSINA STATE

"I got married at the age of 15 because of economic hardship".

Ummi, was married at 15 due to hardships in her community, including lack of money and provision for basic needs. These challenges also led to her divorce a few years later, as the impact of climate change on farming affected her household income.

"It's been tough, we engage in irrigation farming during the dry season, but still harvest poor produce due to insufficient water. Water is now a serious issue because of climate change. [When] the rain falls are reduced, [it dries] our crops and prevent them from growing and when it falls heavily, it leads to flood that damages everything. Climate change is one of the reasons why I am not together with my husband, because things are difficult for us. I got married without completing my secondary school. I want to go back to school but my father's hardship [makes it impossible] to sponsor or afford my education. My dream is to complete my education so that I can help my family and community."



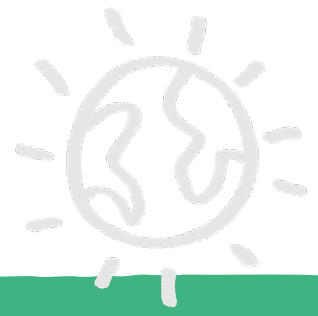
Hauwa, 10, participant at the Child Friendly Space (CFS) in Borno.

Photo: Pem Musa

YOBE STATE

"My name is Maryam, and I am 12 years old. Going to school has never been a problem for us until erosion engulfed the pathway leading to our school. Whenever it rains, we cannot go to school as the valley will be filled with water, preventing us from passing, and when it is dry, we have to enter into the gully and climb up to the other side to continue to school. Sometimes our parents or teachers help us cross the water-filled gully or they take us through a far distance route to get to school. There are days we get trapped in school because it has rained. This gully killed my younger brother. He drowned one of the times when the gully was filled to the brim with water."

Save the Children, through the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs project, is working with the local government to provide a solution for this concern in the community. Part of this community intervention is the provision of learners kits to students, an accelerated learning program to help out-of-school children get back into formal school and training for teachers on protecting education during times of conflict.



NEW DATA: Child marriage and the climate crisis – an emergency for girls' rights

New analysis by Save the Children shows that **almost 9 million girls, globally face extreme risk of climate disasters and child marriage every year.**²⁵ This new analysis by Save the Children shows that around **two-thirds of child marriages happen in regions with higher-than-average climate risks.**ⁱⁱⁱ

The combination of climate risk and child marriage has created emergency hotspots for girls' rights in Bangladesh and across sub-Saharan Africa. These countries are not just affected by severe and frequent climate disasters but in many cases conflict, high levels of poverty and gender inequality.

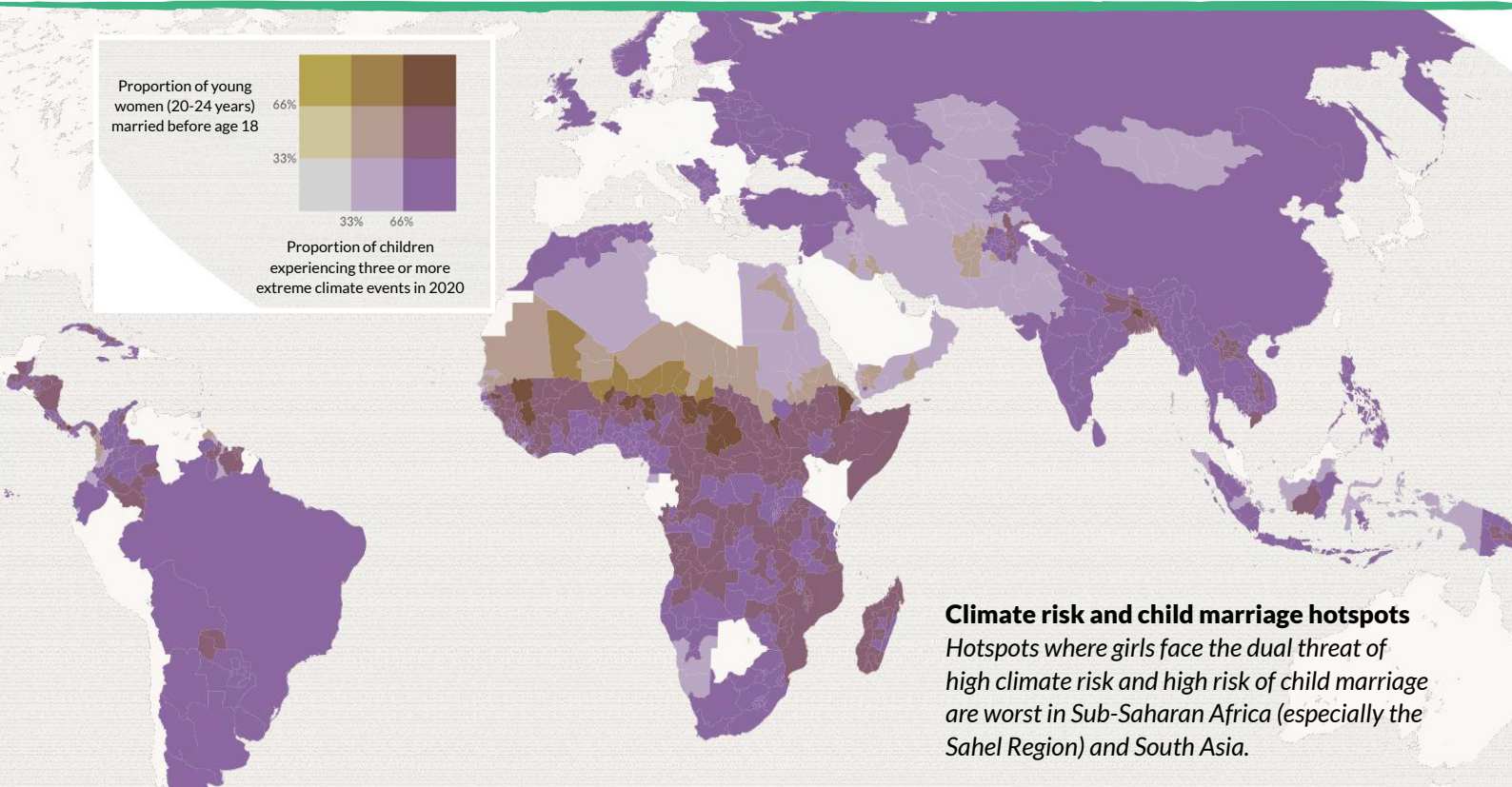
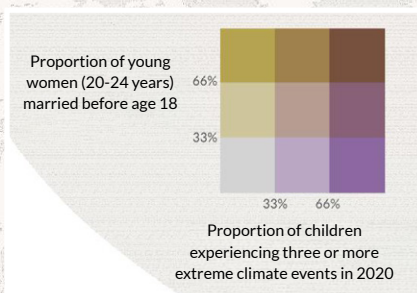
Girls in many of the countries with the highest combined child marriage and climate risk are now struggling with the worst of the current hunger crisis.

The number of girls at high risk of extreme climate events and child marriage is set to increase. These hotspot countries have some of the youngest and fastest growing populations in the world. **The number of girls growing up in the top 10 hotspots is expected to increase from 29.9 million to 32.2 million.** By 2050, the number of girls growing up in these hotspots will be 39.9 million, an increase of one-third. Living with this dual threat will be a reality for many more girls.

10 global hotspots for climate change and child marriage

- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Guinea
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Niger
- South Sudan

ⁱⁱⁱOn average 80% of children experience at least one extreme climate event (like for example wildfires, crop failures, droughts, floods, heatwaves and cyclones) each year.



After Cyclone Freddy, child marriages surge in Malawi

Cyclone Freddy – a devastating climate disaster – left destruction in its path across Malawi and other countries. For girls in affected areas, this came with additional consequences including a significant increase in child marriages.

14-year-old Jane's home, food, clothes and family property were swept away by the cyclone. Her family was forced to relocate to a camp for shelter and Jane was eventually married.

"The situation was no better when I got married. I had to do piece works with my husband for us to put food on the table."

Jane was quickly moved into the care of a safe home, she is no longer married and Save the Children is providing ongoing support to enable Jane to re-enter the education system.

"I never thought I could find hope again after Cyclone Freddy took everything from me - my home, clothes, food, and even my dreams... I remember saying I'd never go back to school, thinking it was impossible after all I'd been through. But today, I stand here with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to chase my dream of becoming a doctor... Cyclone Freddy may have taken so much from me, but it couldn't take away my

determination to build a better future".

Jane's journey is a testament to her strength and the resilience shown by so many girls in the face of adversity and the widespread impacts of the climate crisis.

The surge in child marriages post-Cyclone Freddy remains a great concern. In Traditional Authority Mwambo, in Zomba District, the numbers are staggering. In the first half of 2023, 438 boys and 528 girls were married, compared to just 17 boys and 28 girls during the same period in the previous year.

"The climate induced disasters have a cruel way of forcing children to prematurely become adults, pushing them into a world where they must fend for themselves after losing everything. In the desperate struggle for survival, some are even pushed into early marriages, robbed of their childhood dreams and innocence," explains Lupakisho Mthakomwa Zomba District Social Welfare Officer.

Efforts to combat this alarming trend must focus not only on immediate intervention and support but also on addressing the root causes that drive families to see child marriage as a solution.

Stella, 16, is a climate change champion in Malawi. She lives in Zomba, the southern region of the country, which was hit by Cyclone Freddy.

Photo: Thoko Chikondi / Save the Children



Spotlight: Child marriage and the hunger crisis

The world is currently grappling with a worsening hunger crisis, the size and severity of which has not been seen before. The ongoing economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine has led to higher food prices, leaving families struggling to afford basic needs. The types of food adolescent girls need to stay healthy are often more expensive (for example, meat and nuts to support growth and increased needs due to menstruation) making high food prices particularly problematic, especially for girls who are pregnant or breastfeeding.²⁶

Child marriage has been used to respond to loss of income or food shortages in many parts of the world, either because of payments linked to marriage (like bride-price or dowry), or simply to make sure that a different family is responsible for covering the costs of food and care for a girl.²⁷

The **Horn of Africa** in the eastern part of the African continent has been the most severely

affected by the current crisis and evidence of increasing child marriages is emerging:

- ⇒ In parts of Ethiopia worst hit by drought and food shortages, **rates of child marriage rose by 119%** in 2022 compared to 2021.²⁸
- ⇒ Nearly **1 in 4 people interviewed** in Somaliland reported a rise in gender-based violence – including child marriage, domestic violence and sexual violence – following the extended drought, with increases of more than 50% in some locations.²⁹
- ⇒ In Zimbabwe, there have been recent reports of **girls initiating their own marriages** in the hope of increasing their access to food.³⁰
- ⇒ UNICEF estimates that female genital cutting/mutilation – sometimes considered a requirement for child marriage – has **increased by as much as 27%** in areas worst affected by the current food crisis.³¹



Sometimes we did not have a meal all day and slept without eating.

Girl, 14, Madagascar.³²



Due to climate change, parents are losing their only source of livelihoods, which is livestock, and they are committing suicide. Children are left as orphans and they may die due to hunger.

Girl, 17, Kenya.³³



A flood happened in my community. The farmers increased the price of food crops, I have seen over 4 children suffer because of floods that took their house.

Girl, 12, Nigeria.³⁴



I was a victim of flooding. A lot of things got damaged including our school materials.

Girl, Sierra Leone.³⁵



Out of seven children in our family, I'm the only one in school. My brothers are taking care of our livestock out there in the bush while my only sister was married off last year. I just wish this drought never came because they all had to drop out of school.

Hawa, Kenya.³⁶



I left our house because my mother died and my father wanted to give me out for marriage, so I ran away and right now, I have no support, so I work in people's houses so that I can eat.

Girl, 13–17, South Sudan.³⁷

The **Central Sahel region** (including Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) faces conflict, poverty and the world's highest rates of child marriage. It was also heavily financially affected by COVID-19 lockdown measures.³⁸ The Central Sahel experienced the worst of its current hunger crisis in 2022. This followed an unpredictable rainy season in 2021 that harmed crops and combined with rising food and fertiliser prices as a result of the war in Ukraine, which affected international grain supplies.^{39,40} Long-term instability and heavy reliance on rain for crops and farming practices means even slight shifts in rainfall – droughts or floods – can devastate food supplies in these countries.⁴¹

Research by Save the Children in Burkina Faso and Niger found that this combination of challenges is pushing more families who don't have access to food to give their girls away to marriage in order to alleviate the burden.⁴²

- Parents described feelings of shame and failure at not being able to provide for their children and being forced to consider child marriage. One said, "marriage is an opportunity to free your child. In a way, it's one less person to feed."
- 1 in 4 people responding to the study from both countries reported increases in child marriages due to the hunger crisis.
- 11% of respondents in Burkina Faso and 34% in Niger said that they believed it was right for parents to give their daughters up for marriage when they had difficulty feeding their family.



Samia, 12, lives in an IDP camp with her mother and siblings in Somalia due to intense drought forcing them to leave their home behind.

Photo Credit Delfhin Mugo/ Save the Children

Recommendations

Girls and their communities can –

- 1 **Use this report to learn, form their own views and educate people** they know about girls' rights, gender inequality and how to disrupt the systems that are driving the climate and inequality crisis.
- 2 Work with other organisations to **collectivise and build girl-led movements for climate action**.
- 3 **Develop their own asks and demand action and accountability from leaders** at the local, national and global levels.
- 4 **Model behaviours and attitudes that challenge harmful gender norms, promote gender equality and reduce gender-based violence** by treating all people fairly and respectfully, engaging in conversations about the harmful impact of gender inequality and supporting girls' power to make a difference in efforts to address the climate crisis.

Governments, NGOs, the UN, businesses and wealthy individuals must –

- 1 **Recognise the climate crisis, including the current hunger crisis, as an emergency for girls' rights.** Girls and their rights must be at the centre of immediate action, as well as anticipatory action. (Anticipatory action refers to proactive planning based on the understanding that crises will become more common and severe as the planet continues to warm.)
- 2 **Accelerate efforts to end child marriage** to stop abuse of girls' rights. Allow girls and the planet to access the benefits of educating girls, enabling them to make decisions about if, when and how many children they want to have and to strengthen policies for climate action, now and into the future. Governments should partner with civil society organizations, schools and children, to sensitize communities against harmful practices emanating as consequences of climate change. Such practices include child labour, child marriage, teenage pregnancies, female genital mutilation, and children dropping out of school to seek a livelihood.
- 3 **Make gender equality and protection from gender-based violence (including child marriage) central priorities in all responses and plans to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.** Accountability mechanisms should be put in place to track implementation of commitments.
- 4 **Shock-proof the systems and services girls need** so that they work for girls, even in case of climate disasters, and are fit for a warming planet. For example, designing buildings in ways that are less impacted by flooding or heatwaves, and designing services to be accessible by phone or radio, to ensure they can still reach girls on the move or during crises.
- 5 **Support girls' agency and autonomous feminist movements**, including those led by girls – starting by asking girls what they need. Governments must ensure that girls are meaningfully engaged at all levels of decision-making processes on climate and other issues which affect them.
- 6 **Unlock financing to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fund urgent climate action** by making the global financing system work for everyone. This includes African leaders demanding that wealthy countries pay their fair share so lower income countries can afford to invest in girls and safeguard progress against climate shocks.
- 7 **Urgently scale-up gender- and child-responsive climate finance, with a particular focus on reaching girls and other groups of children most at risk.** This must be in addition to ODA (Official Development Assistance – also known as aid) and include payments for child- critical services to help adapt them to the changing climate and pay for losses and damages already caused by the climate crisis.⁴³
- 8 **Ensure efforts to tackle the climate crisis and gender inequality are intersectional**, meaning that they take account of different experiences based on for example a person's gender, race, disability, indigeneity, or sexuality. Governments must focus on girls in rural communities which are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

References

- ¹ Carbon Brief. (2022). Analysis: Africa's unreported extreme weather in 2022 and climate change.
- ² World Food Programme. (2023). Horn of Africa hunger crisis pushes millions to the brink
- ³ FSIN and Global Food Network Against Food Crises. (2023). GRFC 2023 Mid-Year Update.
- ⁴ Save the Children. (2023). Number of children displaced across sub-Saharan Africa by climate shocks doubled to a record high in 2022.
- ⁵ Malala Fund. (2021). A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls' education.
- ⁶ African Union. (1990). African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- ⁷ Chancel, L. (2022). Global carbon inequality over 1990–2019.
- ⁸ Chancel, L. (2022). Global carbon inequality over 1990–2019; Ritchie, H. (2018). Global inequalities in CO2 emissions.
- ⁹ Save the Children International. (2021). Born into the Climate Crisis: Why we must act now to secure children's rights.
- ¹⁰ Bartlett, S. (2008). Climate change and urban children: impacts and implications for adaptation in low-and middle-income countries.
- ¹¹ Save the Children, Plan International, UNICEF, and Capita. (2023). Falling Short: Addressing the climate finance gap for children.
- ¹² UNICEF. (2022). Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies.
- ¹³ Plan International, Women's Refugee Commission & The Cynefin Co. (2022). "Our Voices, Our Future: Understanding child marriage in food-insecure communities in Chiredzi District, Zimbabwe".
- ¹⁴ UNICEF. (2023). Is an End to Child Marriage within Reach?
- ¹⁵ Government of Malawi. (2023). Malawi 2023 Tropical Cyclone Freddy Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.
- ¹⁶ Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility – Global Protection Cluster. (2023). Gender-Based Violence Secondary Data Review.
- ¹⁷ Girls Not Brides. (2023). Gender-Transformative Collective Action To End Child Marriage And Advance Girls' Rights .
- ¹⁸ USA For UNFPA (n.d.) Marriage In The Forecast: The Link Between Climate Change And Child Marriage.
- ¹⁹ Brides Of The Sun. (n.d.) An Investigation Into How Climate Change Is Creating A Generation Of Child Brides.
- ²⁰ Khan Foundation & ARROW. (2015). A Scoping Study. Women's Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Climate Change: What is the Connection?; Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2016). General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities.
- ²¹ Save the Children (2020). Save our Education: Protect every child's right to learn in the COVID-19 response and recovery.
- ²² Save the Children. (2018). Working Together to End Child Marriage: How governments can end child marriage by accelerating coordinated action across education, health, protection, and other sectors.
- ²³ World Bank (2008). Preventing Child Marriage: Lessons from World Bank Group Gender Impact Evaluations
- ²⁴ CARE. (2015). "To protect her honour": Child marriage in emergencies—the fatal confusion between protecting girls and sexual violence.
- ²⁵ See the methodological note attached to the report page here: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/global-girlhood-report-2023-girls-at-the-centre-of-the-storm/>.
- ²⁶ Daru, J, et al. (2018) Risk of maternal mortality in women with severe anaemia during pregnancy and post-partum: A multilevel analysis
- ²⁷ Girls Not Brides. (2022). Research Spotlight: 'Child marriage in humanitarian settings' and 'challenging gender norms to end child marriage'.
- ²⁸ UNICEF. (2022). Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies.
- ²⁹ UNICEF. (2022). Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies.
- ³⁰ Plan International, Women's Refugee Commission & The Cynefin Co. (2022). "Our Voices, Our Future: Understanding child marriage in food-insecure communities in Chiredzi District, Zimbabwe".
- ³¹ UNICEF. (2022). Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies.
- ³² Save the Children. (2021). "Consult us on what concerns us": Report on children's consultation on hunger in Ambovombre,

REFERENCES

South Madagascar.

- ³³ Save the Children. (2022). Generation Hope: 2.4 billion reasons to end the global climate and inequality crisis.
- ³⁴ Save the Children (2022) Generation Hope dialogues. See Save the Children. (2022). "Nothing about us without us!" – Results of Save the Children's child hearings on climate change and inequality.
- ³⁵ Statements shared during Save the Children's Week of Action. See Save the Children. (2023). Listen. And act.
- ³⁶ Save the Children (2022) Generation Hope dialogues. See Save the Children. (2022). "Nothing about us without us!" – Results of Save the Children's child hearings on climate change and inequality.
- ³⁷ Save the Children International. (2021). Consult us on what concerns us: Children's recommendations for the Hunger response" in South Sudan.
- ³⁸ Global Action Against Food Crises & Food Security Information Network. (2023). 2023 Global Report on Food Crises.
- ³⁹ World Weather Attribution. (2022). "Food crisis in Central Sahel in 2022 driven by chronic vulnerability with uncertain role of climate change".
- ⁴⁰ Global Action Against Food Crises & Food Security Information Network. (2023). 2023 Global Report on Food Crises.
- ⁴¹ Save the Children West and Central Africa. (2023). The impact of food and nutritional crisis on children in Burkina Faso and Niger.
- ⁴² Save the Children West and Central Africa. (2023). The impact of food and nutritional crisis on children in Burkina Faso and Niger.
- ⁴³ Save the Children, Plan International, UNICEF, and Capita. (2023). Falling Short: Addressing the climate finance gap for children.

Achol, 13, now lives in a temporary shelter area after terrible flooding forced her and her family out of their home, Bor, South Sudan.

Photo: Charles Atiki Lomodong/Save the Children



Save the Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. We do whatever it takes for children—every day and in times of crisis—transforming their lives and the future we share.

Save the Children USA
501 Kings Highway East, Suite 400
Fairfield, Connecticut 06825
United States
1 (800) 728-3843
[savethechildren.org](https://www.savethechildren.org)

St Vincent's House
30 Orange Street
London WC2H 7HH
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 3272-0300
[savethechildren.net](https://www.savethechildren.net)

This publication may be used free of charge for the purposes of advocacy, campaigning, education and research, provided that the source is acknowledged in full.

Cover: Luana, 14, is from Cabo Delgado in Mozambique and has been affected by consecutive crises, including Cyclone Kenneth in 2019, violent conflict in 2020 that forced her from her home and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

Some names in this report have been changed to protect identities.