



Our actions today shape our children's future



ARNEC
Asia-Pacific Regional Network
for Early Childhood



Save the Children

Putting Young Children at the Centre of Environmental and Climate Change Actions: the Role of ECD

*17 February 2022
13:00 Hours (SG time)*

Objectives

Understand the linkages between climate change, environmental issues and ECD and why ECD is an opportunity to build resilience, adaptation and mitigation for sustainable development



Outline what ARNEC and partners will be doing over the next three years to support the youngest children in the region to address the environment and climate crisis

Launch the ECD, climate change and environmental issues Community of Practice (CoP) – outline the aim of the CoP and some upcoming activities, invite participants to apply to be a member for the ECD, climate change and environmental issues CoP

Our Moderator

Caroline Dusabe

- Pacific Education Senior Advisor at Save the Children Australia, and an Early Childhood Development expert with more than 12 years' experience in the ECD field in Africa and Asia-Pacific





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Gentle Reminders

Please note that the **webinar will be recorded**, and resources shared will be made available on the ARNEC's website afterwards.

Please **use the Question & Answer (Q&A)** feature located in your ZOOM Meeting Control to ask questions. You can upvote a question by clicking the thumbs up. 



Join us as ARNEC's member to be informed of the next webinar.

<https://arnek.net/signup>. Like and follow us on [Facebook](#) to get regular updates!

We would like to request your feedback on the webinar, please help us to complete the short evaluation survey using the link at the end of the webinar, which will also be sent after the session.

Key Questions

- 1. What are the linkages** between climate change, environmental issues and ECD?
- 2. What is the focus** of regional advocacy for clean, safe and sustainable environments for ECD? What is the plan for the next three years?
- 3. What is the role** of the community of practice on ECD, climate change and environmental issues and how can we get involved?





Zoom poll

Do you know...

1. How many children live in the 45 countries that are globally at the highest risk of suffering the impact of climate change such as food shortages, diseases, droughts and/or rising sea levels?
 - a) 300 million
 - b) 550 million
 - c) 710 million**
2. How can air pollution affect the wellbeing and development of young children?
 - a) Stunt lung growth and increase respiratory infections
 - b) Harm brain development including developmental delays, psychological and behavioural problems later in childhood, including symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety and depression.
 - c) Harm social and emotional development due to restricting access to outdoor play and ECD centre closures
 - d) All of the above**
3. Who said this at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow last year ? 'Parties have a moral obligation to protect the future of our children and grand children?'
 - a) Fiji Prime minister Josaia Voreque Bainimarama at his COP26 address**
 - b) COP president Alok Sharma to delegates in the final moments COP26
 - c) Barbados Prime minister Mia Amor Mottley at her COP26 address
4. Which of these countries is now carbon negative, meaning they absorb more emissions each year than they produce?
There are only three carbon negative countries in the world!
 - a) Colombia
 - b) Bhutan**
 - c) Norway

Our speaker and presenters



Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer

Chair of the Board of Directors of ARNEC and formerly Chief of UNICEF's global education programme in New York and Director of UNESCO's Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

Providing a strategic framing of the issue and the importance of forming partnerships to collectively address the impact of environmental and climate crises on young children

Dr. Adrián Cerezo

- Social ecologist, environmental scientist and human development researcher
- Current Knowledge Exchange Lead for ECDAN and serves as consultant for UNICEF global early childhood programs.

Introducing the initial visualisation of key messages to help frame and launch this regional initiative on clean, safe and sustainable environments for ECD






Evelyn Santiago

Executive Director of ARNEC, working to ensure all young children in the Asia-Pacific region realise optimal well-being and development



Outlining ARNEC and partners' proposed activities over the next three years to ensure the youngest children are included in the environmental and climate response



Peckgee Chua

- ECD consultant at UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
- As a mom whose child had to wear face masks prior to COVID-19, she is interested in the intersections between ECD and environmental factors to promote young children's wellbeing

Introducing the Community of Practice including some upcoming activities in next few months





Ana María Rodríguez

- ECD Specialist for the East Asia and Pacific Region in UNICEF
- Previous head of the ECD unit at the Ministry of Education in Colombia, Education Specialist at UNICEF Colombia

Closing insights reaffirming UNICEF and Save the Children's commitments to this initiative



**Putting Young Children at The Center
of Environmental and Climate Action**



**Putting the Environment at The Center
Of Early Childhood Development**

Presented by: Adrián Cerezo PhD, MEd
February 17th, 2022

Risk

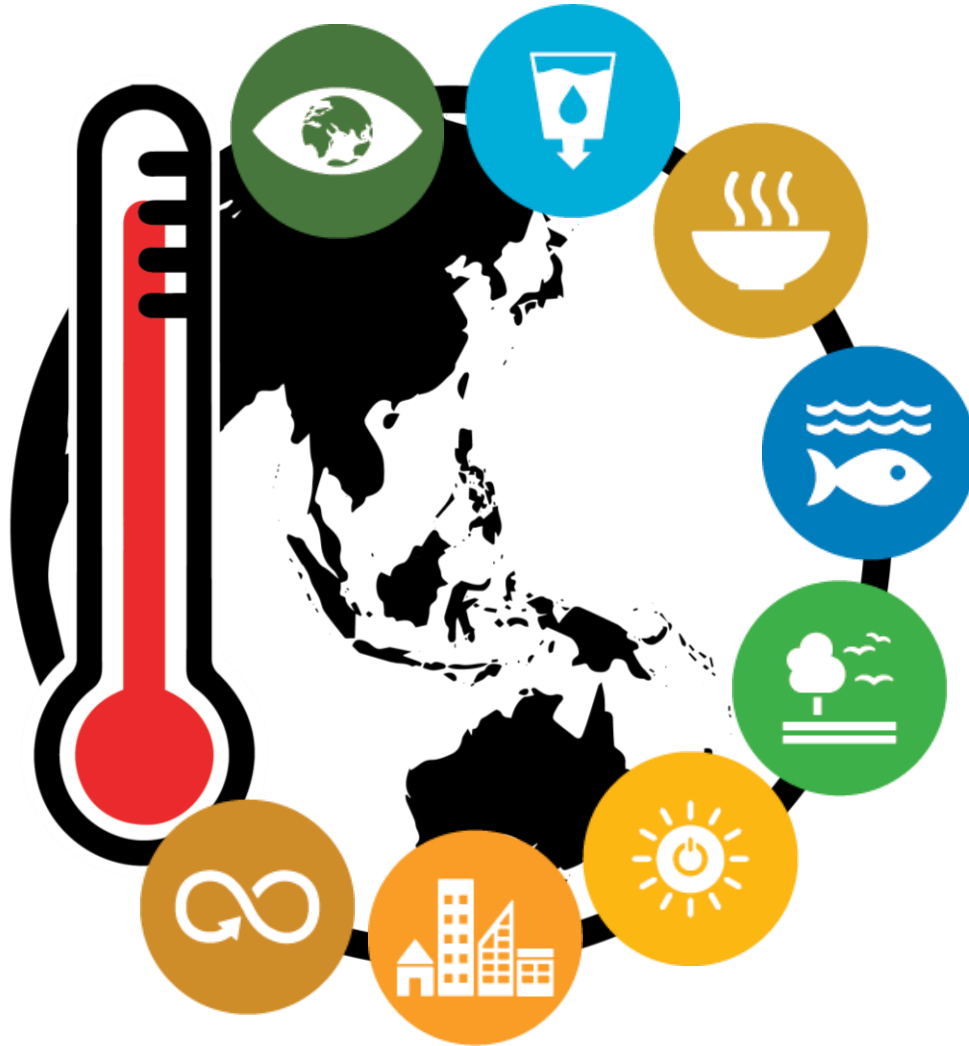


Opportunity

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Areas of Environmental Vulnerability and Risk

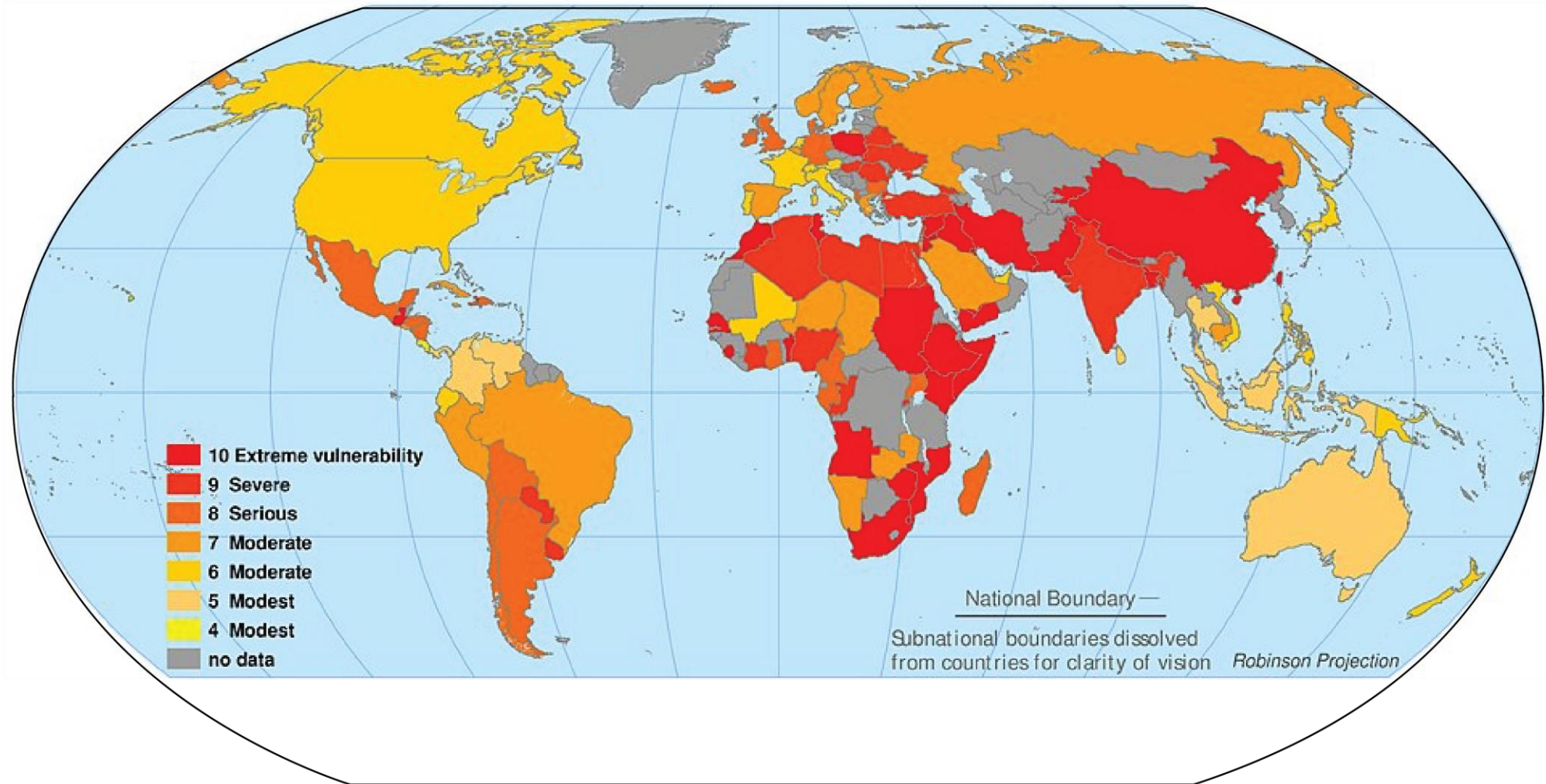


- Climate change
- Potable water
- Access to quality nutrition
- Aquatic ecosystems
- Terrestrial ecosystems
- Energy systems
- Sustainability of communities
- pProduction and consumption systems

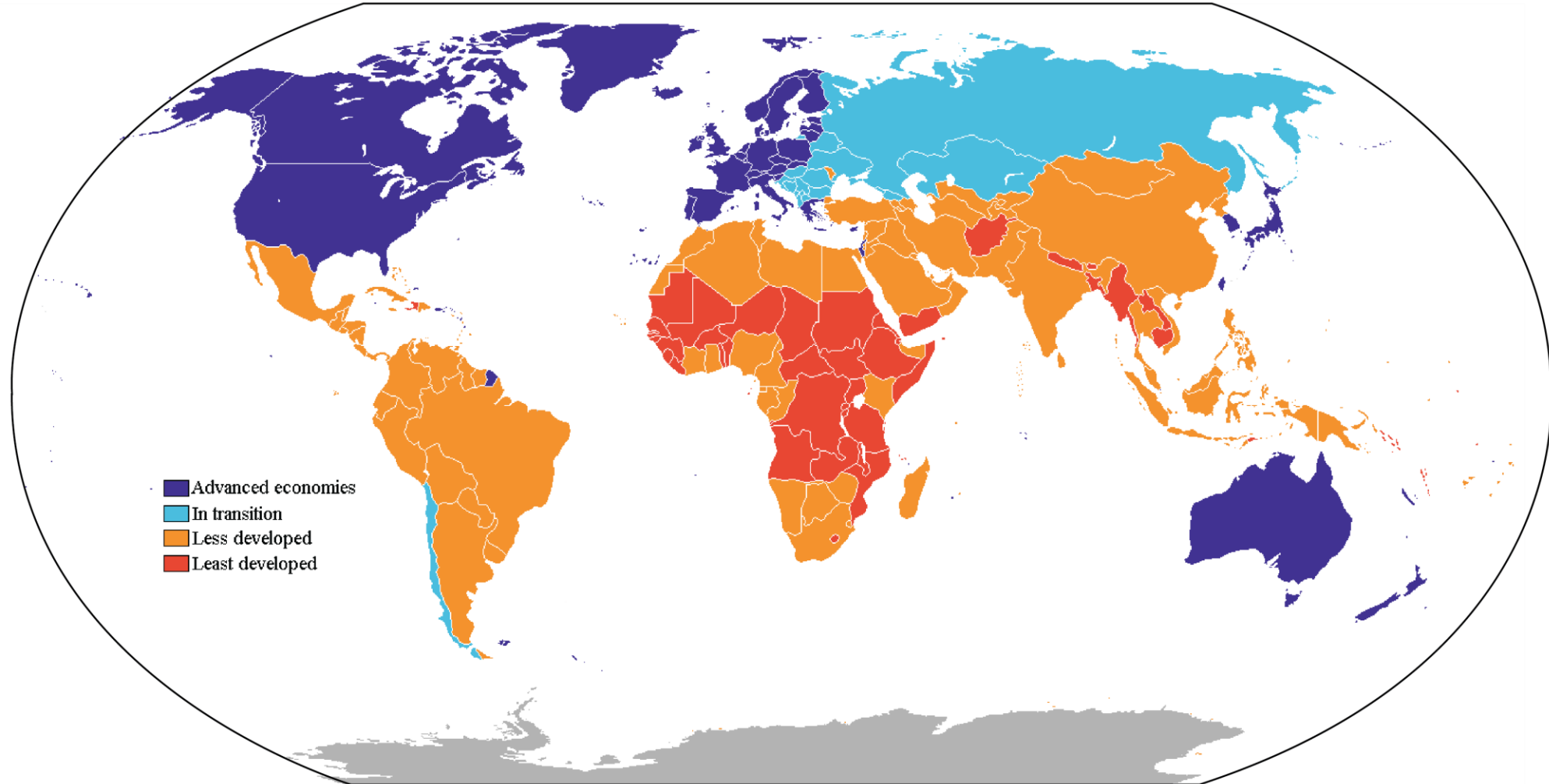


Global Distribution of Vulnerability to Climate Change

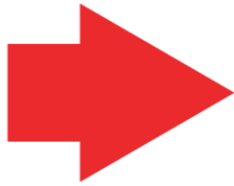
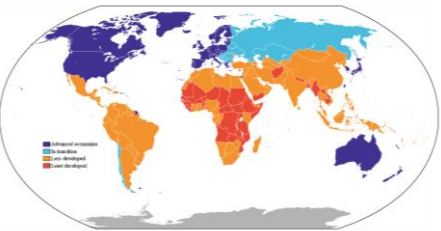
Combined National Indices of Exposure and Sensitivity



Distribution of Global Economic Development



Young Children are the Most Vulnerable of Vulnerable Groups



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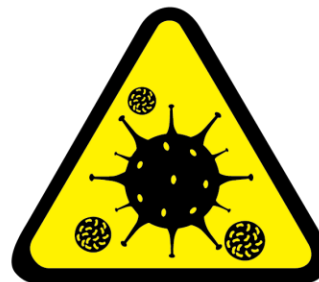
Risks Heightened by Environmental Degradation



Marginalized Communities



Respiratory Diseases



Vector-borne Diseases



Toxic Stress



Poor Health



Disabled Young Children



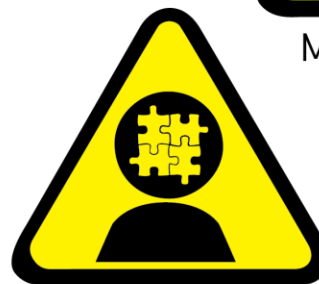
Malnutrition



Displacement



Stunting

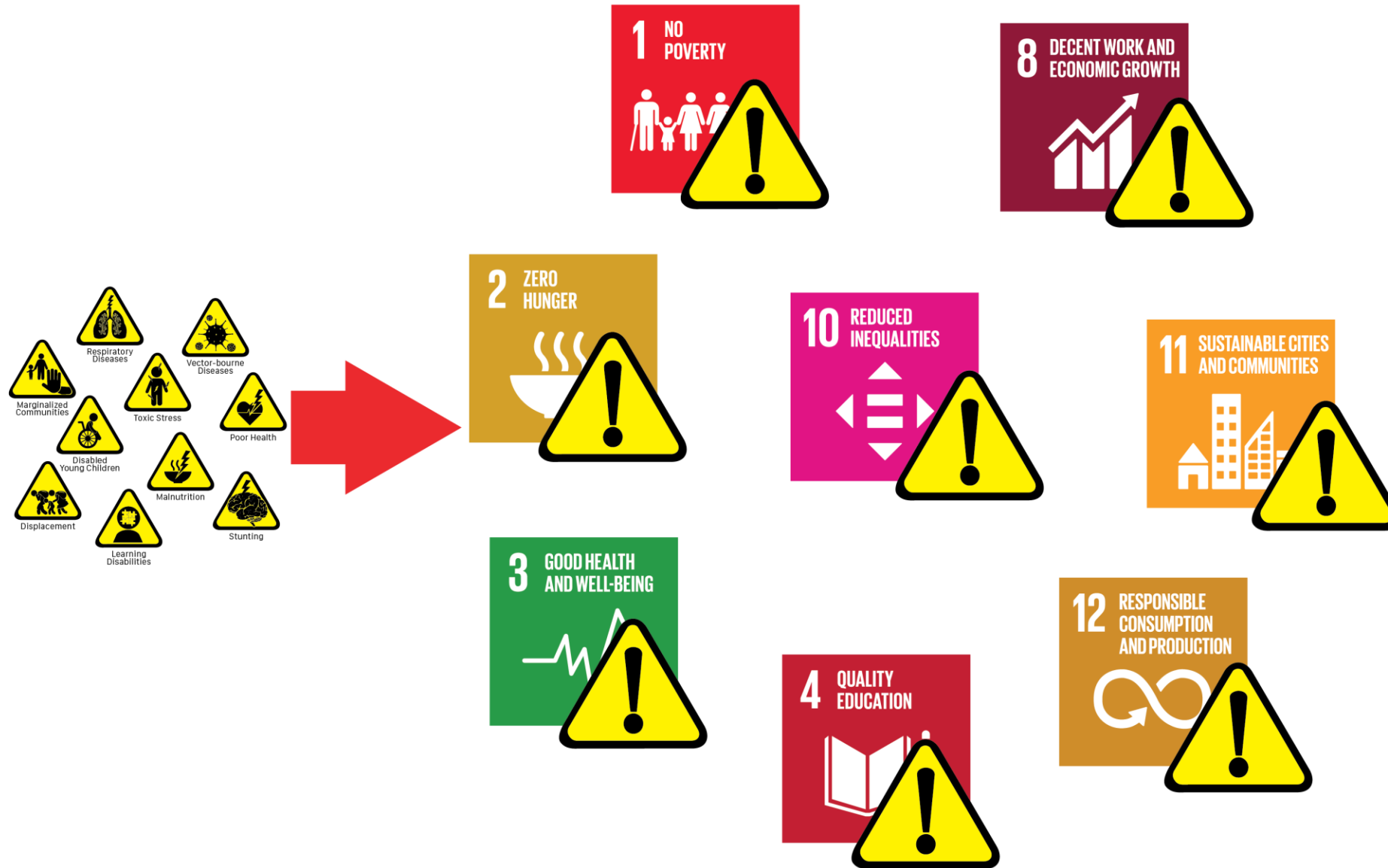


Learning Disabilities

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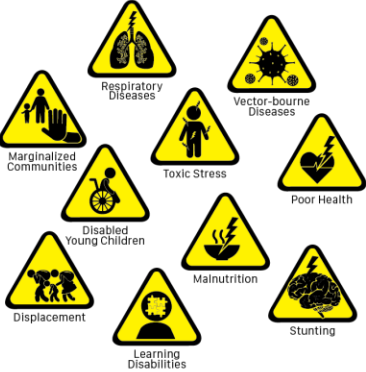
Increased Vulnerabilities Have Negative Impacts on Development



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...as well as a negative impact of the NCF



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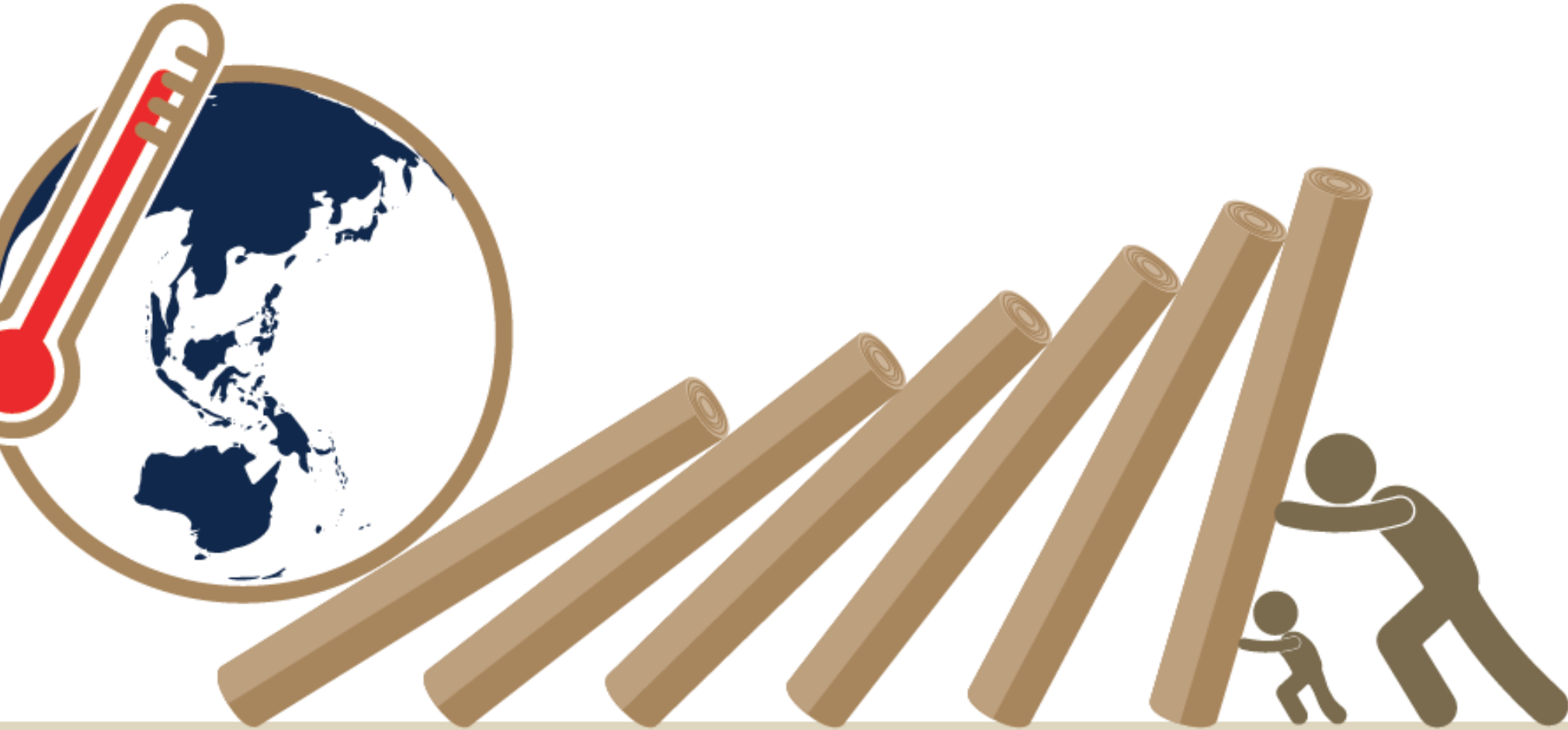
Endangering the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals



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The Path of Resilience and Adaptation

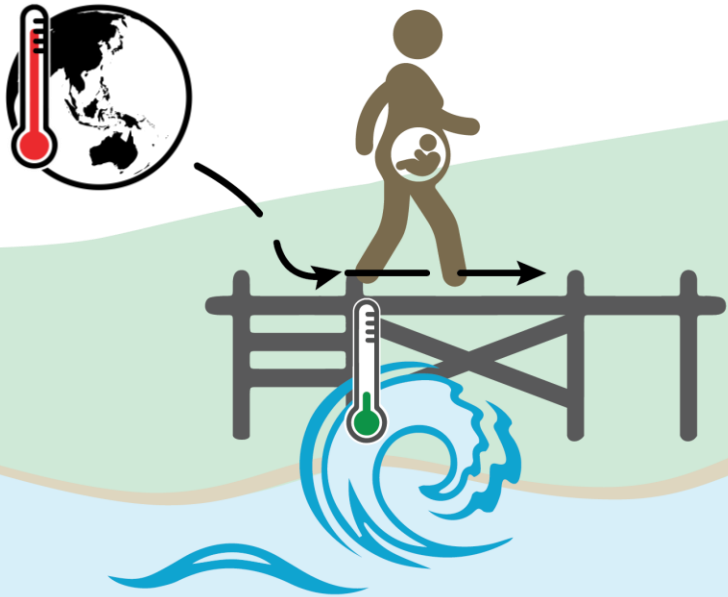


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Investment in Adaptation and Resilience is Urgently Needed...

Investment in
Adaptation and
Resilience

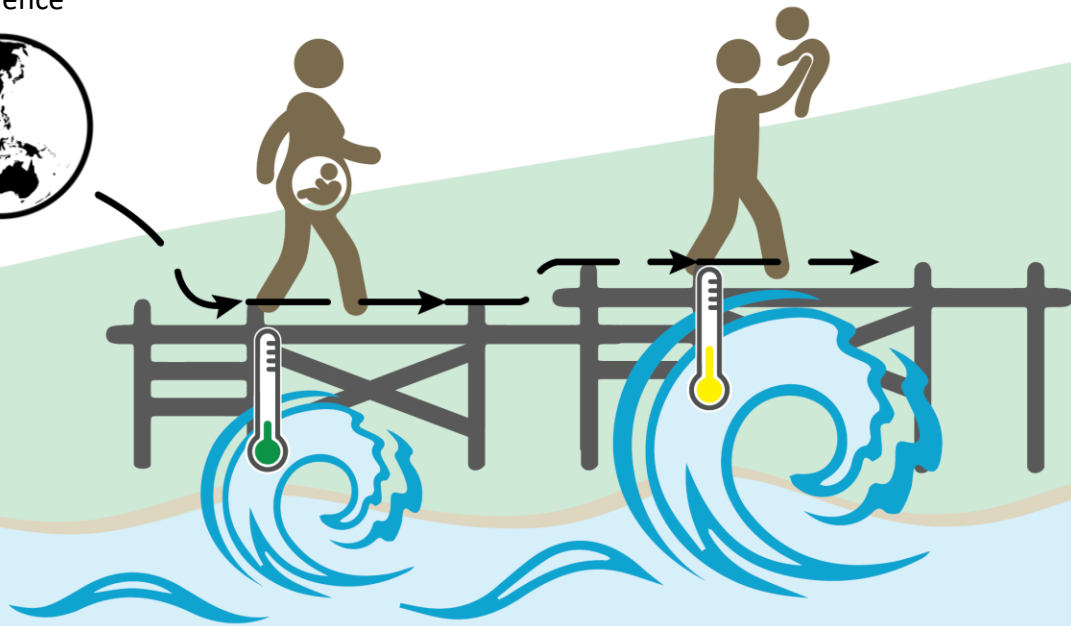
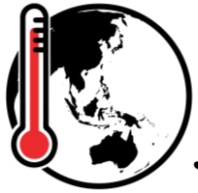


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**...it provides a platform to respond to inevitable changes in environment
(and global climate)**

Investment in
Adaptation and
Resilience



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...as the risk and damage increase, more investment is needed

Investment in
Adaptation and
Resilience

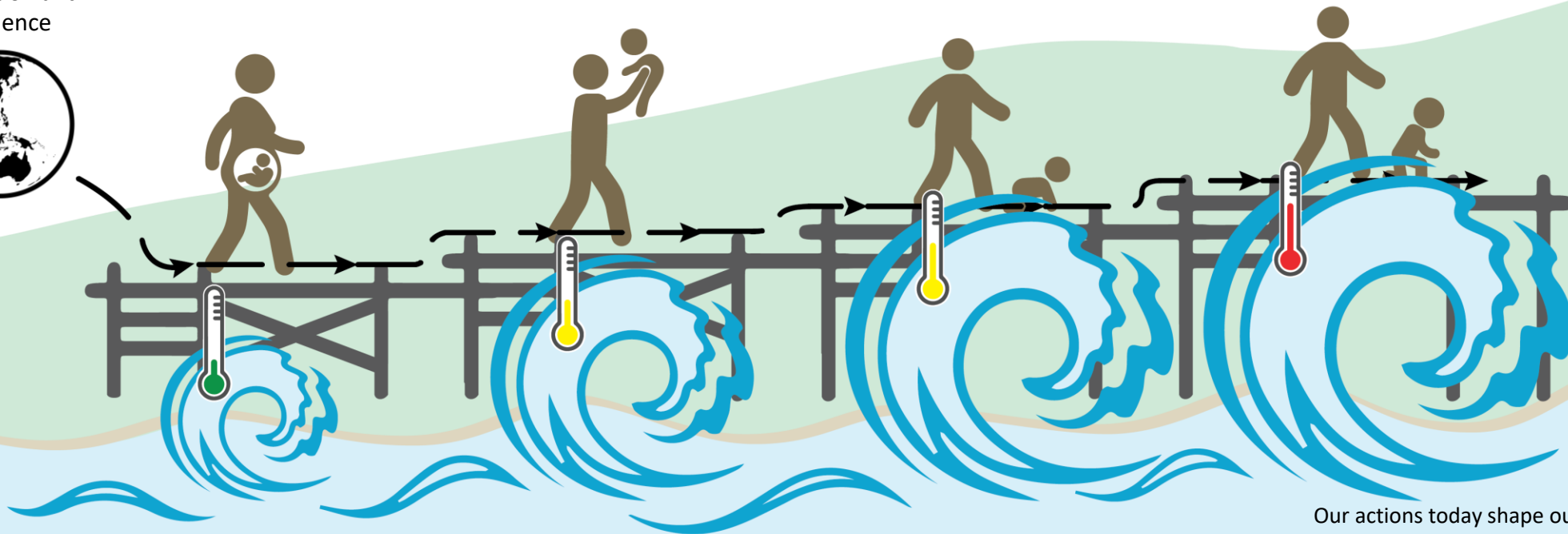
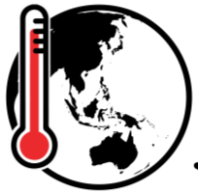


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...as the risk and damage increase, more investment is needed

Investment in
Adaptation and
Resilience

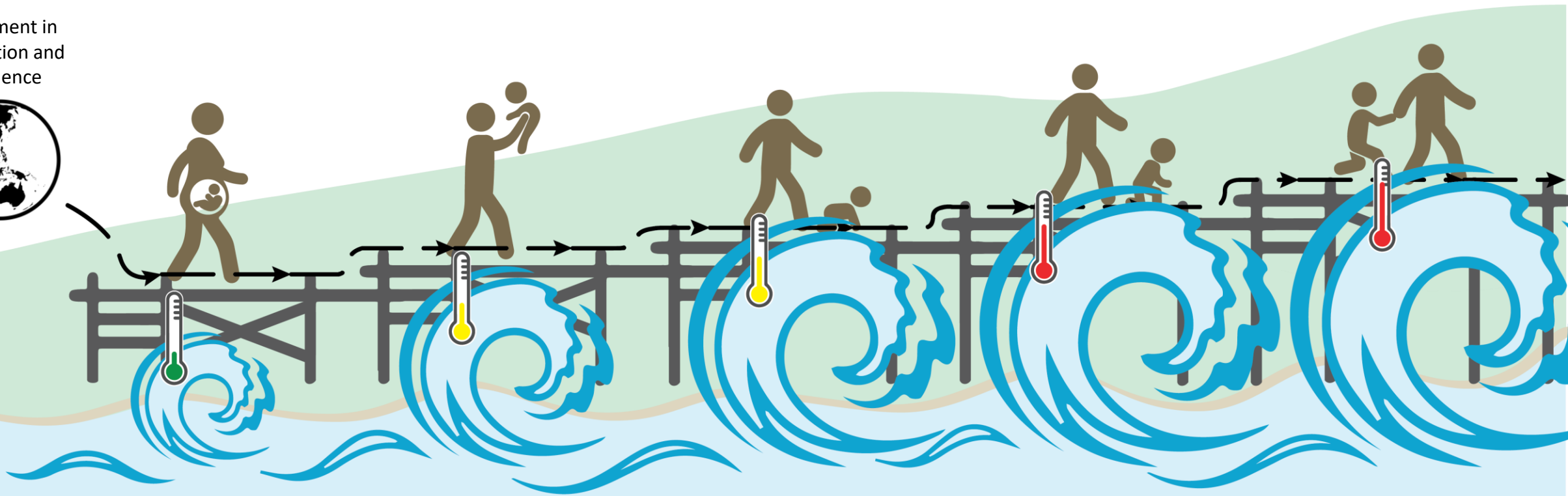


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...this path, by itself, does little to address the causes of environmental degradation and climate change

Investment in
Adaptation and
Resilience



The Path of Sustainable Development



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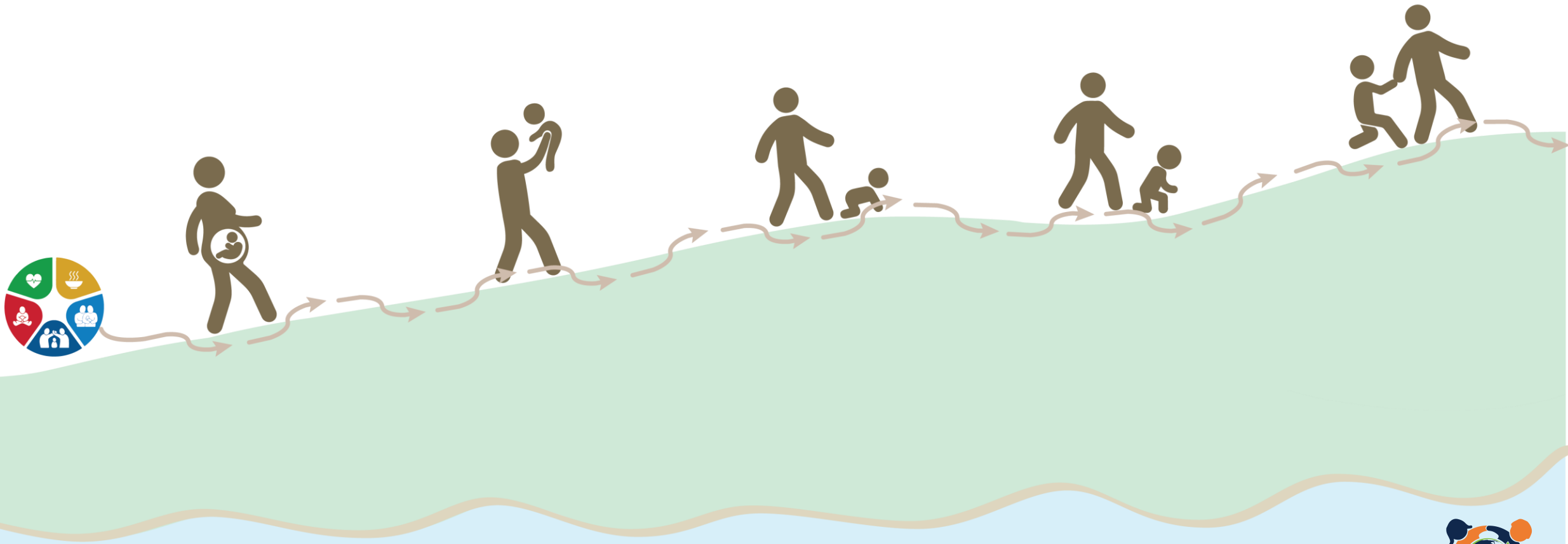
...the role of ECD in boosting the path towards achieving the SDGs



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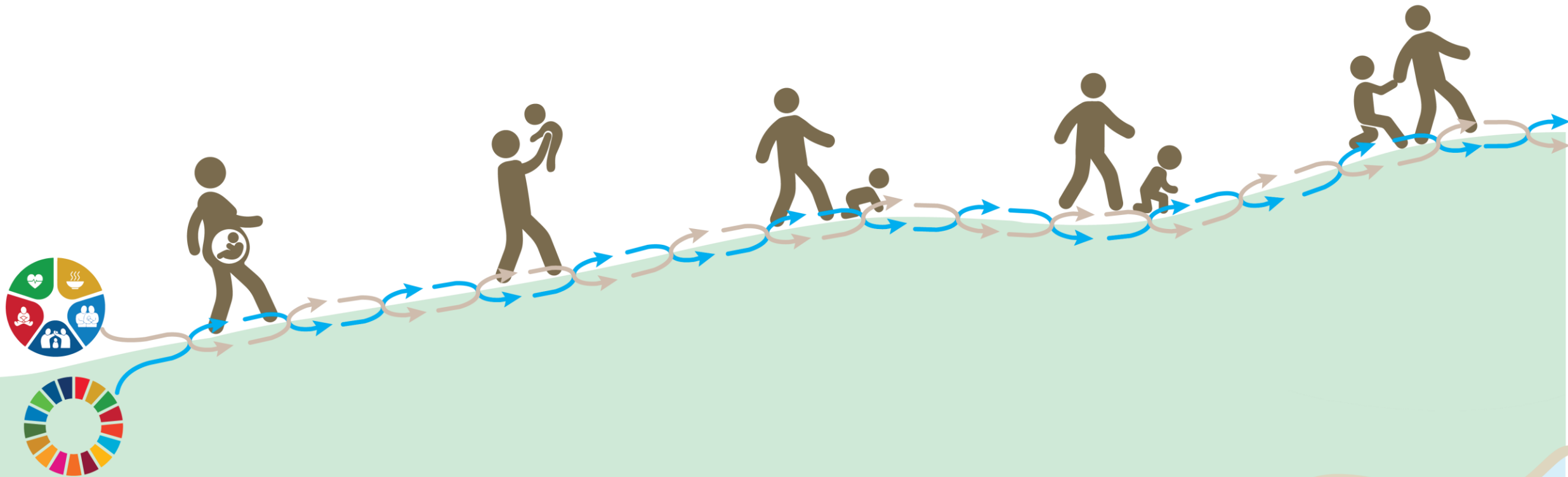
...equitable access and appropriate financing of high quality/evidence-based ECD programs allow individuals to reach their full potential.



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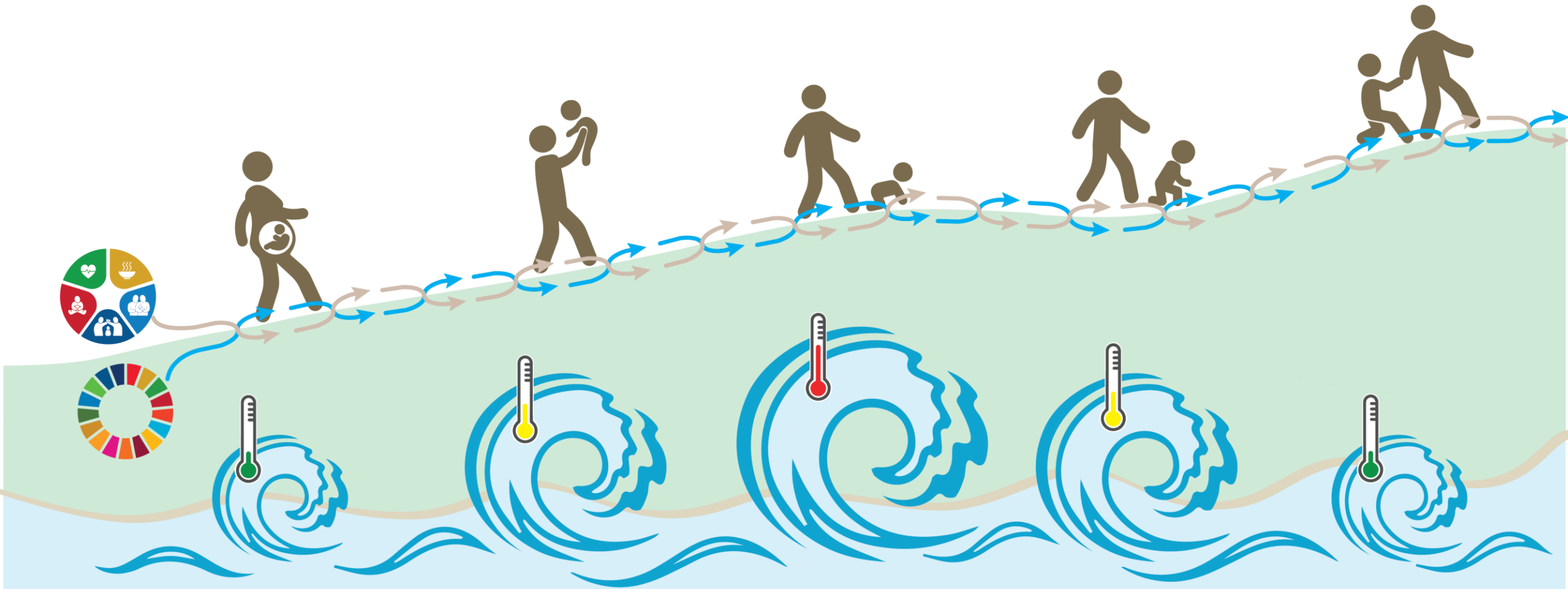
...ECD policies and programs can also serve as a booster for the SDGs.



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...interweaving the SDGs and ECD promotes resilience and capacity for adaptation, but more importantly, will help change the trends in environmental degradation and climate change.



ECD is at Risk



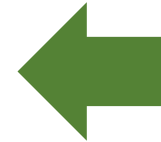
ECD is an Opportunity

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Our Goal

To highlight the fundamental role of ECD in addressing environmental issues



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...to increase the knowledge and capacity in the ECD community about environmental issues and climate change (and to include these issues in ECD policies and programs)



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...and to advocate for the inclusion of ECD in adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development policies and programs



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Thank you

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Clean, Safe, and Sustainable Environments for young children



Their future is at stake. Protecting the youngest children is integral to the climate crisis response.



The climate crisis is a child rights crisis

Introducing
THE CHILDREN'S
CLIMATE RISK INDEX

Children born in 2020 will face 2-7 times more extreme weather events than their grandparents—that means more heatwaves, floods, typhoons/hurricanes, droughts, crop failures and wildfires

Save the Children, 2021

Other climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses, such as rising sea levels, vector borne diseases, tropical cyclones, air pollution and lead pollution, are surging as a result of human activities and will only worsen with increasing global warming (UNICEF, 2021).

The impact of climate crisis on young children is compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of climate change and environmental issues

Nurturing care for young children compromised



Adversity and toxic stress harm brain development

Loss of livelihoods increases food insecurity and malnutrition, especially among children under five

Caregivers prone to stress, anxiety, and depression affecting nurturing engagement with young children

Climate change and disasters trigger physical issues and forced displacement among families and young children

Extreme weather events damage preschools resulting in closure and increased burden on caregivers

Unless we act now

Executive summary



Climate and environmental action for and with young children now

Asia-Pacific region faces enormous issues

Photo source: UNICEF, 2015



Young children live by the coastline: 90% of Pacific Islands (Andrew, Bright, 2019)



Over 40% of people living in high or extremely high drought areas are in Asia (UNICEF, 2015)



Between 2018 and 2050, Asia's urban population to increase by 61% (UN, 2018)



17 million babies under the age of one breathe toxic air, and the majority (12 million) live in South Asia (UNICEF, 2017)



Almost half of children globally exposed to lead poisoning are in South Asia (UNICEF, 2020)



Most children in extremely high flood occurrence zones live in Asia; floods were a major climate-related disaster event in the Philippines and Vietnam and, more recently, in India and China (WHO, 2017)

The regional advocacy

Goal

Ensure that the well-being and development of young children are at the center of environmental and climate change discourses and actions (i.e., policy, financing, and programs).

Target

Policy makers, practitioners, communities, schools, parents and caregivers

Areas of Focus

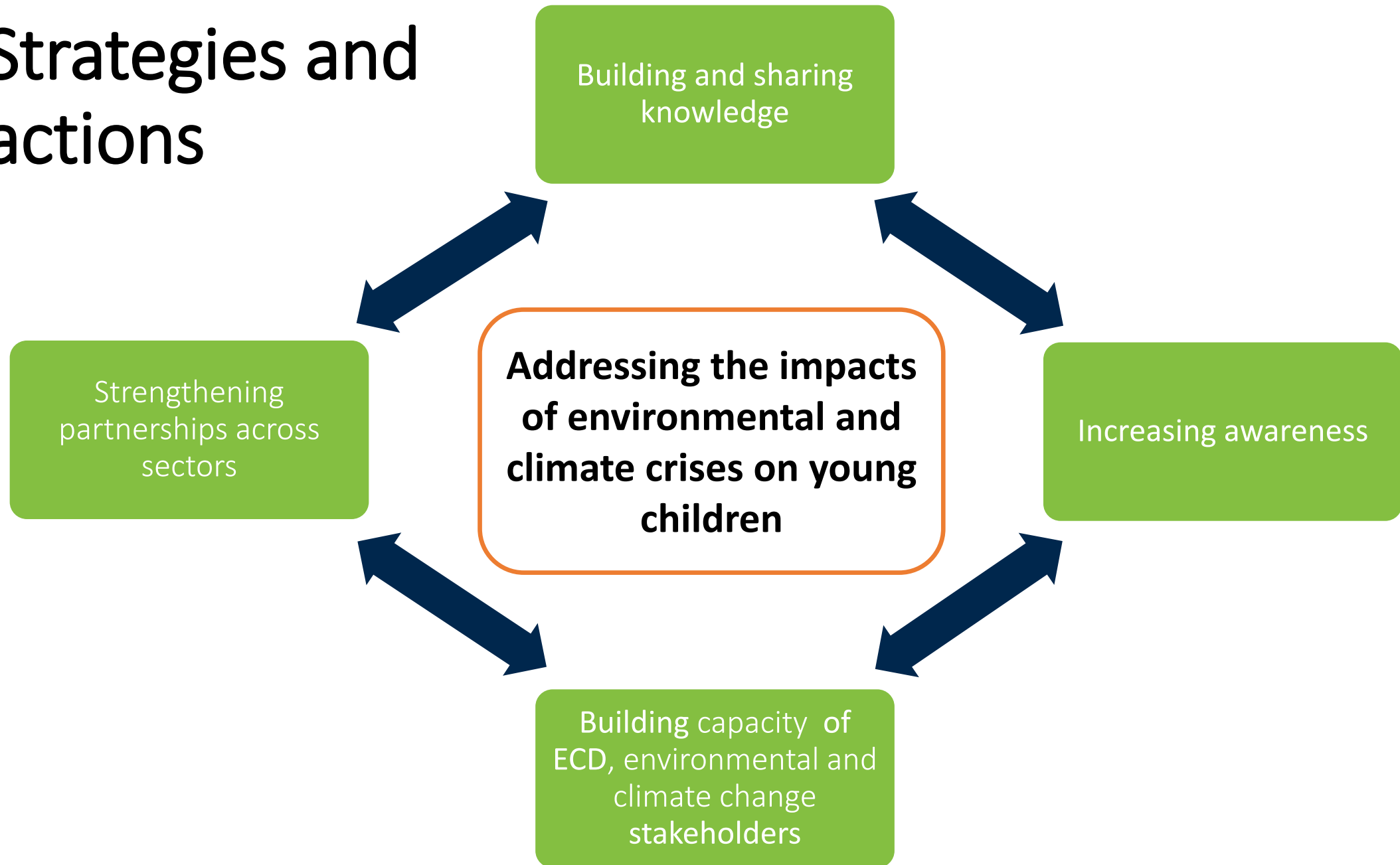
ECD and environmental issues:

Focus on the impact of critical environmental issues on young children (i.e., air pollution, exposure to toxins, and lack of clean and protective play and recreational spaces for children)

ECD and climate change:

Focus on how climate change directly and indirectly affects young children and the need to see ECD as an opportunity to achieve sustainable development

Strategies and actions



Strategies and Actions

Building and sharing knowledge

1

- Desk reviews and sub-regional situational analysis
- Technical and policy briefs
- Theory of change and a strategic roadmap
- Knowledge products giving agency and empowering children and caregivers

Strengthening partnerships across sectors

2

- Community of Practice
- Mobilise ECD, climate change and environmental experts
- Establish partnerships at global, regional and national levels
- Bring an ECD caucus to COP27 to ensure the youngest children are included in global climate change frameworks

Increasing awareness and commitment

3

- Communications and advocacy materials
- Advocacy toolkits
- Engage countries in advocacy campaigns
- Organise and supporting global, regional and national-level events in support of the initiative

Building capacity of ECD, environmental and climate change stakeholders

4

- Regional and national learning events including conferences, webinars and workshops
- Technical guidance notes on how to incorporate environment and climate change actions in ECD programs (looking at good practices)

slido

Word Cloud Poll #1

<https://app.sli.do/event/dtmixKAvL9TJSXsBjBVPVg>



Why are you interested in this topic of ECD, climate change and environmental issues?

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Word Cloud Poll #2

<https://app.sli.do/event/dtmixKAvL9TJSXsBjBVPVg>



If you had superpowers, what is a key action you would take to tackle these challenges?

Launch of Community of Practice (CoP): ECD, Climate Change and Environmental Issues

Aims of the CoP to address these issues:

- A structure to promote best practices and build common capabilities.
- A regional space to co-create, co-produce, and co-deliver knowledge, advocacy and learning.
- A coalition of advocates for future UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs) to ensure ECD is part of national plans to address climate change in lead up to and during COP27.



Join us today!



Launch of Community of Practice (CoP): ECD, Climate Change and Environmental Issues

Illustrative Activities:

- Webinars with leading ECD, climate change and environment experts.
- Workshops and reflection sessions based around knowledge gathering and generation, peer learning and supporting the delivery of certain products
- Discussion forum on member-driven topics and interests feeding into this regional advocacy
- Co-creation of knowledge products with experts.
- Providing inputs to advocacy campaigns especially those planned at the country level.



Join us today!

Launch of Community of Practice (CoP)

ECD, Climate Change and Environmental Issues

Potential activities in first half of 2022

January-February Online CoP online forum kick-off and call for applications; build momentum

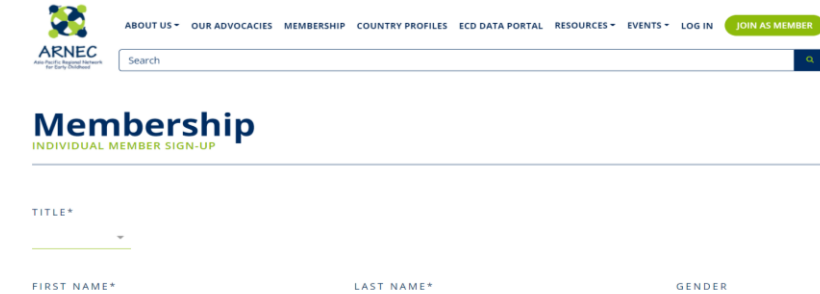
March Second webinar to deep dive into the science of climate change and its relationship with ECD

May ARNEC virtual regional conference with a focus on ECD, climate change and environmental issues



Join us today!

Register to become part of the CoP on ECD, Climate Change and Environmental Issues!



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Membership

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER SIGN-UP

TITLE*

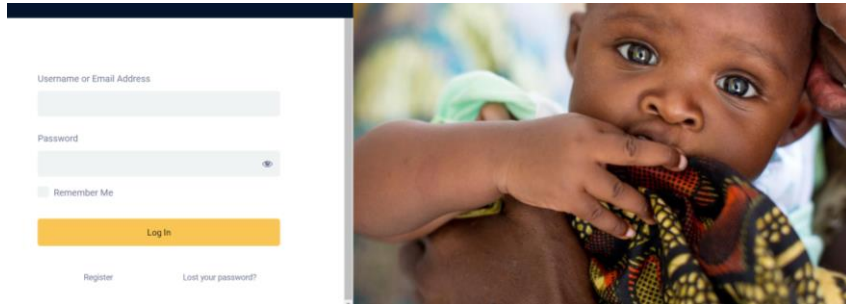
FIRST NAME* LAST NAME* GENDER



Join us today!



Step 1. Sign up to [ARNEC as a member](#) (see the [Terms of reference for the CoP here](#))




Username or Email Address

Password

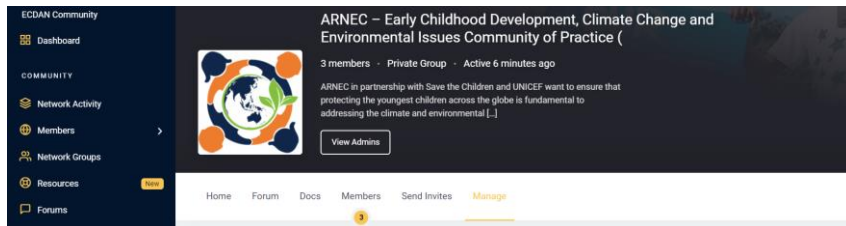
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Step 2: Register to be part of the [ECDAN online community](#)



ECDAN Community

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ARNEC – Early Childhood Development, Climate Change and Environmental Issues Community of Practice ()

3 members · Private Group · Active 6 minutes ago

ARNEC in partnership with Save the Children and UNICEF want to ensure that protecting the youngest children across the globe is fundamental to addressing the climate and environmental [...]

[View Admins](#)

Home Forum Docs Members Send Invites Manage



Step 3. Join the [ECD, climate change and Environmental Issues CoP group](#)

Register to become part of the CoP on ECD, Climate Change and Environmental issues!

If you encounter issues in the registration and for more info, please contact **Ms. Rowan Ainslie** (rowan.ainslie@arnec.net) at the ARNEC Secretariat.

Once you have signed up [full CoP information is here!](#)



Join us today!



Q&A

Please type your questions in the chat box!



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Closing program

Requests and reminders



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**Access the presentations
from the ARNEC website**



**You will receive the webinar
documentation summary by email not
later than 22 February**



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Please complete the evaluation before you leave.
Use the link in the chat box or this QR Code.
Thanks.



1 min

only

Link: <https://forms.gle/653Vysfi1RzdYoQY6>

