



WEBINAR

# CHILD POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

12 December 2023

#ENDCHILDPOVERTY

# CHILD POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

## Speakers



**David Lambert  
Tumwesigye**

Global  
Coalition to  
End Child  
Poverty



**Sola  
Engilbertsdottir**

Global  
Coalition to  
End Child  
Poverty



**Daniel Gerszon  
Mahler**

World Bank



**Oliver Fiala**

Save the  
Children



**Charlotte Biló**

UNICEF



**Yukiko Yamada  
Morovic**

World Vision  
International

# Daniel Gerszon Mahler(World Bank)

## Child poverty and emissions

See graphs presented here:

<https://public.flourish.studio/story/2118032/>



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GLOBAL COALITION

**CLIMATE CHANGE &**

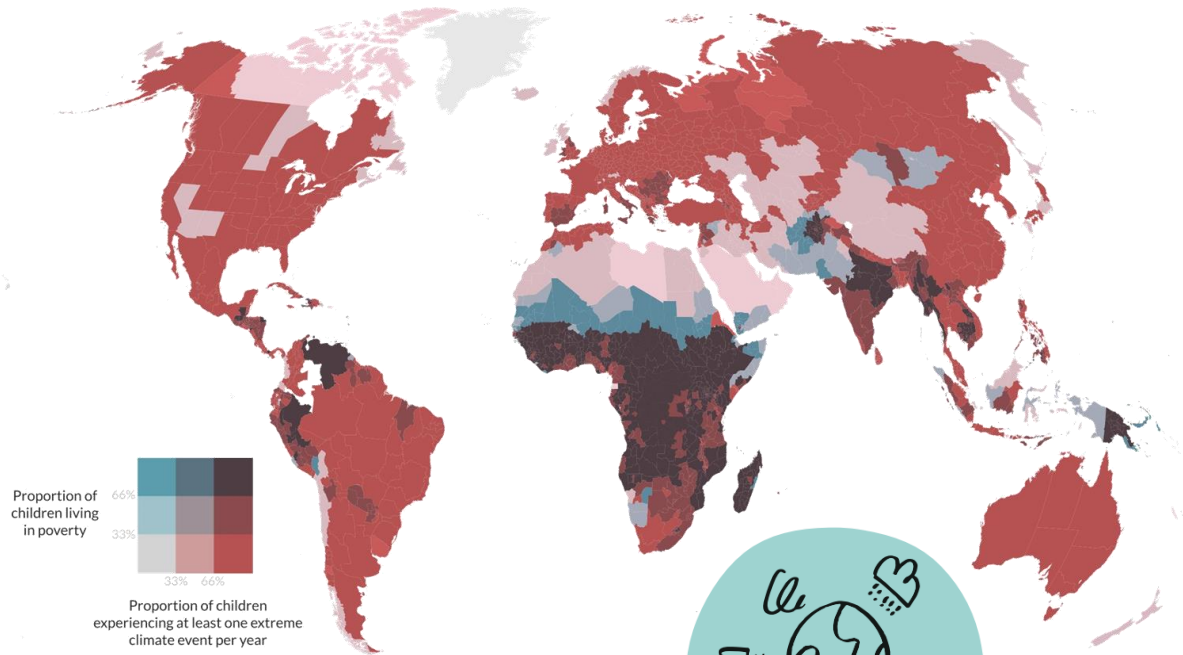
**CHILD POVERTY**

**Author team: Oliver Fiala, Charlotte Bilo, Sola Engilbertsdottir and Enrique Delamonica**



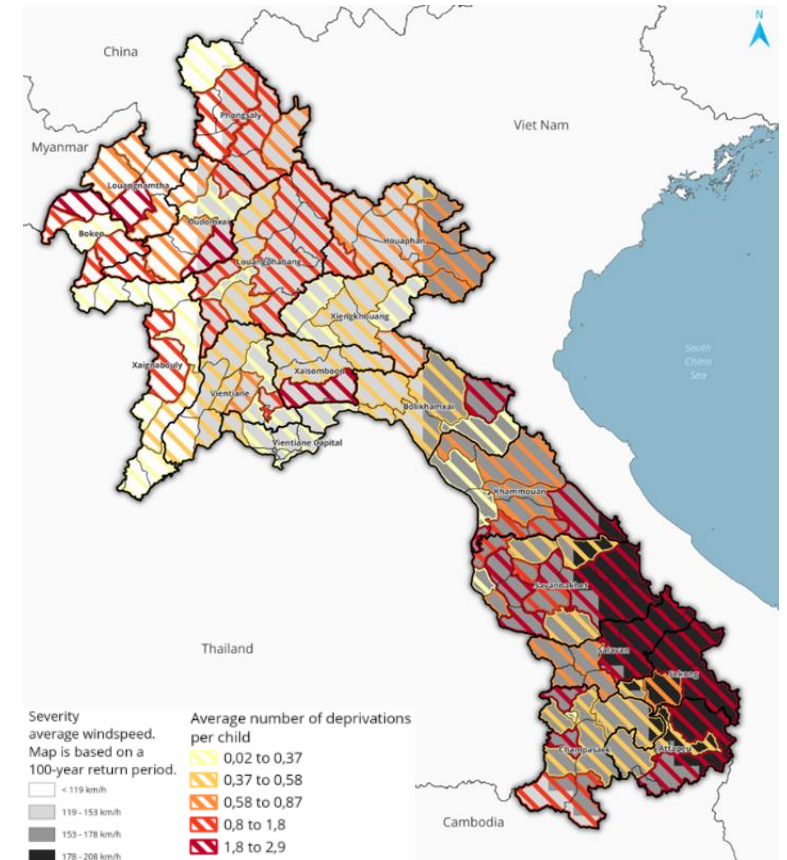
# Background

*Increasing focus on the interplay of climate risk & child poverty, but still limited understanding of link and policy consequences*



**774 million**

*children are living in poverty and exposed to high climate risk.*

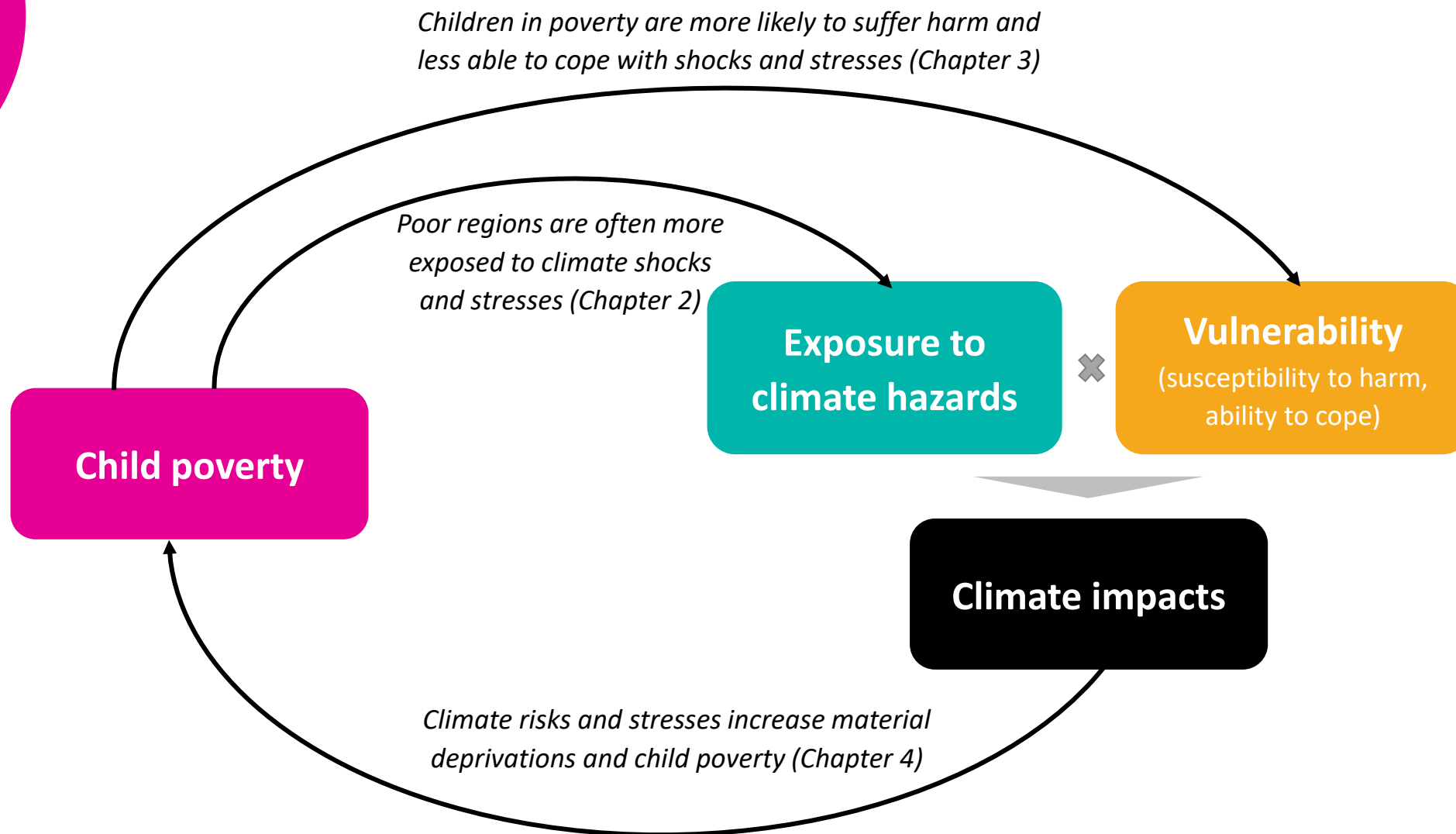


## Objectives of paper

- Share **new data** and analysis on the **interlinkages** of climate risk and child poverty in low- and middle-income countries
- Discuss the implications of **policy and programming**



# Framework

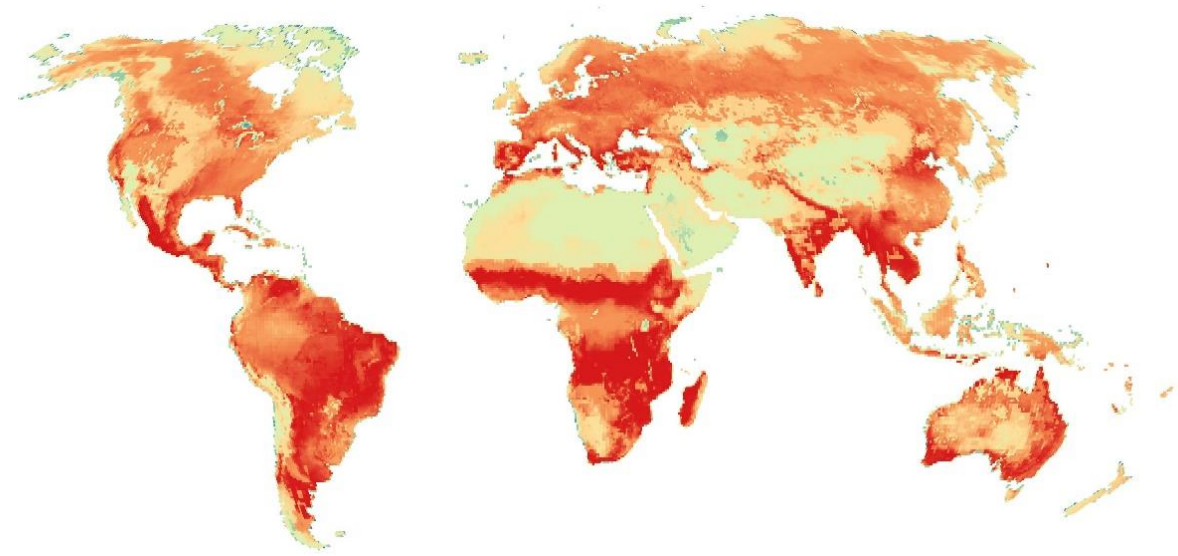
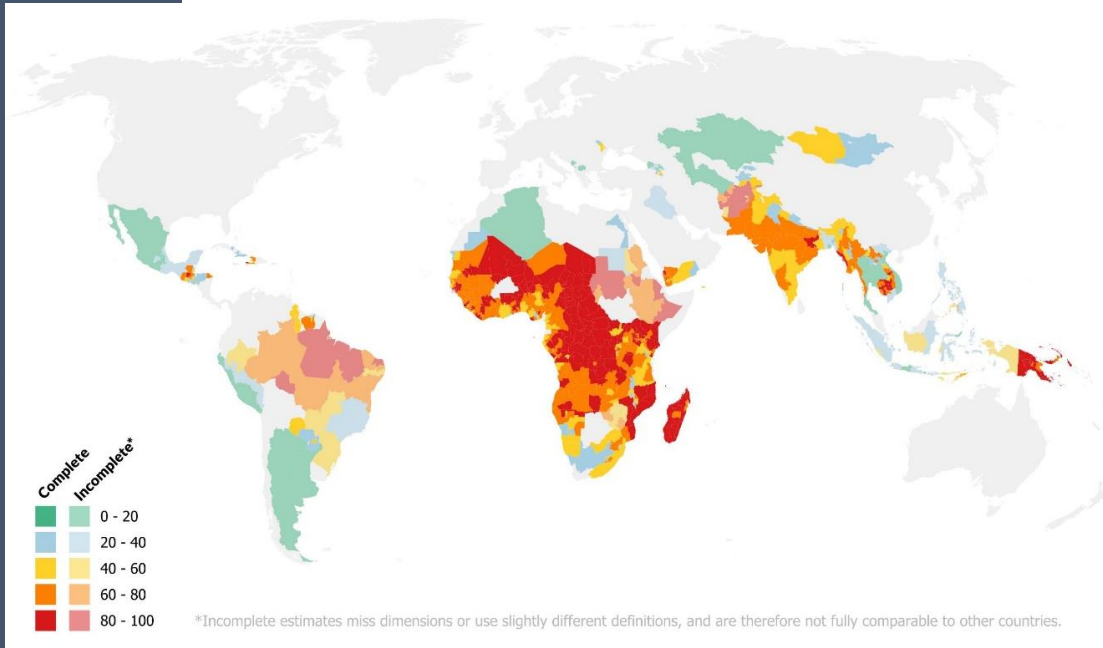


# Exposed to risks

Analysis of relationship between multidimensional child poverty and climate risk on subnational level in 83 low- and middle-income countries

**Child poverty** (UNICEF/Save)

**Climate Risk** (Save/Brussels University)

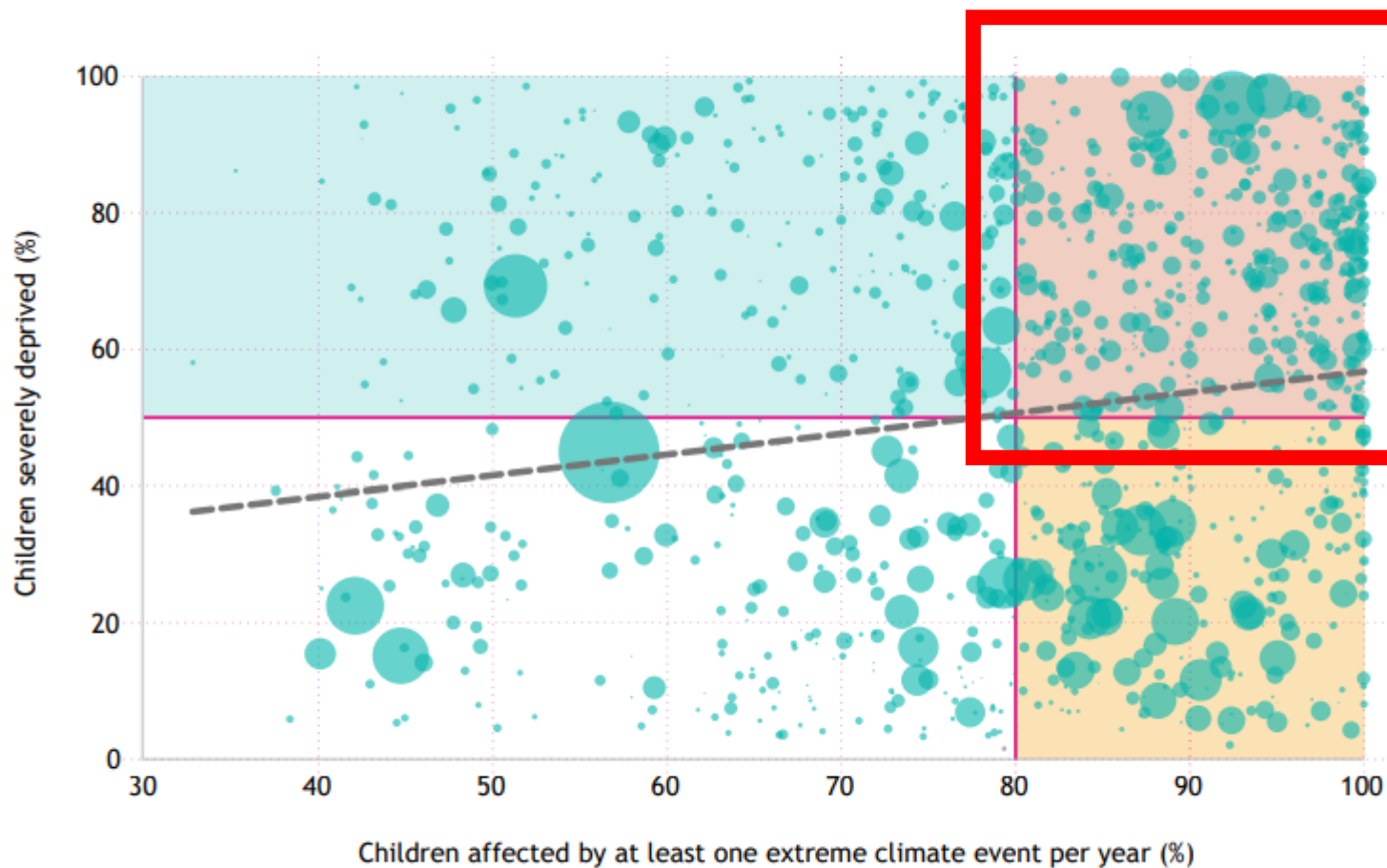


\*Incomplete estimates miss dimensions or use slightly different definitions, and are therefore not fully comparable to other countries.



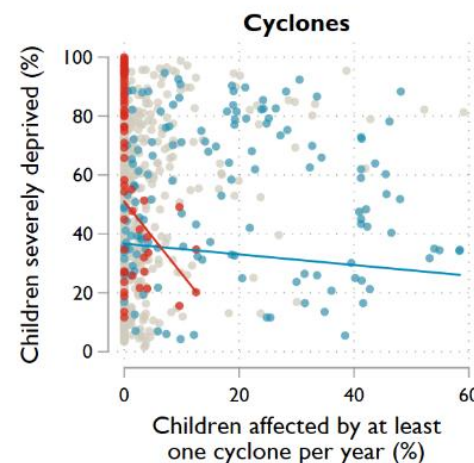
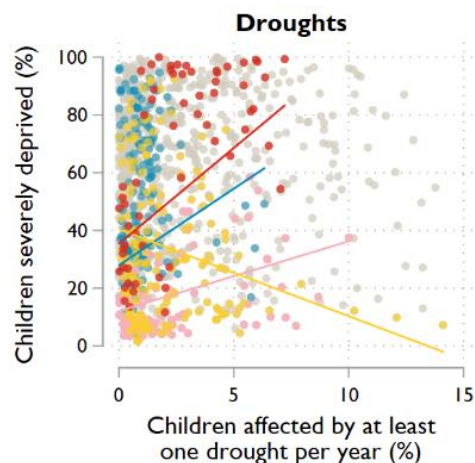
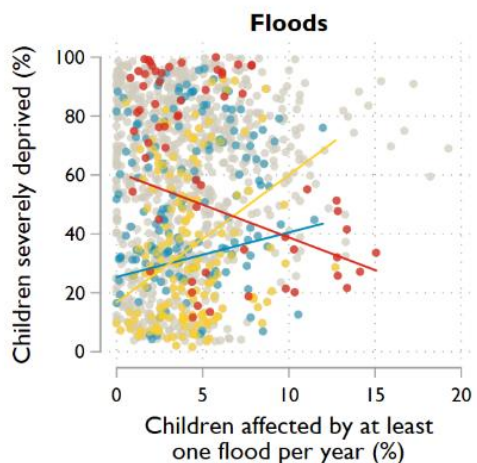
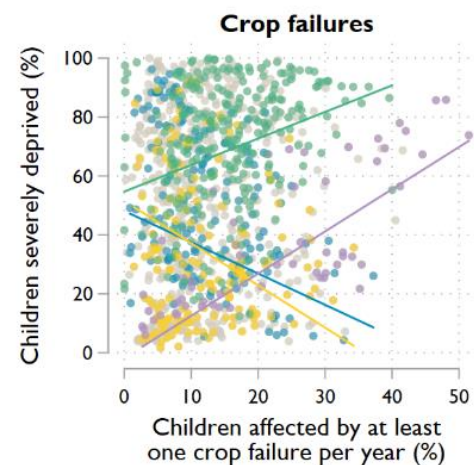
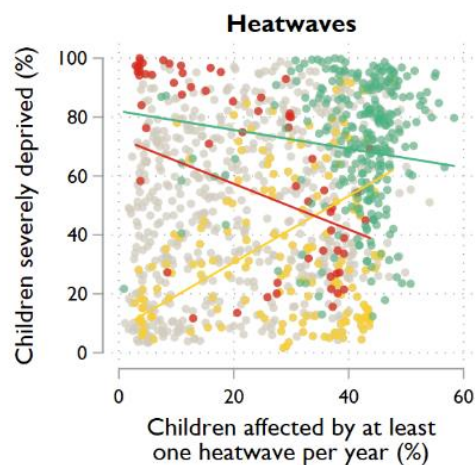
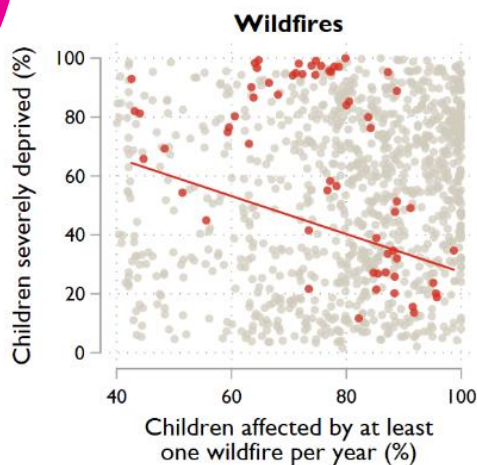
# Key findings

**Figure 2: 3 out of 10 children live in provinces with above-average child poverty and exposure to extreme climate events (red area)**



Pink lines show the approximate average for child poverty and exposure to extreme climate events. Each circle represents one subnational region (larger circles representing regions with a larger child population). Data for child poverty from UNICEF/Save the Children based on DHS and MICS household surveys for 2011 and later. Data on risks of extreme weather events based on Thiery et al. (2021) and Save the Children (2022).

# Exposed to risks



- East Asia and Pacific
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- South Asia
- West and Central Africa

Relationship between climate and poverty varies by type of risk and world region

But also many contexts where we don't see a significant link between poverty and climate

## Children in poverty more vulnerable to climate hazards

1. Lower-quality housing, existing food insecurity or other health issues, and inadequate access to information all mean that children in poverty are **more likely to suffer harm** from climate shocks, stresses and hazards.
2. Monetary poverty, more vulnerable livelihoods, limited access to social protection, and dependency on lower-quality public services all contribute to families having fewer **capacities to cope with and adapt to the effects of climate change**.

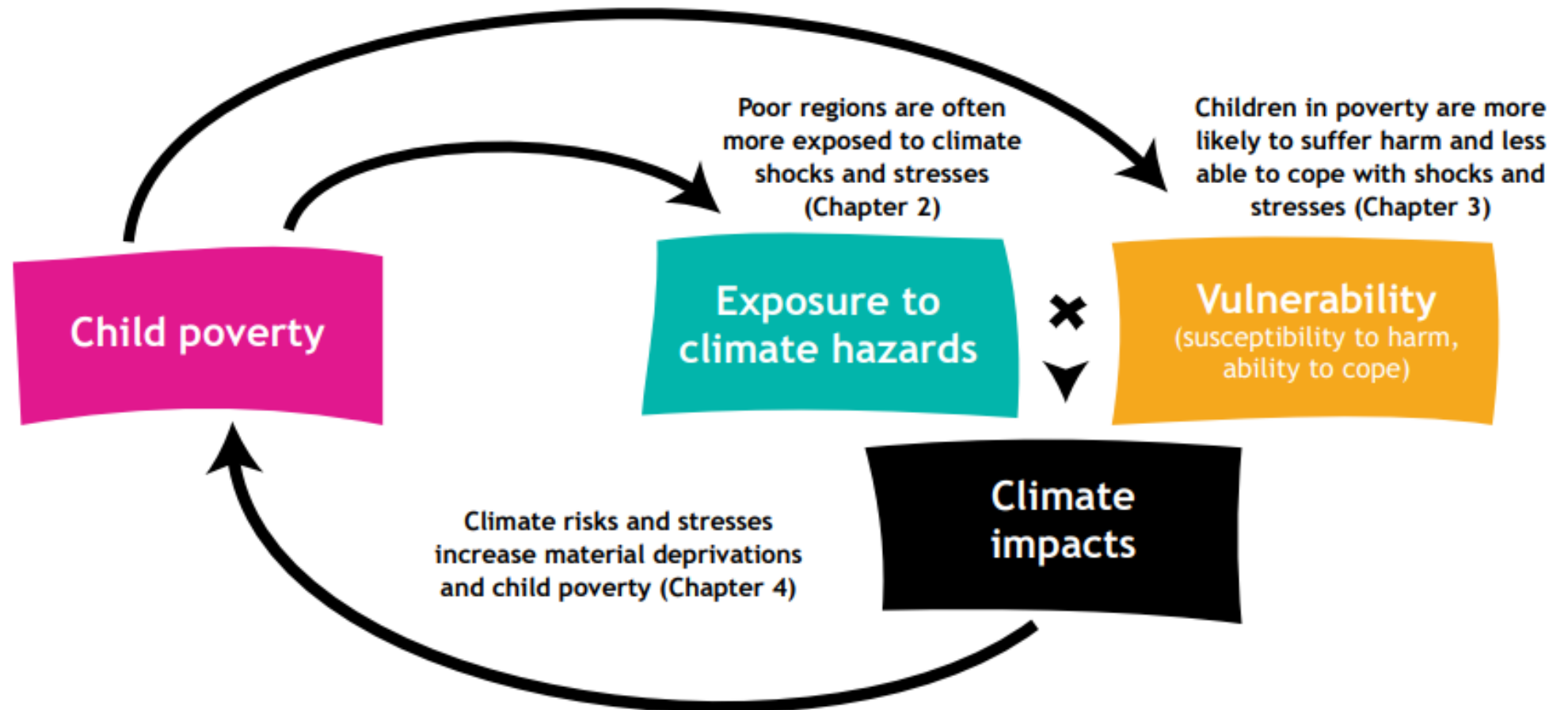
## Impacts on Child Poverty

- Quickly growing evidence base highlights the various effects of extreme weather events on individual dimensions of child poverty:
  - children's learning and access to **education**
  - **injuries, risk of respiratory and infectious diseases**, children's mental health, and access to **health services**
  - especially in case of floods and droughts: **child malnutrition**, most notably stunting
  - access to **shelter** as well as **clean water and sanitation**

**In summary:** Children and their families **can't escape poverty** as they might have done in the absence of the disaster and/or previously non-poor children and families **become newly poor**. Furthermore, children already living in poverty **might be pushed deeper** into it.

# Framework

**Figure 1:** Child poverty is both a driver of vulnerability as well as the result of overall climate risk



## Policy responses

### Government should first and foremost:

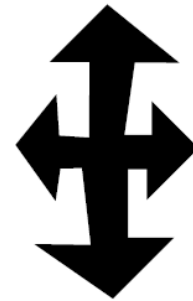
- Meet the Paris Agreement commitments and act now to **limit warming to a maximum of 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels.
- Rapidly phase out the use and subsidy of **fossil fuels**
- Integrate **child priorities** into ongoing **green finance reforms**
- [For high-income countries]: Increase **climate financing**, support lower-and middle-income countries, and provide funding for losses and damages

# Policy responses

## Key building blocks to address the impact of climate change on children in poverty

Make child poverty reduction and climate change a national priority

Expand child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection



Improve access and prioritise funding for climate resilient quality public services

Promote decent work and an inclusive growth agenda as part of the green economy agenda

### Cross-cutting issues:

- children are taking the lead
- gender, disability and other forms of inequality
- child-focused, resilient and quality data systems

based on [Global Coalition Policy Agenda](#)



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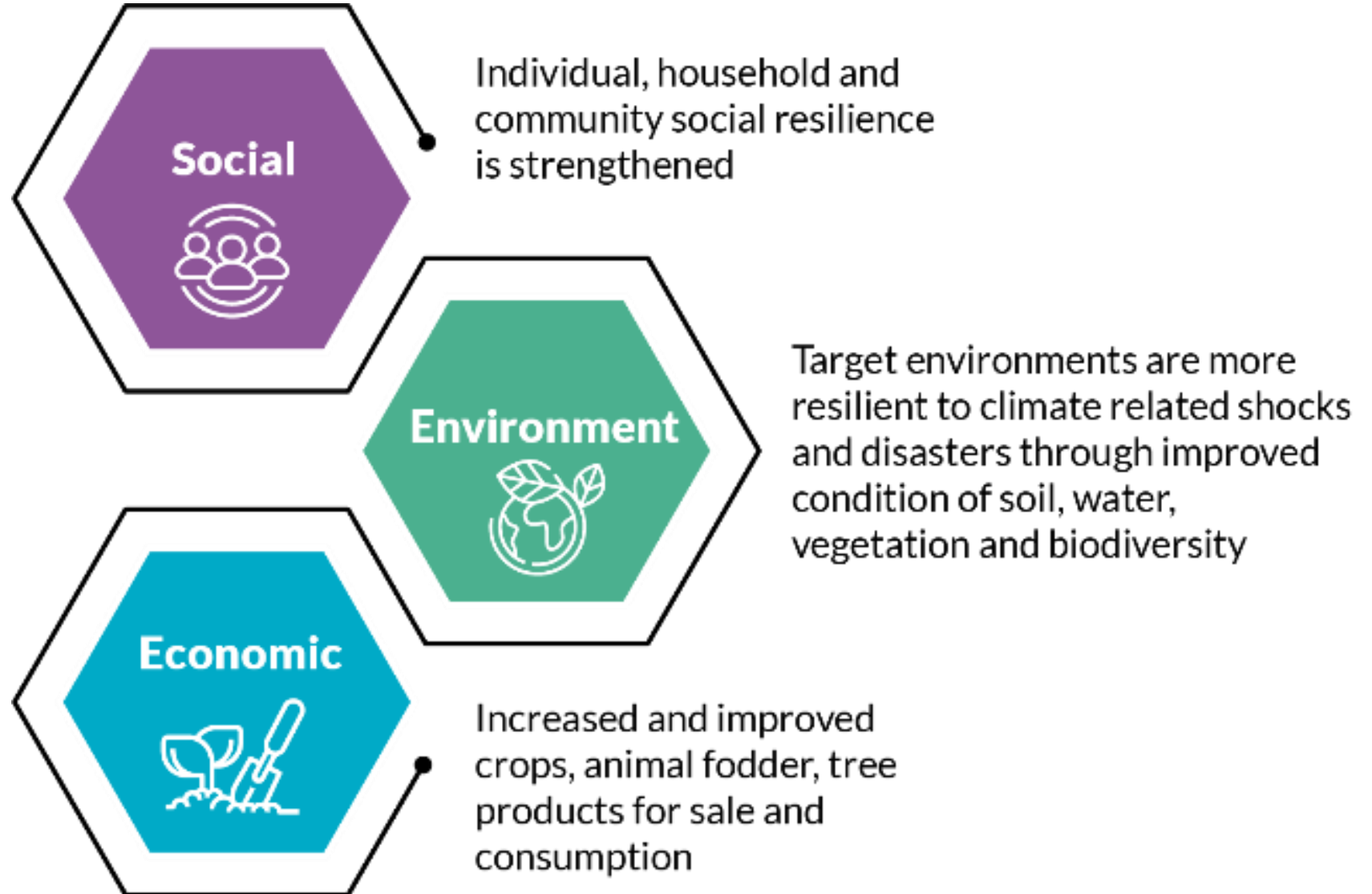
# QUESTIONS?







# Regreening Communities



# REGREENING COMMUNITIES

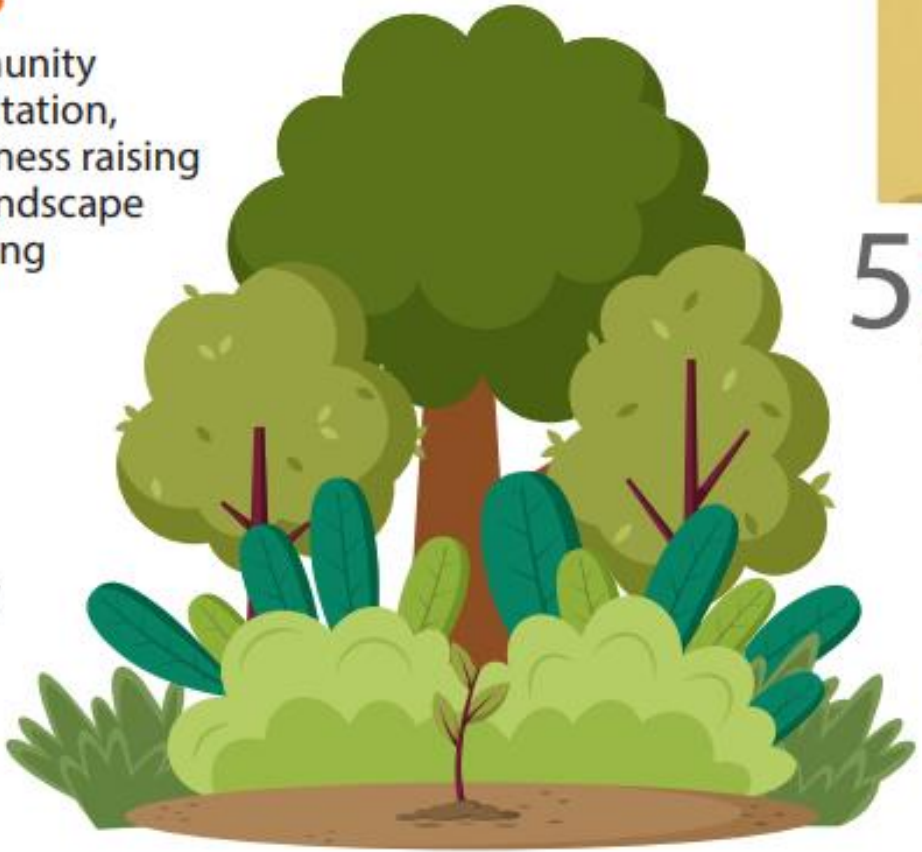


**1 MAP**  
Community consultation, awareness raising and landscape mapping



**5 MONITOR AND CELEBRATE**  
Monitor changes in landscape/seascape, share successes and celebrate champions

**2 ORGANISE**  
Support or set up community collaboration structure/s



**4 REGREEN**  
Implement and continually refine Regreening plan



**3 PLAN**  
Regreening Committee/s to create Regreening plan to validate with the community

# Ethiopia – Restoration project

2005



2008



2009



2010



# Ethiopia – Restoration project

## Impact

- The average number of hungry months reduced from **3.41 in 2014 to 1.6 in 2018**, indicating increased household food security.
- Average household income and expenditure has nearly doubled from **US\$716 to US\$1,286**, and from **US\$470 to US\$1,080** respectively.
- Minimum dietary diversity has increased from **1.89 in 2015 to 5.07 in 2018**, indicating an increase in access to diverse food categories.



# Restoration project benefits

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Income gained from **carbon revenue** & used for different infra structure received nearly **>635,000 USD**
- Income gained from **forest seeds, grains, apple & bamboo seedlings, honey**
- **Better fuel wood collection** & grass by cut and carry system
- **Access to credit service** for Cooperative members
- **Solar panel for community** ( improve education & health)
- **Better yield** – improved nutrition outcomes

## SOCIAL BENEFITS

- **Cohesion** among the community groups
- Improved **sense of ownership**
- User **rights of communities**
- Improved **working culture**
- **Learning center** /Experience sharing area
- Women and children **saved their time – school attendance**
- Transfer of **knowledge, skills, and technology** to local communities

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Closed areas **restored increase in vegetation cover & GHG sequestration**
- **Improved biodiversity** (Restoration of natural habitats), Once disappeared wildlife coming back to the site.
- Improved **genetic pool**
  - Decrease in soil and wind erosion,
  - increase infiltration
  - **Improved microclimate**
- Improved the **water source.**