

Climate change and child health: our position statement at a glance

"We are the last generation that can end climate change. We can and we will".

Khishigjargal, 24, Mongolia

Key facts:

- 90% of the world's population, including 2 billion children, are already exposed to poor air quality.
- Current avoidable environmental risks cause one-quarter of all diseases and deaths globally each year.
- By 2030, there could be an additional 77,000–131,000 deaths among children under five years due to malnutrition attributable to climate change.
- By 2040, one in four children will be living in extremely high-water stress areas.



Key considerations:

- The climate crisis is a child rights crisis.
- Present generations have a duty of care towards future generations.
- The importance of the voice of children and young people.



Our top three requests for global leaders:

1. Support and protection of vulnerable children:

- Child health to be central to all climate change policy decisions, with the inclusion of children and young people's views and a child rights assessment for all final decisions.



2. Mitigation to reduce the emissions associated with climate change:

- All countries to prioritise the delivery of a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels, including immediate cessation of all fossil fuel exploration and subsidies.



3. Adaptation to protect current and future generations of children from the impacts of climate change:

- Targeted investment in climate-resilient, low-carbon and sustainable health and education services, recognising that growing up in a clean and safe environment is every child's right.



"Give us a chance to have an impact on climate change."

RCPCH&Us

Read our full position statement: www.rcpch.ac.uk/climate-change-statement 