

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Develop a Research-into-Action Brief on climate change and children and youth in urban slums and informal settlements

Assignment	<p>Writing a Research-into Action Brief for the Global Alliance – Cities4Children Research Series ‘Cities for Children and Youth’, on the impacts of climate change on the lives of children and youth in informal urban settlements and child-centered actions to mitigate, adapt to and build resilience to climate change in these contexts. The brief will include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of how climate change affects the health and wellbeing, learning, safety and security of children and young people living in urban slums and informal settlements and their ability to thrive and live a successful life. • Identification and description of best practices and successful child-centered examples of interventions, practices, programs and policies that support mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and build short-and long-term urban and climate resilience • Identification of key actors and stakeholders contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience building efforts in safe and sustainable ways • Key policy and programmatic recommendations for reducing the impacts of climate change on children and young people living in slums and informal settlements
Location of assignment	Remote based work
Employer	Save the Children International / Global Alliance Cities4Children
Type of contract	Short-term Consultancy
Rate	3000 Euros
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for applications is February 23rd, 2024. • Applicants must have demonstrated expertise and knowledge in reviewing literature on urban children and climate change impacts, urban inequalities and children and the context of slums and informal settlements. Applicants must also have experience in writing succinct and impactful research and policy briefs. • Interested applicants should send their CV, a written sample, along with an email which explains how their experience makes them the right person for this role. • Send applications to info@cities4children.org • <u>Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.</u>

Background

The Global Alliance- Cities4Children (GA C4C), led by Save the Children, comprises 27 member organizations and has been established to tackle the challenges faced by children living in urban areas, especially those impacted by discrimination and inequalities. The mission of the Alliance is to strengthen global coordination, increase knowledge, and advocate for child rights to be firmly embedded in the urban agenda so that the rights of all children are protected and realized.



As part of this effort, the Global Alliance- Cities4Children has supported the development of a series of Research-into-Action briefs on urgent issues facing children and youth in urban environments such as [air pollution](#), [child malnutrition](#), [provision of water sanitation and hygiene services](#). The purpose of each Research-into-Action Brief is to provide a concise summary of research findings for practitioners on a range of topics and to present recommended evidence-based action.

Childhood is increasingly experienced in urban areas. In 2018, 55% of the world's population was living in urban areas and this will increase to 68% by 2050, adding an additional 2.5 billion people to urban areas. An estimated 60% of urban residents will be below 18 years old in 2030. Most of this change (approx. 90%) is taking place in Asia and Africa where local governments are unable to meet demands for housing, infrastructure and services. As a result, an estimated 350 – 500 million children in cities around the world are growing up in slums and informal settlements.

The climate crisis is a child-rights crisis affecting children globally. Half the children in the world, or 1 billion children, live in countries at extreme risk of climate change impacts.¹ If the current trajectory in global warming is to continue, a child born in 2020 will experience, on average, twice as many wildfires, 2.8 times the exposure to crop failure, 2.6 times as many drought events, 2.8 times as many river floods, and 6.8 times more heatwaves across their lifetimes, compared to a person born in 1960.² Children most affected by the climate crisis are those living in poverty, facing discrimination, refugees and migrants. For these children, climate change impacts deeply affect their rights to survive, develop and thrive.

Heatwaves, flooding, and drought are increasing in frequency and intensity in urban areas and children are among the most affected. In dense urban areas, where land is scarce and of high value, informal settlements are often located on marginal lands such as floodplains or steep slopes which are more exposed to climate related hazards. This further increases the vulnerability of a population who have a limited capacity to absorb shocks. In slums and informal settlements, overcrowding, cramped housing, narrow lanes, lack of access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and childcare facilities all present further challenges to children and their families in the event of extreme climate events. For example, extreme heat and prolonged heatwaves often lead to fires in densely packed informal settlements, worsen the impacts of air pollution and increase vector- and water-borne diseases. Further, lack of access to adequate water and cool and shaded spaces can severely impact children's ability to cope with heatwaves.³

A range of integrated and sustainable actions involving stakeholders from government, private and civil society sectors are necessary to reduce climate change impacts on children and youth in informal settlements. These include risk-reducing policies, programs and interventions, for example ensuring adequate access to basic services, having shock-responsive economic relief programs, ensuring

¹ Today, 1 billion of the world's most vulnerable children are at extreme risk. If the world fails to act, tomorrow it will be all children. It is past time to put children at the center of climate action. (n.d.). Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/today-1-billion-worlds-most-vulnerable-children-are-extreme-risk-if-world-fails-act> (accessed 22 February 2023).

² Ryan, E., Wakefield, J. and Luthen, S., 2021. **Born into the climate crisis.**

³ Climate change is forcing young children into high-risk urban slums – Early Childhood Matters (n.d.). Available at: <https://earlychildhoodmatters.online/2021/climate-change-is-forcing-young-children-into-high-risk-urban-slums/> (accessed 20 February 2023).

participatory relocation of informal settlement dwellers living in areas prone to extreme climate change impacts. Child-centred climate resilience⁴ initiatives, such as improving the safety and structural resilience of schools to climate-related hazards, are essential to build children and youths' resilience to climate change impacts. These should be accompanied by sustainable urban development interventions such as supporting low-carbon slum and informal settlement upgrading, sustainable transport options for those living in informal settlements, and developing green skills among youth and improving their access to green jobs.⁵

In the context of a rapidly urbanising and unequal world, this research brief should provide a concise yet comprehensive analysis of how climate change impacts the lives of children and youth living in informal settlements. The brief should also identify laws, regulations, policies, programs and projects that have improved the resilience of children and youth in slums and informal settlements to climate change impacts and building on these good practices provide actionable advice to practitioners and decision-makers.

Scope of Work

The brief:

- should be no longer than 8 pages in Word
- should be written in plain English
- should follow the style guide for authors (a separate document)
- will undergo an academic as well as practitioner review.

Structure and some guiding questions for the brief

SECTIONS	DESCRIPTION
Summary	100-150 words. Write a brief summary of the main messages of the brief.
Introduction (Approx. 1 pg.)	Write a general introduction to the topic, and how it relates to children and youth and urban contexts, followed by an outline of the brief. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is it important to understand the impacts of climate change on children and youth living in urban slums and informal settlements? - How does the topic relate to other key urban issues – whether poverty, air pollution, road safety, sustainable urban development?
The Research	This is a summary of research drawn from secondary sources on the impacts of climate change on the lives of children and youth living in urban slums

⁴ Climate resilience, for the purpose of this brief, is defined as “improvements in individuals’ capacities to adapt, anticipate and/or absorb climate-related shocks and stresses.” as stated in the report by Climate Change Compass (2019) [Number of people whose resilience has been improved as a result of ICF KPI 4 Methodology Note](#)

⁵ Satterthwaite D, Archer D, Colenbrander S, et al. (2020) Building Resilience to Climate Change in Informal Settlements. *One Earth* 2(2): 143–156. DOI: [10.1016/j.oneear.2020.02.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2020.02.002).



(Approx. 2 to 3 pages)

and informal settlements. Its focus is to identify the main research findings, especially those most relevant for practice. A general overview of the issues can be followed by a more detailed account of the implications for children.

The questions below are provided as prompts to guide this summary of the literature. Primary questions to be addressed:

- How do different types of slow and rapid onset climate-related hazards (such as flooding, drought, heatwaves, cold spells, rising temperatures, landslides) affect children and youth living in informal urban contexts, with regard to their health and well-being, education, safety and security?
- How are children of different ages, genders, abilities, races living in urban slums/informal settlements impacted differently by climate change?
- What are the particular challenges faced by displaced, migrant or refugee children living in slums and informal settlements regarding climate change impacts?
- What does the current research convey on how to reduce the impacts of climate change on children and youth living in urban slums and informal settlements?
- What are the key sources of data about this topic? So, imagine a practitioner in a city wants to know how many children and youth in slums and informal settlements are affected by a recent flood or heatwave, where should they go for data (for example hospital records, Census data etc.)? If the data is not available why not? If it is problematic, why so?

Secondary questions to be considered:

- Based on secondary data sources, to what extent do national and city-level mitigation and adaptation plans, policies, regulations and strategies, budgets and programs address the needs of children and youth in informal settlements?
- What are the gaps in literature, regarding climate change impacts on children and youth in informal urban settlements? – i.e., what important aspects are insufficiently researched and documented?
- How are children and youth affected by climate events in different urban contexts – for example, fragile states, in cities located in different climatic conditions and in city centers/peri-urban areas, large cities/smaller urban centers?

Please make sure to refer to seminal and key publications.



<p>Research-Into-Action (Approx. 2 to 3 pages)</p>	<p>In this section, please highlight successful and impactful evidence-based action undertaken by governments, NGOs, and civil society and grassroots organisations. This section could address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some good practices around reducing climate change impacts on children and youth living in urban slums and informal settlements? Please consider different climatic contexts and challenges. Give examples of a project, an organization, an initiative, or a city where there has been great progress and what they did (you can use a box to clarify) describing key stakeholders, partnerships, collaborative efforts, policy environment, inclusivity, interventions, impact, and sustainability. • What are good practices and evidence on building/improving climate resilience among children and youth in urban contexts, thus, enabling adaptation, anticipation, and absorption of climate-related shocks and hazards? This could be at the household level or service level (education, health, social protection etc.) • How can responses build on, capitalize on, existing efforts, partners and partnerships? How can they support/be supported by local and national governments? How can they contribute to “the big picture” of achieving safe, sustainable, resilient, inclusive and equitable cities and towns? How can projects and financing to upgrade the infrastructure of slums and informal settlements contribute to and integrate climate resilience? <p>Depending on the topic, a case study of a project or policy, photos, graphs or diagrams may be relevant.</p> <p>As per Save the Children’s child safeguarding policies, please ensure that where case examples, children’s voices, and photographs of children are used, all children are portrayed in a positive, inclusive and dignified manner. For example, avoid using overly upsetting and hopeless imagery of children and places and ensure there is diversity in the children shown. Please make sure informed consent has been obtained for images where children’s faces are visible.</p> <p>This could include examples of child and youth participation.</p>
<p>Conclusion (Approx. 1 page)</p>	<p>Please provide a summary of the main points discussed in the Brief. This section could also respond to questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key recommendations for action? Please consider different target audiences such as NGOs, practitioners and decision-makers.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can be done to achieve impact?• How might collaboration between researchers and practitioners and local government advance this topic?• What other research or evidence is needed? What should be further explored?
Further Reading (in a box)	If you were to recommend 3-5 key readings for practitioners, what would they be?



DELIVERABLE	PROCESS	TIMELINE*
Outline of Brief providing -brief descriptions of sections and subsections of as per structure provided above; list of key sources of evidence being referenced in the ‘Research’ section; list of successful and impactful evidence-based actions being referenced in the Research-into-Action section.	To be reviewed by relevant GA C4C members and one expert in the field	2 Weeks
1st Draft of Research-into-Action Brief	Editor and academic peer review: 1st draft will be reviewed by the editor and an academic peer reviewer who knows the subject. Comments will then be returned to the author to address and send a 2nd draft.	4 to 6 weeks
2nd Draft of Research-into-Action Brief	Practitioner review: 2nd draft will be reviewed by two member organisations of the alliance. Comments will then be returned to the author to address and send a revised draft.	2 weeks
Revised and Final Draft	Final version will be sent to a copy editor which the author will then approve for final formatting. Please highlight some key sentences that you suggest should go in the margins (for emphasis). The author will also provide, where relevant, photographs and images that support the text. See past briefs for examples	2 weeks



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Copy edited and Formatted Brief	Brief will be formatted into the alliance's template. The author will provide relevant details for the publication as specified in the Guidance for Authors document such as Author Bio, Keywords, Social Media Handle. The author will review the formatted final version before it is published on the website.	1 week
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* Timeline refers to the time the author will take to develop and revise the brief once feedback has been provided