



# Impact of Climate Change on Early Childhood Development

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# The Nurturing Care....

....is 'what a child needs to survive, thrive, and achieve their full potential'



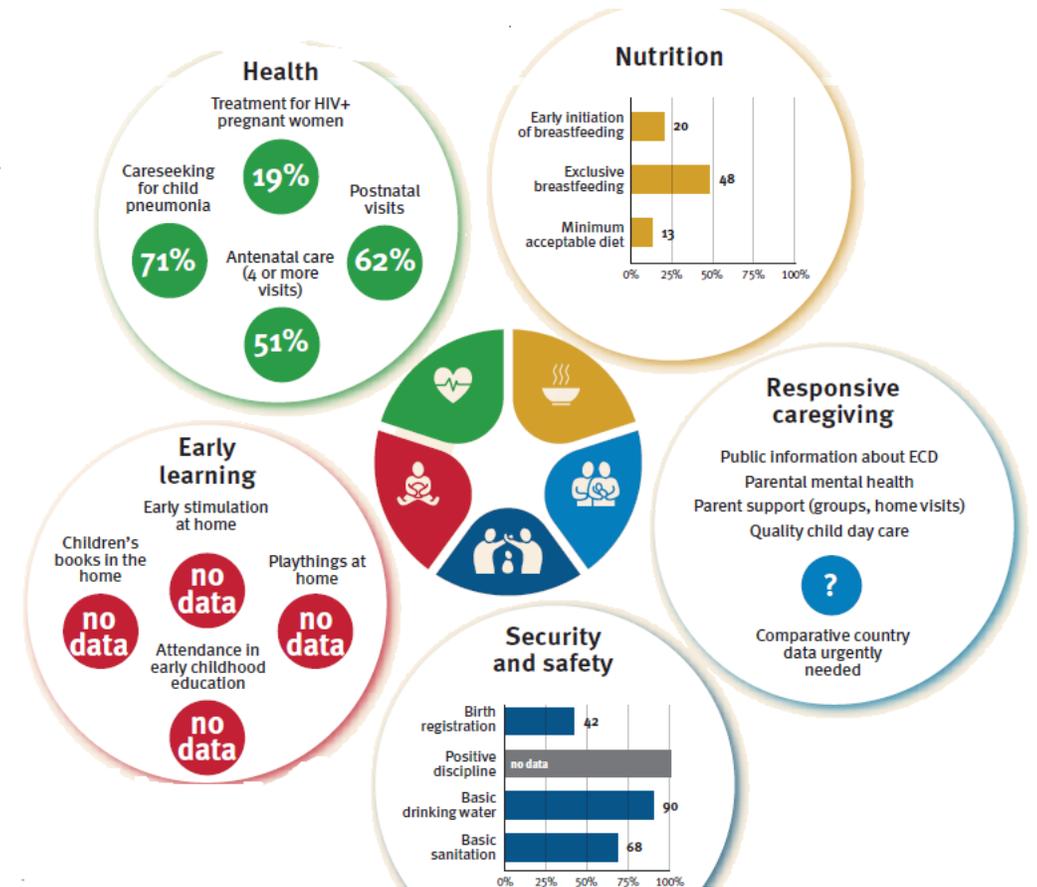
- ❖ Good health
- ❖ Adequate nutrition
- ❖ Safety and security
- ❖ Responsive caregiving
- ❖ Opportunities for early learning

Children need these five inter-related and indivisible components of nurturing care to reach their full potential

# Nurturing Care Framework Indicators in Pakistan

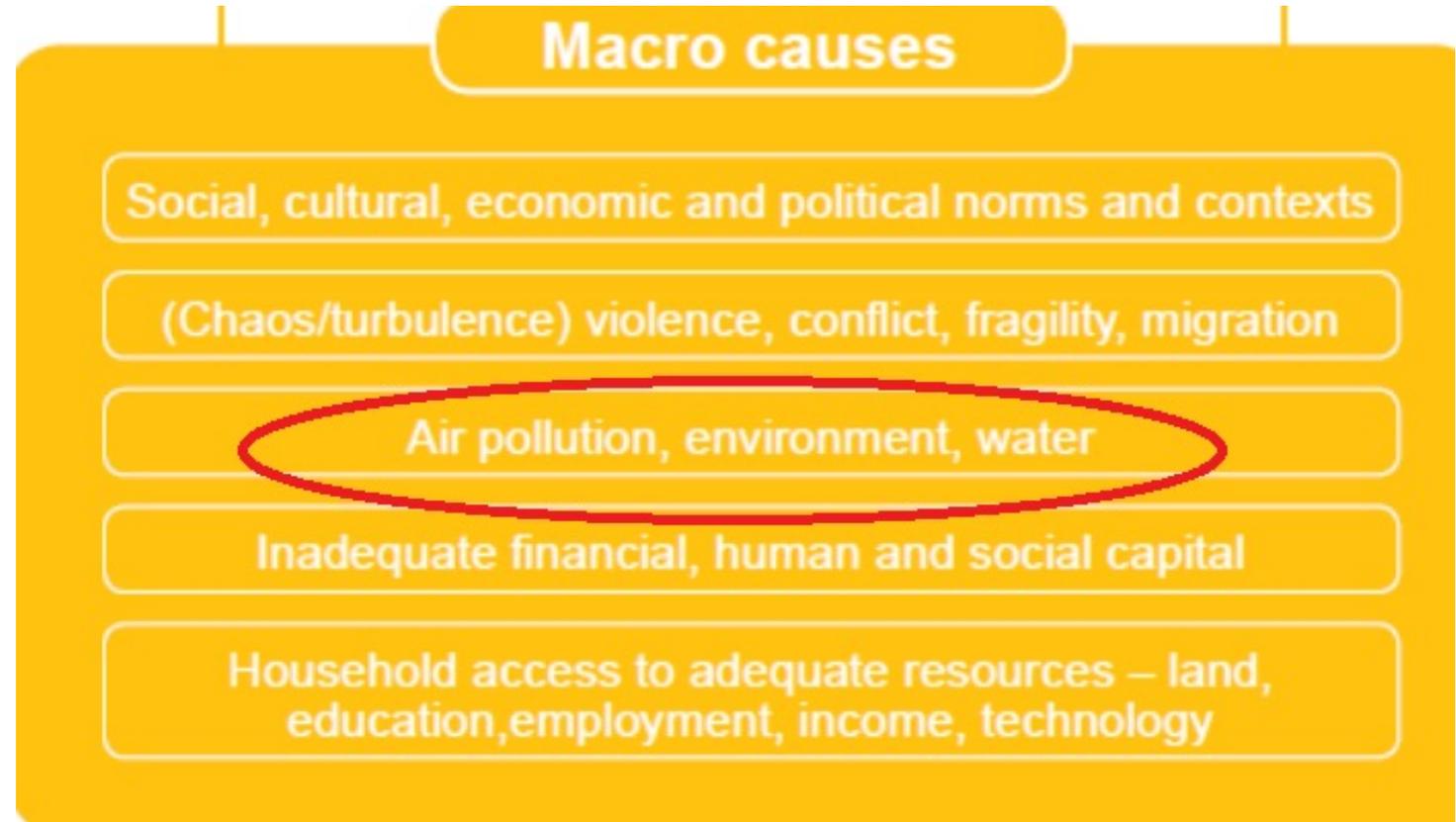
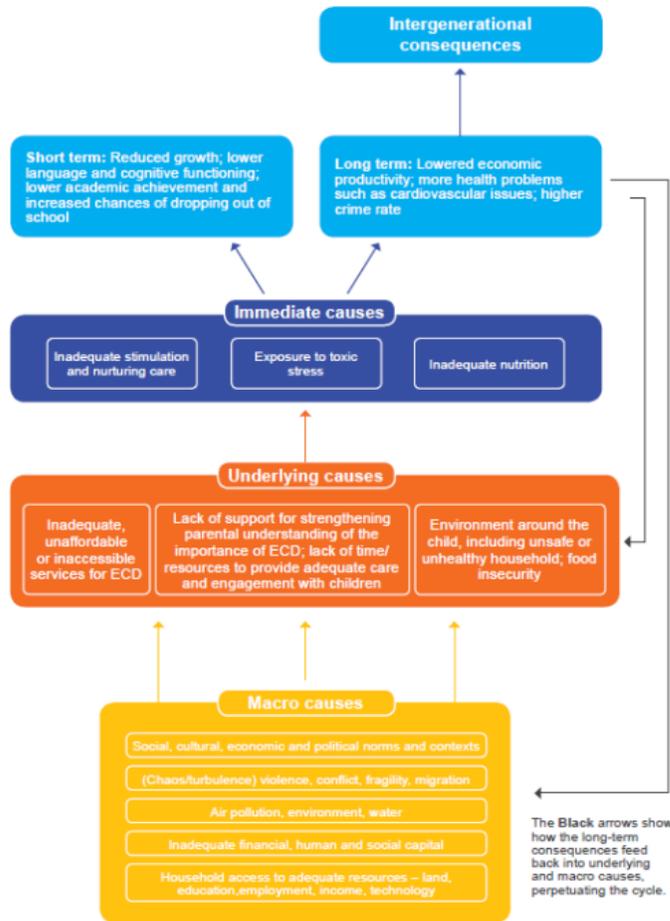
		Bangladesh	Nepal	India	Pakistan
Health	Care seeking for child Pneumonia	42%	85%	73%	64%
	Postnatal Newborn care	46%	57%	62%	60%
	Four or more ANC visits	31%	69%	51%	37%
Nutrition	Early Initiation of breastfeeding	51%	55%	42%	18%
	Exclusive breastfeeding	55%	66%	55%	48%
	MAD	33%	32%	10%	15%
Early Learning	Attendance in ECE	13%	51%		
	Early stimulation at home				
	Children have playthings at home	12%	21%		
	Homes have children's book	60%	59%		
Security and Safety	Basic sanitation	47%	46%	44%	58%
	Basic drinking water	97%	88%	88%	89%
	Birth Registration	20%	58%	72%	34%
	Positive discipline				
Responsive Care giving					

Pakistan ECD Policy Mapping 2019



ECD Country Profile: Pakistan. <https://nurturing-care.org/pakistan-2021/>

# ECD Conceptual framework



# How Climate Change Affect ECD?

## Disrupt elements of the nurturing care through different pathways

- ✓ Accelerate the spread of diseases → **Poor Health**
- ✓ Stress the already scarce water resources, affecting agriculture & livestock (*food availability, accessibility, affordability & safety*) → **Inadequate nutrition, unsafe environment**
- ✓ Increase frequency & severity of natural hazards (floods, droughts & cyclones) contributing to displacement, loss of livelihoods & infrastructure → **Limited access to services**
- ✓ Increase inequalities and deprivations ....

## Increasing Environmental Risks

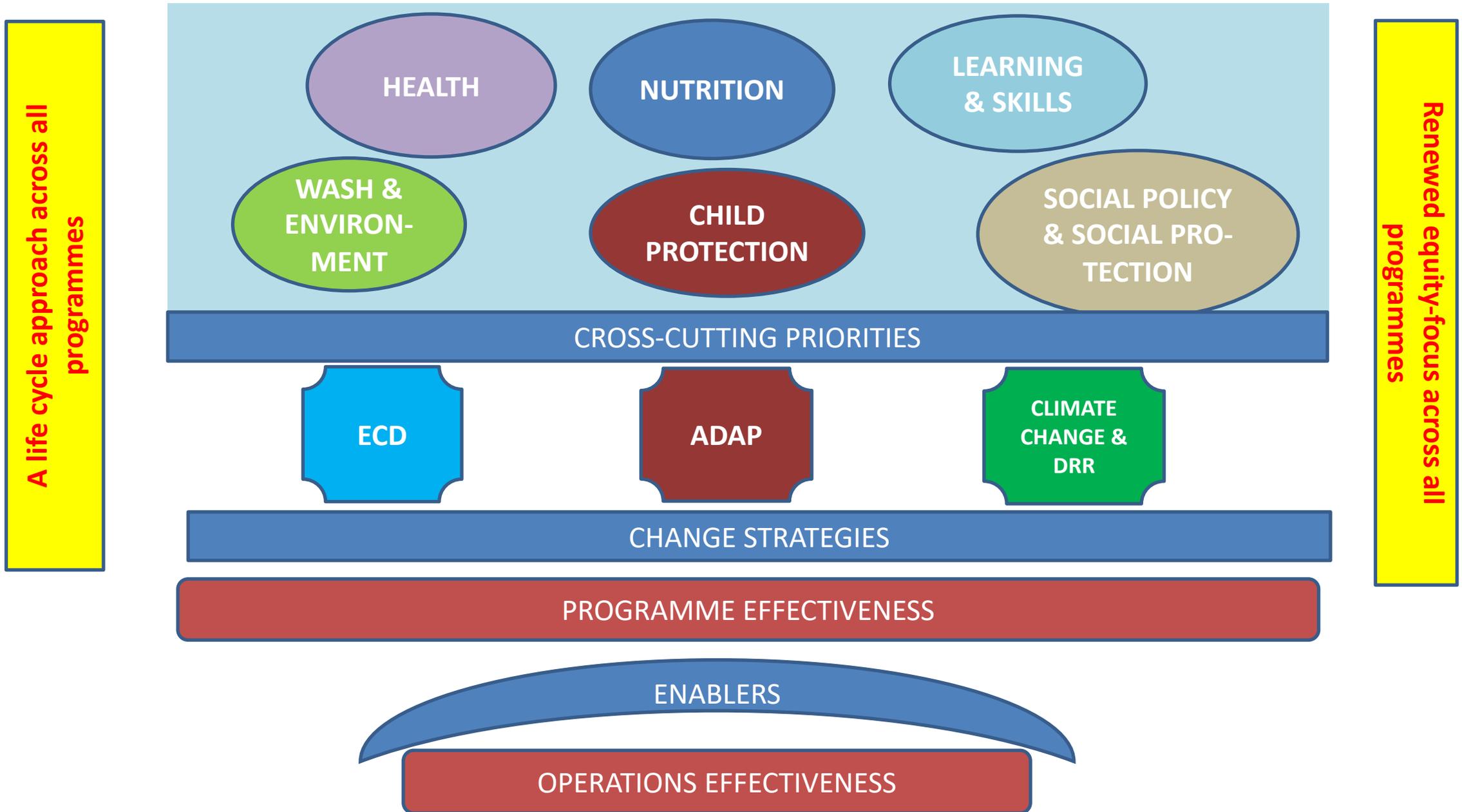
An estimated 26% of deaths in children under five years old can be prevented by addressing environmental risks.

## Loss of nutrients

Excessive exposure to CO<sub>2</sub> can make staple foods, like wheat, corn, rice...etc. significantly loss their macro and micronutrient contents, such as zinc, iron, protein ...etc. → poor health and nutrition

Climate change affects the type, amount and nutrient quality of food that can be produced.

# UNICEF PAKISTAN PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



## ECD

- ❖ Institutionalize ECD (National ECD Policy Framework, ECD Standards, ECD Index & M&E framework )
- ❖ Capacity strengthening on ECD
- ❖ Advocate for Multi-sectoral public financing of ECD
- ❖ SBC on positive parenting (scale up of KFCPs)
- ❖ Technical Assistance on ECD programming

## Climate Change & DRR

- ❖ Expand Roll out of Clean and Green Pakistan
- ❖ WASH in school strategies and climate change
- ❖ Community Capacity Strengthening to adapt & mitigate climate risks
- ❖ Piloting Nature based solutions- natural ground water recharge to locations affected by high ground water level depletions.
- ❖ Climate risk assessment and subsequent development of a framework to address elevated risk from climate change
- ❖ Work with government on Water efficiency and water saving technologies

## Evidence Generation & Advocacy

- ❖ Advocate to strengthen climate change financing, Child centered climate change actions....
- ❖ Evidence generation , and some of the recommendations from the recently completed ones include:
  - Implement early warning systems for disasters:
  - Ensure climate financing and planning is child-sensitive
  - Include equitable child-focused strategies in all climate change and social policymaking
  - Include maternal health and nutrition in planning for climate resilience
  - Ensure all children have access to safe, climate-resilient water and sanitation services

## In summary

While children are the least responsible for climate change, yet climate change pose a direct threat to their ability to survive, grow, and thrive.

## Key Messages

- 1) Climate change actions should take ECD as their central guiding principles
- 2) More local evidence needs to be generated to inform both the Climate Change and ECD Actions.

# References

- <https://nurturing-care.org/>
- [Climate change - UNICEF DATA](#)
- UNICEF (2017): Programming Guidance for ECD
- MoPD&SI and UNICEF (2019): Early Childhood Development Policy Mapping in Pakistan
- Samuel S Myers, K Ryan Wessells, Itai Kloog,, Antonella Zanobetti, and Prof Joel Schwartz (2015): Effect of increased concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide on the global threat of zinc deficiency: a modelling study. The Lancet Global Health. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)00093-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)00093-5)
- J. I. Macdiarmid and S. Whybrow (2019): Nutrition from a climate change perspective. [Nutrition from a climate change perspective | Proceedings of the Nutrition Society | Cambridge Core](#)

# Thank you



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# Why ECD?

- 1) ECD is essential for all children to achieve their full potential
  - Over 43 per cent of children under the age of 5 are at risk of not fulfilling their full developmental potential due to risks of poverty, poor nutrition and a lack of access to basic services and early enriching opportunities (lancet 2016)
- 2) Neuroscience offers compelling evidence on ECD as a critical opportunity to shape brain development and function
  - The brain develops most rapidly in the first years of life, where neurons form new connections at the astounding rate of up to 1,000 per second.
  - The science underlines that while genes provide the blueprint for the brain, it is a child's environment that shapes brain development
- 3) Economic evidence indicates that ECD is both the right investment and the smart investment
  - From a cost-benefit perspective, there is now broad consensus that benefits derived from ECD investments far outweigh costs, with ECD investments giving back almost 13 per cent ECD programmes have the potential to boost individual adult earning by almost 25 per cent.

# Why investing in young children's development?

ECD is essential for all children to achieve their full potential

Neuroscience offers compelling evidence on ECD as a critical opportunity to shape brain development and function

Economic evidence indicates that ECD is both the right investment and the smart investment

Development is a child's right

ECD is foundational for the SDGs