

# 1 billion children...

are at risk of serious threats from extreme weather due to climate change. That is almost half of all children in the world.

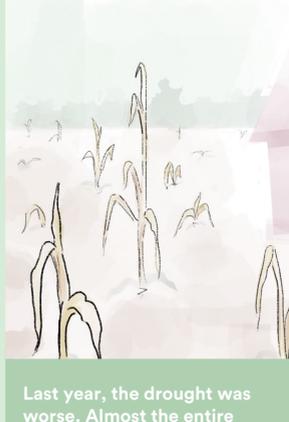
Source: UNICEF



Yohannis' is 13 years old and is in fourth grade. He lives in Sirarro, Ethiopia, with his parents and four siblings. His parents are farmers.



Both drought and flooding are common where Yohannis' live. But in recent years, the weather has become more unpredictable due to climate change. This makes it harder for Yohannis' family to make money.



Last year, the drought was worse. Almost the entire harvest was destroyed. It affected the family's finances, and they could no longer afford food.



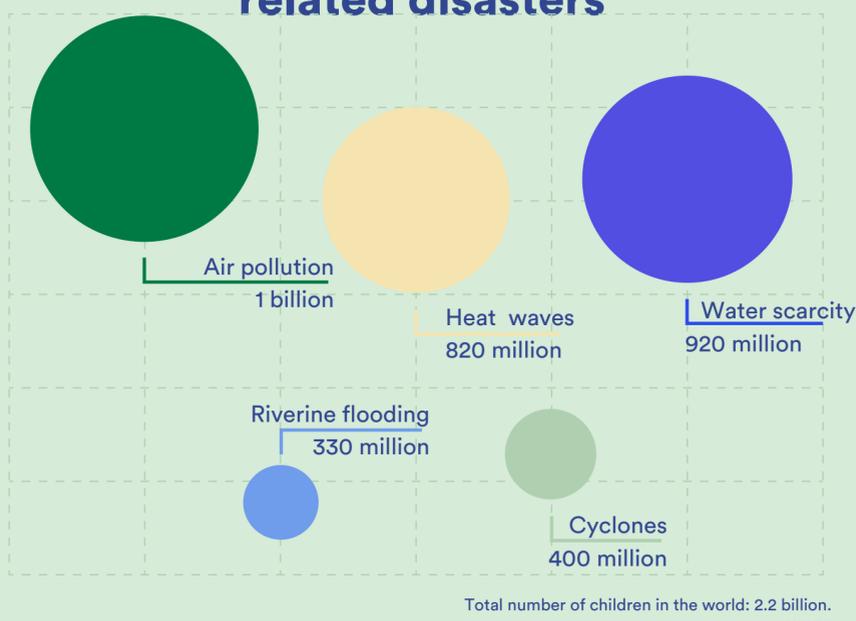
Yohannis' mother made the difficult decision to have him drop out of school and work for a man in another village. For this, Yohannis' received 10 US dollars a month to send home to his family. He had to do hard work from morning till night.



Yohannis' was taken out of school and sent away alone to a hard and tiring job - completely in violation of the child's rights. To work in dangerous conditions is violence. It affects your development and your physical and mental health. No child should have to experience it.

(Yohannis' is not his real name).

## Number of children that are currently exposed to climate related disasters



Total number of children in the world: 2.2 billion.

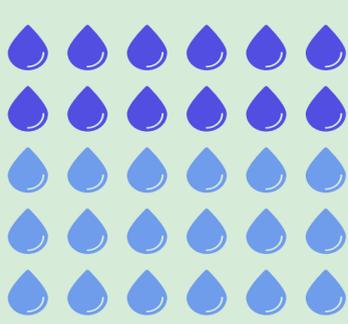
Source: UNICEF

## What is violence against children?

Violence includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship or responsibility, trust or power.



World Health Organisation (WHO)  
Definition of violence against children

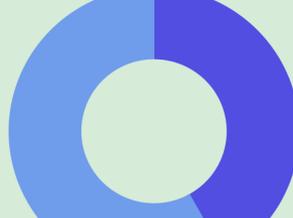


**920**  
million children are at risk of water shortages

Source: UNICEF

**820**

million children are at risk of being exposed to heat waves



Source: UNICEF

## How are children affected?

Climate change leads to more floods, torrential rains, droughts and fires. These events affect income, conflict, access to clean water and food, harvests and migration. As with Yohannis' situation, children are at risk of being exposed to violence. Violence can mean many different things such as child labor, child marriage, abuse, trafficking, sexual exploitation and neglect.



## Here is what we need to do!

Governments must ensure that schools and communities are safe, informative places that prepare and care for children experiencing climate change's impacts. Help children to stay in school and strengthen protection laws and systems to prevent violations and support victims.

Governments must push for countries to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement, to keep global warming under 1,5°C.

Governments and businesses must support climate-resilient income-earning opportunities that enhance and do not degrade the environment

Adults must stand with children and youth to defend child rights in a changing climate.

All must listen to and involve children and youth, without any form of discrimination.

## If you feel worry

Remember that you are not alone. People all over the world are working day and night to tackle climate change, and a lot of progress is being made.

The burden is not on you. And you can and should not do everything. Raising the issue and talking about it is a very effective way to make a change.

A lot of young people experience anxiety related to climate change. If you one of them, talk to an adult or a professional, like a school curator or a psychologist, about your thoughts and feelings.

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