

Early Childhood Development and Climate Services

Understanding Climate Services and the synergies with
ECD

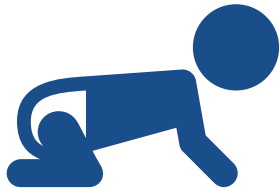
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A severe drought is affecting this family...



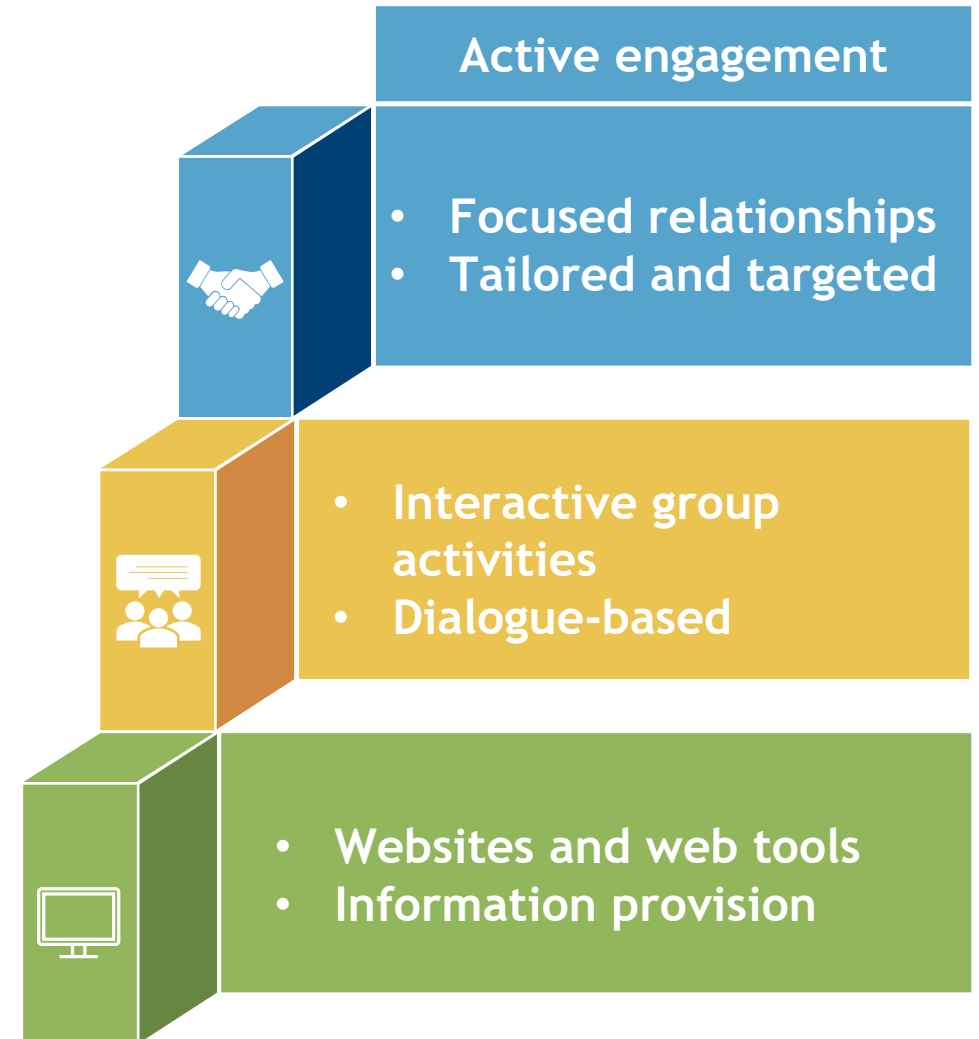
- A timely alert for a drought in their area allowed them to anticipate and adapt their crops.
- But it's not just their crops at risk. The heatwave from the drought is affecting their children.

What if this climate information didn't just warn them about crop risks, but also provided guidance on how to protect their children?

What are climate services?

- *“The provision and use of climate data, information and knowledge to assist decision-making”*
- Climate Services operates across a **broad spectrum of applications** - from raw weather data to tailored knowledge.
- The value add is **enhancing resilience** by enabling **anticipation** and **preparedness** for climate variability and extremes.
- Climate Services are evolving into **knowledge-sharing platforms that connect climate and non-climate experts**.

Objective: understand Climate Services and identify entry points to integrate ECD into them.



ECD is relevant but neglected in the climate context



Young children among the most vulnerable population to climate change. $\approx$ 90% of the disease burden falling on children under five.



While early childhood is at the frontlines of the climate crisis, **climate policies rarely account for their unique needs.**



For climate adaptation strategies to be truly **effective, equitable, and sustainable**, they must incorporate early childhood considerations.



Climate services offer an opportunity to embed ECD principles into decision-making by **facilitating transdisciplinary collaboration and providing data-driven insights** on how and why climate affects young children's development.



Within the climate ecosystem, Climate Services stand out as one of the few fields that **increasingly recognizes the importance of integrating ECD in discussions.**

5 entry points for ECD into Climate Services

Entry point		Description	Example of action point
1	Embedding ECD into Climate Services governance	Building strong partnerships around high-level policies and frameworks	Establish working groups between ECD and climate institutions (Global Framework of Climate Services /World Meteorological Organization)
2	Linking ECD and climate information systems	Linking datasets from climate and ECD to strengthen climate risk models	Develop context-specific vulnerability indexes (e.g. linking child malnutrition with drought forecasts) by age group
3	Designing climate-sensitive ECD programs	Integrating climate considerations into ECD program design ensures that services remain effective and resilient	E.g. education ministries to integrate climate preparedness into curriculums
4	Strengthening local Climate Services for families and caregivers	Climate adaptation efforts must be practical and accessible for those caring for young children	Develop localized early warnings / communication materials, designed for ECD professionals and families
5	Unlocking resources: financing ECD-Climate Services integration	Leverage climate finance mechanisms, given critical role of ECD in sustainable adaptation	Develop joint funding proposals with Climate services linked organizations (World Meteorological Org./NGOs)



ECDAN

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