



Child-responsive climate policies at COP30



Why focus on children?

- Climate change is impacting **almost every aspect** of child health and well-being.
- Children are uniquely susceptible to climate change impacts due to their **distinctive physiology, behavioural characteristics, and developmental needs**.
- Historically, these disproportionate impacts and the measures required to protect and support them **have not been integrated** in adaptation interventions.
- This has implications for the **deployment of climate finance**, and the effectiveness and equity of climate action.





Expert Dialogue on Children and Climate Change

Expert Dialogue – June 2024, UNFCCC intersessional



*‘an expert dialogue on children and climate change to discuss the **disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and relevant policy solutions** in this regard, engaging relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in this effort’*

(COP28 [Decision 1/CMA.5](#))

Expert Dialogue – policy asks

- **Mainstream child-focused measures across work programmes**
- **National level policy recommendations:**
 - NDCs 3.0, NAPs, Biennial Transparency Reports
- **International level policy recommendations:**
 - Entry points across UNFCCC agenda items (e.g. **adaptation, loss and damage, mitigation, gender, climate finance, just transition, ACE, Youth Climate Champion** etc.)
- **Broader 'enabling' recommendations** to increase evidence/research and capacity-building
 - IPCC, disaggregated data
- **Scale up investment** in climate resilient, child-critical social sectors
 - healthcare, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, and social protection
- **Ensure safe, inclusive, and meaningful engagement** of children in climate-related decision-making



**Download UNICEF's COP
30 Policy Brief here!**

*Available in English,
Arabic, French,
Portuguese, and Spanish*

Proposed language for UAE Dialogue on implementing GST outcomes

- *Welcomes* the informal summary report on the expert dialogue on children and climate change and *invites* relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the Convention and Paris Agreement to integrate consideration of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and relevant policy solutions in their existing mandates, activities and reporting processes, as appropriate;
- *Further urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party stakeholders to strengthen action and support to respond to the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children as a primary consideration through relevant national, regional and global planning and implementation processes.





The Global Goal on Adaptation

Quick recap – what is what

Global Goal on Adaptation

- Established under Article 7 of Paris Agreement to enhance adaptation efforts globally, particularly for vulnerable nations.
- The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) aims to **strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts**.

UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience

- Introduced at COP28 to drive adaptation efforts and address climate risks globally
- Has **7 sectoral/thematic and 4 dimensional targets**, to be achieved by 2030 (and beyond)

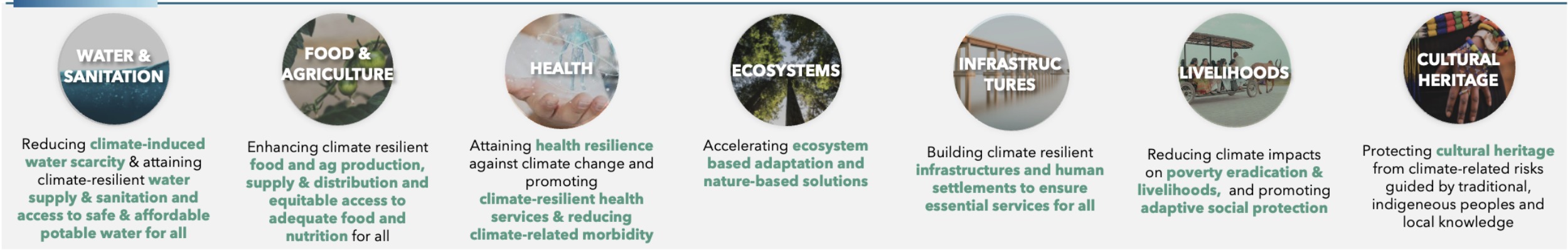
UAE-Belém Work Programme on indicators

- 2-year work programme launched at COP28 to operationalize and advance adaptation efforts & track GGA progress
- 2 parts: A) **Indicators for the 11 targets** [technical]; B) Long-term planning GGA [political]



7 thematic, 4 dimensional targets (2/CMA.5 paras 9 and 10)

KEY SECTORS PRIORITIZED IN THE FRAMEWORK



TARGETS FOR ITERATIVE ADAPTATION CYCLE

The framework details a series of targets linked to different stages of the *adaptation policy cycle*

By **2030**, calls the parties to



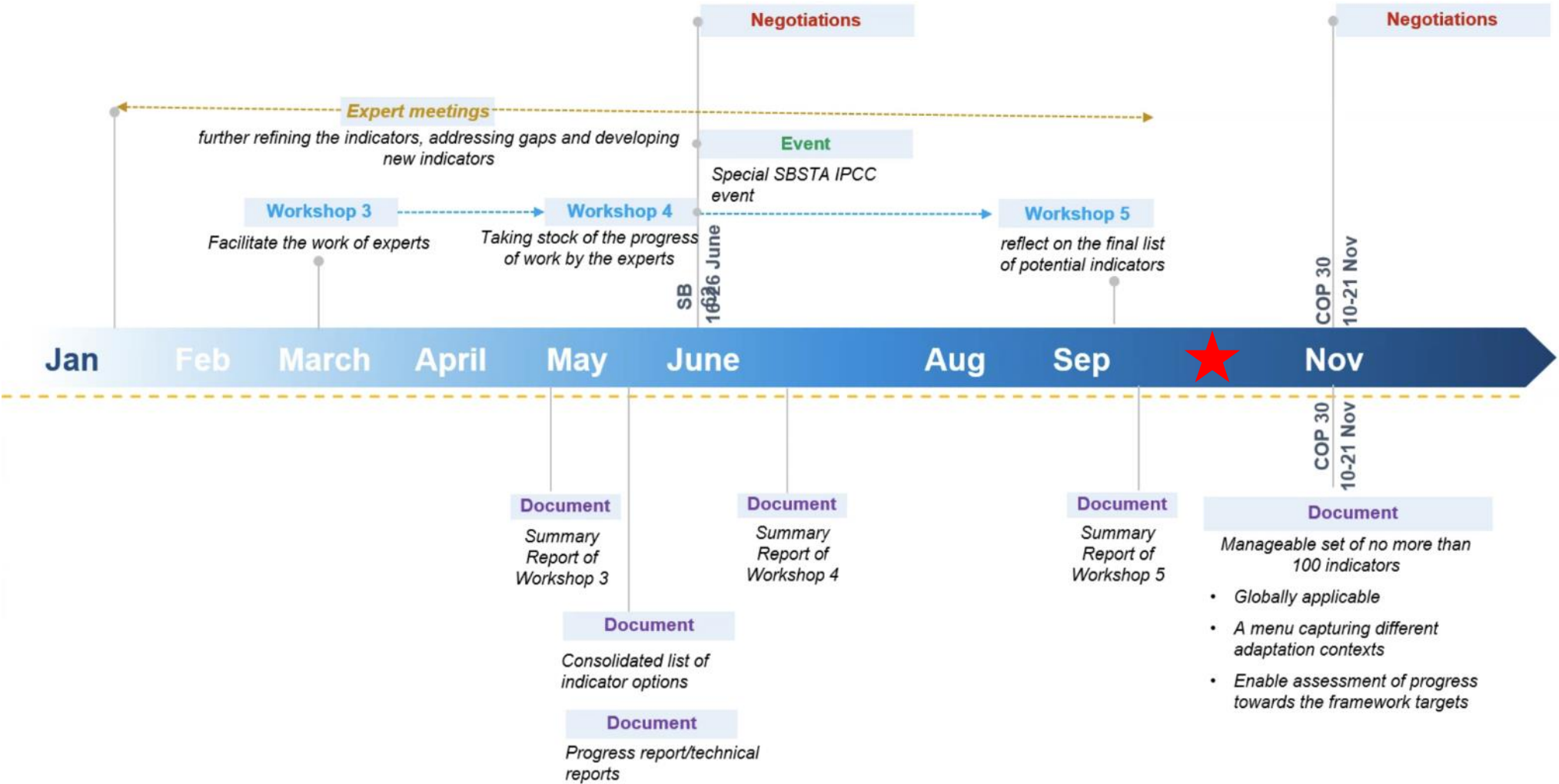
Graphic by Mimansha Joshi & Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio

Source: Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA.3

Image sources: Freepik; Unsplash; Flaticon

Where are we in the process?

Progress update on work since CMA 6

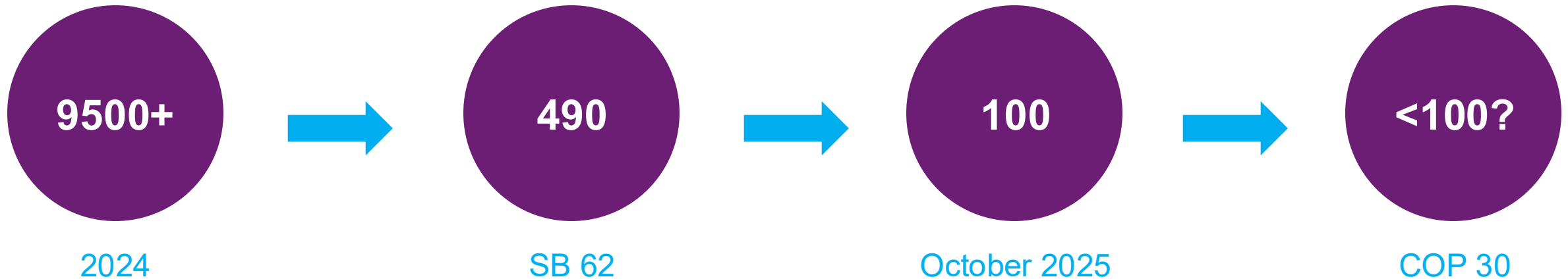


Progress on indicators

UNFCCC September summary report: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649813>

Expert technical report: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649630>

Potential list of indicators: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649629>



UNICEF Priorities

Disaggregated data

Child-focused indicators for the thematic and dimensional targets

Inclusive means of implementation

Education, human mobility and mental health

Post COP 30: Continuation of technical process



Loss and Damage

What is Loss and Damage?



- **Loss and Damage:** impacts despite/without mitigation & adaptation [**3rd Pillar of Climate Action**]
 - Already at **~1.1°C**: dangerous, widespread losses **despite** adaptation.
- Encompasses **both economic and non-economic losses**
 - **Economic Loss & Damage:** Impacts with a monetary value; commonly traded in markets



- **Non-Economic Loss & Damage:** Hard to quantify; not commonly traded in markets



What does it mean for children?

- Risks for them begin even before birth where a **1°C rise in temperature increases stillbirth odds by ~5%.**
- **First 1,000 days:** highest risk; shocks can derail growth → more wasting/stunting.
- Without stronger action, by 2050, climate change could cause about additional:
 - **28 million cases of child wasting [children under weight]**
 - **40 million cases of child stunting [children too short for age]**
- **Cascading impacts:** shock → school closed → income stress → protection risks.
- Track child-specific impacts, or we **undercount** L&D.



The Loss and Damage ecosystem



Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD)

The connector: matching experts with frontline countries and communities



Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (ExCom)

The brain: shedding light on new Loss and Damage knowledge

The outcome

A thriving world: Where the root causes of the climate crisis and inequality are addressed and healthy, happy, climate resilient communities, ecosystems and species flourish



Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)

The provider: funding reconstruction, recovery and rehabilitation



Image Credit: L&DC

UNFCCC: Loss and Damage

WIM ExCom (UNFCCC) *[the brain]*

- **Technical body** on Loss & Damage
- Coordinates research, policy, tools, and guidance
- Five expert groups

Santiago Network (SN) *[the connector]*

- **Catalyzes technical assistance** from organizations, bodies, networks and experts ("OBNEs")
- Supports climate-vulnerable developing countries to implement L&D approaches
- Signed Contribution Agreements: USD 40 million
- **UNICEF member since April 2025**

Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) *[The provider]*

- Recognized as crucial to **avert, minimize, and address** climate change impacts
- **Financing** for particularly vulnerable developing countries; Pledges: **USD 768 million**
- Addresses **economic & non-economic** loss and damage and covers **extreme events** and **slow-onset** impacts

What does it mean for children?

Current Status

- Review of the WIM could not be agreed at COP29 and SB62– postponed COP30.

COP30

- 3rd WIM Review
- FRLD's start up phase – Barbadoes Implementation Modalities [BIM] set to launch Request for Proposal on December 1, 2025

Our asks:

- Integrating a child rights perspective in the 3rd review of the WIM
- Enhanced visibility of the WIM's mandates and work with children and young people
- Pathways to enhance child-responsive loss and damage finance and technical assistance for child-critical essential services through the governance, policies, funding and evaluation mechanisms of the Santiago Network and FRLD.



Thank you!

To learn more, please contact:

Leeya Nix (née Pressburger)
Adaptation Policy Focal Point

✉ lpresburger@unicef.org

Nadia Zaidi
Loss and Damage Focal Point

✉ nzaidi@unicef.org

UNICEF HQ
Climate, Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

A large blue circle with a white border, containing the UNICEF logo and tagline. A thin blue line extends from the right side of the circle across the top of the slide.

unicef 
for every child