



**Every child has the right to a clean, healthy,
sustainable and abundant environment.**

Protecting Ethiopia's Future

Ethiopia, one of Africa's most environmentally vulnerable nations, faces severe challenges driven by environmental shifts, which disproportionately affect children and marginalized communities. Ranked among the least prepared countries globally, Ethiopia experiences recurrent environmentally-induced shocks, including prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, floods, and rising temperatures.

These crises exacerbate food insecurity, water scarcity, and health challenges, undermining progress in areas such as education, nutrition, and child protection. The impact is especially severe in rural areas, where over 80% of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. In 2023 alone, nearly 8.8 million Ethiopians required humanitarian assistance due to drought, highlighting the urgency for action.

Projections indicate that Ethiopia's average temperature could rise by 1.5–5°C by 2100, intensifying the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Despite contributing only about 0.04% to global greenhouse gas emissions, the country remains disproportionately affected. Ethiopia has made strides through initiatives like its Resilient Green Economy (RGE) strategy, aiming for a carbon-neutral economy by 2030.

However, gaps in adaptation financing and community resilience persist. As environmental shocks threaten lives and livelihoods, particularly for children, Ethiopia urgently needs sustained investment and partnerships to strengthen adaptation and resilience at the community level.

Centering Children in Building Sustainability

ChildFund recognizes that environmental changes are not only ecological challenges but also a serious child rights crisis, directly threatening children's survival, development and future.

In response, we implement child-centered, locally-led programs aligned with Ethiopia's national strategies complementing; the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), by scaling up community action to reach the nation's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Our initiatives also support the Long-Term Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) 2050, and the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI), a national reforestation campaign. These frameworks guide our commitment to building resilience among vulnerable populations, particularly children and their families.

About ChildFund Ethiopia

ChildFund Ethiopia operates in 6 regions (Amhara, Oromia, Central Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia, Tigray, and Addis Ababa) through 13 community-based child development programs, reaching over **4,980,000** children and their families.

Focus Areas:

Child Protection, Early Childhood Development, Environmental Sustainability, Education, Food Security, Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition, WASH, Youth Development, Emergency Response and Advocacy.



Strategic Priorities



Community-Based Disaster Risk Management



Smart Agriculture



Nature-Based Solutions



Youth for Environmental Sustainability



School-Based Disaster Risk Management



Circular Economy



Water Resource Management



Energy-Efficient Technologies



Gender-Transformative Approaches: Promoting gender equality by supporting women and girls to take leadership roles in resilience-building efforts.

Flagship Projects



Pamoja: Advocacy for Collective Action on Environmental Protection

This multi-country, citizen-led initiative focuses on advocating for inclusive and child-focused environmental action planning. Through this program, ChildFund seeks to ensure that children, youth, and marginalized groups, often overlooked in environmental efforts, are meaningfully included in decision-making processes that impact their lives and future.

This two-year project (January 2023 to December 2025) is being implemented with partners in Dugda, Oromia Region, and Aynage in the Southern Region. These partners are critical in driving grassroots advocacy, empowering communities, and fostering collaboration with local governments. The project is equipping children, youth, and community members with the knowledge, tools, and platforms needed to advocate for environmentally resilient policies and community-based solutions.



Natural Resource Management in Fentale, Oromia Region:

To mitigate the effects of climate change, ChildFund, supported a reforestation initiative led by 60 women's Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups in Fentale in Oromia Region, in 2022. The women established and managed tree nursery sites, raising a total of 321,034 seedlings within 1 year.

These seedlings were planted in schools and degraded communal lands, to restore ecosystems. The project also promoted the use of climate-friendly technologies (energy-saving stoves, solar energy, and small-scale irrigation). The initiative not only contributed to environmental restoration but also empowered women as key agents of change in climate adaptation.



Future Focus

Building environmental sustainability is at the heart of our work to improve the well-being of children and communities.

We aim to scale proven and innovative solutions that protect children from the devastating impacts of disasters while equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and resources to build sustainable futures.

By integrating sustainability into our livelihoods, food security, child protection, education, and health programs, we seek to create a comprehensive approach to safeguarding future generations.

Through strong partnerships with communities, government, and development partners, we are determined to help Ethiopia's children thrive in a sustainable society.

As a trusted partner, ChildFund delivers locally driven, child-centered solutions that align with national strategies — such as Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy, the NDCs, NAP — as well as global frameworks including the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

ChildFund
Ethiopia

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