WHO ARE AFFECTED?

Natural disasters present a significant and growing threat to the well-being of children. Every year, **175 million children globally** are expected to be affected by natural disasters, including floods, cyclones, droughts, heatwaves, severe storms, and earthquakes.

PROBLEMROOT CAUSE

Disasters occur when people are affected by natural or technical hazards – when lives are lost or property is destroyed. As the Swiss writer Max Frisch observed in his 1979 book 'Man in the Holocene', "-only human beings can recognise catastrophes, provided they survive them; nature recognises no catastrophes."

DISADVATAGES

In a disaster, **you face the danger of death or physical injury**. You may also lose your home, possessions, and community. Such stressors place you at risk for emotional and physical health problems. Stress reactions after a disaster look very much like the common reactions seen after any type of trauma.

PROBLEMS

Climate change is increasing the frequency, intensity and magnitude of disasters, leading to a higher number of deaths and injuries, as well as increased property and economic losses. In the past 20 years, 90% of major disasters have been caused by weather-related events such as heatwaves, storms, floods and droughts, according to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

AVAILABLE SOLUTIONS

With each passing year, weather extremes seem to become more a part of our daily lives. Natural catastrophes have recently captured public attention with California wildfires on the West Coast, hurricanes on the East Coast, and a series of tornadoes in between. The cost of cleanup alone is in the billions, once the price of home and public infrastructure repairs, debrisremoval, and temporary housing is included. Many millions more are spent on less obvious items, such as medical/dental care, small business loans, water, and ice—the list goes on.

OUR SOLUTION

such as **conserving forests, wetlands and coral reefs**, can help communities prepare for, cope with, and recover from disasters, including slow-onset events such as drought. They can also reduce the secondary impacts from non-climate-related disasters such as landslides following an earthquake.