

# Impact of Climate Change Risk Management Strategies on Child Protection Systems in Zambia. A Case Study on Mansa District of Luapula Province

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## Abstract

Rural communities are subjected to impact of climate change and children are the most vulnerable. Adaptation to climate change poses, great challenge to Zambia, planners and decision makers need to appreciate application of strategic management. The study desired to establish the extent and impact of climate change on realization of children's fundamental rights in rural agriculture dependent households, management and child protection systems in Zambia as well as to assess key factors of climate change and how it has contributed to inabilities of rural agricultural dependent households to fulfill fundamental rights of children. Contribute to the body of knowledge through proposing some measures that can address climate changes, with strategic management approach, community engagement, integrated with child rights approach. National Climate Change Policy sets two objectives with immediate relevance responding to climate change, public health and need strategic management, decisions: "To promote, strengthen implementation of adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures to reduce vulnerability to climate variability and change." "To strengthen, institutional and human resource capacity, to effectively and efficiently address all aspects of climate change at, national, provincial, district and local levels." There is need to strengthen, policies, promote application of prediction models and technologies to determine vulnerability sectors to climate change, support higher learning and research institutions on climate related research that supports child rights governance and protection. The study used combined methodology, action and explanatory. Much of the study methodology was explanatory in nature as it attempted to identify circumstances surrounding the extent and impact of climate change on realization of children's fundamental rights in rural households. Key results includes Stakeholders, have not appreciated the application of strategic management in their planning and implementation of interventions on climate change with a child right's lens. Climate change and environmental degradation are creating various crisis situations for children and rural households including social and economic crisis hence increasing vulnerability and poverty.

**Keywords:** Adaptation, Child rights governance, Child Protection, Impact of Climate Change, Rural Households, Risk Management Strategies, Risk Management, Reduction of Vulnerability, Strategic Management.

## Introduction

This study is necessitated by the fact that climate change is a global problem which poses a major threat to children 's rights especially to their right to health, nutrition, education, development, survival, protection, participation and their future potential. The climate change

challenge to some degree has affected the health of the earth and so is the health of its population and this includes the children. Environmental factors have been manipulated and the four pillars of child right are highly affected due to climate change and to some degree the poor management practices by players assigned with various responsibilities,

functions, and authority. The fact that some duty bearers are not strategic managers and decision makers. There is need for decision makers and service providers to be more strategic and ensure children keep up enjoying their rights and their development in the face of climate change and child rights.

The world is facing climate change crisis that many have described as the defining crisis of our time. Children are among the most vulnerable members of community to the impact of climate change and yet they are the least responsible for creating climate change, but bear the worst part of its impact and the climate crisis is a child rights crisis [1].

Children are not highly engaged with management responsibilities for resources attached to climate change and child rights, but they bear the heavy effect of climate change impact. Key elements of management include the aspect of planning, coordinating, staffing and controlling are placed in the care of gate keepers or managers at different levels of authority, mostly children are not engaged in these management functions and strategic decisions. Management is planning, organizing, leading, and controlling of resources to achieve goals, effectively and efficiently” In the effort of increasing on productivity the global has found itself in climate change crisis. This is a serious management issues, which requires strategic management of resource with a forward-thinking aspect.

It is critical to consider how well and effectively the resources are been managed and how decisions are made, to see if the strategic management is considered. Zambia is a member state of the United Nations and has agreed to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Zambia has committed to the domestication of its provisions and has the obligations to fulfill these rights. Fulfilment of these rights among other things depends on efficient and effective management of resources. Despite this fact, abilities to fulfill these rights are hampered by

climate change and poor management of resources that puts children’s most basic rights at risk, seriously affecting their access to quality health, food, nutrition, water, quality education, protection and adequate standard of living required for them to develop into adults that can contribute positively to their communities and the nation.

## **Purpose of the Study**

The study desired to establish the extent and impact of climate change on realization of children’s fundamental rights in rural agriculture dependent households, management and child protection systems in Zambia.

To assess key factors of climate change and how it has contributed to inabilities of rural agricultural dependent households to fulfill fundamental rights of children.

To determine how climate change has affected child’s rights across various stages of their growth survive, develop, participate and to being protected.

To analyze the behavior of duty bearers from strategic management perspective with key management functions.

To propose some measures that can address climate changes, with strategic management approach and community engagement.

## **Background on What Climate Change Adaptation vis-à-vis Child Rights**

Children in many developing countries are critically exposed to the impacts of climate change. The effects of longer and more intense droughts, repeated floods and shifting seasons are severely hampering their education and creating community pressures that result in children being more at risk from economic and sexual exploitation. Consequently, climate change is causing child rights to become even more difficult to safeguard, as adults, communities and governments do not fully appreciate the threats to their children’s future or are increasingly powerless to fulfil their responsibilities to provide the required

protection for the children and safe guarding their future interest and rights. This situation leaves many players with questions and the task to think on how best to address the issue at hand with consideration on how to effectively address the impact of climate change and its associated risks, while simultaneously creating an environment in which children can realize their rights? [2]. The basic premise of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is that children. This paper will consider a child to be any person below the age of 18 years of age. Children like any other human beings, are born with fundamental freedoms and the inherent human rights. Each government must report back on children's rights in their country.

The Convention is often discussed in terms of its four main principles: nondiscrimination (Article 2); best interests of the child (Article 3); survival and development (Article 6).

[1]. The right to nutrition is highly affected in most rural household. Climate change is projected to increase the number of malnourished children in Africa by 10 million to 52 million in the next 40 years, it has affected crop production and yield. In line with other studies (e.g. 3), maize is the most vulnerable crop to climate change in Zambia. There is need for organization to improve management efficiency especially with regards to decision making and value addition.

Reference [3] Verhage, F., Cramer, L., Thornton, P., & Campbell, B., 2018, Climate Risk Assessment and Agricultural Value Chain Prioritization for Malawi and Zambia. CCAFS Working Paper no. 228. Wageningen, the Netherlands: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

Sub-Saharan Africa, Zambia and Mansa in particular is contributes to the 50% infant mortality induced by child malnutrition. This provides evidence that climate change is undermining children's rights to life, quality health and an adequate standard of living for survival and development, as enshrined most explicitly in Articles 6, 24, and 27: Climate

change has highly affected the rights of children in communities of Mansa district. Thus, the cumulative impacts of climate change via agriculture, health, infrastructure, and energy are expected to be larger as demonstrated in Tembo et al. [4].

Mansa district like any other district in a rural set up need strategic thinkers, and focus on quality health is critical to ensure that resourcing for health services and nutrition under climate change is mobilized, and services are reoriented where necessary.

Climate induced migration, and displacement caused by extreme events also hit children particularly hard. Their right to shelter or parental care (Article 7) can be taken away in an instant. In the case of slower onset disasters and stresses, it is well established that when family livelihoods suffer and asset bases are eroded, children become the risk management strategy – they may be increasingly absent from school or drop out altogether to increase their role in domestic tasks or income generation [5]. Article 28 deals with the Right to Education and Article 29 with the substance of education provision. Article 29(e) enshrines the right to development of respect for the natural environment, which is directly relevant to the concerns expressed by children.

Female children may also have to leave their families either through early marriage or labour migration, with direct relevance to non-discrimination rights (UNCRC, Article 2). Migration, displacement, disasters, increased child labour and increased exposure to risk of sexual abuse (resulting from conditions of poverty and the need for children to work in isolation) impact directly on children's safety. Children have a right to be heard in all matters affecting them (UNCRC, Articles 12 and 13). This applies to all responses to climate change and its impact. Participatory rights are echoed throughout climate change adaptation literature which emphasizes the inherently local nature of autonomous adaptation [6] children are still seen as passive bystanders in climate change

responses, and the proliferation of top down interventions and the dominance of 'climate science' reinforces the need to investigate and emphasize a child's right to participate [7].

All adaptation policy makers have a duty to contribute to the fulfilment of child rights. As a starting point, key questions can be asked of adaptation planning processes with regards to the four general principles.

In rural households of Mansa district it is important to have enough Civil Society Organizations such as Save the Children, Groups Focused Consultations and others that would keep up influencing the high engagement of children, parents, caregivers, and stakeholder such as community leaders, in decision making platforms to enhance child rights at community and national level. Many national climate change policymakers are not considering children and children's rights, specifically during the initial phase of adaptation efforts, the framing of climate change assessment as an environmental and forecasting issue resulted in national coordinating units commonly being based in environmental or sometimes meteorology departments. More recently, there has been greater attention to recognizing the vulnerability of different groups and the need for integration of climate change into development and poverty reduction planning. National climate change policy actors may be aware of the likely impacts on children who are already experiencing conditions of poverty, yet they are less aware of children's adaptive capacity, and how adaptation policies and programs can be child sensitive, for both safeguarding child rights and for effective climate-resilient development [8].

Many Child Rights actors are not considering the implications of climate change, its risks and impact on the children. The domestication of the CRC into national legislation in countries that have ratified the Convention aims to strengthen national institutions for children, ensure resources are allocated for children's welfare, and increase children's engagement in

decision-making processes. Climate change is likely to put pressure on all of these processes. However, many national actors are not yet familiar with the web of implications of climate change for social stability and children's welfare, children need to be given the voice and strategic thinking ability [9].

This research is aimed at assessing and determining the impact that climate change has had on children's right to survive, develop, and participate, being protected from all forms of harm among rural agricultural dependent households, analyze how the duty bearers are managing their mandates from strategic management point of view. To assess key factors of climate change and how it has contributed to inabilities of rural agricultural dependent households, to fulfill fundamental rights of children. To determine how climate change on children has affected children across various stages of their growth to survive, develop, participate and to being protected. To propose some measures that can address climate changes issues from strategic management point.

### **Objectives of the Study**

Is to outline, establish the extent and impact of climate change on realization of children's fundamental rights in rural agriculture dependent households, management and child protection systems in Zambia. Considering the following specific objectives:

1. To assess key factors of climate change and how it has contributed to inabilities of rural agricultural dependent households to fulfill fundamental rights of children.
2. To determine how climate change has affected child's rights across various stages of their growth survive, develop, participate and to being protected.
3. To analyze the behavior of duty bearers from strategic management perspective with key management functions.
4. To propose some measures that can address climate changes issues with effective

strategic management approach with regards to climate change migration; alternative energy production; change in agricultural systems and international accepted practices and norms in relation to climate change.

## **Methodology**

The study used combined methodology, action and explanatory. Much of the study methodology was explanatory in nature as it attempted to identify circumstances surrounding the extent and impact of climate change on realization of children's fundamental rights in rural agriculture dependent households looking deeply at the reasons behind these attempts as well as the reasons behind the failure. Explanatory research was used to investigate how or why a phenomenon took place. Explanatory research helped analyze patterns and formulation of hypotheses. Combined with the action research it brought a complete understanding of the relationship between variables, despite the fact that it may not yield conclusive results. [10].

The sample of the population of this study stood at 7 experts in the field that were from Mansa, district of Luapula, Zambia. The sampling method applied was a non-probability, all the identified participants were selected at random hence giving everyone a chance.

Due to the fact that it attempted to gain detailed knowledge about the impact of climate change and risk management strategies on realization of children's fundamental rights in Mansa, Luapula, Zambia, key informants were selected using cluster and purposive sampling which involved dividing the population into subgroups with similar characteristics to the whole sample as well as sampling the most useful to the purposes of the research. School going children was given an opportunity to be observed as they were engaged on the study and so was children who are not in school. Teachers, parents and community leaders were

engaged. The study used the questionnaire, observations and interviews to collect data and information.

## **Results**

Climate change is now a public and policy issue affecting everyone and the children in Mansa district are not spared. Climate change has come with various risks including the risk of children not attending classes. The needs for duty bearer to engage the right holder in decision making hence they are not engaged. The study found out that during rainy season certain path ways and roads become impassable making it difficult to enjoy the right to education and the rights to health.

The traditional leaders in most of the communities had no idea on the benefits of child rights and hence never provided leadership in the light of promoting child rights.

School authorities can never engaged children in decision making of any kind with regards to management of school in the face of climate change.

Stakeholders in Mansa district have not appreciated the application of strategic management in their planning and implementation of interventions on climate change.

There are no policies on climate change risk management which are user friendly for all children including children with disabilities in rural communities.

Effects of the changing climate make children to be more vulnerable to various needs including food security and nutrition. Children are malnourished and get stunting which leads to poor performance at school.

Non enjoyment of child right such as result to quality health, quality education and sanitation lead to school drop outs, early marriages and teen pregnancy which contributes to rural poverty chain.

Non support and promotion of child rights in Mansa district contributes to poor economic

growth and gender equality in rural communities.

Human activities are causing climate change; households engagement on livelihood activities such as cleaning farming land, use of chemical for farming and charcoal production contribute to climate change risk factors.

The paper relates its results to the scientific understanding and hence these elements above are part of the available evidence.

It is now clear that economic growth that comes at the expense of the environment is not a trade-off that can be considered in the 'best interests of the child'. It was clear that climate change has posed a risk on child rights in most communities of Mansa district.

Climate change and environmental degradation are creating.

### **A Water Crisis**

Droughts, floods, and severe weather associated with climate change stand to affect children's access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Approximately 415 million children are living in areas where access to clean drinking water and sanitation is difficult hence making them vulnerable— where the risks of drought, groundwater table decline, water stress, and annual and inter-annual seasonal variability intersect with low levels of access to water services [11]. Some communities in Mansa districts have experience droughts and floods which has contributed to water and food crisis.

### **A Health Crisis**

Around 26 per cent of deaths among children under five are due to modifiable environmental factors. Air pollution and environmental toxins are among the biggest killers of children globally, and climate change stands to exacerbate the myriad health risks that children face. Children are also particularly vulnerable to extreme heat waves, as they have a reduced capacity to regulate their body temperature and protect themselves. Nearly 90 per cent of the

global burden of disease associated with climate change is borne by children under five and this includes malaria which is one of the disease burden in Mansa district especially among children under five years and pregnant women. Toxins, such as lead, that seep into the food children eat, the water they drink and the soil they play on, can harm children's health and development. Climate change has also damaged or disrupted access to essential health services and clinics. Most child health risks due to environmental factors are preventable [12].

### **A Nutrition Crisis**

Food security is linked directly to climate change especially among the poor households in Zambia and Mansa district is not spared. With increasing frequency and severity of droughts, floods and severe weather, food security stands to be compromised, threatening the level of nutrition children can access. The impact of climate change on poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, will be primarily driven by rising food prices. Moreover, events such as these can damage critical infrastructure which prevents the adequate distribution of food to regions which have been affected. Climate change has impact on food security not only through these catastrophic events, but also through slow-onset changes to precipitation and temperature, which has altered agricultural practices that communities have relied on for generations [13].

Zambia has also experienced adverse impacts on its agriculture sector because of climate change and inadequate application of strategic management decisions and actions. This is a serious challenge for rural districts such as Mansa district. . Smallholder farmers are the country's largest population of food producers, and they are responsible for up to 90 per cent of the food produced in Zambia, with 80 per cent being women farmers accounting for about 80 per cent. Some of the women are in child bearing age and have children who are subjected to negligence and abuse in their

communities. Agriculture is a major source of livelihood for majority of the rural population in Zambia and Mansa district in particular. Since most of the vulnerable population rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, improving agriculture and food systems is key to achieving food and nutrition security in the country. The study discovered that Ministry of Agriculture has no active extension offer at community level in Mansa district.

### An Education Crisis

Climate change and environmental degradation affects children’s ability to go to school, through its impact on health and well-being of both learners as well as teachers. In Mansa district some schools have half a class of pupils during certain periods of the year due to impacts of climate change and non-compliance of upholding child rights by duty bearers including parents. Droughts, floods, even extreme events of air pollution and exposure to toxic chemicals, have the same potential to prevent children from accessing classes from their school as well as negatively impacting their cognitive function and learning outcomes. Climate change is also affecting the relevance of the skills schools provide. [14].

### A Child Protection Crisis

As climate change disrupts institutional and protection systems and forces migration and displacement, climate change stands to put millions of children at risk from exploitation, labor and abuse. Children travelling alone or separated from their parents can be particularly at risk of emotional, physical and sexual

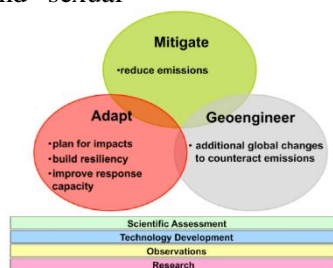
violence [15]. In Mansa district some children are engaged in child labour in manganese milling, sand mines and domestic undertakings.

### A Participation Crisis

Children’s views are often not heard and acted on by decision makers who are setting policies that directly affect how severe future impacts will become. Because children often don’t have the same legal and political standing as adults, they often do not have a platform to have their voices heard, or accountability mechanisms to ensure they are acted upon. They are reliant and dependent on adults and suffer from power imbalances and a lack of knowledge, including on climate change [16]. In Mansa district there inadequate platforms for children to express their options and ideas.

### Major Impact of Climate Change on Children

Poorer children in districts such as Mansa district, who already face economic disadvantage are further impacted when climatic events increase overall risk. They are less able to access key resources – such as safe water and sanitation, food and health facilities – when crises occur. This pushes them further into poverty. Wealthier children, meanwhile, may have access to these resources even if crises negatively impact them. The end result is that gaps between the poor and the rich grow as the impacts of climate change become more frequent and severe. Rural communities of Mansa are among the marginalized and disadvantaged.



**Figure 1.** Climate change risk management consists of three proactive risk management strategies (mitigation, adaptation, and geoengineering) & efforts to expand the knowledge base with respect to the climate system through research, observations, technology development, and scientific assessments.

## **Discussion**

The study was conducted to evaluate the extent and impact of climate change on realization of children's fundamental rights in rural agriculture dependent households in Mansa district in Luapula Province of Zambia.

The research looked at how climate change has influenced the proper and effective realization of children's rights in accordance with the CRC in the communities of Mansa district in Luapula Province of Zambia. The paper also considered the strategic management approach of duty bearers in the rural setup of Mansa district to ascertain their strategic management skills, decision making mechanisms and engagement of children.

In order to make the study more impactful the information was gathered as a form of questionnaires from selected residents through probabilistic stratified random sampling technique.

## **Significance of the Study**

The empirical evidences of the climate change crisis is the defining child's rights challenge of this generation, and has a devastating impact on the well-being of children globally, at national and community level. The rural children and children with disabilities in Zambia and Mansa district in particular are highly affected. Rural children are among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and there are the least responsible for creating climate change effects but bear the brunt of its impact. Climate change is driven by a number of factors including deforestation, poor management of resources, poor application of strategic management skills and other human activities. In most of the communities which were sampled:

Children have poor nutrition resulting into malnutrition due to poor food security and poor crop yield which has been affected due to climate change and non-use of strategic management decisions.

Children receive poor quality of education due to their teachers failing to manage large class of pupils besides poor availability of furniture, enough classrooms and other equipment's.

Children receive poor health services and products due to stock out of drugs and non-availability of trained medical personnel in health facilities.

Children fail to attend classes in rain season due to heavy downfall of the rain. Some school classrooms and health facility builds have had their roof brown off in identified communities in Zambia and Mansa district in particular which includes: Fibale primary school.

Climate change has high impact on sustainability of natural resources and productive future of the children of Mansa district, leading to food insecurity. Some children fail to consistently attend classes due to food insecurity, illness and weather conditions Climate change has contributed to poor sustainability of natural resources and management systems. Most managers in the rural set up do not have strategic management skills and this affects their management approach and sustainability. The conception of sustainability can, thus, be presented as the pressures which go between population, consumption, and technologies which has an environmental impact [17].

Reference [18] notes that the most vulnerable citizens to climate change stresses are rural communities that depend on rained agriculture, resources from forests and have humble education backgrounds. In developing countries, it is projected to exacerbate the top five causes of death among children under five affecting their ability to survive. The findings are in line with Thurlow et al. (2012) who suggested that climate change will reduce GDP and increase the poverty incidence in Zambia [19]. Similarly, extreme weather events reduce the availability of safe drinking water, compromise sanitation and increase the incidence of weather-related diseases such as malaria and diarrheal diseases, leading to



absenteeism and possible withdrawal of children from school impacting on their survival and development rights [20].

This affects children survival and development rights. On the other hand, adverse weather has attributed to destroying infrastructure such as health facilities and schools. Change in the rain pattern has affected crop production, yield, food security and income at household level. Societal challenges include a lack of work openings and access to education in numerous fields of the world; poor working conditions including child labor and long working hours; increased situations of poverty; inter and intra-generational equity; and adding situations of inequalities between rich and poor and societal stakeholders. Everyone needs to be engaged in order to yield better results and this calls for concerted efforts on climate change and human development.

[21] UNDP, 2017 Climate Change and Human Development: Towards Building a Climate Resilient Nation.

Survival and development is a challenge for most children in communities of Mansa district including: Chitamba, Dasto, Sumbu, Fibale, Mutiti, Motoka, Kaswe, Million, Masaba, and Katumbi to indicate few communities. The teachers have a role to support survival of the learner through skills development and use of technology. Technology has made it easier for teachers to collaborate and share resources with their colleagues and learners [22]. Adams, (2002). The country's climate is highly variable and has experienced a series of climate extremes, examples are droughts, seasonal floods, flash floods, extreme temperatures and dry spells, will lead to increased frequency, intensity and magnitude. Climate Change impact on Zambia is evident following induced changes to physical and biological systems [23].

Climate change has continued to economically impact households, a situation that poses a protection risk for children due to negative coping strategies that parent or caregivers adapt such as forcing children especially girls into

early marriages, teen pregnancy or into child labor to contribute to the economic gains for families. Climate change has multiple effects on future of the children, resource management and sustainable development especially for rural communities such a Mansa district of Luapula province and Zambia, due to climate change some families and institutions fail to meet the following:

1. school requirements for children.
2. food security and nutrition.
3. reporting for work at the appropriate time.
4. failing to access the social services such as education and health.
5. service providers fail to apply the management function appropriately.
6. provide quality and timely services.

The study primarily focused on understanding the effects of climate change from the aspect of service provision and access to quality services such as education, health and social protection especially for children. The basic social services are essential for child development, survival and protection and yet the impact of climate change has affected these social services especially for the rural communities of Zambia which includes Mansa district. Some of the schools in Mansa district pupils sit on the flow, the schools do not have essential facilities such as electricity, labs and text books.

The study was considered from strategic management perspective, within rural household of Mansa district, as a result of climate change and how these changes have impacted on children's fundamental rights in line with the UNCRC. The study investigated the impact that climate change has, as key barrier on the quality services on education, health and social protection and the realization of key rights of children, child safeguarding and protection and how the households and duty bearers are managing their responsibilities and roles from strategic management perspective. The paper investigated how management roles, responsibilities and strategic approach can contribute to improve the situation.

The study focused on children who were categorized within the age cohorts of 0 to 6, 7 to 14 and 15 to 18 years based on the fact that developmental needs vary as children grow and the impact as such may vary by age as they grow while the management requirements for

their services may have some different strategic management approaches. It is important to note that strategic management is vital for all sectors, climate change and children ‘right to quality services is not an exception.

**Table 1.** Independent and Dependent Variables

<b>INDEPENDENT VARIABLE</b>	<b>DEPENDENT VARIABLES</b>
<b>A. CLIMATE CHANGE RISK MANAGEMENT:</b>	<b>A. REGULATION AND THE LAW IN REALIZATION OF CHILDREN’S RIGHTS (WITH A MANAGEMENT LENS):</b>
	• Migration
	• Adaptation
	• Geoengineering/ Climate change engineering
	<b>B. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES</b>
	<b>C. CONSERVATION</b>
	<b>D. EFFORTS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>
	<b>E. POSITIVE INCENTIVES ENCOURAGING LOWER EMISSION CHOICES</b>
	<b>F. ADDING A PRICE TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b>

**Table 2:** Age Structure of Children Interviewed

<b>Age (years)</b>	<b>No of males</b>		<b>No of females</b>	
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Percent</b>
0 - 6	2	12.50	1	06.25
7 – 14	2	12.50	9	56.25
15 – 18	1	06.25	1	06.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68.75</b>

Source: Field Data September 2022.

**Table 3.** Education Attainment

<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Percent</b>
College	0	0	0	0
Secondary	8	1.04	5	0.65
Primary	0	0	0	0

No Education	7	5.25	15	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	23	<b>6.29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7.65</b>

### Justification

In a research project there are two key stakeholders, those who are supportive and those may not be supportive. The stakeholders that participated in the study included community leaders (traditional, church and civic), children, government line ministries/departments such as agriculture and fisheries, environment and natural resources, community development and social welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Civil society organizations and disaster management unit among others. The purpose of the stakeholders in this study was to determine what interest each stakeholder has and their recommendation where things are not working well. The stakeholders provided beneficial insight, data and information.

### Recommendation

The rural household of Mansa district like any other community in the rural Zambia need to up lift the promotion of child rights as well as to consider strategic approaches on climate change risk management which includes the following:

- (1) Mitigation,
- (2) Adaptation
- (3) Geoengineering and
- (4) increased information and knowledge base.

Among other efforts these four can help to bring about high engagement of the rural households and their effort toward reducing the impact of climate change risks at community level.

Adaptation is one element that can fit in strategic management since it has an ability to ensure consideration of the future through planning and this can include planning for climate change risks and engagement of children to participant in climate adaptation activities considering age appropriate.

Government to establish adaptation legal frame that integrates child rights and their participation in climate change interventions. Well formulated adaptation policy can support the enjoyment of child rights, increased food production, nutrition, reduced vulnerability and poverty.

### Conclusion

Management has four key functions as discussed by Johnson. This sometimes makes it difficult to discuss the topic, given the number of potential meanings and definitions applied to the concept. One key aspect vital to consider is the planning and controlling. Planning is forward thinking and continuous process that requires management to monitor progress, social and govern asses' social and environmental factors to identify new and emerging opportunities [25].

Management has four key functions and discussed by Johnson. The paper has emphasis on strategic management approach that calls for use of situation analysis, SWOT, identify the problem at hand, engage the beneficiaries in all process, and agree on workable actions and application of appropriate strategic management direction. The study was a comparative case study of three specific reform proposals; one which succeeded and two which did not. The comparative method is seen as a strategy for conducting post hoc research that seek to control potentially confounding variables through careful case selection and matching. Strategic management has the ability to contribute to effectiveness in dealing with challenges. Zambian children especially those in rural communities are experiencing multiple climate shocks combined with poor essential services such as water, sanitation and healthcare. This disruption on the environment contributes to vulnerability of children, and

they are forced to grow up in an increasingly dangerous environment [26]. The climate situation in Mansa district has forced many families to draw water from far away places from their homes, just like those in Gwembe valley in Southern Province of Zambia [27].

The method refers to many different research strategies, two of them being the Most Similar Systems Design (MSSD) and the Most Different Systems Design (MDS). The Most Similar System Design is a well-known method for choosing cases in comparative research. The method employs a minimum of two cases and in its purest form the chosen pair of cases are similar in all respects except the variable(s) of interest. In this study the values on the dependent variable are reform. Contrary to the Most Similar Systems Design, the Most Different System Design is looking for cases that are most different instead of most similar. Furthermore, while Most Similar System Design seeks to identify relevant systemic factors, Most Different System Design seeks to eliminate irrelevant systemic factors. For this reason, the author found the Most Similar System Design to be a suitable framework and consist with the research topic.

The rural community are aware of the role of management and its functions, however it is not practice for certain activities as there is a believe that management is for managers in offices. The researcher did encourage the households to practice management in all their activities and to get a step ahead to appreciate the application of strategic management. Guidance was provided in a basic form on the application of strategic management and this included the thinking of an alternative item in a situation that the required item is not available eg to travel from one point to another point within Mansa district, instead of using a motorcycle one can use a bicycle and take on a shorter route . The move is less cost and pollution free. Strategic management brings about the effectiveness and efficiency. In rural communities of Mansa district this would

support the formulating of climate change risk management strategies that are child rights user friendly, while efficient management will support the community ability and focus on implementing their own strategies which will build on ownership, good management and sustainability of interventions.

Decision makers or duty bearers need to embraces these techniques in their strategic management decisions. Climate change is perhaps one of the most intersectional challenges in history, having its causes and impacts deeply embedded in wider systems that also shape economic and social inequality. A good climate solution should help to resolve these other challenges. It should address multiple risk factors at the same time. A good climate solution should also cover immediate impacts, longer-term impacts, and intergenerational impacts. The research aimed at identifying the gaps, put up the recommendations, support mechanism and encourage the need for decision makers to appreciate strategic management approach as an appropriate skill that can contribute towards reduction of climate change risks on child protection systems in Zambia, particularly in Mansa district.

### **The Political Landscape Theory**

There are several political obstacles to climate change risk management in general and to pricing greenhouse gas emissions in particular.

Climate change can be characterized as a “wicked problem” [28]. This means climate change, as a public issue, is characterized by 1) contradictory certitudes (i.e., different people believe—as fact—different things that are actually incompatible), 2) having redistributive implications for entrenched interests, 3) being related to deeper problems (e.g., the scale of human activities relative to the earth system), 4) having relatively little room for trial-and-error learning, and 5) tending to be incompletely solvable (i.e., we must live with climate change in some sense).

## **Stakeholder Theory**

The theory argues that a firm should create value for all stakeholders, not just shareholders. The case of climate change risk management all the community members have a stake to play and ensure risk are taken care off and children are protected. Everyone has a responsibility towards child safe guarding and protection.

The theory has become a key consideration in the study of business ethics and has served as a platform for further study and development in the research and published work of many scholars, including those featured on this website.

The stakeholder theory has been in the management agenda for about thirty years. Despite such effort, it is still vague to explain the nature of the relationships between a given organization and the people, groups and other organizations able to participate in its decision-making. The unborn children highly depend on their pregnant mothers and this is compared to the stakeholder arrangement. Pregnant women and their fetuses are more vulnerable to effects of climate change due to many reasons including.

Elements that are climate related hazards, such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires, have been linked to certain health issues, such as anemia, low birth weights, and miscarriage [29].

Stakeholder theory was first described by Dr. F. Edward Freeman, a professor at the University of Virginia, in his landmark book, "Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach." It suggests that shareholders are merely one of many stakeholders in a company. Modern stakeholder theory, as proposed by R. Edward Freeman in his seminal book, Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach (1984), has been one of the most controversial theories to be introduced in management According to him [30], the main assumption of the stakeholder theory is that an organization's effectiveness is measured by its ability to satisfy not only the shareholders, but also those

agents who have a stake in the organization [31]. The stakeholder theory can be applied on strategic management in line with climate change, risk management and child rights. This can contribute to sustainable and resilient future as proposed by O'Brien et al. Inclusive and strategic decision making can be of high benefits to the rural communities and children. [32] Strategic management with good analysis for climate change risk management and child rights can contribute to sustainable development. If well implemented it can bring about value addition and increased benefits.

[33] Strategic management with good risk management strategies that considers inclusiveness and critical analysis in the face of climate change, child rights and the economy as a positive prospect of growth. Professions in various fields including social work, health, agriculture, business and project management need to take up the responsibility of ensuring increase awareness and contribution to the body of knowledge through research, [34] this will support climate change adaptation and increased information flow on risks associated with climate change.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The paper is free from any form of conflict and it was done with credibility. According to [23], Credibility refers to the truth and how well the data address the intended focus. Efficiency and effectiveness was applied to achieve this goal. Effective and innovation are like twins that mostly go together [24].

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