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# A Vision and Strategy to Support Children and Families in a Changing Climate

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## KEY MESSAGES

- 01** Young children face enormous threats from climate change, yet there is meager investment in the adaptive capacity of child- and family-serving systems.
- 02** Building that adaptive capacity has positive spillover effects that build the climate resilience and flourishing of entire communities and societies.
- 03** We are seeking partners and funders to help us meet these urgent needs through public policy and philanthropic ecosystem building, research, and thought leadership on multilateral climate finance.

# A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

Capita—a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization—is developing a major new strategy focused on finding global solutions to ensure that young children (0-8 years) and their families can flourish in the era of climate change. This effort is intended as a 10-year multistakeholder research and development effort. It will accelerate innovations in human flourishing for the climate era and transform the way governments and systems, particularly child- and family-serving systems, respond to the climate era.

Through this effort we aim to help unlock hundreds of millions—if not billions—of dollars in public and private climate financing that currently excludes children and their families. Doing so will significantly improve the health, education, and well-being of young children in both the short and long term. Moreover, building the adaptive capacity of child- and family-serving systems builds resilience for generations to come. Strengthening our communities to be healthy, safe, and vibrant places for children will prepare our future society for our uncertain climate future.

This concept note outlines Capita’s core strategies, geography and phases, and goals and progress to date, as well as the governance and advisors that will help shape this work. We are seeking partners and funders for this work, and hope readers are both compelled by the urgent need and ready to join our efforts.

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**“The planetary crisis is not an issue,  
but an era....Every other problem  
we’re struggling with is subsumed  
under this overarching reality.  
There is nowhere to stand outside  
of it.”**

Climate writer Alex Steffen

## Why now?

Children and families worldwide are facing increasing ecological threats that will result in loss and damage. According to a report by UNICEF, around 1 billion children—almost half of the world’s children—live in countries at extremely high risk due to climate disruption. These high-risk countries are characterized by exposure to environmental shocks and a lack of national resources to absorb such shocks. In the United States, children face the third-highest exposure risk on the planet (UNICEF, 2021).

Ecological threats, including heat waves, poor air quality, floods, food and housing insecurity, high disease burden, trauma from natural disasters, and community displacement, are the main challenges children and families face. The situation is particularly dire for families in low- and moderate-income countries, those from historically marginalized populations, and those living in climate-vulnerable regions. However, no demographic is immune to these threats.

Crucially, young children bear these ecological burdens the hardest compared to adults and even older youth, given their unique physiology. Climate change is already impacting young children’s health and well-being, and the impacts are likely to be more severe in the future. Children in the age range 0 to 8 years are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of extreme weather events, such as heat waves, floods, and storms, as well as the indirect effects of climate change, such as food and water insecurity and increased exposure to vector-borne diseases (Lancet, 2022).

As a result, interventions that promote nurturing care for young children are essential to building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and other emergencies. Global evidence shows that focusing public spending on children is a wise investment that builds human capital, benefiting not only children but also their communities and countries more broadly (CERI). Policies that support early childhood development are fundamental elements of climate and sustainable development policy (University of Maine, 2021).

Investment in adaptation and resilience for children affected by climate change remains alarmingly low. **Only 0.5% of global climate finance is allocated to child- and family-sensitive adaptation, and only 0.01% to child-centered disaster-risk reduction.** Moreover, child-centered climate adaptation at the community level is a nascent field of policy and practice that receives meager attention from stakeholders at every level. There are a bevy of unknowns that need to be addressed in order to design an effective response.

Inaction and insufficient investment in children’s adaptation and resilience could lead to long term negative outcomes, including loss of life, chronic health problems, increased poverty, and decreased educational opportunities. It is crucial to prioritize investment in child-centered climate adaptation and resilience to ensure a safer, healthier future for all children.

The world needs a new approach to supporting children and their families as they face down the climate era—and new strategies and new funding are needed to catalyze such an approach.

# OUR VISION

## Vision and mission

Capita's vision is a future in which children and families can realize their full potential in a just, peaceful, prosperous society on a healthier, cleaner, and safer planet.

This strategy embodies this vision. **We seek to make climate adaptation better for young children and their families and to make child- and family-serving systems more climate resilient. With investment and a robust effort towards generating proof of concepts, we hope to unlock hundreds of millions of dollars in public and private climate financing that currently excludes young children and their families.** By building adaptive capacity into child- and family-serving systems, Capita aims to help establish healthy, safe, and vibrant places for children that will benefit all of our future society.

## What would success look like

We envision a future in which families and young children don't just avoid the consequences of the climate crisis but flourish in new ways despite the crisis, while also working to avert it. We envision more governments investing in leaders like the Future Generations Commissioner of Wales and citywide Chief Heat Officers. We envision urban designers working with parent advocacy groups to develop new concepts for cities, buildings, homes, and public spaces. We envision pediatric health care programs and child care programs that are proactively preparing so inevitable extreme weather does not cause disruption and destruction. We envision all children gaining access to more shade, green space, safe play space, safe walking and cycling environments, and relationships that accelerate their development. We envision families with young children having the opportunity to use sustainable and carbon-neutral modes of transportation to reach key services and amenities...and more. The changes we envision demand a dramatic reimagining of the social contract and entirely new approaches to the ways we work together.

## Values that guide our work

We are guided by deep commitments to **democracy** (raising the voice of historically disenfranchised parents and children while extending more power to more people in more ways), **equity** (serving the communities at the highest risk of suffering climate trauma due to historical and systemic discrimination), and **intergenerational justice** (ensuring that we are "good ancestors" for the children who live today and those yet to come). Our deepest purpose is to advance human flourishing across societies in which individuals and communities can imagine and become what they wish to be with passion, purpose, and excellence. Flourishing incorporates education, health, access to artistic and cultural assets, mental and spiritual well-being, and the ability to contribute meaningfully as a citizen and member of society.

# STRATEGY

To achieve our vision, we will focus on four core strategies:

## **1. Identify and collaborate on innovative research partnerships around the globe**

Identify key research institutions that are currently looking into—or have the capacity to investigate—policy and programmatic interventions to support the health, well-being, and flourishing of children and their families in the context of dangerous planetary change. Support and where relevant fund research initiatives that aim to increase our knowledge base and help develop strategic interventions. Exchange knowledge and learning activities to smooth the path for replication and scale.

### **Example: Putting children at the heart of city climate action**

In March 2023, Capita led a workshop on child-centered urban climate policy and strategy at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study outside of Cape Town, South Africa. The convening brought together two dozen leaders from South Africa, as well as participants from elsewhere in Africa and Europe. They included researchers, staff from nongovernmental organizations, and government personnel. Participants discussed the current science, gaps in data, and key strategies that local governments can use to put young children in the foreground of their responses to climate disruption.

### **What we would love to do next**

- Convene a global, interdisciplinary research consortium to begin tackling a bold, new interdisciplinary dialogue and research agenda on resilient children and resilient societies.
- Research the impact of early years policies and practices on reducing (or potentially increasing) the carbon footprint of communities.
- Convene additional city-level workshops in India, Latin America, and Africa to continue to drive an agenda on putting young children at the heart of climate adaptation in the fastest-growing cities in the most rapidly urbanizing regions of the world.
- Work with researchers and health practitioners to develop and validate a culturally relevant screening tool for climate health risks for use by pediatric primary care and broader health-care practices.

## **2. Find and facilitate the development of pilot projects and prototypes**

Identify and provide knowledge and development support to promising pilot projects, regional or issue-specific pooled funds, and prototypes that need seed or proof-of-concept funding. Work with partners and funders to explore their viability and to test and accelerate these solutions. Identify innovative strategies and finance mechanisms and work with funders to generate catalytic capital to scale the most promising strategies. Focus funding on projects being led by the communities most impacted by climate change. Link successful pilots to major, sustained public finance sources.

### **Example: Testing ways to clean the air in child care settings and scaling low-cost adaptations**

Capita contracted with Yale University's Child Study Center to conduct a research study on air quality in child care programs in Richmond, Virginia, given the ways that climate change worsens air quality. The study is using passive air monitors worn by early childhood educators in both center and family child care settings to assess air quality. An air filtration intervention will also be tested. Data will be considered across lines of geography, income, and population demographics. Results will provide the basis for scaling low-cost facility adaptations to ensure that children are cared for in healthier and cleaner facilities.

#### **What we would love to do next**

- Pilot mechanisms and partnerships to institutionalize green and blue school yards as standard practice for early years facilities and schools.
- Test ways to retrofit buildings that serve young children and families with low-cost passive cooling and heating techniques.
- Work with cities to pilot place-based urban initiatives that serve young children and families like climate-resilient zones, low-emission zones, cooling hubs, etc.

#### **3. Invest in and conduct communications research**

Fund communications research that explores how to align climate action with the needs of young children and families. This work will also support greater public engagement and is critical to helping drive policy change to address this pressing issue.

### **Example: Analyzing public opinion to shape public attitudes**

In August 2022, Capita and the Aspen Institute's This is Planet Ed commissioned a survey on the state of public opinion on climate change, particularly as it affects children and future generations in the United States. The survey—"Think of the Children: The Young—and Future Generations—Drive U.S. Climate Concern"—was carried out by Siena College Research Institute. It prompted several unexpected conclusions, including that even among those least concerned about climate change, nearly half agree there is a moral obligation to address the issue as it relates to children.

#### **What we would love to do next**

- Conduct a body of social science research to better understand how to frame the emerging field of policy, practice, and research at the intersection of climate change and the early years around the world.
- Undertake surveys to explore public opinion on climate change, particularly as it affects children and future generations. Ideally this would be done soon after the announcement of the next presidency to shape the development of the COP agenda.

#### **4. Leverage the public sector and innovative financing to rapidly scale solutions**

Ensure full public sector participation so that the solutions can be scaled. This includes embedding solutions into public policies and plans, and funding solutions from diverse sources such as government, bilateral and global multilateral financing mechanisms, impact investing, and private sector funding.

#### **Example: Making young children's lives central to global climate action**

In early 2023, Capita financially supported a UNICEF research report that analyzed existing and proposed climate finance mechanisms in terms of their inclusion of children and families. The report recommends ways the global community can press public climate financing to include and support interventions focused on young children and families.

#### **What we would love to do next**

- In collaboration with government partners, curate the first-ever stream of interventions focused on child development in the Green Zone at COP 28.
- Influence the major multilateral climate finance facilities to ensure that young children and their families—and the science of individual and collective resilience—are incorporated into their agendas.
- Convene a global network of parliamentarians with intersecting interests in child development, flourishing, and climate change. Provide sound research and standardized policy kits to support their efforts to advance child-responsive climate agendas at the national level. To maximize influence in global climate negotiations, this should focus first on the G7 countries.





# GEOGRAPHY AND PHASES

This is a global strategy.

We are currently making the case for public and philanthropic investments to support this emerging field of policy, research, and practice. After this case is made, we envision supporting the launch of strategies within existing funds, the creation of new regional or sectoral funds, or the launch of strategies within existing institutional funders to support this critical intersection of healthy child development and climate disruption.

Since our founding in 2018, Capita has been at the leading edge of exploring impacts of climate change on child and family well-being. In 2021, Capita joined the Aspen Institute to launch the U.S. Early Years Climate Action Task Force to create the U.S. Early Years Climate Action Plan, the first such initiative in the world.

## **Research, development, acceleration—Year 1 through Year 4**

This phase will incorporate strategies 1 through 3 above. It will involve collaborative work to set research priorities, establish research partnerships, fund pilot and prototype projects, and support communications research. This is a rapid deployment period intended to dramatically accelerate the pace of such research and development relative to the pace that would be achieved absent this strategy.

Total operating and grant-making budget for the research, development, and acceleration phase: \$10 million (average of \$2.5 million per year).

## **Leverage and scale—Year 5 through Year 10**

Our vision is to work through established and new funding mechanisms to scale the most promising projects and to leverage public policy. We also aim to unlock hundreds of millions in other financing sources that will ultimately lead to systemic transformation that serves children, families, and communities. At a minimum, these funding mechanisms should be dedicating \$60 million over years 5-10 in new child-responsive, climate-adaptive investments, but the opportunity is much greater.

# GOALS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND TIMELINE



We are currently in the Development Phase, lasting from 2022 to 2024. During this phase, we have sought to lay strong strategic, organizational, and financial foundations to sustain long term impact for this strategy while generating immediate momentum and early wins. This plan is informed by a series of workshops held in December 2021 in partnership with the social impact agency Purpose, as well as innumerable conversations with partners around the world. The workshops were attended by approximately 70 leaders in early childhood, climate change, and philanthropy.

## **Progress to date**

(as of May 2023)

### **Fundraising**

- We have raised approximately \$850,000 towards a \$1 million goal from a combination of U.S. and international funders.

### **Staffing**

- Elliot Haspel joined Capita as a full-time Director, Climate and Young Children to lead development of this strategy.
- We brought Adrián Cerezo and Ankita Chachra on board as Senior Fellows (bios below).

## **Commissioned works**

- We commissioned, via Siena College Research Institute, national and Virginia-specific surveys exploring the attitudes of parents toward climate change and young children in the U.S.
- In partnership with the Aspen Institute’s Energy and Environment program, we launched the first-ever U.S. Early Years Climate Action Task Force. It consists of two dozen top leaders and parents coming together to conduct public listening sessions and create an Early Years Climate Action Plan, whose implementation we will help finance.
- To help with the development of a philanthropic strategy, we commissioned a memo on participatory grant making from the social sector advisory group Sanspeur.
- We hired Fam Studio (led by Zelda Yanovich) and Boston Consulting Group to lead a feasibility study exploring the financing gap and opportunities for new child-responsive adaptation and resilience finance at a global scale.
- We commissioned, via YouGov, a parent survey in Egypt linked to the UN Climate Change Conference and are exploring replicating that survey in Central and South America.

## **Funded project**

- We funded a pilot project researching air quality in child care programs with Yale’s Child Study Center and Virginia Commonwealth University’s environmental engineering department.

## **Publications, workshops, and engagement**

- We published articles about bringing together early childhood development and climate change in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* and the *Hechinger Report*.
- We held a workshop at Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study outside of Cape Town, South Africa, on city-level climate adaptations that focus on young children and families.
- We held a workshop at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico, on city-level climate adaptations that focus on young children and families.
- We successfully proposed a session on climate change and early childhood mental health to be held at the American Psychological Association’s annual conference in August 2023.
- We have had scores of conversations with stakeholders both in the U.S. and abroad to build awareness and learn from existing efforts.

## **Plans for 2023-2024**

### **Developing the strategy**

- Raise \$1.25 million to support this strategy through 2024.
- Define, in detail, evaluation metrics. Plan for capturing and sharing what we learn.
- Draft a comprehensive engagement and impact strategy and plan, outlining initial locations, areas of focus (geographic and topical), and institutions to partner with.

- Plan for embedding equitable practices, including child, parent and family, and caregiver participation in this strategy.

#### **Supporting pilot projects**

- Initiate the pilot round of grant RFPs for research and development (targeted locations: likely U.S. and Central and South America).
- Initiate the first full round of grant RFPs (open to all target geographies).

#### **Ecosystem and engagement**

- Establish partnerships with research institutions, regional early childhood networks, and other key collaborators (those working on climate, mental health, professional organizations, etc.)
- Identify initial media partnerships.
- In discussion with stakeholders and funders, identify at least one key research institution to engage with and be part of the strategy in Central and South America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region.
- Host additional city-level workshops and other thought leadership activities, including side events at COP28, thought leadership opportunities around India's G20 presidency, the design of the COP17 Loss and Damage fund, and more.
- Partner with stakeholders to launch an Early Years Climate Action planning process for South Africa.

# THE CAPITA TEAM



## **Joe Waters**

Joe Waters is the co-founder, the CEO, and a member of the Board of Directors of Capita. He works at the intersection of research, policy, social innovation, design, and the arts to explore how we can create a future in which children and families can realize their full potential in a just, peaceful, prosperous society on a healthier, cleaner, and safer planet. Joe also serves as a Senior Advisor to Openfields, a social innovation strategy consulting firm.

Prior to starting Capita, Joe was the Executive Vice President of the Institute for Child Success (ICS). At the institute, he led the advocacy for and early development of South Carolina's \$30 million Pay for Success expansion of the Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting program and ICS's federal Social Innovation Fund grant, through which ICS provided technical assistance to jurisdictions around the United States using innovative financing to expand evidence-based early childhood interventions. He holds a BA in history from Furman University and a MDiv from Duke University. He and his wife, Molly Benedum, a family physician, live with their son Al (aged two) in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina.



## **Elliot Haspel**

Elliot Haspel is Director, Climate and Young Children at Capita and a child and family policy expert. He most recently served as the Senior Program Officer for Early Childhood Education at the Robins Foundation. Among other accomplishments, Elliot conceived of and helped raise over \$7 million for the Child Care NEXT philanthropic initiative and helped spearhead the launch of the 100-member Virginia Funders Network. Elliot is the author of *Crawling Behind: America's Childcare Crisis and How to Fix It*.

As a nationally recognized commentator, he has appeared on television as an analyst, including on the *PBS Newshour with Judy Woodruff* and MSNBC's *American Voices with Alicia Menendez*. His writings have appeared in a variety of top publications, such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Atlantic*. These include a front-page article in the *Washington Post's* Outlook section, "Climate change is forcing us indoors—and childhood will never be the same." In 2021, Elliot was invited to testify before the U.S. House of Representatives on the care economy. Elliot holds a BA in history from the University of Virginia and an MEd in education policy from Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Elliot lives with his wife and two daughters, aged 6 and 8, in Colorado.



### **Caroline Cassidy**

Caroline is Capita's Director of Public Engagement + Strategic Communications. For two decades, she has worked in the think tank, global development, and not-for-profit sectors exploring how communications can help shape our world for the better. She is particularly interested in the role of relationships and how we can listen better to others, move beyond polarization, and create new narratives in society.

Caroline previously set up and led the strategic communications team for the UK-based think tank ODI, which focused on policy engagement and communications research. Most recently, she has advised an array of global clients on engagement and communication strategy, including the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, the OECD Early Childhood Education and Care team, Oxford Policy Management, Rodeemos el Diálogo, the World Health Organization, and Open Society Foundations. She has also created and implemented a major donor strategy for the media organization and worked in TV production at the BBC. Caroline holds a BA in Hispanic studies and Russian. She currently lives in Paris, France, and has two children, a three-year-old and a 7-year-old.



### **Adrián Cerezo**

Adrián Cerezo is a Senior Fellow at Capita. He is a Visiting Researcher and CHILD project Fellow at the Yale Child Study Center and a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Maine. His transdisciplinary work explores the fundamental role of early childhood development in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Adrián has a PhD and MEd from Yale University with a focus on social ecology, child development, complex systems, and global policy, as well as more than 25 years of field experience in environmental and community-based education.

He currently serves as Senior Advisor on Early Childhood Development and Climate Change to the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), UNICEF Pacific, and the Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN). In November 2022, he joined the delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27). Adrián is also the founder and president of the Infinite Kindness Project in Maine. His lifelong aspiration is to contribute to a kinder, more sustainable future.



### **Ankita Chachra**

Ankita Chachra is a Senior Fellow at Capita. She is committed to creating sustainable, just, and vibrant cities for young children and families. She has over ten years of global experience working on her mission through partnerships with city agencies and the private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors.

Until recently, Ankita worked at the Bernard Van Leer Foundation as the Knowledge for Policy Director. She led a multifunctional team responsible for sharing tools, knowledge, and resources for advancing early childhood policy that supports the healthy development of young children and the well-being of caregivers in cities.

Ankita found her passion for prioritizing the needs of children and caregivers in urban environments while leading the Streets for Kids Program at the National Association of City Transportation Officials' Global Designing Cities Initiative, where her team published the guide *Designing Streets for Kids*. She worked for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety, primarily in Latin America and Asia. Ankita was also part of the core team that developed the *Global Street Design Guide*, the first-ever worldwide guideline for designing city streets.

Trained as an architect and urban designer, Ankita has experience working on residential, mixed-use, and transit-oriented urban planning projects in India, China, Malaysia, and the United States. Ankita completed her MS in Urban Design from Columbia University and her bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Sushant School of Art and Architecture.

# JOIN US

We cannot accomplish these important goals alone. We are looking for partners and funders. We hope you are compelled by the urgent need to build a field of policy and practice to tackle child-centered climate adaptations, and we hope you are ready to join us on this journey toward a healthy, safe, thriving world for all children and families.

**Thank you for your attention, and please be in touch with Elliot at [elliott@capita.org](mailto:elliott@capita.org) or Joe at [joe@capita.org](mailto:joe@capita.org).**

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**“The fight against climate change is going to change more in the next four years than it has in the past 40. The great story of our lives is just beginning. Welcome aboard.”**

Robinson Meyer

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# APPENDIX 1– GOVERNANCE AND ADVISORS

## Capita’s Board of Directors

**Adrienne Allen**

Secretary/Treasurer  
Capita Board of Directors

Director of Principal Giving  
International Rescue Committee  
New York, New York

**Nicole Biondi**

Vice Chair  
Capita Board of Directors

Executive & Leadership Coach;  
Facilitator; Strategy Consultant; Early  
Childhood Advocate  
Cape Town, South Africa

**Lucy Davidson**

Immediate Past Chair  
Capita Board of Directors

Associate Director, Health, Ageing,  
and Human Services  
KPMG Australia  
Melbourne, Australia

**Jessica Dixon Weaver**

Professor of Law  
Dedman School of Law,  
Southern Methodist University  
Dallas, Texas

**Eva Fernandez**

Manager, Early Childhood  
Development  
FEMSA Foundation

**Brandon Hinman**

Co-Founder  
Capita

Vice President  
Switchyards  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Grady Powell**

Co-Founder  
Capita

Founder & CEO  
Openfields  
Greenville, South Carolina

**Patrin Watanatada**

Chair  
Capita Board of Directors

Programme Director (Interim)  
Clean Air Fund  
London, United Kingdom

**David Willis, MD**

Senior Fellow  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Vancouver, Washington

**Joe Waters**

Co-Founder and CEO  
Capita  
Greenville, South Carolina

## Development Phase Advisory Council

**David Alexander**

Leading For Kids

**Peck Gee Chua**

UNICEF

**Isabelle Hau**

Independent Impact Funder

**Ron Ivey**

Centre for Public Impact

**Cecilia Vaca Jones**

Formerly Bernard Van Leer  
Foundation

**Joan Lombardi**

Early Opportunities Initiative

**Ami Nagle**

Children, Youth & Family Funders  
Roundtable

**Evelyn Santiago**

Asia-Pacific Regional Network for  
Early Childhood

**Laura Schifter**

The Aspen Institute

**Harriet Shugarman**

ClimateMama

**Helene Stebbins**

Alliance for Early Success

**Trevor Thompson**

NorthLight Foundation

**Derek Walker**

Environmental Defense Fund

**Patrin Watananda**

Capita Board of Directors

# APPENDIX 2– 2024 TOP-LINE BUDGET

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Personnel	\$350,000
Communications and Influence Strategy	\$150,000
Regrant Pool	\$350,000
Directly Commissioned Research	\$300,000
Operations: Office, Technology, Travel	\$50,000
Capita Indirect Costs	\$240,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,440,000</b>

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# APPENDIX 3– ABOUT CAPITA

Capita is an independent, nonpartisan think tank with a global focus. Our purpose is to build a future in which all children and families flourish.

We stand at the edge of seismic shifts in the global economy and our political and environmental systems—systems that frequently ignore children. Yet by prioritizing our youngest and their support networks we have the potential to radically transform the social fabric of our societies for the long term.

Capita explores how the great cultural, planetary, and social transformations of our day affect our youngest children (0-8 years old) and our communities. We focus on the interrelated problems and injustices that prevent society from meeting the needs of children and families, particularly those furthest from opportunity. From the impacts of climate change to parental loneliness and social disconnection, our work catalyzes creative new ideas and solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges.

## **Our commitment to diversity, equity, and belonging**

We call for a society that provides the foundational requirements of human flourishing (education, nurturance, and health; artistic, cultural, and economic assets; mental and spiritual well-being; and the ability to contribute meaningfully as citizens) to all people, and in which all people contribute to their fullest capacity—regardless of class, race, creed, gender, sexuality, ability, or age. Society need not be a ruthless competition for scarce resources.

But today, not everyone has the same opportunities to flourish. So often, the needs of children and families are excluded from how we shape our political, economic, and social systems. Rhetoric, policies, and ideas are biased towards adults, even though it is our children who will shape societies in decades to come. Systemic discrimination, marginalization, exclusion, and dehumanization prevent society from meeting the needs of children and families. This is particularly acute in communities of color and for those furthest from opportunity.

Rooted in our vision of loving, cooperative, and just societies, we will work in solidarity with families and communities. Together, we will design and promote creative new approaches, compatible with generational wisdom, for advancing human flourishing. We will contribute our effort to dismantling historic marginalization and dehumanization and put the future of children and their families front and center.

We believe that wisdom takes many forms and emerges best in a polyphonic chorus of voices. We want to broaden and deepen our work by sharing knowledge from different contexts. We want our communications to acknowledge and celebrate a wealth of stories, voices, experiences, and ideas. We want our team, our partners, and our leaders to embrace the diversity of our world.

[www.capita.org](http://www.capita.org)