



# World Food Programme Climate Services

## Building resilience and food security through tailored information

Climate risks are among the key drivers of hunger in the world. With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters such as floods and droughts, it is becoming more urgent to support people's ability to adapt and build their resilience to climate shocks.

However, many countries and vulnerable people do not have access to climate information they need to properly manage climate variability and change, including the increased number of extreme weather events. This lack of information often leads to decisions that negatively affect people's livelihoods and food security. When people are provided with adequate information, they are able to make informed decisions, thus enabling them to better manage climate variability and strengthen their capacity to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

## Why Climate Services?

At local level, climate services help vulnerable communities address these challenges by providing the information they need to make well-informed decisions. The emphasis is on providing "services" - or advice - which are tailored to people's specific needs by being:

- Timely
- Easy to access
- Easy to understand
- Packaged in a way that can trigger action.

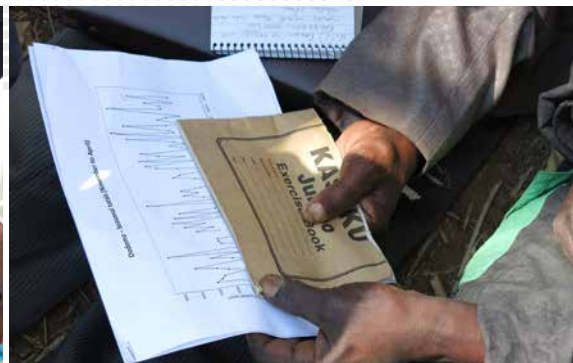
**Climate services support decision-making at different levels: individual farmers, communities and local and national governments.**



Examples of climate services include using weather forecasts and early warning systems to help people prepare for a major storm event; providing information that helps pastoralists choose grazing routes for livestock during a drought; or using seasonal forecasts to provide agro-meteorological advice to farmers on the best crops that will withstand a predicted wetter or drier season than the norm.

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Images front and back:  
**WFP and partners trained agricultural extension workers and farmers in Tanzania on how to interpret climate and weather data, and the crop and livelihood options available to them.**



## WFP and Climate Services

As the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, WFP understands the effects of climate change and has developed extensive experience in using climate services for early warning purposes. For example, through our **emergency preparedness and support response team** who collaborates with world-renowned research and modelling centres, WFP provides the latest immediate and seasonal weather hazard information to support government and humanitarian actors in deciding appropriate action. In addition, **WFP's food security analysts** translate climate and weather information into early warnings of drought events and potential production shortfalls. Coupled with detailed analyses of household vulnerability, WFP and partners use this information to assess how droughts or floods will affect people's food security to ensure humanitarian and government actors can plan an early response.

## Climate Innovations

Given the impact of climate change, there is a global need to continue to invest in more reliable and innovative tools to help vulnerable communities manage and reduce their exposure to climate risks. Only through collective action, partnership and innovative approaches can sustainable change be achieved at the scale needed to eliminate hunger in the context of a changing climate.

### The Adaptation Programme for Africa

In Malawi and Tanzania, WFP is one of the partners implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Adaptation Programme for Africa. Under this initiative WFP's focus is on **enhancing access to tailored weather and climate information for vulnerable communities**. Being able to access easy-to-understand and timely information allows communities

to take better decisions and to better manage climate related shocks for greater food security. For example, tailored agro-meteorological advisories are shared with food insecure communities through dedicated radio programmes and mobile phone messages. Agriculture extension workers have also been trained to interpret and communicate relevant climate information to rural audiences.

### Climate and Food Security Analyses

WFP has been piloting a number of **climate and food security analysis methodologies** around the world, and which are helping governments and humanitarian decision-makers to better understand the impacts of climate change on people's food security and nutrition. Such information is helping these actors make key decisions, including inform climate policy (such as National Adaptation Plans), and prioritise and invest in adaptation measures that address people's food security needs.

### R4 Rural Resilience Initiative

Climate information is used to help determine weather-index insurance payouts in case of drought in our R4 Initiative in Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi and Zambia.

### The Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRE)

Climate information is also used to trigger contingent funding for early action through our FoodSECuRE Facility, a groundbreaking tool that releases funds based on a forecast before a disaster occurs. **Forecast-based financing** was successfully used in the context of the 2015/16 El Niño to respond to the impacts of drought in Guatemala and Zimbabwe and helped vulnerable communities take early action to reduce the impacts on their livelihoods.