

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## INNOVATING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

The impacts of climate variability and change are already visible in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Central and South America are characterised by reduced water availability and increased flooding and landslides. Subsistence farming communities are especially affected by reduced food production and quality, leading to increased pressures on communities and governments, with an alarming rate of permanent migration out of areas consecutively affected by drought. Small island states in the Caribbean are also being exposed to more intense hurricanes, losses to ecosystem services are impacting people's livelihoods, and low-lying coastal areas are at risk of sea level rise. WFP is working with governments,

communities and partners in the LAC to strengthen people's climate resilience. As a response, WFP has established a Climate Solutions Roadmap to set out its vision to guide its work. The Roadmap outlines how WFP aims to serve as a laboratory for mainstreaming climate innovations into its resilience and other programmes, including with community-based adaptation, climate information services, shock-responsive social protection systems connected to risk financing instruments such as insurance and forecast-based financing. The Roadmap also emphasises heavy investments in evidence generation, gender transformation and social behaviour change and communication, while ensuring sustainability at programmatic and institutional levels.

### BUILDING FROM EXPERIENCE

### DISASTER RISK FINANCE

Risk finance is an important tool in support of the mandate WFP's mandate 'Saving lives, Changing lives'.

WFP's risk finance strategy for LAC outlines its goal to support governments and food insecure communities with inclusive risk finance instruments that provide timely and adequate resources so they can confront the impacts of shocks and invest in livelihoods that build their longer-term resilience.

1 In **Guatemala**, a holistic strategy has been adopted, with activities involving microinsurance and microfinance, and the connection of forecast-based financing to social protection programmes, all embedded in a broader resilience-building intervention.

2 In the **Caribbean**, WFP's risk finance strategy sets out to enable rapid and adequate finance to reach social protection beneficiaries after a major shock, making the systems more shock-responsive.

### ACHIEVING SCALE

### ADAPTATION PROJECT IN ECUADOR & COLOMBIA

This Adaptation Fund project is focused on strengthening vulnerable Afro and indigenous communities in two watersheds in the Colombia-Ecuador border area. It includes four key activities:

- 1 **Community-based adaptation** for food security and nutrition through improved knowledge on risks and recovery of traditional knowledge.
- 2 **Ecosystem-based adaptation** considering ecosystem services, their adaptive capacity and re-introduction of native species.
- 3 **Climate services** for extreme weather events and sea level rise tailored to **Afro and Awa communities**.
- 4 **Gender sensitive approach**.

### FORECAST-BASED FINANCING

WFP has supported the development of forecast-based financing or FbF initiatives. In the **Dominican Republic**, for instance, WFP has been working very closely with the Government to identify thresholds within weather forecasts to trigger a scale-up of the social protection system when a major hazard event is projected to take place.

### CLIMATE SERVICES

WFP works with at-risk communities and governments to ensure tailored climate services. In **Bolivia** WFP has worked with indigenous communities to develop an early warning system based on bioindicators which have been historically linked to climate hazards. Across **Central America**, WFP is also piloting a range of initiatives to support smallholder farmers and communities to access tailored climate information, including through agricultural extension officers, mobile phone apps, podcasts and radio.

## DESIGNING STATE OF THE ART INNOVATIONS: INVESTING IN EVIDENCE GENERATION

Resilience and climate adaptation measurement is quite complex and yet an integral part of demonstrating to governments, communities and donors the efficacy of these innovative programmes, to allow for future investments and scaling up of these activities. WFP is looking at existing approaches to measure climate adaptation and resilience to improve its generation of

evidence in Latin America and the Caribbean including with the development of new measurement tools that are integrated to allow a better understanding and measurement of how climate innovations are impacting social cohesion, migration, security and economic resilience.

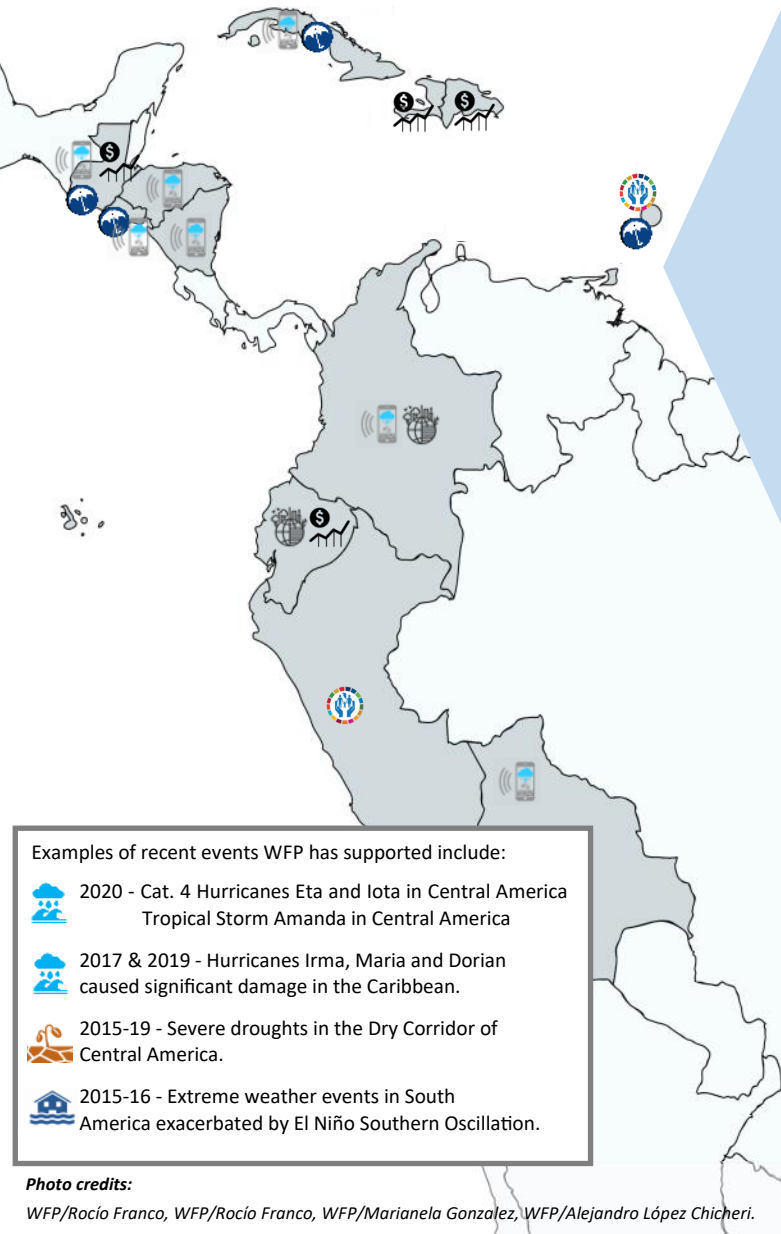
### GENDER & CLIMATE

Gender is a core element of climate action given that women are usually the worst-affected by climatic events and are an essential player in ensuring the food security of their families. WFP aims to be gender transformative by addressing the underlying causes of inequalities, and having robust analyses and evidence.

### COMMUNICATION FOR IMPACT

Given much of climate action is focused on changing the behaviour of people and institutions so that they are more adapted to a changing climate, WFP is looking at opportunities to integrate Social and Behaviour Change Communication techniques into public, private and community-based interventions.

## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



- Examples of recent events WFP has supported include:
- 2020 - Cat. 4 Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America  
Tropical Storm Amanda in Central America
  - 2017 & 2019 - Hurricanes Irma, Maria and Dorian caused significant damage in the Caribbean.
  - 2015-19 - Severe droughts in the Dry Corridor of Central America.
  - 2015-16 - Extreme weather events in South America exacerbated by El Niño Southern Oscillation.

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**Community-based adaptation:** Reducing climate risks through awareness-raising, skills development, alternative livelihoods, agricultural practices and community assets; while restoring degraded environments and managing natural resources.



**Climate services:** Producing, translating and tailoring information that can be easily understood and support strengthened decisions by communities and governments.



**Forecast based Financing:** Triggering action with climate forecasts so humanitarian system resources are mobilised before climate-related disasters strike.



**Insurance and financial inclusion:** Enabling individuals, communities and governments to have access to insurance products and financial services that will best meet their needs, allowing greater protection against climate-related shocks and supporting investments in livelihood improvement.



**Shock-responsive social protection:** Developing and enhancing social protection systems and safety nets to be responsive and adaptive to climate shocks and slow onset change.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE INNOVATIONS & TOOLS

## INVESTING FOR CLIMATE ACTION



WFP aims to support communities and governments in unlocking multilateral climate finance to implement innovative climate adaptation programmes in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

WFP also strives to facilitate South-South cooperation in support of communities and governments vulnerable to climate change, as an important means to enhance country capacities in climate action. This allows exchange of knowledge, experiences, skills, resources and technical know-how in the area of climate risk management and adaptation.