

The climate crisis is driving global hunger now and threatens to trigger catastrophic humanitarian needs. In 2020, extreme weather contributed to most of the world's food crises and was the primary cause of acute food insecurity in 15 countries.



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# CLIMATE ACTION FOR PEOPLE & PLANET

Every inhabited region of the world experiences the effects of climate change but not all in the same way. Vulnerable countries and communities are already suffering from severe loss of and damage to lives, livelihoods, crops and infrastructure caused by the unavoidable impacts of climate change. These are often communities who contribute the least to the climate crisis and now bear the brunt of impacts with limited ways to cushion the blows.

Emission reductions to mitigate the climate crisis are crucial, but we cannot wait for this. We must enable vulnerable communities to adapt to the worsening impacts of the crisis. And we do. In 2021, WFP implemented climate risk management solutions in 28 countries, benefiting more than six million people.

Following a climate-related disaster, WFP is often the first on the ground saving lives and reaching the most remote and challenging locations. At the same time, WFP works with governments and local partners to change lives, build the resilience of vulnerable people and strengthen national systems. These programmes support people to:

- **Anticipate** climate hazards before they become disasters. WFP works with governments in 19 countries to strengthen early warning systems which flag potential hazards to vulnerable communities. These systems then trigger pre-positioned financing and preventive action before disaster strikes.
- **Restore** degraded ecosystems as natural shields against climate impacts. Nature offers strong solutions against climate hazards and promotes biodiversity and

social cohesion. From 2016-2020, WFP worked with vulnerable communities to rehabilitate or plant over 900,000 hectares of degraded land and forests, and build nearly 24,000 ponds, wells and reservoirs.

- **Protect** the most vulnerable people with safety nets and insurance against climate extremes. Many communities do not have access to resources to compensate losses, so WFP connects them with climate risk insurance solutions to give people cash payouts following catastrophic harvest failures. In 2020, over two million people in 13 countries were protected by climate risk insurance that was developed or supported by WFP.
- **Re-energize** schools and communities through access to sustainable energy. In 2020, WFP enabled over 1.6 million people to access clean energy products and services, reducing pollution and improving economic development and public health. WFP works with smallholder farmers to disseminate sustainable energy equipment and services that boost food production, processing and preservation.

The world is on the verge of moving past the 1.5°C temperature rise agreed as 'safe' by 192 countries. Organizations such as WFP are struggling to keep up with growing humanitarian needs. A further temperature increase would be catastrophic. A 2°C rise in average global temperature above current levels could put 189 million more people at risk of hunger. With a 4°C rise this could reach a staggering 1.8 billion.

The climate crisis is a threat multiplier, exacerbating conflicts, triggering displacement and worsening social tensions. In 2020, climate extremes internally displaced 30 million people—three times more than conflict alone. By 2050, this could increase to 216 million people.

**WFP has effective and scalable solutions to protect people against the impacts of climate change. With urgent global action we can support vulnerable communities to adapt to the reality of the climate crisis.**

## Country examples



In **Bangladesh** in 2020, WFP supported 145,000 people with cash assistance four days ahead of severe flooding forecast along the Jamuna river. This money was used by communities to buy food and medicine, protect critical assets, and transport livestock and families to safe places. By using early warning data to trigger early action, WFP empowered households to prepare for flood impacts and prevent losses and damages. This cut the emergency response cost by over half.



In **Chad**, WFP works in the arid Sahel Belt to establish tree nurseries producing around one million tree seedlings a year. These trees help reclaim degraded land, recharge groundwater tables, capture thousands of tons of carbon dioxide and enable production of nutritious food.



In **Malawi**, WFP supported a crop insurance programme that provides a safety net to vulnerable farming households. In 2021, cash payouts after crop failures provided 65,000 farmers with means to feed their families and avoid negative coping strategies such as selling livestock to pay for food. This was one of the largest microinsurance payouts in Africa, amounting to US\$ 2.45 million.