



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## KEY PRINCIPLES FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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**For social protection to support climate adaptation and move beyond shock response, policy makers should consider the following principles on their assessments, planning and design:**



**Recognise uncertainty.** Consider the changing nature of the shocks and stressors and future vulnerability due to climate change.



**Prioritise food security and nutrition considerations.** To be most effective, nutrition and social protection programmes should adopt a comprehensive approach that tackles both immediate and longer term needs



**Support households' long term adaptation strategies** rather than simply reinforcing shock response. Through support of livelihood opportunities arising from climate change.



**Avoid maladaptation.** Understood as the household and livelihood strategies that foster coping capacity in the short-term but insidiously affect long-term vulnerability or the adaptive capacity of households.



**Understand trade-offs.** Policy makers should consider trade-offs between the different resilience capacities supported by social protection.



**Define resilience objectives.** Integrating resilience objectives into the theory of change of programmes can increase the contributions of social protection to climate change adaptation.



**Improve the environment.** Social protection planning and implementation should take into consideration any unintended spillover effect on the environment and aim for more environmentally friendly actions.



**Adjust programmes to contexts.** There is no one-size-fits-all social protection strategy that will meet the adaptation needs of all households and communities.



**Acknowledge even small contributions.** Small impacts on adaptation from individual interventions are considered relevant as long as they follow these principles.



**Work across disciplines.** Linking social protection with climate change activities and tools is crucial for a stronger impact on resilience.

**For more information see:**

WFP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean's vision to advance climate change adaptation through social protection available at: <https://www.wfp.org/content/occasional-paper-26-social-protection>