



# Building Climate Resilience in Latin America and 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 increasingly unpredictable rainfall, delayed onset of rainy seasons, increased frequency and intensity of droughts, excessive rains, severe flooding and landslides. Water scarcity erodes soils upon which rural communities depend for food production and their ability to meet basic food and nutritional needs. These impacts further exacerbate poverty and capacities of communities and governments to adapt to changing weather patterns, with people having to resort to negative coping strategies such as skipping meals, selling productive livelihood assets, and in some cases migrating out of areas affected by climate variability and change.

In the Caribbean, small island states are experiencing more intense hurricanes, the risk of sea level rise in low-lying coastal areas, and losses to ecosystem services that impact people's livelihoods.

WFP is focused on building the capacities of communities and governments across LAC to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and climate change to end hunger.

WFP aims to ensure that vulnerable households, communities, their livelihoods and the ecosystems they depend on become more resilient to climate-related shocks and stressors, and with a view towards scalable and sustainable transformation.

This includes climate risk management and adaptation interventions such as:

- Community and nature-based solutions
- Climate information services
- Anticipatory action and forecast-based financing
- Inclusive risk finance instruments such as insurance, savings and credit financial services.

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## BENEFICIARIES IN LAC IN 2021

**441k**  
people

Benefitting from  
climate risk  
management  
solutions



Benefitting from  
climate adapted  
assets and  
agricultural practices

**354k**  
people

**32k**  
people

Protected in 4  
countries through  
climate insurance



Provided with  
climate information  
tailored to needs

**32k**  
people

**10k**  
people

Covered ahead of  
climate shocks with  
forecast-based  
actions



Received access to  
sustainable energy  
services for food  
consumption

**42k**  
people

## COMMUNITY AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

WFP aims at enabling climate change adaptation that is community-led, based on people's priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities, and where nature-based solutions consider the ecosystem services upon which livelihoods depend. In the **Ecuador and Colombia** border area, an Adaptation Fund project is enhancing capacities of Afro and indigenous communities to integrate ancestral and scientific knowledge, strengthening self-governance and developing local adaptation measures with a gender focus.

By promoting new and innovative approaches to energy access, WFP supports households in meeting basic cooking and household energy needs sustainably. New cooking stoves have helped families in **Guatemala** cook meals while reducing deforestation and respiratory diseases.

## CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES

Climate services are about producing, translating and tailoring climate information so it is easily understood by communities and governments, strengthening their decision-making and resilience against natural hazards.

WFP works with governments to help people receive improved climate information that will allow them to

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Ciudad Del Saber, Calle Vicente Bonilla, Edificios 124-125, Corregimiento de Ancon Panama, Rep. De Panama  
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make better informed decisions. In **Colombia and Bolivia**, WFP works with indigenous communities to build upon their traditional knowledge of bioindicators and linking these with scientific information that signals weather patterns and potential hazards. In **Guatemala**, WFP has piloted smartphone apps so that hard-to-reach communities can get weather forecasts they can use to decide on what crops to plant for an upcoming agricultural season. In **El Salvador**, WFP worked with the Government to enable a green podcast to reach people so that they make better informed agricultural decisions. In **Honduras**, WFP helped purchase **30 weather stations** to improve climate information in the Dry Corridor.

## FORECAST-BASED ACTIONS

Anticipatory action mechanisms such as forecast-based finance (FbF) uses climate forecasts to trigger financing to implement pre-defined actions ahead of a climate-related disaster striking a population.

In the **Dominican Republic**, WFP and the Government have put in place a FbF initiative ready to trigger assistance to **10,000 people** if forecasts predict floods are going to hit these communities. Similarly in **Guatemala**, WFP is designing a pilot on anticipatory actions for dry spells that will support **7,000 families** in the Dry Corridor. In **Haiti**, work with the national department of hydrology and meteorology is enhancing forecasting capabilities and identifying thresholds for extreme rainfall events and hurricanes to trigger anticipatory cash through the social protection structure.

## INCLUSIVE RISK FINANCE

WFP works with governments, communities, the private sector and technical partners in the region to help vulnerable and food insecure people to access financial services such as insurance, savings and credit. Such financial services help people better self-manage climate risks and invest in new livelihood practices.

In 2021, WFP launched four insurance initiatives in LAC to increase people's financial resilience in the face of climate and other shocks. In **Guatemala, El Salvador** and **Nicaragua**, WFP is testing out different insurance products with smallholder farmers and micro- and small- and medium enterprises (MSMEs) so they can be insured against climate-related risks. In 2022 we have advanced on scaling-up these activities, such as in Guatemala where the number of microinsurance beneficiaries increased seven fold to more than **9,200 families**. In **Belize, Dominica** and **Nicaragua**, WFP is supporting sovereign risk finance mechanisms so that following a tropical storm, a portion of the insurance pay-out will be disbursed as cash or in-kind assistance through national social protection systems and supported programmes to rapidly reach vulnerable and impacted populations.



Photo page 1: WFP Ecuador/FORECCSA

Photo page 2: WFP Guatemala/Jorge Barrientos