



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Climate Action in Fragile Contexts

Climate change is a risk multiplier – triggering displacement and social tensions, as people compete for scarce resources. In 2022, climate extremes internally displaced 32 million people – by 2050 this could increase to 216 million people. In the 20 countries that are classified as the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and the least able to adapt, 12 are in conflict.

The frontlines of the climate crisis overlap with conflict, displacement and economic shocks. People trapped at this intersection are the most vulnerable, and they deserve the fastest and most decisive support. Yet, over the past seven years, people in extremely fragile states have only received US\$ 2.1 in climate finance per person, while people in non-fragile states received US\$ 161.7 per person on average ([UNDP](#)).

To tackle the climate crisis and ensure global food security, there is an urgent need to

prioritise climate action in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Funding must be directed to these vulnerable places to support communities to adapt to the changing climate, to improve prospects for peace and move away from recurrent cycles of crisis and humanitarian response.

The World Food Programme (WFP), as the world's largest humanitarian agency, saves lives on the frontlines of the climate crisis, in the most remote and challenging locations. At the same time, WFP works with communities, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings, to anticipate climate hazards before they turn into disasters, restore degraded ecosystems as natural shields against climate impacts, protect the most vulnerable with insurance and financial safety nets and energize schools and communities through access to sustainable energy.

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“Political will to adopt and promote “business unusual” approaches to channel climate adaptation finance to conflict settings is critical and urgently required.”

Embracing Discomfort: A call to enable finance for climate change adaptation in conflict settings (ICRC, ODI, UNHCR and WFP, 2022).



ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN SOMALIA

In October 2023, WFP activated anticipatory measures in Somalia due to the risk of flooding. This targets nearly 230,000 people with early warning messages, anticipatory cash assistance as well as the prepositioning of boats to deliver essential food and nutrition supplies. This follows an activation in 2022 which reached over 1.2 million people with early warning messages and 206,000 people with anticipatory cash transfers following prolonged drought conditions.

COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN YEMEN

In May 2021, devastating flash floods ripped through the town of Tarim in Yemen, destroying 98 homes and leaving another 44 in need of reinforcement. WFP launched an emergency livelihoods operation including employing 200 people as part of a Food Assistance for Assets project. Participants worked with WFP to clear road access, reinforce the foundations of damaged houses and rehabilitate water channels to direct future flood waters. While working on the project, participants received food assistance from WFP to support themselves and their families.





CLIMATE RISK INSURANCE IN BURKINA FASO, MALI AND THE GAMBIA

Following failed rains in the Sahel in 2022, climate risk insurance policies purchased by WFP under the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica programme triggered payouts in Mali, Burkina Faso and the Gambia, totaling over US\$15 million. These financed WFP's early responses that provided food and cash assistance starting in early 2023.

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COMMUNITY-BASED RESILIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

WFP is working with rural communities to build and restore resources to increase agricultural production and transform food systems. This includes a 7km canal built in Badakhshan which protects communities from flooding and irrigates 400 hectares of agricultural land. In Afghanistan, 95% of households involved in such asset creation programmes reported being better protected from climate extremes.



Photo page 1: WFP/Arete/Ozavogu Abdul
Photo page 2: WFP/Arete/ArletteBashizi
Photo page 2: WFP/Annabel Symington
Photo page 3: WFP/Arete/ArletteBashizi
Photo page 3: WFP/Mohammad Hasib Hazinyar