

Regional Bureau for **Eastern Africa**



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE

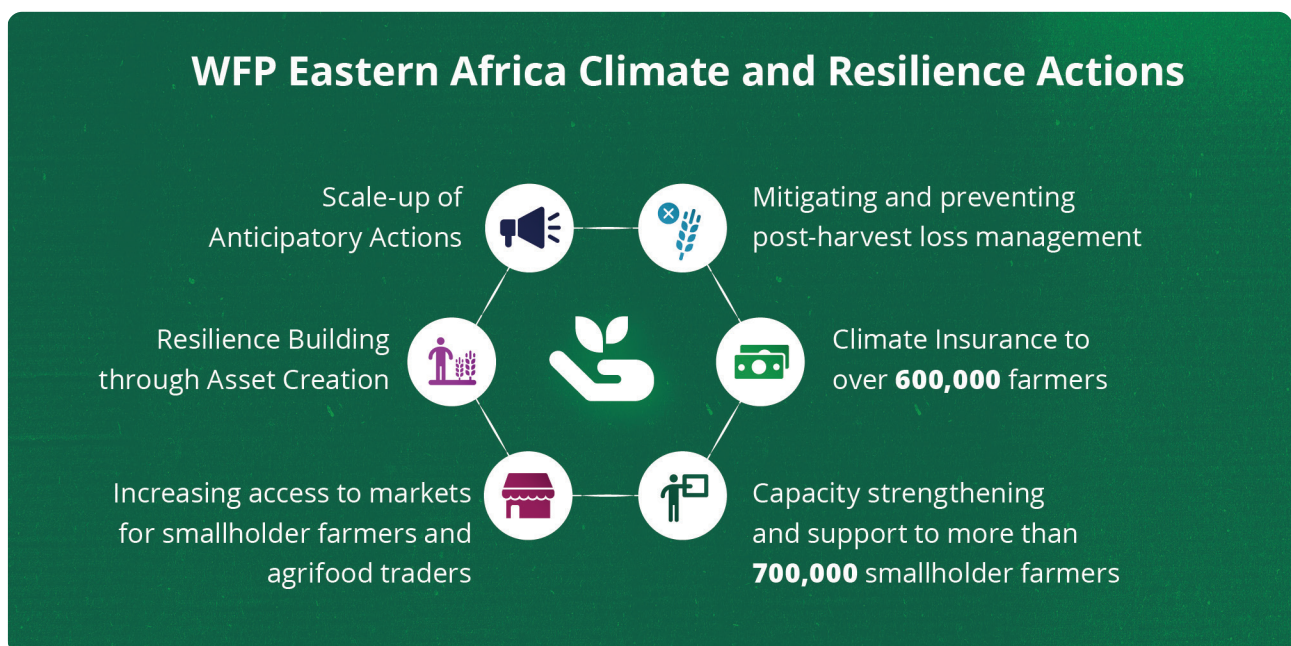
## Actions in Eastern Africa



WFP's climate and resilience efforts aim to ensure that climatic shocks and stressors do not leave long-lasting adverse impacts on communities. WFP worked with Governments and partners to strengthen household resilience and enhance livelihoods through a combination of climate actions and food systems actions which reduce the reliance on humanitarian assistance and are also cost-effective.

WFP implemented integrated programmes action across several sectors including increasing access to adequate, nutritious, and affordable food through functioning food systems; early and anticipatory protection from climate shocks; food and nutrition support during crises; basic social services to build human capital; livelihood support; and community infrastructure and ecosystems restoration.

In 2023, evidence already indicates that resilience programmes reduced humanitarian needs, protected people against the impact of droughts and floods, enabled people to sustain their livelihoods, improved social cohesion, helped to empower women, promoted water resource management, regreened landscapes and regenerated soils for improved food security and nutrition.



WFP/Kabir Dhanji

WFP/Carolina Moncayo

# MITIGATING Impacts of Climate Shocks through Anticipatory Actions

## Key Highlights



**228,000** people reached with anticipatory cash transfers in **Somalia** and **Burundi**.



**USD 4 million** was distributed to beneficiaries through pre-arranged funding.



**1.3 million** people were reached with early warning messages in **Burundi**, **Ethiopia**, **Somalia**, and **Uganda**.



WFP provided technical assistance to **strengthen national early warning** and forecasting capacities.

## Key Partners

GOVERNMENT  
MINISTRIES



ICPAC  
IGAD Climate Prediction  
and Applications Centre



ICPALD  
Centre for Pastoralists  
Areas and Livestock  
Development



UNU



UNDRR United Nations Office for  
Disaster Risk Reduction



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



World Vision



## Anticipatory Action coverage and climate hazards of focus



The Eastern Africa region experienced climate crises from consecutive below-average rainfall seasons to unprecedented flooding. The interaction of these climate-related disasters with ongoing conflicts in certain areas has compounded the challenges faced by affected populations further exacerbating the food and nutrition security, and livelihoods of communities.

To reduce humanitarian needs and related costs, WFP advanced in its efforts to support communities ahead of predicted disasters through anticipatory actions. WFP collaborated with Governments and partners to scale up anticipatory actions for droughts and floods reaching 228,000 people with anticipatory cash and 1.3 million people were reached with early warning messages. These actions aimed to protect people's lives, food security and livelihoods from the impacts of predictable climate hazards.

Successful implementation of Anticipatory Action is dependent on the existence of strong and reliable early warning systems for climatic hazard prediction, the development of predefined operational plans and the availability of prearranged funding that can be quickly released to facilitate actions when predefined trigger thresholds are met. In this regard, WFP's work in the region focused on:

1. Enhancing governments' capacity to develop and implement anticipatory action systems to ensure ownership, scalability and sustainability; and
2. Delivering anticipatory actions at scale and institutionalizing the approach within humanitarian systems, including WFP's emergency preparedness and response systems.

## Somalia Flood Anticipatory Action - WFP'S FIRST IN AFRICA



In 2023, the Global Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forecast (GHACOF) predicted the occurrence of El Niño-induced floods in Somalia. Responding to this forecast and underscoring commitments towards mitigating impacts of predictable climate disasters, WFP Somalia in close collaboration with the Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SODMA), activated a flood anticipatory action programme – a first of its kind for WFP in Africa – building on the foundations laid by the national flood anticipatory action framework.

- Early warning messages disseminated through radio and community loudspeakers reaching more than 440,000 people empowering them to prepare for the floods and safe evacuation.
- WFP disbursed cash-based transfers totalling USD 2.7 million to more than 218,000 people with 59 percent being women). These cash transfers enabled communities to safeguard themselves and their assets from the impacts of floods.
- WFP also provided specialized nutritious foods to 25,000 children under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) facing acute malnutrition.
- To support evacuation and delivery of nutrition commodities and fortified biscuits, WFP pre-positioned boats at strategic points along the Juba and Shabelle rivers. This ensured swift and efficient transportation to affected areas and timely access to vital nutrition assistance.



## Flood Anticipatory Actions in Burundi

WFP in collaboration with the Burundi Hydrometeorological Department (known in French as Institut Géographique du Burundi or IGEBU) and Burundi Red Cross successfully activated and implemented anticipatory actions to cushion communities and their livelihoods from the impact of heavy rainfall and potential floods in the vulnerable areas of Rumonge and Muhuta. This was based on the flood Early Action protocol that WFP Burundi supported the Burundi Red Cross to develop.

- More than 10,000 people received Early Warning Messages, enabling households to take timely actions to mitigate the impact of floods on their livelihoods.
- Anticipatory cash transfers to about 9,000 people to meet basic food and other essential needs. The cash was distributed three days ahead of heavy rains and 12 days ahead of peak flooding in the targeted locations.

## Strengthening National Early Warning Systems

Developing systems and capacity strengthening is an important part of delivering anticipatory actions at scale and supporting the sustainability of the approach. This involves conducting anticipatory action feasibility studies, strengthening early warning systems and capacities for forecasting, enhancing operational readiness and delivery systems, and enhancing the policy and enabling environment for anticipatory action.

WFP continued to collaborate and provide technical support to the Governments in the region to strengthen national and local capacities to anticipate, prepare for and respond to predictable climate disasters. About USD 12.5 million has been invested so far in the region to support systems strengthening for anticipatory actions in 9 Countries (Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda).

WFP's comprehensive anticipatory actions in the region exemplify its commitment to proactive disaster preparedness and its dedication to safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable populations. WFP will continue to engage and advocate for additional funding while strengthening its collaboration with the Government to mitigate the impacts of climate-related disasters and enhance the resilience of communities facing recurrent threats.



SpeakoutMedia

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION and Security

WFP helps communities and governments to better prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related shocks through inclusive risk financing and insurance solutions at a micro and macro level.



### Ethiopia

To pursue sustainability, scalability, and efficiency, WFP redesigned the climate insurance component – R4 programme – by adopting a strategy that integrates Area Yield Index Insurance within the Government Input Voucher Scheme and partnered with an insure-tech private company. Under the approach, 610,760 people were reached through a meso level crop insurance provided to smallholder farmers, through the government’s Input Voucher System (IVS), which enables farmers to access insurance when collecting agricultural inputs in six woredas (districts) in the Amhara region. The total premium paid was USD 1.2 million offering yield protection worth USD 18.5 million.





WFP/Kevin Gitonga



## Kenya

WFP Kenya is implementing inclusive insurance under R4 by providing parametric crop insurance for smallholder farmers and Index Based Livestock Insurance for pastoralists livestock asset protection under a Zoetis Foundation-funded project, known as “Ufugaji Bora.”

WFP provided 32,668 people (90 percent women) with inclusive insurance through the R4 programme. USD 32,060 of payouts benefitted 10,228 people. Participants build their risk retention capacities through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) where they pool their savings to form a loan fund that they borrow from. Over 600 Village Saving and Loan Associations with an average membership of 25 people were supported resulting in USD 100,078 worth of saving. The program addressed needs such as buying farm inputs, paying casual laborers, and starting on-farm and off-farm income-generating activities.

Under livestock insurance, WFP Kenya reached, 4,274 households in the Arid and Semi-Arid counties of Isiolo and Garissa in collaboration with the World Bank-funded De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies in the Horn of Africa (DRIVE) project.



## Sudan

In Sudan, despite the conflict-related challenges, WFP successfully introduced the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica programme and purchased an ARC Replica policy, providing financial protection against catastrophic drought conditions to nearly 63,000 people. In June 2023, the drought insurance policy was signed between WFP and the ARC Limited Insurance Company. The operational plan was developed for two consecutive seasons 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 and submitted to ARC.



## Somalia

WFP held a workshop on the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica which introduced ARC Replica to partners as well as created a platform for networking and exchanging knowledge. WFP's ARC Replica programme also aims to mainstream gender into the interventions and prioritize different needs and vulnerabilities of men, women, boys and girls.



WFP/Arete/Kibuuka Mukisa

## SMALLHOLDER FARMERS Agriculture Market Support

### Key Highlights



More than **700,000** smallholder farmers (35 percent women) and **403** farmer groups supported across **6** countries.



WFP injected **USD 31 million** into local economies by purchasing from local smallholder farmers and traders.



Smallholder farmers were supported with **equipment and training** on post-harvest management.



Home Grown school feeding **provided markets** for supported smallholder farmers.

WFP food systems interventions aim to transform rural livelihoods and local food systems through the implementation of value chain development interventions as part of its resilient food systems programming. WFP supported more than 700,000 smallholder farmers (35 percent women) and 403 farmer groups across 6 countries. These aimed to address value chain inefficiencies, enhance local food production for local consumption and increase farmers' access to markets through local and regional procurement.



In line with its Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy (LRFPP), WFP linked smallholder farmers to school markets, where farmers supplied food commodities to the Home homegrown school feeding programme.

Post-harvest losses remain a concern in the region, with reports indicating reports estimating annual grain losses in the region of USD 4 billion. WFP supported and provided capacity support to agrifood value chain actors including smallholder farmers and farmer organisations, aggregators, millers, processors, and traders in mitigating and reducing post-harvest losses. These included postharvest management training, provision of equipment and infrastructure and market linkages. This has the potential to unlock economic, social, and environmental benefits for value chain actors while optimizing agricultural productivity.

WFP also supported governments in developing postharvest management manuals on grains, fruits, and vegetables. WFP sensitized leaders, experts and policymakers on food safety and quality. It also empowered farmer organizations in their governance, market and business skills and financial literacy.

## Results from WFP Smallholder Support Activities

WFP's investment in smallholder farmer market access in 2023 led to significant achievements in strengthening food systems and supporting smallholder farmers. Cumulatively, WFP injected USD 31 million into local economies by purchasing from local smallholder farmers and traders.



In Burundi, where WFP supported 128 cooperatives, farmers reported an increase in the production of nutritious crops from 50 percent in 2022 to 70 percent in 2023. Further the percentage of targeted smallholders selling through WFP-supported farmer aggregation systems reached 70 percent.



In Ethiopia, WFP collaborated with aggregators, smallholder farmer groups, and the Gambella Bureau of Agriculture to support production and increase access to markets. Over 5,000 MT was procured from 155 smallholder farmers and 12 aggregators, injecting USD 3.5 million into the local economy.



Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) in Kenya supports a network of 1,081 Farmer Service Centers (FSCs) that currently serve 244,008 smallholder farmers (54 percent women) across Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and high-potential agricultural areas. Smallholders sold 6,377 MT of food commodities (maize, high-iron beans, sorghum, and potatoes) valued at over USD 3.7 million, directly increasing farmer income. The observed increase in sales is attributed to farmer service centres assisting farmers in implementing improved post-harvest handling and storage practices and enhanced awareness and capacity to maintain food quality to increase market value thereby enhancing food safety, quality, and access to predictable markets.



WFP/Carolina Moncayo

## RESILIENCE BUILDING Through Asset Creation

WFP's resilience work is a central component of its climate offer given its ability to advance ecosystem restoration, diversify livelihoods, promote social cohesion, protect people from shocks and contribute to climate adaptation at the local level. Through its asset creation and livelihoods programme, implemented in 9 countries, WFP was able to directly reach 1.6 million people.

### Key Highlights

Number of people supported through asset creation activities:

**1,602,495**



Hectares (ha) of agricultural land cultivated/ rehabilitated under FFA:

**76,300 Ha**



USD transferred to households participating in asset creation:

**USD 18,912,883**



Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities in FFA:

**3,607**

## Rwanda's Resilience Project Handed Over to the Local Government

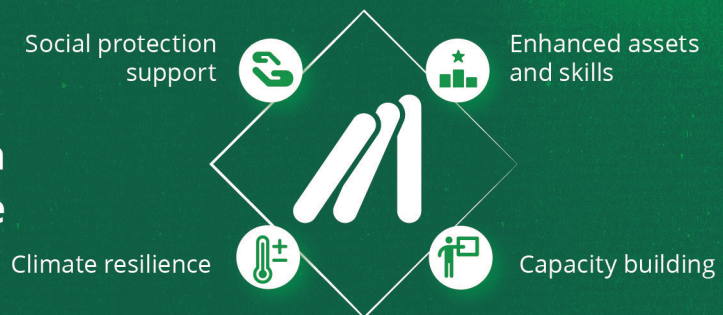


In Rwanda, WFP has supported 180,000 vulnerable households in five districts to enhance their livelihoods through the Sustainable Market Alliance and Assets Creation for Resilient Communities and Gender Transformation (SMART) project.

The project adopted an integrated approach to building resilience to help communities to meet their basic needs, and enhance agricultural skills, practices, quality and yields for sustainable livelihood improvement.

Along with its partners, WFP supported communities in advancing climate resilience through various interventions. This included the establishment of irrigation schemes, reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded land, restoration of degraded landscapes, water resource management, access to markets, livelihood skills and diversification.

### Integrated Approach to Building Resilience



WFP continued to expand the integration of conservation agriculture to all the project districts. This approach promoted sustainable farming, reduced land and soil degradation and helped farmers to cope with climate shocks. The project, which set an example of collaboration between partners and local communities, made a significant contribution to food security, ecosystem restoration and women's empowerment, and was successfully handed over to the government with WFP continuing to offer its support.

## Beneficiary Perceptions: South Sudan Asset Creation and Livelihoods



In South Sudan, WFP supported 82,000 households (494,000 people) to establish and rehabilitate community and household assets to increase connectivity, access to water, agricultural production, and protect livelihoods from hazards. Supported households reported that the support including training has improved their resilience against climate shocks and variability by adapting agricultural practices and livelihoods.

The proportion of households with a medium to high climate resilience capacity score increased from 88 percent to 91 percent while the proportion of households with a medium to high climate adaptation benefit score increased from 11 percent to 17 percent. This demonstrates an increase in the number of households feeling adequately prepared to withstand adverse climatic conditions and a decrease in those feeling underprepared. Further, the proportion of assisted households reporting benefits derived from improved assets rose from 62 percent to 82 percent, surpassing the annual targets.

## Economic Empowerment and Resilient Livelihoods for Youth

Climate resilient livelihoods for youth are a key driver for WFP. Almost half of the world's youth population will be African within the next decade. Climate risks and high rates of unemployment leave young people vulnerable to shocks. To support young people, WFP is partnering with the Mastercard Foundation to increase agribusiness employment opportunities in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. These countries alone have an estimated population of over 24 million young people. WFP is facilitating income generation by promoting both on and off-farm service provision, enterprise development, and employment opportunities through specialized trainings, business development and coaching, and access to finance.

Capacity strengthening activities reached close to 66,00 participants (with 62 percent being youth ages 18-35 years of age, of which 54 percent were young women) in 2023. Countries also supported 4,881 youth enterprises, with 34 percent being led by young women. Outcome monitoring results in Kenya and Uganda show promising areas for youth employment opportunities, with almost 17,000 youth (over 50 percent women) having reported increased income as a result of project participation in 2023. These youth are engaged in a range of activities, including farming, aggregation, Farmer Service Centers, service providers, seasonal workers, retailers, transporters, and village savings agents, among others.



WFP/Arete/Kibuuka Mukisa

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

# In Ethiopia's Somali Region, women build businesses and resilience to climate change



WFP/Michael Tewelde

In eastern Ethiopia's Bokolmayo refugee camp, Sadiya heads her women-dominated cooperative union, which has allowed her to build a thriving livestock business. Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde

Sadiya starts her day early by letting out her goats from her backyard barn at Bokolmayo refugee camp, a collection of makeshift houses in Ethiopia's Somali region. Whistling cheerfully, she leads them first to a water point nearby, then farther away to find a good grazing spot amid the cracked land.

## Businesswoman

With her flowing blue robes, the 25-year-old refugee from Somalia is a rare sight among pastoralists who dominate this slice of eastern Ethiopia, where men traditionally oversee livestock rearing.

"It is not easy to be in this business as a woman," says Sadiya. (As a refugee, her last name is withheld). "When we started, many people told us not to waste our time and money as we would surely fail."

Sadiya's assessment reflects the complex social fabric of Ethiopia's predominantly pastoralist Somali region. Here, women are often confined to age-old roles such as taking care of household chores and children. Their involvement in public life and decision-making is limited.

Refugees like Sadiya, whose family fled fighting in her homeland more than a decade ago, face further challenges. They do not have access to land, job opportunities, or financial services such as loans.

## Entrepreneurship

But an initiative that builds skills, incomes and social cohesion among locals and refugees is challenging the status quo – and offering new economic opportunities in one of Ethiopia’s poorest areas.

Supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) and international nonprofit Mercy Corps, it has enrolled some 1,000 mostly female participants in refugee camps across the Somali region, including Bokolmayo.

Empowering women is central to the initiative, which gives them training and leadership in start-up businesses, while their male counterparts play contributory roles. But it aims to lift up entire communities, in a region where climate-intensified droughts and floods have led to soaring hunger.

“The programme focuses on entrepreneurship, where women select businesses that they want to engage in,” says Daniel Ocom, WFP resilience programme officer for the Somali region. “Once the businesses are set up, we provide them with different trainings that equip them with skillsets to sustain thriving businesses.”

## Savings cooperatives

Since the project was first launched a few years ago, some 600 women have established their own businesses and formed 24 registered business cooperatives.

The initiative links them to sustainable markets to sell their products and services. Participants have also created village savings-and-loans associations, in which members pool money to lend and invest in business projects.

“Access to markets and financial services is a game-changer for many women in this region,” Ocom says. “From our interventions, we have seen first-hand that the women in these areas have many innovative ideas. When linked with the right markets and given financial access, they will be able to build profitable businesses.”

That’s the goal at Bokolmayo, where Sadiya is chair of the camp’s cooperative union: 25 women and five men who have pooled their resources, and matched their savings with WFP start-up capital, to launch their own small businesses, as well as invest in a jointly owned livestock trading venture.

After tending to her goats, Sadiya heads to the weekly meeting of her cooperative, Hodan, which means wealth in Somali.

When the group first started, meetings would often be held in the tree-shaded backyards of a member’s house. Now, the participants have invested their business profits in building a corrugated metal house that they lovingly call their ‘headquarters.’

Sadiya kicks off the session with a roll call. Next, the members tally last week’s sales and decide on how much to save, and what type of livestock to invest in.

“Many of the skills we have now, we gained through WFP’s trainings,” says Sadiya, who started her own goat-breeding and trading business last year. Her new career is a source of hope for the mother of seven, who married young.

“They trained us on how to save,” she adds, “how to develop our business, how to buy and sell livestock, and how to share information within the cooperative.”

The project is also nurturing ties between the region's refugee and host communities, who share the same language, history and ancestors.

At Hilaweyn refugee camp, some 50km southeast of Bokolmayo, local trader Unah Ibrahim Mahmud has set up a clothing business in the camp. She is part of the 25-member, majority-women Wadajir cooperative, which includes both refugees and Ethiopians like herself.

"Business is good," Ibrahim says of the group, whose members sell food and non-food products at the camp, which previously had very few traders. "As a cooperative, we support each other and always share our experiences."

## Gender equality

Beyond business training, the programme offers sessions – open to participants and their families – on issues like gender equality, land inheritance, division of home labour and women's participation in public spheres.

"When we first started, some women's husbands came to us and asked for their wives' shares without the wives' knowledge," says Sadiya, from the Bokolmayo camp. The men also accused cooperative members of stealing their spouse's money, she adds.

"Now they are saying that we are making good progress and encouraging us," Sadiya says.

Another Hodan cooperative member, Mouslima, agrees the sessions have changed perceptions.

"Before the training, many people in our community thought women should take care of their families and stay at home," says Mouslima, who is also a Somali refugee. "Now we all know that mothers can also earn

an income and support their families – and fathers should support mothers."

Somali refugee Mouslima hopes her business profits will educate her three sisters – then she wants to finish school herself. Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde

Mouslima is Hodan's bookkeeper. She also runs a hair salon at the camp. But she has bittersweet feelings about her new business career.

"I felt so happy to learn and gain knowledge, but at the same time I felt bad for not finishing school," says Mouslima, whose family fled Somalia in 2018, during her last year of high school.

She hopes to use her business profits to help educate her three younger siblings.

"Once all of them graduate, I swear it will be my turn to go and get a degree," she says.

Her training has taught her to be patient. "I learned that everything is gradual, step by step," Mouslima says, "and it is never too late to learn."



WFP/Michael Tewelde

*Somali refugee Mouslima hopes her business profits will educate her three sisters – then she wants to finish school herself.*

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