



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Climate Action & Building Resilience in Small Island Developing States

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Whilst they contribute minimal global greenhouse gas emissions, rising sea levels and extreme weather events wreak havoc on lives, livelihoods and food security. SIDS face a range of additional challenges including fragile ecosystems and heavy reliance on food imports, which exacerbate vulnerabilities. Their economies are highly susceptible to shocks, with

annual losses due to climate-related events far surpassing the global average. This heightened vulnerability was further exacerbated by the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. SIDS are among the most highly indebted countries in the world, with limited fiscal space to meet development needs and insufficient access to climate finance to protect against climate impacts.

May 2024

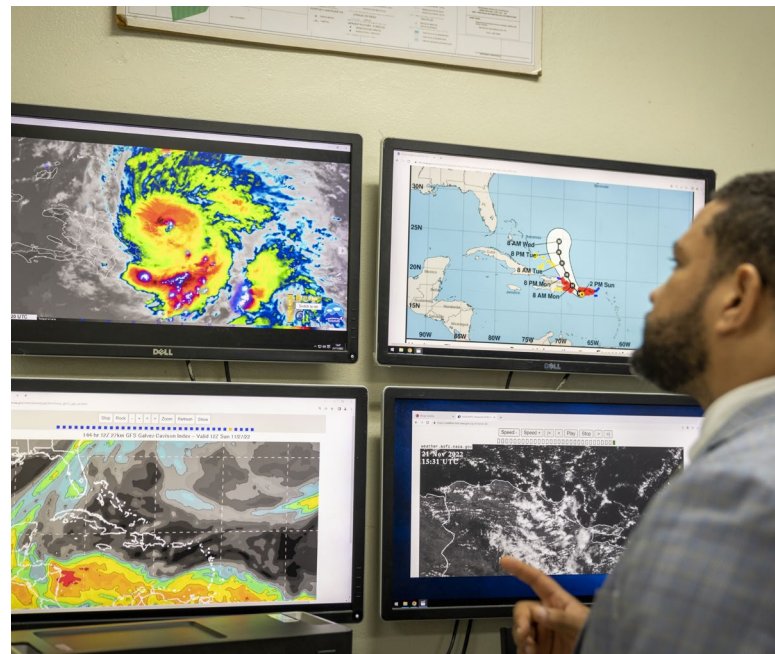
The Pacific

Over 90% of people in the Pacific SIDS are exposed to the highest level of disaster and climate risk in the Asia-Pacific region, with resulting high vulnerability of migration. Sea-level rise combined with storm surges exacerbates coastal inundation. In Tuvalu, much of the nation's land and critical infrastructure will be underwater by 2050 due to rising sea levels. The consequences are widespread including threats to food security and nutrition, displacement, loss of vital ecosystems and losses and damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods.



The Caribbean

With its large coastal populations and exposed location, the Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast to be one of the most active, with 23 named storms of which 11 are expected to become hurricanes. A high coastline-to-land ratio means rising sea levels dramatically impact agricultural lands, infrastructure and populations along the coast. Storms, increasing temperatures and worsening drought are impacting lives, livelihoods and crops, and threatening the region's unique biodiversity.



WFP's Work

WFP's interventions in Small Island Developing States focus on strengthening resilience and addressing the root causes of food insecurity. Through research, advocacy and capacity-strengthening initiatives, WFP adopts a systems-focused approach to promote sustainable development. In the Caribbean, WFP is working with governments and regional institutions to strengthen their disaster response. With the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, WFP has developed training programmes and resources to improve emergency preparedness. WFP also supports national governments to improve their resilience through stronger social protection systems.

In the Pacific, WFP, through its expertise in supply chain and logistics, emergency telecommunications, disaster risk management and food security, partners with governments and local institutions to strengthen national and regional capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters. WFP also helps governments make informed decisions on how climate change and other shocks impact food security and nutrition, especially for the most vulnerable.

In SIDS with a larger land mass such as Haiti, Cuba and Guinea-Bissau, WFP implements a range of programmes including school-based initiatives, support for smallholder farmers and emergency preparedness measures. By fostering resilience, strengthening social protection systems and promoting sustainable agriculture, WFP strives to mitigate the impact of climate change on communities.

WFP supports communities to anticipate, prepare for and recover from climate shocks and stressors by enabling access to climate risk insurance schemes and establishing anticipatory action programmes. When anticipatory action and insurance are implemented simultaneously, insurance payouts can support faster recovery if a shock exceeds the mitigation potential of anticipatory actions.

Anticipatory Action

- **Fiji:** WFP and the Government of Fiji have developed an anticipatory action plan which integrates anticipatory cash-based transfers within Fiji's existing social protection system, enabling the government to provide timely assistance before cyclones hit. This successful model leverages the government's disaster risk management capacities and existing social protection programmes, promoting local ownership and empowering the Fijian government and people.

Case study



- **Haiti:** In collaboration with the Government of Haiti, WFP activated an anticipatory action plan ahead of forecasted heavy rains in November 2023. This timely action disseminated early warning messages to over 500,000 people and provided anticipatory cash support to approximately 18,500 people. The use of existing social protection systems ensured the swift and effective delivery of cash which played a vital role in safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

Activation factsheet

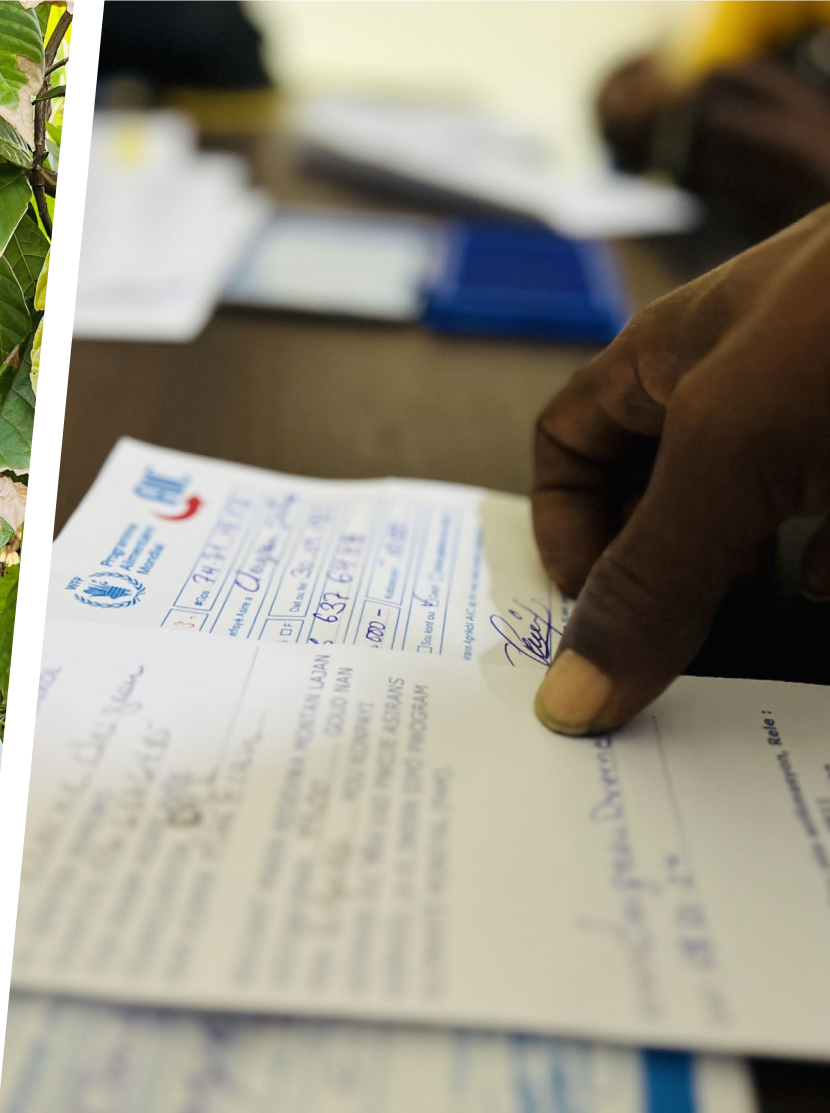


Climate Risk Insurance

- WFP has partnered with the governments of Dominica, Belize and Saint Lucia to link national-level climate risk insurance schemes with social protection systems to mobilise the funds required to rapidly scale up assistance when required. WFP has provided contributions to top-up the premium to their Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC)

insurance policies. In the case of a payout, WFP has agreements with these governments that the funds would flow through the social protection systems, to provide cash transfers to the most affected people. In June, WFP and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica are planning to conduct a simulation exercise to test how best to design the systems and processes to quickly channel potential CCRIF payouts through social protection systems.

- In the Pacific, WFP is supporting climate risk insurance through a partnership with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) to provide premium contributions for two to three government macroinsurance policies. The aim is to support new drought insurance policies in the Pacific with potential policies being planned for the three most drought-prone Pacific countries.



CLIMATE & RESILIENCE SERVICE

World Food Programme
 Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,
 00148 Rome, Italy - T +39 06 65131
wfp.org

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