



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP EVALUATION

# SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

## WFP's actions to address climate-related shocks

The WFP's Climate Change Policy (2017) defines climate action as the “efforts to prevent climate change and climate-related shocks from exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and risks and undermining progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition”. The goal of WFP climate action is for vulnerable people, communities and governments to be able to address the impacts of climate-related events on food security and nutrition and to adapt to climate change. Under the Climate Change Policy Update (2024), WFP is adopting an integrated perspective focused on solutions that avert, minimize and address loss and damage in livelihoods and food systems. This integrated perspective recognizes climate change mitigation as an integral element of comprehensive climate action but puts a clear emphasis on WFP's core capabilities in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and disaster response.

*Commissioned by the WFP Office of Evaluation*

## 8 KEY MESSAGES

**1** WFP's climate action focuses primarily on adaptation, protection, and emergency response, and less on mitigation. Evaluations suggest there is room to improve integration and coherence across different interventions, as well as to incorporate more forward-looking climate analysis to better address future risks.

WFP's climate-related interventions primarily focus on climate change adaptation, protection and emergency response, and less so on mitigation. WFP implements a wide range of activities supporting adaptation such as climate-smart agriculture, livelihoods diversification, and ecosystem restoration. WFP also engages in activities to strengthen protection of climate vulnerable communities and to reinforce national capacities on climate information, early warning and anticipatory action, social protection and safety nets. While WFP aims to address emergency food security requirements during shocks and at the same time to reinforce local and national capacities to respond to climate shocks, there is limited evidence on WFP's responses to climate related shocks. Evaluations find these activities are relevant and align with national policies. However, inadequate integration of different activities, as well as partial climate change analysis, are underlined as major weaknesses of climate action design. Since the Environmental Policy (2017), work is being undertaken to gain understanding around the detailed environmental footprint (including greenhouse gas emissions and waste generated) of WFP's supply chain operations and, crucially, of where and how specific aspects of supply chain operations contribute to that footprint.

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## **2 WFP's climate action has led to positive outcomes at different levels, contributing to livelihood diversification, food security, and risk reduction at the household/community level and at institutional and systems levels - increased governments' capacity to manage climate risks, detect and respond to disasters - but challenges remain in achieving lasting resilience and systemic change.**

WFP's climate action programming has achieved positive outcomes at various levels (household, community, institutional, and system levels). At household and community level, interventions have contributed to livelihood diversification, food security, and risk reduction, particularly through social protection mechanisms, micro-insurance, and climate-smart agriculture, but results are mixed and significant challenges remain in achieving lasting resilience. While investments in building national and local capacity have increased governments' capacity to manage climate risks, improving early warning systems, and strengthening national disaster response capacities. However, achieving lasting resilience and systemic change requires stronger integration, better institutional coordination, and enhanced sustainability strategies.

## **3 Integrated climate action programming that combines short-term adaptation to address root causes with long-term resilience through sequencing and layering activities is more successful than stand-alone interventions.**

There is converging evidence that programmes that integrated actions are more effective than stand-alone interventions. More precisely, effective programming should include both short-term adaptation measures and long-term transformative actions and rely on a diversity of complementary actions that are sequenced and layered to really reinforce the community capacity to manage climate shocks and risks. This ensures that communities not only cope with climate-related crises but also build the capacity to adapt and thrive in the long run. However, challenges include lack of activity convergence, poor monitoring, delays in procurement, and limited cooperation from national institutions, all of which hinder effectiveness. Despite these challenges, integrated programming's potential for building resilience and addressing root causes remains a critical factor in climate action success.

## **4 Participation and capacity building of national and local institutions are key factors of successful climate action programmes; however, further understanding is needed on the potential for leveraging private sector involvement in climate action and the role that ngos could play in enhancing effectiveness.**

The participation of national and local institutions, including communities and local governments, in the design and monitoring of the implementation appears as a key factor of success. Local partnerships

are reported to have positive returns in terms of cost-efficiency. Community engagement, through participatory planning and capacity building, helps ensure that interventions are relevant, inclusive, and sustainable, more evidence is needed on how these activities can be scaled and maintained over time to ensure lasting impacts. Evidence is also limited on private sector partnerships for climate action and collaboration with NGOs (except in the case of specific initiatives like the R4 Rural Resilience initiative). Further understanding the potential for leveraging private sector involvement in climate action and the role that NGOs could play in enhancing the effectiveness of climate resilience programs.

## **5 Strategic partnerships play a critical role in the overall impact of climate action programming, but effectiveness of these collaborations is mixed.**

Strategic partnerships, particularly with other UN agencies and specialized organizations, play a critical role in pooling resources, sharing expertise, and increasing the overall impact of climate action programmes. While there is significant evidence on strategic partnerships between WFP and other UN agencies (e.g., FAO, UNDP), the effectiveness of these collaborations is mixed. In some cases, agencies face overlapping roles and coordination challenges that hinder optimal climate action. There is a need for further evidence on the best practices for inter-agency collaboration on climate action, particularly on how to overcome competition for funds and coordinate joint actions more effectively.

## **6 WFP has made positive strides in climate action through innovative approaches, but challenges remain in scaling, inclusion and monitoring.**

Evidence demonstrates that WFP has made significant strides in climate action through innovative approaches, including climate-smart agriculture to improve smallholder farmers' resilience, integrating indigenous knowledge, and combining various strategies for inclusive resilience to ensure no one is left behind. Challenges remain in scaling these innovations with a need for improved knowledge-sharing between countries to scale up successful climate adaptation strategies. Additionally, while some initiatives successfully incorporate ancestral and indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation, these efforts remain localized and are not widely scaled across different regions. Challenges also remain in enhancing financial inclusion integration, particularly for vulnerable groups such as refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, and improving monitoring of mitigation co-benefits.

## 7 Climate funds are opportunities for scaling-up WFP interventions but their effect on climate related innovations is not well documented.

While climate action is a key entry point for new resources, in a context of increasing donors' and governments' interest in climate change, accessing climate funds remains a significant challenge for WFP. Evaluations suggest that WFP could improve access to climate funds by engaging with regional hubs, business sectors, and philanthropic foundations, and by seeking more opportunities for collaboration with other stakeholders. Climate funds represent an opportunity for scaling-up integrated programmes with activities addressing both short-term impacts and root causes of vulnerability. Additionally, evaluations do not bring evidence on how the need to request climate funds has impacted the design of the programs and especially the inclusion of climate actions. Further evidence is needed on the role of these financings in the inclusion of innovative climate actions.

## 8 Knowledge gaps.

There is limited evidence on results of climate mitigation activities and on the environmental impact of WFP's mitigation and adaptation activities. Financial protection and inclusion of vulnerable people is tied to protection from climate shocks, particularly through insurance mechanisms, social protection, and early warning systems, aimed at safeguard livelihoods. More evidence is needed on how effectively they promote financial inclusion and resilience. The role of external climate financing in enabling these innovations is also not yet well documented. Addressing these knowledge gaps through further research and evaluations would support a more comprehensive analysis. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems will be key to informing future climate programming and policy development.

### BREADTH OF EVIDENCE

This SEE brings together 34 WFP-commissioned independent evaluations to consolidate evidence, which covering the period of 2019 and 2024, and were rated 'satisfactory' or above by WFP's external Post-hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA). It takes stock of available evidence on WFP's good practices and challenges in implementing Climate Action.

The summary has global coverage, covering WFP interventions in 24 countries. Of these, 16






evaluations were decentralized evaluations of activities, 16 Country Strategic Plan evaluations, and 2 Policy Evaluations. Evidence was systematically extracted from the evaluations using an analytical framework reflecting key areas of interest identified at framing stage. Evidence was analysed and clustered around the main focus areas with key patterns and findings identified.



*The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers*

- [Evaluation of WFP's Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Policies](#)
- [Evaluation of WFP's Policy on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition](#)
- [Evaluation of Bhutan WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Évaluation du plan stratégique de pays du PAM au Tchad pour 2019-2023](#)
- [Evaluation of Dominican Republic WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Evaluación del plan estratégico para el Ecuador \(2017-2021\)](#)
- [Évaluation du plan stratégique de pays du PAM pour Haïti 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of Kenya WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2023](#)
- [Évaluation du plan stratégique de pays du PAM en Mauritanie 2019-2023](#)
- [Evaluation of Malawi WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Evaluation of Nepal WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Évaluation du plan stratégique de pays du PAM pour Sénégal 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of Zambia WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Evaluation of WFP Livelihood Support, Asset Creation and Climate Adaptation Activities in Iraq from January 2020 to December 2021](#)
- [Adapting to Climate Induced Threats to Food Production and Food Security in the Karnali Region of Nepal \(2018-2022\)](#)
- [Evaluation des Activités de Résilience au Tchad Septembre 2018 - Septembre 2022](#)
- [Evaluación intermedia del proyecto Resiliencia climática de los hogares rurales del corredor seco en Nicaragua 08.2020/08.2022](#)
- [Evaluación del plan estratégico para el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia \(2018-2022\)](#)
- [Evaluation of India WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Evaluation of Kyrgyz Republic WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of Sri Lanka WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluation of South Sudan WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#)
- [Evaluación intermedia del proyecto BOOST desde agosto 2018 hasta junio 2021 en las zonas de Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Estelí, Matagalpa, Jinotega y la RACCN](#)
- [Thematic Evaluation of WFP Philippines Country Capacity Strengthening Activities July 2018 – June 2022](#)
- [Evaluation of R4 Rural Resilience Initiative in Masvingo and Rushinga Districts in Zimbabwe January 2018 – June 2021](#)
- [Final Evaluation of Joint Programme 'Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean' 2020 – 2022](#)
- [Evaluation of Asset Creation and Public Works Activities in Lesotho 2015-2019 \(Final\)](#)
- [Evaluation of The Gambia WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2021](#)
- [Joint evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies](#)
- [Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka](#)
- [Evaluation of the Food Assistance for Assets \(FFA\) in the Context of Malawi 2015-2019](#)
- [Evaluation of the Satellite Index Insurance for Pastoralists in Ethiopia \(SIPE\) Programme: Impact Evaluation of the SIPE Pilot \(2017 – 2019\)](#)
- [Evaluación del Programa País 200434 en Nicaragua y actividades complementarias](#)
- [Mid-Term Evaluation of Integrated Risk Management and Climate Services Programme in Malawi from 2017-2019](#)

## WFP EVALUATION

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