



# How WFP is supporting global climate action

The internationally agreed objectives of global climate action are fundamental in guiding WFP's approach to protecting food security and nutrition in a warming world.

Climate variability and extremes are among the key drivers of hunger. In 2019, extreme climate events pushed **34 million** people into acute hunger and to the brink of starvation – especially in the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa and the Dry corridor of Central America.

Looking into the future, these trends will only get worse. If global temperatures keep rising to 2°C, an additional **189 million people** could become more vulnerable to food insecurity.

In line with global policy processes governing the fight against hunger and climate change, WFP is supporting governments to fulfil international commitments and protect vulnerable communities and food systems in a more uncertain and hazardous environment.

## WHAT IS THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND WHY IS IT RELEVANT FOR WFP?

The **Paris Agreement**, within the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, aims to strengthen the global response to the adverse effects of climate change on people and ecosystems. This includes limiting the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, and increasing the ability of public and private sector institutions to adapt to increasingly adverse circumstances. The effective provision and programming of climate finance is a key aspect for governments in this regard.

## WFP'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

Following the approval of the Paris agreement, WFP has approved its own **Climate Change Policy** in February 2017. This policy defines how the organization can contribute to the prevention of climate-induced losses and damages in food systems, and to the reduction of vulnerabilities in food insecure populations.



WFP's Climate Change Policy

## HOW DOES WFP HELP COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT?

### CLIMATE FINANCE

The Paris Agreement commits countries to mobilizing at least **US\$ 100 billion** of climate finance **per year by 2020** in support of both mitigation and adaptation actions.

WFP is helping governments to access climate finance from multilateral funding mechanisms such as the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** and the **Adaptation Fund (AF)**.

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By helping governments access climate finance and scaling up a range of innovative risk financing programmes, WFP is supporting countries' commitments to the implementation of the Paris agreement on climate change within the UNFCCC.

WFP has so far secured approvals of GCF projects for 5 governments (**Kyrgyz Republic, Mozambique, Senegal, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe**) for a total of **US\$ 45.9 million**. The AF has approved 10 WFP-led adaptation projects, which are implemented together with government partners for a total of **US\$ 96.8 million** in **Ecuador, Egypt, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Colombia, Lesotho, Malawi, the Republic of Congo and Gambia**.

## ADAPTATION

The Paris Agreement recognizes adaptation as a key component in the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems (Article 7). At the national level, developing countries are establishing **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** to define their adaptation needs and actions in the medium and long term for which climate finance is required.

One approach in which WFP helps governments with the NAP process is through the provision of inputs and [integrated analyses of climate risks and food security](#). This helps countries identify priority adaptation and risk management actions in the most vulnerable areas, as well featuring food security as a priority both in the NAP and within the national policy. In **Sri Lanka**, for example, the government has used the findings of [WFP's Climate and Food Security Analysis](#) for the formulation of the country's NAP, with WFP facilitating consultative workshops and review sessions. In **Ethiopia**, WFP is among the entities supporting the development and implementation of the country's NAP that sets strategic priorities for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into national policies, plans and strategies. A specific contribution is made through technical assistance and capacity building on weather index insurance for smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

WFP also provides support in the development of new partnerships which help governments implement integrated climate risk management solutions in **WFP's Country Strategic Plans (CSPs)**. As of October 2020, 30 out of the 89 WFP CSPs have activities that contribute to climate change adaptation.

## LOSS AND DAMAGE

The Paris Agreement calls for new financial mechanisms to address the unavoidable losses and damages caused by increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events and slow onset change such as sea level rise, desertification, and land and forest degradation (Article 8).

WFP has specific expertise in preparing for and responding to climate-related disasters that result in such losses and damages, including through specific programmes enhancing early warning and emergency preparedness, microinsurance schemes for smallholder farmers, sovereign risk insurance for governments and forecast-based financing for local communities that are faced with impending natural hazards. As a result, WFP has become a key partner and expert advising the [Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage](#) on financial instruments that address the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

## INNOVATION

Based on successful pilot projects, WFP is scaling up a range of innovative risk financing programmes in vulnerable countries around the world. In support of achieving the goal of the G7 [InsuResilience](#) initiative to strengthen the resilience of developing countries to climate risks, WFP has been implementing climate risk insurance initiatives, currently supporting smallholders in **9 countries** with microinsurance protection (the R4 [Rural Resilience Initiative](#)) and in **5 countries** with the replication of sovereign insurance coverage ([ARC Replica](#)). Furthermore, WFP is one of the agencies that are rethinking how humanitarian assistance can be delivered more effectively and with support from the private sector. In the space of [Forecast-based financing](#), WFP is piloting early action to break the cycle of recurrent and repetitive disaster response in **14 countries**, triggering anticipatory support to governments and communities through pre-agreed contingency plans. These investments reduce the average cost of an emergency response by over two-thirds.

## AGRICULTURE

The [Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture \(KJWA\)](#) was established by the UNFCCC in 2017 to acknowledge the vulnerabilities of agriculture and food security to climate change and establish concrete climate actions to address these issues.

As a result, countries are tasked with developing and implementing new strategies for adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector, with a focus on reducing emissions and building resilience to climate change impacts. WFP is contributing with evidence on the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector, as well as with operational expertise on resilience building in agriculture-dependent populations.

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