

World Food Programme

Hunger and Climate Change: Helping communities and countries adapt

Responding to increased hunger and undernutrition caused by climatic changes will be a key pillar of WFP's work in the 21st century – providing emergency relief when disasters strike, helping devastated families recover and rebuild, and assisting vulnerable communities adapt to more difficult and uncertain times. WFP approaches the challenges of climate change from the point of view of its impact on hunger and nutrition. Working with governments and partners WFP can use its extensive experience, innovative programmes and risk reduction tools to help the poor and vulnerable mitigate and adapt to hunger-related consequences of climate change.

Examples of WFP adaptation projects since 2006

- 220,000 hectares of land were **protected, cultivated or rehabilitated and made available for agricultural production**, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.
- More than 20,000 **water conservation structures** (e.g. reservoirs, tanks, harvesting structures, diversion embankments, runoff trenches) **were built or rehabilitated**, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Middle East, and South America.
- 35,000 kilometres of **irrigation systems** and almost 8,000 water management and irrigation systems were constructed or rehabilitated, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.
- **Land terracing** of almost 7,000 hectares took place in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.
- 4,500 km of **flood defence and climate proof infrastructure were rehabilitated**, in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.
- More than 2,400 **wells** and almost 1,700 **ponds** were constructed and rehabilitated, in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.
- More than 2,550 **dams were constructed or rehabilitated**, with 600 kilometres of **dykes reinforced**, in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.
- More than 480 kilometres of **drainage systems were constructed or rehabilitated**, in Asia, Central America and the Caribbean.



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Rwanda, Gatanga, February 2007
Food for work project, terracing for erosion control project in Gatanga, Bugesera district.

Specific country and regional examples

- In **Kenya**, WFP's targeted employment programmes in drought-prone and arid regions have contributed to the rehabilitation of 28,000 hectares of land. WFP has also introduced eco-friendly practices for irrigation, soil, and water harvesting.
- In **Malawi**, WFP is supporting disaster risk reduction and preparedness in communities prone to natural disasters. WFP and its partners are assisting the country in achieving its goal to establish a co-ordinated and effective disaster management system.
- In **Mali**, WFP supported government activities to combat desertification by stabilising dunes and planting a greenbelt as a buffer between the Sahara and fields of rice—increasing the food security of several communities.
- As part of the UN Country Team in **Mozambique**, WFP is implementing a Joint Programme for Environmental Mainstreaming and Adaptation to Climate Change, which is part of the implementation of the National Adaptation Programme of Action.
- In **Bangladesh**, WFP has a leading role in strengthening the government's National Early Warning Systems, and in enhancing disaster management and preparedness. Since 2000, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and activities have resulted in 30,000 homesteads being raised above flood levels, and 1.6 million women trained in disaster preparedness and adaptation issues.
- In the **Philippines**, WFP's targeted employment programmes has improved the community's self-sufficiency, resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. Almost 7,000 people have been involved in the construction and rehabilitation of roads, and repairing damaged irrigation and sanitation systems.