



Two Minutes on Climate Change and Hunger

A Zero Hunger World Needs Climate Resilience

How climate change affects hunger

Climate change is one of the leading causes of hunger. More than 80 percent of the world's food-insecure people live in countries prone to natural hazards in degraded environments. For them, climate change means more frequent and intense extreme weather events which increase food insecurity and malnutrition by destroying land, livestock, crops and food supplies. This can intensify conflicts over scarce resources, leading to new humanitarian crises, migration and displacement.

Climate shocks trap poor households in chronic hunger and poverty. When their crops fail and incomes fall, poor households are often forced into taking drastic measures just to survive, such as taking their children out of school or selling their most productive assets.

If we do not act now to help people cope and build their resilience, climate change could increase both the risk of hunger and child malnutrition by 20 percent each by 2050.

It is projected that in a 2°C warmer world 189 million people could experience levels of vulnerability to food insecurity greater than in the present day.

Who is most at risk?

The vast majority of the world's 821 million hungry people live in developing countries with fragile environments prone to climate hazards. Across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, climate change is already affecting people's lives and livelihoods at a pace and intensity with which they cannot cope. Women and children are disproportionately affected.

WFP helps people build resilience to climate change

As the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, WFP understands the effects of climate change and helps food-insecure communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disasters.



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Since 2009, WFP mobilised over US\$300 million for climate action, supporting over 13 million people in 37 countries with climate and energy solutions integrated within food security interventions.



In the past decade, almost half of WFP emergency and recovery operations have been in response to climate-related disasters. In 2017 alone, WFP has supported 9 million individuals affected by climate disasters with food and cash assistance in the Caribbean, the Horn of Africa, and South Asia.



On average, WFP commits US\$2.3 billion annually - around one third of WFP's yearly budget - to emergency operations in response to climate-related disasters. US\$1 invested in climate risk management and disaster risk reduction can save up to US\$4 in humanitarian response.

WFP innovations are focused on supporting communities most vulnerable to climate risks. These innovations:

- **Help people diversify their sources of income and livelihoods**
- **Protect people's assets, incomes and crops with access to insurance and financial services such as savings**
- **Improve farmers' access to markets**
- **Help governments and communities make more informed decisions with better climate forecasts**
- **Highlight the links between climate change and hunger to inform policy and programming decisions**

Leading in climate resilience innovations

WFP works with governments, international partners and local communities to develop and deliver large-scale climate resilience innovations. These build on WFP's 40 years of experience implementing safety net and asset-building programmes and expertise in disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and food security analysis.

What more is needed?

To achieve a Zero Hunger World, we need to build people's climate resilience. For this, innovation, creativity and action at scale are essential.

Given the impact of climate change, we need better and more reliable tools and funding to help vulnerable countries and communities manage and reduce their exposure to climate risk. This will take collective and innovative action so that systemic changes can be achieved at a large enough scale that hunger can be eliminated.

