



# Two Minutes on Climate Change and Hunger

## A Zero Hunger World Needs Climate Resilience

### Why focus on climate change and hunger?

Climate disasters disproportionately affect the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable, especially women and children. Climate change is exacerbating this situation, increasing the risk of hunger and the breakdown of food systems.

Estimates indicate that, unless considerable efforts are made to improve people's resilience, **the risk of hunger and child malnutrition could increase by up to 20 percent due to climate change by 2050.**

### Who is most at risk?

The vast majority of hungry people – 805 million according to the latest The State of Food Insecurity in the World report (2014) – live in developing countries and in fragile environments prone to climate hazards. Today, from Africa to Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, climate change is affecting many of these

people's lives at a pace and intensity with which they cannot cope.

### How does climate change affect hunger and vulnerable people?

Climate change is making natural disasters – floods, storms and droughts – more frequent and intense, land and water more scarce and difficult to access, and increases in agricultural productivity even harder to achieve.

Climate-related shocks put millions of people's lives at risk, and trap poor households into food insecurity and poverty, often forcing them to resort to drastic measures, such as taking their children out of school or selling their productive assets. When climate disasters strike, the situation of already vulnerable people can quickly deteriorate into a food and nutrition crisis.



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### WFP's response: Helping the most vulnerable build their resilience against climate risks and change

As the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, WFP is helping food insecure communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related disasters.

- In the last decade, almost half of WFP emergency and recovery operations responded to and helped people recover from climate-related disasters. These operations had a combined budget of US\$23 billion.
- In the last five years, 40 percent of WFP's operations included activities to reduce disaster risk, build resilience or help people adapt to climate change.

### WFP: Leading in climate resilience innovations

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

WFP innovations are focused on supporting those communities most vulnerable to climate risks with activities that will help them build their resilience and ability to adapt to climate change. These innovations include helping people diversify their livelihoods, protect their assets with insurance and savings, improve their access to markets, and make more informed decisions with better climate forecasts. Areas of innovation include:

- **Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Climate & Food Security Analyses**
- **Climate Services**
- **Resilience**
- **Risk Management, Risk Insurance and Risk Finance**
- **Cookstoves and Safe Energy for Cooking**

### 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 scale 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 innovative efforts so that systemic changes can be achieved at a large enough scale that hunger can be eliminated.

**New web section:**  
[www.wfp.org/climate-change](http://www.wfp.org/climate-change)

