WFP

wfp.org

World Food Programme
Climate Services

Building resilience and food security through tailored information

Climate risks are among the key drivers of hunger in the world. Many countries and vulnerable people do not have access to information to properly manage the climate risks they face. This information gap can lead to decisions that negatively affect people's livelihoods and food security. With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters such as floods and droughts, it is becoming more urgent to support people's ability to adapt and build their resilience to these risks.

Why Climate Services?

When people are provided with adequate information, they are able to make better decisions that will empower them to build their resilience to future climate risks and food insecurity.

Climate services help vulnerable communities address these challenges by providing the information they need to make well-informed decisions. The emphasis is on providing "services" - or advice - which are tailored to people's specific needs by being:

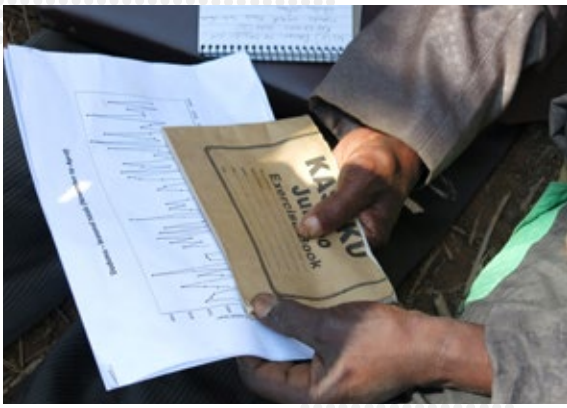
- Timely
- Easy to access
- Easy to understand
- Packaged in a way that can trigger action.

Climate services support decision-making at different levels: individual farmers, communities and local and national governments.

Examples of climate services include weather forecasts and early warning systems to guide people on how to prepare for a major storm, information on migration routes for livestock during a drought, sharing ideas on better food storage options for an unusually wet season, or on suggested crops to plant in drier long-term conditions under climate change.

World Food Programme
Climate Services

Images front and back:
In September 2015, WFP and partners trained agricultural extension workers and farmers in Tanzania on how to interpret climate and weather data, and the crop and livelihood options available to them.



WFP and Climate Services

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.

WFP has developed extensive experience in using climate services for early warning purposes.

Our emergency preparedness and support response team collaborates with world-renowned research and modelling centres to provide the latest immediate and seasonal weather hazard information to support government and humanitarian actors in deciding appropriate action.

WFP's food security analysts translate climate and weather information into early warnings of drought events and potential production shortfalls. Coupled with detailed analyses of household vulnerability, WFP and partners use this information to assess how droughts or floods will affect people's food security to ensure humanitarian and government actors can plan an early response.

The GFCS Climate Services for Action Africa Project

WFP is an active member of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), which provides coherent, global support to the management of climate risks in key development sectors.

In Malawi and Tanzania, WFP is part of the GFCS Climate Services for Action Africa Project, a multi-partner pilot through which tailored weather and climate information is being provided to rural communities to help them enhance their food security and livelihoods. Climate advisories are reaching these communities, farmers and pastoralists through a number of activities, including radio programmes, mobile phone (SMS and audio) and the training of agricultural extension workers on how to interpret and communicate relevant climate information to rural audiences.

The Livelihoods, Early Warning and Protection project (LEAP)

In Ethiopia, WFP has been working with the Government on the "LEAP" software which uses agro-meteorological data to trigger food assistance in case of a drought so that families receive support before they are forced to take desperate measures. LEAP has also been used by WFP's partners to help pastoralists identify fresh grazing areas for their livestock, using vegetation maps.

R4 Rural Resilience Initiative

Climate information is used to help determine weather-index insurance payouts in case of drought in our R4 Initiative in Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi and Zambia.

FoodSECuRE

Climate information is also used to trigger contingent funding for early action through our FoodSECuRE Facility, a groundbreaking tool that releases funds based on a forecast before a disaster occurs.

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 action and innovative approaches so that systemic changes can be achieved at a large enough scale to eliminate hunger.

Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes Unit
Policy and Programme Division
wfp.org/climate-change
climatechange@wfp.org

December 2015