




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Addressing climate change for a
world free of poverty and hunger





Poverty is one of the biggest obstacles to human development and economic growth. About 2.1 billion people still live in poverty and 900 million live in extreme poverty. Most of them live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and rural livelihoods for their income and food security.

Evidence shows that climate change is already hurting the rural poor, damaging infrastructure, depressing crop yields, jeopardizing fish stocks, eroding natural resources and endangering species, causing significant damage to agriculture, water resources, ecosystems, and human health.

With the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, countries have renewed their commitment to fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition, acknowledging that tackling climate change is key for moving people out of poverty. Target 1.5 of SDG 1 (End poverty) pays special attention to building resilient livelihoods and helping the rural poor reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

As part of its mandate to eradicate hunger, poverty and foster sustainable agriculture, FAO is supporting countries to achieve effective pro-poor development in the face of climate change, promoting multi-sectoral, pro-poor and climate-informed development policies, sustainable and inclusive production, diversification and decent rural employment, as well as risk informed and shock responsive social protection systems, with a view to leaving no one behind.

For more information: www.fao.org/about/what-we-do/so3/en

About 900 million people live in extreme poverty

75% of these poor live in rural areas and depend on climate-sensitive activities such as **agriculture**, & **rural livelihoods**



Poor people are more vulnerable to climate change



Impacts of climate change are likely to be felt most acutely by the **elderly**, **youth**, **powerless**, **indigenous peoples**, **immigrants** and **women**.

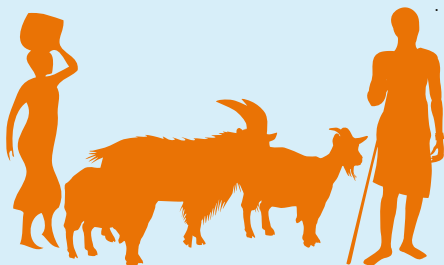
When Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras in 1998, **poor people lost three times more than others**, and when heavy rains flooded Mumbai in 2005, poor households lost twice as much.

Women are more vulnerable to climate change because social and cultural structures often place them in disadvantageous social positions, limiting their access to productive resources, services, markets, technologies, education, public voice, and economic opportunities.

The poor have fewer resources for protecting themselves against **climatic hazards**.

In **periods of stress**, they may be forced to sell off their productive assets or migrate

They have the **fewest resources** to adapt or recovery quickly from shocks, and they often live in the most **vulnerable and risk exposed areas**, because it tends to be the most affordable, such as farmland with limited water access.



Sources:

World Bank, Shocks and waves (2016)

World Bank: www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/02/06/climate-change-complicates-efforts-end-poverty

CEPR Press and Ferdi, Towards a Workable and Effective Climate Regime (2015)

IPCC, Climate Change 2007 – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

Climate change hinders agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods

25% of the damages caused by natural hazards and disasters affect **agriculture**

The agriculture sector absorbs

80% of damage and loss caused by **drought**

Climate change could add

12% to 2030 **food prices in Africa**, where food consumption of the poorest households amounts to over **60%** of their total spending

By 2050, crop yields could decrease by

10-25% increasing **food insecurity & poverty**

100million could become extreme poor by **2030** **without any interventions**

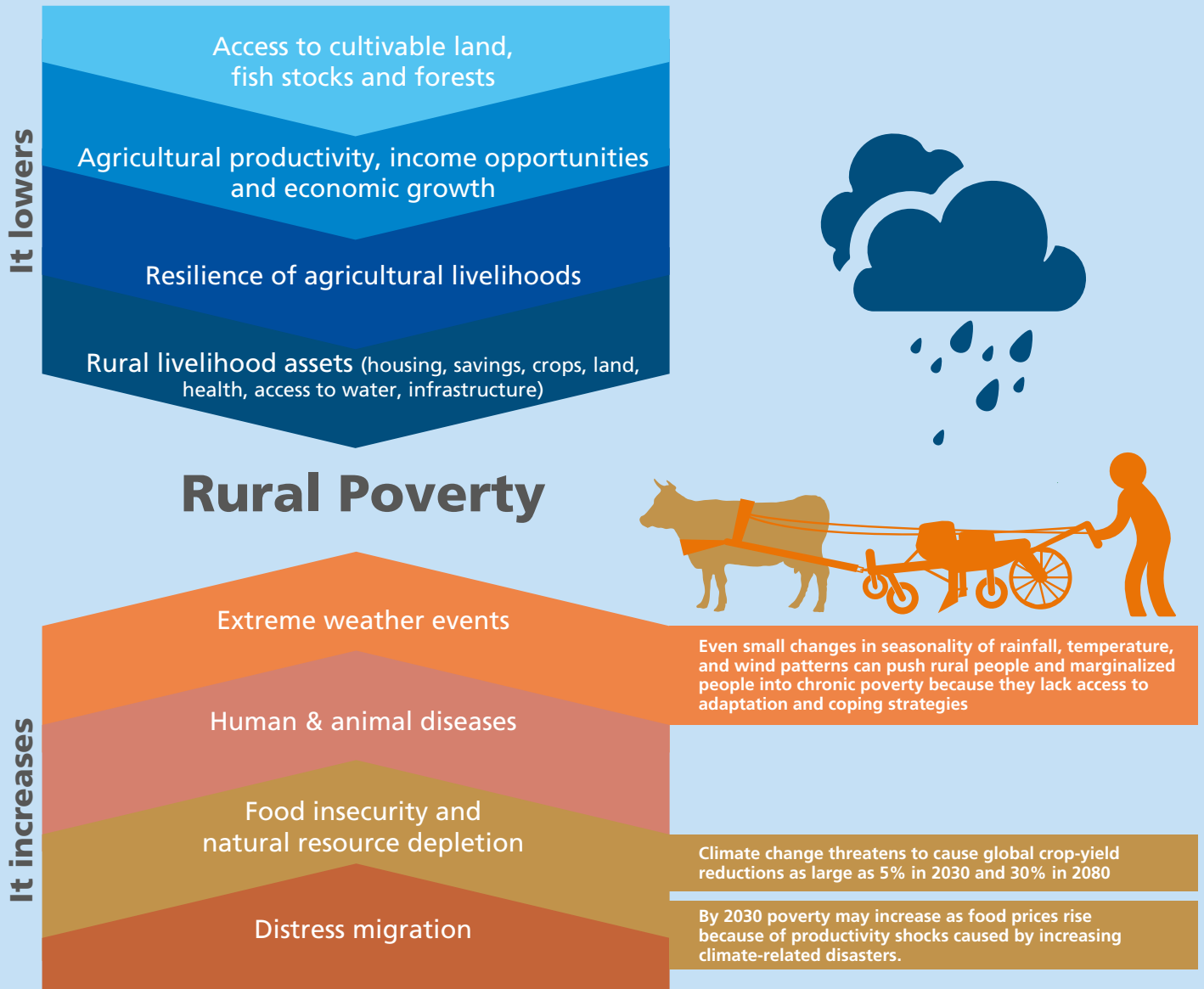
Climate change could create up to

1 billion **environmental migrants** by 2050

Sources:

FAO, The impact of natural hazards and disasters on agriculture and food security and nutrition (2015)
FAO, The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security (2015)
World Bank, Shocks and waves (2016)

Climate change is an obstacle to ending rural poverty



Sources:

World Bank: www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/02/06/climate-change-complicates-efforts-end-poverty

ODI, Climate extremes and resilient poverty reduction (2015)

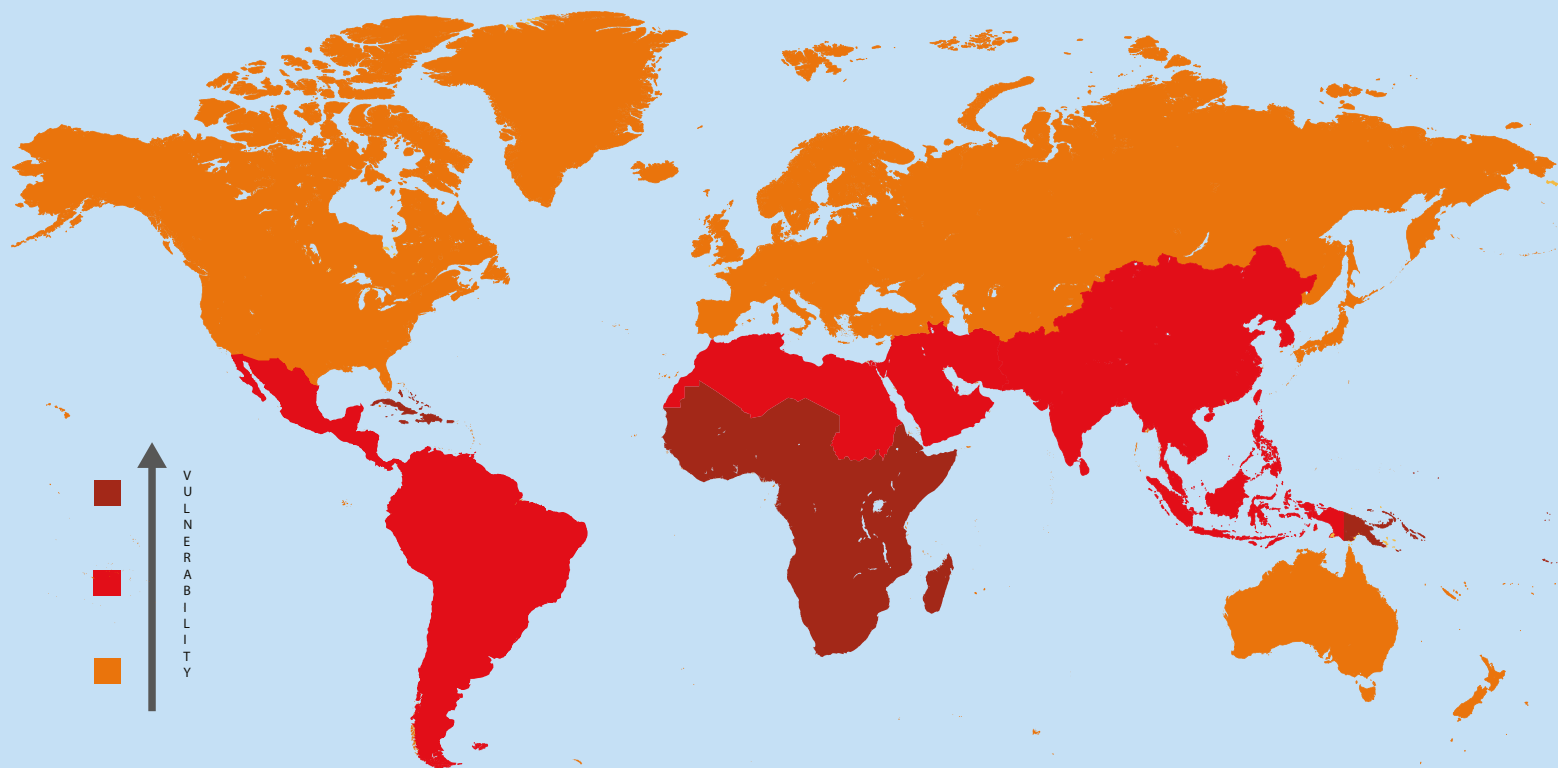
OECD, Poverty and climate change (2003)

World Bank, Shocks and waves (2016)

Countries vulnerable to climate change are often the poorest

90 percent
of the poor

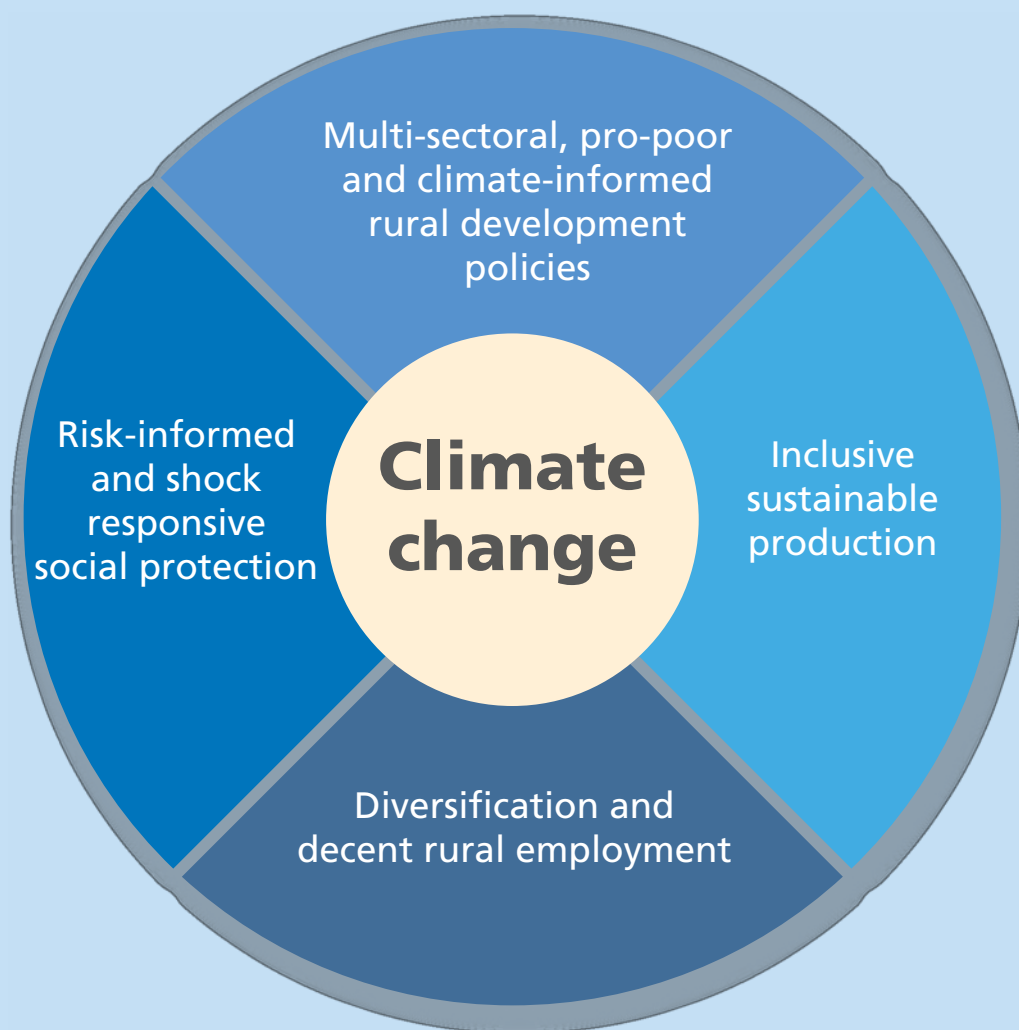
live in East Asia, South Asia
and Sub-Saharan Africa

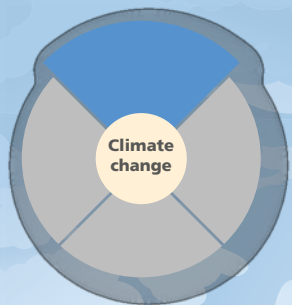


70 percent
of people living in extreme poverty
are concentrated in 10 countries

Bangladesh, China, the Democratic
Republic of Congo, India, Nigeria,
Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar,
Pakistan, and Tanzania

FAO works to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change, to reduce rural poverty





Multi-sectoral pro-poor and climate-informed rural development policies

For development to be climate-resilient, policy instruments to reduce poverty and enable adaptation must be integrated, and designed in a way that

include the climate-vulnerable poor



FAO helps countries formulate multi-sectoral pro-poor development policies, strategies and programmes that integrate climate change and support the rural poor, especially women and youth, to increase their resilience and adaptability to climate change impacts.



Activities

Mainstreaming climate issues into multi-sectoral processes, such as **Poverty Reduction Strategies** or **national strategies** for sustainable rural development

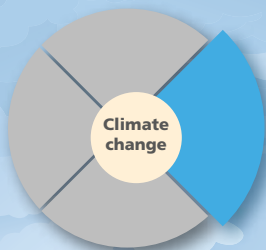
Rural development policies, programs and investment plans that synergize with climate change initiatives and target **climate-vulnerable poor people**

Supporting multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue and inter-ministerial collaboration to mainstream adaptation in their policy, strategies and programmes

Vulnerability assessments to understand climate change impacts on poverty, and assess the capacity of the poor to **cope with and adapt to climate change**

Integration of **climate factor impacts** into macroeconomic projections of economic growth and inequality

Territorial rural development approaches and reforms that embed strategies to **adapt to climate change**



Inclusive sustainable production

60%

Food production needs to increase by 60% by 2050 to feed an additional 2 billion people

CO₂

Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and fisheries have nearly doubled over the past fifty years and could increase an additional 30 percent by 2050, without greater efforts to reduce them



Farm incomes would be as much as 30% higher than current levels if farmers had the option of effectively mitigating risks

FAO works to build inclusive rural economies and foster sustainable agricultural practices, to improve poor people's productivity and livelihoods while increasing their resilience and adaptability to climate change. More efficient management practices of resources such as land and livestock are key to fighting poverty and addressing climate change.



Activities

Empowering the rural poor and strengthening of cooperatives and farmer's organizations to **increase resilience and adaptation**

Improving access to resources, services, markets, technologies, knowledge and decision-making **for the rural poor**

Addressing **gender inequalities in agriculture** and rural development

Integration of crop and livestock, agroforestry and improved land use and management through **rural advisory services and farmer field schools**

Inclusive sustainable intensification of **crop production**

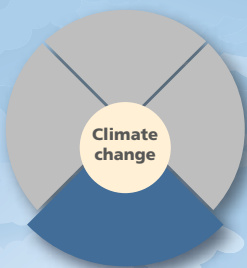
Improved animal health, disease prevention and management

Sources:

FAO, Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods (2016)

FAO, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Emissions by Sources and Removals by Sinks (2014)

FAO, Managing climate risk using climate-smart agriculture (2016)



Diversification and decent rural employment

200
million

To address climate and environmental stresses, the agriculture sector needs to shift towards more sustainable practices, which is estimated to create over 200 million full-time jobs by 2050, particularly more decent green jobs along the food production system



Income diversification, enterprise formation and job creation in the non-farm sector can help build resilience to climate change



Investing in sustainable rural development and climate change adaptation makes rural households more resilient, increases income opportunities and prevents climate-induced migration

FAO works to help the rural poor diversify their income and access more decent employment opportunities both in agriculture and in the broader rural economy by:

- supporting countries to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes that foster green job creation
- promoting good practices on sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, especially for the rural youth.



Activities

Encourage and disseminate sustainable practices in agriculture to improve natural resource management, the health and working conditions of rural poor

Improve access to employment and income-generating opportunities in rural areas, particularly for women, youth and indigenous peoples

Promote the adoption of environment-friendly activities in agriculture

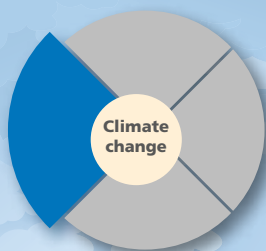
Provide training on the use of green agricultural technologies and on environmentally sustainable food production (i.e.: organic farming and conservation agriculture)

Sources:

FAO, Green Jobs for a Revitalized Food and Agriculture Sector (2011)

FAO, Climate change and food security: risks and responses (2016)

FAO, Migration, agriculture and rural development (2016)



Risk-informed and shock responsive social protection

Recognizing that the poor and most marginalized people are disproportionately affected by hazards and crises, FAO has adopted a comprehensive approach to strengthening resilience and reducing poverty in rural areas through risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems.

Key components of a risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection system:

- > Design informed by multi-dimensional risk and vulnerability analysis;
- > Flexible implementation to allow the scale-up of support in case of threats and crises;
- > Includes early action plans and contingency funds triggered by early warning systems;
- > Resilience building, increasing investments in prevention and building capacity to respond to disasters;
- > Timely, effective and efficient response to extreme climate events channelling humanitarian aid through social assistance delivery mechanisms;
- > Mitigating the impacts of climate change by promoting sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices;
- > Addressing needs of host communities, and displaced populations in times of climate triggered mass migration;
- > Common targeting methodologies to include socio-economic, conflict, food security and nutrition and environmental-related criteria;
- > Public work programmes to contribute to meeting increased household income, while at the same time engaging communities in sustainable practices.

FAO works to build synergies among social protection and climate change to achieve sustainable growth and eliminate rural poverty



Activities

Impact evaluation of **social protection programmes** in food security and nutrition, agricultural productivity, diversification, and on the wider local economy

Assessment of **policy options** and **operational strategies** to coordinate social protection, climate resilience building and climate change adaptation

Research and evidence on the role of social protection for **bridging the humanitarian-development divide**

Design and implementation of **cash-based interventions** (e.g. Cash PLUS) combined with **agricultural interventions**

Development of **policy guidance** on the role of social protection in supporting risk reduction strategies in the agriculture sector

Resilience measurement and **vulnerability analysis**

Sources:

FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture 2015

FAO, Social protection in protracted crises, humanitarian and fragile contexts (2015)

