

# Two Minutes on Climate Change and Hunger

## A Zero Hunger World Needs Climate Resilience

### How climate change affects hunger

Climate change increases the risk of hunger and breaks down fragile food systems around the world.

Not only does it increase the frequency and intensity of floods, droughts and other natural disasters, climate change makes productive land and fresh water more difficult to access and agricultural yields even harder to increase.

Climate shocks endanger millions of people's lives and 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. Even a small weather event can quickly escalate into a food and nutrition crisis.

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.

### Who is most at risk?

The vast majority of the world's 795 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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In 2014, WFP helped 12.7 million people build infrastructure to reduce the impact of climate disasters and help break the cycle of chronic vulnerability over time. This was accomplished by providing food assistance and technical support so communities were free to build shared assets for the future.



In the last five years, 40 percent of WFP's operations included activities aimed at reducing disaster risk or helping people build resilience or adapt to climate change.



Over the last decade, almost half of WFP emergency and recovery operations were launched to help people cope with the impacts of climate-related disasters. These operations represent US\$23 billion worth of investments.

### 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.

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

- **Highlight the links between climate change and hunger to inform policy and programming decisions**
- **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**

### 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.

