

# World Food Programme

## *Weathering the Storm*



## Building resilience as the climate changes

- WFP is operating in complex and challenging times. Droughts and floods, crop failures, degradation of natural resources or conflicts over access to natural resources, are increasingly linked to, or exacerbated by, climate change.
- As the world's largest humanitarian agency, WFP's experience and capacity as an implementing partner for governments across the world are critical contributions to the global response to climate change.
- **WFP helps communities** cope with food insecurity as the poorest and most vulnerable are worst hit. They depend on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture and also lack the capacity to deal with more frequent climatic shocks.
- For years WFP has helped communities re-establish food security through food-for-work projects that build flood defences and small-scale irrigation systems, fix dunes, plant trees, harvest water or rehabilitate depleted land – all are crucial for climate change adaptation.
- **WFP has developed tools** such as Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping, Early Warning Systems, Emergency Needs Assessments, and Weather-based Insurance which have been recognised as key adaptation instruments in the Bali Action Plan.
- Through its community-based food assistance and food-for-work projects, WFP encourages a shift from subsistence farming or dependency to more sustainable livelihoods. WFP tries to improve productivity and prevent degradation of natural resources.
- **Water conservation and management**, particularly in drought-prone areas, reduces seasonal droughts and erosion caused by excessive runoff. In **Ethiopia**, WFP has focused on sustainable land management: in 2007, 30,000 hectares of hillside closures were created and 35 million seedlings produced.
- **Land rehabilitation and management** transforms marginal, eroded-lands into a sustainable, livelihood-enhancing resource base. In **Somalia**, WFP has helped to irrigate and rehabilitate 14 km of canals, digging 32 wells and protecting 380 hectares of farmland.
- **Planting trees** throughout its history has made WFP the developing world's number one forester, having



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planted 5 billion trees. One example was a project to reforest land around the Indian village of Koylivav - which also comprised improvements to water pumps, irrigation structures and community facilities and led to a 150 percent increase in crop yield.

- In **Peru**, WFP's assistance helped the inhabitants of highland villages to build flood-protection ditches and to plant trees to stabilize the soil. Agricultural productivity in one community, Puruay Bajo, went up 20 percent and farmers' incomes by 15 percent.
- **Land development and irrigation and water conservation** activities contribute to reducing vulnerability to food insecurity. WFP's experience in this area includes protecting and upgrading irrigation systems, construction of crop water cisterns, small river weirs, hill-side tanks, drainage ditches terraces, land levelling, tree planting, planting nurseries and firewood lots, closing natural forestry areas, developing upland pastures and deepening of soils.
- **With increased risk of droughts and floods** due to rising temperatures, crop-yield losses are expected in more than 40 developing countries. Many are in sub-Saharan Africa where some experts expect cereal yields to decline by an average of 15 percent by 2080.
- By 2025, there will be an additional 1.6 billion people on the planet, putting even more stress on limited resources.

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## WFP help on the community level

- An innovative, weather-based insurance pilot in **Ethiopia** protects farmers against devastating shocks caused by severe drought, thus saving both lives and livelihoods early on, and preventing widespread destitution.
- WFP's Food Development Fund and the community Safety Net Facility in **Mozambique** have led to rehabilitated drainage canals, created water dams and tree plantations allowing communities in chronically food insecure districts to create sustainable assets.
- Digging 227 water wells and rehabilitating 652 water reservoirs throughout **Afghanistan** - all in exchange for food.
- Construction in **Bolivia** of water reservoirs, small irrigation systems, rehabilitation of land, forestation, and small water systems for human consumption are based on community priorities, participation and ownership to ensure the use, maintenance and management of the assets.

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