

World Food Programme (WFP)

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The World Food Programme (WFP) addresses extreme heat by strengthening community resilience and reducing vulnerability through innovative climate adaptation and risk management strategies that prioritize food security and support for vulnerable populations.

The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

The WFP tackles extreme heat by leveraging climate risk financing & insurance solutions, anticipatory actions, shock-responsive social protection and ecosystem restoration to reduce vulnerability, while using food assistance to strengthen resilience in communities impacted by climate change.

Lead Heat Entities:

Climate & Resilience Service

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KEY FACTS

In 2023, climate extremes drove 72 million people in 18 countries to emergency levels of hunger, triggering 20 million new internal displacements.

Climate-related shocks, including heatwaves, floods, storms, and droughts are causing greater losses and damages to livelihoods, food systems and ecosystems – causing critical immediate and long-term impacts on food insecurity, diets and malnutrition.

[Global Report on Food Crises \(GRFC 2024\)](#)

High ground temperatures have cascading impacts.

Degraded land hinders the efficient replenishment of natural groundwater reservoirs, compromising the water security of communities. The absence of tree cover contributes to an increase in ground temperature, and the lack of water content in the soil means that it cannot cool itself through evapotranspiration, which is, essentially, nature's air conditioning system. When ecosystems collapse, dragging down crops and livelihoods, social unrest or even conflict are more likely to happen.

[WFP: Resilience Building](#)

Regenerating Ecosystems and Restoring Livelihoods

WFP supports communities to restore degraded ecosystems and infrastructure and adopt regenerative practices that increase soil moisture retention and lower soil temperature. Rehabilitating degraded landscapes brings ecological functions back, improves the availability and management of natural resources, and helps communities better adapt to climate shocks. Irrigation systems and water points mitigate heat stressors on crops and livestock, improve water management, and strengthen community cohesion. In 2024, WFP-supported climate risk insurance programmes provided 5.5 million people in 27 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean with financial protection. Inclusive insurance interventions covered 3.2 million people, triggering US\$ 40 million in payouts that benefited one million smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and micro small and medium entrepreneurs (MSMEs).

Core Partners: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GmbH)

★ Featured initiative

Climate Risk Insurance

WFP is collaborating with public and private sector partners to develop innovative climate risk financing and climate protection solutions that enable governments and communities to better manage climate shocks, providing timely resources that support early responses and faster recovery, while reinforcing governments and communities' ability to cope with future disruptions – including drought and floods. In 2023, WFP-supported climate risk insurance programmes provided 5.1 million people in 27 countries with financial protection from extreme climate events. [Current Climate Risk Insurance](#) includes heatwaves as an adverse condition, and considers extreme heat as a climate extreme.

Core Partners: Science and Technology Assistance for Rapid Transformation Network (START), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Centre for Disaster Protection, Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF), Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Insurance Development Forum (IDF), Weather Risk Management Solutions (WRMS), African Risk Capacity (ARC), International Research Institute for Climate & Society (IRI), Blue Marble, Pula Advisors

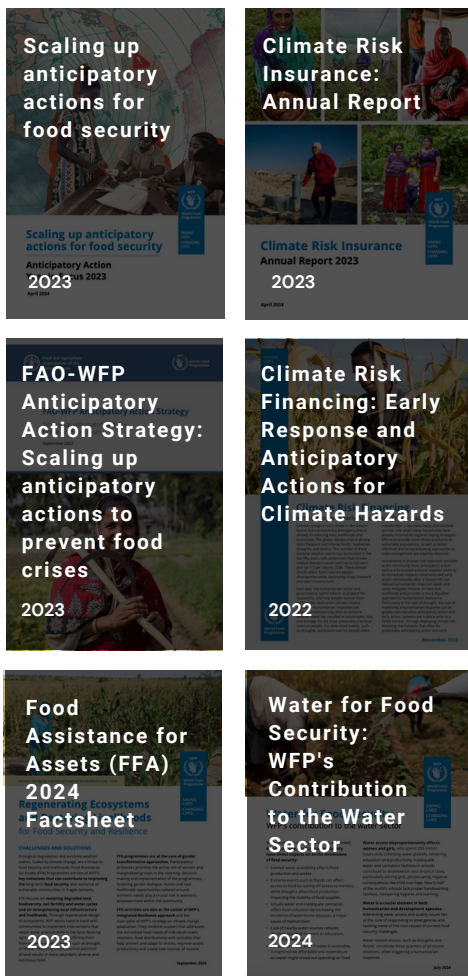
Early Warning & Anticipatory Action

WFP supports governments and communities to managing growing climate risks through anticipatory action and early warning systems. These anticipatory actions aim to prevent and mitigate – to the extent possible – the effects of extreme weather on the food security and nutrition of highly vulnerable people before climate hazards materialize. These proactive actions enable vulnerable communities to adapt to rising temperatures and mitigate the adverse impacts of extreme weather on food security and nutrition. In 2024, WFP supported governments and communities through anticipatory action and early warning systems, covering over 6.1 million people with anticipatory transfers across 43 countries. This included an increase of pre-positioned financing for predictable weather events of almost US\$ 73 million. During the 2024 hazard season, WFP provided anticipatory support ahead of 12 extreme weather events—cyclones, floods and droughts—in 10 countries, reaching over 8 million individuals with early warning messages and over 1 million with anticipatory cash transfers.

Core Partners: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Science and Technology Assistance for Rapid Transformation Network (START Network), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), and Anticipation Hub (Anticipation Hub)



HEAT RESOURCES



Foundational documents governing institutional heat activities

WFP Strategic Plan (2022–2025)

WFP's Strategic Plan acknowledges extreme temperatures as a component of the climate crisis and, consequently, as a key driver of hunger. It identifies the climate crisis as a need to renew action and learning in order to progress towards its strategic goals.

WFP Climate Change Policy (2024) and Resilience Policy (2024)

WFP's Climate Change and Resilience Policies recognize extreme heat as a critical factor exacerbating food insecurity. It emphasizes how climate change, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience-strengthening can support vulnerable communities in managing climate-related risks and their potential impacts on food systems.

WFP's Climate and Resilience Investment Pipeline

WFP's Climate and Resilience Investment Pipeline, first launched in December 2023, is the organization's main vehicle for scaling up financial, technical and partnership support to provide immediate climate protection, accelerating adaptation and building long-term resilience for the most food-insecure populations in fragile and conflict-affected situations. As part of the climate crisis, heatwaves and extreme temperatures are integrated within the Climate and Resilience Investment Pipeline.

SUPPORTING THE SDGs, INCLUDING:



This heat action profile was developed by the [Global Heat Health Information Network](#) in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), as a contribution to the [United Nations Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#) (2024). The content was validated by focal points from the profiled international organization / agency, and captures a snapshot of its heat work at the time of publication. The profile will be periodically updated.

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