

World Food Programme

Climate Change: Enabling people to adapt for the future

Scientific research indicates that climate change will dramatically increase the number of people at risk of hunger and malnutrition, especially in regions and communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America that are already exposed and very vulnerable to food insecurity.

WFP is a frontline actor in the fight against hunger reaching 100 million people on average each year. Working with governments, WFP supports and implements country-led solutions to climate change and climate-related hunger by providing the following assistance:

- **Response to climate-related hunger crises and disasters:** WFP delivers effective humanitarian relief and support to early recovery, in response to an increasing number of climatic disasters, including floods, droughts and storms.
- **Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness:** WFP supports governments, regional organizations, other partners, and vulnerable communities to anticipate and prepare for climate risks, leveraging WFP's capacities in vulnerability analysis and mapping, emergency preparedness and response, early warning, disaster risk reduction, food technology, logistics and information technologies.
- **Community adaptation:** WFP supports national efforts to improve food security by protecting livelihoods and building resilience to climate shocks through locally driven interventions, including income generation, asset creation, environmental conservation, land management, water harvesting, climate-proof infrastructure development, etc.
- **Climate change mitigation:** WFP's programmes support reforestation and afforestation activities that improve food security, reduce emissions, and climate risks, while supporting the use of innovative energy saving technologies such as fuel-efficient stoves.
- **Social protection and safety nets:** WFP assists national institutions to establish programmes that support vulnerable and food insecure people and communities, through safety nets and employment generation schemes.
- **Advocacy and public policy:** WFP advocates on behalf of the countries and people most vulnerable to the hunger and nutritional impact of climate change, and supports the development of global and national policies to mitigate this impact.

WFP has a sound track record of assisting governments and vulnerable people in confronting natural hazards and environmental degradation.

Over the years, WFP helped governments and communities resulting in billions of trees planted, thousands of kilometres of flood defences created, roads rehabilitated, dams reconstructed, and millions of hectares terraced to increase resilience to climatic changes - ultimately saving lives.



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MERET - a success story that can be replicated

The Ethiopian MERET (Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition) experience can serve as reference project for the rest of the world. Through the MERET project, chronically food-insecure communities, particularly women, participate in environmental rehabilitation and income-generating activities. Among the programme's many activities are measures to reforest barren hillsides, restore springs and rainwater ponds, reconstruct agricultural terraces and build and rehabilitate feeder roads to improve access to markets.

international donors. Communities are at the centre of the decision-making, using a participatory planning approach and local knowledge.

The Way Forward

Only about six percent of degraded land in Ethiopia has so far been covered by MERET interventions. There is scope and need to scale up; however, to do so, we need the support and resources from the international community.



About 800,000 people in 300 crisis-prone food-insecure communities currently benefit from the project.

Major Achievements since 1980

- Increased the food security of MERET households by 50 percent
- Reduced the average annual food gap from six to three months.
- 1 million hectares of land rehabilitated through terracing and other measures
- 600,000 hectares reforested
- 26,000 km of check dams constructed to stabilize soil and reduce flood damages
- Raised water tables in catchment areas
- Raised income for households

MERET shows that it is possible to build resilience to a wide array of different shocks, ranging from high food and fuel prices to environmental and climatic shocks, such as prolonged droughts. One reason for its success is that MERET is fully owned and implemented by the Government of Ethiopia and communities, supported by WFP and



Hiwot from Tigray says:

MERET gave me access to water and changed my life. As the ground water level rose, the community helped me build a shallow well near my home and I was able to grow fruits and vegetables. The money I received from selling guava and lemon allowed me not only to send my children to school but also to build a house.



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