



WFP climate change policy update

Glossary

Anticipatory action

Action taken ahead of predicted hazardous events to prevent or reduce their impacts on lives, livelihoods and humanitarian needs, before they fully unfold. ([Risk-informed Early Action Partnership](#), 2022)

Climate change adaptation

In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects. ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), 2023)

Climate change mitigation

A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), 2023)

Climate crisis

The serious problems that are being caused, or are likely to be caused, by changes in the planet's climate, including weather extremes and hazards, ocean acidification and sea-level rise, loss of biodiversity, food and water insecurity, health risks, economic disruption, displacement and even violent conflict. ([United Nations Development Programme](#), 2023)

Climate-related risk (also referred to as **climate risk**)

The potential for the negative impacts of the climate crisis (including extreme weather events and slow-onset stressors, such as sea-level rise) to adversely affect individuals, communities, society, the economy and the environment. This includes negative impacts on lives, livelihoods, health and well-being; economic, social and cultural assets and investments; infrastructure; service provision; ecosystems; and biodiversity. Similarly to *disaster risk*, climate-related risk is a function of three elements: hazard, exposure and vulnerability. (WFP definition, based on [WFP](#), 2023)

Community-based adaptation

An approach to climate change adaptation that focuses on empowering and promoting the adaptive capacity of communities. It is an approach that takes context, culture, knowledge, agency and preferences of communities as strengths. ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), 2022)

Disaster preparedness

The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters. ([United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017](#))

Disaster protection

Managing risks relating to disasters, helping countries move from reaction to readiness, and planning better for future disasters. ([Centre for Disaster Protection, 2024](#))

Disaster risk

The potential loss of life, injury or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or community in a specific period, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity. ([United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017](#))

Disaster risk financing

The system of budgetary and financial mechanisms to credibly pay for a specific risk, arranged before a potential shock. This can include paying to prevent and reduce disaster risk, as well as preparing for and responding to disasters ([Centre for Disaster Protection, 2024](#))

Disaster risk reduction

Practices aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk. Disaster risk reduction is the policy objective of disaster risk management. ([United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017](#))

Ecosystem-based adaptation

A strategy for adapting to climate change that harnesses nature-based solutions and ecosystem services. ([United Nations Environment Programme, 2024](#))

Forecast-based financing

An anticipatory action approach that releases pre-agreed finance for pre-agreed activities to prevent or mitigate the impact of an imminent hazardous event or shock when forecast triggers are reached. ([Risk-informed Early Action Partnership, 2022](#))

Hazard

A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. ([United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017](#))

Loss and damage

Impacts of climate change that can be measured in economic terms, such as damage to homes, infrastructure, food systems and livelihoods, and others that are non-economic, including loss of life, biodiversity, ecosystems, cultural heritage, territory and indigenous knowledge, as well as displacement and adverse effects on health. ([Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2023](#))

Multi-hazard early warning system (also, **multi-hazard forecasting**)

Systems that address several hazards and/or impacts in contexts where hazardous events may occur alone, simultaneously or cumulatively over time, and taking into account the potential interrelated effects. ([United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), 2017)

Pre-arranged financing

Financing that has been approved in advance of a crisis and that is guaranteed to be released to a specific implementer when a specific pre-identified trigger condition is met. ([Centre for Disaster Protection](#), 2024)

Resilience

The capacity of individuals, households, communities, institutions and systems to prepare, anticipate, absorb, recover, adapt and transform in the face of shocks and stressors in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner. ([WFP](#), 2024)

Vulnerability

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards. ([United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), 2017)