

# **WFP POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **ANNOTATED OUTLINE**



### **Informal Consultation**

**6 July 2012**

**FAO – Red Room (Room A121)**

**World Food Programme**  
Rome, Italy



## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

*This section will set the scene and provide the rationale for the policy.*

- 2.1. Climate change is increasing the risk of hunger by exacerbating many existing socio-economic and environmental drivers of food insecurity.
- 2.2. The international community – national governments, regional organizations, the United Nations and civil society – is mobilized against this complex challenge.
- 2.3. WFP has the ability and the responsibility to contribute to efforts to protect the most vulnerable communities in the most marginal, degraded and risk-prone areas from climate-related hunger risks; to build their resilience to future shocks and stresses; and to increase their food and nutrition security in the face of climate change.
- 2.4. This policy outlines WFP's approach to climate change, in line with its mandate and Strategic Objectives. It builds on the Information Note "Climate Change and Hunger: Towards a WFP Policy on Climate Change" and other recent policies – on safety nets, nutrition, etc. – and complements WFP's disaster risk reduction policy.

## **3. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

*Summarizing the latest evidence, this section will outline what climate change is and how it affects vulnerable communities' food and nutrition security, particularly their access to and utilization of food.*

- 3.1. Climate change results in a more complex risk environment characterized by increased uncertainty and variability, more frequent extreme weather events, and alterations in temperatures and precipitation patterns.
- 3.2. Climate change is expected to affect all aspects of food and nutrition security.
  - 3.2.1. Production and availability – declining yields, decreasing productive potential, increasing pests, and degradation of the ecosystems on which vulnerable communities depend.
  - 3.2.2. Utilization – impacts on people's nutrition and health.

3.2.3. Physical and economic access:

- resource scarcity;
- impoverished and fragile livelihood systems;
- declining income and employment opportunities;
- volatile prices and markets;
- population movements, migration, displacement, urbanization, etc.

3.2.4. Governance challenges – affecting the capacities of governments and the international community to implement policies, programmes and services that support food and nutrition security.

3.3. Other trends and responses to climate change and resource scarcity that could affect the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable include biofuels development, land acquisitions, and the marginalization of small farmers.

#### **4. EMERGING CONCEPTS AND BEST PRACTICE INFORMING WFP'S APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

*This section will highlight emerging concepts and existing best practices in relation to climate change and food and nutrition security that are relevant to WFP, and will explain WFP's approach.*

4.1. *Community-based adaptation*: putting people in the centre of development, by facilitating a learning process that increases resilience and adaptive capacity.

4.2. *Climate risk management*: linking disaster risk reduction and management to climate change adaptation.

4.3. *"Climate-smart" agriculture*: enhancing progress towards national food security and development goals by sustainably increasing productivity and resilience through adaptation, while reducing/removing greenhouse gases through mitigation.

4.4. *Adaptive social protection*: linkages between social protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, requiring investment in the human and social capital of vulnerable people.

4.5. *Landscape and ecosystem approaches*: building community and ecosystem resilience operating at the landscape level.

4.6. *Resilience building*: an emerging, overarching concept that underpins people-centered, integrated approaches to climate change.

## **5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF WFP'S APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

*This short section will outline the guiding principles underpinning WFP's approach to climate change.*

- 5.1. *Leveraging comparative advantages.* Climate change is a highly complex challenge. WFP will select the elements that it can address based on its mandate and comparative advantages, and focusing on climate change's impacts on the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable people and communities.
- 5.2. *Working in partnership.* Climate change requires integrated, multi-sectoral approaches at various levels. WFP will build on existing partnerships and explore new ones, to maximize the impact of its work.
- 5.3. *Developing national capacities.* Government leadership is critical for addressing the complexity of climate change impacts on food and nutrition security. WFP will use its tools and capacities to support government efforts to assess and manage climate-related hunger risks and achieve resilience at all levels.
- 5.4. *Mainstreaming climate change.* WFP does not view climate change as an isolated issue, but rather as a factor that exacerbates existing trends. Climate change will therefore be mainstreamed into existing frameworks and resilience-building approaches that are currently being developed.

## **6. WFP'S MAIN OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF WORK IN RELATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

*This section will outline the main areas of WFP's work that can support governments in addressing food insecurity and hunger related to climate change, and that can complement partners' capacities.*

- 6.1. *WFP's main objectives in relation to climate change*
  - Protect food-insecure and vulnerable communities from climate-related hunger risks and impacts.
  - Build resilience – communities' capacity to withstand or recover from stresses and shocks, adapt to change, manage risks and uncertainty, and move towards greater food and nutrition security in the face of climate change.
  - Develop local, national and regional capacities, and contribute to enabling solutions for sustainable food and nutrition security at the local, national and global levels.

## 6.2. WFP's main areas of work in relation to climate change

### 6.2.1. *Focusing on people – protecting and enhancing human capital – through:*

- support to food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable, to protect and enhance human capital as a precondition for resilience and adaptive capacity;
- food and nutrition security assistance and protection during climate-related emergencies;
- climate-sensitive nutrition and food security policies, programmes and interventions; and
- work with special target groups, such as women and children: for example, empowering women in their role as agents of change, through food for training, mother-and-child health and nutrition, Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (SAFE) stoves, and school feeding.

### 6.2.2. *Supporting resilient livelihoods, production systems and landscapes – building livelihood resilience – through:*

- productive safety nets supporting community-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction/management and the shift to climate-smart agriculture or other types of resilient production systems;
- asset creation, land rehabilitation and landscape transformation;
- diversification of livelihood strategies to increase the options for adapting to risks;
- connecting farmers to markets through Purchase for Progress (P4P); and
- insurance and risk transfer (refer to the disaster risk reduction policy).

### 6.2.3. *Strengthening WFP and partners' capacities for food and nutrition security in the face of climate change – through:*

- knowledge of climate vulnerability, and risk analysis;
- climate-sensitive policies, programmes and approaches for enhanced resilience at the local, national and regional levels;
- disaster risk reduction and management systems and services at the local, national and regional levels, to manage uncertainty and climate-related hunger risks;
- risk transfer and insurance tools and services; and
- strengthened markets, including through community-managed food stocks.

## 7. IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

*The section will address how to mainstream climate change into WFP's existing toolkit, programmes and service to strengthen their effectiveness. It will also outline new areas of work.*

- 7.1. *Internalizing climate issues in all policies, planning and programming, through guidance and capacity development to strengthen WFP's ability to mainstream approaches to climate change and contribute to national capacity development efforts.*
- 7.2. *Enhancing capacities, knowledge and services in climate risk analysis by developing food security assessment and analysis capacities, and knowledge tools and services for anticipating climate and weather-related trends and shocks and assessing their impacts on food and nutrition security, people, livelihoods, ecosystems and institutions.*
- 7.3. *Enhancing the disaster risk reduction and management toolkit and emergency preparedness and response capacities – climate risk reduction and management – through developing capacities in emergency preparedness and response, early warning, disaster risk management and response and links with the disaster risk reduction policy and action plan.*
- 7.4. *Programming and operational implications – building long-term resilience to climate-related risks – through strengthening the longer-term planning and programming toolkit, building on lessons and best practice and focusing on resilience building and prevention, natural resource management and landscape/environmental outcomes, and climate-smart agriculture and potential climate change mitigation co-benefits, such as carbon finance for communities.*
- 7.5. *Strengthening partnerships, to enhance the ability to deliver multiple benefits and resilience-building outcomes for vulnerable communities*
- 7.6. *Engaging in the local, national and global policy dialogue on hunger risks related to climate change, including through international climate change negotiations, conferences, regional centres, think-tanks, research centres, national platforms, and United Nations country teams.*
- 7.7. *Resource implications and mobilization.*
- 7.8. *Measuring success, by developing indicators for resilience to climate-related threats to food and nutrition security.*

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

### **BOX OR ANNEX 1:**

Climate change and disaster risk reduction in WFP's programmes – based on review of standardized project reports and referring to the Information Note that outlines past WFP activities on climate change in detail.

### **BOX OR ANNEX 2:**

Greening WFP