



WFP ACTION PLEDGES TO THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME
Pledge #1: Responding to climate-related emergencies

Background

WFP fights hunger on the front lines of complex humanitarian crises. Some of these crises—such as droughts and floods, crop failures, degradation of natural resources, and conflicts over access to natural resources—will increasingly be 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 has the capacity to respond to climate-related emergencies through a global logistical apparatus, global communications infrastructure and an extensive network of 76 country offices, 270 sub-offices and 9,000 staff in the field, often in high-risk settings.

Pledging to respond to climate-related emergencies, WFP responds to the **NWP Call for Action 3**: “Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development;” corresponding to the **climate-related risks and extreme events work area of the NWP**.

Activities carried out in 2007

In 2007, WFP’s preparedness, logistics and rapid response capabilities were crucial in 44 emergency operations and 69 protracted relief and recovery operations.

WFP was called upon to mitigate the effects of floods, windstorms and other extreme weather events. The largest natural disaster response was in Bangladesh last November when WFP provided food assistance to 2.3 million people hit by a cyclone and devastating floods. It also provided emergency responses to widespread flooding across eastern, central and western Africa, Hurricane Dean in the Caribbean, tropical storms Noel and Olga in the Dominican Republic, cyclones in Mozambique and Pakistan, Hurricane Felix in Nicaragua.

Throughout the year, the organization continued to support United Nations reform by improving the work on **preparedness and response mechanisms for emergencies** through the WFP-led Global Logistics Cluster (GLC). **WFP’s globe-spanning network of United Nations Humanitarian Resource Depots (UNHRDs)** expanded in 2007 to include five strategically placed hubs in Italy, Ghana, Panama, Malaysia and Dubai. The UNHRDs, stocked with standardized relief material and centrally managed, allowed to ship essential relief within 24 to 48 hours of onset. Nine new users joined the network in 2007, bringing the total to 19.

Geographic information systems (GIS) technology, in particular remote sensing and satellite imagery, enhanced WFP’s capacity to respond efficiently and effectively to extreme weather events. This capacity was developed in collaboration with the Information Technology for Humanitarian Assistance, Cooperation and Action (ITHACA) project, funded by WFP and the University of Turin. Satellite surveillance proved invaluable when floods struck Mozambique in February 2007. Within 48 hours of the first inundation, **imagery showing the extent of the flooding combined with WFP’s extensive mapping of household vulnerability informed response teams** of the proportion of people who had been food-insecure before the floods, what their livelihoods were and how they might be affected, giving the teams a significant advantage in programming the response.

Outcomes

- Improved preparedness and rapid and effective response to humanitarian emergencies, including those linked to extreme weather events, in order to save lives, protect and rebuild livelihoods, and increase resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. .

