

**Inputs provided by:** *United Nations World Food Programme*

**1. General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. On average, WFP aims to reach more than 90 million people with food assistance in more than 70 countries. More than 70 million of these people are directly affected by climate-related disasters such as droughts, floods, and storms. Given the impact of climate variability and change on food security, WFP has prioritised efforts to mainstream climate risk in its operations – including through analysis of climate impacts on food security, design and implementation of food security and climate change adaptation projects, and similar innovative services.

Every year, WFP implements projects with a total budget of approximately US\$3-4 billion. A large proportion of this budget directly supports people affected by climate-related disasters.

**2. Relevant operational framework(s)**

The core policies and strategies that govern WFP activities are to provide food aid:

- to save lives in refugee and other emergency situations;
- to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives; and
- to help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive works programmes.

WFP's strategic plan for 2014-2017 lays out four objectives for the organization:

1. Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies;
2. Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies;
3. Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs; and
4. Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger.

These objectives reflect the changing nature of food aid and hunger, and WFP's history, experience and comparative advantages. The third Strategic Objective, in particular, aims under its first goal to *"support people, communities and countries to strengthen resilience to shocks, reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change through food and nutrition assistance"*.

WFP's [Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management](#), approved in 2011 by its Executive Board, highlights the organisation's critical role in food security analysis (including assessment of loss and damage), monitoring and early warning (including observation of climate impacts on food security), programme design (including implementation of country-driven risk management strategies), emergency preparedness and response, resilience-building, social protection, and capacity development to support the most vulnerable communities. Through all of these functions, WFP addresses climate risks faced by the most food insecure and vulnerable people, supports adaptation, and helps governments and communities manage loss and damage.

### 3. Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

WFP supports activities related to loss and damage through a range of activities identified in 3/CP.18. Examples are provided below:

- a) **Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts.** WFP works with national governments, national meteorological services, and key scientific institutions such as the UK Met Office Hadley Centre, Columbia University's International Research Institute (IRI), and other partners to develop tools and services that can help better understand the relationship between climate-related risks, food security, and livelihoods. The methods have been tested in 5 countries – Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan – with useful results to identify potential mechanisms to prioritise climate change adaptation planning and management of loss and damage to support the most vulnerable and food insecure communities.
- b) **Identifying options and designing and implementing country-driven risk management strategies and approaches, including risk reduction, and risk transfer and risk-sharing mechanisms.** On average, every year, through its resilience-building activities, WFP supports more than 20 million people in almost 10,000 of the most food-insecure communities in the world, improving access to food and reducing risk through food for assets programmes that improve livelihoods by catalysing community-based processes. These programmes supported specific efforts to build resilience and manage potential loss and damage through activities such as soil and water conservation, land and productive infrastructure rehabilitation, and training in disaster risk management and livelihood protection for community members. Although few impact evaluations are available, those that are – including from Ethiopia and Kenya – show evidence of significant increases in food security as a result of these interventions.

Based on these experiences, WFP is also leveraging the capacities of its partners to develop innovative mechanisms to support the most vulnerable and food insecure. The UN World Food Programme, Oxfam and Swiss Re have formed a strategic partnership which builds on the respective strengths of both organizations, to create the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, known as "R4". R4 is a multi-country, five year initiative. It started out in Ethiopia in 2010, building on the initial success of HARITA (Horn of Africa Risk Transfer for Adaptation), an integrated risk management framework developed by Oxfam America and its partners. HARITA broke new ground in the field of rural risk management by enabling Ethiopia's poorest farmers to pay for crop insurance with their own labour, through an innovative "insurance for work" mechanism. R4 represents a model for integrating disaster risk reduction and risk transfer into social protection systems that target the most vulnerable and food insecure communities.

- c) **The systematic observation of, and data collection on, the impacts of climate change, in particular slow onset impacts, and accounting for losses, as appropriate.** Effective early warning and hazard (especially climate-related hazards) analysis are essential for emergency preparedness, and represent core competencies of WFP. At the same time, WFP supports the development of national, regional and global food security and hazard early warning systems. WFP has led the development of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) humanitarian early warning service (HEWSweb), a common platform for global humanitarian early warning. In addition, it supports the development of sub-regional and national food security early warning systems, in close collaboration with national and regional institutions such as the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

(CILSS), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

- d) **Implementing comprehensive climate risk management approaches, including scaling up and replicating good practices and pilot initiatives.** The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative seeks to enable poor farmers to strengthen their food and income security through a combination of four risk management strategies: improved natural resource management; agricultural insurance; microcredit; and savings. R4 was launched in Senegal in November 2012. A national and sub-national assessment was carried out, leading to the selection of the Koussanar rural community (located in the Tambacounda region, in eastern Senegal) as the first R4 implementation site. In 2013, the Koussanar pilot aims to enroll 500 participants in 12 villages. Over the following three years, the Initiative will be rapidly scaled-up in other areas, with a target of 6,000 participants in 2014, and 18,000 in 2015 and 2016. Over the next five years, WFP and Oxfam will scale this innovative climate risk management approach up in at least 2 additional countries.
- e) **Involving vulnerable communities and populations, and civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, in the assessment of and response to loss and damage.** In its vulnerability assessments, monitoring and early warning exercises, WFP works closely with relevant stakeholders including communities, civil society, the private sector, and governments to better assess and respond to loss and damage.

For example, in Bangladesh, WFP's Enhancing Resiliency project, communities are involved in the entire process – from risk assessment to programme design, implementation and evaluation. The project is implemented with the Government and NGO partners. It has assisted 30,000 food insecure households with raising their homes above flood levels, and has trained 1.3 million women in disaster preparedness since 2001. Activities implemented under this project help the most vulnerable communities better manage loss and damage associated with climate change.

Similarly, as part of the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative in Senegal, a national and sub-national assessment was carried out, leading to the selection of the Koussanar rural community (located in the Tambacounda region, in eastern Senegal) as the first R4 implementation site. Villages in Koussanar have been involved in the process of identifying risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities, and are also involved in the design of the insurance product which will be offered under the Initiative. It is expected that insurance-for-work activities will enhance the ability of at-risk populations to manage loss and damage and transfer risks.

- f) **Enhancing access to, sharing and the use of data, at the regional, national and subnational levels, such as hydrometeorological data and metadata, on a voluntary basis, to facilitate the assessment and management of climate-related risk.** The LEAP food security early warning tool converts agro-meteorological data into crop or rangeland production estimates and quantifies the financial resources needed to scale up the Productive Safety Net Programme in case of a major drought. LEAP provides a transparent and verifiable way to trigger contingent funds to enable an early response before the most severe consequences of drought affect people's lives and livelihoods. The meteorological information used in LEAP comes from satellite data and a network of automated and conventional weather stations. To improve the quality and availability of this data, the LEAP project is investing in the national meteorological infrastructure through the installation of automated weather stations (37 have been installed, 20 more will be provided in 2012).

#### 4. Geographic coverage

WFP is operational in more than 70 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. WFP supports activities related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in over 60 countries every year.

**R4:** The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative is being piloted in Senegal and Ethiopia. By 2015 it is expected that R4 will expand to two additional countries, including potentially Kenya.

#### 5. Key stakeholders

WFP implements projects in partnership with:

- **National governments.** The governments of the countries where WFP operates are our principal partners. Co-ordination and co-operation with them are essential - both in emergencies and development projects.
- **Non-governmental organisations.** Non-governmental organisations transport, store or distribute food on behalf of WFP. We have productive working partnerships with around 2,000 NGOs.
- **FAO and IFAD.** The three Rome-based UN agencies - WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - work together to address hunger in the world.
- **Other UN agencies.** WFP often collaborates with other UN Agencies relying on its sister organisations for technical advice and non-food resources in both crises and development situations.
- **Corporate partners.** WFP is seeking additional funding and valuable expertise from private companies active in areas such as transport, food, information and communications technology, logistics, finance and human resources.

The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative is a strategic partnership between WFP, Oxfam America, and Swiss Re.

These partners are often stakeholders.

#### 6. Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms

WFP is the food assistance arm of the United Nations system. Food assistance is one of the many instruments that can help to promote food security, which is defined as access of all people at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. Targeted interventions are needed to help to improve the lives of the poorest people - people who, either permanently or during crisis periods, are unable to produce enough food or do not have the resources to otherwise obtain the food that they and their households require for active and healthy lives.

Consistent with its mandate, which also reflects the principle of universality, WFP:

- uses food assistance to support economic and social development;
- meets refugee and other emergency food needs, and the associated logistics support; and
- promotes world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and FAO.

WFP supports projects primarily through food transfers. Increasingly, WFP is also implementing projects through cash and voucher transfers – and through the R4 Initiative, WFP is piloting the potential of using insurance-for-work as a

strategy to build resilience through risk transfer.

A key component of WFP's operational strategy is to build the capacity of partners and governments to implement projects, develop early warning systems, and ensure national food security.

## **Reporting**

The submission of timely and accurate reports is essential for management follow-up, particularly when prompt corrective action needs to be taken. It also allows staff to respond to questions from donors, other agencies and the news media, which is vital in ensuring the continuing flow of resources and inter-agency coordination. Regular, authoritative reports help maintain donor confidence and support resource mobilisation efforts: they form the basis of WFP's accountability to its donors and the international community.

WFP produces Standard Project Reports (SPRs) which show the use of resources provided to WFP and the results obtained from 1 January through 31 December of the reporting year, for development, protracted relief and recovery, emergency and special operations. As a project report, rather than a contribution-specific report, the document lays out the objectives of the project, the mode of implementation, the resources used for implementation and the results obtained by the project. In addition, it shows the breakdown and usage of financial resources, by donor, with respect to directed multilateral contributions. The report is distributed to all donors who made directed multilateral contributions to a given project. However, all of the project reports completed may be downloaded from the Web.

WFP also produces an Annual Evaluation Report. The aim of this report is to provide a synthesis of findings from evaluations during a year. This analysis helps WFP understand corporate strengths and identify common concerns that require solutions.

## **7. Key activities / outputs to date**

WFP's disaster risk reduction and management activities build on a body of experience consolidated over decades of work with governments and the most food-insecure communities to prepare for and respond to disasters, reduce disaster risk, build resilience, and manage potential loss and damage associated with climate change. These activities are a significant part of WFP's work in the field. On average, every year, through its resilience-building activities, WFP supports 15 - 20 million people in almost 10,000 of the most food-insecure communities in the world, improving access to food and reducing risk through food for assets programmes that improve livelihoods by catalysing community-based processes. These programmes supported specific efforts to build resilience and manage potential loss and damage through activities such as soil and water conservation, land and productive infrastructure rehabilitation, and training in disaster risk management and livelihood protection for community members. Although few impact evaluations are available, those that are – including from Ethiopia and Kenya – show evidence of significant increases in food security as a result of these interventions.

In Ethiopia, R4 has scaled up quickly from 200 households in 2008 to nearly 20,000 households in 2012. The initiative reached a major milestone in 2012 when nearly 12,000 drought-affected households received an insurance payout of over US\$320,000. This insurance payout helped households absorb the shock, repay loans, and invest in agricultural inputs for the next season

## **8. Any additional information and contact details**

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