



World Food
Programme

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Forecast-based Financing in eastern Africa

An anticipatory approach to climate emergencies

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WFP'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH

1. Introduction

An anticipatory approach to climate emergencies

Extreme weather events are one of the leading causes of hunger around the world, yet climate-induced emergencies can no longer be considered surprise, a one-off phenomenon.

In fact, the opposite is closer to reality: such events have become increasingly predictable. As such, more can be done to anticipate, mitigate and prevent the impact of climate emergencies on the food security of the world's most vulnerable people.

Throughout the world, capabilities in crisis forecasting, early warning, vulnerability assessments, disaster preparedness and climate risk financing have been honed over decades. However, they continue to be used to deliver response, rather than to enable prevention and mitigation of risk. These tools are essential for a better-informed and more forward-looking approach to crisis management. But they need to be customized to support decision-making and implement anticipatory actions ahead of climate-related humanitarian crises.

In Africa, Asia and Latin America WFP is working with national and sub-national governments to implement the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) approach which links early-warning systems with contingency plans and pre-positioned finance to mitigate and/or prevent the impact of predictable emergencies on the most vulnerable. This brochure is specifically focused on how the FbF approach in eastern Africa is enabling risk-informed systems to reduce increasing food insecurity due to extreme weather and climate events.

"AS WELL AS SAVING LIVES BY SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES, WE'RE ALSO CHANGING LIVES BY INTERVENING BEFORE THE CRISIS HITS TO SET FAMILIES ON THE ROAD TO GREATER RESILIENCE."

David Beasley, WFP Executive Director

2. Climate risk: a major challenge to food security in eastern Africa

Food insecurity is rising fast

Eastern Africa is one of the most food insecure regions in the world. Climate change has worsened the situation with the number of people subjected to acute food insecurity rising from 23.8 million in 2016 to 32.4 million people in May 2021¹.

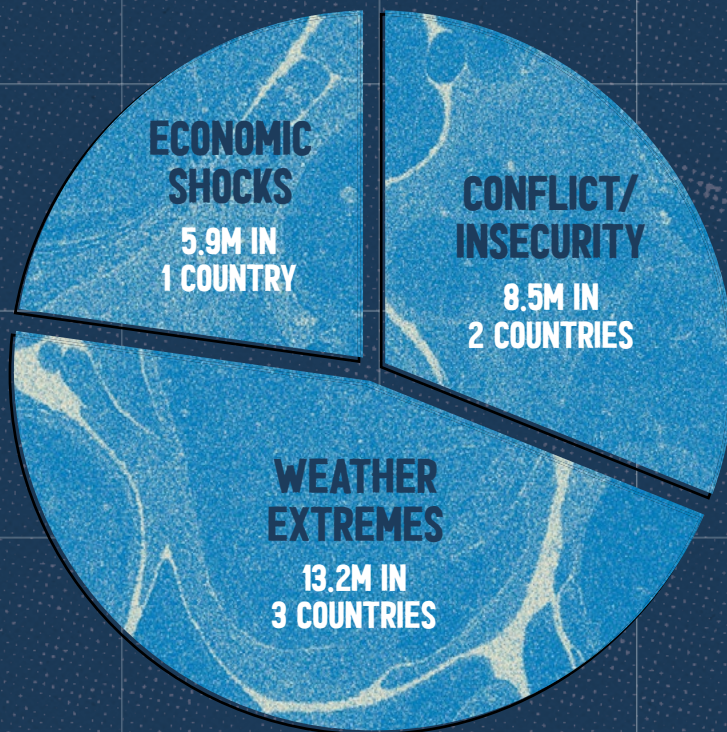
This rise is largely attributed to an increased number of droughts – characterised by successive seasons of below average rainfall – since 2015. In the last 20 years, droughts in the region have occurred every two to three years². Heavy rainfall has also resulted in millions of people being affected and caused damage to infrastructure and livelihoods, as well as causing significant food shortages. Due to climate change, the frequency and intensity of drought and flood events are on the rise, increasing the risk of rising numbers of food insecure people.



1. FSNWG Climate Alert May 2021

2. EM-DAT


Climate is compounding other risks to food insecurity



NUMBERS OF ACUTELY FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE IN CRISIS OR WORSE [IPC/CH PHASE 3 OR ABOVE] BY KEY DRIVER.

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020

WFP – Forecast-based Financing in eastern Africa



In a region where livelihoods and development are dependent on rainfall, climate shocks are exacerbating the impacts of other key drivers of food insecurity such as conflict, pests, disease, and socio-economic shocks. All the while, natural resources are being degraded. Combined, these factors pose a big threat to WFP's strategic objectives of ending hunger and improving nutrition and food security in the region.

3. Forecast-based Financing in eastern Africa

Forecast-based Financing (FbF) is a climate-risk financing approach that can be integrated with other disaster risk-financing initiatives to mitigate potential impacts of a severe weather and climate event. The overall objective of the FbF approach is to proactively reduce the impact of climate hazards by connecting early-warning systems to prepositioned anticipatory finance and pre-agreed anticipatory actions that protect lives, livelihoods and development gains of the most vulnerable populations in the eastern Africa region.

The FbF approach achieves this by building flexible-finance mechanisms and anticipatory actions into existing humanitarian and government disaster risk-management protocols and connecting them with early warning systems, social protection, food systems programming and other complimentary programmes that provide safety nets for the most vulnerable.

With financial support from DANIDA, IFAD, ECHO, USAID

early-warning systems



prepositioned
anticipatory finance



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