

Adaptation to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan African Humanitarian Situations

Humanitarian crises continue to grow in scale and complexity with more than 130 million people across the world in need of humanitarian assistance. While the root causes of many of the most urgent humanitarian emergencies today are political, climate change is a primary intensifier of humanitarian crises.

Some regions are more vulnerable than others. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in particular, has identified sub-Saharan Africa as a climate change hotspot.

The region is expected to see an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events as well as increased desertification, with significant consequences on agricultural production, food security and tensions linked to displacement and access to water.

Integrating climate change considerations into humanitarian action can lead to a faster, risk-informed crisis response and contribute to shifting from short-term stability to long-term resilience.

The Project

The UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit is an implementing partner of the inter-agency project on “Adaptation to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan African Humanitarian Situations”, which aims to strengthen climate change adaptation in target humanitarian hotspots. The project supports vulnerable communities, internally displaced people, refugees and host communities facing climate-related risks.

Implementing countries

Burundi, Chad and Sudan are home to some of the world’s largest displaced populations and vulnerable communities, highly exposed to climatic risks.

Partners



WFP (lead), JEU, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA).

Duration

2 years (Sep 2018 – Aug 2020)

The JEU plays a key role in the project by organizing inception and technical workshops to bring together climate change and humanitarian actors, by leading climate vulnerability assessments in target humanitarian hotspots and by mainstreaming climate change considerations in humanitarian planning.

Expected outputs

The project has the following main outputs:

1 Improved understanding and integration of climate-environment risk planning and preparedness processes and tools.

- 212,940 people with increased adaptive capacity.
- At least 17 national authorities, UN and NGO's with new or improved programmes, policies and processes by 2020.

2 A "no regrets strategy" integrated into existing humanitarian programmes, focusing on improving cleaner energy access, water management and reforestation.

- 48,500 improved cookstoves adopted.
- 305 schools adopting fuel efficient cooking practices and technologies.
- 63 solar panels installed in Burundi.
- 4 health clinics and 5 schools enabled to provide improved health, nutrition and educational services.
- 1,920 hectares of forest planted/rehabilitated.
- 3,064,000 trees successfully planted.

3 Governments, communities and individuals living in target sites have access to knowledge, skills and tools to address the impacts of climate change.

- 352,700 people received information on impacts and options for adaptation.
- 12,650 people trained in diversified livelihoods.
- 37 stakeholder consultations.
- 1,296 stakeholders participated in trainings/workshops on climate change adaptation measures.



A no regrets strategy

A no regrets strategy means adopting measures with the aim of responding to the impacts of climate change – before all its dimensions are fully known, and before they intensify further. The strategy of the IKI project is to focus in cleaner energy access, improved water management and reforestation – each being also an investment in sustainable natural management, reducing risks associated with communities' dependence on surrounding ecosystems and thus generating co-benefits for health, nutrition, protection, livelihoods and the environment.

To learn more about the IKI project please visit the Environmental Emergencies Centre:
<http://www.eecentre.org/2019/05/01/iki-project/>

Joint Environment Unit:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) respond as one UN to the environmental dimensions of emergencies. The partnership assists countries affected by disasters and crises and works to enhance the sustainability of humanitarian action.

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