Climate change and food security
WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office
Trinidad and Tobago

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• The **climate crisis** is driving global food insecurity now and threatens to trigger catastrophic humanitarian needs.

• In 2022, climate extremes were the primary driver of acute food insecurity for 56.8 million people in 12 countries.

• According to an IPCC finding, **up to 30% of current crop and livestock areas will become unsuitable** for food production by the end of the century if emissions are not reduced.

• Higher temperatures **can severely affect agricultural yields**. One study estimates that each 1°C increase in global mean temperature could see reductions in global yields of wheat (6%), rice (3.2%), and maize (3.2%).
The Caribbean region is exposed to a wide range of natural hazards which pose a significant threat to people’s lives, their livelihood activities and their food security.
Heatwaves, floods, drought and tropical storms were the main natural hazards affecting respondents over the last 12 months.

Two thirds of those affected by natural hazards reported **high or medium impact** on their livelihoods or income.
Over a third of respondents have low resilience capacity to cope with, recover from and adapt to natural hazards.

Women and households with the lowest income levels have the lowest resilience capacity.
There are 3.7 M food insecure people in the Caribbean.
• **Reduced food consumption:** Food consumption and diets further deteriorated with 5% going an entire day without eating, 37% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual and 31% eating less preferred foods in the week leading up the survey.

• 77% of respondents indicated that they spent savings to meet their immediate food needs, 11% of those respondents indicated they already carried this out and cannot continue to do so. 65% of respondents reported to have reduced essential non-food expenditures with 9% reporting already carried this out and being unable to continue. Almost a quarter of respondents (30%) of respondents resorted to selling productive assets or goods while 6% of respondents already carried this out before and cannot continue to do so.

• It is estimated that **61% of respondents** are either moderately (35%) or severely (25%) food insecure. For comparison: in the English-speaking Caribbean around 52% of the population are estimated to be food insecure.
• A key area for investment is **social protection systems**.
• Innovations in connecting these systems to other services are starting to grow and suggest there are ways to make social protection more climate-responsive and resilient. For example, experiences are growing in connecting early warnings to social protection systems so that governments and humanitarian organizations can **anticipate and finance actions** ahead of climatic events such as droughts, storms, and floods.