



World Food Programme

Resilience Building through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean

Globally, disaster and nutritional risk is increasing due to climate change and population growth.

Protecting food security through climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts has become a central priority for the World Food Programme. Over the past 30 years, WFP Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been building resilience through interventions such as reforestation, soil and water conservation techniques, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community trainings in disaster risk management. These activities are an integral part of WFP's strategy in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Based on past successes, WFP is working regionally to incorporate innovative tools, and to document and scale up best practices. Currently, WFP is developing:

- A **Regional Resilience Alliance** for the Dry Corridor of Central America, bringing together stake-holders in the region in an effort to assist local subsistence and small-holder farmers and their families to adapt to recurrent shocks and extended droughts.
- An **Andean Region** Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction initiative to increase food security, focusing on women beneficiaries and the unique challenges they face.

These resilience activities form part of WFP LAC's integrated approach to disaster management. More long-term and sustainable interventions complement immediate response efforts for sudden and onset emergencies and focus on adapting to the effects of climate change and related disasters, such as drought and glacial flooding.

WFP employs community and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies in its resilience interventions. A community-based approach is critical to ensuring ownership, sustainability, and accountability at the local level, as well as participation of the groups most vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity. Resilience of agricultural systems requires improving water management, soil conservation, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation strategies focused on micro-watersheds.

Programmes using the Cash and Voucher (C&V) modality address both immediate nutritional needs and long-term recovery by enabling beneficiaries to buy food available in local markets, stimulating local production and increasing beneficiaries' purchasing power.

Regional Resilience Alliance for the Central American Dry Corridor

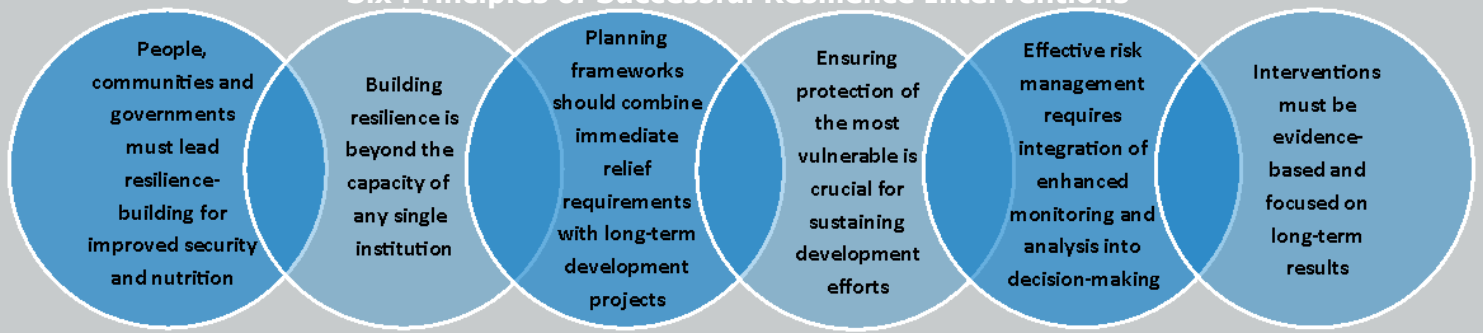
In 2012 WFP joined forces with key stakeholders to design a plan of action to reduce food and nutritional insecurity among vulnerable farmers in the Dry Corridor that extends throughout Central America:

- Agricultural Council of Central American (CAC)
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABIE)
- Central American Commission for Agriculture and Development (CCAD)
- Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC)
- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)



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Six Principles of Successful Resilience Interventions



Resilient Communities

"Building Resilient Communities and Municipalities in the Dry Corridor of Central America" (ComRes) is a WFP regional programme based on the existing Country Programmes and Strategies.

As part of WFP's programmatic contribution to the Regional Resilience Alliance for the Dry Corridor of Central America, ComRes builds upon WFP's successful pilot interventions. Aiming to increase resilience in this region through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities, the programme follows the Resilience Alliance's four main focus areas, contributing through an ecosystem and watershed based approach; community and livelihood assets creation and knowledge generation, innovation and sharing in addition to the cross-cutting issues of social inclusion and accountability.

Focused on strengthening food and nutritional security in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, the targeted ComRes areas were selected through by analyzing concrete evidence from WFP's Trend Analysis in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua as well as the Assessment Study of Dry Corridor of Central America - CA4Countries, (FAO, ECHO, ACH 2012).

Further, ComRes incorporates participatory tools, such as the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) and Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) to identify community goals, activities and potential partners. The success of these methodologies is based on their inclusive nature, which allows participants to identify the real needs of the community, forging solid partnerships and promoting both public and community ownership.

Thus far, there have been five SLPs: two in Guatemala; two in Honduras and one in El Salvador, as well as three CBPP (two in Guatemala and one in Honduras). In Guatemala, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA) has decided to incorporate these methodologies in the core training package of its Regional Coordination and Rural Extension Directorate (DICORER) and

plans to carry out them out in all the country's departments.

Real Results in Guatemala

WFP's current resilience agenda utilizes best practices and lessons learned from earlier projects, such as a resilience pilot in the communities of Cabricán, Santa Rosa Pixbaj de Sololá, Cipresales, and Chucanac in Guatemala. In 1992, Guatemala's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA) and WFP Guatemala began the project, working with the participating communities to plan and implement resilience and disaster risk reduction activities. By 1997, the communities and municipalities working with the project achieved significantly improved resilience. Fifteen years after the project began, the communities were still maintaining the community assets created and had overcome massive disasters such as Hurricane Mitch and TD 12-E. Additionally, land values increased, watershed management improved, educational attainment rose, and many families enjoyed an increase in personal assets, such as a car. These communities created their own social change, supported by WFP and the Government of Guatemala. WFP intends to facilitate such success with other vibrant communities throughout Latin America.

