



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Addressing climate change for a
world free of poverty and hunger



Poverty is one of the biggest obstacles to human development and economic growth. Today, about 2.1 billion people still live in poverty and 767 million are extreme poor. Most of them live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and rural livelihoods for their income and food security.

Evidence shows that climate change is already hurting the rural poor. The effects of increasingly volatile and extreme weather patterns are damaging infrastructure, wiping out harvests, jeopardizing fish stocks, eroding natural resources and endangering species. Climate change is causing serious damage to agriculture, water resources, ecosystems, and human health all around the world.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries have renewed their commitment to fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition recognizing that tackling climate change is key for lifting people out of poverty. SDG 1 (No poverty) pays special attention to building resilient livelihoods and helping poor rural people reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

As part of its mandate, FAO is supporting countries to end poverty and address climate change, by promoting multi-sectoral, pro-poor and climate-informed development policies, sustainable and inclusive production, diversification and decent rural employment, as well as risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems, with a view to leaving no one behind.

More information: www.fao.org/reduce-rural-poverty/en



Poor people are more vulnerable to climate change

About
767 million
people are
extreme poor

75% of the extreme poor reside in **rural areas** and depend on climate-sensitive activities such as agriculture, and rural livelihoods



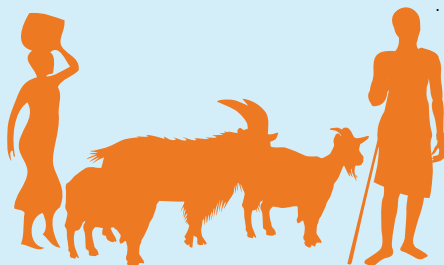
Impacts of climate change are likely to be felt most acutely by the elderly, the youth, the powerless, indigenous peoples, immigrants and women.

When Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras in 1998, poor people lost three times more than others and when heavy rains flooded Mumbai in 2005, poor households lost twice as much.

Women are more vulnerable to climate change because they face discrimination and inequalities in accessing productive resources services, markets, technologies, education and funding. All of these reasons make it especially difficult for them to adapt to climate change.


The poor have **fewer resources** for protecting themselves against climatic hazards. In periods of stress, they may be **forced to sell off their productive assets or migrate**

With **fewer resources**, the poor are **unable to buffer, adapt or recover quickly from shocks**, and often live in the **most vulnerable and risk exposed areas**.



Sources:

World Bank, *Shock waves* (2016)
World Bank, *Taking on inequality* (2016)
World Bank, *Development goals in an era of demographic change* (2015)
World Bank, *Climate Change Complicates Efforts to End Poverty* (2015)
WHO, *Gender, climate change and health* (2014)
IPCC, *Climate Change 2007 – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*

Climate change hinders agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods

25% of the damages caused by natural hazards and disasters affect **agriculture**

The agriculture sector absorbs

80% of damage and loss caused by **drought**

Climate change could add

12% to 2030 **food prices in Africa**, where food consumption of the poorest households amounts to over **60%** of their total spending

By 2050, crop yields could decrease by

10-25% increasing **food insecurity & poverty**

If no action is taken, a further

100 million could become extreme poor **by 2030**

Between 2008 and 2015 around

27 million people were displaced annually by natural hazards and climate related disasters, and this trend is rising

Sources:

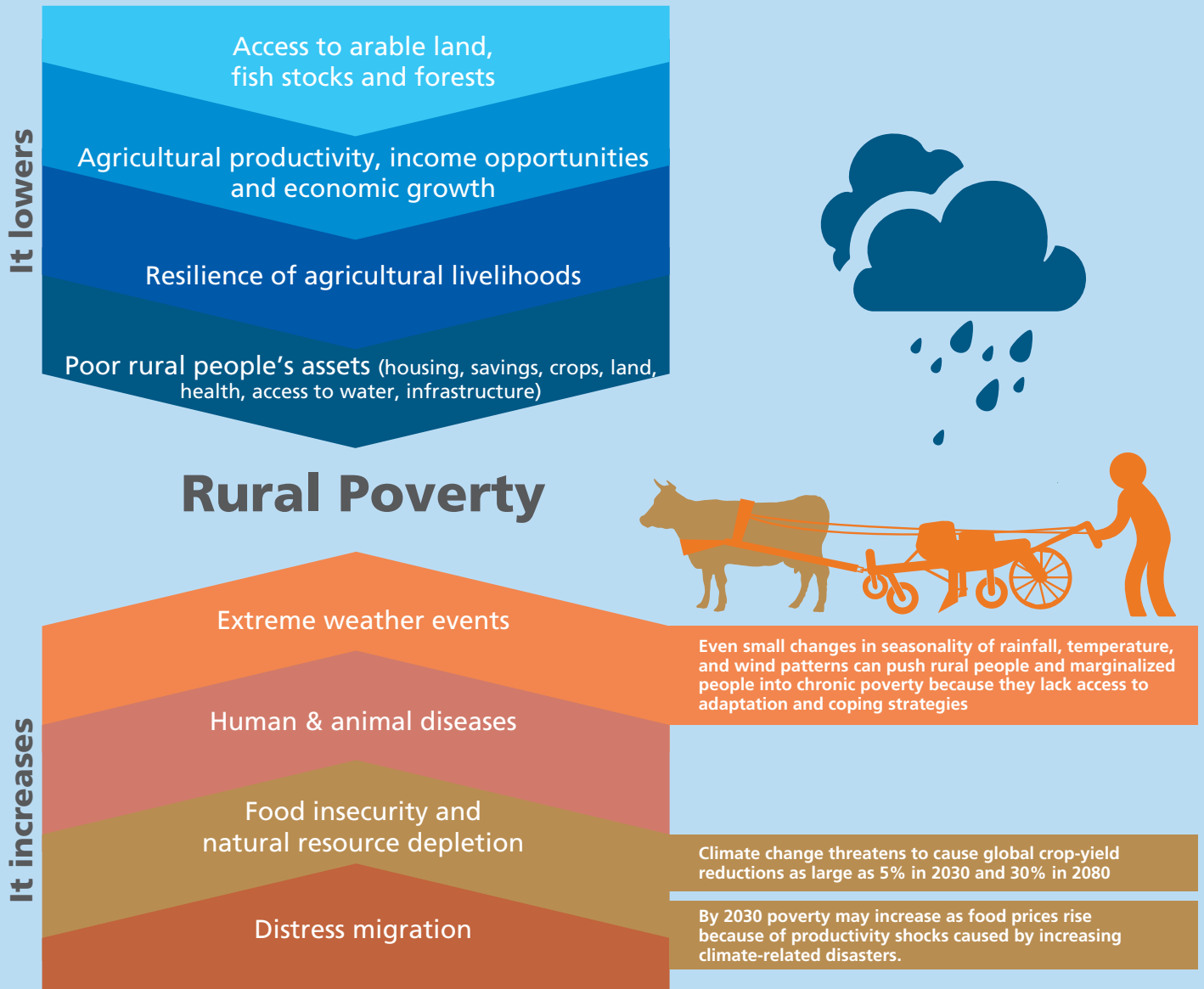
FAO, *The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security* (2015)

World Bank, *Shocks and waves* (2016)

IPCC, *Climate Change 2014 – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and Norwegian Refugee Council 2015

Climate change is an obstacle to ending rural poverty

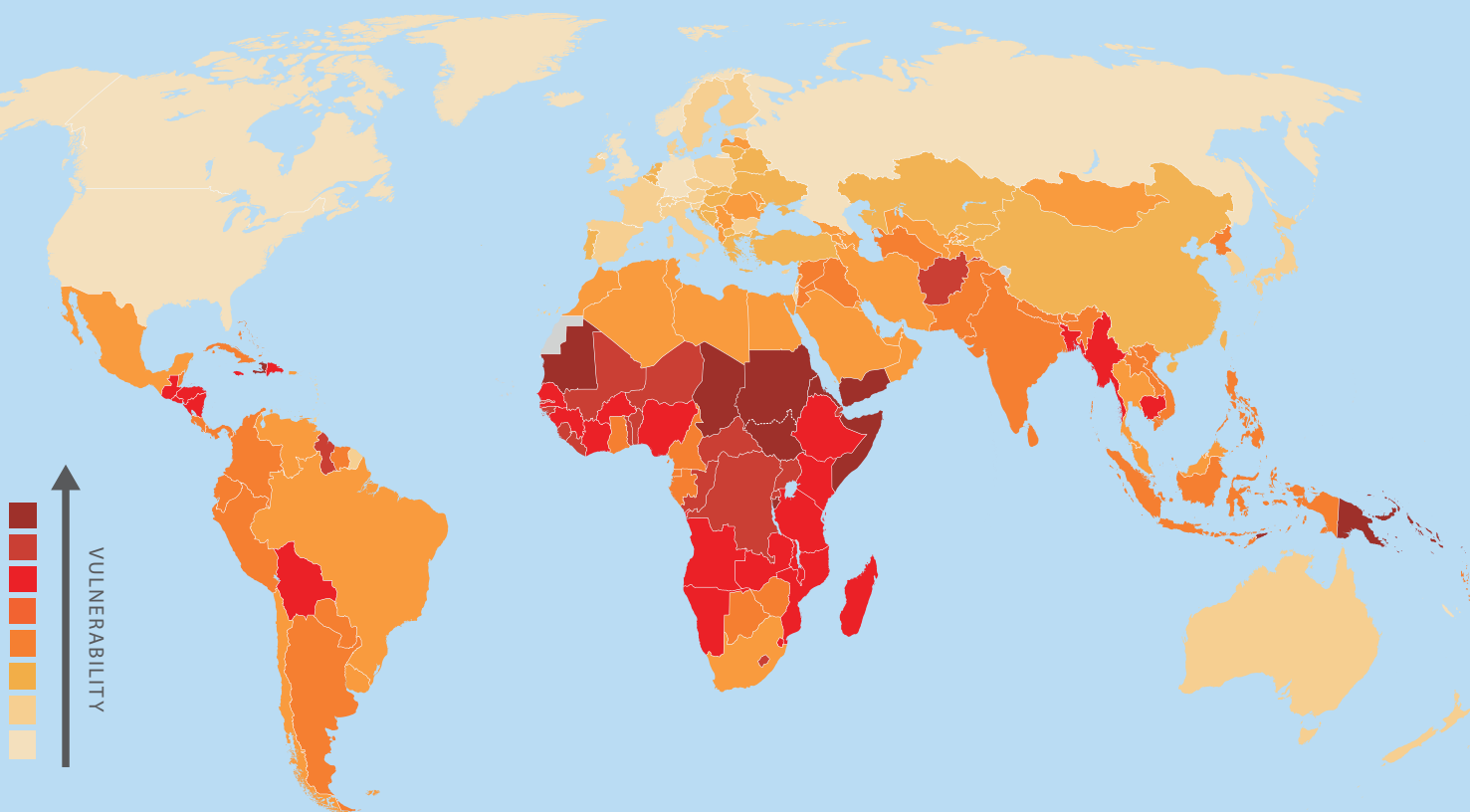


Countries vulnerable to climate change are often the poorest

90 percent

of the poor live in

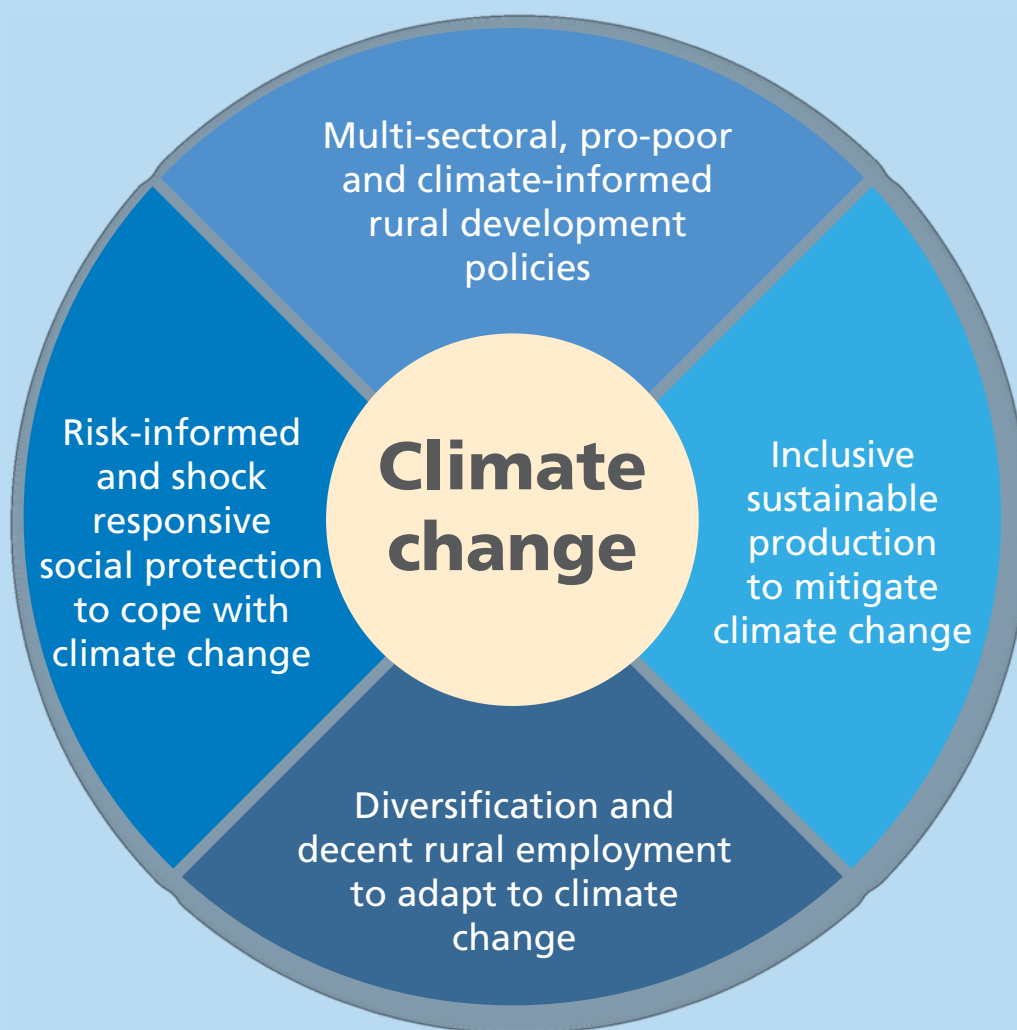
South Asia, East Asia and Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa

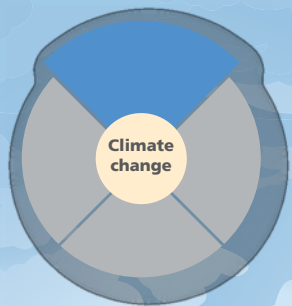


70 percent
of the extreme poor are
concentrated in 10 countries

Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Pakistan, and Tanzania

FAO works to increase the resilience, adaptive and coping capacity of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change





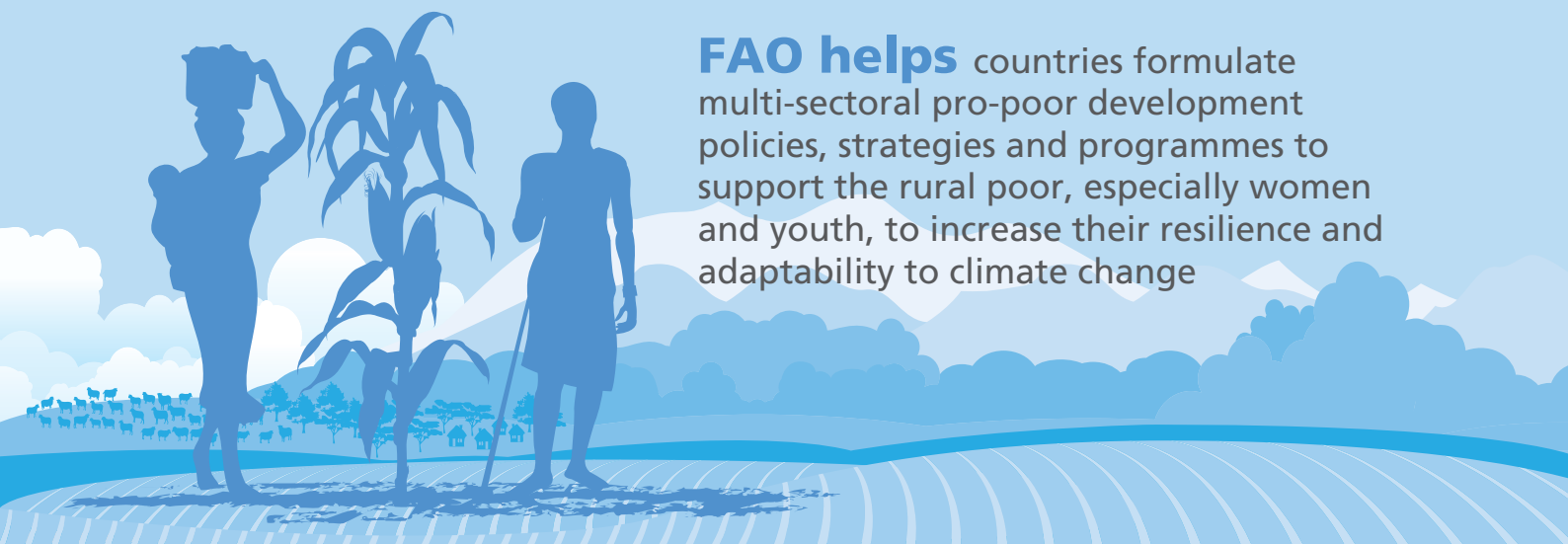
Multi-sectoral pro-poor and climate-informed rural development policies

For development to be climate-resilient, policy instruments to reduce poverty and enable adaptation must be

integrated and target climate-vulnerable poor people



FAO helps countries formulate multi-sectoral pro-poor development policies, strategies and programmes to support the rural poor, especially women and youth, to increase their resilience and adaptability to climate change



Activities

Mainstreaming climate issues into multi-sectoral processes, such as **Poverty Reduction Strategies** or **national strategies** for sustainable rural development

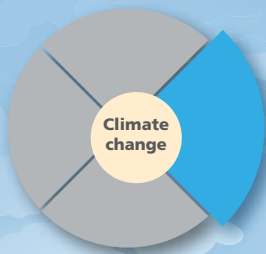
Promote rural development policies, programmes and investment plans that synergize with climate change initiatives and target **climate-vulnerable poor people**

Support multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue and inter-ministerial collaboration to **mainstream adaptation in their policy, strategies and programmes**

Carry out vulnerability assessments to understand climate change impacts on poverty, and evaluate the capacity of the poor to **cope with and adapt to climate change**

Integrate **climate factor impacts** into macroeconomic projections of economic growth and inequality

Promote territorial rural development approaches and reforms that embed strategies to **adapt to climate change**



Inclusive sustainable production to mitigate climate change

60%

Food production needs to increase by 60% by 2050 to feed an additional 2 billion people

CO₂

Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and fisheries have nearly doubled over the past fifty years and could increase an additional 30 percent by 2050, if we do not ramp up efforts to reduce them



Farm incomes would increase by 30% if farmers could effectively mitigate risks linked to climate change

FAO works to build inclusive rural economies and foster sustainable agricultural practices, to improve poor people's productivity and livelihoods while increasing their resilience and adaptability to climate change. More efficient management practices of resources such as land and livestock are key to fighting poverty and addressing climate change.



Activities

Empower the rural poor

Strengthen cooperatives and farmer's organizations to **boost their resilience** and **adaptation to climate change**

Improve access to resources, services, markets, technologies, knowledge and decision-making **for the rural poor** to mitigate climate change impacts

Address **gender inequalities in agriculture** and rural development, as women are most vulnerable to climate change

Integrate crop and livestock, agroforestry and improved land use and management through **rural advisory services and farmer field schools**

Promote inclusive sustainable intensification of **crop production**

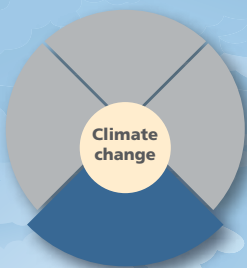
Improve animal health, disease prevention and management

Sources:

FAO, *Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods* (2016)

FAO, *Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Emissions by Sources and Removals by Sinks* (2014)

FAO, *Managing climate risk using climate-smart agriculture* (2016)



Diversification and decent rural employment to adapt to climate change

**200
million**

To address climate and environmental stresses, the agriculture sector needs to adopt more sustainable practices. This will create over 200 million full-time jobs by 2050, particularly more decent green jobs along the food production system



The non-farm sector also has a role to play in building resilience to climate change through income diversification, enterprise and job creation



Investing in sustainable rural development and climate change adaptation makes rural households more resilient, increases income opportunities and prevents climate-induced migration

FAO works to help the rural poor diversify their income and access more decent employment opportunities both in agriculture and in the broader rural economy by:

- supporting countries to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes that foster green job creation
- promoting good practices on sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, especially for the rural youth



Activities

Encourage and **disseminate sustainable practices in agriculture** to improve natural resources management, rural poor's health and working conditions

Improve access to employment and income-generating opportunities **in rural areas**, particularly for women, youth and indigenous peoples, to adapt to climate change

Promote the adoption of **environment-friendly activities in agriculture**

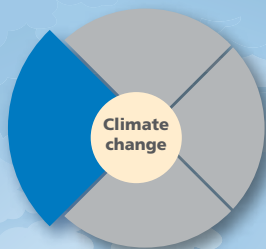
Provide training on the use of green agricultural technologies and on environmentally sustainable food production (i.e.: organic farming and conservation agriculture)

Sources:

FAO, *Green Jobs for a Revitalized Food and Agriculture Sector* (2011)

FAO, *Climate change and food security: risks and responses* (2016)

FAO, *Migration, agriculture and rural development* (2016)



Risk-informed and shock responsive social protection

Poor and marginalized people are disproportionately affected by hazards and crises. That's why FAO has adopted a comprehensive approach to strengthening resilience and reducing poverty in rural areas through risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems.

Key components of a risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection system:

- > Design informed by multi-dimensional risk and vulnerability analysis
- > Flexible implementation to allow the scale-up of support in case of threats and crisis
- > Include early action plans and contingency funds triggered by early warning systems
- > Increase investments in prevention and build capacity to respond to disasters and build resilience
- > Allow timely, effective and efficient response to extreme climate events channelling humanitarian aid through social protection existing delivery mechanism
- > Mitigate the impacts of climate change through sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices
- > Address the needs of host communities and displaced people in times of climate triggered mass migrations
- > Support public work programmes to increase household income, and engage communities in sustainable practices

FAO works to build synergies among social protection and climate change policies to achieve sustainable growth and eliminate rural poverty



Activities

Evaluate the impact of **social protection programmes** on climate change mitigation in terms of food security and nutrition, agricultural productivity, diversification, and on the wider local economy

Assess **policy options** and **strategies** to coordinate social protection, resilience building and climate change adaptation

Build evidence on the role of social protection in **bridging the humanitarian-development divide**

Design and implement **cash-based interventions** combined with agricultural productive assets, activities, inputs, and/or technical training to cope with climate change (e.g. Cash PLUS)

Provide **guidance on policies** related to how social protection can mitigate climate risk in the agricultural sector

Measuring the **resilience and vulnerability** to climate change

Sources:

FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2015*

FAO, *Social protection in protracted crises, humanitarian and fragile contexts* (2016)

FAO, *The Role of Social Protection in Protracted Crises* (2016)

