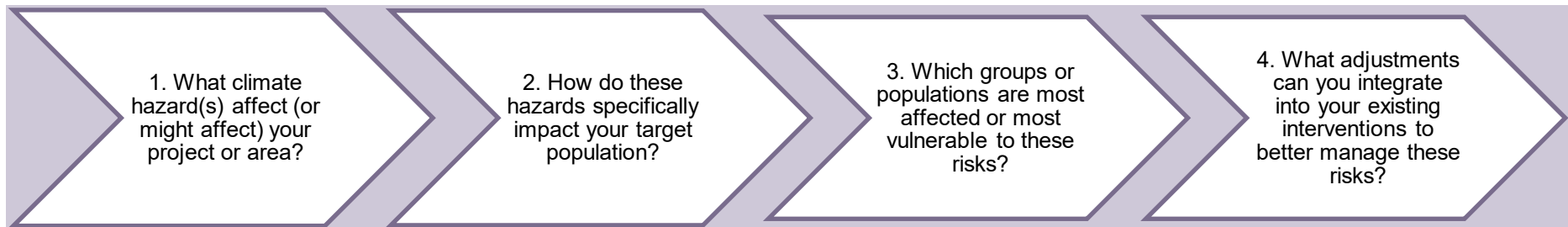


# Unpacking climate actions within humanitarian programming

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO INTEGRATE CLIMATE ACTION INTO YOUR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES?

This means understanding climate-related hazards and risks, their implications for your projects and target populations, and adapting and innovating your interventions accordingly. It can involve making practical adjustments to your existing interventions or may require implementing entirely new actions.

To adapt your interventions, use these guiding questions:



## PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

The climate actions - **anticipatory actions (short-term)** and **climate adaptation actions (long-term)** described in these examples do not typically represent entirely new humanitarian interventions. Rather, they demonstrate how existing activities across WASH, Nutrition, Education, and Child Protection programmes can be practically adjusted or adapted to respond effectively to immediate and longer-term climate risks.

Inter-sectoral collaboration is essential due to significant overlaps across child protection, education, nutrition, and WASH sectors in responses to climate hazards. Coordinated action ensures more effective resource utilization, streamlined response efforts, and improved outcomes for impacted communities, especially children. Examples of overlapping interventions:

- **Nature-based solutions** such as vegetative buffer zones, drought-tolerant reforestation, wetland restoration, and agroforestry simultaneously enhance protection, educational continuity, food security, and water availability.
- **Psychosocial support training** for community volunteers and caregivers addresses mental health across child protection, education, and nutrition sectors during and after disasters.
- **Emergency preparedness and infrastructure improvements**, including cyclone-resistant buildings and flood-resilient sanitation systems, enhance resilience across multiple sectors simultaneously

## CHILD PROTECTION SECTOR

Climate Hazard	Climate risks and implications	Most impacted populations	Practical adjustments
<b>Cyclones</b>	Severe cyclones causing widespread displacement, family separation, and increased psychosocial trauma risks due to sudden destruction and storm-related fear.	Children under 5, displaced families, children with disabilities.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt existing child protection emergency plans to establish temporary child-friendly spaces in cyclone shelters using available resources.</li> <li>• Distribute pre-positioned emergency protection materials with disaster safety guides.</li> <li>• Deploy forecast-based mobile child protection units to high-risk areas to prevent separation during cyclone evacuations.</li> <li>• Distribute forecast-based cash or vouchers to families to secure safe transport or temporary shelter before cyclones, reducing risks of child separation.</li> <li>• Disseminate psychosocial support messaging to prepare families for disaster-related stress before cyclones strike.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate disaster-responsive child protection measures, such as enhanced family tracing and reunification strategies for storm-disrupted communities, into ongoing child protection programmes, adapting practices for cyclone-prone regions.</li> <li>• Provide long-term cash support linked to community-based protection committees to sustain household stability and reduce child protection risks post-cyclone.</li> <li>• Establish vegetative buffer zones with native trees around child-friendly spaces to protect against cyclone winds and debris, enhancing safety for displaced children.</li> <li>• Integrate psychosocial training for community volunteers to support children's mental health post-disaster, focusing on trauma from displacement and loss.</li> </ul>

## Droughts

Severe drought increasing displacement, family separation, exploitation, and psychosocial trauma risks due to prolonged resource scarcity and migration.

Children under 5, children with disabilities, displaced families

### Anticipatory actions:

- Establish temporary child-safe spaces in drought-affected areas using available resources (e.g., tents and portable protection kits).
- Distribute emergency child protection kits with water conservation guides.
- Deploy forecast-based community protection patrols to prevent child exploitation during drought-induced migration.
- Distribute forecast-based cash or vouchers to families to access water and food before drought peaks, preventing child labour or early marriage.

### Adaptation actions:

- Integrate disaster-responsive psychosocial support, enhanced family tracing, and reunification systems into ongoing child protection programmes, adapting practices for prolonged drought.
- Integrate psychosocial training for caregivers into community protection programmes, focusing on coping with chronic stress and displacement.
- Support caregivers with skills training in drought-resistant livelihoods, such as agroforestry, to reduce economic pressures leading to child exploitation.
- Restore degraded landscapes with drought-tolerant vegetation around child-safe spaces to provide shade and reduce displacement pressures.

## Floods

Severe floods increasing displacement, child separation, and immediate psychosocial support needs due to unpredictable, large-scale inundation. Larger floods now

Children under 5, separated/unaccompanied minors, children with disabilities, persons with disabilities facing evacuation/shelter challenges, displaced families from newly affected regions.

### Anticipatory actions:

- Adapt existing child protection emergency measures by deploying child-safe spaces in flood-prone areas.
- Activate family tracing mechanisms for flood-disrupted communities.
- Distribute forecast-based emergency communication tools to facilitate family contact during flood evacuations.
- Distribute forecast-based cash or vouchers to families to secure elevated shelters or safe evacuation before floods, reducing child separation risks.

### Adaptation actions:

## Heatwaves

occur unpredictably, making previous preparedness inadequate.

Extreme heat increasing family stress, raising child neglect, exploitation, and psychosocial distress risks due to heat-related irritability and resource strain.

Children under 5, children with disabilities, vulnerable families.

- Integrate disaster-responsive child protection strategies (e.g., enhanced family tracing, community psychosocial support) into current child protection programmes, adapting preparedness practices for larger and more unpredictable floods.
- Incorporate psychosocial resilience workshops into community programmes to support children post-disaster, addressing trauma from displacement and loss.
- Provide long-term cash support linked to community-based protection committees to rebuild household stability and prevent child neglect post-flood.
- Create wetland buffers or reforest floodplains around child-friendly spaces to absorb floodwaters and enhance safety for displaced children.

### **Anticipatory actions:**

- Set up temporary cooling spaces within existing community centres or child-friendly spaces, using available resources (e.g., portable fans, shaded tents, water stations) to provide safe, cool environments ahead of forecasted heatwaves targeting children most at risk.
- Distribute forecast-based hydration kits to families to prevent heat-related stress in children.

### **Adaptation actions:**

- Adapt existing childcare centres and community facilities to include cooling measures to lower temperatures and provide safe play areas during heatwaves (e.g., shaded outdoor areas, improved ventilation, water stations).
- Incorporate psychosocial training for community workers to support children during extreme heat events, focusing on stress and neglect risks.

## EDUCATION SECTOR

Climate Hazard	Climate risks and implications	Most impacted populations	Practical adjustments
<b>Cyclones</b>	Cyclone damage severely disrupting educational infrastructure and continuity, causing prolonged school closures, and learning disruptions.	School-age children, children with disabilities, displaced communities.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify existing education response plans by pre-positioning educational materials and establishing temporary learning spaces ahead of cyclones, using available resources and trained education teams.</li> <li>• Distribute portable learning kits designed for cyclone-disrupted environments to maintain educational continuity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate cyclone-resistant building standards, school infrastructure improvements, and preparedness training into ongoing educational development programmes and community training initiatives.</li> <li>• Incorporate cyclone-specific disaster preparedness drills into school curricula to enhance student and community resilience.</li> <li>• Plant windbreaks with native trees around schools to protect infrastructure from cyclone damage and ensure safe learning environments.</li> </ul>
<b>Droughts</b>	Severe drought increasing school absenteeism and dropout rates due to family economic pressures and increased burdens on children.	Primary-school children, children with disabilities.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute flexible home-learning kits and supplementary nutritional support within existing education response frameworks before drought impacts intensify.</li> <li>• Provide forecast-based water and nutrition support at schools to reduce absenteeism due to drought-related hardships.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate flexible learning methods and ongoing nutritional assistance into current strategies aimed at helping students stay in school during drought conditions.</li> </ul>

## Floods

Severe flooding frequently causing prolonged disruptions to education continuity and extended school closures. Floods now larger-scale, unpredictable, widespread, significantly impacting the restart of schools.

Young children, primary-school children, children with disabilities, displaced families, schools in affected regions experiencing longer disruptions.

- Incorporate drought awareness and water conservation education into school curricula to build student resilience.
- Reforest school surroundings with drought-tolerant species to improve microclimates and support water conservation education.

### **Anticipatory actions:**

- Modify existing educational emergency response plans to establish temporary schools and distribute emergency learning kits ahead of floods.
- Pre-position additional educational supplies in impacted regions; distribute flood-resistant learning materials to ensure educational continuity during disruptions.

### **Adaptation actions:**

- Adapt existing educational programmes to incorporate flood-resistant infrastructure and flexible continuity strategies, addressing increased flood scale and unpredictability.
- Integrate flood preparedness training into school safety programmes to enhance resilience.
- Restore wetlands near schools to manage flood risks and maintain safe access to learning spaces.

## Heatwaves

Extreme heat affecting student health, increasing absenteeism and concentration difficulties.

Young children, children under 5 in pre-schools, children with disabilities.

### **Anticipatory actions:**

- Modify existing school schedules and adapt facilities to provide additional shade and hydration before heatwaves occur.
- Distribute forecast-based cooling aids, such as portable fans, to schools to maintain a conducive learning environment during heatwaves.

### **Adaptation actions:**

- Adapt current school infrastructure improvement plans to include heat-responsive measures (such as shaded areas, ventilation upgrades, hydration stations).
- Integrate heatwave preparedness education into school curricula to promote student health and resilience.

## NUTRITION SECTOR

Climate Hazard	Climate risks and implications	Most impacted populations	Practical adjustments
<b>Cyclones</b>	Severe cyclones disrupting food supply chains, significantly affecting nutritional security, and increasing immediate nutritional needs.	Infants, young children, breastfeeding mothers, children with disabilities, cyclone-affected communities.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-position emergency nutritional supplies and activate existing nutritional response teams before cyclone impacts.</li> <li>• Ensure quick distribution using established logistical systems.</li> <li>• Distribute forecast-based supplementary feeding kits to prevent malnutrition during cyclone-related food shortages.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate cyclone-responsive nutrition strategies—such as safe food storage practices and emergency feeding protocols—into ongoing nutritional education and community support programmes.</li> <li>• Incorporate training on cyclone-resilient food preservation techniques, such as solar drying, into existing nutrition programmes to enhance long-term food security.</li> <li>• Implement agroforestry with wind-resistant trees alongside crops to protect food production from cyclone damage and ensure post-storm food availability.</li> </ul>
<b>Droughts</b>	Severe drought causing significant food insecurity and heightened risks of severe malnutrition.	Children under 5, breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women, children with disabilities.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt existing nutritional preparedness measures by pre-positioning therapeutic food supplies, distributing rapid nutritional assessment tools, and providing nutritional guidance prior to drought peaks.</li> <li>• Distribute forecast-based drought-tolerant seed kits to support household food production before drought intensification.</li> <li>• Issue early cash or vouchers enabling households to stock nutritious food and supplementary feeding kits, mitigating nutritional deficits resulting from anticipated drought-related disruptions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p>

## Floods

Severe floods disrupting food availability, creating acute nutritional challenges and increased malnutrition risks. Flood unpredictability and larger scale diminish the effectiveness of previous nutrition preparedness strategies.

Children under 5, infants, breastfeeding mothers, children with disabilities, displaced populations.

- Incorporate drought-resilient crops and dietary guidance into ongoing nutritional education and support programmes, adjusting practices to manage prolonged drought-related food insecurity.
- Integrate training on drought-resistant gardening techniques into community nutrition programmes to enhance food security.

### **Anticipatory actions:**

- Adapt existing nutrition preparedness mechanisms to distribute therapeutic and supplementary nutritional supplies before floods occur.
- Pre-position additional supplies in newly impacted regions; distribute forecast-based portable food storage solutions to protect household food supplies during floods.

### **Adaptation actions:**

- Adapt existing nutrition programmes to incorporate flood-responsive nutritional guidance and preparedness, addressing larger, less predictable flood impacts.
- Integrate training on flood-resistant food storage techniques into community nutrition programmes to enhance food security.
- Restore wetlands to support aquatic food sources and protect agricultural land from flooding, ensuring food availability for communities.

## Heatwaves

Severe heat increasing dehydration, affecting breastfeeding mothers' milk production, risking nutritional deficits in infants

Infants under 6 months, children under 5, breastfeeding mothers.

### **Anticipatory actions:**

- Adapt existing nutrition programmes to distribute emergency water/hydration supplies.
- Enhance breastfeeding messaging to address immediate hydration needs ahead of heatwaves for mothers to maintain milk production during heatwaves.
- Distribute forecast-based oral rehydration solutions to prevent dehydration in infants and young children during heatwaves.

**Adaptation actions:**

- Integrate heatwave-specific hydration and breastfeeding guidance into current nutritional education programmes.
- Incorporate training on heat-resistant food preservation into community nutrition programmes to ensure nutritional stability during heatwaves.

## WASH SECTOR

Climate Hazard	Climate risks and implications	Most impacted populations	Practical adjustments
<b>Cyclones</b>	Severe cyclones damaging WASH infrastructure, significantly increasing water contamination risks and disease outbreaks (cholera, diarrhoea).	Children under 5, children with disabilities, displaced families.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapt existing WASH response plans to distribute emergency hygiene supplies, sanitation kits, and water purification tablets just ahead of cyclone landfall.</li> <li>Pre-position additional supplies using existing mechanisms.</li> <li>Distribute forecast-based emergency water storage containers to households to ensure safe water access during cyclone-induced disruptions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate cyclone-resistant standards into ongoing WASH infrastructure improvements, adapting sanitation and water supply systems for resilience to cyclone impacts.</li> <li>Integrate community training on cyclone-resilient water management practices, such as elevated water storage systems, into existing WASH programmes to reduce long-term vulnerability.</li> <li>Plant mangrove or coastal vegetation buffers around water sources to protect against storm surges and reduce contamination risks.</li> </ul>
<b>Droughts</b>	Severe drought drastically reducing water availability, raising hygiene-related disease risks and water shortages.	Children under 5, children with disabilities, remote communities.	<p><b>Anticipatory actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute emergency water supplies and storage containers using existing resources, pre-positioning these ahead of peak drought periods; enhance community messaging around water conservation and hygiene.</li> <li>Distribute forecast-based drought-resistant water filters to ensure safe drinking water during shortages.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation actions:</b></p>

## Floods

Severe floods increasing water contamination, sanitation breakdown, and heightened risk of waterborne diseases (cholera, malaria). Floods are larger, occur unpredictably at different times, and existing preparedness measures no longer effective.

Children under 5 (highly susceptible), children with disabilities, displaced populations, communities across multiple regions.

- Integrate drought-resilient water management practices into existing WASH programmes, adapting water harvesting/storage strategies for ongoing water scarcity.
- Incorporate community-led rainwater harvesting systems into existing WASH infrastructure to enhance long-term water security.
- Restore wetlands near water sources to absorb floodwaters and filter contaminants, protecting water quality for communities.

### Anticipatory actions:

- Scale up existing emergency WASH responses by distributing additional hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and water purification tablets ahead of floods.
- Increase pre-positioned NFIs in affected regions.
- Distribute forecast-based portable water purification units to ensure safe water access during flood disruptions.

### Adaptation actions:

- Update existing WASH programmes to include flood-resistant sanitation, improved drainage, and enhanced hygiene education, adapting local preparedness practices to new flooding patterns.
- Incorporate community training on flood-resilient sanitation practices, such as raised latrines, into WASH programmes to reduce long-term vulnerability.

## Heatwaves

Extreme heat increasing water scarcity, hygiene, and sanitation challenges, leading to dehydration and hygiene risks.

Children under 5, children with disabilities, families in water-scarce areas.

### Anticipatory actions:

- Adjust existing emergency WASH responses to distribute additional clean drinking water and hygiene kits; enhance safe water usage messaging ahead of heatwaves.
- Distribute forecast-based portable water coolers to maintain safe water temperatures during extreme heat.

### Adaptation actions:

- Update existing WASH education materials to integrate heat-specific water conservation advice.

- Adapt ongoing WASH infrastructure plans to incorporate durable water-storage improvements.
- Incorporate community training on heat-resilient water storage systems, such as insulated tanks, into WASH programmes to reduce long-term vulnerability.
- Create green infrastructure with tree canopies over water storage areas to reduce evaporation and maintain cooler water temperatures.