

FAST FACTS



On climate and adaptation

1. A staggering 3.6 billion people — nearly half of the global population — are currently highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. This number is projected to rise as global temperatures keep climbing.
2. Adaptation to climate change safeguards people from higher temperatures, rising seas, fiercer storms, unpredictable rainfall and more acidic oceans. Some people, especially those living in poverty, are more vulnerable.
3. Small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to storms and sea-level rise. For some of these countries, disaster-related economic losses have already been as high as 200 per cent of the size of a national economy.
4. Estimated annual adaptation costs in developing countries are in the range of \$310 billion to \$365 billion per year by 2030. International climate finance flows for adaptation reached \$26 billion in 2023.
5. Investing in adaptation is key to countering the impacts of climate change. \$16 billion invested in agriculture per year would prevent about 78 million people from starving or chronic hunger exacerbated by climate change, while every \$1 billion invested in adaptation against coastal flooding can lead to a \$14 billion reduction in economic damages.
6. National adaptation plans help countries reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience. 172 countries have at least one adaptation policy, strategy or plan in place. Yet, 36 of these countries have plans that are outdated or have not been updated for a decade.
7. Adaptation actions can take on many forms, including building flood defenses, setting up early warning systems for hazards such as cyclones, switching to drought-resistant crops, and redesigning business operations and government policies. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution.
8. Early warning systems are key to adaptation as they warn people of impending storms, floods or droughts. They are cost-effective, save lives, and reduce economic losses. Universal access to early warning systems can deliver benefits up to 10 times the initial cost.

