



Anticipatory Action Activation

Bangladesh



Anticipatory actions to mitigate flash flood impact in Bangladesh

On 07 August 2023, a joint effort between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the European Union (EU) in Bangladesh resulted in the successful implementation of an Anticipatory Action (AA) activation, specifically tailored for heavy rainfall-induced flash floods. This activation provided crucial support to 40,000 and 26,500 individuals in Teknaf through the distribution of cash assistance and early warning messages, respectively. The primary aim was to minimize potential losses and safeguard lives and livelihoods in the face of impending flash floods.

Over the month of July, Bangladesh, particularly Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district, had experienced heavy monsoon rains. This area, home to a significant Rohingya refugee population, is prone to disasters, underscoring the urgency of taking proactive measures to protect lives and livelihoods. The AA activation commenced on the same day as the onset of rainfall on 7th August, with flash floods occurring on the 8th and persisting for the subsequent two days.

The trigger mechanism comprised two stages: Pre-activation and Activation. The pre-activation trigger was initiated when at least two reliable weather models, including the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), and the Global Forecast System (GFS), forecasted heavy rainfall surpassing 150 mm within a 72-hour period in the Teknaf catchment areas. This forecast was made with a lead time of 72 hours or more. The activation trigger was activated when the BMD predicted heavy rainfall of over 150 mm within 72 hours, corroborated by ECMWF/GFS models. These forecasts were made with a lead time of 48 hours or more. As in the pre-activation stage, the activation area was defined by an anticipated impact exceeding 10% due to flash floods.

AA Activation—August 2023

Key facts

Location: Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	
Number of people supported with Early Warning messages	More than 40.000
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfer	26.500

The prioritization of interventions, guided by the affected population and vulnerability index, ensured a targeted and prompt action.

The combined efforts of the WFP and EU in Bangladesh resulted in the timely dissemination of early warning messages and the distribution of cash assistance to 26,500 individuals in Teknaf. Each family received TK 4100 (\$37) 12 hours prior to the onset of the flood, enabling them to prepare for the imminent threat. This initiative was an integral part of a comprehensive forecast-based financing program aimed at enhancing community resilience against climate shocks.

This collaborative forecast-based anticipatory action stands as a testament to the effectiveness of early planning and proactive action strategies. By harnessing accurate weather forecasts and trigger mechanisms, communities in disaster-prone areas can strengthen their resilience against climate shocks, ultimately preserving lives, safeguarding livelihoods, and forging a more sustainable future. As this initiative continues to evolve, it serves as an example of the potential for anticipatory action to revolutionize climate risk management on a global scale.



Photo page 1: WFP/ESDO