



WFP Somalia

Anticipatory action & integrated climate risk management



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

CLIMATE SHOCKS IN SOMALIA

Somalia's prolonged humanitarian crisis is marked by recurrent climate shocks like droughts, floods and tropical storms, compounded by conflict and insecurity. Extreme weather events destroy crops and kill livestock, disrupting livelihoods. This worsens hunger and drives internal displacement, as people abandon failed farmlands and pastures – as in the 2020-2023 drought, which caused 1.8 million displacements from December 2020 to May 2023.¹



In late 2023, with Somalia still suffering the after-effects of drought and a quarter of the population still facing acute hunger, the *El Niño* climate event brought flash floods that swamped communities along the Juba and Shabelle rivers. By late November, 1.7 million people were affected by the floods with 700,000 displaced from their homes.

Integrated climate risk management tools like anticipatory action and climate risk insurance are powerful in protecting vulnerable populations from the impact of climate shocks. They work by linking pre-committed funding to early actions and resilience building plans prior to forecasted shocks, a cost-effective approach compared with responding after the onset of crisis. One study on Somalia indicated that every US\$1 invested in building resilience saved up to US\$ 3 in humanitarian aid and loss prevention.²

ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Anticipatory action refers to a set of humanitarian interventions that:

- are supported by pre-agreed finance;
- are triggered once pre-defined thresholds are crossed in weather forecasts and risk analyses;
- are implemented prior to the onset of forecasted hazards, to prevent or mitigate impacts on communities before they become severe; and

- require coordination across government and humanitarian actors, including via strong national/subnational institutions.

WFP RISK MANAGEMENT

WFP supports a comprehensive risk management approach, enabling vulnerable households to protect their food and income security from increasing climate risks within a long-term resilience building approach. An important part of this is strengthening the capacity of government, development and humanitarian partners to strengthen national and sub-national risk management systems. WFP's approach is based on a combination of four strategies:

Anticipatory actions for disaster mitigation (risk reduction) at community and government level. This links credible seasonal and weather forecasts to predetermined contingency plans, actors and funding to realize interventions that reduce the humanitarian caseload between forecast and onset of an extreme weather event. WFP also provides timely climate information and early warning messages through tailored information channels to help people make better decisions in advance of climate shocks.

Sustainable natural resource management (risk reduction) at community level, integrated into WFP programmes such as food systems strengthening with an emphasis on creating and rehabilitating natural assets and improving agricultural practices. This increases resilience by steadily reducing community vulnerability to shocks over time and mitigates local conflicts over access to resources.

Climate risk insurance (risk transfer), enabling payouts to vulnerable and resource-constrained governments and communities in the event of a shock. WFP and partners are evaluating ways to complement climate risk insurance coverage offered by the African Risk Capacity Group³ to support more people in countries prone to climate shocks. Microinsurance programmes can be built into social safety nets or programmes like WFP's food assistance for assets interventions.

Productive safety nets and financial inclusion (risk reserves and prudent risk taking) can help communities to generate income and increase household capacity to save, invest and diversify livelihoods. In Somalia, WFP is harnessing the *Baxnaano* national social protection programme to provide a platform for anticipatory action. This has also contributed towards strengthening national systems and building the linkage between humanitarian and development response.

¹See [PRMN Dashboard \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/prmn-dashboard)

² USAID Center for Resilience 2018: Economics of Resilience to Drought – Somalia Analysis.

³ Established by the African Union to help member states improve climate emergency preparedness and response.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN SOMALIA

WFP piloted its first anticipatory action against drought in Somalia in 2020, supported by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund anticipatory action framework.

In 2022, following several failed rainy seasons, WFP leveraged the *Baxnaano* national safety net to deliver US\$ 6.7 million of anticipatory cash transfers to over 200,000 climate-vulnerable people to mitigate the predicted impact of the drought becoming even more severe. This anticipatory action payout, the largest to date in Eastern Africa, was complemented by early warning messaging to help the most vulnerable mitigate the impacts of drought. This is one of the few examples globally where a social protection programme was scaled up to provide support in anticipation of a worsening climate crisis.

In 2023, WFP supported the Federal Government of Somalia to develop a national flood anticipatory action framework under the leadership of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA). The framework enables the Government to lead the coordination of multiple anticipatory interventions from multiple actors in flood-prone areas.

Building on this framework, WFP developed a flood anticipatory action plan (its first in Africa) in coordination with SODMA, United Nations agencies, and other humanitarian actors. In October 2023, as pre-defined weather forecast thresholds were crossed,⁴ WFP activated the anticipatory action programme in Jubaland, South West and Hirshabelle States while maintaining collaboration with government and humanitarian counterparts.

WFP disseminated early warning messages to 440,000 people; delivered US\$ 2.7 million of cash-based transfers to 219,000 people (59 percent women) living in flood-prone locations; delivered specialized nutritious packages to 25,000 children under 5, pregnant and breastfeeding women facing malnutrition; and pre-positioned boats at strategic points along the Juba and Shabelle rivers to support evacuation and delivery of supplies.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

WFP's work in Somalia has shown the effectiveness of implementing anticipatory action. Through its diverse partnerships, WFP is committed to scaling up anticipatory action as part of broader integrated risk management approaches. There is also an

opportunity to integrate components of anticipatory action into other humanitarian programmes, and into national information and social protection systems, to enable rapid scale-up ahead of forecasted climate shocks; WFP is committed to supporting such efforts.



Government capacity building: WFP is working with national and sub-national government entities to strengthen their capacities to set up and use anticipatory mechanisms for multi-hazard disaster mitigation. WFP will continue to work with SODMA to support national anticipatory action; the *Baxnaano* safety net will continue to be an important platform; and the national unified social registry will help coordinate efforts to reach the most vulnerable. WFP will also support the development of response capabilities ahead of shocks at local government level through effective coordination and resource utilization.

Community early response and mitigation action: WFP will continue to support the development and implementation of disaster risk management at the community level through early warning systems. The objective is to help communities better anticipate, prepare for and respond to shocks through the development of action plans; training of focal points to understand forecasts and triggers; and dissemination of early warning information. Special focus will be placed on the most vulnerable groups.

Investment in disaster risk reduction: WFP will invest in disaster risk reduction initiatives through sustainable natural resource management and productive safety nets that fortify communities against shocks, both climatic and human induced. WFP will also empower communities to prepare and invest in initiatives that protect and diversify their livelihoods through a conflict-sensitive lens.

⁴ WFP's anticipatory action plan utilizes the Geospatial Streamflow Forecast Model, run by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center, to monitor identified trigger thresholds.

WFP COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025

