



Anticipatory Action Activation

Haiti



Anticipatory Action to support communities ahead of floods through social protection system in Haiti

In mid-November 2023, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Government of Haiti, activated the Anticipatory Action plan in advance of forecasted heavy rains. This joint effort successfully disseminated Early Warning Messages to over 500,000 individuals across five departments and provided anticipatory cash support to approximately 18,500 people in four districts within the Grand'Anse department. This activation safeguarded lives and livelihoods in anticipation of the potential risk of flooding due to forecasted heavy rainfall in November.

Haiti is already grappling with a multifaceted crisis exacerbated by a challenging political and socioeconomic context, heightened food insecurity, widespread poverty, income inequality, environmental degradation, escalating insecurity, and pervasive armed group violence. The region's weak environmental conservation further intensifies vulnerability to erosion, landslides, and flooding. About 4.35 million people nationwide are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity between August 2023 and February 2024, including more than 119,000 in the department of Grand'Anse.

On November 13, in response to forecasts indicating a tropical depression approaching Haiti with heavy rainfall, WFP initiated its preparedness mechanisms for the potential activation of the Anticipatory Action Plan. On November 15, the Adaptive Social Protection Response committee, a multi-stakeholder committee chaired by the government, examined the forecast data and verified that the activation criteria had been met in four districts of the Grand'Anse department, specifically regarding the anticipated rainfall in the upcoming days.

By November 17, with rainfall commencing in the southern peninsula of Hispaniola Island, WFP had already disseminated early warning messages in Creole via SMS to 500,000 people across five departments (Sud, Grand'Anse, Nippes, Nord, Nord-Ouest), in collaboration with the Haitian Civil Protection (*Protection Civile in French*). The targeted population received a series of four messages encompassing rain forecasts and

Key facts

Location: Sud, Grand'Anse, Nippes, Nord, Nord-Ouest Departments	
Number of people supported with Early Warning Messages	512,894
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfer	18,575

recommendations over two days. The messages underscored the importance of monitoring official communication sources, securing valuables and legal documents, and stocking up on medicines and potable water. Additionally, residents in flood-prone areas were advised to evacuate.

Moreover, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, approximately 18,500 vulnerable individuals in the Grand'Anse department received anticipatory and unconditional cash-based transfers through the national social protection system (*Projet de Protection Sociale Adaptative pour une Résilience Accrue - PSARA*). Leveraging the existing social protection cash distribution mechanism (*digital transfers on eWallets*), WFP ensured seamless access to cash assistance, minimizing any additional challenges for the recipients. The financial assistance was accompanied by targeted SMS communication, explaining how the cash assistance amount was intended to support in anticipation of the impending flood impact.

Subsequent to this recent activation, WFP is preparing to conduct post-distribution monitoring and an after-action review. The goal is to comprehend how the reached population utilized the transfers to prepare for the rains and incorporate the lessons learned into the design of all current and future social safety nets. Furthermore, WFP is actively exploring options to expand anticipatory action in Haiti in 2024, collaborating with in-country UN agencies and organizations and the recently launched community of practice.

This proactive and collaborative implementation has been made possible through the multi-year funding and investment in Anticipatory Action supported by the German Federal Foreign Office since 2017. With a total cost of USD 365,787, this activation enabled vulnerable population to mitigate floods' impact in time, protecting their lives and livelihoods.

