

# ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN ETHIOPIA

## Drought Activation For Somali Region



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



"This time, we were prepared. using WFP's Cash assistance, I saved the livestock I had left and bought food, clothes, and water for my children. I used some of the cash to make samosas to sell. I sold 200 samosas in a day! I realized then that I could provide for my children through this business."

*Miglo Yassin*

## BACKGROUND

Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate crises and variability. Recurrent droughts are one of the major causes of livelihood disruptions in the country, especially in pastoral areas like the Somali Region, where extreme weather events lead to failure of livestock production, water shortages and prolonged periods of food insecurity. To mitigate the impacts of predictable hazards like droughts, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) is supporting the government in the Somali region of Ethiopia to develop skilful forecasts that trigger anticipatory action plans (AAP) before a drought.

A Forecast Based Financing (FBF) decision-making tool that presents tailored forecasts was developed by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of Columbia University in collaboration with Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI). In July 2022, the decision support tool showed that October, November, and December 2022 (dyer) rainy season had an increased chance of being a potentially fifth failed season. In response to this forecast information, WFP Ethiopia Country Office in collaboration with the Somali Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) activated the drought Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) for Somali Region.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Early Warning Messages and Advisories



were disseminated to **137,151** programme participants in **20** woredas of the Somali area in collaboration with Somali Disaster risk management bureau.



**25,000** people received unconditional cash transfers of **268** USD per family in collaboration with Shebelle Bank.



In collaboration with Mercy Corps, **3,807** families participated in rehabilitating rangelands through a cash for work modality, rehabilitating **2,566** hectares of land.

## THE THREE ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS WERE:



**Early Warning dissemination:** - to help communities make informed decision on drought risk management.



**Cash transfers:** - to reduce deterioration in food security & livelihoods



**Rangeland enclosure and fodder production:** - to strengthen the capacity of targeted communities to preserve animal feed for the peak drought period through managing overgrazing and applying area enclosures.

## Expected outcomes of Anticipatory Action:

- Maintain or improve families' food consumption and nutrition throughout the potentially prolonged drought conditions.
- Maintain or increase families' livestock production by reducing livestock mortality and diseases.

## IMPACT OF THE ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS



### Anticipatory Actions prevented severe food insecurity

A longitudinal quasi-experimental design was employed, where a comparison (or control) was formed to capture what would have been the outcomes if the anticipatory actions had not been implemented. WFP assessed the food security status of the beneficiaries using its Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security [CARI] method where each family's food security level was calculated based on two scores: Current Status and Coping Capacity.

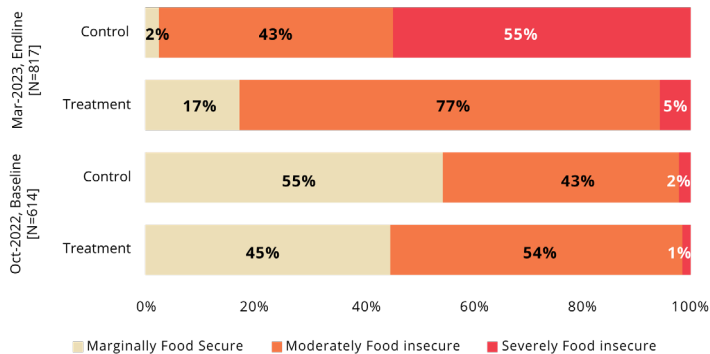


Figure 1 : Food security status of beneficiary (treatment) and control households, comparing baseline and endline data.

While both groups exhibited almost similar levels of vulnerability at baseline, by endline, the control group had a 53% increase in families with severe food insecurity, compared to the treatment group that recorded only a 4% increase in the same category. This demonstrates that the anticipatory actions were pivotal in safeguarding the beneficiaries from severe food insecurity.



### Excessive livestock mortality was reduced

To understand the impacts of the anticipatory actions on livestock, the trends in livestock mortality rates were assessed.

The results of the DiD [Difference in Difference] analysis indicate that the total herd size, converted into Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs), whereas there are reductions in the sizes of livestock among both the control (from 75.2 to 44.7) and treatment (from 78.5 to 65.2) families, the anticipatory actions were able to cushion further death of animals to 48.0. This indicated that the Anticipatory Action intervention helped beneficiaries reduce excessive livestock deaths. This is further supported by the results that showed that families used the cash received to buy animal feed and animal health products, which helped them to reduce livestock mortality due to lack of pasture and livestock diseases caused by the drought.

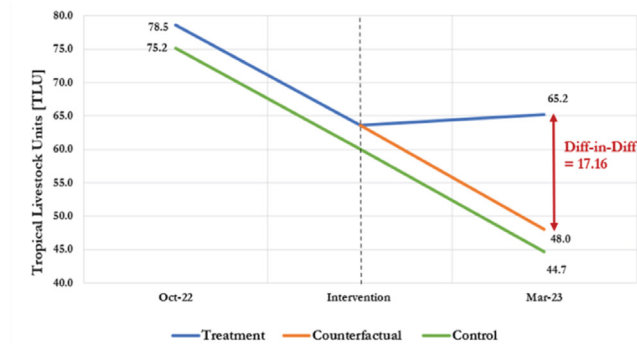


Figure 2: Effects of FbF on herd size [in TLU]



**"I participated in cash for work activities. We worked 6 days per month: constructing a diversion canal for rainwater. WFP and Mercy corps supported us to make an embankment using a tractor. When the rains came, the water was directed to our fields. I planted Sorghum and I'm waiting for my harvest."**  
*Khadra Kaboose.*

## MANY THANKS TO

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**DANIDA** | INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Rialtas na hÉireann  
 Government of Ireland

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