



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Anticipatory Action 2022 activation in Somali Region, Ethiopia

BACKGROUND

Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate crises and variability, with recurrent droughts causing disruptions in the lives and livelihoods communities, particularly in pastoral areas like the Somali Region. These extreme weather events result in the failure of livestock production, water shortages, and prolonged periods of food insecurity. Consequently, communities, livelihoods, and food systems are left vulnerable, as local coping strategies often prove insufficient, further eroding family resilience. Recognizing the importance of proactive intervention, it has become increasingly evident that acting before a disaster occurs can save lives, enhance resilience, and be more cost-effective.

WFP Ethiopia is working in partnership with the Ethiopia Meteorological Institute (EMI), the

International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of Columbia University, the Somali Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau (SRDRMB) and other stakeholders to support the setup of the Anticipatory Action system in Somali region. This includes the development of a decision support tool called Map Room, which presents tailored forecasts. These are checked seasonally to ascertain if a trigger for Anticipatory Action (AA) has been reached.

In July 2022, the Map Room's rainfall forecast showed that the October, November, and December [OND] 2022 (dyer) rainy season had an increased chance of being a potentially fifth failed season. In response, WFP Ethiopia Country Office in collaboration with the Somali Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau activated the drought Anticipatory Action Plan for Somali Region.

March , 2024

AA activation flow

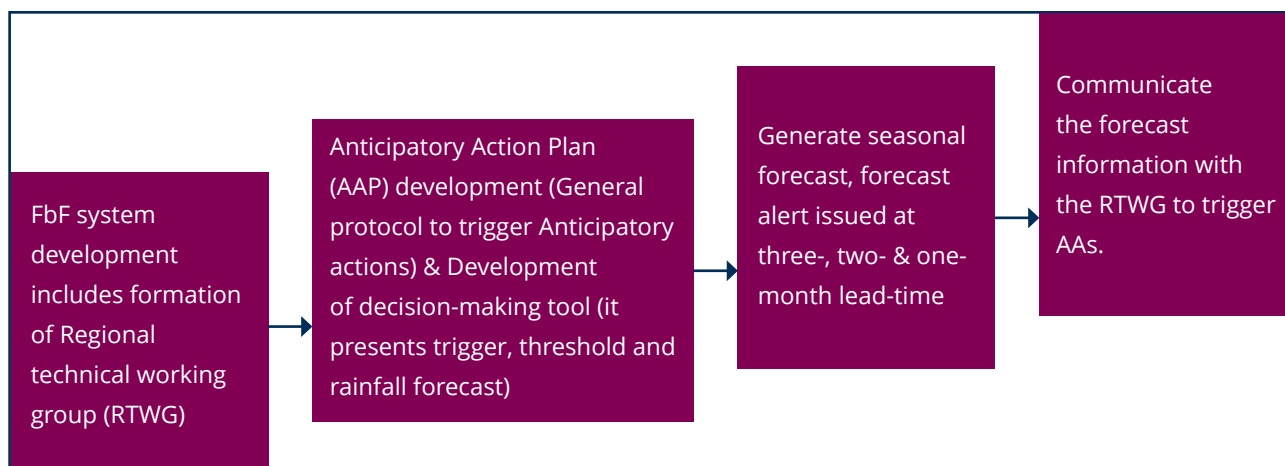
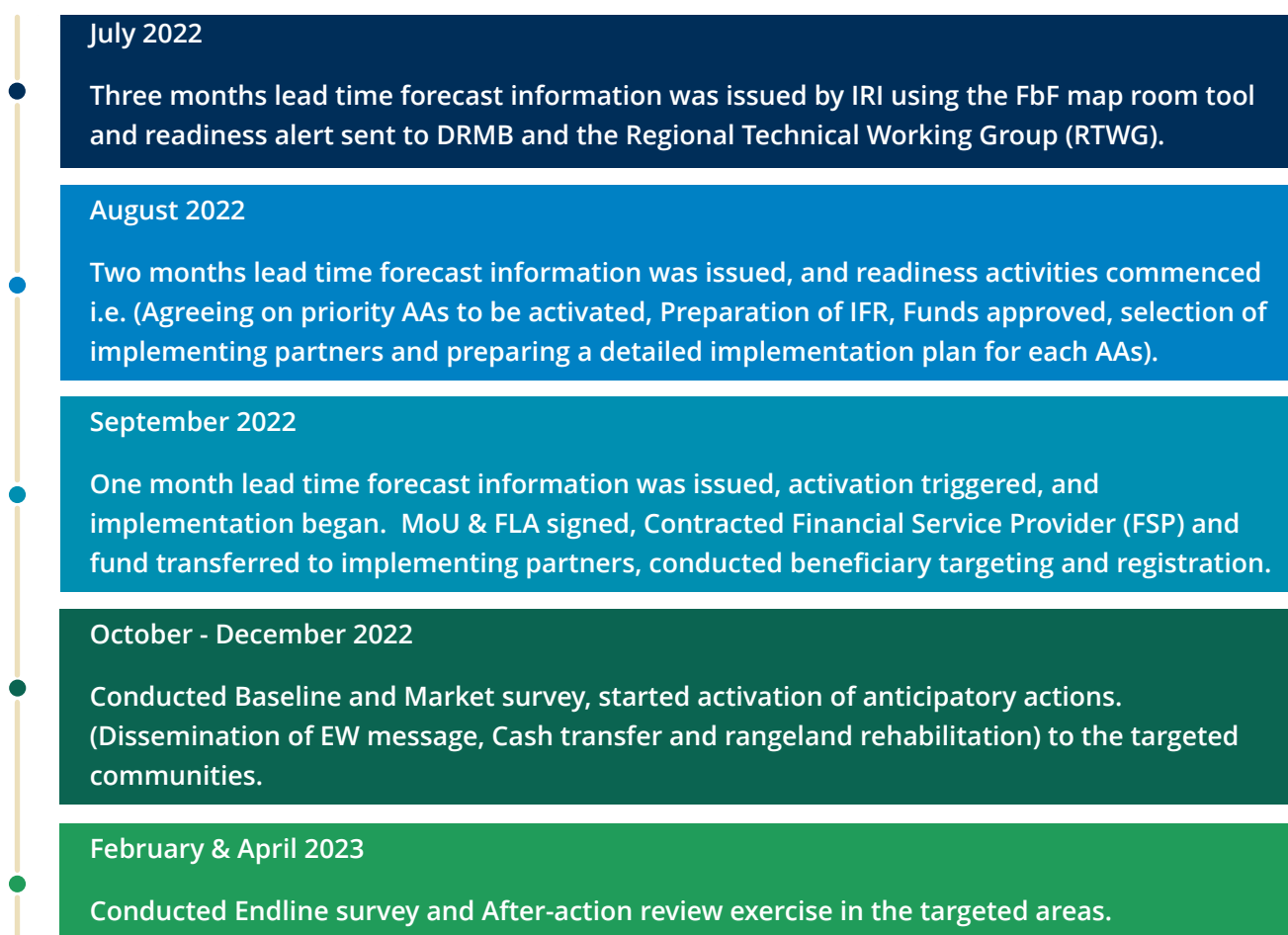


FIGURE 1: TIMELINE OF WFP'S DROUGHT forecast ANTICIPATORY ACTION - 2022 (Three months lead time)



TRIGGER REACHED

The drought trigger mechanism for the Somali Region was developed by IRI in collaboration with EMI and the Somali Regional Technical Working Group. This was done through a consultative process to establish the drought Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) for the region.

Thresholds and triggers were developed for moderate (30th percentile or 1 in 3 years return) and severe (20th percentile or 1 in 5 years return) drought scenarios, and for anticipatory action readiness and implementation phases.

ACTIVATION OF AA

As the threshold for action was exceeded in all woredas, and funding was limited, geographical prioritization for AA implementation was done considering the food security and climatic conditions from the previous season, as well as ongoing relief assistance. Based on this analysis, Danan and Horshagah woredas were selected for activation of anticipatory actions.

The family targeting criteria used was developed by the Somali RTWG. The criteria include:

- I. Pastoral and agro-pastoral families.
- II. Most vulnerable population with Tropical Livestock Unit (TLU) of between 1 and 6, irrespective of being in any of ongoing assistance programs including relief assistance and Productive Safety Net Programme.
- III. Female headed families, adolescent groups, disability, illness, and marginalized groups (at least 30% of total beneficiaries?).

Three activities were implemented to reduce the anticipated drought impacts:



- I. **Dissemination of early warning messages:** - to help communities make informed decision on drought risk management.

The message contained the rainfall forecast information from EMI, and related advisories were developed by each sectoral office (regional technical working group members). The messages were translated into the local language and delivered through Woreda and Kebele early warning committees using public address systems in strategic locations such as markets where families and other value chain actors (e.g. input retailers) commonly converged. This was implemented through partnership with the Government Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB).



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

Anticipatory cash transfers were made to 3,600 families using mobile money and cash in partnership with Shabelle Bank. A total of USD 268.59 was transferred per family between October and November. The transfer value was calculated using the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) for 3 months for the beneficiaries to fulfil their current energy gap for food during the drought period.



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

Involved a total of 3,807 families through cash for work and 2,566ha of land rehabilitated in partnership with Mercy Corps. The actions include canal diversion, development of different natural resource conservation activities, area enclosure and fodder production using irrigation system.

The expected outcomes from the implementation of Anticipatory Actions were to:

- 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.

The food security status of the beneficiaries was determined using WFP's CARI [Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security] method where each family's food security level was calculated based on two scores: Current Status and Coping Capacity. The Current Status combines the food consumption score and the rCSI [reduced Coping Strategies Index], while the Coping Capacity is derived from the Food Expenditure Share and the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index, on a 4-point scale. These results are then averaged and rounded to place each family into one of four categories: food secure, marginally food secure, moderately food insecure, or severely food insecure.

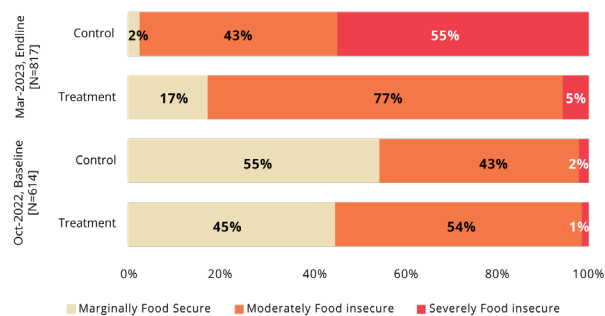


Figure 2: Food security status of beneficiary (treatment) and control families, comparing baseline and endline data.

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 AA actions were able to cushion further death of animals to 48.0. This indicated that the AA intervention helped beneficiaries to reduce excessive livestock mortality. 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.

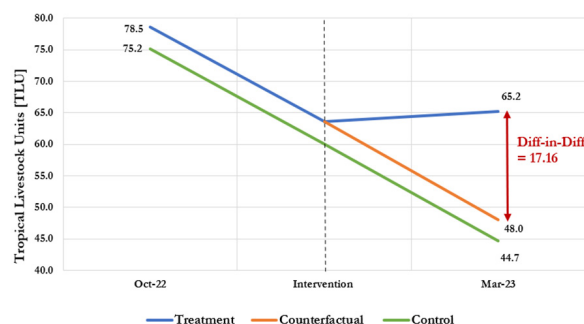


Figure 3: Effects of FbF on herd size [in TLU]



"The EW information helped us to take action including preparing and cultivating our land which was used to prepare fodder for our livestock. We also identified animals with better condition (which can walk) and moved them to the area with better pasture before things got worse"

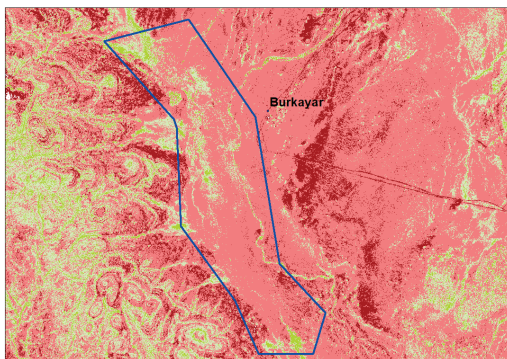
Increased Vegetation Cover reached through rangeland rehabilitation.

The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is commonly used to remotely monitor the status of vegetation conditions. A change detection analysis was conducted to calculate the difference in NDVI values before and after rangeland rehabilitation was implemented as an anticipatory action in targeted sites.

In Burkayar intervention site of Danan Woreda, Figure 7 shows that there was an increase in

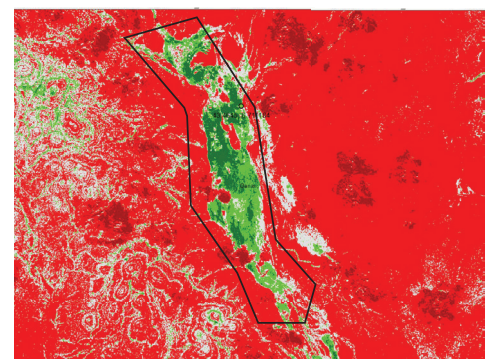
vegetation cover in the location where rangeland rehabilitation was done. Overall, 46 percent of the intervention areas in the two targeted woredas showed an increase in vegetation coverage. 59 percent of targeted beneficiaries benefited.

While rangeland rehabilitation was implemented as a short-term action, the field visit in April 2023 showed that communities would continue to have access to pasture from this intervention from a number of months to come.



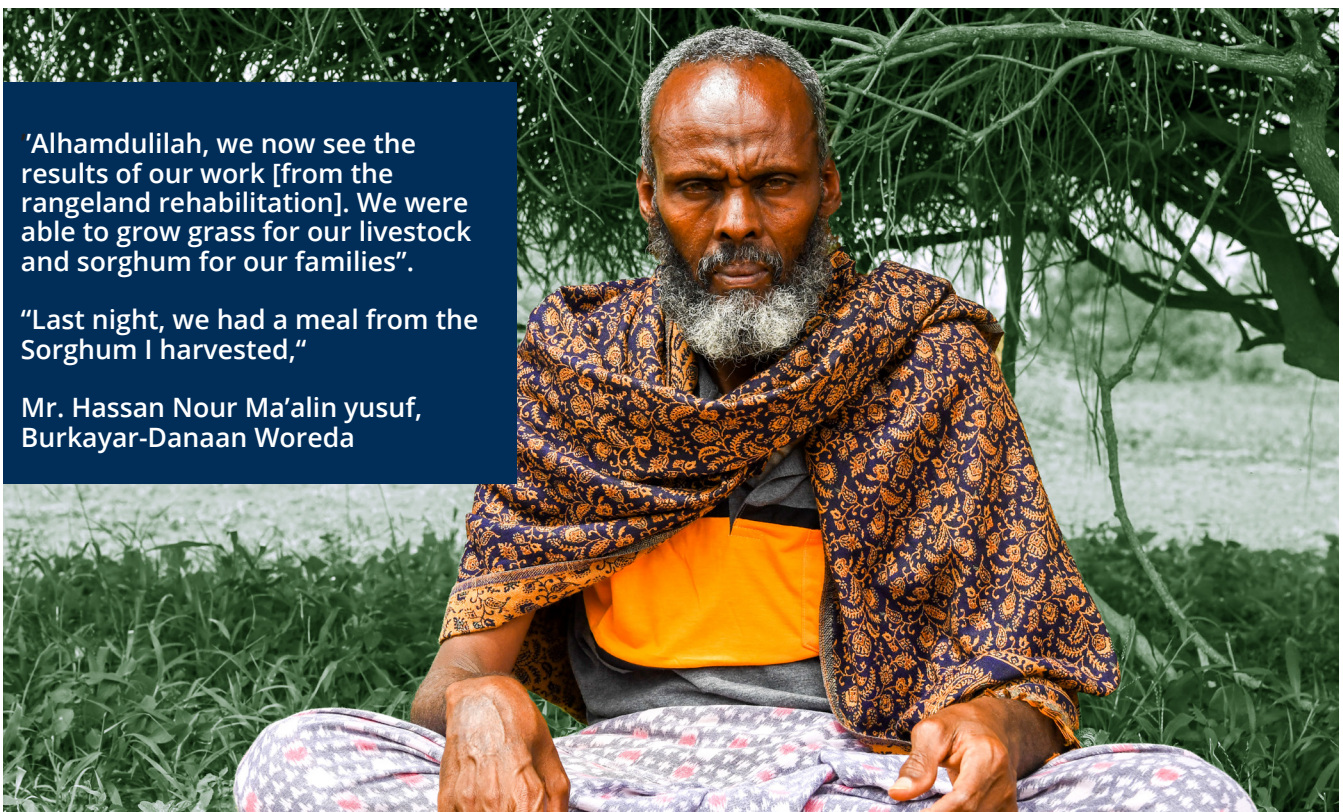
T38N1N_20220919T071619_B08_10m_NDVI
<VALUE>

- 0.400 - 0.027 (No veg)
- 0.027 - 0.06 (Few veg)
- 0.060 - 0.082 (Very Sparse Veg)
- 0.082 - 0.10 (Sparse Veg)
- 0.103 - 0.525 (Good Veg)



POST to PRE Chnqe Analysis
NDVI

- Vegetation Highly Decreased
- Vegetation Decreased
- Vegetation is Normal
- Vegetation Increased
- Vegetation Highly Increased



'Alhamdulillah, we now see the results of our work [from the rangeland rehabilitation]. We were able to grow grass for our livestock and sorghum for our families”.

“Last night, we had a meal from the Sorghum I harvested,”

Mr. Hassan Nour Ma'alin yusuf,
Burkayar-Danaan Woreda

LESSONS LEARNT FOR FUTURE DROUGHT ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS

What WFP has learned:

- Anticipatory actions- when delivered as a package of rangeland management, early warning messaging and anticipatory cash assistance — have proven to be effective in enabling communities to reduce the adverse effects of drought. Use of these results for evidence-driven advocacy and resource mobilisation is needed to support the scale up of this innovative approach.
- Given the time-sensitive nature of AA interventions, WFP (ETCO, RBN, HQ) to consider review of internal processes that are crucial to the timely implementation of AA in the COs and the region.
- Institutionalization of the drought Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP), the forecast trigger map-room and related tools, into relevant policies, strategies and systems is needed to enhance Government ownership and leadership of the AA approach. Such institutionalisation will also enable sustainability of the collaborative approach (done through engagement of the Regional Technical Working Group and including community engagement) as it is critical to the successful design and implementation of AA.
- Advance preparation of partnership agreements (Field Level Agreements (FLA)) will allow for the timely implementation of the readiness actions making the subsequent contribution of the AA.
- Remote sensing-based change detection analysis can help to detect changes in landscapes and benefits of AA interventions. Such monitoring tools should be better utilised and augmented with other kinds of data to generate more robust evidence at larger scales.
- Though FbF is a short-term resilience building initiative, measuring the impact of resilience interventions needs time. Thus, impact monitoring before the beginning of the next rainfall season is recommended to give ample time for meaningful measurement. This calls for the need to explore linkage with the longer-term resilience initiatives of WFP.

World Food Programme

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What stakeholders have learned:

- Preference for communication of early warning information varied by gender. Women were preferred to have messages received through community-based platform, while men had access to radio could potentially be reached through BBC Somali. Hence, diverse communication channels should be used to disseminate early warning information.
- Membership to the early warning committees needs to be expanded to have a better representation of women. This would then help women better access early warning information as they have a preference for word-of-mouth communication.
- Rehabilitation of rangelands and fodder production was implemented as an anticipatory action driven by the need of the pastoral families to reduce loss of livestock and production due to lack of pasture when there is a drought. On one hand, this short-term action could help families to access pasture beyond the immediate months of implementation. On the other hand, the action requires more longer-term support (e.g., through continued agricultural extension services) for sustained implementation and benefits. Therefore, there is need to explore opportunities for linking short term support with long term community resilience building interventions aligned to the WFP Changing Lives agenda. (community need because they are pastoral)

MANY THANKS TO

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
DANIDA | INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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