



Anticipatory Action Activation

Nepal



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impact of Monsoon Floods in Nepal

In September 2024, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration and coordination with the Government of Nepal and United Nations Agencies, implemented an Anticipatory Action (AA) activation to mitigate the predicted impacts of flooding on the lives and livelihoods of highly vulnerable households in six local governments across Sunsari and Saptari districts in Nepal's Koshi Basin.

This AA activation, coordinated by Nepal's Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), was guided by the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) framework for monsoon floods. It was triggered when pre-agreed thresholds were crossed. This inter-agency framework brings together UN agencies, including WFP, UNICEF, FAO, and UNFPA, along with the District Disaster Management Committees and local governments, to collectively deliver timely and effective anticipatory assistance.

Following a continued monitoring of forecasts from WFP and Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology's (DHM) throughout the 2024 monsoon season to detect potential flooding, the threshold for action trigger was reached based on the fulfilment of two pre-agreed threshold criteria: 1) a three-day flood bulletin from DHM and 2) the Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) a or danger level being crossed along the Koshi River. On 28 September 2024, the DHM flood bulletin indicated a very high risk of flooding, prompting the dissemination of Early Warning Messages (EWM). The trigger activation was officially met on 29 September, followed by flooding and inundation.

Key facts

Location: Six local governments in Sunsari and Saptari districts of the Koshi basin, in the east of Nepal

Number of people supported with early warning messages	100,000
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers	30,940

As part of this coordinated activation, WFP implemented the following actions:

- Dissemination of last-mile early warning information:** Early warning messages were shared in Saptari and Sunsari districts to inform households about the impending flood, enabling them to make informed decisions and minimize the impact on their lives and livelihoods.
- Distribution of multi-purpose anticipatory cash assistance.** Each household received NPR 15,000 (USD 113.3) through Western Union-based remittance agents and bank account transfers. This cash assistance enabled households to meet their immediate needs.



WFP/Srawan Shrestha

At the cash distribution center in Saptakoshi, WFP reached 278 families devastated by the recent floods. Among them was 24-year-old Ranju Devi Sada, a courageous mother with an 11-month-old baby, who bought food items from the nearby market.

This implementation was made possible through funding from the United Nations CERF, alongside multi-year capacity-strengthening support from the Governments of Germany, Ireland, and Nepal, aimed at institutionalizing anticipatory action systems across local governments and enhancing their readiness capacities.



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