



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impact of El Niño-induced floods in Somalia

In April 2024, the World Food Programme (WFP), under the leadership of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA), successfully implemented an Anticipatory Action (AA) activation designed to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of people in anticipation of floods across four districts in Somalia, namely Baardheere, Luuq, Jowhar and Beletweyne.

The April 2024 implementation, the second time the Somalia Anticipatory Action Plan has been activated, underscores its effectiveness in protecting communities at risk of climate-related shocks. The first activation came in October 2023, with assistance arriving a few weeks before the occurrence of the devastating El Niño floods, effectively protecting people before they were affected.

Building on the experience and lessons learned from the previous activation, WFP and its partners initiated a comprehensive community sensitization process. This proactive measure involved active engagement with communities, political and religious leaders, and other stakeholders. The aim was to discuss potential flood scenarios, preparedness measures, and available anticipatory support. WFP and partners also updated and refined the early warning messages on flood risks and mitigation strategies to be disseminated to the communities before, during and after the floods.

The seasonal forecast from the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) indicated that Somalia was likely to experience above-average rainfall during the MAM season, leading to a heightened risk of flooding along the Jubba and Shabelle rivers. Anticipatory action triggers were reached on April 19, leading to the

Key facts

Location: Baardheere, Luuq, Jowhar and Beletweyne districts	
Number of people supported with early warning messages	1,899,600
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfer	79,512
Number of boats prepositioned	14

implementation of the following approved anticipatory actions:

1. Dissemination of Early Warning (EW) messages to almost 1.9 million people through local radios, ringtones, and partners. Additionally, local authorities shared information on their official channels, such as social media platforms.
2. Distribution of anticipatory cash assistance of 1,060,160 USD to 79,512 individuals. This assistance allowed communities to purchase food and pay for other needs, such as transport to evacuate from flood-prone areas to higher ground.
3. Strategically prepositioned fourteen boats that were immediately made available by WFP and the Logistics Cluster to assist in evacuating communities living in flood-prone areas.

These anticipatory actions were aimed at 1) increasing households' and communities' access to timely early warning information so they could use it to make decisions related to flood risk management, 2) ensuring supported households can protect their lives as well as their household and livelihood assets, and 3) enabling targeted households to have maintained food consumption status.

A total of US\$ 1.4 million was disbursed for this activation. This collaborative implementation has been made possible through the Governments of Germany and Denmark's multi-year funding and investments in anticipatory action systems.

With support from:



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AA Activation—April 2024