



Anticipatory action to mitigate the impact of floods in Ecuador

In February 2025, WFP activated its Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) mechanism in the communities of Quevedo and Los Espinos in the Municipality of Samborondón, Guayas Province, in coordination with the municipal government, assisting at-risk communities ahead of expected floods.

In 2024, WFP developed and approved the Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) with communities, meteorological services, municipalities, and academic actors, including trigger and threshold definition. Thresholds and triggers were set using probability analysis from Guayaquil's meteorological data and historical flood patterns. Despite the communities being located in a floodplain, shifting flood patterns in recent years have increased their risk. Throughout 2024, WFP strengthened community capacities to act before shocks in collaboration with the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI), the Polytechnic School of Litoral (ESPOL) and the Samborondón Municipal Government. As part of these efforts, pre-targeting of the population, enrollment in WFP's corporate system and beneficiary verification took place between December 2024 and January 2025.

On 11 February 2025, INAMHI issued a high-level alert for heavy rainfall, storms, and strong winds. The WFP's trigger threshold of over 50 mm of rainfall per day for at least 3-5 days aligned with the red alert (41–90 mm over five days), signaling imminent flood risks and prompting the activation of the anticipatory action plan.

On 12 February, the AAP was activated, and on 13 February, eight days before the peak of the flooding (21 February), the WFP teams were deployed in target areas, initiating the implementation of the following anticipatory actions (AAs):

- 1) Dissemination of early warning messages (EWMs):** Sent via SMS and WhatsApp, these EW messages contained information on the impending floods, as well as suggestions on concrete actions people could take to reduce and mitigate the impact of the floods. These recommendations included tips on maintaining a balanced, healthy, and nutritious diet in the face of the flood risk.

Key facts

Location: Quevedo and los Espinos communities in the Guayas province	
Number of people supported with early warning messages	716
Number of people supported with multi-purpose cash transfers	716

- 2) Distribution of anticipatory cash assistance:** Before the flood, vulnerable individuals received USD185 through Western Union remittance agents one day before the flood's peak to purchase essential goods and minimize the impact on their lives and livelihoods. Activated immediately upon reaching the trigger threshold, this process minimized delays and avoided connectivity issues common in other assistance mechanism.

These anticipatory actions enabled households to safeguard their homes, assets and vulnerable family members while securing food and nutrition.

To ensure the effective and timely implementation of these AAs, several supporting activities were crucial. Messages about the assistance provided were sent via SMS and WhatsApp, guiding recipients through the assistance process, payment points, and communication channels. Community coordination between WFP, INAMHI, and the municipality involved daily protocol checks and included fumigation and deworming campaigns for children under five to prevent disease outbreaks. Additionally, within 24 hours of the alert, WFP conducted on-site briefings, providing essential guidance on contingency plans, assistance use, and cash management. These efforts ensured that anticipatory assistance reached those in need swiftly and efficiently.



WFP/Gonzalo Ruiz

This proactive and collaborative intervention has been made possible thanks to the USD 58,700 from the Government of Germany and the investment in anticipatory systems from the Government of Ireland. This financial support has been crucial to protect the most vulnerable population in the communities of Quevedo and Los Espinos.



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