



# Anticipatory Action Activation

## Ethiopia



## Anticipatory action to mitigate the impact of drought in Ethiopia

In anticipation of drought in Ethiopia's Somali and Oromia regions during the March-May 2025 season, WFP, under the leadership of the respective regions' Disaster Risk Management Bureaus (DRMB), has started implementing Anticipatory Actions designed to safeguard people's lives and livelihoods against the shock's expected impacts.

In February, WFP triggered anticipatory actions (AAs) across 21 woredas in Somali region (Raso, Galhamur, Bokh, Yahob, Salahad, Ayun, West-Imi, Danod, Galadi, Qubi, Lagahida, Wangey, Hamero, Fik, Gashamo, Guradamole, Goro-Baqaqsa, Hararey, East-Imi, Meyumuluka and Ararso) as well as 12 woredas across Oromia region (Seweyna, Dawe Ketchen, Gura Damole, Rayitu, Mena (Bale), Berbere, Gololcha Bale, Ginir, Goro (Bale), Goro Muti, Lege Hida, and Kumbi). These woredas were selected through a prioritization exercise based on forecast information, risk and vulnerability data, and available implementation funds.

While the December 2024 forecast (three-month lead time) from the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI) initially indicated that none of the woredas benefiting from the October–December and March–May rains in Somali and Oromia regions met the minimum threshold for a moderate drought scenario, both the two-month (January) and one-month (February) lead time forecasts showed that a substantial number of rain-dependent woredas met the threshold to trigger AAs. Based on the latest forecast, EMI issued an activation alert, prompting WFP to initiate the delivery of anticipatory assistance.

Following EMI's alert/Forecast, WFP, in consultation with the Somali and Oromia Regional Technical Working Groups, is implementing the following AAs:

### Key facts

**Location:** 21 woredas in the Somali region and 12 woredas in the Oromia region

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Number of people supported with early warning messages                    | 1,007,679 |
| Number of people supported with anticipatory multi purpose cash transfers | 91,161    |
| Number of people supported with feed vouchers                             | 49,525    |

- 1) **Dissemination of early warning messages** to inform communities across targeted woredas in Somali and Oromia about drought risk management strategies and actions to protect their livelihoods, food and nutrition security. Forecasts from EMI are translated into actionable messages, enabling communities to prepare and make risk-informed decisions. The information is shared at the local district (kebele) level through diverse and inclusive communication channels.
- 2) **Distribution of multi-purpose cash transfers** to vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral households in the Somali region to stabilize purchasing power, enabling access to food and essential needs ahead of the forecasted drought. Following a review of the transfer value by the regional Cash Working Group, in conjunction with the Ethiopia Cash Working Group, each household is receiving a total of USD 358.17 over three months (USD 119.39 per month in two disbursements). This translates to approximately Ethiopian Birr (ETB) 15,300 per month.
- 3) **Provision of feed vouchers** to help pastoralists in Oromia protect their main livelihood source. The direct distribution of feed for animals helps mitigate coping strategies that undermine long-term resilience, such as distress sales or migration, and ensures that core livestock assets are preserved through the drought period.

This proactive and collaborative implementation has been made possible through a combined total of USD 6.3 million in funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), the Government of Ireland, the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The implementation builds on multi-year investments by the Government of Denmark in anticipatory action systems. This support has been crucial in empowering communities to anticipate and mitigate the impact of the drought on their lives, livelihoods and food security.



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