



Anticipatory Action Activation

Afghanistan



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impacts of drought in Afghanistan

In April 2025, in anticipation of a forecasted drought, the World Food Programme (WFP) successfully initiated the implementation of anticipatory actions (AAs) to support vulnerable households in Faryab and Sar-e-Pul provinces in Afghanistan.

Livelihoods in these provinces are characterised by rainfed agricultural production, agricultural wage labour, and livestock rearing, making populations in these areas highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. Even before the activation trigger was met, both provinces faced acute food insecurity, with segments of the population classified as Phase 4 (Emergency) in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Protracted dry spells in these predominantly agricultural zones were expected to deepen and extend the 2025 lean season into the fall, further constraining already highly food-insecure households' ability to access sufficient food.

This AA activation was guided by the [Inter-Agency Anticipatory Action Framework for drought](#), coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and funded by the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). This intervention was activated upon reaching the pre-agreed triggers and is implemented by WFP in partnership with UNICEF, UN Women, FAO, and NGO partners, with the overall objective of providing coordinated packages of assistance ahead of the forecasted drought.

To trigger this activation, OCHA monitored evolving drought conditions at the provincial level through a two-window mechanism: i) a potential pre-season activation in February, based on precipitation forecasts for March to May), and ii) a mid-season activation in April, informed by a combination of observed and forecasted rainfall data and environmental indicators. Although precipitation deficits were observed as early as the start of the rainy season in October 2024, indicating a high likelihood of continued dry spells, these

Key facts

| Location: Faryab and Sar-e-Pul provinces | |
|---|--------|
| Number of people supported with early warning messages | - |
| Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers | 84,539 |

early signals did not meet the pre-approved threshold for intervention. However, the threshold was surpassed during the second activation window of the AA Framework, based on updated forecast data.

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

1) Dissemination of Early Warning (EW) messages. EW messages were delivered in person during verification, registration, and distribution activities. Cooperating Partners (CPs) also engaged with community groups to raise awareness at the local level. These messages aimed to help communities take informed, anticipatory measures to mitigate the impact of the forecasted drought by providing information on risks, recommended mitigation measures, and guidance on how to use the multisectoral assistance provided.

2) Distribution of anticipatory multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA). Targeted households received one round of MPCA valued at US\$ 150, covering one month of basic needs. In addition, households headed by a woman (20 per cent of target households) and households with a member with a disability (15 per cent of target households) received an additional US\$30 on top of the original transfer value, reflecting their heightened vulnerability to extreme weather events. The transfer values were determined using the Afghanistan Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

Throughout the intervention, WFP worked in close collaboration with UN Women. In Faryab province, WFP provided registration and verification services that enabled UN Women to support an additional caseload of 1,057 women-headed households and households with members with disabilities. This collaboration resulted in the disbursement of MPCA amounting to US\$180 per household, reaching a total of 10,549 beneficiaries.

The anticipatory assistance provided by WFP helped vulnerable households mitigate immediate food consumption gaps. It also enabled them to meet other essential needs related to health, shelter, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) needs. By reducing reliance on emergency coping strategies, the intervention helped protect livelihoods and strengthen household resilience.

This activation was made possible through combined funding of US\$1.7 million from the CERF allocation to WFP and US\$1 million from the Government of Germany. This support has been crucial in protecting the most vulnerable from the harmful impacts of the predicted drought.