



Anticipatory Action Activation

Ethiopia



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impact of drought in Ethiopia

In September 2025, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, activated its Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) during the October to December 2025 rainfall season to mitigate the predicted impacts of drought in 15 woredas of the Somali region.

This activation followed the crossing of pre-agreed triggers in July and August 2025. The drought trigger mechanism was developed by the Somali Regional Technical Working Group (SRTWG), with technical support from the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society of Columbia University and the Ethiopian Meteorology Institute (EMI).

WFP and SRTWG agreed to implement anticipatory actions (AAs) based on the result of the customized decision-support tool known as the AA Map Room. This tool identified the woredas that met the trigger thresholds for moderate and severe drought conditions. Based on this classification, WFP conducted a geographical prioritization exercise using nine parameters, including the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI), vegetation condition, the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index for rangeland areas, and percentage change in rainfall performance over the last two seasons.

Based on the analysis, six woredas- Bokh, Galadi, Goro Baqaqsa, Guradamole, Hudet, and Raso - were identified for support through multi-purpose cash (MPC) transfers and livestock feed vouchers. However, due to funding limitations, WFP will focus its assistance on the two most vulnerable woredas, Hudet and Galadi, targeting 9,035 households. In addition to MPC and voucher assistance, 15 woredas will be targeted for the dissemination of early warning messages.

The AAs implemented by WFP are as follows:

AA Activation—September 2025

Key facts

Location: 15 priority woredas in the Somali region: Bokh, Galadi, Goro Baqaqsa, Guradamole, Hudet, Raso, Aba-Korow, Ayun, Dihun, East Imi, Elwayne, Galhamur, Hararey, Shilabo, and West Imi.

Number of people expected to receive early warning messages	966,550
Number of people targeted with anticipatory cash transfers	67,438
Number of people benefitting from the livestock feed voucher	50,400

1) Early warning messages. These messages provide risk management guidance on i) water resource management during drought conditions; ii) food purchasing strategies; and iii) preparation and storage of supplementary livestock feed (e.g., hay). Messages are translated into local languages and disseminated during market days via microphones, at public gatherings, and through formal community meetings, as well as through *woreda* and *kebele* (sub-district) trained early warning committees. These committees have been equipped with dedicated space and equipment (e.g., microphones) to support dissemination. These EW messages are gender-inclusive and reach the elderly, youth, and persons with disabilities.

2) Distribution of multi-purpose cash (MPC). Vulnerable households receive ETB 45,900 (US\$326.22) for the season, in line with the transfer value agreed by the Somali Region Cash Working Group, and the Ethiopia Cash Working Group. These transfers will be provided to vulnerable pastoral and rain-fed agro-pastoral households, and aim to stabilize purchasing power, enabling households to meet essential needs and access essential livestock commodities ahead of the drought.

3) Distribution of livestock feed voucher. These vouchers aim to reduce livestock loss and maintain or improve productivity during the drought. Beneficiary households can decide how to use the vouchers based on community sensitization conducted by the selected Cooperating Partner (CP) during the feed voucher distribution. This AA will be implemented in two phases: first round during the second week of October 2025, and second round during the fourth week of November 2025.

These AAs aim to maintain household food consumption before, during and after the drought; stabilize or increase household livestock productivity; and reduce livestock mortality and disease.

This activation is made possible through US\$4.7 million in funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), providing critical support to protect the most vulnerable from the harmful impacts of the predicted drought.



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