



Anticipatory Action Activation

Haiti



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impacts of Hurricane Melissa in Haiti

In October 2025, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the government of Haiti, successfully implemented an anticipatory action (AA) activation ahead of predicted floods and high-speed winds resulting from hurricane Melissa. This anticipatory support was provided to mitigate the expected impacts on the lives and livelihoods of highly vulnerable people in the Grand Sud (southern region of Haiti).

This activation was guided by the Interagency Framework against storms risks, which was developed and approved in 2024. The CERF-funded framework is facilitated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) under the leadership of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. It enables UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, and IOM), government partners and at-risk communities to collectively act ahead of devastating storms and hurricanes.

On 21 October, the readiness trigger was reached based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts for Tropical Storm Melissa, which was expected to intensify into a hurricane as it approached the coast of Haiti and other Caribbean islands. The following day, on 22 October, the action trigger was met, and the activation began.

Forecast-based triggers are determined using the official track forecasts of NOAA's National Hurricane Center's (NHC), validated by Haiti's Hydro-Meteorological Unit (UHM) and UC Santa Barbara's Climate Hazards Center InfraRed Precipitation. Anticipatory actions are triggered when the following criteria are met: i) Sustained wind speeds exceed 64

Key facts

Location: Grand Sud – southern region of Haiti	
Number of people reached with early warning messages	2,224,828
Number of people reached with anticipatory cash transfers	47,465

knots; ii) Total rainfall across over 2 consecutive days exceeds 42mm; and iii) The centre of the cyclone is within 230km of Haiti.

Through this CERF-funded mechanism, organizations jointly delivered early warning messages, cash transfers, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and dignity kits, and emergency shelter management to help families access food, water and shelter ahead of the storm and alleviate humanitarian needs resulting from its impact.

As part of these collective efforts, the following AAs were implemented by WFP:

1) Dissemination of early warning (EW) messages. Messages were sent via text messages nationwide, alerting communities to imminent flood and high-wind risks. This enabled households to use the anticipatory cash received to secure their homes and purchase essential goods.

2) Distribution of anticipatory cash transfers. Each vulnerable household received 100 USD, enabling them to purchase essential items such as food and medicine to cover their essential needs.

WFP built on lessons learned from a previous AA activation ahead of floods in 2023. These anticipatory actions are implemented to 1) enable households to make relevant and timely decisions ahead of the forecast floods; 2) safeguard their homes, income, valuable assets, and vulnerable family members, such as people with disabilities and children; 3) empower communities to meet their food and nutrition needs before and after the predicted crisis.

This activation has been made possible through USD 2 million in pre-arranged funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), providing critical support to allow the most vulnerable to protect themselves from the harmful impacts of the predicted storm. The Government of Ireland provided critical support on AA capacity strengthening over the last years.

AA Activation—October 2025



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland