



Anticipatory Action Activation

Ecuador



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impact of flooding in Samborondón

In February 2026, WFP activated its Anticipatory Action (AA) mechanism in the communities of Recinto 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.

Since 2024, WFP has been working to strengthen community capacity to respond proactively to shocks, collaborating with the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI), the Polytechnic School of Litoral (ESPOL), and the Samborondón Municipal Government. Thresholds and triggers for anticipatory action were established through probability analysis, utilizing meteorological data from Guayaquil and historical flood patterns. Although the municipality of Samborondón is naturally a floodplain, shifting flood patterns in recent years have heightened the risk of flooding for its communities.

On February 18, 2026, INAMHI issued a high-level alert for heavy rainfall, storms, and strong winds. WFP's Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) was activated when the designed trigger threshold—over 50 mm of rainfall per day for at least three to five days—was met, aligning with the red alert (42–80 mm of rainfall recorded over four days). This signaled imminent flood risks and prompted immediate implementation of the following anticipatory actions:

- Dissemination of early warning messages:** Sent via SMS and WhatsApp, these EWMs contained information on the impending floods, as well as nutrition and safety recommendations.
- Distribution of multipurpose anticipatory cash transfers.** Before the flood, vulnerable households received ID-based payments of US\$ 185 within 24 hours to purchase essential goods for protection. Activated

Key facts

Location: Recinto Quevedo and Los Espinos communities, in Samborondón municipality, Guayas province.	
Number of people reached with early warning messages	860
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers	731

upon reaching the trigger threshold, this process minimized delays and avoided connectivity issues.

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

Significant efforts have been undertaken with the community and the local government to ensure the sustainability of anticipatory actions against floods over time. In this second year, the community has been found to be significantly more organized and better coordinated with the local government. Academia has also played a fundamental role, along with the connection to the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology.

This proactive and collaborative intervention has been made possible thanks to the USD 100,00 from the Government of Germany and the investment in anticipatory systems from the Government of Ireland.



WFP/Gonzalo Ruiz



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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