



# Anticipatory Action Activation

## Ethiopia



### Anticipatory Action to reduce the impacts of drought in the Somalia region in Ethiopia, for the March to May 2026 season

In February 2026, the government of Somali region, Ethiopia, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), activated the anticipatory action mechanism to address escalating drought risks in two woredas the Somali Region.

At the end of 2025, a three-month forecast from the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI) shared with the Somali Regional Technical Working Group (SRTWG), revealed that every one of the region's 75 woredas had reached a moderate drought threshold, signaling widespread vulnerability. The situation in January 2026 showed improved forecasts indicated that 46 woredas were facing severe drought conditions, while 55 remained at moderate risk.

By February 2026, the forecast data pinpointed 7 woredas cross the threshold for severe drought scenario and 10 Woredas for moderate drought scenario. Yahob and Fik woredas selected as the most urgent priorities woredas for anticipatory action. This selection was based not only on their projected drought severity, but also on vulnerability indicators, available vulnerability and beneficiary targeting data, as well as the absence of overlapping emergency distributions and operational feasibility. As a result, these two woredas were prioritized for anticipatory cash support, while early warning messages were prepared for dissemination across ten at-risk woredas. This structured, data-driven approach ensured that interventions were timely and targeted to the areas of greatest need.

As the MAM 2026 season commenced, the implementation phase unfolds from March through May, and WFP in collaboration with the government and the financial service providers will implement:

### Key facts

<b>Location:</b> Yahob and Fik woredas in the Somali region	
<b>Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers</b>	<b>45,787</b>

1. **Distribution of multipurpose anticipatory cash transfers to vulnerable households.** Each of the targeted households receives a sum of USD 295.83. This financial support is not only intended to preserve purchasing power during the crisis, but also to empower families to make early investments in livestock care and water management, reducing the need for harmful coping strategies.

In parallel, the Somali Disaster Risk Management Bureau (SDRMB) will develop and disseminate a tailored (area specific) early warning messages about expected rainfall shortages and drought risks across ten woredas. The messages not only alert communities to the likelihood of drought but also provide practical advice on how households could prepare.

The expected outcomes of the anticipatory action activation include 1) ensuring households maintain sufficient food consumption, 2) protecting livestock and minimizing losses, 3) improving community readiness for drought, and 4) preventing communities from falling into emergency food insecurity. These objectives together aim to reduce the immediate and long-term impacts of drought by providing timely support and guidance to those most at risk.

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