



# Anticipatory Action Activation

## Bangladesh



### Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impacts of flash floods in Bangladesh

On 29 April 2026, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh, activated its Anticipatory Action (AA) Plan for flash floods in Moulavibazar and Habiganj districts in the northeastern region of Haor.

The triggers in the AA plan are based on localized thresholds linked to monsoon river danger levels that have historically caused severe impacts on communities, affecting both agricultural land and people's homes.

On 26th April 2026, a large rainfall system began affecting the Haor region and adjacent areas and was forecasted to bring heavy rainfall through 2 May 2026. In response, WFP, together with Environment and Infrastructure and Management Solutions (EIMS), actively monitored combined parameters, using rainfall forecasts from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and forecast and observed water levels from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), to assess the likelihood of critical danger thresholds being reached.

On 28 April 2026, a bulletin issued by FFWC indicated that observed water levels at Moulavibazar station had already exceeded pre-monsoon danger level, meaning crop fields were already inundated. On the same day, the AA Technical Working Group shared this information with stakeholders, confirming that the activation trigger defined in the final draft of National Early Action Protocol for flash floods had been reached for Moulavibazar. Following this confirmation, several organizations, including BRAC, World Vision, Start Network, UN WOMEN, CARITAS, and CNRS, activated anticipatory actions in Haor region. Forecast further indicated that monsoon danger level would be exceeded by more than one metre on 30 April 2026, meeting WFP's predefined triggers.

Given the inherent challenges in predicting flash floods, WFP and

### Key facts

<b>Location:</b> Moulavibazar and Habiganj districts in the northeastern region of Haor	
Number of people reached with early warning messages	315,000
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers	122,290

EIMS incorporated additional parameters beyond river levels to reduce the risk of false alarms. Analysis combining rainfall forecasts and river level data confirmed that the predefined triggers had been met in both Moulavibazar and Habiganj.

A few hours after the activation, WFP started to implement the following actions:

- Dissemination of Early Warning Messages:** Early warning information was communicated through multiple channels, including public announcements (miking), volunteer networks, Disaster Management Committees (DMCs), and community institutions such as mosques, pagodas, and schools.
- Distribution of Anticipatory Cash Transfers:** Over 20,121 households in flood-prone areas and meeting pre-established socioeconomic vulnerability criteria, including low-income households, persons with disabilities, female-headed households, and older adults, received anticipatory cash transfers. Additionally, 4,337 households already enrolled in government social safety net programs received emergency cash top-ups.

This initiative underscores WFP's ongoing collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen national systems and enhance the responsiveness of social protection mechanisms to climate-related shocks such as flash floods.

This activation was made possible through USD 1,278,500 in funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), providing critical support to protect the most vulnerable from the harmful impacts of the predicted floods.

As the forecasts indicate heavy cumulative rainfall over the next few days, teams continue monitoring rainfall and water levels in Sylhet and Sumanganj in case the triggers are reached there too.

