

# ANTICIPATORY ACTION

## ETHIOPIA

### Getting Ahead of Drought

Today, we can predict with increasing confidence the occurrence and humanitarian impact of certain climatic shocks. By combining different analytical approaches, out-of-the-ordinary weather events can not only be predicted, but their projected humanitarian impact can proactively be mitigated based on pre-identified anticipatory actions.

Building on growing evidence that acting prior to the onset of a predictable, severe hazard is significantly more (cost-)effective than traditional humanitarian response, OCHA is facilitating the setup of multiple Anticipatory Action frameworks that, upon being activated, are implemented with funds allocated from CERF. Beyond CERF, other donors are encouraged to contribute funds to the frameworks within their own established criteria and in complementarity.

The framework for drought in Ethiopia, a country that is highly vulnerable to drought-induced food insecurity, was designed by humanitarian partners under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and with support by OCHA and technical partners. The framework was first triggered in December 2020, prompting the activation of financing agreements for pre-agreed activities designed to mitigate the impact of the shock and to stabilize and protect vulnerable communities.

### The Trigger Mechanism

#### Knowing when to act

Each of the anticipatory action pilots involves setting up a trigger mechanism that corresponds directly to the hazards expected to emerge in the targeted regions. The mechanism enables the activation of the framework and release of pre-agreed finance. The trigger for drought in Ethiopia functions as a two-step determination tool: it firstly determines the projected severity of humanitarian need as captured by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and secondly determines whether drought conditions are projected. An activation of the framework is triggered under the condition that the pre-determined threshold for both food

#### Condition 1 Food insecurity

At least 20% of the population of one or more regions projected at IPC4+

OR

At least 30% of the population of a region projected at IPC3+ AND an increase by 5 percentage points from the current estimate to the projected estimate.

#### Condition 2 Drought

At least 50% probability of below average rainfall from at least two seasonal rainfall forecasts

OR

Drought named as a driver of the deterioration of the situation in food security report (IPC or Fews Net)

### ANTICIPATORY ACTION FRAMEWORK

#### THE MODEL

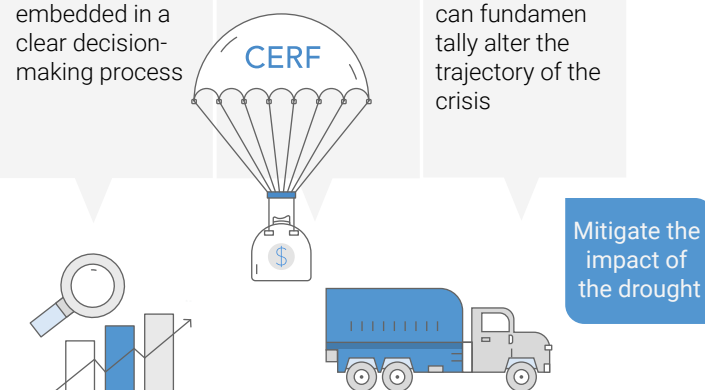
A robust forecasting embedded in a clear decision-making process

#### THE MONEY

Pre-arranged finance

#### THE DELIVERY

Pre-agreed action plan that can fundamentally alter the trajectory of the crisis



insecurity and drought is met in at least one single region. Acknowledging the multidimensional impacts of drought, food insecurity phases are used as a proxy indicator for worsening conditions across multiple sectors.

The framework uses food security projections with three to six months lead time and seasonal as well sub-seasonal rainfall forecasts. Trigger thresholds were selected based on historical analysis and indicate an out-of-the-ordinary event.

### Anticipatory Activities

#### Acting when the time is right

The anticipatory action frameworks facilitated by OCHA establish an action plan that is implemented by UN agencies and their partners as soon as trigger conditions are met. Intended to fundamentally alter the trajectory of an anticipated crisis, the pre-agreed activities are primarily selected based on the following criteria:

**Anticipatory character:** Actions included in the framework must be effective in preventing or reducing the humanitarian impact of drought.

**Timing:** Each potential action has a specific window of opportunity, outside of which an action loses much of its intended effect. This is defined in a crisis timeline. Only those activities that can be carried out between the trigger and the optimal moment for delivery of assistance are chosen for anticipatory action.

**Capacity:** To maximize the impact of assistance, it is critical that UN agencies and their implementing partners have the institutional capacity (thematic, logistic, administrative, financial, human resources) to implement actions effectively given the available lead time and required scale.

Beyond meeting the above criteria, all activities included in the Anticipatory Action Framework for Ethiopia are designed to build on and reinforce the existing and functioning disaster management architecture, and not build parallel systems. To promote multiplier effects, multi-sectoral, co-targeted interventions are given priority. As per CERF’s rules and regulations, all activities funded by CERF must adhere to the fund’s life-saving criteria.

The table below provides an overview of interventions included in the Anticipatory Action framework for drought. All activities take place between the trigger activation and the peak of forecast

humanitarian need, each during its window of opportunity, as is illustrated in the graph below. Given the slow evolution of a drought shock, the activities included in the framework span 2-9 months and can be activated in several tranches to account for different windows of opportunity. This phased approach allows for a set of time-critical activities with longer lead times to be activated earlier and a second set of activities later. The ideal timing of each activity has been mapped for different geographical areas and different rainy seasons (Kiremt, Belg, Gu, Karan and Deyr) in Ethiopia.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION		AIM
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide cash to vulnerable farmers and pastoralists</li> <li>Procure &amp; distribute drought-tolerant seeds</li> <li>Conduct animal health treatment campaign</li> <li>Provide livestock supplementary feed</li> </ul>	Reduce risk of malnutrition and loss of livelihood
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable &amp; safeguard access to clean water in schools</li> <li>Provide cash to households with school children</li> </ul>	Reduce risk of school dropouts
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-activate &amp; strengthen Rapid Response Teams</li> </ul>	Detect, prevent & control health impacts of drought
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote, protect &amp; support Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition practices</li> </ul>	Reduce risk of malnutrition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct screenings to detect acute child malnutrition</li> </ul>	Reduce morbidity and mortality through early referral
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute essential dignity items to women and girls</li> </ul>	Reduce risk of Gender-Based Violence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness about child protection</li> </ul>	Protect children from negative coping mechanisms
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstream protection mechanisms across AA sectors</li> </ul>	Mitigate protection risks for vulnerable populations
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitate non-functioning water schemes</li> </ul>	Ensure access to water that is clean and safe for consumption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute essential hygiene items</li> </ul>	Reduce risk of disease outbreaks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote good hygiene practices</li> </ul>	

## Evaluation and Learning

Owned by the humanitarian country team, the Ethiopia Anticipatory Action framework is a “living document” that can be adapted in real time based on emerging lessons. To effectively capture these lessons and build the evidence base for

anticipatory action, OCHA is collaborating with the Centre for Disaster Protection on an evaluative learning component that is accompanying the pilot throughout the design, disbursement and implementation stage.

