

ANTICIPATORY ACTION

SOMALIA



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 Somalia, a country that has suffered from recurrent food and nutrition crises and is prone to erratic and extreme weather patterns, was designed by humanitarian partners under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia and with support by OCHA, the World Bank, donors and technical partners. The framework was triggered for the first time in June 2020, prompting the activation of financing agreements for pre-agreed activities designed to get ahead of worsening food insecurity. In February 2021, the trigger threshold was reached again as an impending drought was projected to lead to a severe deterioration in food security and the framework was activated.

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 Somalia tracks humanitarian needs as captured by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) over time to determine whether there is an increased risk of an extraordinary crisis. Accounting for the wide-ranging effects of drought, food security phases are used as a proxy indicator for

Somalia trigger thresholds

The projected population in IPC phase 3+ exceeds 20% **AND EITHER**

The projected population at IPC3+ is projected to increase by a further 5% **OR**

The projected population at IPC4+ exceeds 2.5%

ANTICIPATORY ACTION FRAMEWORK

THE MODEL

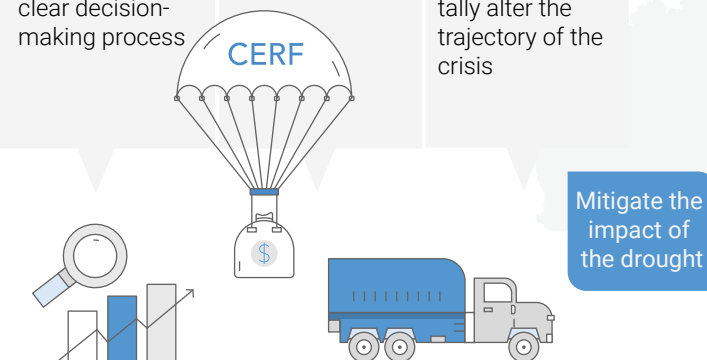
A robust forecasting embedded in a clear decision-making process

THE MONEY

Pre-arranged finance

THE DELIVERY

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



worsening conditions across multiple sectors, like malnutrition and health.

The framework uses food security projections provided on a quarterly basis by the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and FEWS NET.

Activation of the Somalia framework – adapting AA to a changed risk landscape

In June 2020, the pre-determined trigger threshold for anticipatory action in Somalia was breached, with projections indicating that 22% of the population would be facing at least crisis-levels of food insecurity. With these triggers having been met, the ERC allocated \$15 million from CERF to support a multi-sectoral package of interventions. While the expected deterioration in needs was a result of the compounding impact of the locust infestation, flooding, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the activation of the framework demonstrated the value of acting proactively, based on objective shifts in risk instead of need. The allocation provided an opportunity to learn and demonstrate the value of triggering pre-agreed plans to reduce suffering and costs.

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 the shock.

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 Somalia 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 Somalia 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. Given the volatility of the food security situation in Somalia and accounting for the country’s vulnerability to other economic and climatic shocks, the activities included in the framework span 2-9 months and can be activated in several tranches. This phased approach ensures that activities are adapted as much as possible to the trajectory of a crisis, accounting for both timeliness and impact. The ideal timing of each activity has been mapped for different geographical areas and different rainy seasons (Gu and Deyr) in Somalia.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION		AIM
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable & safeguard access to clean water in schools Implement school feeding programmes Disburse cash incentives to teachers Provide child protective services 	Reduce risk of school dropouts
Food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cash to vulnerable households Distribute drought-smart farming packages Control fall armyworm and other crop pests Prevent & control desert locust outbreaks Conduct animal health treatment campaign Provide livestock supplementary feed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce risk of malnutrition & loss of livelihood Sustain food production Sustain livestock productivity
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early warning and preparedness Infection prevention Infection control and treatment Essential medications and supplies provision 	Detect, prevent & control health impacts of drought
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Blanket Feeding Program Provide food supplements 	Reduce risk of malnutrition
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support protection monitoring 	Mitigate protection risks for vulnerable populations
Risk communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out media campaign Provide advance warning of risk to local communities 	Empower communities to make risk-informed decisions
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitate non-functioning water schemes Establish new strategically located water supply Distribute household water treatment & safe storage products Preventively treat unprotected water sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to water that is clean & safe for consumption Reduce risk of disease outbreaks

Evaluation and Learning

Owned by the humanitarian country team, the Somalia 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.