



Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) for Drought Sanaag, Sool SOMALILAND/SOMALIA



A A P

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Summary

Hazard	Drought
Country, Region District Villages	Somalia, Somaliland Sanaag, Sool Elnimon, Kalmac, Yufle, (Sanaag); Waridad, Habarishey, Hundurgal (Sool)
Validity Period	WAHAFA 2.0 Fuel funding until April 2029. The validity period of this AAP will be extended further if additional pre-agreed finance for anticipatory actions becomes available, including from other alternative sources or donors.
Impacts to be addressed by anticipatory action(s)	1. Food insecurity 2. Exacerbated water scarcity 3. Increased conflicts in the community 4. Economic losses
Anticipatory action(s)	1. Unconditional cash transfers 2. Water reserve rehabilitation or distribution, if necessary 3. Community Animal Health Workers training 4. Conflict resolution training for community peace committees 5. Support for Early Warning and DRR awareness raising-messages
No. of households (and individuals) to be reached	Approximately 6,400HH (38,400 individuals, 50.6% female)
AAP budget	500,000.00 €
Trigger model indicators for model used for early warning (and lead time)	• Community observations (observation – no lead time) • NADFOR Combined Drought Index (observation – no lead time) • IPC reported by FSNAU (3 months projection)
Time frame of implementation of anticipatory action(s)	Starting with the Gu (April-June) or Deyr (late September-December) rainy season
Focal point for this AAP	Abdikadir Abdulsalam, Programme Manager, CARE-Somalia
Governmental coordinating agencies	Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR)
Last updated	2026-17-06

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview

This Anticipatory Action model is a gender-focused, locally led, actionable trigger and threshold-based Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) that corresponds directly to observed and forecasted drought impacts expected to emerge in the targeted Earthen regions of Somaliland. Hence, a trigger mechanism was set up, activating the AAP and implementation of anticipatory actions that aim to reduce the drought hazard risks expected to emerge in the targeted regions Sool and Sanaag. The mechanism enables the activation of the AAP and the release of pre-agreed finance from the WAHAFA Fuel funding. The trigger for drought in this AAP includes several indicators: food security projections provided quarterly by the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) (IPC) (threshold: 20% or more projected to be in IPC phase 3+); this data will be analyzed using additional data, namely community observations on (decreasing) pasture availability, (decreasing) water reserves, and (rising) food prices; and the Combined Drought Index provided by NADFOR (threshold: 0.8 or below).

AAPs display long-term preparation for Anticipatory Action in a localized manner (locally-led anticipation), containing permanent agreements with stakeholders (access guarantee), long-term cooperation and coordination with partners, pre-agreed finance (binding financing and implementation responsibility), automated and based on scientific thresholds (trigger levels).

CARE

CARE is providing life-saving emergency assistance to people affected by conflict and crisis in Somalia since 1981. It expanded its work to tackle the underlying causes of poverty and vulnerability of rural girls and women and urban youth in Somaliland, Puntland, and South-Central Somalia, and building their resilience to recurrent shocks and stresses.

CARE has been providing emergency relief and lifesaving assistance to the Somali people since 1981. Our main program activities since then have included projects in water and sanitation, economic recovery, health, nutrition, sustainable pastoralist activities and protection. CARE is working in community-based disaster risk management and supported the establishment of local Disaster Risk Management structures, e.g., Disaster Risk Management Committees in communities.

Shaqodoon

national non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 2011 and works to develop custom-built web and mobile technologies to support humanitarian, development and aid agencies in Somalia and Somaliland. Shaqodoon also develops technology-based systems for Early warning systems, Livestock disease surveillance and Crowdfunding platforms. Shaqodoon has offices in Hargeisa (HQ, Somaliland), Garowe (Puntland) and Mogadishu (Somalia). Shaqodoon Organization, renowned for its innovative and technological services, has extensive in-country experience in providing technology services to the humanitarian programs in Somalia. Leveraging advanced technology, Shaqodoon has streamlined its

innovation approaches to the humanitarian setting including digital platforms for resource allocation, real-time data collection for needs assessments, and mobile applications that enhance communication between aid workers and beneficiaries.

Other stakeholders

- The **National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR)** is the government body that provides policy lead and humanitarian coordination in the DRM sector in Somaliland; NADFOR also operates early warning and early action collects data on various hazards, including droughts, floods, and food security, and disseminates this information to relevant stakeholders. NADFOR's early warning infrastructure (including the Authority's Early Warning System and publishing the Combined Drought Index) is a key part of the trigger mechanism of this AAP.
- **DRR committees:** Disaster risk management committees will provide local observational data and report localized indicators of drought such as pasture availability, water resources and prices of food items increasing that will complement national level early warning information.
- **Somalia Cash Working Group:** The Somalia Cash Working Group will provide the latest information related to transfer values pegged to the Somalia Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), which will guide the cash transfer amount as one of the prioritized anticipatory actions.
- **Local government authorities (both at regional and district level):** The targeting and selection of beneficiaries will be done in consultation with the local authorities – with the criteria developed and agreed upon jointly with the communities and local authorities.
- **Financial Service Providers (FSPs):** The FSPs will be responsible for delivering the cash intervention to the beneficiaries. The dominant mobile money transfer service providers in Somaliland are Telesom (Zaad) and Somtel (Edahab).
- **University:** National universities have dedicated departments of peace and conflict studies enabling them to provide specialized expertise and contribute significantly to building community resilience in the face of drought-related challenges.

1.2. Budget

Budget Summary for the prioritized AAs based on the actual budget of EUR 500,000

Prioritized anticipatory actions	Budget (EUR) Total: € 500,000
Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness Campaign	5,355.31 €
Dissemination of Early Warning & DRR bulk messages through mobile phone platforms	1,155.31 €
Facilitate drought early warning and DRR awareness sessions targeting DRR committees and local authority officials (NADFOR)	4,200.00 €
Anticipatory Water Access Interventions	94,500.00 €
Assessment of water points and registration of vulnerable households for water trucking assistance	3,000.00 €
Anticipatory water trucking support for 10,800 drought-vulnerable people to mitigate water shortages before crisis escalation	73,500.00 €
Rehabilitation of water points	18,000.00 €
Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)	219,926.24 €
Community mobilisation, selection & registration of cash transfer beneficiaries (Sool region)	1,616.24 €
Multipurpose cash assistance to 786 HHs in the targeted 2 villages (Sool Region)	117,900.00 €
Community mobilisation, selection & registration of cash transfer beneficiaries (Sanaag region)	1,500.00 €
Multipurpose cash assistance to 785 HHs in the targeted 2 villages (Sanaag region)	98,910.00 €
Capacity Building of Community Structures	5,000.00 €
Training for Peace Committees: capacity building on resource-based conflicts resolution	3,000.00 €
Training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and provision of basic treatment kits	2,000.00 €
Monitoring and Learning Mechanism Implemented	15,203.10 €
Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)	3,943.40 €
Facilitate learning and reflection session targeting DRR committees, local government actors and other key AAP stakeholders to review implementation of the AAP	3,000.00 €
Final evaluation/quick trigger evaluation	4,075.00 €
Produce KM products (technical briefs, stories, video etc.)	4,000.00 €
Project Staff and Other Support Costs	160,015.30 €

1.3. AAP Validation

Key stakeholders were involved throughout the Build project phase – the development process of the AAP thus reinforced and ongoing validation of its different elements. More specifically, the project facilitated training workshops that improved the capacity of the key AAP stakeholders- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees and local authority officials in the AAP process and understanding of the AA approach. The DRR committees and local authority officials participated in workshops that led to the development of community-led anticipatory actions. The DRR committees from the four villages/communities developed their Community Anticipatory Action plans (CAAPs) that fed into the AAP.

The project also facilitated workshops that enabled DRR committees and local authority officials to develop and validate a drought-trigger mechanism, including thresholds for this AAP. The AAP validation workshop was held on May 27, 2025. A total of 28 AAP stakeholders (14 male, 14 female) took part in the AAP validation. The AAP was presented to the participants for review and feedback sharing. The AAP was validated after incorporation of feedback from the DRR committees and local authority officials. A summary of the validated AAP was symbolically handed over to the government disaster agency, NADFOR on May 27, 2025, and also shared with representatives of the DRR committees from the four project villages/communities. A more detailed report is in the annexes.

2 Risk Analysis

2.1. Hazard overview

Somaliland has arid and semi-arid climate, in recent years, the frequency, intensity and irregularity of natural and human-induced disasters have increased resulting in higher property damage, habitat destruction and loss of life. The damage caused by natural hazards impeded the socio-economic development of the country. Somalia/Somaliland is ranked as one of the most at-risk countries out of 191 countries, according to the [2024 INFORM Risk Index](#). This index ranks indicated countries on vulnerability, exposure and capacity to cope with hazards.

2.2. Hazard

The main types of hazards are drought, flash floods, conflicts, disease outbreaks, and locust invasion. However, drought is the most prevalent hazard. The country has been experiencing recurrent rainfall failures including in the last Dayr season (September – November 2024). The unpredictability of the rainy season leaves communities vulnerable and in dire need of life-saving assistance. The nature and severity of drought impacts depend on vulnerability and coping capacity and the characteristics of households and communities. The communities most affected by drought are farmers pastoralists who depend on the seasonal rainfall to support their livelihood systems and achieve food security. The AAP targets Sool and Sanaag region, the eastern region of Somaliland most vulnerable to the impacts of the severe drought

due to predominantly pastoralist communities, insufficient water sources and land degradation.

The main rainy season in Somaliland, locally known as Gu occurs between April to June. This is followed by Haga, a short dry season between June to July. The second rainy season, locally known as Deyr in the eastern region, occurs between October to December. Finally, December to March is known as the long dry season (Jilaal).

Therefore, drought usually occurs when rainfall is below average for a season or two consecutive seasons. The drought becomes more severe after rainfall fails for two or more consecutive rainy seasons. Drought mostly occurs between April and June and from October to December.

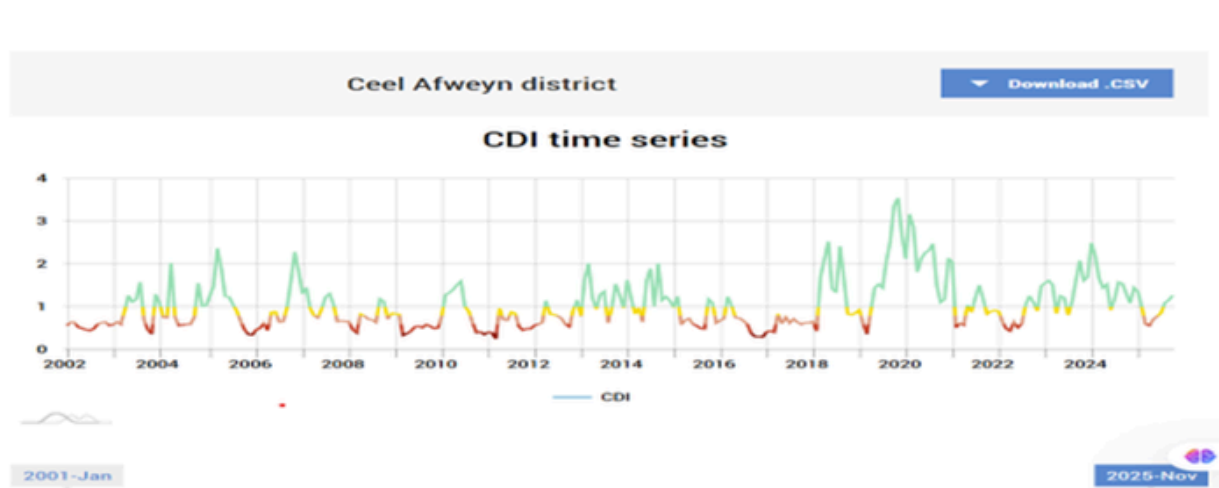
In the 2024-2025 rainy seasons, most of the eastern parts of Somaliland, including the two regions the AAP targeted (Sool and Sanaag), were in drought conditions due to below-average to complete failure of the two main GU and Deyr rain seasons.

The main sources of water in Sool and Sanaag region are surface water points such as community berkads (underground water storage tanks for harvesting and storing rainwater). The water points (Berkads) are replenished by rainfall. Hence, inadequate rainfall is usually the underlying cause of drought, water scarcity, and pasture shortages, which in turn lead to livelihood disruption and food insecurity. Therefore, the main types of droughts in the project area are meteorological, which in turn lead to other types, namely hydrological, agricultural, and socio-economic. As a result of the changing climatic and weather patterns, Somaliland has been experiencing an increased frequency of severe drought. The impacts of the droughts and vulnerability of local communities and ecosystems are intensified by human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, and inappropriate farming practices.

The timing of droughts is closely linked to the four main seasons that characterize the seasonal weather patterns in Somaliland regions: two rainy seasons and two dry seasons (see Crisis calendar, Figure 3).

This AAP considers early warning signs and the impacts of meteorological, agricultural, hydrological, and socioeconomic drought (see the chapter on the trigger model). By implementing anticipatory actions, the advanced effects of droughts can be mitigated. Furthermore, utilizing historical climate and meteorological data enables anticipating “out-of-the-ordinary” drought impacts and timely interventions to prevent the worst impacts of drought (see the chapter on impact analysis).

The figure below is the Combined Drought Index (CDI) time series (2002-2025) for Somaliland, referenced by Elafwein district, Sanaag region.



LEGEND			
Color	Value	Tag	Description
	< 0.4	extreme	Major loss of crops and pasture, extreme fire danger, total water shortages, drying of deep reservoirs and usage restrictions
	0.4 - 0.6	severe	Wider scale of loss of crops and pastures, imposed water rationing and livestock migration
	0.6 - 0.8	moderate	Damage to crops, pastures, drying of shallow reservoirs; voluntary water rationing
	0.8 - 1.0	mild	Going into drought, short term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops. Also coming out of a drought – water deficits, partial loss of crops and pasture
	> 1.0	normal	No drought

Figure 1: Combined Drought Index (CDI) time series 2002-2025 – Elafwein district, Sanaag region, Somaliland ([SWALIM - Combined Drought Index](#))

2.3. Target locations

The targeted locations are Sool and Sanaag regions in Somaliland. The regions identified as the AAP's primary focus areas are highly susceptible to recurrent droughts. Although the two regions share the same characteristics in terms of livestock types, social settings, types of water points, and environmental challenges, some villages in the two regions experience different drought impacts.

The selection of the target locations was done through a participatory process. The target locations were prioritized due to their high exposure to drought-related risks, particularly limited water resources and vulnerability to food insecurity.

The selection of target locations was informed by views from community consultations and key informants interviewed such as prominent local leaders, local government institution representatives, and partner NGOs. The target locations selected were further reviewed at the stakeholder mapping workshop in November.

The AAP targets four villages, two villages in Sool region (Habarhesheye and War Idaad village) and two villages in Sanaag region (Kalmac and El nimcon villages). The four villages, like all other surrounding areas, are characterized by an arid and highly variable climate, with low and erratic rainfall. The climate, coupled with other environmental factors, makes these regions susceptible to drought and desertification. The key economic activity in the four villages are livestock rearing through pastoralism, small-scale business or retail trade and low level rainfed farming. Land degradation, mainly due to overgrazing and deforestation, is very high, increasing vulnerability to recurring droughts. The major impacts of drought on four villages are food shortages, water scarcity, fodder shortages, livestock diseases and deaths, displacement, deterioration of hygiene and sanitation, and exacerbated risks of conflict due to scarce resources. The DRR committees from the four villages participated in developing the AAP. However, due to similarity in climatic, environmental and socioeconomic conditions in Sool and Sanaag region, the AAP is applicable to and can be replicated in other villages besides the four selected villages.



Figure 2: Map showing the intervention zones: the two regions and 4 villages

The areas of the Sanaag and Sool regions most vulnerable to droughts have been mapped out and are detailed in figure 1 of this AAP. The map (Figure 2) also shows the specific intervention zones covered under the plan. Detailed risk profiles for these regions are elaborated in the vulnerability section of the AAP, which outlines the specific risks and tailored strategies to address them.

2.4. Impact analysis

The table below provides information on historic drought events in Somaliland, the main impacts on communities and exposed elements. The table also shows the dates and geographic distribution of major drought events in Somaliland, along with their impacts.

Year	Drought cause	Location(s)	Impact(s)
2021	- Poor rainfall - La niña effect - Hot temperature	Throughout Somaliland	- Critical situation for 810,000 people in need of emergency assistance. - The number of affected people was 1,200,420 across all six main regions in Somaliland. - The top priorities of the people affected were mainly water (70%), food (21%) and health (9%).
2017	- Poor rainfall - La niña effect - Hot temperature	Marodijeh, Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag region	Nearly 500,000 people were affected
2016	- Poor rainfall - Hot temperature	Awdal, Maroodijeeh, Sanaag, Sool and Togdheer	N/A

2015	• Poor rainfall • Hot temperature	Awdal, and Maroodijee	N/A
2012	• Poor rainfall	Awdal region	N/A
2010/ 2011	• Poor rainfall • La Niña effect	Throughout Somaliland	N/A
2008/ 2009	• Poor rainfall • Hot temperature	Gabiley and Odweyne districts	N/A
2003/ 2004	• Poor rainfall • Hot temperature	Throughout Somaliland	70% of livestock herd perished
1994	• Poor rainfall • La Niña effect	Throughout Somaliland	N/A
1974	• Poor rainfall • La Niña effect	Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions	N/A
1957	• Poor rainfall • Hot temperature	Throughout Somaliland	N/A
1950	• Poor rainfall • Hot temperature	Sanaag region	20,000 persons were affected
1934 -1944	• Poor rainfall • Hot temperature	Sanaag region	10,000 people affected most of them in relief camps
1914	• Poor rainfall	Throughout Somaliland	N/A

Source: NADFOR and FSNAU

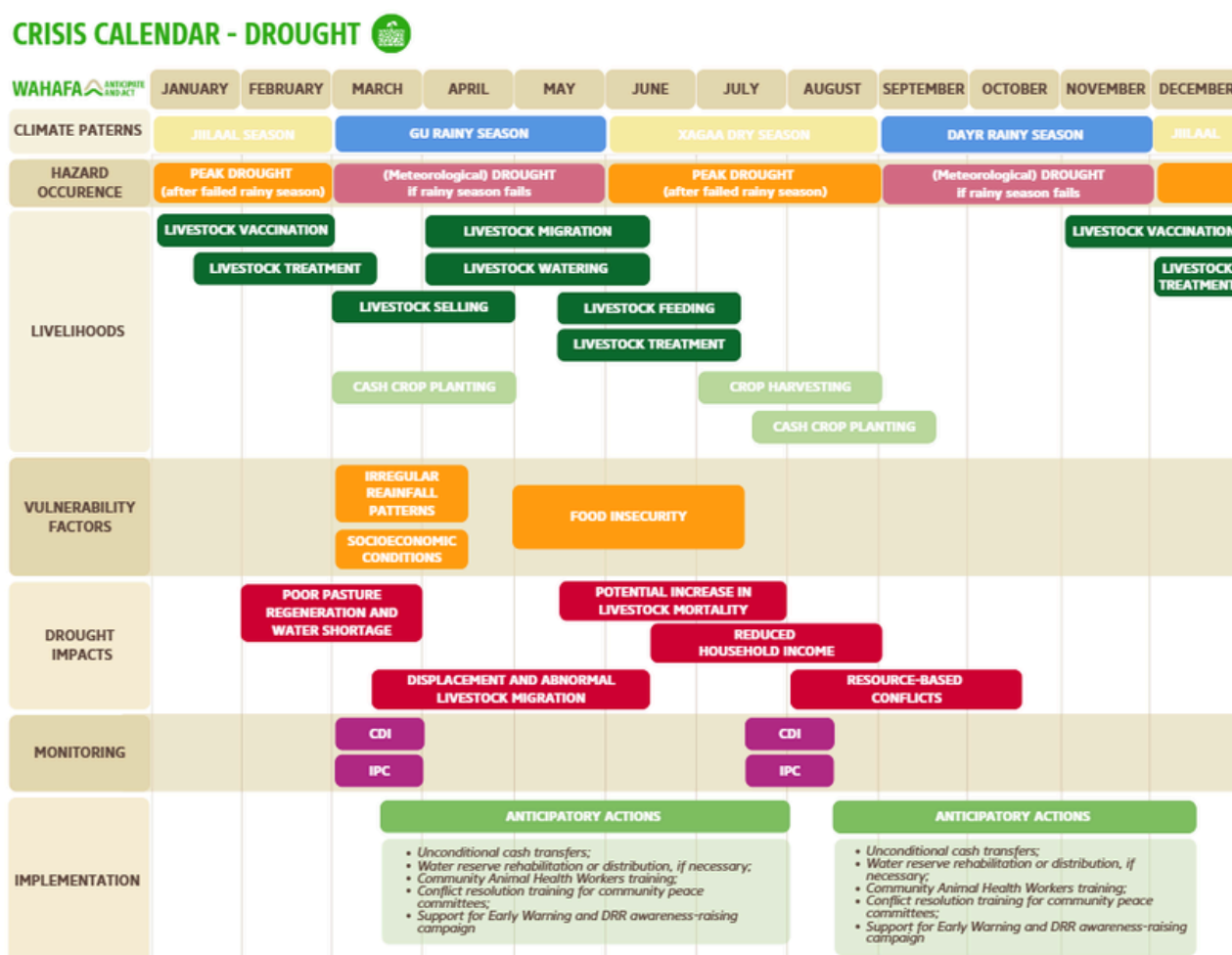


Figure 3: Crisis Calendar Drought

The livelihood sectors more at risk to drought hazards in Somaliland are pastoralists and farmers:

- **Pastoralists:** They depend on the availability of pasture and water to sustain their livelihoods. Pastoralists are often severely affected by droughts, leading to widespread livestock losses due to reduced water availability, severe food insecurity, income loss, displacement from their grazing land, and increased vulnerability to conflict as communities compete for scarce resources.
- **Farmers:** They practice a dryland rainfed farming system that is severely affected during drought events due to decreased availability of water for growing crops. This leads to crop failure, food shortages, income losses, and increased household hunger and malnutrition.

Livestock production through nomadic pastoralism accounts for 60% of Somaliland's GDP and about 85% of its foreign export earnings. It is a source of livelihood for pastoralists, contributes to government revenues, and provides employment to a wide range of professionals and other service providers.^[1] As livestock is the backbone of Somaliland's economy, droughts have a significant negative impact on the overall economy and livelihoods. Therefore, drought preparedness and Anticipatory Action Planning (AAP) are critical to mitigate the devastating impacts of drought.

^[1] <https://moiid.govsomaliland.org/article/livestock-1>

2.5 Vulnerability and Capacities

The main impacts of drought in Somaliland are:

- Water scarcity for both domestic use, agriculture and livestock production.
- Reduced household food and income that lead to hunger and increased prevalence of malnutrition.
- Increase in livestock mortality.
- Debt trap
- Reduced sanitation, hygiene and increase disease prevalence.
- Displacement and livestock migration in search of better resources.
- The movement of pastoralists in search of water and pasture may increase the risk of resource-based conflicts, particularly in areas where resources are already limited.

The forecasted below-average deyr (September-November 2024) rains caused drought conditions in most parts of Somalia/Somaliland, leading to increased food insecurity in the first quarter of 2025.^[2]

Community Groups most vulnerable to drought impacts:

- **Children and young people**, drought contributes to shortage of food or consumption of low-quality food. It impacts children and young people through increased malnutrition and vulnerability to diseases, and protection risks, including child labor and other forms of child abuse.
- **The elderly and people with disabilities**, during drought, the elderly are often neglected, are unable to migrate, left behind in villages without adequate support including adequate food, hence they will suffer from both mental and physical deprivation.
- **Women and women-headed households**, they experience increased exposure to drought-induced gender-based violence, including discrimination and inequality in life-saving livelihood assets
- **Displaced populations**, people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict or other disasters are often in a precarious situation during droughts, with limited access to food, water, and shelter.
- **Ultra-poor households**, households with very few livestock and with limited livelihood sources are highly vulnerable to the drought impacts.

The most recent example of a drought trigger is from 2025: In late March 2025, the IPC Technical Working Group in Somalia conducted an update to its drought analysis, released in February 2025. The update reflected the likely impact of the recent major reduction in humanitarian assistance funding and a likely further increase in vulnerability to drought impacts due to reduced support for improving adaptive capacities. The acute food insecurity projection update analyzed 21 areas, based on changes to humanitarian assistance and other aggravating factors, such as conflict and drought-related displacement. In the 21 areas, 36 per cent of the population is projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), with 9 per cent in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and 28 per cent in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). This compares with 6 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively, projected in the January 2025 analysis. The revised number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above between April and June 2025 is 713,000, compared to 553,000 estimated in the January 2025 analysis, a net increase of

^[2] https://faoswalim.org/resources/site_files/Somalia_Seasonal_Rainfall_Outlook_for_Gu_2025.pdf

nearly 160,000 people (29 per cent).^[3]

Capacities:

The communities demonstrated their capacity to mobilize internal resources to implement various desired coping strategies to enhance their adaptive capacities. Predominantly, the resources included the availability of manpower, mostly men (construction of community assets), and contributions of funds through various institutions/groups, e.g., individual community members and Village Development Committees. Community structures exist in all targeted villages: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committees, Peace Committees, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and Community Water Management Committees (CWMC). These structures demonstrate existing community capacities that enhance collective disaster preparedness and response efforts. The community structures will serve as the local coordination mechanism for implementing the AAP. However, there is a need to continuously improve their capacities through training and the provision of critical tools, such as livestock tools, to Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). Strong social networks based on family and clan affiliations are traditional climate adaptation practices and capacities that facilitate support during crises, such as lending lactating livestock to the most vulnerable households to use until they recover. Implementation of the AAP will enhance community capacity to prevent the severe impacts of drought before and during the early stages of drought.

The Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment/Resource Mapping (CVCA/CVRM) report is included in the annexes.

3 Early Warning and Risk

3.1. Trigger Model

When the following indicators reach their thresholds before the Gu and Deyr rainy seasons, this drought AAP is activated:

- **Seasonal climate outlook from FSNAU**, indicating a below-average rainfall for the upcoming rainy season (Gu or Deyr season)
- **Reports from communities** in the quarterly NADFOR reports indicate that water sources and / or pasture availability are low, and/or resource-based conflicts have increased, and/or prices of key food items have significantly increased (monitored by community DRR committees and transmitted via NADFOR's app and/or the VAM).

AND

- NADFOR's **Combined Drought Index (CDI)** returns a value of **0.8 or below**

AND

- The **IPC acute food security projection** for Caynaba (Sool) and Ceel Afweyn (Sanaag) districts which project target villages under those districts (Kalmac, Ceelnimcon under Ceel-afwayn; and Waridaad, Habariheshay under Caynaba) has **20% or above** of people projected to face '**Crisis**' or above (**IPC3+**) (monitored by the CARE/Shaqodoon WAHAFA team).

^[3] <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159549/>

Note: If the indicators are not all met (e.g., the IPC and community indicators are met, but the CDI remains above 0.8) or there are clear other early warning signs (e.g., from seasonal forecasts, community alerts), **collective decision making** will determine whether anticipatory actions are triggered.

This trigger model is a clear framework for initiating organisational readiness activities (see annex 6.2) and anticipatory action based on specific indicators, thresholds, observations, and forecasting triggers. It specifies responsibilities, information sources, lead times, probabilities, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure actions are taken on time and effectively. This trigger model is based on information from communities and more technical analyses.

Seasonal climate outlook

Seasonal climate outlooks from FSNAU are essential for early drought preparation, giving reliable forecasts of below-average rainfall months in advance. These forecasts are based on a detailed analysis of global and regional climate patterns, including historical weather data and climate models. They are published in March and September and indicate if precipitation in the upcoming rainy season (Gu and Deyr) are forecast to be below, normal or above average.

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) classification provides strategically relevant information to decision-makers who focus on short-term objectives to prevent, mitigate, or reduce severe food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods. In particular, the IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification provides a differentiation between different levels of severity of acute food insecurity, classifying units of analysis in five distinct phases: (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine. Each of these phases has important and distinct implications for where and how best to intervene and therefore influences priority response objectives.

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification is conducted according to the four functions of the IPC, including: 1) consensus building, 2) methodical evaluation, review and convergence of all evidence available against global thresholds, 3) strategic communication for action, and 4) quality assurance.

Combined Drought Index

The NADFOR CDI monitoring tool focuses on three factors that influence drought conditions. This includes rainfall, temperature, and the Normalized Vegetation Drought Index (NVDI), which is a proxy for soil moisture.

	Indicator	Location(s)	Data sources / model output	Lead-time	Monitoring period	Trigger threshold
Readiness and anticipatory actions	Water and / or pasture availability	Affected areas around the four target villages	- NADFOR - DRR committees (transmitted via NADFOR's app and/or the FAM)	Immediate (observation)	Continuous monitoring, quarterly NADFOR reports	< Become below-average water level < Livestock body condition classification indicates widespread poor health (grade 1-2 on a 5-point score)
	Resource-based conflicts / tensions	Affected areas around the four target villages	- NADFOR - DRR committees (transmitted via NADFOR's app and/or the FAM)	Immediate (observation)		Communities' reports increase
	Prices of key food items	Affected areas around the four target villages	- NADFOR - DRR committees (transmitted via NADFOR's app and/or the FAM)	Immediate (observation)	Continuous monitoring, quarterly NADFOR reports	Significant increase
	Seasonal climate outlook	Sool and Sanaag region	- NADFOR; - FSNAU	1-3 months	March, August/September	Below average
	Combined Drought Index (CDI)	Caynaba (Sool) and Ceel Afweyn (Sanaag)	- NADFOR reports / - SWALIM	Immediate (observation)	Continuous monitoring, report issued quarterly in March, June, August and November	0.8 or below
	IPC acute food in security projection	for Caynaba (Sool) and Ceel Afweyn (Sanaag)	IPC reports	3 months	Continuous report issued quarterly in March, June, August and November	20% or above of people projected to face 'Crisis' or above (IPC3+)

Table 2. Summary of indicators and thresholds used in this AAP

In essence, this trigger system prioritizes a multi-dimensional approach, and community observations with integrate seasonal precipitation forecasts, FSNAU's food security assessments, specifically flagging situations where over 20% of a district's population faces IPC Phase 3 crisis, with NADFOR's Combined Drought Index, signaling high drought stress at 0.8 or below. By incorporating indigenous knowledge and observations, the trigger mechanisms utilize local knowledge and observations of water scarcity, pasture decline, resource-based conflicts, and escalating food prices, which not only provides real-time community feedback but deeper insights on drought conditions based on community experiences.

3.2 Stop mechanism

NADFOR will continuously monitor the forecasted drought triggers and thresholds before and after activation of the AAP. The AAP stop mechanisms will be resorted to if the forecast triggers and the threshold return to normal, or if the predicted drought hazard fails to materialize after the AAP is activated. The Stop Mechanism will lead to the discontinuation of the implementation of the pre-determined anticipatory actions.

The key possible scenarios that could result in halting activation of the AAP or discontinue implementation of the anticipatory actions include:

- Not forecasted above-average rains in the targeted areas after activation or during the readiness phase
- Food prices drop after initial increase above the set threshold.
- Outbreak of major conflicts or disease epidemics that could limit project staff and partners' access to the targeted communities or areas.

However, the Stop Mechanism decision will not be made solely on 1 or 2 trigger indicators returning to normal, but it will investigate the overall status of all the trigger indicators and their threshold level. For example, receiving heavy rain immediately after activation does not always translate to immediate pasture improvement or may cause unpredictable flash floods with catastrophic humanitarian impacts, including a sharp rise in food prices and water pollution due to transport and water infrastructure damaged by the flash floods.

The decision on the stop mechanism will be discussed and made by the AAP implementation team (CARE, Shaqodoon, and NADFOR). A documented collective STOP MECHANISM decision will be generated and shared with all relevant stakeholders.

4 Anticipatory Actions

4.1 Identification & prioritization of anticipatory actions

Identification of anticipatory actions: In February 2025, the project team facilitated a workshop for the identification and selection of community-led and gender targeted drought

anticipatory actions. The participants who attended the workshop were DRR committees from the 4 villages in Sool and Sanaag regions, representatives from key government stakeholders (NADFOR, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock), CARE and Shaqodoon project teams, and focal persons from key NGOs and humanitarian organisations (including the Somaliland Red Crescent Society). During the workshop, the participants used an analysis matrix tool to identify the impacts of drought at different lead times and the appropriate anticipatory actions to address them. A summary table of drought anticipatory actions (CAAPs) was prepared during the community-led workshop and is annexed to the AAP.

Prioritization of the anticipatory actions: During the finalization working session with the WAHAFA team (April 2025), the list of all identified potential anticipatory actions was considerably reduced. The criteria for prioritization were:

- Does the anticipatory action suggested by communities make sense in our case?

IF **YES**:

- Do we have enough time?
- Do we have enough money?
- Do we have the capacity?

Does the anticipatory action <u>make sense</u> ?	Do we have <u>enough time</u> ...	Do we have <u>enough money</u> ...	Do we have the <u>capacity</u> ...
<u>Will this anticipatory action...</u> ... be effective of reducing the risk/impact of the hazard? ... fit also within other policy frameworks (e.g., DRR plans)? ... be feasible? ... be able to be scaled? ... be able to be implemented by your organization/ partners/ stakeholders/ communities? ... be implementable given the available time set out by the lead time of your model? ... provide value for money/be efficient? ... be implementable by your organization given your organizational mandate and priorities?	... between the warning and the (beginning of the) impact? <i>Is your window of opportunity long enough to implement the activity?</i>	... from WAHAFA funds and/or other sources? <i>A WAHAFA Fuel activation is a maximum amount of 300,000 €.</i>	... to implement this activity? <i>Do you have the experience, the availability of staff, or partnerships?</i>

... be socially acceptable? ... not cause any harm in general? ... not cause any harm also in case of false trigger? ... be implementable given the available budget (also for prepositioning)?			
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Based on this, the following five anticipatory actions were prioritized:

1. Unconditional cash transfers
2. Water trucking (potentially preceded by rehabilitation or distribution of water storage tanks or containers)
3. Refresher training for peace committees: capacity building on resource-based conflict resolution
4. CAHWs training
5. Support for early warning messages

4.2 Anticipatory Actions and their theories of change

1) Unconditional cash transfers

What does it aim to prevent?

Based on the expressed needs of communities, our assumption is that the cash will be used to prevent all or some of the following impacts, depending on individual household needs:

- Water scarcity → disruption of agri-food systems → food insecurity
- Lack or scarcity of pasture → livestock death/livestock-based livelihoods decline → food insecurity
- Crop failure → food insecurity

The drought hazard will cause a lack of or scarcity of water, leading to crop failures, pasture shortages, livestock deaths, declines in livestock production, increases in basic food prices, erosion of household incomes, and the adoption of negative coping strategies by drought-affected households. These impacts will disrupt local agri-food systems, exacerbate household food insecurity, and increase levels of hunger and malnutrition. The anticipatory unconditional cash transfers will enable vulnerable households to buy critical supplies such as fodder for their livestock, drought-resistant seeds, water storage containers and food to mitigate the impacts of the drought.

Assumptions

The cash transfer can effectively reach this objective, if...

- Targeting / selection strategy in place and the most vulnerable households (for which we can aim to prevent a deterioration of food insecurity) are selected
- Cash transfer is timely and sufficient

2) Rehabilitation of water points and water storage materials, water trucking (where necessary)

What does it aim to prevent?

- Drought → Water scarcity → disruption of agri-food systems → food insecurity
- Drought → Water scarcity for livestock and household consumption → water-related diseases → mortality

Anticipatory water-related interventions (rehabilitation of water points and water storage materials, water trucking, based on initial verification of their condition) will improve access to water and mitigate the devastating impacts of the drought on vulnerable households, such as water-related diseases, loss of livelihoods, and food insecurity.

Assumptions

- Preceded by an assessment of existing water storage options in all communities and, if necessary, existing ones will be rehabilitated or new ones distributed

3) Refresher training for peace committees: capacity building on resource-based conflict resolution

What does it aim to prevent?

- Drought → Scarcity of pasture and water → increased tensions and conflicts over scarce pasture and water → loss of lives, injuries and displacement

The anticipatory training of peace committees will improve capacity of peace committees and prepare them to identify and diffuse potential drought-related conflicts before they occur.

Assumptions

- The peace committees will have representatives from different segments of the community, including clans, men, women and local authority officials.
- The peace committees will be fully committed to the training.

4) Community Animal Health Workers training

What does it aim to prevent?

- Drought → Shortage of pasture → deterioration of livestock body condition → disruption of agri-food systems → food insecurity
- Drought → Water scarcity for livestock and household consumption → water-related diseases → mortality

The anticipatory training of the CAHWs will improve their capacity to provide their community with preventive livestock disease control and surveillance interventions for mitigation of drought impacts on livestock health and production.

Assumptions

- The drought-affected communities will seek timely services from the trained CAHWs
- There will not be any major disruptions, such as conflict outbreaks, that will limit movement of the trained CAHWs.

5) Early warning and DRR awareness campaigns

What does it aim to prevent?

- Early Warning messages → increased community DRR awareness → improved HH capacity to take appropriate Anticipatory Action → reduced vulnerability to drought impacts
- Dissemination of early warning messages will enable the community to undertake anticipatory actions that will mitigate the impacts of the drought.

NADFOR will lead the development, translation, and dissemination of anticipatory early warning messages and drought advisories and will convene information-sharing sessions with DRR committees and other local Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) stakeholders. Early warning information will be integrated as a cross-cutting component across all project activities, including community mobilisation, participant selection, baseline assessments, training, and distribution, ensuring that communities receive timely information on anticipated drought conditions, potential impacts, and recommended preparedness actions.

To maximise outreach and support early preparedness, a mix of communication channels, including SMS, voice messaging, radio broadcasts, and printed flyers will be used to disseminate risk information and drought advisories before impacts escalate.

Assumptions

- Support is needed to ensure most vulnerable and marginalized populations receive NADFOR's early warning messages.
- HHs will use early warning messages to carry out appropriate anticipatory actions to prevent or reduce the impacts of drought.

5 Operationalization

5.1. Trigger monitoring guidelines

The trigger monitoring and activation system will be led and operated by NADFOR. When the trigger thresholds are reached, NADFOR will notify the other WAHAFA AAP team members in Somaliland- (CARE and Shaqodoon). NADFOR, CARE and Shaqodoon will convene an urgent meeting to jointly verify the trigger and threshold information and make a collective decision to activate the AAP. NADFOR will prepare the AAP activation letter for sharing with the AAP team in Somaliland, the WAHAFA/WHH office in Germany, and any other concerned stakeholders.

CARE, Shaqodoon, NADFOR, and other government ministries assigned roles in implementing the AAP (the Ministries of Livestock, Agriculture, and Water, as well as the University of Hargeisa) will collaborate and convene coordination meetings to implement the AAP.

5.2. Organizational preparedness / readiness

The steps below will be taken when the seasonal outlook indicates an above-average risk for drought and/or after failed rainy seasons in the project areas.

General operational and organizational readiness

When the seasonal forecast indicates a possibility of triggering anticipatory actions, operational and organizational readiness activities will be initiated. The general initial readiness activity will inform all concerned organizational operational units and staff about the heightened awareness and potential trigger of the AAP. The AAP focal person will also facilitate a session with the operational units concerned to quickly review the AAP together, remind the team of the planned AAs, and assess the need for refresher training on AAs (and potentially conduct those trainings).

Action-specific readiness

Readiness Activities for Anticipatory Cash Transfers and Feedback & Complaints Mechanisms (FAM)

Activity	Lead responsibility	Supporting responsibility	Month 1				Month 2			
			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Confirm the budget for the cash-transfer process, including organizational budget availability and the applicable Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) value or Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) rates	CARE Program Manager	CARE Finance and MEAL teams								
Orient relevant staff before cash implementation to ensure that the required technical and operational competencies are in place	CARE MEAL Officer	CARE and Shaqodoon program, finance and field teams								

Activity	Lead responsibility	Supporting responsibility	Month 1				Month 2			
			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Confirm that an MoU or service agreement is in place with the selected bank or mobile money service provider	CARE Head of Finance/Operations	Shaqodoon Finance/Operations and CARE Procurement								
Confirm that an MoU or service agreement is in place with the selected bank or mobile money service provider.	CARE Program Manager	CARE Hub Coordinator and Shaqodoon Program Manager								
Confirm that an MoU or service agreement is in place with the selected bank or mobile money service provider.	CARE MEAL Officer	CARE and Shaqodoon Project Officers								
Confirm that an MoU or service agreement is in place with the selected bank or mobile money service provider.	CARE Program Manager	CARE MEAL Team and Shaqodoon Program Manager								
Confirm that an MoU or service agreement is in place with the selected bank or mobile money service provider.	CARE FAM Officer	CARE and Shaqodoon Project Teams								

Readiness for Rehabilitation of Water Points and Water Trucking

Activity	Lead responsibility	Supporting responsibility	Month 1				Month 2			
			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Assess water sources for anticipatory rehabilitation and identify vulnerable communities	CARE WASH Engineer	DRR committees and relevant local authorities								
Assess water sources for anticipatory rehabilitation and identify vulnerable communities	CARE WASH Engineer	CARE Programme Team								
Establish Pre-Trigger Procurement and Vendor Contracting Arrangements										
Establish or review existing framework agreements with qualified water trucking service providers to enable rapid deployment upon trigger activation	CARE Procurement Manager	CARE Procurement Committee								
Establish and strengthen Community and local authority coordination readiness for water trucking support	CARE WASH Engineer	DRR committees and relevant local authorities								

Readiness activities for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) training

Activity	Lead responsibility	Supporting responsibility	Month 1				Month 2			
			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Engage the Somaliland Ministry of Livestock and prepare an MoU and training ToR to strengthen CAHW capacity for anticipatory measures against drought-related livestock diseases.	Shaqodoon Program Manager	Ministry of Livestock and CARE Program Team								
Collaborate with the Ministry of Livestock to identify CAHWs for training.	Shaqodoon Program Manager	Ministry of Livestock and community representatives								
Collaborate with the Ministry of Livestock to identify Ministry-approved trainers or available technical staff.	Shaqodoon Program Manager	Ministry of Livestock								
Collaborate with the Ministry of Livestock to develop the training schedule, budget, and materials.	Shaqodoon Program Manager	Ministry of Livestock and Shaqodoon technical/finance teams								

Readiness activities for conflict mitigation and resolution capacity building

Activity	Lead responsibility	Supporting responsibility	Month 1				Month 2			
			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Confirm that the organization has the technical, financial, staffing, and community-engagement capacity required to deliver the training.	CARE Program Manager	CARE Governance, Finance and Operations teams								
Confirm that the logistical capacity required to reach and support target communities is available.	CARE Program Manager	CARE Administration Officer and Security Focal Person								
Inform the University of Hargeisa Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies about the early signs of drought and the likelihood of AAP activation.	CARE Program Manager	CARE Governance Advisor								
Collaborate with the University of Hargeisa Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies to develop the training ToR.	CARE Program Manager	CARE Governance Advisor and University focal persons								

Readiness activities for dissemination DRR, early warning and drought advisory messages

Activity	Lead responsibility	Supporting responsibility	Month 1				Month 2			
			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Hold engagement meetings between CARE and NADFOR to agree on the approach and methods for disseminating messages	CARE Project Team	NADFOR focal persons								
Develop and share a ToR and/or MoU with NADFOR to develop and disseminate DRR and early warning messages	CARE Program Manager	NADFOR and CARE Awards/Grants Team								
Develop draft early warning messages and translate them into Somali	CARE Project Team	NADFOR focal person and CARE Communication Focal Person								
Identify suitable early warning dissemination channels	CARE Project Manager	CARE Project Officer, and Shaqodoon team								
Establish and/or maintain framework agreements with mobile network operators to enable rapid dissemination of anticipatory early warning messages	CARE Program Manager	CARE Project Officer and Procurement Officer								

5.3. Anticipatory actions implementation step by step

1) Unconditional cash transfers

[illegible]

2) Water trucking (preceded by rehabilitation or distribution of water storage)

[illegible]

[illegible]

3) Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) training

[illegible]

[illegible]

4) Refresher training for peace committees: capacity building on resource-based conflict resolution

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

5.4 Selection strategy for population(s) at risk

Vulnerability Households' Selection Criteria

- Households with Acute malnourished children under 05 years, with Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), the elderly, and disabled persons
- Food insecure households from marginalized or communities with minority affiliations and those with low food consumption scores
- Households who lost all or most of their livelihood assets
- Child headed households lack adult support.
- Household headed by a female, disabled or elderly lacking regular income.
- Households with a high number of displaced people and lacking any income or social support.
- Household that using negative coping mechanism for source of livelihood like charcoal burning.
- Households with no source of income and/or consume less than 2 meals per day.
- Newly displaced households due to climate related or conflict with source household income
- Households headed by a vulnerable Persons with Disabilities (PWD) with no regular incomes or lacking support.
- Households lacking support and vulnerable HHs hosting IDPs or separated/orphan children with less income or no economic activity.

5.5 Implementation MEAL

The implementation of the anticipatory actions will be monitored and evaluated using the MEAL plan and tools adopted during the Build Phase. The purpose of the monitoring is to track progress in implementation of the planned anticipatory actions, once the AAP is triggered. The monitoring methods include site visits and observation, interviewing key informants, soliciting feedback from DRR committee and reviewing documents, e.g., registering cash transfer beneficiaries. After the Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to the targeted households, Post Distribution Monitoring will be conducted to assess whether cash assistance reached the intended beneficiaries, understand how it was used, and determine if it met priority needs in a timely and appropriate way. It also identifies any challenges, protection risks, or community concerns, measures beneficiary satisfaction, and provides insights to improve future distributions and ensure accountability to affected populations. Final evaluation will be conducted after the end of the project to assess how anticipatory actions – the unconditional cash transfers (MPCA), rehabilitation of water sources, training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), Early Warning Messages, and the activation of peace committees – contributed to protecting livelihoods, improving food and water security, and enhancing local capacity for conflict prevention and early action. It also explores beneficiary satisfaction, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and the sustainability of key project achievements.

CARE has an operational organization-wide Feedback and Accountability Mechanism (FAM). If the AAP is triggered, the existing FAM will be used and adapted where necessary. AAP stakeholders including targeted communities were sensitized on how the FAM works and introduced to the FAM hotline mobile phone number.

After the implementation of the planned anticipatory actions, CARE and Shaqodoon will bring project staff, partners, and AAP stakeholders together to reflect on what has been done, analyze what worked and what did not, and extract practical lessons that can improve the design and implementation of future interventions.

The MEAL plan and tools are included in the annexes (6.3).

5.6 Financial Flow Process

Once the fuel phase is activated, CARE Somalia will prepare and submit the AAP activation fuel budget and the completed WAHAFA application template to the CARE Member Partner (CARE Germany). CARE Germany will review and approve the documents and share them with the WAHAFA AAP focal point. A funding agreement will then be signed between CARE Germany and WAHAFA, followed by a separate Individual Project Implementation Agreement (IPIA) to be signed between CARE Germany and CARE Somalia.

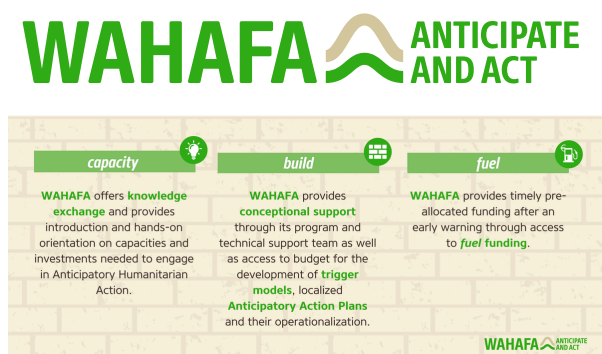
Pre-financing modalities will be considered in case of delays in receiving WAHAFA funds, CARE Somalia will proceed with AAP fuel preparatory activities such as water point assessments and cash transfer beneficiary registration but only after securing a pre-financing agreement with CARE Germany. Implementation of these pre-financed activities will also depend on the availability of funds within CARE Somalia.

CARE will continuously monitor and pursue opportunities from potential donors and funding sources to support the scaling and sustainability of the AAP.

WAHAFA

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) coordinates and implements the WAHAFA (Welthungerhilfe Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility), a three-year program funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, which provides WHH Country Offices, German NGOs and their local partner organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa with the opportunity to implement their own AHA sub-projects in partnership with Welthungerhilfe. WAHAFA aims to identify and analyze hazard risks, support the development of AHA mechanisms, and secure funding to implement these mechanisms.

Through these sub-projects, WAHAFA supports access to essential key pillars of AHA:



How we work

WAHAFA places people, including communities, local stakeholders, and LHPs, at the forefront of efforts. To achieve this, WAHAFA has developed an AAP Custodianship approach, encouraging German NGOs to collaborate with LHPs. The LHPs take a leading role in developing the AAPs by contributing its unique skills and knowledge to the process. The custodian engages with actors at various levels, from community members to local and national governments.

WAHAFA ensures contextualized AAP development by providing guidance for community-based approaches. Involving a LHPs or CBOs as the custodian, in collaboration with stakeholders at different levels, creates a space for local actors to participate in designing processes and desired outcomes. This approach helps ensure that AAPs include anticipatory actions that are meaningful, relevant to the local context, and garner high acceptance and buy-in from people at all levels. Ultimately, this makes the entire process more sustainable and aligned with the needs of populations at risk from hazards.

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