



ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN 2025

Forecast to Frontline: Acting early to ensure children survive, learn and are protected



Save the Children

FOREWORD



Dama, a mother of six in Ethiopia's Somali region, is protecting her family's livelihood as Save the Children's anticipatory action support helps her sustain vital livestock and crops through prolonged drought.

Anticipatory action works for children. Across countries, hazards and contexts, our evidence shows that when children and communities receive timely forecasts, financing and support before a crisis, they are better able to protect children—helping them stay safe, healthy and learning—while reducing losses and preventing predictable shocks from becoming humanitarian crises.

In 2025, Save the Children formally activated anticipatory action 14 times across eight countries ahead of droughts, floods, landslides and disease outbreaks, reaching more than 430,000 people. We strengthened and institutionalized guidance and tools for early action planning, risk monitoring, learning and evidence generation. We invested in the capacities of staff, partners and communities to act early, training more than 6600 community members, staff and partners across 11 countries.

We deepened strategic partnerships to help turn forecasts into action, expanding collaboration with climate service providers at national, regional and global level. We launched a formal partnership with the World Meteorological Organization to strengthen child-centred climate services, including for anticipatory action.

We continued to advance child-centred and locally led anticipatory action, engaging children and communities in risk analysis, planning, early warning and early action. We also developed and tested resources for collective and community-centred anticipatory action planning through Education Cluster and Child Protection coordination mechanisms.

The experiences highlighted in this report demonstrate that anticipatory action is not only possible — it is increasingly essential. They also show that children and communities are not passive recipients of aid, but critical partners in anticipating risk, taking early action and building resilience before disasters strike.



IN 2025, SAVE THE CHILDREN...

Developed or maintained **34 Early Action Protocols or Anticipatory Action Plans**

Activated **11 anticipatory action plans**

Disbursed **\$1.52 million** of fuel funding for formal plans

Trained approximately **6,600 people** on AA systems & frameworks

Reached a total of **432,678 people**

TRAININGS

Learning from across SC's AA activities was shared at multiple national, regional and global events. These included collaborative sessions with WMO in Geneva during the Global DRR platform, as well as a co-hosted event at COP. SC also shared its experiences in the Global and Asia, LAC, WCA and Southern Africa Regional AA Dialogue fora.

Save the Children also partnered with ICPAC in a series of synergy workshops, starting in December 2025, aimed at enabling national and local media to strengthen inclusive communication of seasonal forecasts. Here SC COs from across East Africa shared their experiences in supporting child and youth participation to enable child-centred climate services, EWS and AA.

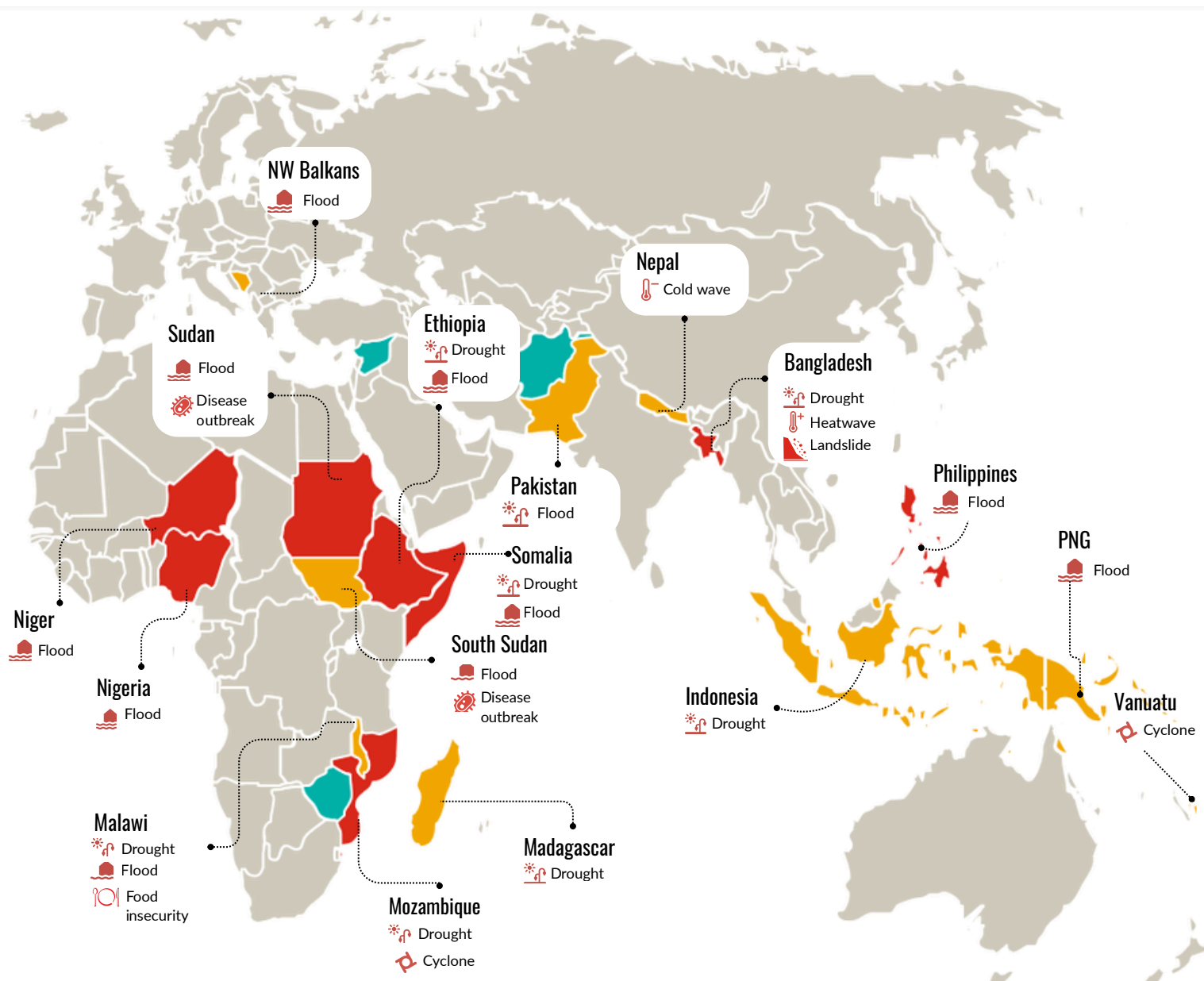
ANTICIPATORY ACTION PLANS AND ACTIVATIONS IN 2025

By the end of 2025, Save the Children had 34 active Early Action Protocols and/or Anticipatory Action Plans, supported through Save the Children initiatives, across 13 countries. These plans addressed a range of hazards, including drought, floods, heat waves, cold waves, landslides, fires, crop pest infestations, and disease outbreaks. The EAPs and AAPs were developed through collaborative processes involving communities and children, government institutions, non-governmental organizations, national and local partners, and meteorological agencies. Together, these efforts aimed to strengthen anticipatory action and reduce risks to lives, livelihoods, protection, and access to WASH, education, and health services.

In 2025, eight countries activated anticipatory actions based on pre-established Early Action Protocols and Anticipatory Action Plans, reaching a total of 432,678 people, including 118,971 children. These activations were supported by US\$1.52 million in financing from a diverse range of partners and donors, including Save the Children International's Humanitarian Fund, the German Federal Foreign Office, QBE Foundation, DANIDA, SIDA-RRM, Save the Children Italy, Save the Children Korea, Coca-Cola, and the United States Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, alongside significant contributions from local communities. The anticipatory actions played a critical role in reducing suffering and mitigating the adverse impacts of hazards on children and vulnerable communities. A significant number of families accessed risk forecasts and early warning messages, which supported the adoption of anticipatory measures at the household level. The anticipatory actions also strengthened children and community awareness, preparedness, and resilience, contributing to the overall wellbeing and protection of children and their families.

Country	Hazards	Activations	Activation Funding (USD)	Donor	Sector covered	People reached by Activation	Children reached by Activation (incl)
Bangladesh	Landslides	Two time (May & July)	24900	GFFO, ECHO	Early Warning, CP, Cash, WASH, FSL	133,798	20,278
Philippines	Flood	One Time (September)	17,321	QBE Foundation	CVA, NFIs, Message dissemination	1,455	485
Niger	Flood	One Time (September)	45,650	DANIDA	CVA, FSL, Protection	3,146	2,250
Nigeria	Flood	One Time (September)	250,000	SIDA	CVA, WASH, and CP	9,254	6,169
Ethiopia	Drought	Two time (February & December)	291,000	Coca-Cola/TCCF, SC-Korea, SC-Italy	CVA, WASH, FSL, Education, CP	53,100	24,788
Mozambique	Drought	One Time (January-April)	250,000	BHA	FSL, WASH	16,758	8,714
Somalia	Drought	Three times (April-May, September-October,	517,440	GFFO, SC-Italy	CVA, Health, WASH	11,812	9,282
Sudan	Drought & Disease Outbreak	Drought- Two times Disease Outbreak- One time (Feb-March, Nov-Dec, July-Aug)	125,780	GFFO	CVA, Early Warning, Protection, WASH, Vector control, Agriculture	203,355	47,005
Total CO: 08	Total hazard: 04	Total Activations: 14	1,522,091			432,678	118,971

ANTICIPATORY ACTION PLANS AND ACTIVATIONS IN 2025



- Activated anticipatory actions plans*
- Early action plans / anticipatory action plans in place
- Plans under development

**Some of these countries also had plans in place for other hazards that were not activated. In addition to supporting activations of formalized plans, Save the Children also actively promotes early action on the basis of credible risks and anticipatory crisis modifiers at a project level.*

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVATIONS IN 2025



Photo Credit: Shahriar Alam, MEAL Officer, YPSA

BANGLADESH: Acting early to reduce landslide risks for children and families

In 2025, Save the Children in Bangladesh activated anticipatory action for landslides in south-eastern Bangladesh, including Chattogram City Corporation, Banskhali Upazila, and Bandarban District, in response to forecasted heavy rainfall and landslide risk. Forecasts and warnings from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, supported by alerts disseminated through RIMES, enabled early activation ahead of peak rainfall during the monsoon season.

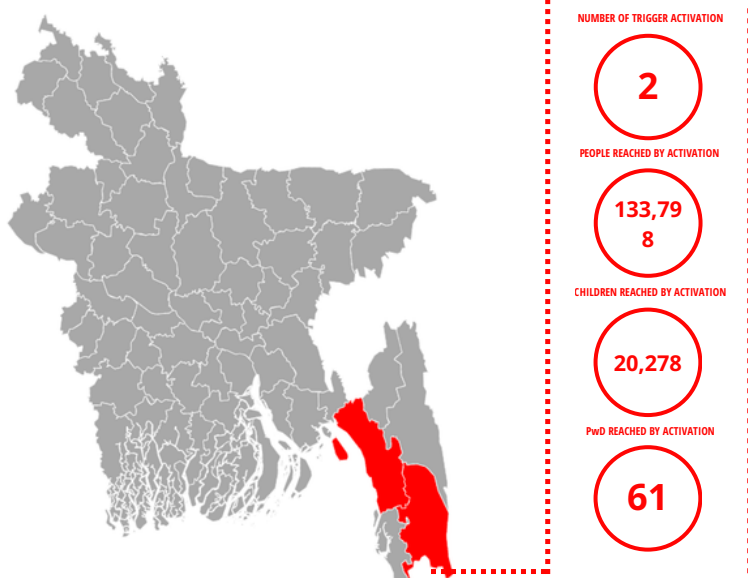
Based on forecast information and local monitoring, anticipatory action windows were activated twice in 2025 under GFFO and ECHO-supported initiatives. Early actions included the communication of impact-based early warnings through voice messages, community volunteers, youth groups, and school-based Meteorology Clubs, alongside coordination with local disaster management committees to support preparedness, safe evacuation, and shelter readiness. Particular attention was given to children, pregnant women, older people, and persons with disabilities.

Anticipatory support also included unconditional cash assistance and the distribution of hygiene and kitchen kits, enabling at-risk households to take timely protective measures. Families used cash support to reinforce housing structures, purchase essential food and medicines, and prepare for possible displacement, reducing fear, panic, and reliance on negative coping strategies during periods of heightened risk.

Child-centred and community-led approaches were integral to the activation. School-based activities and community awareness initiatives strengthened understanding of landslide risks and supported the dissemination of early warnings at local level. Through anticipatory action for landslides in 2025, Save the Children reached 133,798 people, including 20,278 children, contributing to improved preparedness and reduced vulnerability ahead of forecasted landslide events.

WORKING AREAS

Chattogram City Corpotation and Bashkhali Upazila in Chattogram District and Bandarban District.



OBJECTIVE

To promote and facilitate community-led Anticipatory Action through a child-centered and gender-sensitive approach, aiming to safeguard lives and livelihoods from climate-induced hazards, particularly landslides, in south-eastern Bangladesh through proactive impact-based forecasting and preparedness.

Donors

The German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Partners

RIMES, JAGONARI, SKS Foundation, YPSA, and ASHIKA

Key Innovations

Meteorology Club (METClub), Agromet FARRM School, Social Anticipation and Forecast Enterprise (SAFE)

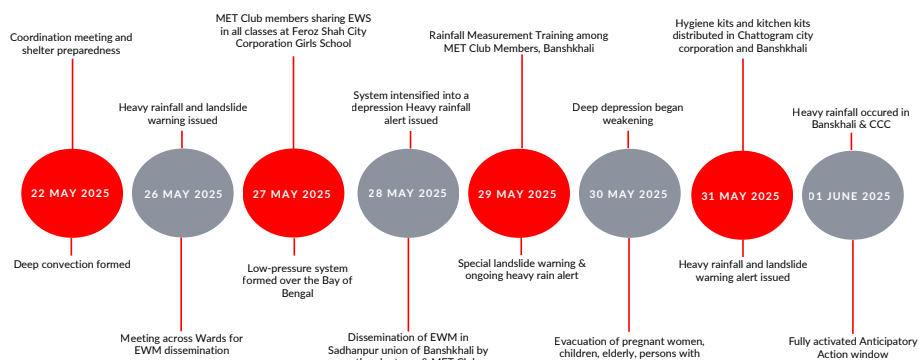
FORECAST-INFORMED ACTION TIMELINE

Forecasts are provided by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and alerts are issued by RIMES.

First AA Window Activation



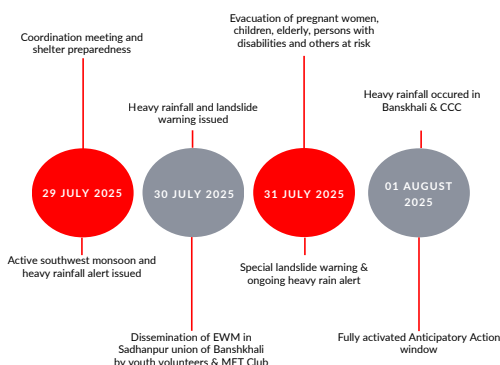
Photo Credit: Shahriar Alam, MEAL Officer, and Belayet Hossain, APO, YPSA



Second AA Window Activation



Photo Credit: Shahriar Alam, MEAL Officer, Mahinur Akter, Project Officer, and Ataul Hakim, Project Officer, YPSA



BANGLADESH: MET Club – A child-centred approach to climate services and anticipatory action

What is MET Club?

MET Club is a child-led weather and climate club that equips children and youth with knowledge and skills in weather observation, forecasting, and early warning systems.

Purpose

The initiative aims to strengthen children's understanding of climate risks and anticipatory action, enabling them to contribute to disaster preparedness within their families and communities.

What children learn and do

- Observe and interpret weather conditions
- Understand early warning messages and their uncertainties
- Share early warning information within communities
- Take actions to keep themselves and others safe during hazards
- Participate in awareness campaigns and preparedness activities

How it supports anticipatory action

By building knowledge and confidence, MET Club supports children to:

- Interpret forecasts and understand risks
- Communicate early warning messages
- Participate in preparedness and early action at community level

Scale and engagement

- Currently operational in Chattogram, with expansion planned to Gaibandha and Patuakhali
- Launched through a national-level platform engaging government, education, and humanitarian stakeholders

Approach

MET Club combines:

- Child-centred learning
- Practical, hands-on training
- Early warning literacy
- Community-based engagement

ETHIOPIA: Drought anticipatory action to protect livelihoods and children

The drought anticipatory action activation in Ethiopia was initiated twice, both in Somali region. The first drought activation was based on the GHACOF seasonal forecast for October-December issued in August indicating a high likelihood of below normal rainfall. These forecasts were further validated through local level observations, including community reports, declining soil moisture conditions, and deteriorating livestock health. The activation was aligned with the national drought framework developed by WFP, ensuring coherence with established trigger thresholds and activation protocols. Based on this evidence, anticipatory action was triggered prior to the peak impact period. As part of the activation, multi-purpose cash assistance was provided to 850 vulnerable households to mitigate anticipated drought impacts, particularly food insecurity risks affecting children and other vulnerable groups. Cash support enabled households to access food and other essential needs, reduce reliance on negative coping strategies, and protect household resilience during the early stages of the drought.

Complementary early actions focused on safeguarding pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods central to children's wellbeing, alongside the communication of drought early warnings and child protection messaging. These measures enhanced community preparedness and supported timely decision-making ahead of worsening conditions.

Child-centred and community-based approaches were embedded across the activation, including engagement with schools and youth groups to support preparedness, risk awareness, and dissemination of early action messages. Through climate services and drought anticipatory action in 2025, Save the Children Ethiopia reached 121,812 people, including 36,736 children, contributing to reduced vulnerability and strengthened resilience ahead of forecasted drought impacts in the Somali Region.

A subsequent activation was initiated in December 2025, based on WMO forecasts for significant above normal temperatures for the January-March period, predicted to significantly worsen the existing drought conditions and impacts.

“

With the new animal feed, I have seen a lot of changes in the body condition and productivity of my livestock. The milk yield from the cows has increased, and the overall health of the animals is much better now.

-Tamad Ahmed, Somali Region, Ethiopia

”



MOZAMBIQUE: Anticipatory action for drought in Gaza Province to protect livelihoods and nutrition

Anticipatory action for drought was activated in Gaza Province following early warning signals issued by the National Institute of Meteorology (INAM) for the 2024/2025 rainy season. Based on monitoring of the Standardized Precipitation Index and seasonal climate forecasts, moderate to severe drought conditions were projected across several districts. This led to the activation of anticipatory action plans under the Tsimba-Tsimba Project in two phases, covering Guijá and Mabalane during the first window (October 2024 to January 2025), followed by Chicualacuala, Mapai, and Massingir during the second window (January to April 2025).

In coordination with INAM and the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD), a general intervention plan was implemented across the affected districts within the same agro-ecological zone. Anticipatory actions focused on safeguarding food security, water access, and agricultural livelihoods through a combination of nutrition, water, and livelihood support.



Photo Credit: David Muaga, Guija District, November 2024

During the first window, 16 metric tons of pigeon pea grains were distributed to 15,820 beneficiaries, supporting community nutritional status ahead of peak drought impacts. Livelihood-focused actions included the allocation of 2,700 meters of irrigation piping to farming cooperatives across five districts, benefiting 634 farmers, and the procurement of five drip irrigation systems, reaching 128 households. These interventions aimed to sustain crop production and water efficiency under drought conditions.



Photo Credit: Daniel Jorge, Mabalane, April 2025

To address water access for the most vulnerable, beneficiary mapping identified persons with disabilities for targeted support. During the second window, 20 household water tanks were delivered to vulnerable beneficiaries in Chókwè and Mabalane. Together, these anticipatory actions supported early preparedness, protected livelihoods, and reduced drought-related risks for communities in northern Gaza Province.

NIGER: Child-centred anticipatory action to reduce flood risks and protect education

In 2025, Save the Children in Niger implemented child-centred anticipatory action to address flood risks in the regions of Diffa and Zinder, where communities face increasing exposure to floods, violent winds, and prolonged drought. In 2024, Niger experienced its worst flooding in 20 years, affecting more than 1.5 million people and destroying approximately 2,500 schools, with significant disruption to children's education.

“

“Climate forecasts should not stay in offices, We need to understand them to prepare. Help us disseminate them to our families, schools, and villages.”

-Mourina, 14

”

Through the DANIDA-funded KARIYA project, Save the Children supported participatory co-production workshops that brought together children, youth, local authorities, traditional forecasters, and technical actors to analyse seasonal forecasts and identify priority risks for the May–October 2025 rainy season. Using child-adapted climate and vulnerability tools, children identified flood-related risks affecting schools and communities and proposed concrete anticipatory actions, including improving drainage, reinforcing flood-prone schoolyards, and disseminating child-friendly early warnings in local languages.

In Diffa commune, these processes informed anticipatory actions to protect children and educational infrastructure ahead of peak flooding. Activities included risk mapping with children and authorities, reinforcement and raising of protective dikes along the Komadougou Yobé, remblaying and levelling of flood-prone school grounds, and the creation of school-based climate resilience clubs. Children and youth were actively involved in awareness-raising, monitoring, and dialogue with municipal authorities, resulting in the integration of their recommendations into local risk management planning.

These anticipatory actions strengthened community preparedness, safeguarded learning spaces, and reinforced the role of children as active contributors to reducing flood risks in their communities.



Photo Credit: Abdoul Madjidi Moutari, Climate Change & Advocacy Technical Expert, 2025

NIGERIA: Anticipatory action to support early evacuation and protect children ahead of floods

Ahead of forecasted riverine flooding in 2025, anticipatory action was activated in Nigeria through the Flood Anticipation Capacity Enhancement (FACE) Project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The intervention targeted six flood-prone communities across Adamawa, Benue, and Kogi States, guided by forecasts from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), and community-based early warning systems.

Anticipatory action was implemented under Nigeria's National Anticipatory Action Framework following the attainment of agreed thresholds. Readiness activities included community sensitization, training and engagement of Community Early Warning, Action and Adaptation Committees (CEWAACs), beneficiary identification, evacuation planning, and continuous risk monitoring. Once triggers were reached, early actions focused on multipurpose cash assistance, ongoing early warning dissemination, and support for early evacuation.

Pre-shock cash assistance enabled households to act ahead of peak flooding, including relocating to safer areas, moving assets and food to safety, and meeting essential needs such as transport, rent, and school-related expenses. Community-led early warning and risk communication strengthened preparedness and supported timely decision-making, particularly for households with children, older people, and persons with disabilities.

Through the activation, Save the Children reached more than 9,200 people with early warning and preparedness messaging and provided cash assistance to 837 vulnerable households. An After-Action Review highlighted the value of combining scientific forecasts with trusted local indicators and the central role of CEWAACs in coordination and community engagement. It also identified key learning, including the importance of earlier funding, strengthened government involvement, and improved data verification to enhance the timeliness and effectiveness of future anticipatory action.

NIGERIA: Key learning from the After-Action Review

The After-Action Review (AAR) of the Flood Anticipation Capacity Enhancement (FACE) Project highlighted several operational and programmatic learning points. Activation was generally aligned with Nigeria's National Anticipatory Action Framework and informed by forecasts from NiMet and NIHSA, as well as community-based monitoring. Community Early Warning, Action and Adaptation Committees (CEWAACs) played a central role in disseminating early warnings, supporting beneficiary identification, and facilitating early action at local level.

The AAR also identified areas for improvement. Delays in funding release reduced the available lead time between forecast issuance and field implementation, resulting in compressed timelines and, in some locations, partial overlap with flooding impacts. Challenges related to beneficiary data validation and bank account accessibility affected cash delivery for some households. The review emphasised the importance of earlier financing, strengthened government involvement during field implementation, and improved pre-activation verification processes to enhance the timeliness, coverage, and effectiveness of future anticipatory action.

PHILIPPINES: Anticipatory action ahead of typhoon to support household preparedness

Ahead of the forecasted impact of Typhoon Bualoi (locally known as Typhoon Opong) in September 2025, anticipatory action was activated in Tanay, Rizal, to support households at risk of flooding. Based on PAGASA advisories and local risk monitoring, early action was implemented across four barangays—Daraitan, Sampaloc, Plaza Aldea, and Tandang Kutyo—prior to the typhoon's expected landfall.

Anticipatory support focused on in-kind voucher assistance to help families prepare before impacts occurred. A total of 194 vulnerable households, primarily families with children and other at-risk members, received assistance valued at ₱5,000 per household. Vouchers were used to access food, water, hygiene supplies, medicines, and shelter materials, enabling households to secure basic necessities and undertake minor home preparations ahead of the storm. Beneficiary selection and validation were conducted in coordination with barangay officials and community leaders to ensure transparency and prioritisation of households living in flood-prone areas.

Post-distribution monitoring confirmed that assistance was delivered prior to the typhoon and was widely perceived as timely, relevant, and accessible. Most households reported using the items immediately for preparedness, particularly food and essential household supplies, and noted reduced stress and improved readiness for their children during the typhoon period.

The activation built on ongoing preparedness and anticipatory action efforts in Tanay, reinforcing coordination between local government units and communities and demonstrating the value of early, forecast-based assistance in supporting household preparedness and protecting children ahead of predictable climate shocks.

SUDAN: Multi-hazard anticipatory action to mitigate flood, disease, and drought risks

Flood related anticipatory action contributed to mitigating both primary and secondary risks by adopting a multi-hazard approach. Early activation in July, based on hydrometeorological forecasts from SMA, Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and validated through local risk monitoring, enabled timely interventions ahead of peak flooding in Blue Nile State, Sudan, under the GFFO project. The provision of multi-purpose cash to at-risk households strengthened their capacity to protect children and meet essential needs, reducing immediate vulnerability to flood impacts. Recognizing the heightened risk of post-flood disease outbreaks, a second complementary activation was implemented to address cascading public health threats. As a result, 13,042 households benefited from integrated vector control and environmental sanitation measures. These included indoor larval control through targeted spraying and large-scale waste removal, with 212 tons of waste cleared from 750 high-risk sites. These actions significantly reduced mosquito breeding habitats and exposure to waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dengue, and malaria, thereby mitigating outbreak risks.

In addition, anticipatory action for drought was activated in February based on continuous risk monitoring and forecast analysis indicating a high likelihood of below-normal rainfall. Early interventions, including drought early warning dissemination, rehabilitation of water points, and child protection messaging, enhanced community preparedness and contributed to reducing the potential impacts of water scarcity on vulnerable populations.

“

We stored water, bought food for the children, and used part of the support for their education. Before, some children stayed at home. When we received the cash, we sent them back to school.

— Maryam, Bander Beyla District, Puntland, Somalia*

”



SOMALIA: Strengthening community-based anticipatory action through early warning, cash assistance, and local leadership

In Somalia, Save the Children supported anticipatory action to help communities prepare for and respond to recurrent climate-related shocks, including droughts and floods. Through the project Reducing the Impacts of Disasters Using the Anticipatory Action Framework, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), activities focused on strengthening community-based early warning systems, local preparedness structures, and early support for vulnerable households.

In Somaliland, community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) training was implemented in Burao District between November 2024 and June 2025 in partnership with the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) and local authorities. The training strengthened local capacity—particularly among women—to interpret weather information, disseminate early warning messages, and coordinate community-level preparedness and anticipatory actions. Women leaders played a key role in sharing alerts related to droughts, floods, and heavy rains, enabling families to act early by storing water, safeguarding food supplies, and protecting assets.

In Puntland's Bander Beyla District, anticipatory action combined early warning and unconditional cash assistance to support highly vulnerable households affected by declining marine livelihoods and climate shocks. Selected families received monthly cash assistance ahead of anticipated risks, which was used to purchase food, store water, support children's education, and improve household nutrition. Community committees were also trained on climate awareness and early warning dissemination, supporting wider preparedness and hygiene promotion.

Together, these interventions strengthened local leadership, improved early action at household and community levels, and supported children's wellbeing by reducing exposure to predictable climate-related risks.

CHILD-CENTERED AND LOCALLY-LED ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Alongside the anticipatory action experiences highlighted in this report, Save the Children has strengthened its evidence base on what enables child-centred and locally-led anticipatory action to be effective. A synthesis review was conducted based on evaluations, after-action reviews, and learning exercises conducted across anticipatory action programming in multiple countries and contexts between 2021 and 2025.

The resulting synthesis highlights recurring findings across different hazards and settings. Anticipatory action was most effective when early support enabled families and communities to act before impacts escalated, particularly through measures that protected children's wellbeing, dignity, and access to essential services. Pre-hazard assistance and community-led preparedness actions supported households to meet immediate needs, safeguard livelihoods, and prioritize children's education ahead of predictable shocks.

The synthesis also underscores the importance of locally led approaches grounded in trusted community structures and knowledge. Community-based committees and local early warning systems played a central role in risk monitoring, communication, and early action, especially where scientific forecasts were combined with local observations. At the same time, learning points to the need for continued attention to gender equity, disability inclusion, and child-centred monitoring and learning, as well as stronger links between anticipatory action and longer-term resilience and disaster risk management systems.

These insights contribute to Save the Children's ongoing efforts to refine, strengthen, and scale anticipatory action approaches that protect children ahead of predictable climate shocks.

Read the full report at:

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/child-centered-and-locally-led-anticipatory-action-a-learning-and-evaluation-synthesis>



CHILD-CENTERED AND LOCALLY-LED ANTICIPATORY ACTION: A LEARNING AND EVALUATION SYNTHESIS



OUR PARTNERS

