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Anticipatory Action in Complex Crises: Lessons from Ethiopia

Evan Easton-Calabria, Abdirahman Ahmed, Dawud Mohamed, and Aarti Singh



Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman
School of Nutrition Science and Policy
FEINSTEIN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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Corresponding author: Dr. Evan Easton-Calabria,
evan.easton_calabria@tufts.edu

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About the Academic Alliance for Anticipatory Action:
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Feinstein International Center

75 Kneeland Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02111 USA
Tel: +1 617.627.3423
Twitter: @FeinsteinIntCen
fic.tufts.edu

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Executive Summary

While anticipatory action (AA) is commonly designed to address one specific hazard such as drought, many populations are experiencing repeated and multiple hazards and challenges. Given this, there is a need to understand how anticipatory action fits within the context of protracted and overlapping crises, and to better understand the “right” timing and method of assistance in these contexts. This study examines how anticipatory action was perceived and experienced among Ethiopians living with drought alongside other crises. These include the 2020–22 conflict in Tigray, local conflicts in several regions, a recent locust invasion, and escalations of Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks in the Somali Region. In 2022, the research team interviewed recipients of assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and, in some cases, from other agencies in 2021, which was provided as part of a collective anticipatory action initiative under the multipartner Ethiopia anticipatory action framework facilitated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). FAO assistance included cash and seed packages; an animal health campaign and treatment services; and cash and livestock supplementary feed.

Research questions include:

- What challenges are people experiencing alongside the drought for which anticipatory action assistance was provided?
- How did people use the assistance they received?
- When would be the best time for assistance to come and why?
- Would people prefer a larger, one-off disbursement of assistance prior to a slow-onset climate shock like drought, or smaller but regular disbursements during it?

The resulting qualitative research study comprised 1) remote semistructured interviews with Ethiopians experiencing drought who were recipients of anticipatory action assistance, and 2) in-person key informant interviews with key community

stakeholders such as local government (kebele) and faith-based leaders in areas where assistance was provided. Participants were selected based on either 1) their receipt of FAO assistance or 2) their knowledge of their community and environment (key stakeholders). Altogether, 520 people were interviewed for this study (377 in Somali Region and 143 in Afar Region), with approximate gender parity for recipients of FAO assistance and 70% male respondents for key informant interviews (KIIs).

Key Messages

- There are a multitude of challenges recipients faced beyond drought that were not intended to be addressed by the anticipatory assistance. However, these may have lessened the positive impact of the assistance overall. These challenges include conflict and spin-off challenges such as increased market prices.
- All types of assistance, ranging from cash, animal feed, farm inputs, and animal care support, were seen as useful by respondents. Food came out as the most mentioned good that people spent the cash assistance on, followed by other immediate needs. Forty-five percent of respondents in Somali and 35% of respondents in Afar expressed that they used the cash to buy food for their family. The feed and animal care benefited 7% of respondents in helping their livestock recover from diseases.
- Some of the impacts of the drought and other challenges occurred despite FAO’s and other agencies’ assistance. In the Somali Region, reduced food consumption was the most frequently mentioned challenge—experienced by 62% of respondents. This was followed by livestock death, which 21% of respondents in the Somali Region experienced. Five percent of respondents in the region reported selling their houses to survive. In Afar Region, livestock death was mentioned most frequently, followed by livelihood loss and fodder shortage.

- Recipients indicated that the size of assistance (a one-off US\$40 cash transfer per household and livelihood support) did not feel adequate to recipients due to large family sizes and inflated food prices. However, the intervention was designed to address one season of drought rather than the multiyear drought the region has experienced. This disjuncture both helps explain the findings and also highlights the need for broader reflections by the humanitarian community about how best to provide anticipatory assistance if multiple shocks (in this case below-average rainy seasons) occur in close succession, and alongside other shocks (like conflict and floods), and in contexts where existing needs are high and assistance for these insufficient.
- Numerous key informants in the Somali Region explained that, for some recipients of concentrated feed for livestock, the feed in fact made the livestock sick as the pastoralists fed them more than they could ingest. This indicates a value in considering further information dissemination about proper use of supplementary feed and nutrients to ensure that the assistance provided does not in fact have adverse effects. Given that some informants explained that recipients had no other recourse to additional feed (including leaves) due to the drought, it is also important that FAO and other actors providing such assistance carefully evaluate contexts or situations where it in fact might be inappropriate to provide particular types of supplementary nutrients.
- There was an assertion by many recipients that receiving the assistance earlier than they did would have been more helpful, and particularly at the “beginning” of the drought (after the first below-average season). Terms such as “beginning” or “the right time” are of course subjective and ultimately ambiguous classifications; however, the timing of assistance remains an important area for ongoing study regarding anticipatory action as well as other types of humanitarian response.
- There was relative parity between recipients’ opinions of preferring to receive smaller, regular disbursements of assistance starting in advance of and continuing during a drought period versus receiving a large amount in advance of it. More in-depth research to better understand whether certain types of regular assistance versus one-off types of assistance would be preferable (and why) would be helpful to further contextualize these findings.

The findings from this research play an important role in confirming the initial assumptions that led to the intervention design, namely that the biggest challenge for drought-affected people is reduced food consumption and the loss of livelihoods. Findings also illustrate that the anticipatory action received in many cases had a positive impact on quality of life; however, this impact was likely short-lived. Mixed findings on the timing of assistance and accounts of the misuse of animal feed due to either lack of knowledge or constrained environments illustrate the ongoing value of qualitative research to better understand people’s situations to inform the design of anticipatory actions. There is a concomitant need to increase discussions in policy, practitioner, and donor circles on how best to assist populations facing extreme events when these events in fact become protracted. Such discussions will be enhanced through a deeper understanding of the impacts of the type, timing, and amount of assistance provided to populations experiencing multiple crises, weather-related and otherwise.

Introduction

This study examines how anticipatory action is perceived and experienced among Ethiopians living with drought alongside other crises. These include the civil war in the north of the country, local conflicts, a recent locust invasion, and escalations of Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks in the Somali Region. We spoke to people in 2022 who received Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and, in some cases, other agency assistance in 2021, which was provided as part of a collective anticipatory action initiative under the multipartner Ethiopia anticipatory action framework facilitated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) (see Annex 1 for more details).

While anticipatory action is commonly designed to address one specific hazard such as drought, many populations are experiencing repeated and multiple hazards and challenges. Given this, there is a need to understand how anticipatory action fits within the context of protracted and overlapping crises, and to better understand the “right” timing and method of assistance in these contexts. Questions we explored in this research project include:

- What challenges are people experiencing alongside the drought for which anticipatory action assistance was provided?
- How did people use the assistance they received?
- When would be the best time for assistance to come and why?
- Would people prefer a larger, one-off disbursement of assistance prior to a slow-onset climate shock like drought, or smaller but regular disbursements during it?

Methodology

This qualitative research study comprises 1) remote semistructured interviews with Ethiopians experiencing drought who were recipients of anticipatory action assistance, and 2) in-person key informant interviews (KIIs) with key community stakeholders such as local government (kebele) and faith-based leaders in areas where assistance was provided. Participants were selected based on either 1) their receipt of FAO assistance or 2) their knowledge of their community and environment (key stakeholders).

Ethiopian researchers contracted by the research consulting agency 60 Decibels as part of a larger OCHA evaluation conducted the interviews with anticipatory action (AA) recipients, with data analyzed by the Academic Alliance on Anticipatory Action (4As), Feinstein International Center, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University. Altogether, 405 recipients of FAO AA assistance were interviewed. These interviews were conducted as follow-ups to a survey conducted by 60 Decibels, wherein participants were asked about their interest in being contacted again for an interview.

Interviews with recipients of FAO assistance are complemented by key informant interviews (KIIs) with 115 key informants (70 KIIs conducted in Afar Region and 45 KIIs conducted in Somali Region). Academic research teams based at Jigjiga University, Somali Region, and Samara University, Afar Region, led the KII interviews, with findings analyzed in collaboration with 4As. Please see Annex 3 for more details about the field sites and participant selection process.

Altogether, 520 people were interviewed for this study (377 in Somali and 143 in Afar), with approximate gender parity for recipients of FAO assistance and 70% male respondents for KIIs.

Open-ended questions were posed about their weather-related challenges and other challenges, the assistance they received or knew community members had received, and their needs and recommendations relating to future assistance. Please see Annex 2 for the interview guide. For this study, the World Meteorological Organization definition of drought was followed: “Drought is a prolonged dry period in the

natural climate cycle. It is a slow on-set phenomenon caused by a lack of rainfall” (WMO 2023). However, as interview questions were open-ended, drought or a definition of it was not provided in interview questions to participants; due to this, this report reflects the language participants used to describe challenges, such as “shortage of rainfall,” “lack of rain,” or explicitly “drought.” Although these likely refer to the same event, they are in instances kept separately in analysis here.

Findings are based on qualitative content analysis in the software program Nvivo as well as quantitative analysis in Microsoft Excel. Themes were coded in Nvivo based on research questions as well as emergent topics arising in interviews. Quantitative analysis was conducted by coding answers and then developing frequency tables for each respondent. The total value for each code was calculated in the frequency table for different variables of each question, as can be seen in the graphs below. The variables were split by region (Afar and Somali Regions) to identify changes based on location. Similarly, climatic events were also analyzed by region. For all other variables, the sum of each variable across both regions is presented.

This report also refers to key findings from the quantitative survey conducted by 60 Decibels. Findings are presented for both FAO assistance individually as well as the aggregate findings from interventions led by FAO, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and UNICEF. Between June 2022 and February 2023, 60 Decibels conducted phone surveys with 1,030 anticipatory action recipients of these agencies to understand their experiences and measure the impact of the assistance received. In-country research assistants hired and trained by 60 Decibels conducted these surveys in recipients’ primary language. Whenever these secondary research findings are shared in this report, attribution to 60 Decibels is provided.

Background

The East and Horn of Africa region has been particularly affected by climate extremes. Current climate trends in the region indicate an increase in the frequency of extreme events such as excessive heat (WMO 2023), flooding (Palmer et al. 2023), and droughts (ibid.). Ethiopia is no exception to the challenges of climate change, and, by June 2022, parts of the country had experienced their fourth consecutive failed rainy season (OCHA 2022). Anticipatory humanitarian assistance was provided in the country through UN’s CERF in 2021 to get ahead of the effects of drought. In December 2020, OCHA’s anticipatory action trigger threshold was met based on projected drought conditions and a high prevalence of food insecurity. In the following months up to September 2021, various forms of assistance were provided in the country’s Afar and Somali Regions, where impacts were expected to be felt the hardest.¹

FAO, the focus of this study, assisted in reducing the risk of malnutrition and the loss of livelihoods, namely by providing sets of the following packages to recipients based on their primary livelihood:

- **Agro-pastoral households in Dollo Ado, Somali Region:** Assorted seeds (short-cycle/drought-tolerant crop production inputs); US\$40 cash, which is “about 90 percent of the Productive Safety Net Programme [PSNP] [monthly] wage rate”; tailored training on good agronomic practices (GAP), post-harvest handling, and value addition. The seed packages were described as “preferred cereal seeds, pulse seeds and vegetable seeds” (FAO 2021), and the cash was intended to “meet immediate family needs hence mitigate the risk of resorting to negative coping strategies during the lean period” (FAO 2021).

1 The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) After-Action Review (2022: 7) provides more details: On December 7, 2020, forecasts predicted that the trigger for activation had been reached. According to the forecasts, the food insecurity thresholds had been met in multiple regions and the drought thresholds for the spring rains had been met for Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People’s Region (SNNPR). Additionally, while not fully having been met at the time, the drought thresholds were very close to being met for Afar, Oromia, and Somali Regions. This led to the “split activation” of the pilot, with activities with longer lead times and those requiring an earlier implementation immediately activated, while a second set of activities that were scheduled to take place later would be activated towards the end of February 2021, should the forecasts continue to predict below-average rainfall. In February 2021, the rainfall projections continued to predict below-average rainfall for several areas in Ethiopia, and the food security thresholds continued to be met for the same regions as in December (Afar, Oromia, Somali, SNNP Regions), mainly due to the poor performance of the October–December rains and expected below-average rains for March–May 2021. Therefore, the ERC reconfirmed the release of the remaining funding for the immediate commencement of the second set of pre-agreed anticipatory action (AA) activities as defined in December.

- **Highly vulnerable (agro)pastoralists in the Afar and Somali Regions:** Animal health campaign and treatment services (a mix of services to prevent outbreaks of major transboundary animal diseases, and to treat endo- and ectoparasites, and respiratory infections, while giving animals a boost in vitamins);
- **Vulnerable pastoral households and agro-pastoral households in the Afar and Somali Regions:** US\$40 cash per household, livestock supplementary feed (total mixed ration (TMR) and multi-nutrient blocks (MNB)). The livestock supplementary feed was described as being enough “to feed two core-breeding cattle per household for 90 days. Although pastoralist may have more than two core-breeding animals, the support will only focus on two core-breeding animals due to limited resources. It’s assumed that with this, the two animals can safely stay at home and produce milk for consumption by children throughout the lean season” (FAO 2021).

Contextual Findings: Weather and Other Challenges

Interview findings with recipients of anticipatory assistance and KIIs in each region reveal a range of interesting and important perspectives and observations to inform current and future AA interventions in Ethiopia and beyond. Some of these are briefly presented below.

AA recipients experienced multiple challenges alongside drought.

“We face many problems around this area, for example: there is high cost of living, there is war, there is unemployment, and last year [2021] due to the flood, the farm was taken away and our land was left uncultivated.” – Interview with Mamole Kebele chairman, Afambo District, Afar Region

Weather-related challenges

Drought

Drought was mentioned as a key weather-related challenge by every informant in both regions. In the Somali Region, in Dollo Ado and Dolobay Districts, for example, drought was the main problem affecting the livelihoods of both agrarian and agropastoral communities, as shown in Figure 1 below. In the Somali Region, 87% of respondents listed drought and 3% listed shortage of rainfall as the main weather event affecting their livelihoods. In the Afar Region, 33% of respondents listed drought and 41% listed shortage of rainfall. As the figure below illustrates, a far fewer number of respondents in Afar cited weather events that have affected their livelihoods; however, this is likely due to the comparatively small sample size of respondents in Afar. Due to the conflict in the north that extended into Afar during the study period, research in Afar

Specific weather events that have affected livelihood in Somali and Afar region

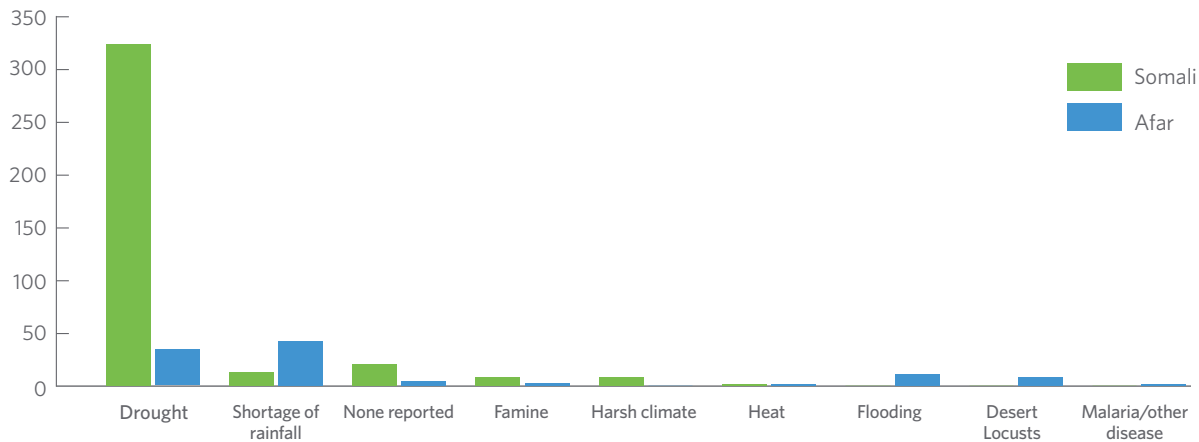


Figure 1. Specific weather events affecting livelihoods in the Somali and Afar Regions. Note: The low frequency in Afar is likely due to the small sample size in the region, as research had to be stopped due to the impacts of conflict on researchers and informants. It is likely that “shortage of rainfall” refers to drought; however, to respect respondents’ answers, these are kept separate here. While “famine” and “malaria and other diseases” are not weather events, they are presented here to fully capture respondents’ answers. We use the term “famine” in this figure, as this term was used by many informants. However, it is important to note that this usage may not match the definition used by institutional bodies such as Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

was stopped and researchers instead interviewed more informants in the Somali Region. Given this, results should not be used comparatively.

These findings are corroborated by those from the quantitative survey, in which nine in ten recipients considered drought between May and October 2021 to be the worst drought they had experienced compared to previous ones (60 Decibels 2023).

Although the livelihood systems in the Somali Region (pastoralism, for instance) are highly adaptive to the ecology and the environment, they have been increasingly threatened by the worsening climatic conditions and variabilities. Climate change impacts have been experienced in the form of increasing temperature, repetitive and prolonged droughts, and reduced access to water and pasture. Drought frequency and intensity have increased in the Somali Region. From 2020–22, the Somali Region experienced multiple consecutive poor rainy seasons. Pastoral and agropastoral communities in the region were affected equally and, as result, they labeled it as “simma” (the leveller or equalizer). This was also the case in the districts visited for this research. An agropastoral elderly man who has lived in Kalimisago Kebele his whole life mentioned that

we used to receive Gu rains and [then] Dayr rains around the end of the year. For the last five years we

did not receive Gu rain season. We only received small amount of Dayr rains in the last four to five years. As a result, we have lost most of our livestock even though we have been trying to move around with our livestock to the areas we heard received rains. There is nothing we could do, and we have lost most of our livestock because of the drought in this area.

Farmers interviewed indicated that they have tried to cultivate crops for the last three years, but due to the rising temperature and lack of rains, their farms did not yield crops. Although the river in Dollo Ado area flows throughout the year, for example, most of the informants explained that crops were failing due to the other impacts of the climate such as the temperature and plant diseases. In the words of Ibrahim, a local elder interviewed in Kalimisago Kebele:

We do most of our farming using water from the river, but the problem is that during drought times the land and the river water both get very hot and the temperature in the area increases very high. As a result, any crop cultivation done does not grow as the high temperature and the hot water from the river destroys it. The cultivated crops grow properly only when rain falls in this area.

Other weather-related challenges

While the AA assistance was only intended to address the impacts of drought, including food insecurity, informants detail a range of other pressures. Alongside drought, locust invasions were mentioned as a key hazard by recipients in the Afar Region. Other problems like extreme heat, flooding, and shortage of rainfall were also reported in the Afar Region as observed. Drought was a major event followed by shortage of rainfall in the Somali Region, which, as described above, likely refers to the same phenomenon.

Poor livestock condition and die-off

A large number of key informants and 6% of respondents in the Somali Region complained about the die-off of livestock, and that living animals were undervalued due to being underweight because of a shortage of feed. As one FAO AA recipient in Dollo Ado described, “Last year [2021] we faced a difficult situation as there was drought and our lands and grasslands have been affected, including all water sources like rivers. Our animals were exposed to diseases due to a lack of immunity. Most of our animals’ body condition is poor and underweight. Now they have a low local market value.”

In the Somali Region, due to the movements of livestock (which were already emaciated and susceptible to diseases) in and out of their areas of residence, livestock diseases were also reported by informants. An agropastoral local elder interviewed in Aminow Kebele explained the situation: “We have lost most of our livestock because of the drought. For example, before the drought, I had 20 livestock and now only 5 of them is alive and the rest have died because of the drought.” To cope with this situation, some of the agropastoralists in Dolobay and Dollo Ado Districts (Somali Region) cut the maize and other crops with leaves that can be used as a fodder for their livestock before it yielded a crop. Due to the unavailability of pasture in the area, banana and other leaves of plants were also used as a livestock fodder instead of waiting for these plants to yield a crop—thereby threatening future food security. The chair of Kelmisago Kebele explained this situation as follows:

Because of the drought people were cutting down their corn and the maize cultivation just to feed to their livestock to save them from the drought. Moreover, the banana farms were cut down and the banana and the leaves of the banana trees were fed to the livestock due to the drought and unavailability of pasture for them in the area.

Flooding

While drought means that there is below-average or insufficient rainfall across a region overall, rainfall can be very unevenly distributed across both the season (such having a late onset or ending earlier) in a drought situation and across a region or country. Strong rains can lead to localized flooding in one part of a region while another simultaneously experiences drought. This is particularly true for large countries such as Ethiopia, which is approximately as large as France and Spain combined (Embassy of Ethiopia 2022).

While the AA intervention focused on drought, informants in both the Afar and Somali Regions mentioned flooding as a key challenge as well. As an Afambo Woreda resident in the Afar Region explained, “Many people have been displaced due to the floods. If things are fixed, they can return to their place, and the reason is that the land they left behind due to the flood is their land where they have lived for a long time and also because it is their farm.”

In the Somali Region, flooding was mentioned as another disaster that affects the riverine kebeles in Dollo Ado and Dolobay during the rainy season. As with many other hazards, the most vulnerable populations are most at risk of negative impacts from flooding. For example, both Dollo Ado and Dolobay are some of the districts that host flood-induced internally displaced people (IDPs) on a seasonal basis. The Dolobay head of the Disaster Risk Management Office explained, “There are six centers [kebeles] including Korlay, Danbeni, Koranle, Matar, and Dersahat that are close to Weyb River, and its flooding impacts them.”

Other challenges

Inflation

Other nonweather-related challenges were also clearly present and caused cascading challenges, as presented in Figure 2 below. Conflict in some areas and rising market prices were crucial concerns that interacted with the impacts of drought. In the Somali Region, inflation was the main challenge apart from drought that these communities and in general the people in the region faced. While this inflation has a global dimension to it (e.g., perceived impacts of the war in Ukraine), the war in the Tigray Region is also believed to have contributed to the rising cost of food and other necessities in Ethiopia. Food price inflation was specifically evident and directly affected the lives of the people. Fifty-six percent of respondents in the Somali Region listed rising food prices as a key challenge, and a further 2% mentioned the cost of living. Shale Boqor, who has served as the chair of Amonow Kebele (Somali Region) for 23 years, elaborated on the rising cost of food prices:

We are struggling with high inflation in which every necessary commodity become very expensive and unaffordable to the people in this area. One liter of fuel is sold for 100 ETB [Ethiopian birr] at this moment but before it was 30–40 ETB. 1 kg of rice is sold for 120 ETB but before this it used to be sold for 35–40 ETB per 1 kg of rice. One kg of sugar is sold 140 ETB but before it was 30–32 ETB.

Conflict

Conflict was mentioned by many participants within districts in both Afar and the Somali Regions as having both direct and indirect impacts on their lives and livelihoods. While the graph above documents only challenges described by informants that had a direct impact on them (e.g., experiencing conflict themselves, which is captured in “Northern Conflict”), when informants discussed the impact that food prices had on their lives, they often mentioned that prices had risen once the conflict had started. In Afar, impacts such as inflation from the conflict in Tigray were discussed along with conflict within Afar. In the Somali Region, conflict was described by informants in Dolobay; notably, conflict was not reported in Dollo Ado District, where participants consistently described their peaceful coexistence with both refugees and the IDPs in their surroundings.

Conflict in Afar Region

In recent years, conflict has spread to other areas of the Afar Region such as Obno Kebele, a sub-district of Afambo Woreda and one of the hotbeds of the Afar-Issa conflict (Ali 2021). Due to contestations over the territorial claim of the kebele itself, the two communities have continued to engage in armed conflict that resulted in death, displacement, and the loss of homes and animals. A clan leader informant from Afambo District described:

The society has been a victim of various problems. Especially in Obno Kebele, many human lives have

Nonweather-related challenges experienced in the last year in Somali and Afar

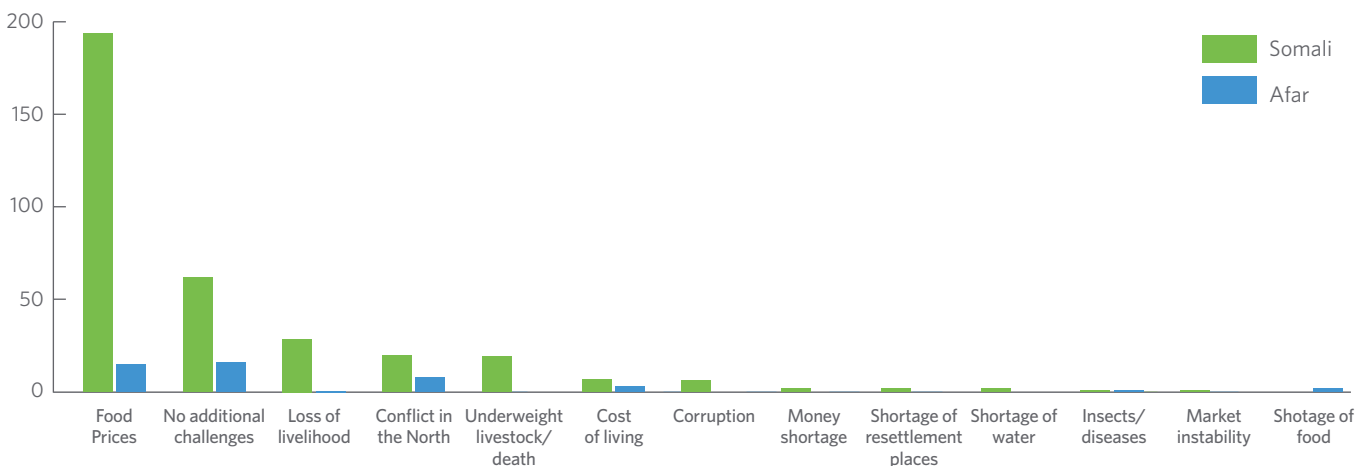


Figure 2. Additional non-weather-related challenges experienced in the last year in Somali and Afar Region.

been lost and properties were destroyed due to the war that the terrorist Isa-Somali clan waged against the innocent pastoralist community of Afar. These problems have resulted in loss of property, increased cost of living, social, economic, and psychological pressures on Afambo District members.

Representative of the challenges posed by conflict, FAO was forced to pause its activities in some areas of Afar due to conflict as well as seek out other feed companies to produce MNB as many companies' production and transport were also affected. The CERF final report explains, "For example, as at end of September [2021], no feed distribution had been conducted in Dalol woreda and only 43 percent of the supplementary feed planned for 4 woredas (Kunneba, Bidu, Afdera and Awra woredas) of Afar region had been distributed" (CERF 2022: 15). To account for these delays, the projects received two no-cost extensions to carry out activities when possible. However, these woredas were not those selected for this research, and thus any delays described here are not attributable to FAO's pausing of activities.

Conflict in Somali Region

Different types of conflict were also reported in the Somali Region. One informant who received FAO assistance in Dollo Ado, Somali Region, explained, "We were looking for settlement when we were moved from our original homeland because of the drought. Yet most places were pre-occupied by the people who came before us and overgrazed. Sometimes quarrels happen between people for feeding the animals."

In the Dolobay District, the recent Al-Shabaab intrusion into neighboring districts induced displacements into Dolobay. These conflict-induced IDPs were hosted in Alan, Koraley, Waledege-galbed, Desu, and Elalo sites in Dolobay District, according to the informants interviewed from the district administration (KII 29, Somali Region). As one FAO AA recipient in Dolobay explained, "Last year there was also tribal conflict around our area, in addition, there is also an increment on the price of cereals... Thus we face such challenges also in addition to the drought. The drought exacerbates the situation."

Intervention Findings

FAO's anticipatory action assistance was reported as helpful in the short term—but was too small to help recipients throughout the drought.

Findings from the qualitative research found that recipients nearly unanimously agreed that the assistance provided was helpful, as observed in Table 1 below. This appears to be higher than what was found in the quantitative survey across agencies, wherein 51% of recipients reported an improvement in overall quality of life (60 Decibels 2023: 13). Interestingly, in the quantitative survey, compared to the Ethiopia average, a higher proportion of FAO recipients said that the assistance came at the right time, but a smaller proportion reported improvements in their quality of life due to the assistance received.

The qualitative findings reveal that all types of assistance, ranging from cash, animal feed, farm inputs, and animal care support, were seen as useful by respondents as presented in Figure 3. Food came out as the most mentioned good that people spent the cash assistance on, followed by other immediate needs. Forty-five percent of respondents in Somali and 35% of respondents in Afar expressed that they used the cash to buy food for their family. The feed and animal care benefited 7% of respondents in helping their livestock recover from diseases; respondents also mentioned the assistance helped animals gain weight, which had been difficult due to drying grass and lack of feed due to drought. Several respondents also reported using the cash to get childcare coverage so that they could work.

"It helped our family since, during the drought season, the aid received helped cover our household consumption, which was the main reason our family survived."

– FAO AA recipient, Dollo Ado, Somali Region

Table 1. Overview of interview responses regarding utility of assistance

Interview Question: Was this assistance helpful to you? Why or why not?				
Assistance	Somali (Frequency- number of responses)	Somali (Percentage)	Afar (Frequency)	Afar (Percentage)
Covered food expenditure	214	45%	24	35%
Covered essential assistance	154	32%	15	22%
Farm input/farm activities	30	6%	2	3%
Livestock recovered from diseases	41	9%	5	7%
Ceriferm/other support for children	20	4%	3	4%
Right time to support	6	1%	9	13%
Paid of debt	6	1%	NA	NA
Medicine	5	1%	NA	NA
Shelter/tent	3	1%	NA	NA
Temporary support	0	0	9	13%
Not helpful	2	0	2	3%
Total	481	100%	69	100%

“My family benefitted from the assistance as we used the money to buy food items. In addition, we spent the money to take care of our children, and the animal feed support was also helpful for our livestock, as there was inadequate pasture.” – FAO AA recipient, Dollo Ado, Somali Region

At the same time, in the qualitative research, most respondents in both regions stated that assistance ran out, as the amount was too small for their family size and due to the increased price of food. Based on responses, the timeframe of when assistance ran out was unclear. Illustrative of many other participant responses, one female recipient in

Dollo Ado explained, “It [the cash received] was not enough even if we changed the way we used to eat, we started to eat once for the adults and two times for the younger ones.” Although the cash was unrestricted, the intended purpose of the cash was not to help feed a family regularly, but, as FAO states, “the beneficiaries were expected to address their immediate needs (such as medicines, clothing, debt repayment and investment...etc.)” (CERF 2022: 31). As described above, the transfer value was calculated as approximately 90% of the monthly household-level wage rate of the PSNP. At the same time, the emphasis by participants on using the cash



Figure 3. Snapshot on quantitative survey findings: FAO Assistance. Source: 60 Decibels, 2023

received to buy food rather than to repay debts or invest in livelihoods suggests that many participant households were operating at a day-to-day level of subsistence—despite the cash being provided in anticipation of rather than in response to the 2021 drought impact. However, many recipients also said that if they were to receive more assistance, they would be able to use the assistance more judiciously. Most informants explained that if they had received more assistance, they would have used it to buy more cereal and grains for their family to eat, with many stating that they would store it to use over a longer time. While such responses still focus on food, they suggest that with a larger amount of assistance, households might be able to achieve a longer length of food security during the drought.

Some of the impacts of the drought and other challenges are presented in Table 2 below, impacts that occurred despite FAO’s and other agencies’ assistance. In the Somali Region, reduced food consumption was the most frequently mentioned challenge—experienced by 62% of respondents. This was followed by livestock death, which 21% of respondents in the Somali Region experienced. Five percent of respondents in the region reported selling their houses to survive. In Afar region, livestock death was mentioned most frequently, followed by livelihood loss and fodder shortage.

Large-scale negative drought impacts were also identified in the quantitative survey, which found that 94% of recipients experienced at least one month in 2021 when their household struggled to meet basic needs (60 Decibels 2023: 9). Interestingly, while displacement constituted only a small percentage of answers to the question about challenges, long-term migration and displacement were in fact described in depth by many respondents in different answers, as explained further in the following section.

Reports of misused livestock feed that led to animal illness and in some cases death.

While the agricultural inputs (seeds and training) appeared to have had a positive impact on the lives of the recipients during the drought, the impacts of the livestock feed were more mixed. One finding that warrants further discussion surrounds the apparent misuse of livestock supplementary feed by some recipients in the Somali Region. Reports were provided of a lack of trainings on how to use the livestock supplementary feed, sometimes with harmful results, as further described below. While this information arose in only three KIIs, those speaking to the issue

Table 2. Overview of interview responses regarding significant challenges of weather events

Interview question: What is the biggest challenge or difficulty that this/these event(s) have caused for you and your family?				
Additional Challenges	Somali (Frequency)	Somali (Percentage)	Afar (Frequency)	Afar (Percentage)
Reduced food consumption	155	62%	5	9%
Animal death	53	21%	24	43%
Loss of livelihood	15	6%	19	34%
Sold house to survive	12	5%	-	-
Displacement	7	3%	2	4%
Restricted Movement	4	2%	-	-
Asset/property loss	3	1%	-	-
Feed shortage/dry grass	1	-	6	11%
Total	250	100	56	100

were, respectively, two community elders/leaders and the Dollo Ado Woreda head of the Livestock Bureau, all of whom were able to speak broadly of community experiences with the AA assistance received. It is also important to note that each KII was based in a different kebele (Amino Kebele, Dollo Ado Town, and Kelmis Kebele), suggesting that this issue may have been fairly widespread. Given that this could not be corroborated or followed up on in this research, this suggests a need for specific research on this topic with AA recipients in the future.

The livestock supplementary feed consisted of feed rations and multinutrient blocks, which were meant to be fed to animals alongside other livestock feed or leaves. However, it appears that some recipients did not understand the intended process of mixing the supplementary feed with other types of feed or were simply not able to do so. An elder in Amino Kebele explained, “[N]obody told us the appropriate amount that we should feed to the livestock, and we do not know how much is enough to feed it to the livestock.” The feed was distributed at a point when many pastoralist communities had nothing else to feed their animals. Most livestock were also already emaciated and thus perhaps unable to consume the prescribed amount of the concentrated feed. The Dollo Ado Woreda livestock office head, who had served in the office for the last four years, elaborated on the misuse of the fodder by the community due to the unavailability of pasture and other livestock feed:

The packed pasture provided to the beneficiaries was a very nutritious pasture for the livestock, and when it is given to the livestock it needs to be mixed with other things like Buushi (animal feed) or given to the livestock in small amount. However, the people in this area are in drought and they can't find Buushi to mix it with the packed pasture given to them....People in some kebeles of Dolo Woreda used it better but people in some kebeles fail to use it as told to them. For example, the utilization of this packed pasture in Bokolmayo Woreda was better than it was in our woreda. This is because the community in Bokolmayo Woreda had better access to “Bonsho” and they used to mix it with the packed pasture and fed it to their livestock. But, here, in this woreda people had no good access to “Bonsho,” and that is why the utilization of the packed pasture was smaller than it was in other woredas like Bokolmayo Woreda. (KII 28, Somali Region)

As a result, the concentrated feed made some of the livestock sick, as the pastoralists fed them more than they could ingest. One KII reported that some livestock died as a result; a local elder in Aminow Kebele of Dollo Ado explained, for example, that “there was a man in this area [Aminow Kebele] that fed too much of this packed pasture to his sheep, and some of his sheep died because of its high salt content.” Two informants reported that livestock did not appear to like or eat the feed very much, likely because it was too concentrated, and so people stopped feeding it to the animals; those whose animals were made sick by it also stopped using it.

Importantly, this challenge has been described by FAO in other contexts as a practical constraint, as the feeding of supplements, due to improper amounts or how they are administered, can quickly lead to the deaths of animals from ammonia toxicity (FAO 2007). The outcomes shared by some informants in the Somali Region suggest that further information dissemination about proper use of supplementary feed and nutrients is crucial to ensure that the assistance provided does not in fact have adverse effects. Given that some informants explained that recipients had no other recourse to additional feed (including leaves) due to the drought, it is also important that FAO and other actors providing such assistance carefully evaluate contexts or situations where it in fact might be inappropriate to provide particular types of supplementary nutrients.

Recipients report long-term migration and displacement

Almost all the respondents in both Afar and Somali Regions reported leaving their home to travel to either nearby or far regions due to weather challenges. See Table 3 below. Although some of the respondents are semipastoralists for whom mobility is part of life, it is striking that most respondents in both regions shared that they would not have moved either at all or so far if there had been no drought, suggesting migration as both a coping and livelihood strategy in the face of environmental shocks. One respondent in the Somali Region explained, for example, that “my family migrated to a far place and settled nearly 130 kilometers away from home.”

Table 3. Responses to interview questions about migration and displacement

Interview question: Have you had to move from your home because of the weather challenges you described?				
Moved	Somali (Frequency)	Somali (Percentage)	Afar (Frequency)	Afar (Percentage)
Yes	276	85	16	22
No	48	15	58	78
Total	324	100	74	100

Interview question: Do you plan on going home again?				
Plan	Somali (Frequency)	Somali (Percentage)	Afar (Frequency)	Afar (Percentage)
Yes	213	78	13	87
No	30	11	1	6.5
Maybe/ Unsure	31	11	1	6.5
Total	274	100	15	100

Interview question: If there hadn't been a drought, would you have moved?				
Plan	Somali (Frequency)	Somali (Percentage)	Afar (Frequency)	Afar (Percentage)
No	275	99%	26	96%
Yes	4	1%	1	4%
Total	279	100	27	100

There were consistent responses by participants in both regions about having travelled wider distances than they otherwise would have due to the drought and its impacts. These qualitative findings were consistent with the quantitative survey, which found that five in ten respondents had to relocate from their initial place of residence due to the drought (60 Decibels 2023: 9).

The majority of respondents in each region reported that they plan to move back to their hometown once the drought situation improves. Some respondents also expressed experiencing difficulties in their temporary location due to limited space and a lack of familiarity with the area; a few respondents had already moved back to their original home. At the same time, some respondents were doubtful about ever going back, including a few who stated that

they won't go back to their hometown, as they had already experienced several years of challenging weather.

"...We plan to return back to our land as this land belongs to another tribe and community. We would have stayed at home if there had not been a drought." - FAO AA recipient, Kilimasigo, Somali Region

"As soon as possible, back to our home place because we want to keep our social life and culture." - FAO AA recipient, Kilimasigo, Somali Region

"Our family plans to return home as our friends have also informed us that our previous homeland started gaining rainfall." - FAO AA recipient, Aminow, Somali Region

AA timing: earlier is requested.

This section focuses on the timing of AA according to recipients. It is important for answers to first be contextualized with the weather patterns in the years prior to the provision of assistance. The rainy seasons of October, November, and December 2019 and March, April, and May 2020 were above average (leading to flooding). This was followed by the first drought shock during a below-average rainy season in October, November, and December 2020. Given these events, in 2021 people were already facing drought impacts because of the extremely poor October–December 2020 rainy season. They were also not receiving sufficient assistance during the lean season in the first quarter of 2021.

Based on this, there are challenges in assessing “the right moment” for AA based on people’s perceptions, as in fact discussions of earlier assistance for one shock could also have been post-facto for another. Although many households were likely already struggling from the effects of the previous failed rainy season, the anticipatory action assistance was envisioned as offering support before the impact of the next failed rainy season. In recognition of this and due to the question’s focus on timing, the question posed to participants focused on the ideal timing of assistance more broadly rather than specifically asking about anticipatory action assistance. This, of course, also presents limitations for considering the responses in direct relation to AA. However, despite the evaluation challenge posed by the context, it was considered important to understand, to the extent possible, how people perceived the arrival of assistance to inform future AA. Response may also be useful to consider for AA interventions in a multiseason drought situation.

In the Somali Region, 69% of respondents reported receiving assistance between May and October, followed by May–September, mid-year, and June–October. In the Afar Region, some could not recall the month in which they received assistance. There was variation in the month reported, with the most prevalent months reported being March, June, July, and September. Based on findings from the quantitative survey, February, March, and April 2021 were the worst months for many recipients, wherein

they struggled to meet basic needs (60 Decibels 2023: 9). This finding is not surprising, as these months are historically considered the lean season for pastoralists in the north and south of the country. It is therefore notable that assistance from FAO and other agencies in fact came after these self-reported “bad months.” The lean season is the period between harvests, when job opportunities are scarce, incomes drop, and food stocks dwindle. In 2021, this period was particularly difficult in eastern Ethiopia due to the aforementioned below-average rainfall season from October to December 2020. This had in turn yielded lower harvests and reduced the availability of water and pasture, meaning that the need for assistance was high at the beginning of the year. However, the international focus was on the conflict and humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia at that time, further illustrating how nonclimate-related shocks can interact with climate-related ones.

Overall, 44% of recipients in the quantitative survey found that the assistance came at the right time, while 52% said it came late and that they would have liked it to have come earlier, between February and May (60 Decibels 2023: 10).

Qualitative results on whether the assistance arrived at the “right time” are mixed. Informants expressed gratitude, with multiple people saying the cash and seeds assistance came when it was severely needed. As one male respondent in Dollo Ado explained, “The assistance I received was very useful. Because it was desperately needed, it helped me buy food for the family.” However, such responses highlight a need to clarify what the “right time” means in terms of intended outcomes of AA. If the purpose is to keep people alive, then the many answers like this one suggest success; however, given that FAO’s stated intended result for the intervention was to “ensure protection of livelihoods and acceptable food consumption of vulnerable populations at risk of extreme food insecurity due to drought,” the level of success is less clear. For example, some participants responded that the assistance came late, and explained that they lost their livestock and that their children became malnourished. However, these responses do not tell us whether these families would have been in a situation of less need had the assistance arrived earlier.

For other recipients, the assistance would have helped them more if it had come sooner. Multiple recipients mentioned that they wished the aid had arrived at the beginning of the drought, which was generally described not in terms of specific weather events but instead through statements like, “It would be best if the assistance came at the exact time the problem happened to be more helpful” and discussed experiencing delays in receiving assistance.

“The money and maize bean that we received on a monthly basis was helpful, as it enables to cover our most basic need, including for monthly food consumption of our household, though the aid came little too late, and we were on shortage, and we have got food only one or two times in a day. It would be better if we received it in the earlier weeks.” –FAO AA recipient, Dolobay, Somali Region (Please note the recipient may be referring to additional assistance provided by FAO that was not part of the formal CERF allocation.)

“We need assistance at times when we face such type of drought. If we had received the aid two months before, it would be most helpful for us also.” – FAO AA recipient, Dolobay, Somali Region

“No, the time I got the assistance was after I missed the first season of farming, it was somehow last minute, but it was good, I tried my best to grow the maize seeds I got.” – FAO AA recipient, Dollo Ado, Somali Region

Recipient interest in regular, smaller disbursements: Breakdown of assistance by timing and amount.

Recipients were asked whether it would be more helpful to receive a large amount of support in advance of a drought or other extreme weather event, or whether it would be more helpful to receive smaller, monthly amounts of assistance both in advance of and during an event like drought. In

both regions there were fairly split results: 53% of respondents in both the Somali and Afar Regions expressed strong interest in regular disbursements of assistance over a drought period (beginning before the drought and continuing through it), with the rationale being that it wouldn’t run out as quickly and could be used “properly.” Key informant interviews were overwhelmingly in favor of smaller, regular disbursements. As one recipient explained, *“I think it is better to receive every month because it [helps] to sustain use of assistance and avoid excessive use”* (FAO AA recipient, Asayita, Afar).

Forty-seven percent of respondents in both the Somali and Afar Regions preferred a larger, one-off disbursement before the drought. Interestingly, those recipients who stated that this disbursement in advance of a drought would be most helpful overwhelmingly expressed worry that smaller, regular amounts would in fact be delayed. Some receiving cash assistance also thought that receiving a large amount of aid in advance of a drought could help them ration their expenditures accordingly, as they would know up front how much money would be provided.

“It would be better if we received a big amount of aid, as we become sure as it’s in our hand...even sometimes shortages happen, and we wait for the next amount of aid. If it is on a monthly basis, we don’t know what would happen.” – FAO AA recipient, Dollo Ado, Somali Region

“It would be better if we received the aid at [one] time, as we can’t be sure about the future. Even sometimes serious conflict happened in the past and roads were closed.” – FAO AA recipient, Dollo Ado, Somali Region

At the same time, several other recipients mentioned that receiving a large amount prior to the drought is useful because it allows them to budget themselves rather than have assistance effectively rationed for them:

“It would be more helpful if we received big aid once as we didn’t know in which month serious scarcity happened at the household level and we used it for that time.” – FAO AA recipient, Dolobay, Somali Region

Conclusion

Key themes that have emerged from this research include:

- There are a multitude of challenges recipients faced beyond drought that were not intended to be addressed by the anticipatory assistance. However, these may have lessened the positive impact of the assistance overall. These challenges include conflict and spin-off challenges such as increased market prices.
- Recipients shared widespread appreciation of the assistance provided (although interview bias must be considered)—along with clear reports that the size of assistance (a one-off US\$40 cash transfer per household and livelihood support) did not feel adequate to recipients due to large family sizes and inflated food prices. However, the intervention was designed to address one particular season of drought rather than the multiyear drought the region has experienced. This disjuncture both helps explain the findings and also highlights the need for broader reflections by the humanitarian community about how best to provide anticipatory assistance when multiple shocks (in this case, below-average rainy seasons) occur in close succession, and alongside other shocks (like conflict and floods), and in contexts where existing needs are high and assistance for these needs is insufficient.
- Widespread migration and displacement appear to have occurred because of the drought. This finding further reinforces the need for wider considerations about whether and, if so, how short-term AA interventions can have significant impacts in contexts of high vulnerability and parallel shocks.
- There was an assertion by many recipients that receiving the assistance earlier than they did would have been more helpful, and particularly at the “beginning” of the drought (after the first below-average season). Terms such as “beginning” or “the right time” are of course subjective and ultimately ambiguous classifications; however, the timing of assistance remains an important area for ongoing study regarding AA as well

as other types of humanitarian response. It is particularly important to tease out in future research whether, or the extent to which, the “right time” for recipients of AA align or diverge from humanitarian actors’ assessments or particular project goals. Alongside this, more research is needed to better understand how recipients define the timescale of hazards, such as the “beginning” of a drought; given the protracted dryness that Ethiopia has experienced, for example, it may be that meteorological understandings of the onset of drought and community perceptions of it differ.

- There was relative parity between recipients’ opinions of preferring to receive smaller, regular disbursements of assistance starting in advance of and continuing during a drought period versus receiving a large amount in advance of it. More in-depth research to better understand whether certain types of regular versus one-off types of assistance would be preferable (and why) would be helpful to further contextualize these findings.

These findings provide information and direction for the anticipatory action community to consider given the projected increase in multiple hazards and ongoing contexts of long-term poverty and vulnerability. In this regard, the findings reinforce the ongoing importance of evaluating anticipatory action implementation and outcomes. One of many important areas to follow up on in further research is the interest of many recipients in receiving smaller but regular disbursements of assistance both in preparation for and during a drought period, in contrast to only prior to it. It would be valuable to identify, for example, whether there are differences in socioeconomic characteristics between those who prefer the assistance at different times. However, it is clear from responses expressing concern about potential delays in recurring distributions or transfers that humanitarians should not commit to ongoing disbursements that they may be unable to provide at the intended time. This issue of reliability in the context of anticipatory action and the potential for regular disbursements is important to discuss relating to both practical issues like logistics and

supply chains as well as less tangible but equally crucial components of assistance such as trust and accountability.

Overall, better understanding of effective types and amounts of disbursements is particularly important in contexts of recurrent weather events that may individually or cumulatively be considered extreme events, like Ethiopia has experienced with drought, as well as complex crises where multiple challenges co-exist. This is also important even in cases where one particular challenge may be the overriding concern, as was the case for most respondents with drought. In contrast to other contexts in which extreme weather events and crises are outliers rather than the norm, and as has been well-documented in the case of the failure of development programs to build livelihoods assets in Ethiopia, populations in these complex settings may not have the chance to “recover” or rebuild assets before the next event occurs—be it a shock from drought or conflict, or the impacts of both.

The findings from this research also play an important role in confirming the initial assumptions that led to the intervention design, namely that the biggest challenge for drought-affected people is reduced food consumption and the loss of livelihoods. This reinforces anticipatory action design

for drought-affected regions that prioritizes these sectors in the overall package of anticipatory actions (with the caveat that FAO beneficiary bias must be considered). The findings also shed light on how recipients used the cash, which was mainly to cover food expenses and other day-to-day essentials. Notably, the majority of recipients discussed that even if the cash amount had been higher, they would have still used it to buy food to store the surplus for later drought months.

Overall, these findings illustrate that the anticipatory action received in many cases had a positive impact on quality of life; however, this impact was likely short-lived. Mixed findings on the timing of assistance and accounts of the misuse of animal feed due to either lack of knowledge or constrained environments illustrate the ongoing value of qualitative research to better understand people’s situations to inform the design of anticipatory actions. There is a concomitant need to increase discussions in policy, practitioner, and donor circles on how best to assist populations facing extreme events when these events in fact become protracted. Such discussions will be enhanced through a deeper understanding of the impacts of the type, timing, and amount of assistance provided to populations experiencing multiple crises, weather-related and otherwise.

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Annex 1. Overview of AA Ethiopia Allocation 2021

Sector	Agency	Activities
Food Security and Livelihoods	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parasite treatment Feed for animals Seeds for farmers Cash
Nutrition	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malnutrition screening Health worker training Counselling on nutrition best practices
WASH	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water system rehabilitation Distribution of items for better hygiene Awareness raising on hygiene practices
Health	WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and deployment of Rapid Response Teams
Protection	UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of cluster and partner staff Joint monitoring of protection mainstreaming
	UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of GBV referral pathways Training on GBV risk mitigation and referral Distribution of dignity kits to women and girls Awareness raising on GBV and SEA prevention
	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on child protection, referral pathways and reporting mechanisms Awareness raising on child protection in communities Radio sessions on child protection
Education	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash grants or vouchers for families with school-aged children Water tanks and water point repair for schools

Note: Highlighted rows indicate the three agencies that participated in the 60 Decibels assessment. *Source: 60 Decibels, 2023.*

Annex 2. Interview Guide

This interview guide was designed for FAO recipients and was then adapted for key informants.

Section 1: Overview of weather and other challenges		
I'd like to begin by asking a few questions about the weather and climate and other challenges you experienced in the last year.		
1	Have there been specific weather events that have affected your livelihood and/or your and your family's wellbeing?	
2	Are there additional challenges, outside of the weather challenges you mentioned previously, that you have experienced in the last year? (E.g. conflict, occupation, rising food prices, etc.)	
3	What is the biggest challenge or difficulty that this/these event(s) have caused for you and your family?	
4	Have you had to move from your home because of these challenges? If so, how far have you moved? Do you plan on going home again? Why or why not?	
Section 2: Type of assistance		
Now I'd like to a few questions about any humanitarian aid you received between January and October* last year. *while the intervention ended in September, it was decided to have the date range include October to account for the possibility of late assistance.		
5	From which agency or organization(s) did you get assistance?	
6	What type of assistance was this and was the assistance ongoing or one time?	
7	Was this assistance helpful to you? Why or why not?	
8	[If respondent does not mention FAO in questions 6-8]: Did you receive any assistance from FAO or implementing partners [list names] between January and October last year? What type of assistance was this and was the assistance ongoing or one-off?	
9	[If respondent does not mention FAO in questions 6-8]: Was this assistance helpful to you? Why or why not?	

Section 3: Timing of Assistance		
<p>We have a few questions about the timing of the assistance you received. Note to researcher: In this section please record specific months mentioned by the respondent for these answers.</p>		
10	Can you remember roughly in which month(s) you received different types of assistance?	
11	What assistance that you received came at the most helpful time for you and why? Would it have been more useful to receive it at a different time, and why/why not?	
12	When would be the best time for this assistance to come and why?	
13	Did the assistance run out? If so, did you have to change how you eat, your ability to care for your family, your livestock, etc?	
14	Do you think it would be more helpful to receive a big amount of support before a drought or other weather event starts/gets worse or would it be more helpful to receive smaller amounts of support every month? Why?	
Section 4: Ideal/hypothetical assistance		
<p>We have a few more questions about what would be most helpful to you. Researcher note: Some of these questions may already be answered above, in which case, you may skip the questions already previously answered in this section.</p>		
15	If you had received more assistance, how would you have used it?	
16	What sort of assistance do you wish you had received but didn't? Why do you think this assistance would have been useful/is important?	
Section 5: Other information and wrapping up		
<p>Thank you so much for everything you have shared. Those are all of the questions I have for you but I'm wondering if you have other information or ideas to share about the type of assistance you have received or the type of support most needed by people where you live.</p>		
17	Do you have anything else you would like to ask or share?	

Annex 3. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Somali Region

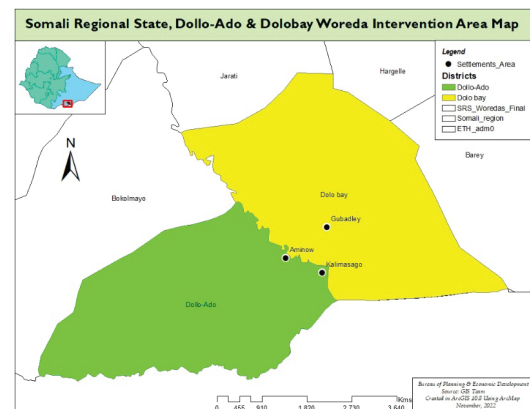
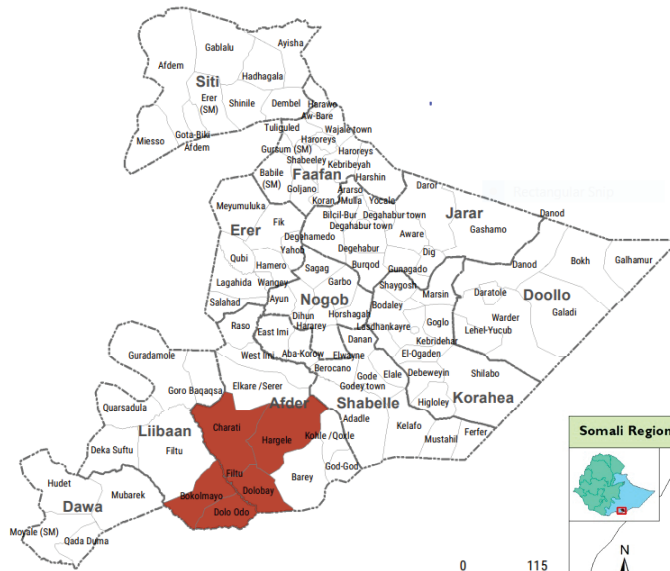
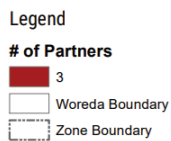
The anticipatory action interventions in 2021 under the multipartner drought AA framework took place in woredas in Afar, Oromia, Somali, and SNNP Regions. In the Somali Region, assistance was delivered in Dolobay, Dollo Ado, Charati, Bokolmayo, Filtu, and Hargelle (see map below). For this assessment, Dollo Ado and Dolobay Districts were selected. Both districts are located in the southern part of the Somali Region, sharing a border with Somalia. Agriculture and agropastoralism are the main livelihood systems in the two districts. Genale and Weyb Rivers pass through the two districts before they enter Somalia and form Jubba River. For agropastoral communities, both farming and livestock represent the main sources of income. For the agrarian communities, crop cultivation is the main source of livelihood. Maize, wheat, and

some cash crops (including fruits and vegetables) are among the crops commonly cultivated in the area. In addition to this, Dollo Ado and Dolobay are border cities with huge trade potentials that serve as the main source of livelihoods to many urban residents. An interview with Dolobay District administration indicated that “agriculture and livestock rearing are the main livelihoods. But there are other livelihood means such as small trades and salaries from government employments.”

For this study, Kalimisago and Aminow Kebeles of Dollo Ado District and Gubadle Kebele of Dolobay District were selected among the intervention kebeles (see map below). These field sites were chosen largely due to access constraints in other kebeles at the time of research.

TARGETTED WOREDAS BY CERF ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN 2020/2021

Three (3) Partners, representing 5 Clusters
 1. Education
 2. Protection
 3. WASH
 4. Nutrition
 5. Agriculture
 are responding in 5 Woredas namely:
 Charati, Hargele, Dolobay, Dolo Odo and Bokolmayo



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