

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



World Food  
Programme

# Forecast-based Financing (FbF)

Anticipatory actions for food security

April 2019



# WFP's Innovative Approach

Extreme weather events and conflict are two of the gravest global risks to food security in the world today. More than 80 percent of the world's food-insecure people live in countries prone to natural hazards that further aggravate food insecurity and malnutrition by destroying land, livestock, crops, livelihoods and food supplies. Despite significant increases in donor funding that reflect the growing need for humanitarian responses to new emergencies and protracted crises, there is a persistent funding gap of around 40 percent in support of most humanitarian appeals. This forces organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) to make hard decisions about the prioritization of assistance.

Thankfully, solutions exist. To support countries in the mitigation and management of climate risks, WFP is implementing innovative programme approaches to reduce losses and damages in the livelihoods of people who are faced with increasing climate extremes. The approach that has the biggest potential of closing the humanitarian funding gap is **Forecast-based Financing (FbF)**.

Forecast-based Financing enables anticipatory actions for disaster mitigation at the community and government level using credible seasonal and weather forecasts. These forecasts are linked to pre-determined contingency plans, actors and funding instruments which are used to reduce the humanitarian caseload in the critical window between a forecast and an extreme weather event. This

mechanism is changing the way the humanitarian system responds to climate-related disasters: it complements the existing readiness of humanitarian actors to respond to humanitarian needs with an anticipatory system to reduce the scale of these needs before they materialize.

Acting early allows governments, communities and households to take actions days, weeks and sometimes even months before a climate shock occurs, and helps affected populations to avoid negative coping strategies. At the same time, humanitarian and government institutions who work on disaster risk management can reduce the scale of humanitarian needs and achieve significant efficiency gains.

The world is changing fast, and the number of people who get trapped in food crises after more frequent and extreme climate events is rising. Institutional flexibility and foresight have never been of such critical importance. As the largest humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide, WFP has already invested heavily in supporting governments' emergency preparedness and response capacities. With climate change acting as a risk multiplier, WFP is strengthening this work with investments in Forecast-based Financing and anticipatory action across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

# How It Works

## **Assess Risks & Impacts**

in order to better understand the potential impact of extreme weather events on food-insecure people, and to inform the design and targeting of anticipatory mitigation actions.

## **Identify Capacity Gaps**

in the ability of existing early warning systems to produce and transmit reliable and timely information for the implementation of anticipatory actions ahead of an extreme weather event.

## **Agree on Thresholds**

together with national disaster management actors to determine the magnitude of an extreme weather event that can lead to high, moderate and low-level impacts.

## **Develop Anticipatory Actions**

based on multistakeholder consultations, risk and historical post-disaster assessments. Identify high, moderate, and low-risk actions that can be completed in the window between a forecast and an extreme weather event.



## Decide When to Act

by setting forecast triggers. This is based on multiple factors, including forecasting capacity, hazard type, and the time and cost necessary to complete sector-specific anticipatory actions.

## Design SOPs

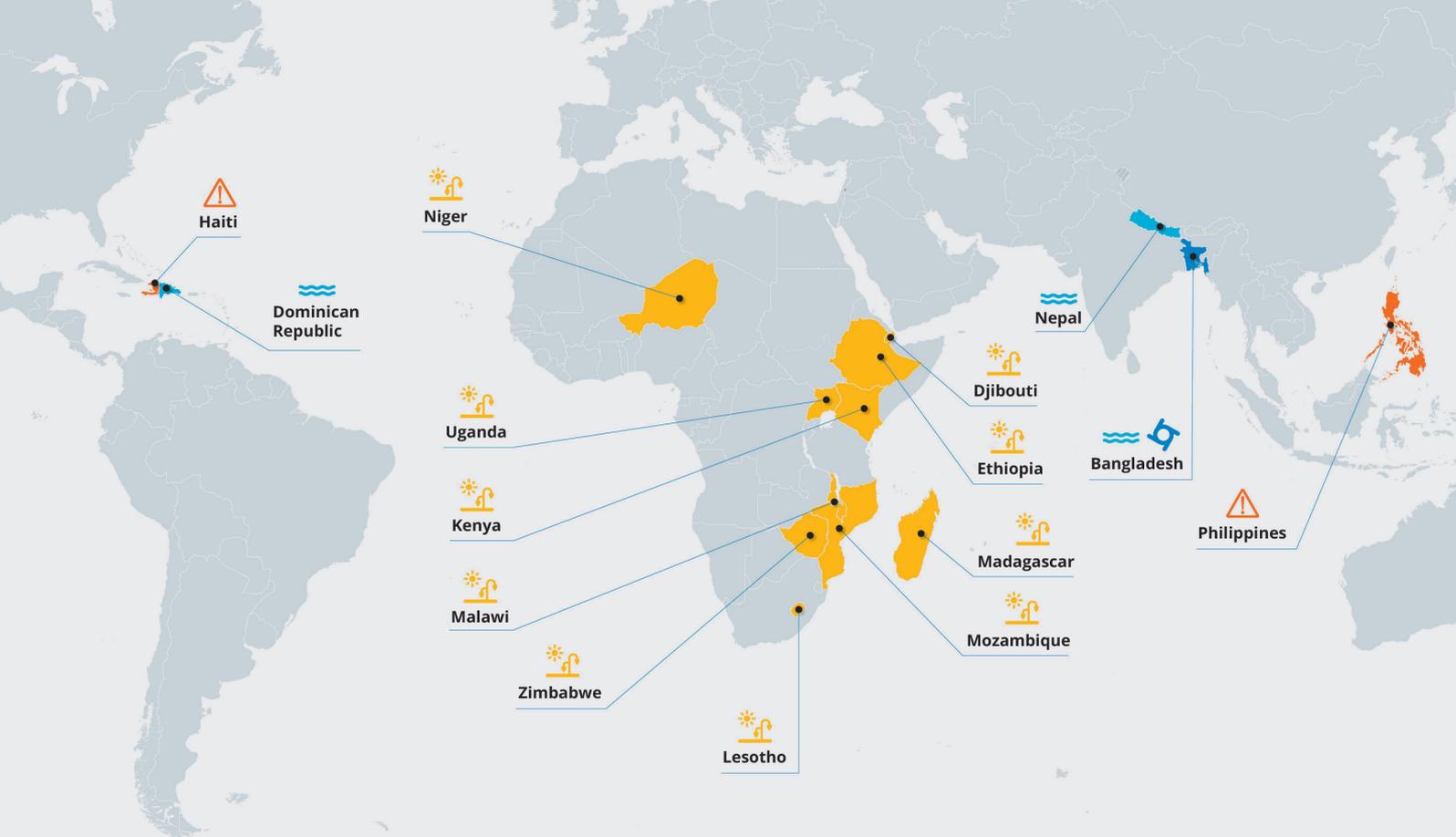
that outline the actions, along with the actors, costs, thresholds, triggers, and predetermined funds to be mobilized in anticipation of an extreme weather event. The SOPs should be aligned with national disaster risk management plans and validated together with key actors through simulations.

## Monitor Forecast & Act!

in response to a high, medium or low-level trigger, coordinate with key stakeholders to implement anticipatory actions as per the SOPs. Assimilate lessons learned through after-action reviews.

# Global Map of WFP FbF Countries and Hazards





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The designations employed and the presentation of material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

\* Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan.

\*\* A dispute exists between the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

\*\*\* Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

# Country Examples / Latin America

**COUNTRY | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**HAZARD | RIVER FLOODING**

**LOCATION | YAQUE DEL NORTE RIVER BASIN**

In the Dominican Republic, WFP has implemented Forecast-based Financing since 2015. WFP is working with government disaster risk management, emergency response and social protection entities and local partners to improve climate risk analyses, develop anticipatory actions and link them with early warning systems for flood hazards. Partners include the Dominican Republic National Emergency Commission (CNE), the Center for Emergency Operations (COE), the National Institute for Water Resources (INDRHI), the National Meteorological Centre (ONAMET), the National Geological Service (SGN), among others as part of an FbF taskforce<sup>1</sup>, and the subnational Committees for Prevention, Mitigation and Response that are



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