

FORECAST-BASED ACTION

Addressing drought induced food insecurity in Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Kenya

Project Funding: Financially supported by GFFO
Project Duration: March 2020 - December 2022
Project Countries: Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Kenya

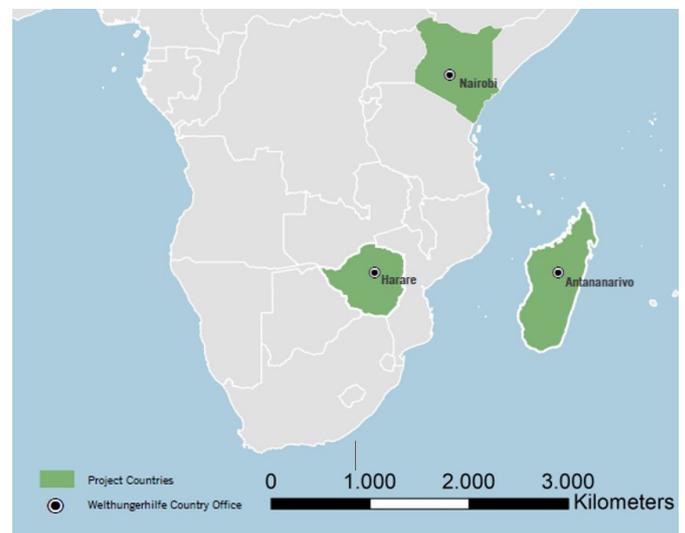
ACTING EARLY - A NEW ERA IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Today the humanitarian system is mainly reacting to crisis after they have occurred. Therefore, funding for humanitarian action is not available until it is too late. However, acting early in face of humanitarian crisis can save time, costs and, most importantly, lives. If we successfully predict extreme weather events and act early, we can mitigate their impact and prevent human suffering.

What is Forecast-based Action?

Forecast-based Action is a system that enables the allocation of financial resources in advance and act as soon as an early a warning is issued: days, weeks or even months before a disaster hits.

Based on in-depth forecast information and extensive risk analyses, the release of funds and specific early actions are lined out and agreed upon in so-called Early Action Protocols (EAPs). These EAPs define which stakeholder does what, where and when. As soon as a certain trigger level is then reached, a warning is issued and early actions are implemented.



FORECAST-BASED ACTION AT WELTHUNGERHILFE

Welthungerhilfe started its first pilot project in Forecast-based Action (previously Forecast-based Financing) in 2017 addressing drought risk in Madagascar. Its objective was to develop a drought model and EAPs which formed the basis for the development of a manual for following projects. In the new project the tackled drought zones in Madagascar will be extended and the approach will be replicated in Zimbabwe and Madagascar.

AIM OF THE FBA PROJECT

The aim is to develop Forecast-based Action mechanisms for food security in the event of drought in Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Kenya. The Early Action Protocols (EAP) created as part of the project reduce the risks to the food security of vulnerable communities, prevent negative coping strategies and minimize the loss and damage to drought-affected households.

The Forecast-based Action mechanism will be developed and specifically adapted and set up to an international and national NGO environment. In order to ensure effective implementation, the system is developed in cooperation with universities, the Start Network, Start member organisations, local partners, national government institutions, local authorities and target group communities.

The project aims to avert or at least minimise the negative effects of a predicted drought on the food security of people at risk in selected geographical areas or communities. On the basis of historical analyses, this should take into account such drought events, which occur on average every 10 years.

PROJECT PHASES OF WHH FBA APPROACH



The project is divided into five phases: **1) Project Planning and Coordination**, in which the further project processes are elaborated with partners, also meteorology and disaster management authorities are involved; **2) Understanding Risks and Vulnerabilities**, in which through comprehensive analyses scenarios are created and intervention priorities are established on the basis of calculated disaster impacts; **3) Development of a Scientific Monitoring and Triggering Mechanism** in which a reliable, open-data-based system is designed; **4) Development of Early Action Protocols**, in which suitable Early Actions are prioritized and contingency plans with clear roles and responsibilities are established; and **5) MEAL conception**, in which comprehensive MEAL concepts are implemented throughout the project and a mid-term project assessment is carried out.

FORECAST-BASED ACTION VISION

- A financing mechanism that allows for multiple donors to fund various levels of risk;
- A model designed with local needs and risks in mind;
- A flexible contingency planning approach;
- A continuum of risk financing - where different types of financing can be activated at different stages, depending on the type and timeline of a crisis.

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