Background

Individuals experience climate extremes and disasters differently. Pre-existing inequalities linked to identity factors such as disability, gender, and age, as well as socio-economic status, marital status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc., shape a person’s capacity to cope with disaster. People experiencing intersecting factors of exclusion are particularly at risk, as these combine to intensify marginalisation and worsen barriers in accessing disaster preparedness and response services. Stigma, exclusion and discrimination often experienced by persons with disabilities in their diversity, by women, elderly, and other marginalized groups mean they often remain overlooked in disaster risk management processes. These gaps can manifest in various ways, from early warning systems that do not factor the needs of a diverse audience, to inaccessibility of evacuation procedures and shelters. While the evidence about the differing impacts of disasters on individuals is there, efforts are still needed to translate it into more inclusive practices that also consider intersectionality before, during and after disaster. Building on progress in weather forecasting and climate science, anticipatory action has emerged as a promising and innovative approach to the way we manage disasters, by “acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold” (OCHA). As with any new approach, there is a critical need to ensure inclusion is strongly embedded into it, to ensure anticipatory actions leave no one behind and to maximize their positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable individuals.

Project objective

The i2A project seeks to enhance positive impact for vulnerable populations most at risk of disaster through addressing gaps and scaling up good practice for inclusive, people-centred anticipatory action approaches. Implemented in various communes and municipalities of the Philippines, Madagascar, and Haiti, the project works to develop and test inclusive and locally led early action protocols, building on robust impact-based forecasting models. The project also aims at building capacities of various stakeholders and strengthening local coordination mechanisms. Lessons learned and key findings from this pilot project are shared at national and global levels.
Key project information

Budget and duration: 1 807 380 €, from 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2024
Funding: German Federal Foreign Office, Aktion Deutschland Hilft
Target beneficiaries:
- Haiti : 101 927 persons (47 957 women, 53 970 men)
- Madagascar : 329 600 persons (164 841 women, 164 759 men)
- The Philippines : 200 885 persons (100 242 women, 100 242 men)

Expected outcomes & main achievements

1. Foundational studies and mapping exercises are produced and disseminated to generate evidence on inclusion in current models and inform the future development of Early Action protocols
   Foundational studies are carried out as a stepping-stone for the development of early action protocols (EAPs) and to guide the provision of technical assistance. These preliminary assessments map existing initiatives and coordination mechanisms as well as current practices. Specific studies in collaboration with Atlas Logistique via the SIGNAL project in Haiti and Madagascar capture Logistic vulnerabilities and capacities in target areas.

2. Early action protocols are developed and tested by HI, with an emphasis on enhancing outcomes with reference to inclusion and tailored support.
   EAP are developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and communities to identify and prioritize a set of actions to be adapted to specific needs. Readiness support (kits, IEC material and trainings) is provided to local stakeholders to ensure they can trigger and implement autonomously the EAPs. EAPs will be tested through simulation exercises before being handed over to local stakeholders.

3. Capacity-building, knowledge-building and technical assistance activities are carried out to foster local and global uptake of inclusion good practice within the anticipatory action community of practice.
   Building on the pilots developed in 3 different countries, HI support learnings and guidance on inclusion within Anticipatory Action through technical assistance to partners, and active engagement with local and global Anticipatory Action learning platforms. The project aims to support organizations by providing capacity-building activities to ensure inclusion in Anticipatory Action processes.

Main achievements (March 2024):
- Feasibility studies and impact-based forecasting models for cyclones and related floods in the 3 countries.
- Design and dissemination of Logistics Vulnerability Index in Madagascar and Haiti.
- KAP survey to capture inclusion gaps and barriers within AA community of practice.
- Involvement and strengthening of national AA technical working groups and platforms.

- Vulnerability and capacity assessments and barriers analysis
- Consultation workshops with local stakeholders to identify a set of anticipatory actions
- Purchase of readiness material and prioritization of capacity-building activities for local stakeholders
- Technical support to finalize ASEAN GEDSI training modules,
- Participation in Anticipation Hub Global and Regional platforms and involvement in working groups

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