



REPORT

from the 12th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Mainstreaming anticipatory action: collaboration in complex contexts

22 to 24 October 2024



Partners



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Further details about the 12th Global Dialogue Platform, including the full agenda, speakers and participant list, are available on the event website, where most of the sessions can be watched again: tinyurl.com/yrsytnh

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACAPS	formerly known as the Assessment Capacities Project
AI	artificial intelligence
CEPRENAC	Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America and Dominican Republic
CREWS	Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative
DRM	disaster risk management
ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
EW4All	Early Warnings for All
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCAS	fragile and conflict-affected setting
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
MEAL	monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
P-FIM	People First Impact Method
PhD	doctor of philosophy
US	United States
WFP	World Food Programme
WHH	Welthungerhilfe

Highlights from the 12th Global Dialogue Platform

Creativity at the core

As in previous years, there was plenty to inspire the participants at the 12th Global Dialogue Platform. A cartoonist to capture the dreams and frustrations of those working in the sector; a juggler to amaze us on day three; and then there was rapping, games, crate-climbing and more. The creativity that threaded through many of the sessions was also a way to remember Dr Pablo Suarez, a mentor to many of those who try to “think differently” to push anticipatory action forwards.

Hearing from the decision-makers

The focus this year was how to mainstream anticipatory action and ensure it is coordinated at the national level. As well as hearing from diverse stakeholders – practitioners, scientists, communities and volunteers – it was essential to have those involved in decision-making processes joining in the discussions. This group was on hand to share not just why we should scale up anticipatory action – but how we can go about this in practice.

Recognizing efforts to avert disasters

For the second year in a row, the winners of the Averted Disaster Award received their prize at the Global Dialogue Platform. This year, it was Shee Kupi who went on stage to collect the award on behalf of Lamu County in Kenya, which successfully established an emergency operation centre. This plays a crucial role in coordinating multi-agency operations for planning, responding to and recovering from the many hazards that afflict this region. Since its creation in 2020, the centre has successfully averted at least five major disasters, including the floods in 2023.



Shee Kupi at the Global Dialogue Platform.

All around the world

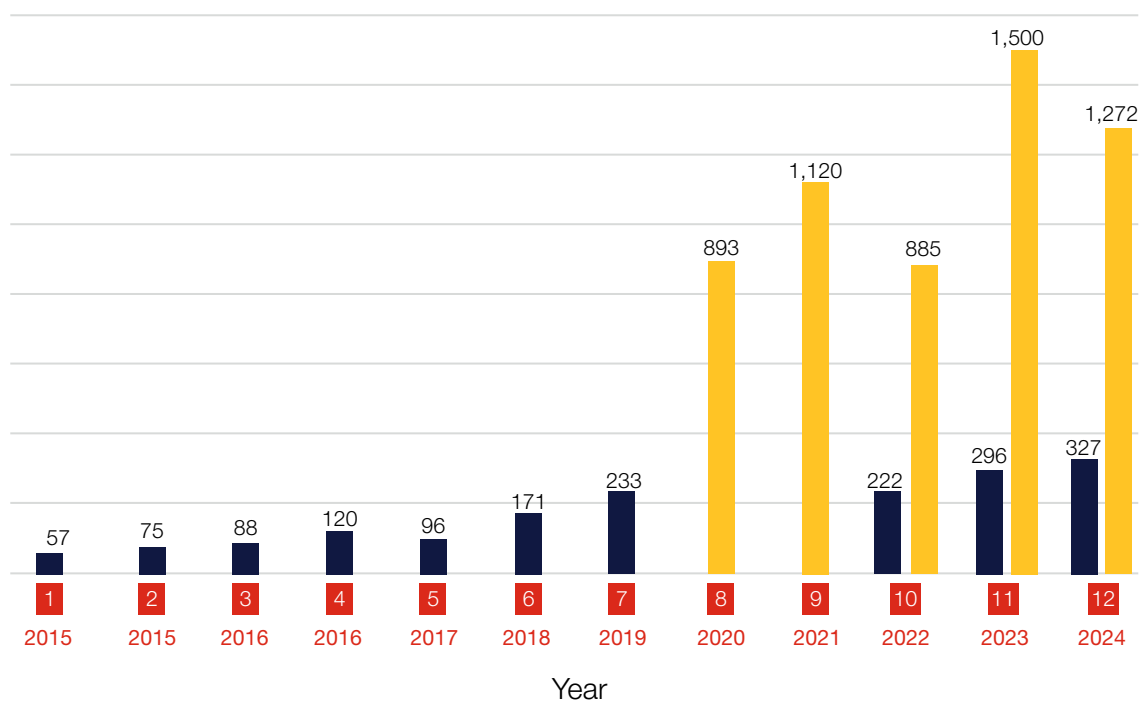
The 12th Global Dialogue Platform was attended by 1,599 people, coming from 141 countries. There was strong representation from Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas, enabling everyone present to find out how anticipatory action is progressing all around the world.

Participant numbers at the Global Dialogue Platforms, 2015-2024

■ Global Dialogue Platform (X axis)

■ No. of participants in person

■ No. of participants online



DAY ONE

Opening ceremony

As the participants tuned in for the 12th Global Dialogue Platform, those online and in Berlin were welcomed by representatives of the organizing team, who set out the aims and expectations for the next three days.

Christof Johnen, German Red Cross, outlined how far this approach has come since the first pilot projects ten years ago. There is an ever-growing number of organizations active in this sector, which is leading to more and more sectors getting involved. What started as an approach implemented largely by humanitarian organizations is increasingly becoming led by governments and regional intergovernmental bodies, with more and more now including anticipatory action in their disaster risk management (DRM) systems and frameworks.

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“We have today 40 government representatives here; this is a real success and thank you for engaging with us.”

Christof Johnen, German Red Cross

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The German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) is one of the pioneers of the anticipatory action approach, having supported those first pilot projects. It has also supported the dialogue platforms since then and **Peter Reuss**, GFFO, was impressed that this is now the twelfth edition. “It started small, it became bigger and bigger, and it is so effective [as a place] to share opinions: what works well, what could work better – and the circumstances where things could work better.” He encouraged everyone to use the three days to exchange, listen to each other and learn from each other.

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“We speak a lot about efficiency and effectiveness [in anticipatory action]; these are important, but let’s remind ourselves that we are working to keep the dignity of the people we are working for. This should always be our leitmotif, in all that we are doing.”

Peter Reuss, GFFO

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Martin Frick, from the World Food Programme (WFP) Global Office in Berlin, noted how WFP has, from the beginning, been fascinated by the power of anticipatory action and has seen how it has grown around the world: “This concept has been faster, helped maintain people’s dignity, and is cost-efficient.” His interest, and that of WFP, is how to increase the scale even further, including in the fragile contexts where many of the world’s most vulnerable people live: “We need to go there.”

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“In a time where everything is getting worse and worse, this is an event to look forward to.”

Martin Frick, WFP

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Beth Bechdol, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), noted how anticipatory action is increasingly becoming a mainstream approach in many of the countries where FAO works, including some of the world’s most fragile settings. FAO has really tried to elevate the food crises around the world at these dialogue platforms, she stated, and especially ways to assist farmers through anticipatory agricultural support: “Prioritizing farmers and agriculture means we can protect crops, fields, fisheries... [This] means that, in times of crisis, we can still provide nutritious food [to those affected].”

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“We need to do everything possible to mainstream anticipatory action in the relevant policies.”

Beth Bechdol, FAO

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George Otieno, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), shared some thoughts from eastern Africa, where IGAD represents 11 countries: “This is very exciting, it’s my first time attending a global dialogue platform... I need to catch up on the 11 that I missed!” But despite anticipatory action thriving in eastern Africa, disasters are increasing in frequency and magnitude, often compounded by economic challenges and conflict. He reminded everyone of the importance of the regional dialogue platforms as a place to share regional challenges and potential solutions. During the recent event in eastern Africa, the participants identified 17 regional priorities for anticipatory action. One of these was governments being more involved in the process, and he noted the need to learn from countries that have already done this.

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“Business can no longer be done as usual.”

George Otieno, IGAD

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Between the opening plenaries, two volunteers and their support teams demonstrated the need for collaboration and trust as they assembled an ever-growing tower of crates, each labelled with an ‘ingredient’ for effective anticipatory action. The overall message? You cannot get to the top alone. As **Jerome Balinton** noted in the online chat, “time, trust and patience are essential in collaboration”.



Working outside of our comfort zones: how Pablo Suarez inspired anticipatory action

The second session built on the work of one of the people who did the most to drive anticipatory action forward: Pablo Suarez, who passed away earlier this year. One of his colleagues at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, **Irene Amuron**, explained how he was involved at the genesis of this approach during an Oktoberfest event in Peru: “In his spirit of ambition and curiosity, he put together a narrative, called forecast-based financing... the GFFO took a chance on us and helped to fund the pilot projects. Ten years later, we call this anticipatory action.”

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“Today it's all about honouring Pablo Suarez.”

Orla Desmond, session chat

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“Pablo emphasized the value of trust to make magic happen. He was a genius, but combined [this] with humility and curiosity.”

Irene Amuron, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

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Maarten Van Aalst, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, worked with Pablo for more than 20 years and reflected on their time together. “Those who knew him and loved him: it’s OK to be very, very sad,” Maarten sympathized. “Pablo would have loved to be in this room today.”

Pablo used games to encourage people – whether politicians or practitioners – to think differently and be creative with the solutions. And why did he do this? To make this world a better place. He loved the science of forecast-based financing, Maarten recalled, but knew that it would take more than this to convince people to do things in different ways: “And he did it: it’s amazing how far this approach has come.”

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“Missing Pablo very much. #WWPD What would Pablo do?”

Amy Mintz, session chat

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As well as remembering Pablo, it was a chance to celebrate his life and work. Two others who had worked with him, **Liz Stephens**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the University of Reading, and **Kara Siahaan**, Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS), led the participants through an exercise to “get out of our comfort zones” and think about how to inspire innovation and growth. First, everyone visualized what might be in their own comfort zone – a cup of tea, a sofa, a pet dog – and then thought about which object from there they would take with them when travelling.

The world outside can be dark, but by going outside – even just by 10 per cent – we can help to see where the magic happens. “Pablo inspired us to communicate complex science using cartoons, humour, acrobatics... he encouraged us to step outside of our comfort zones,” explained Liz. And, by remembering Pablo’s many contributions to the dialogue platforms, Kara showed why he used these creative approaches: “[He knew that] people listen more to what you are saying; it helps the information to stick.”



Remembering Pablo Suarez.

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“What an insightful opening and morning session and a beautiful tribute session for Pablo.”

Vanda Lengkong, Plan International Asia Pacific, on X

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Watch a video about Pablo’s work online:

tinyurl.com/4p38sr43

During the plenary session, Christopher Jack, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, shared a poem he had written about Pablo, using Pablo's own 'disruptive' vocabulary.

This was the hardest poem to write

To share something of Pablo in a string of mere words has seemed beyond impossible

All I could do was write down lots of words I associate with Pablo

And so all I have are words, plenty of words, scattered across these pages

But these are Pablo words, disruptive, provocative, they refuse to obey

Try as I might to sort into some order

Between these neat lines they refuse to stay

Here is a strange one, in fact the word is bizarre

So easy to laugh and jump to dismissing

But bizarre will call after you

Look a little closer, there's something you're missing

Following close behind, here comes humour

Are you here to entertain us?

Sure, come, I'll make you all smile and laugh

Then you'll see the truth hidden inside us

Here is courage, but why is courage dancing with fear?

Aaah, these two, they always go hand in hand

Take away fear and courage is empty

Take away courage and fear takes your hand

And then that fearful hand writes more words

Words like prejudice, injustice, discrimination

Dark words sneaking in behind fancy words like

Institutions and maybe even stakeholder engagement?

On my page courage is clearly dancing with fear!

So I hope these dark words stay clear

Instead I grab words like inspiration, imagination

But also kindness and joy and authentic are here

Joy is one that keeps slipping off my page

How dare I hold joy when the world's falling down!

But in truth, when we let joy slip away

Don't we risk kicking hope to the ground?

Curiosity is one I've always been fond of

And its close friends, where, how, and why?

Right now it's not satisfied, it wants to know more

It demands that I turn over, so to this page we say goodbye

But now here is something that I could never write down

Instead I watch courage take a leap off the page

The other words follow and together they swirl

And in front of my eyes they fly off this stage

This is where the magic happens...

Off the stage and onto your page

I offer you these words, that's all I can do

Not to become more like him, that's not the plan

But to become more truly and authentically, you

So I have no idea how these words will land

An infinity of possibilities on every page

Perhaps some will fall away, or be kept for later

I just ask that you don't lock them in some dusty cage

In fact there is one last important person in this story...

That person is sitting right next to you, to your right and your left

You can journey alone but it could take you an age

A small step of courage might be to share one word

One word that has stuck to your page

It could be a word that you've heard here today

Or one that jumps out of your own history

But it's a word that's calling you forward

To the next step of your courageous story

So as I draw this poem to a close

Can I ask you to try a word from my land, a word that speaks true

It means I see you, not because you're important, or wearing a fancy new shirt

But because I want to share being human with you

Turn to someone next to your left or the right

Or maybe form a little huddle of three

Look them in the eye and say *Sawabona*, I see you,

And I would be honoured if you would share your word with me

Parallel sessions #1

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You can rewatch many of the parallel sessions on the event website: tinyurl.com/yrsyytnh



Discussions during one of the parallel sessions.

Three-minute theses: research for anticipatory action's wicked problems

People wanting to learn about cutting-edge research and innovation in anticipatory action for complex crises were invited to join this session, in which the presenters – all PhD researchers from the anticipatory action community – presented their work on anticipatory action, which stretches across disciplines from meteorology via anthropology to health sciences. The participants heard about the latest science, new ideas and tools, and were invited to help shape the future of anticipatory action.

Institutionalizing anticipatory action: stakeholder collaboration for effective response

This session focused on how various stakeholders in Mali are collaborating to institutionalize anticipatory action and strengthen humanitarian responses. The discussion explored how to integrate this approach into national DRM frameworks and the ways in which local, national and international stakeholders work together to develop and implement anticipatory action frameworks. Among the issues highlighted through the case studies was the importance of including local actors and disaster-prone beneficiaries in decision-making processes.

Progress towards the implementation of anticipatory action in the eastern Africa region

The prolonged drought from 2020 to 2023, El Niño-induced flooding in 2023 and 2024, and other vulnerabilities have increased the need for humanitarian aid in eastern Africa. In 2023, anticipatory action assisted 3.6 million people in the region and this session was a chance to share the lessons and evidence from these experiences. There were updates on efforts to accelerate anticipatory action in the region, such as the work IGAD is undertaking with national governments to develop a regional roadmap and interagency group. Insights from the 1st Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform, held earlier in October, were also presented.

Orbiting the 'Social Protection Solar System' for anticipatory action

Social protection refers to a portfolio of programmes and policies developed to minimize poverty and vulnerability, and help individuals cope with life-cycle risks. There is growing evidence that social protection has a role as a risk-management tool to prepare for, anticipate and respond to the impacts of climate- and weather-related hazards. Mainstreaming anticipatory action into national social-protection systems can enhance its timeliness, predictability and cost-efficiency, and support its institutionalization. This integration can occur across the various blocks of a social protection system: policy level, programme-design level and programme implementation. With examples from Bangladesh, Fiji and Mozambique, this session guided participants through the process of linking social protection and anticipatory action.

Early Warnings for All: tracking progress and unveiling government actions

The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative is a global effort to ensure that, by the end of 2027, everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water or climate events through life-saving early warning systems that translate into early and anticipatory action. Building on the session held during the Global Dialogue Platform in 2023, this year the session organizers provided an update on the EW4All initiative's progress, with a focus on the relevance for, leadership by and uptake of this initiative by governments around the world.

Wild card: reflective walk

During each set of parallel sessions, there was a 'wild card' for those looking for something a little different. During this session, a small group went for a walk to discuss what they wanted to get out of the Global Dialogue Platform: the things they wanted to learn or share, or the themes they hoped to discuss.

“Excited to start the Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action in Berlin, to exchange with other practitioners and keep learning!”

Rüdiger T. Schöch, Plan International Deutschland, on LinkedIn

Parallel sessions #2

Trusting information in FCASs: how insecurity and grievance can shape anticipatory action

Fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCASs) present unique challenges for humanitarian and development efforts, due to heightened vulnerabilities, distrust and limited access to resources and information. These settings are marked by compounding crises, such as conflict, displacement and climate-related disasters, which exacerbate food insecurity, land degradation and water scarcity. This workshop uncovered the 'layers' of implementing anticipatory action in FCASs by delving into real-life experiences, with examples from Jordan, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan helping the participants to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved of anticipatory action in these settings.

“In FCASs, where limited resources, distrust and vulnerabilities present serious challenges, building trust is crucial.”

Resurgence on LinkedIn

Anticipatory action: explorations of who is left behind and how to close the gap

Anticipatory actions can prevent losses and mortality when extreme events occur, but their effectiveness is limited when people can't benefit from them in a timely and inclusive way. This can happen in lots of different circumstances, for example when systems do not provide reliable forecasts, or when warnings do not reach the intended recipients. This session explored who is left behind by current approaches to anticipatory action and discussed potential solutions to this. The presenters drew on observations from the applied research projects that are part of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience initiative, which examine anticipatory action in real situations, in fragile and conflict-affected states and regions, for migratory populations, and in the presence of compounding risks.

Risk-informed humanitarian programme cycle: planning for anticipatory action

With the notable exception of conflict, many of the top risks identified in Humanitarian Needs Overviews – droughts, floods, storms and cholera – are highly predictable, and the feasibility of anticipatory action for these risks – as one of the risk-impact-mitigation modalities – has been ascertained. Through examples, this session discussed how improved risk analysis and monitoring in different contexts has supported risk-informed planning, enabling a strategic focus and operational coordination of both response-readiness and anticipatory action efforts

ahead of priority risks. The focus was on emerging practice across a few contexts, including Nigeria and Somalia, and sharing lessons and challenges to inform cluster-level and inter-cluster options that field practitioners could consider.

Regional and subregional bodies to scale up and mainstream anticipatory action in DRM

This session explored the critical role of regional and subregional bodies in Latin America and the Caribbean in scaling up, institutionalizing and mainstreaming anticipatory action in DRM systems, at both the country and regional levels. Delving into the opportunities and challenges faced, it shared lessons and experiences from Central America, particularly those gained through the work of the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC).

From first mile to last: increasing access to financing for early warnings and anticipatory action

Early warning systems are a central component and enabler of anticipatory action, providing the timely information that allows early interventions to occur. But for this to work, financing must be available immediately after an early warning is given or a trigger threshold is reached. Despite the overall increase in funding for anticipatory action, it remains hard to access for many national governments and local actors. CREWS is currently conceptualizing a new financing mechanism for small grants that target this specific gap in the 'early warning early action' value chain. This session was an opportunity for relevant actors to provide insights and inputs to shape this.

Wild card: anticipatory action for unseen risks – game design session

In the second wild card, participants in Berlin got to play-test an exciting new game, developed by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, which aims to enhance discussions about memory and preparedness for unseen risks.



Fun and games at the 12th Global Dialogue Platform.

Day one continued with some of the latest developments from the anticipatory action community. First up was **Mark Weegmann**, reporting on Start Network's anticipatory actions ahead of Cyclone Remal in Bangladesh, which were implemented during the 40 hours before the cyclone made landfall. Actions included repairing weaknesses in the embankments that protect communities and their assets from tidal surges, with the work done through a cash-for-work scheme.

Next onto the stage were the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), reporting on work in Fiji to develop an anticipatory action protocol for tropical cyclones. This work was undertaken in partnership with the government and one important question was: how do you start such a collaboration? OCHA began by coordination and planning with local authorities, for example discussing timelines, triggers and actions, all while building on existing mechanisms and programmes. "The key was not going farther when the government was not [yet] aligned," explained **Sara Manni**. From this basis, they were able to build resilient partnerships with the relevant ministries in the government. "Trust government leadership from the design phase," she suggested.

From Asia-Pacific to Africa, as **Chance Muwama** explained how the Malawi Red Cross Society has been using research and evidence to mainstream anticipatory action at the national level. The Malawi Red Cross Society has capacity building and community response as its focus areas, and is putting together the evidence to mainstream further. This led to two studies – a knowledge, attitude and practice study, and a comparative study – which will provide the evidence to help shift from reaction to anticipatory approaches in the country, and in a way that is multisectoral and participatory.

Next, **Rama Leclerc-Tribot**, FAO, talked about the Regional Task Force on Anticipatory Action for Food Security for West Africa. The Sahel is afflicted by multiple and complex crises, which lead to high rates of food insecurity. This particularly affects those in conflict areas, in a complex cycle where these two problems exacerbate each other. For several years, partners have been working to improve the situation through anticipatory action, for example by tackling challenges such as outdated data and weakening agricultural extension services. However, having too many tools to address these issues can lead to confusion.

“Today at the Global Dialogue Platform we shared our experience building the Fiji anticipatory action framework for tropical cyclones with the local authorities. We discussed: structuring coordination; planning coordination; and building resilient partnerships.”

OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands
on LinkedIn

To change this, the Regional Task Force is trying to institutionalize the systems already in place, ‘plugging’ this task under the technical committee of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel. The hope is that, by 2030, they will have institutional tools for using anticipatory action to manage food crises in the Sahel.

Next to Zimbabwe, where **Barnabas John Muhoma**, Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe, reported on how his organization is putting people’s ideas and perspectives at the centre of anticipatory action. And how do they do this? Through the People First Impact Method, known as P-FIM, where practitioners ask communities about the most important things that are happening in their lives. These are goal-free questions, with no preconceptions or ‘right’ answers. And the engagement is two-way: communities share what they are doing to act ahead of hazards, then outline the support they need from partners and the government.

Finally, **Silvia Pieretto**, WFP, took the audience to Haiti, where the population faces a multitude of challenges, many of which contribute to widespread food insecurity. In 2023, the country had its first anticipatory action activation ahead of forecast heavy rains. Over 500,000 people received early warnings; there were also cash transfers for the most vulnerable people. Arranging cash transfers is not simple in Haiti, though, and other actions faced hurdles, as Silvia noted: “We sent early warning messages, but can we ever send enough information? People don’t always trust information in Haiti.” A post-distribution review revealed that the anticipatory actions did help protect people from severe food shortages, even if they didn’t manage to avoid [people adopting] damaging coping strategies.



Barnabas John Muhoma shares highlights from Zimbabwe.

“People become emotionally involved [with the process], and then they go all the way with you. The difference is the depth of involvement; you build real trust.”

Barnabas John Muhoma, Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe

Keynote talk by Hugo Slim

Closing the first day was **Hugo Slim**, an expert in international relations who specializes in the ethics of war and humanitarian aid. His new book, *Humanitarianism 2.0: New Ethics for the Climate Emergency*, calls upon humanitarians to update their fundamental principles to take account of nature's needs and future needs alongside current human needs, and to emphasize the principles of precaution, anticipation and adaptation.

When he started his career in humanitarian work, was anything ever anticipated? Yes, he recalled; in 1985 in Ethiopia, there were early warning systems looking to see who would be hungry and where there might be food. But this was getting ready to react, not anticipating the hazard.

Anticipatory action is now an established humanitarian approach and there was praise for those in the room and online: "It's really wonderful what you are doing... You have brought scientists, financiers and practitioners together [and] created a fresh, living community... In doing this, you have changed the humanitarian sector: now, we can anticipate a hazard's impacts."

Anticipation is everywhere in life, Hugo continued, as he moved to the ethics of anticipatory action. It's a basic moral intuition, and a way that we care about each other: "We do things now because of good things we want to happen in the future. We cook food to feed people, we vaccinate people so they won't be ill. We save money for when we are old, we plant bulbs so they will be beautiful in spring."

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“Anticipation is a way in which we are good to each other and the Earth... how we live in the present and the future simultaneously.”

Hugo Slim, University of Oxford

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But anticipatory action is replete with challenges. How do we include people, and do so justly and fairly? Another issue is that an early warning is always as bad as the weakest link in the chain. There is also a paradox at the heart of our ambition: if people know they can expect aid in advance, it could lead to chronic coping strategies, rather than more advantageous anticipatory actions. And, of course, we cannot always see the future. We can't just rely on data, he warned; we also need human judgment and the ability to change what we are doing.

And consider the other elements of life on Earth, he suggested. Humanitarians are always trying to plug people's lives back into nature: into crops, into water. "We should recognize that humanity is a joint project of humans and nature... we have to protect nature to save humans, and humans to save nature." To conclude, Hugo urged the humanitarians present to merge with ecological capacity and expertise, while noting that many are doing so already.



Hugo Slim.

“I thought I was going to an international event... day 1 at the Global Dialogue Platform was anything but a "conference." From people climbing on boxes to symbolize risk-taking and innovation, to playing buzzword bingo to escape the "sector lingo", the day went beyond every expectation I had!”

Silvia Pieretto, WFP, on LinkedIn

DAY TWO

What does mainstreaming and institutionalizing anticipatory action mean – and how do we get there?

Day two opened with a deeper exploration of the central theme for the event, as the panellists and participants reflected on some critical questions. Firstly, what does it mean to institutionalize anticipatory action? A definition put forward by **Kim Pham**, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), based on her work in this field is “the process of embedding anticipatory action values, capacities and skills within a country’s existing systems for DRM, so that mandated actors consistently mitigate the impact of forecasted hazards on populations”.

But what does this mean in practice? What are the prerequisites for governments to adopt anticipatory action? For a country to deliver anticipatory action on a broad scale, four elements need to be in place. Kim argued: (1) funding; (2) policy and legislation; (3) operational capacities; and (4) scientific capacities.



Kim Pham presents on day two.



“Any country here with passed laws institutionalizing imminent disaster and anticipatory action?”

Romulo Tagalo, session chat



Of course, non-state actors also have a role to play in mainstreaming. What are the concrete steps that these actors have taken – or should have taken – to affect system change? The audience shared their thoughts on what could be changed to make this process occur more smoothly, with ideas including “integrate the anticipatory action agenda into national economic development plans” and “work through and unpack the existing processes, systems and policies”.



“@Romulo to recap some common examples: Bangladesh and its Standing Order on Disasters; Philippines and its Imminent Disaster Bill; Mozambique and its Master Plan for DRM; Madagascar and its cadre harmonisé pour les actions anticipatoires... That's off the top of my head, but if there are other examples I forgot, maybe someone else can complement.”

Kim Pham, session chat



Parallel sessions #3

Mainstreaming evidence-generation: arriving at common indicators and quality criteria for MEAL

There is considerable interest across the anticipatory action community in making evidence-generation processes more reliable and comparable across different contexts. With this in mind, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Practitioners Group recently launched a consultative process to source suggestions for a common menu of core indicators that would allow organizations to measure the effectiveness of anticipatory action interventions. The group also aims to propose a basic set of quality criteria for evidence-generation in anticipatory action. In this session, members of this group sought inputs for this proposed menu, while reflecting with the participants on quality concerns and aspirations for evidence-generation in anticipatory action.

Do anticipatory cash transfers make sense? How much? And when?

Cash and anticipatory action are often paired together and make a handsome couple. But is cash what people want? If so, then how much? And at what point before the disaster? Are there markets in place? Would in-kind support be better? To answer these questions, this session provided a snapshot of the lessons learned across eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting the evidence needed to convince governments and international partners that cash payouts are a good idea. There were recommendations on, among other themes, how to formulate anticipatory cash transfers alongside in-kind support, and the rationale for cash 'plus'.

Demystifying compounding and cascading hazards: new approaches to mitigate food insecurity

Understanding and addressing compounding and cascading hazards is essential for improving food security. This session explored challenges and solutions for addressing complex risks in anticipatory action. Participants took part in an interactive brainstorm to identify opportunities, challenges and solutions related to integrating complex risks into anticipatory action frameworks, with the aim of uncovering practical insights and innovative solutions.

Wild card: train of ambition

We all have ambitions for what a perfect world would look like – but what would an ideal ‘disaster-prepared’ world look like? This wild card session was a space to discuss how we can mainstream anticipatory action into our DRM systems and create our ‘perfect’ world.



There was plenty to take in during the parallel sessions.

Workshops #1

Finance fuels us on? The present and future of pre-arranged financing for anticipatory action

The discussion during this workshop centred on three points: (1) how financing for anticipatory action could go further; (2) how instruments for climate and disaster-risk financing and insurance can help protect more lives ahead of predictable crises; and (3) how to build accountability to those who need anticipatory action the most. Through diverse case studies, those attending learnt about the opportunities and challenges for improving access to, and the coordination, use and longer-term provision of, pre-arranged funding for anticipatory action. They were tasked with scrutinizing the various instruments out there, assessing their feasibility and scale, as well as their alignment with humanitarian principles.

Dialogue to action: a toolkit to integrate protection, gender and inclusion in anticipatory action

Despite growing recognition of the need to integrate protection, gender and inclusion into anticipatory action, implementation remains inconsistent and often lacks capacity, resources and monitoring mechanisms. This workshop saw the launch of a recently developed toolkit, which synthesizes three years of dialogue and collaboration and provides practical guidance to ensure inclusive and protective practices. During the workshop, the presenters emphasized the need for people-centred approaches, as well as collaboration and learning among local, national and international actors.



Exhibition stalls were open during the breaks and the parallel sessions so that participants in Berlin could learn more about some of the projects taking place worldwide.

Parallel sessions #4

Integrating conflict and security triggers into anticipatory action

Anticipatory action has largely been developed to prevent or mitigate the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards during peace times, but there is a need to explore the value of anticipatory action in conflict settings. In countries such as Mali and Myanmar, conflict and security triggers, in addition to climate and environmental hazards, are often the root cause of fragility. Therefore, the development of a compound risk index that is subjective and accompanied by an impact-based, sense-making narrative is key. In this session, participants learned about World Vision's Fragile Contexts Programme Approach, which brings stakeholders together to produce a snapshot of the current situation. They also heard about the tool developed by 510, the Netherlands Red Cross's data and digital team, which quantifies the risk from climate-related hazards to infrastructure projects in conflict settings and proposes adaptation measures.

More than a box-ticking exercise: how local actors change the mainstream through anticipatory action

Mainstreaming anticipatory action in the humanitarian programme cycle is a huge opportunity to change how we collectively manage disaster risks in many ways, including beyond the benefits typically highlighted. Too often, the actors at the forefront of managing disaster risks are brought in too late, or solely to make a programme more 'locally led'. This session challenged that notion, allowing the audience to hear from a practitioner panel comprised exclusively from local and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They spoke about the opportunities and benefits of anticipatory action, and what is needed to build anticipatory disaster-risk-financing systems that prioritize community and local engagement.

Coordinated anticipatory action frameworks: the key to mainstreaming?

Mainstreaming anticipatory action within the humanitarian sector and government planning will require going beyond individual agencies looking at their own projects; it will require shared, coordinated action to mainstream this approach into collective planning. Shared frameworks are one way to do this. The focus in this session was the importance of coordination in anticipatory action, with the presenters drawing

on lessons from the development and use of shared, interagency frameworks around the world. The discussions tackled several pertinent questions, such as: what are the advantages of coordinating anticipatory action through shared frameworks? What examples of good practice exist? How can governments and other actors, including local actors, be included in shared frameworks? And how can shared frameworks be enhanced and implemented in more countries?

Wild card: how to become an imagin-er – harnessing imagination to anticipate complex crises

Research on the 2021 floods in Germany found that an inability to imagine the scale of flooding hampered preparations and led to devastating impacts. This wild card session considered the role of imagination in helping us to anticipate complex crises, exploring both scientific and creative methods to help us imagine unknown futures.



Discussions on day two at the 12th Global Dialogue Platform.

Parallel sessions #5

Hopping to conclusions: outpacing locusts with anticipatory action

Locust swarms have affected human societies since the beginnings of agriculture, and locust plagues regularly threaten to cause food shortages for many millions of people. This session showcased examples from the Horn of Africa, followed by a discussion of some of the questions around acting ahead of pests, including: how is anticipatory action for locusts different from weather-related anticipatory action? When is the right timing for anticipatory action? What can trigger anticipatory action and what are most effective actions at different points in time?

Environment-smart anticipatory action: gaps, practices and opportunities

The Climate and Environment Charter calls on humanitarian organizations to maximize environmental sustainability and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their programmes. This includes the negative environmental impacts of anticipatory action, which need to be further explored to make sure interventions ‘do no harm’ and build long-term resilience via eco-friendly practices and nature-based solutions. This session raised awareness of the importance of environment-smart anticipatory action and explored how programmes can better incorporate and minimize environmental impacts, drawing on experiences from emergency response programmes.

Assembling a complex puzzle: anticipating and responding to the current floods in South Sudan

In this interactive session, participants engaged with some of the practitioners who are tasked with strengthening anticipatory action and emergency response in South Sudan, a country faced with mass population displacement due to conflict and climate change. There was a mix of materials available – recent images and voice notes from emergency managers; oral histories of flooding from community elders; existing plans; flood forecasts; climate storylines of future flooding – and those joining this session determined how all these pieces fit together to build robust and integrated anticipatory action and disaster response.

Grand Bargain caucus results: enhancing anticipatory action to meet humanitarian challenges

In June 2023, Grand Bargain signatories agreed to prioritize scaling up anticipatory action and identify barriers that could be addressed within its 3.0 framework, as a contribution to reducing humanitarian needs. The Grand Bargain caucus to scale up anticipatory action was created to secure commitments around three key themes: (1) increased financing for coordinated anticipatory action: (2) developing key parameters and a joint methodology for tracking funding, including build funding, and pre-arranged and pre-released fuel funding; and (3) recommendations to improve coordination. This session presented the results to date to put this caucus into action.



Ina Heusgen speaks on day two.

“Through this caucus and the outcome document... we came to a common understanding of anticipatory action... We found a joint methodology; we found a common approach how to do this.”

Ina Heusgen, GFFO

Mainstreaming anticipatory action through strengthening local voices

The role of local actors in mainstreaming anticipatory action was under the spotlight in this session. Bringing together perspectives from academia and practice, the participants heard about FAO's Community Engagement in Anticipatory Action project, including its results from Guatemala. Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) reported on the P-FIM work to create community-driven early action protocols in Zimbabwe. And there was a case study from the Philippines, which highlighted good practices for local leadership in trigger development.

Wild card: gallery walk

This wild card took people around the exhibition area at the conference venue, where they could admire the graphics and illustrations on 'Anticipatory action vs. traditional humanitarian response' and 'Anticipatory action in the disaster risk management cycle', with WHH as hosts.

Mainstreaming anticipatory action: integration into government and regional structures

Throughout day two, the participants heard ideas from various quarters about how to mainstream and institutionalize anticipatory action. The final plenary was a chance to hear from governments and regional intergovernmental bodies about what they have been doing so far to pursue this agenda.

In the Philippines, there is already a government structure for DRM in place, and 2024 saw another step towards mainstreaming anticipatory action: the Declaration of a State of Imminent Disaster Act. **Atty. Norliza R. Villanueva**, Senate of the Philippines, explained how this act introduced the concept of anticipatory action into national legislation

and, at a practical level, outlines the roles of each government agency involved: “It was a tedious process, but now all local government units in the country can use it.”

In Indonesia, there have been challenges with embedding anticipatory action in DRM laws and policies, explained **Pangarso Suryotomo**, Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure). In the laws that exist, there are measures for three phases – pre-disaster, during a disaster and post-disaster – and the government is trying to mainstream anticipatory action into disaster contingency plans. These documents, which focus on a single hazard, are what all local governments should use to guides their actions, and include information on what to do when they receive early warnings. With support from agencies including WFP, Indonesia is now trying to embed anticipatory action into the contingency plans for droughts and cyclones.

Mamonaheng Monoto, Lesotho Disaster Management Authority, explained that there is high-level ownership of the country’s drought action plan. This is important: if a programme doesn’t have government buy-in, it is always a challenge. The launch event for this action plan served as a way for the government to explain their expectations; for example, they expect anticipatory action to help reduce food insecurity and to make the best use of the limited funds available to support people affected by drought. And while Lesotho is already seeing the impacts of anticipatory action in its southern parts – such as a reduction in the number of households adopting negative coping strategies (e.g., selling land) – there are still gaps to address before this approach can be rolled out across the country. The country still lacks sufficient funding and capacity, while there remains a need to advocate further to gain wider acceptance in the country.



Peter Reuss and Mamonaheng Monoto.

Colonel Bazarragchaa D., from the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia, talked about the government's use of state fodder reserves as an anticipatory action ahead of *dzud*, a hazard that causes high livestock mortality. What prompted the government to use its reserves in this way? One factor is the economic argument; livestock are a mainstay of the economy, and for many households. They are facing huge challenges due to climate change, with hot summers and extremely cold winters, as well as wider environmental degradation. Households do prepare for the winter themselves, but their situation is becoming more changeable as time goes on, making it harder for them to prepare. The government decided to release its fodder reserves in high-risk areas, before the *dzud* struck, based on risk assessments and risk maps that identified those most under threat. The government is now embarking on a five-year programme to provide employment to herder families as a further way to help them cope with the harsh winters.

As well as national-level mainstreaming, there is a need for this to happen at the regional level. **Adherbal de la Rosa**, CEPREDENAC, updated the audience on the situation in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Here, CEPREDENAC works with national governments to ensure that anticipatory action is part of national DRM systems. It has advocated for this approach, which is now also part of regional DRM plans. The regional working group is a major player behind these achievements, and helped to see 2024 declared as the 'year of anticipatory action' and develop the region's first roadmap. Together, CEPREDENAC and the working group are now working on a multisectoral workplan for integrating anticipatory action into national laws and policies, and discussing how to advocate further for anticipatory approaches.

In eastern Africa, a lot of organizations are doing great work with anticipatory action, noted **George Otieno**, IGAD. But a lot of this is fragmented, with no oversight of what everyone is doing; it is driven by organizations, not policy. Is it possible to have an impact, or generate evidence, with such fragmentation? "The answer is no; there needs to be direction, a coordinated approach."

This is why IGAD developed a regional roadmap for anticipatory action. The implementation of this is being led by technical working groups, along with sub-level working groups for specific areas within the roadmap. IGAD is also working with meteorological agencies to build their capacities, for example in trigger development, to ensure that anticipatory action can be scaled up more widely across the region. And is this regional coordination having an impact at the national level? The evidence so far suggests that it is, and countries are now being asked to deliver national roadmaps that align with the regional document.

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“Governments are central to making anticipatory action effective. Thanks Chiara Mellucci and Anticipation Hub for organizing a very deep, reflective and futuristic panel discussion with government representatives across the world!”

George Otieno, IGAD, on LinkedIn

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Peter Reuss, GFFO, concluded the conversation by providing a donor – and partner – perspective. Why does Germany support regional organizations to pursue anticipatory action? Because the government sees how similar problems find different solutions – at the regional, national and state levels. Currently, their motivation is to see mainstreaming leading to ownership of the anticipatory action process by the countries and regions that are facing challenges: “If you don’t know the partners, don’t know the tradition, how can you get people to change their habits? The people on the spot can do it much, much better.”



The line-up for the closing plenary on day two.

Governments fireside chat

To conclude day two, there was a ‘fireside chat’ – a relaxed, free-flowing conversation between **Tobi Salawu**, Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria, **George Otieno**, IGAD, and **Catalina Jaime**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, with **Bianca Adam**, World Bank, and **Khadar Sh. Mohamed Nur**, Somali Disaster Management Agency joining online. These high-level guests shared their experiences of mainstreaming anticipatory action into policies, laws and action plans and shared their views on how intergovernmental agencies can shape the anticipatory action agenda. There was also time to discuss how development and climate finance actors, such as the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund, can help governments to build and strengthen anticipatory action systems.



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“[One of the challenges] for me [is] the willingness of government itself to prioritize anticipatory action... governments have their own priorities... and they feel, ‘why should we set aside funding for a forecast hazard when it hasn’t happened yet?’”

Tobi Salawu, Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria

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Watch the full conversation, and the other sessions recordings, on the event website: tinyurl.com/yrsyytnh

DAY THREE

Embracing complexity: comfort or danger zone?

We wanted to think about the evolution of work on anticipatory action and how we are dealing with complexity, explained **Catalina Jaime**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, as she welcomed the participants to the final day. And who better to represent complexity than **Liam**, “the best juggler in Berlin”, who has taught himself this skill and, after starting out simply, now includes complex tricks in his routine.

Anticipatory action has followed a similar process, said Catalina. What started as a – relatively – simple process, often with one organization working on one hazard, is now one that aims to support people in much more complex situations. This was followed by a musical poem about “living under pressure” from **Regie Gibson** (with a little help from Queen and David Bowie), which reminded us of the need to embrace the complexity of the world, not shy away from it or stay in our comfort zones.

It was important to hear from the audience, too. **Tesse de Boer**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and **Kim Kristensen**, FAO, asked those online and in the room to share their experiences of working in complex contexts – and unpack what this term actually means.

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“During the Beirut explosions [in 2020], the complex setting was walking through this apocalyptic setting, and opening your laptop to see what sort of chemical [caused it] – and if you needed to evacuate people.”

Karine Zoghby, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

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“For me, a complex situation is El Niño-induced drought, crop failure... on top of that you have cholera. And then you don't have any money to respond to the humanitarian needs. To me, that is complex. I have a nice jacket, and when they see me coming, they think, ‘Here is the help coming’. But I can't help”

Barnabas John Muhoma, Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe

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“I am up for a bit of friendly competition, but when it comes to saving people's lives from predictable hazards, we shouldn't worry about who gets there first. Mainstreaming means we have to maximize every synergy, find spaces for coordination and collaboration, share our wins and losses – and trust each other.”

Christopher Baade, WFP

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“In Sri Lanka, in 2022, we were recovering from Covid and we had an economic crisis, civil unrest – but we managed to help people.”

Ganga Kariyawasam, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

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Next, **Kate Raworth**, Doughnut Economics Action Lab, talked about how we can change the philosophy of economics to function in a world of climate chaos and seemingly unending growth. This is captured in her book *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist*, and she shared a video that captures her work with **Pablo Suarez**, which sees the economy as a circle within society and Earth.¹

But how can we embrace complexity in anticipatory action? What takes us out of our comfort zone? **Dennis G. de la Torre**, University of the Philippines, provided the first input in the room: “As I speak, a super typhoon is ravaging my hometown. The complexity is getting people to change their actions [regarding the climate], so I speak from my mind. We [also] have to communicate with our hearts to convince others: not just those in our circles, but also outside.”

Mohammad Shoukat, contributing online, offered a practical resource for taking this step: “I worked and developed hazards, livelihoods and vulnerability plans for different districts while I was with FAO;² this will assist people to map and manage complexities.” And **Diogo Simão Lemos** shared the work that ACAPS does in highly complex contexts “convening experts and decision-makers to unpack complexity and reflect on future scenarios in Sudan”.³

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The Anticipation Hub has two working groups that focus on these themes, the Working Group on Multi-Risk and Anticipatory Action and the Anticipatory Action in Conflict Practitioners' Group: tinyurl.com/yt7rxvfc

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“One thing constantly not considered in the discussions is the "TRENDS"; why are we so focused on shocks only?”

Mohammad Shoukat, online chat

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The best juggler in Berlin.

¹ More information about this concept is available on the Doughnut Economics website tinyurl.com/4kmyacn3

² See tinyurl.com/56ry69ep

³ See tinyurl.com/4r9ud5cn

Parallel sessions #6

No sweat: scaling up anticipatory action for urban heat waves

Extreme heat is a growing threat to urban populations, particularly the most vulnerable people. Anticipatory action can play a critical role in reducing the impacts of extreme heat by triggering pre-agreed actions and providing early assistance. The Heat Solutions Package provides resources and expertise to guide planning in this respect. This session presented this new resource, along with testimonies from Dhaka North, Bangladesh, and expert inputs from the Global Heat Health Information Network.

What's stopping us? Navigating anticipatory action in conflict settings

Why do anticipatory action actors struggle to scale up? How do we get beyond pilots? What are the practical barriers and challenges to effective anticipatory action at scale in situations of violent conflict? This session looked at some of the barriers that prevent organizations from undertaking effective, principled anticipatory action, including internal systems and process barriers to the external challenges of outreach, preparedness and community engagement. The attendees discussed what works well and how to approach anticipatory action in conflict settings, as well as the common challenges and ways to mitigate these.

Financing for shock-driven food crises

The Financing for Shock-Driven Food Crises facility is a global effort to provide development and humanitarian organizations with new financing in anticipation of high levels of acute food insecurity. Set to launch in 2025, it will complement the country-level anticipatory action frameworks and forecast systems in place, adding cash (for complex conditions such as uninsurable and unanticipated events), and further top-up funding when there are catastrophic events using insurance. This session was a chance to garner expert feedback from participants to identify the gaps and needs, and ensure the facility adds value to efforts to scale up anticipatory action.

Hotel Resilience: the anticipatory action version

Hotel Resilience is a game about risk prevention, reduction and transfer, during which players take the role of hotel managers on an island that is frequently hit by tropical storms. They have to manage resources, expand their business and protect themselves against natural hazards by investing in DRM measures, such as early warning systems or index insurance. This session introduced some new elements to the game that allow players to use anticipatory action to mitigate the impacts of storms.



Games are an effective way to explain anticipatory action.

Workshops #2

Demystifying artificial intelligence for anticipatory action

This workshop took the participants to Nairobi, Kenya, where Miracle, the Anticipation Hub's artificial intelligence (AI) system, is calculating how to allocate funds before a forecast drought in the Horn of Africa. After five minutes, it wires funds to a local organization and sends multilingual messages to farmers eligible for cash assistance... Through this scenario, those in the room discussed the potential and reliability of AI for anticipatory action. The presenters explained the basics of how this might work, and the tools and models used across the anticipatory action cycle. There was also a non-technical plenary that addressed some of the societal and practical challenges of using AI, while considering the opportunities.

Leveraging anticipatory action and epidemic forecasting to alleviate prolonged crises

Public health emergencies, such as disease outbreaks, pose a major burden in many countries. For some health crises, information and insights are available before their onset; these can inform actions and make it possible to prevent and/or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. This interactive workshop invited participants to learn how to develop anticipatory action frameworks for health impacts that may emerge slowly over time as protracted crises, or suddenly and acutely. Participants learnt about new tools and guidance, and grappled with the multiple layers of health-risk information in time and space.



There was plenty to enjoy across the three days.

Parallel sessions #7

Preparing for the (un)predictable: connecting the dots in the MENA region

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) faces multiple crises, which leave the humanitarian system stretched. As a result, innovative solutions are needed to bridge gaps and use resources more efficiently. There is an opportunity to embed anticipatory action into ongoing efforts across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus, but countries need to integrate and enhance their anticipatory action mechanisms. The first MENA Dialogue Platform was held in 2024, bringing together participants from across the region to build a common knowledge on anticipatory action. This session brought the global audience up to date with the highlights from the region, including the evidence to date and the complexity of integrating anticipatory action as part of the region's 'big picture'.

The Loss and Damage Fund and the Global Shield: key developments and opportunities

This session sought to raise awareness of the ongoing negotiations surrounding the governance structure of the Loss and Damage Fund and explore the role of other funding arrangements for loss and damage, such as the Global Shield against Climate Risks, in supporting anticipatory action. Participants heard about both the opportunities and shortcomings of the existing loss and damage funding structure.

Anticipating ENSO events: insights from southern Africa's large-scale El Niño drought anticipation

Based on seasonal forecasts for the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), seven of the Southern Africa Development Community's Member States, along with partners in the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group, activated anticipatory action frameworks as early as July 2023, months ahead of when the peak impacts were forecast. These actions reached more than two million people and unlocked close to 31 million US dollars of financing – the largest funding for anticipatory action in southern Africa, and the largest number of parallel activations in a region, to date. This interactive session was a chance to reflect on the impacts of these activations and share the multiple streams of evidence, data on returns on investment, and operational lessons.

Wild card: innovative anticipatory action in a changing climate

How should we design anticipatory action in a changing climate? The final wild card session was a chance to explore different ideas.



Group discussions during the parallel sessions.

Navigating complexity: insights on anticipatory action in complex contexts

The creativity at the Global Dialogue Platform continued late into the final day as the facilitators acted out a journey through time. **Matthias Amling**, WHH, took the participants on a journey one year into the future... where he was getting ready to check-in for his flight to the next dialogue platform. Several other passengers were heading the same way, but as the flight experienced delay after delay, they told him about the complex contexts in which they work.

As with all great works of theatre, there was a message behind the play: navigating the complexity of the world in which we are trying to implement anticipatory action. One of these was presented by **Pedro Basabe**, who talked about how CREWS strengthens early warning systems in fragile and conflict settings. From 2017 to 2023, it worked in 27 countries affected by conflict and/or fragility. Challenges included actually disseminating the warnings and keeping the systems operational. Solving these challenges is done through four steps: (1) programme risk analysis; (2) adapt and reorient funds; (3) people-centred early warnings for displaced and conflict-affected people; and (4) long-term engagement

OCHA has anticipatory action frameworks for several countries facing complex contexts, including Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger. And, as **Stephanie Lolk Larsen** explained, it considers five factors when developing these: (1) the political context; (2) access constraints; (3) operational readiness; (4) coordination at the local level; and (5) adjustment.

Start Network embeds flexibility as a way to embrace uncertainty, explained **Ed Parkinson**, whether in the triggers used or the actions implemented ahead of a hazard. It also looks for complementarity between its different funding mechanisms, so that plans can be adapted during the ‘window’ for anticipatory actions between a forecast and a hazard striking.

Markenley Nelson, Direction Générale de la Protection Civile, reported how Haiti suffers from floods and tropical cyclones on an annual basis. On top of this, there are currently high levels of internal displacement due to the ongoing violence in the country. Two years ago, his family was stuck in their house for a week and unable to get out: “My work was asking me to help displaced people, but I was stuck myself.” When he finally got out, he realized there is a lot to do to help people to navigate the complexity they face: “And there is definitely space for anticipatory action to help.”

But what have the audience learned about doing anticipatory action in complex contexts? Many people shared their thoughts during the session.



Pedro Basabe.

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“Almost everywhere is a complex context, but we need to be able to implement anticipatory action in there... What we need to remember is that anticipatory action really does help people.”

Markenley Nelson, Direction Générale de la Protection Civile

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“All of us are already working in complex settings... we have to support each other, we have to work as one. We have to do it as a whole.”

Liesa Sauerhammer, German Red Cross

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“In Mali, anticipatory action can be very complex. There might be armed forces, or armed groups... one thing we do with our staff and volunteers is make sure the Red Crescent is very visible.”

Souleymane Konate, Mali Red Cross

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“I would really call on ourselves, as the anticipatory action community, to really challenge ourselves in where we go. Not just where we have our regular projects, or know the authorities; we need to go where the needs are greatest. ”

Stefanie Lux, German Red Cross

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Matthias Amling gets ready to check in for his virtual flight, with Ella Gerry from Start Network ready to assist.

Closing ceremony

The 12th Global Dialogue Platform ended by celebrating those who implement anticipatory action to avert disasters – and these people are recognized each year by the Averted Disaster Award. The winner in 2024 was Lamu County, Kenya, which established an emergency operation centre in 2020 to help residents cope with the 15 types of hazard that it faces. Its executive director, **Shee Kupi**, arrived on stage to receive the award from **Alan D’Inca**, World Bank.



Shee Kupi with the award.

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“Had we not taken those actions, then we would have been counting dead people.”

Shee Kupi, Lamu County

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“And that’s a wrap! Three days of inspiring discussions on anticipatory action at the Global Dialogue Platform. My key takeaways? Anticipatory action needs to be anchored locally, through proactive collaboration with all stakeholders – most importantly, the government.”

Stephanie Lolk Larsen, OCHA, on LinkedIn

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Reflections on the 12th Global Dialogue Platform

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“This year’s theme, “Mainstreaming anticipatory action: collaboration in complex contexts,” truly resonates with me. Today’s discussions have been nothing short of enlightening, emphasizing the crucial role of collaboration and the integration of social protection into our anticipatory actions. Together, we can tackle complex challenges and create a more resilient future!”

Vânia Gouzane, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, on LinkedIn

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“All session related to anticipatory action were truly impressive. I believe their efforts will significantly contribute to global efforts in applying anticipatory actions, ultimately reducing the impact and losses caused by disasters. This initiative has the potential to improve preparedness and resilience, helping communities worldwide to better manage and mitigate disaster risks.”

Ateeq Ur Rehman on LinkedIn

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“Attending the 12th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action has been a truly inspiring experience! As the dialogue continues, I am eager to deepen my understanding and connect with brilliant minds from around the world. Let's work together to better connect, coordinate and foster healthy collaboration – building trust to serve those in need more effectively.”

Michael Steffen, Malteser International, on LinkedIn

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“I’m so glad to be here with all of you positive people in the room... hope we get to make a positive impact together and improve as much life as possible.”

Inyama Bright Akara, Global Center for Research and Innovation, online chat

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“Two great plenary sessions where we tried to navigate complexity, discussed how anticipatory analysis can support decision-making in complex and uncertain contexts, while also advocating for more attention to the largely neglected Sudan crisis... I’m looking forward to continuing the conversation in and out of the Anticipation Hub's Multi-Risk Working Group (which is happy to receive more members - reach out!)”

Diogo Simão Lemos, ACAPS, on LinkedIn

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“As Hugo Slim said, ‘we are a movement, and together we are transforming the humanitarian sector’... We celebrate the event’s success, bringing together diverse voices – government, NGOs, academics and local communities. However, key challenges remain as we push for progress in anticipatory action.”

Kristiana Marton, Save the Children International, on LinkedIn

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“Anticipatory action is evolving... where we used to talk about scaling, we now talk about mainstreaming, the focus no longer on projects but on national systems. It was great to attend the Global Dialogue Platform on behalf of the World Bank, so much potential for collaboration. Well done Anticipation Hub for such a great event!”

Emily Montier, consultant, on LinkedIn

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“Start Network had the opportunity to facilitate an engaging discussion on locally led anticipatory action, where we challenged assumptions, highlighted key barriers, and explored practical pathways to strengthen community engagement and coordination. It’s clear that true localization requires more than funding; it’s about reshaping systems to empower local actors... Looking forward to continuing these conversations and working together to ensure that locally led anticipatory action is no longer an option but an imperative.”

Anna Farina, Start Network, on LinkedIn

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“Three days of intensive learning, idea sharing, networking, inspiration and challenge... I leave with much more understanding and great positivity about the eventual potential of anticipatory action. Many challenges remain, but the strong commitment and creativity of the community to overcome them is shown in an imaginative way here.”

Ian Davis, MapAction, on LinkedIn

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“Meeting so many colleagues in person, after years of virtual connection, and engaging with renowned humanitarian leaders and government representatives, was a powerful reminder of the strength in collaboration. The sessions sparked new ideas and opened doors to endless possibilities for the future. Huge shoutout to the organizers for pulling off such an impressive event.”

Hussam Saeid, German Red Cross, on LinkedIn



One of the cartoons created by the artist Betje during the dialogue platform.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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You can rewatch most of the sessions online; note that you need to log in to access these:

tinyurl.com/yrsyytnh

The full agenda, including all speakers, is also available online.

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