

14th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Connecting efforts, strengthening systems, enabling scale:
financing the future of anticipatory action

20-22 October 2026, Berlin and online

Call for speakers: guidelines

Background

Over the past decade, anticipatory action has become an established approach for protecting people ahead of predictable crises. It has been demonstrated that acting before shocks occur or fully unfold can save lives and livelihoods, reduce humanitarian impacts, preserve people's dignity and make more effective use of available resources.

In line with the development of the approach, the global dialogue platforms have grown into landmark annual events that bring together up to 2,000 practitioners, scientists, local stakeholders and policy-makers from across governments, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector.

The 14th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action will take place from 20 to 22 October 2026, in Berlin, Germany, and online. It will be held under the theme 'Connecting efforts, strengthening systems, enabling scale: financing the future of anticipatory action'. Read the [concept note](#) for more information on this year's theme.

Does your organization have field experience, recent research, lessons learned or a compelling story to share on one or more of this year's topics? This is **your opportunity to help shape the conversation**: apply to be a speaker in one of our parallel sessions by using the [online form](#). Please review the information and the list of sessions at the end of the document before applying.

Why a call for speakers?

Following the strong interest demonstrated in previous editions, where the number of parallel session proposals significantly exceeded the available session slots, the organizing partners now develop the parallel session topics in advance and select speakers through an open call. This will help us make the best use of the available programme space and ensure each session brings together complementary experiences and perspectives from different regions and stakeholder groups.

The organizers have identified **22 parallel session topics** for this year, as listed at the end of this document.

Information on parallel session format

Sessions last **1 hour and 15 minutes** and can take a variety of formats, including presentations, panel or fishbowl discussions, ignite talks, participatory debates, television-style interviews, world cafés, short workshops, games, and more. Session leads will work with confirmed speakers to determine the most appropriate format for their session.

The Global Dialogue Platform is a hybrid event, expecting up to 250 in-person and up to 2,000 online participants. Most sessions will be hybrid. While we welcome in-person participation, please note that space is limited. Speakers may participate either in person or online.

The language of the 14th Global Dialogue Platform is English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, French, and Spanish during the plenaries (to be confirmed). For parallel sessions, interpretation cannot be guaranteed, but session leads can help coordinate language support where needed.

How to apply

In the [online form](#), choose the session(s) you want to apply for. Fill out a form for each session you want to apply to. Organizations may propose speakers for up to five sessions. Please coordinate within your organization before you submit an application.

Evaluation process and criteria

The speakers proposed by organizations will be assessed against the criteria below to ensure that different perspectives and voices are considered. Final decisions will be announced by **10 August 2026**. Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

Relevance: How does your proposed contribution connect to this session's focus and to this year's themes and/or thematic areas?

Diversity of perspectives: In selecting session contributions, we aim to ensure adequate representation across agencies, regions, and sectors, as well as appropriate representation of local voices and gender balance.

A note on speaker flexibility

If your organization can offer more than one speaker for a given session, we encourage you to suggest an alternative. This helps us achieve geographical representation and gender balance across sessions.

Please also note that session formats and timings are determined during the session development process. Speakers should be prepared to adapt their contribution accordingly — whether that means a short presentation, a panel intervention, a discussion prompt, or another format.

Key dates

Submit your proposal [using the online form](#) by 06 August 2026.

21 Jul	speaker submission form opens
06 Aug	deadline: submission of speaker proposals
07-09 Aug	speakers' selection by the Anticipation Hub
10 Aug	final decisions announced
21 Aug	guidance calls for session leads- to be confirmed
28 Aug	deadline: submission of visa letter requests for in-person attendees
20-22 Oct	Global Dialogue Platform

Contact

If you have questions, please contact Natalie Acosta, event manager at the Anticipation Hub, n.acosta@drk.de, with dialogueplatform@anticipation-hub.org in CC.

We look forward to receiving your application!

List of sessions

Sessions directly related to the event's theme

1. Beyond remittances: harnessing diaspora networks for anticipatory action

Anticipatory action has traditionally focused on governments, humanitarian agencies, and technical early warning systems. This session will ask how diaspora networks can become strategic partners in anticipating humanitarian crises, drawing on their unique access to local information, social networks, and financial resources to strengthen anticipatory action before crises escalate.

2. Institutionalizing anticipatory action: from policy commitments to government systems

This session explores how anticipatory action is being embedded in national systems, legislation, and government-led processes. It will showcase experiences from different countries and regions, highlighting legal and policy frameworks, capacity-strengthening efforts, and pathways for moving from project-based implementation to institutional ownership. The session will provide a platform for peer exchange and learning among countries at different stages of institutionalizing anticipatory action.

3. Expanding the toolbox: the role of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and social protection in anticipatory action

Anticipatory action is increasingly moving beyond humanitarian financing. This session will explore how international financial institutions and social protection systems can help scale, institutionalize, and sustain early action.

4. Put your money where the forecast is: innovative financing solutions for anticipatory action

This session explores how innovative financing mechanisms, including insurance and other emerging funding approaches, can strengthen anticipatory action. It will showcase successful initiatives, highlight the data and enabling conditions needed to unlock financing, and discuss how donors, insurers, and practitioners can work together to scale sustainable investment in anticipatory action. The session also includes practical insights on developing the investment case for anticipatory action and meeting the requirements of different financing instruments.

5. Beyond the grant: advancing the role of the private sector in scaling anticipatory action

The private sector brings a wealth of resources, technology, and influence towards scaling AA. How can we strengthen our collaboration with the private sector towards advancing AA? This session will showcase examples of such collaboration and explore ways to further engage the private sector not just as donors but also as co-investors, innovators, and operational partners.

6. Financing the last mile: lessons from integrating anticipatory action into the Early Warnings for All Initiative

As countries implement the Early Warnings for All initiative, a key challenge emerged: how can preparedness and anticipatory action be sustainably financed within broader early warning systems? This session will explore how anticipatory action stakeholders have approached financing anticipatory action under the Early Warnings for All umbrella through the Green Climate Fund global programme and complementary financing mechanisms. Drawing on experiences from multiple countries and financing instruments, participants will examine how climate finance, anticipatory financing, preparedness financing, and humanitarian financing can be combined to strengthen preparedness to respond before disasters occur.

7. Maximizing funds while scaling impact

Against the backdrop of growing humanitarian needs and constrained funding, this session tackles the urgent question of efficiency. It moves beyond simply proving that AA "works" to critically examine how we can make it work more efficiently at scale. The session will

examine the following questions: How we can invest available resources more wisely. What prevents us from achieving maximum efficiency with current resources and how can this be fixed? How can we use efficiency data to advocate for reallocating a fixed percentage of existing humanitarian budgets toward anticipatory action?

8. One big bet or 1,000 small bets? Rethinking anticipatory finance

If you got €1m from a donor, would you fund 1 centrally coordinated project (e.g., national level) or 1,000 locally led (NGO, CBO) community projects for €1,000 each? This session will use a deliberately provocative scenario to unpack one of the core tensions in anticipatory action: how to balance scale, efficiency, and coherence with local relevance, ownership, and speed. Through a structured debate, participants will explore the trade-offs between centralized and decentralized funding models. Rather than seeking a single “right” answer, the session will invite participants to test assumptions, challenge funding orthodoxies, and identify what combinations of centralized support and local decision-making make anticipatory action effective, equitable, and accountable.

Broader discussions on anticipatory action

9. Rethinking anticipatory action for displacement: mobility, protection and solutions from the start

As anticipatory action expands into displacement settings, practitioners face new questions about which forms of mobility to anticipate and how to respond effectively. This session will be hosted by the Global Working Group on AA for Displacement and will bring together operational agencies, governments, and researchers to explore approaches that address diverse mobility pathways while embedding solutions from the start to improve outcomes for displaced people and host communities alike.

10. Speaking the same language: interoperability, trigger harmonization, and data sharing

As the number of anticipatory action frameworks around the globe and within countries is constantly growing, so is the need for coordination and harmonization. But harmonizing triggers is not only a technical exercise: At its best, it involves sharing data, methods, and assumptions, and agreeing on who acts when. This session will explore what genuine interoperability can look like in practice: where harmonized or shared triggers reduce duplication and level expectations among at-risk communities, where data sharing arrangements make them possible, and where institutional, legal, or political barriers can impose challenges. The aim is an honest exchange on the conditions and incentives needed to move toward more connected anticipatory action ecosystems.

11. Multi-hazard anticipatory action in practice: mainstreaming compounding and cascading risks

Most anticipatory action frameworks are built around a single hazard, and few of them systematically consider cascading or compounding impacts: a flood, for example, might lead to the outbreak of water-borne diseases or be compounded by conflict and displacement, blurring the line between different hazards and their impacts. This session, therefore, will explore what it takes to mainstream compounding and cascading risks into frameworks that hold up across multiple, interacting hazards, even if designed for a single-hazard focus. Drawing on emerging practice and study findings from complex settings such as South Sudan, participants will work through concrete design choices and collectively unpack how to mainstream risks related to, e.g., conflict or health, into their frameworks.

12. El Niño 2026/27: first insights

The El Niño 2026/2027 is predicted to be among the most intense in history and has already prompted activations of AA frameworks across multiple regions and hazards. This session will bring together early lessons and first insights on impacts from El Niño-related activations in 2026. It will also explore questions such as: How did different actors, financing instruments, and frameworks complement one another? How did our systems for early warning, readiness, joint planning, and coordination hold up under pressure? And what worked when multiple responders anticipated the same hazard at once? The aim is a candid exchange of what the latest activations can teach the wider community, as El Niño will continue to cause humanitarian impacts through early 2027.

13. From pilots to practice - what it takes to operationalize Artificial Intelligence in anticipatory action

The conversation about AI in anticipatory action has so far mapped the landscape: what AI can and cannot yet do across forecasting, risk mapping, and decision support. The harder question is what it takes to move concepts out of the pilot phase and into routine, trusted use. Most AI tools for AA still live in hackathons and proof-of-concept stages; comparatively few are embedded in frameworks that activate and release funds at scale. This session will focus on that gap. It will look at the practical, institutional, and ethical conditions for operationalizing AI: How tools get validated and integrated into existing triggers and workflows, who maintains them once a project might end, how to keep meaningful human judgment and accountability in the loop when a model informs a real decision, and how to guard against bias when at-risk communities depend on the output. Rather than asking whether AI works for AA, the session will explore what it takes to rely on it responsibly, repeatably, and at scale.

14. Ready when it counts - building and maintaining operational readiness at the last mile

A trigger is only as good as the system standing ready to act on it. Anticipatory action depends on a chain of people, plans, and resources being genuinely ready to act. Yet this operational readiness can erode in the (sometimes long) quiet windows between activations: skills can fade, volunteers or other last-mile implementers rotate, agreement lapses, so that when a trigger is met, the last mile is not as ready as a framework assumes. This session will bring together emerging practice on how to build and sustain operational readiness, from last-mile volunteer training approaches to dedicated readiness mechanisms and recent multi-country studies on the topic. Participants will exchange concrete strategies and discuss how readiness can be measured, systematically built, and resourced rather than simply assumed.

15. Sustaining and scaling anticipatory action: the role of civil society

Civil society organizations are already central to the delivery and coordination of anticipatory action (AA). In 2025, NGOs coordinated more than one-third of active AA frameworks (more than any other category of actor), pre-arranged around one-third of AA financing, and coordinated more than half of all AA activations. As AA moves from innovation to mainstream practice, this session will ask what critical role civil society has in sustaining, scaling, and shaping the future of AA and how the financing system can account for this. It will bring together perspectives from grassroots organisations, national and local NGOs, networks, and INGOs to explore how civil society organisations can strengthen coordination and improve local actors' access to predictable financing. It will also consider the role of civil society actors in contexts where UN agencies and other international actors are under pressure to prioritise, reduce their footprint, or transition out.

16. Harmonized, not homogeneous: achieving scale without compromising on localization

In recent years, anticipatory action (AA) has moved towards an established humanitarian approach, with the number of frameworks nearly tripling between 2022 and 2025. At the same time, increasingly constrained humanitarian resources are creating pressure to maximize efficiency, minimize fragmentation across frameworks, and ultimately reach more people before crises unfold. Against this backdrop, this session will explore what it means to pursue a decentralized scale in AA: scaling in ways that are coherent and connected, while remaining anchored in local analysis, decision-making, and leadership. The discussion will interrogate the assumption that larger-scale activations are inherently more efficient and examine the perceived trade-offs between localization and scale. It will ask whether fragmentation is a by-product of diverse context-specific approaches or a manifestation of broader coordination challenges within the humanitarian system; how efforts to maximize the scale of AA can complement commitments to localization; and how to harmonize AA without

flattening contextual differences or losing the unique benefits of locally led anticipatory responses.

17. Anticipatory action for cyclones: operational lessons and collective learning

A session to generate dialogue on operational issues, partner experiences, and lessons across cyclone-prone contexts. Being cyclones one of the most frequent hazards, and with a shorter window of opportunity to act, this session could serve to convene a broader discussion on what has worked, what remains difficult, and what should be strengthened collectively.

18. What makes a message? The intricacies of setting up effective early warning communication

The session will showcase the intricate work that goes into developing and broadcasting last-mile early warning messages. This includes stakeholder consultation, channel selection, message validation, translation, etc. The aim of the session will be to share best practices and discuss priorities for further strengthening early warning messaging processes, including increased investment in measuring their impact and building on existing practical examples.

19. Beating the heat: advancing anticipatory action for extreme heat risks

With heat waves becoming one of the deadliest climate hazards, anticipatory action can help shift the focus from response to prevention. This session will explore how early action can better protect vulnerable populations from extreme heat.

20. Preparing for future risks: Are the current systems built with the future in mind?

Building on the findings of the Climate Centre's future fit report, the session will facilitate a discussion on how to take forward the recommendations towards making AA effective in a changing landscape.

21. Everybody talks about evidence, but what do people really want to learn? Building a joint evidence agenda for anticipatory action at scale

Despite growing consensus that anticipatory action works, the evidence base remains fragmented. Agencies evaluate interventions in isolation, data-sharing is constrained by protection and methodological differences, and attribution becomes nearly impossible in protracted crises where multiple actors target the same beneficiaries. With all of us having contributed different aspects to the growing evidence for anticipatory action, this session will address questions such as: What evidence is still needed? By whom? What do we really need to learn and establish? Do we really need cost-benefit analysis for each activation? How can we collectively show our impact, and how can we use the current El Niño to collectively learn?

22. Child-centred anticipatory action

The session will emphasize the importance of placing children at the centre of anticipatory action efforts. Investing early in children helps protect and strengthen human capital, reduces long-term impacts on health, nutrition, education, and protection outcomes, and generates significant social and economic returns. Join the session to learn about examples and first learnings.

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



Supported by

