

3rd MENA Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

From roadmap to reality: connecting efforts, strengthening systems for
anticipatory action in MENA

07 to 08 December 2026, Cairo, Egypt

Concept note

Over the last three years, Anticipatory Action (AA) has gained significant momentum across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Through collective efforts by governments, Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, UN agencies, humanitarian organizations, research institutions, donors, and communities, the region has established a shared vision to advance anticipatory action and strengthen preparedness for climate-related and complex hazards.

The **3rd MENA Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action** will mark a transition from vision-setting and commitment-building to implementation and institutionalization. It will take place in Cairo, Egypt, from 07 to 08 December 2026. Under the theme **"From roadmap to reality: connecting efforts, strengthening systems for anticipatory action in MENA,"** the platform will bring together regional and global partners to accelerate collective action, strengthen systems, and ensure that anticipatory action becomes a standard and sustainable approach across the region.

Setting the scene

The first MENA Dialogue Platform in 2024 laid the foundation for regional collaboration, knowledge exchange, and a common roadmap for anticipatory action. The second edition in 2025 focused on translating commitments into action through enhanced coordination, capacity strengthening, evidence generation, and innovative financing.

As the region continues to face increasingly complex and interconnected risks, including climate-related hazards, displacement, conflict, economic shocks, and resource constraints, the need to move from pilots and isolated initiatives toward institutionalized and scalable anticipatory action systems has become more urgent than ever.

While important progress has been achieved, many countries are now asking a new question: How do we move from roadmap to reality?

Objectives

The 3rd MENA Dialogue Platform aims to:

1. Assess Progress Towards the Regional Roadmap

Review progress achieved since the launch of the MENA Anticipatory Action Roadmap, identify implementation gaps, and highlight emerging opportunities for scaling anticipatory action.

2. Generate Evidence and Accelerate Learning

Capture and analyze evidence, implementation experiences, barriers and challenges to taking action, and lessons learned from across the region to inform evidence-based policies, investments and contextualized approaches for establishing effective AA systems and scaling up to reach the last mile, including in FCAS.

3. Strengthen Regional Systems for Anticipatory Action

Explore how anticipatory action can be institutionalized within national and regional systems and governance structures, including disaster management frameworks, early warning systems, social protection mechanisms, and humanitarian preparedness structures.

4. Foster Cross-Sector Collaboration

Strengthen coordination among governments, National Societies, UN agencies, development actors, climate institutions, academia, the private sector, and local actors, while promoting stronger linkages between sectors including disaster risk management, health, livelihoods and food security, displacement, climate adaptation and social protection to support effective anticipatory action systems and accelerate implementation at scale.

5. Advance Sustainable Financing

Build on progress made in innovative financing approaches and identify pathways for predictable and sustainable financing, including domestic financing, climate finance, risk financing instruments, pooled funds, and private-sector engagement.

6. Promote Locally Led Anticipatory Action

Highlight the role of local actors and communities in designing, implementing, and evaluating anticipatory action initiatives to ensure actions inclusively address differentiated age and gender responsive needs, while exploring approaches to better connect community-level anticipatory action systems with district and national systems to support sustainable scale and institutionalization.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the Dialogue Platform, participants will:

- Have a shared understanding of progress made against the MENA AA Roadmap.
- Identify priority actions for strengthening anticipatory action systems in the region.
- Develop evidence-based recommendations for integrating anticipatory action into national policies, frameworks and systems.
- Strengthen partnerships between regional and global stakeholders.
- Identify opportunities for sustainable and diversified financing.
- Identify key lessons, including barriers to action, evidence gaps and priority learning areas to inform future anticipatory action investments and programming in the region.

- Agree on a set of regional priorities and commitments for the coming two years.
- Produce a joint outcome statement outlining actions for accelerating implementation and scale.

Participants

The Dialogue Platform will convene approximately 150-200 participants, including:

- Government representatives responsible for disaster risk management, climate adaptation, meteorology, social protection, and humanitarian affairs.
- National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- IFRC, ICRC, Climate Centre and Partner National Societies.
- United Nations agencies and regional organizations.
- International and national NGOs.
- Financial institutions and climate finance actors.
- Academic and research institutions.
- Technical experts in forecasting, risk analysis and anticipatory action.
- Representatives of vulnerable communities and local organizations.
- Private-sector partners.
- Donors and development partners.

Proposed Structure

1) Taking Stock - From Commitments to Progress

Theme: Where are we now?

Key discussions:

- Progress against the MENA Roadmap.
- Regional AA landscape and trends.
- Country implementation experiences.
- Evidence of impact, implementation experience, barriers to activation and action, and lessons learned from anticipatory action initiatives across the region.
- Panel discussion on enablers and barriers to scaling AA.

Output: Regional progress review and identification of priority gaps and evidence-informed recommendations for strengthening systems, partnerships, governance and financing mechanisms for scale.

2) Strengthening Systems for Scale

Theme: What systems are needed?

Key discussions:

- Institutionalizing AA within national systems.
- Early Warning for All and anticipatory action.
- Forecasting and risk information, including consideration of 'Future Fit AA'.

- Social protection and shock-responsive systems.
- Local leadership and community engagement.
- Capacity strengthening workshops on Locally Led Anticipatory Action, Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS), connecting community, district and national anticipatory action systems, and translating evidence and learning into policy and practice.
- Sharing emerging lessons from ongoing CEWS initiatives in the region.

Output: Recommendations for strengthening national and regional AA systems.

3) Financing and Partnerships for the Future

Theme: How do we sustain and scale?

Key discussions:

- Domestic resource mobilization.
- Climate finance opportunities.
- Innovative financing and risk financing.
- Private sector engagement.
- Regional partnerships and cooperation.

Output: Regional Call to Action and priority commitments for 2027-2028, and agreed mechanisms for continued collaboration, learning and knowledge exchange across the region.

Guiding Questions

The third edition will seek to answer:

- What does successful scale-up of anticipatory action look like in MENA?
- How can governments institutionalize anticipatory action within existing national systems?
- How can community, district and national systems be better connected to enable effective anticipatory action systems?
- What governance, institutional and partnership arrangements are required for sustainable anticipatory action systems?
- What financing mechanisms can ensure sustainability beyond pilot projects?
- How can local and community actors play a greater leadership role?
- What partnerships are required to strengthen regional implementation?
- How can the MENA Roadmap be translated into measurable outcomes for communities at risk?

Closing Statement

The 3rd MENA Dialogue Platform will mark a transition from vision-setting and commitment-building toward implementation, institutionalization and sustainable scale. Under the theme **“From Roadmap to Reality: Connecting Efforts, Strengthening Systems for Anticipatory Action in MENA,”** the platform will bring together regional and global partners to translate

evidence and experience into action, strengthen the systems, financing mechanisms, partnerships and governance structures required for scale, and advance anticipatory action as a holistic, integrated and sustainable approach to managing risk across the region.