

Concept note

5th Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action



Co-organized by

5th Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

From dialogue to action: advancing joint goals towards Africa's anticipatory action roadmap

28-30 June 2022 - Nairobi, Johannesburg and online

The frequency and magnitude of extreme events is growing due to climate change and other risk drivers, and these affect millions of people globally. The recent [IPCC report](#) provided a timely reminder of the need to address current and future climate risks in a collaborative and transformative manner. The reality of this crisis is being felt by millions on a daily basis - and especially in Africa. Already in 2022, tropical storms have caused devastation in several countries, especially in Madagascar, while severe drought continues to afflict many parts of the continent. Past African dialogue platforms have highlighted the stark reality of compounding and cascading risks. [Anticipatory action is a practical way to minimize and avert the loss and damage caused by climate change](#) and, given the multi-hazard nature and severity of many weather- and climate-related events, the need to scale up this approach in Africa has never been greater.

For communities, practitioners, policy-makers and scientists to collectively design and implement anticipatory action initiatives, we need more knowledge exchange, learning, guidance and advocacy - and to establish clear steps to achieve this. Building on the themes, lessons on progresses and challenges, and recommendations of [previous events](#) - notably the '[Message to the world](#)' from 2021 - the **5th Africa Dialogue Platform** will support the cross-fertilization of ideas, encourage critical discussion and empower actors who have not yet been actively involved in conversations about anticipatory action in Africa.

By the end of 2021, anticipatory action initiatives were being developed or implemented in at least 25 African countries. Regional commitments to scale up anticipatory action were made, such as the African Union [Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action Systems Situation Room](#). Past events have placed a spotlight

on the many ongoing initiatives to advance anticipatory action in Africa, such as those being informed by the Anticipation Hub, [CREWS](#), [REAP](#) and others. The upcoming G7 also highlights the ambition to “[strengthen anticipatory humanitarian assistance](#) (p.10)”.

However, there remains a need to strengthen the links between these initiatives and what is happening at the Community, National and Sub-Regional levels in Africa, and to accelerate the process of mainstreaming anticipatory action through joint ambitions. The 5th Africa Dialogue Platform therefore aims to formalize these links in a jointly created **roadmap for anticipatory action in Africa**. With an emphasis on cooperation and collaboration, the event will explore how initiatives in Africa are contributing to global ambitions and - vice versa - how global initiatives could be informed and shaped by national and regional ambitions on anticipatory action.

Format

Held over three days, the 5th Africa Dialogue Platform will combine face-to-face meetings in Nairobi and Johannesburg with online talks and sessions to engage the wider community.

Objectives

Each day of the 5th Africa Dialogue Platform will have a clear objective. There will also be opportunities to discuss upcoming themes and share experiences and best practices.

1. Looking back: a stocktake of anticipatory action in Africa

Day 1 will ask: what, where, when, how and who? Together, participants will:

- listen to feedback from beneficiaries and communities: are people seeing the impacts locally? Do communities see an added value from anticipatory action? Are people empowered to implement anticipatory actions themselves?
- consider how to scale locally led anticipatory action in Africa; what opportunities exist and which barriers need to be addressed?
- review and map out past and current anticipatory action initiatives in Africa, including the different global and regional frameworks on anticipatory action
- reflect on what emerged from past Africa Dialogue Platforms (themes, actors, products)
- assess progress against the areas for improvement identified in ‘[Our message to the world](#)’ from the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform
- establish what worked well - and what didn’t

- identify the main lessons learned and existing gaps (e.g., hazards and regions not covered, knowledge and skills gaps), and the main issues to tackle going forward
- review if current initiatives are meeting the needs of different actors.

2. Looking ahead: define the ambitions for anticipatory action in Africa

Day 2 will ask: where do we want to go next? The aims for this day are to:

- facilitate exchange and learning between actors in different subregions (governments, donors, practitioners, communities, scientists) to identify interlinkages and areas for greater cooperation and complementarity
- review and update the existing subregional roadmaps and plans in Africa, to feed into a roadmap (or similar) for the continent
- establish the priority actions needed to address the gaps identified on day 1
- collate subregional ambitions into pan-African ambitions.

3. Moving to action: what will it take to get there?

The final day will focus on agreeing on the next steps, specifically:

- the activities needed to achieve the roadmap (i.e. a work plan)
- strategies for cooperation between sectors: communities, governments, science and universities and humanitarians
- the commitments made to operationalize the roadmap: to formulate partnerships, to identify collaborative areas of work, to endorse the roadmap at national and regional levels, and commitments to provide different forms of support (e.g. financial, strategic, academic).

