



## ANTICIPATORY ACTION TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS



THE DEPTH & BREADTH OF DISCUSSION TAKING PLACE IS CRUCIAL FOR FINDING COMMON GROUND



EARLY ACTION ANCHORED ON **SAMAR** DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



THIS IS AN **ALL-HANDS ON DECK** MOMENT!



ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

CRUCIAL FOR US TO BE PROACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE



LIVESTOCK EVACUATION SIMULATION



FORECAST-BASED RESILIENCY PROGRAM

THE MOST VULNERABLE & MARGINALIZED ARE THE LEAST PREPARED



TAKE ACTION NOW!

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IS IRREFUTABLE – ASIA PACIFIC IS MOST DISASTER-PRONE AREA IN THE WORLD!



PRE-LISTING TARGET BENEFICIARIES



SHELTER STRENGTHENING SIMULATION

MAKE AA AN INTEGRAL PART OF HUMANITARIAN AID DESIGN & DELIVERY!

**SCALING UP** IS THE BIG QUESTION!

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ANTICIPATORY ACTION IS THE NEXT LEVEL

OUR GOAL IS TO EXPAND THE REACH OF AA TO AS MANY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AS POSSIBLE

# REPORT

on the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action – Anticipatory action to meet the challenges of the climate change crisis

19 - 21 October 2021



supported by:

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response	GRAF	Global Risk Assessment Framework
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network	H.E.	His Excellency / Her Excellency
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	IBF	impact-based forecasting
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
COP26	26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	MERCY Malaysia	Malaysian Medical Relief Society
Covid-19	coronavirus	NGO	non-governmental organization
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	RIMES	Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia
DRM	disaster risk management	SUFAL	Supporting Flood Forecast-based Action and Learning
DRR	disaster risk reduction	UN	United Nations
EAP	early action protocol	UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNFPA	UN Population Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
FbF	forecast-based financing	WFP	World Food Programme
FOREWARN	Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network	WMO	World Meteorological Organization

# The 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

→ The 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform, held from 19-21 October 2021, was filled with high-level panels, parallel sessions and presentations which provided an overview of anticipatory action in the Asia-Pacific region: current initiatives, experiences gained and lessons learned. The central questions that the event sought to answer included the following.

- How can we **do anticipatory action more effectively** in the Asia-Pacific region?
- What can be done to:
  - **mainstream and institutionalize anticipatory action** in governments and intergovernmental bodies and systems?
  - identify **milestones and roadblocks** for successful implementation and a joint way forward?
  - find common ground for **joint advocacy messages** in the region?
- How should we deal with emerging contexts in terms of **health, conflict, displacement, risk insurance** and **adaptive social protection**?

The climate crisis strongly influences anticipatory action strategies, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Reflecting this, the overarching theme for the event was 'Anticipatory action to meet the challenges of the climate crisis'. Significant outcomes of the event related to this theme included:

- a focus on multi-partner, multi-sector and localized anticipatory action
- a joint understanding of current and future climate risks, and the identification of effective early actions to address these
- shared lessons learned from recent evaluations, and the identification of ways to integrate a climate change adaptation perspective into anticipatory action
- a focus on financing for anticipatory action, from the community level to national legislation and donor commitments; this includes climate-financing instruments and tools.

The dialogue platform brought together experts, scientists, governments, academics and practitioners from the humanitarian community. In total, 451 people from 54 countries participated, ensuring experiences from different countries and a range of hazards were part of the programme. The event took place entirely online, but with different settings and formats - such as the 'marketplace' for knowledge exchange - to make it as interactive as possible.

This report is based on the event's live blog, which can be found on the Anticipation Hub website and includes further information about the speakers, agenda and projects presented at the dialogue platform: <https://events.anticipation-hub.org/asia-pacific-dialogue-platform-2021>

The platform was actively used by **451 participants** who came from **54 different countries**

“  
**Anticipatory Action  
to Meet the Challenges  
of the Climate Change  
Crisis**  
”

VIRTUAL EDITION

**5th  
Asia-Pacific  
Dialogue  
Platform**

ON ANTICIPATORY  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

**19th-21st  
October 2021**

**REGISTER NOW**

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Anticipation Hub  
German Red Cross  
IFRC  
Climate Centre  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
World Food Programme  
START NETWORK  
German Government

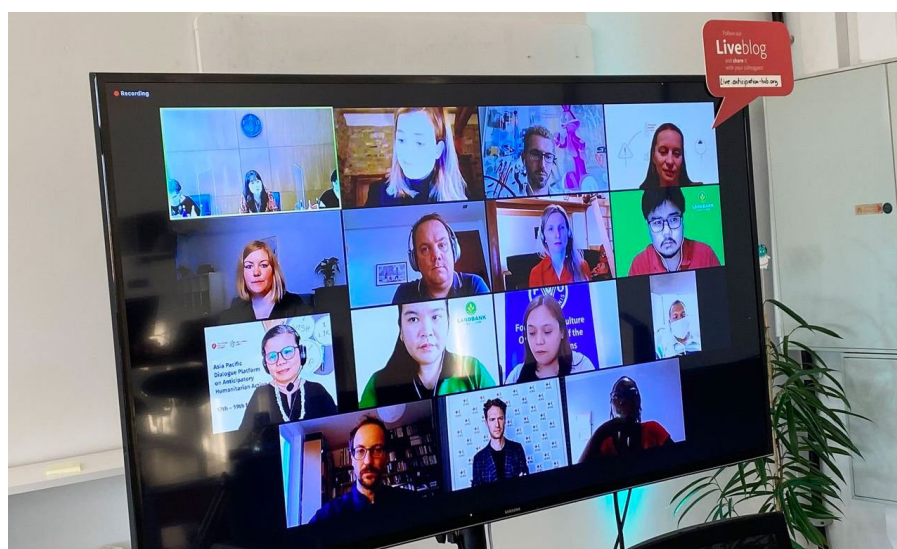
5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform  
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY  
ONE

# Welcoming words

The 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform began with video greetings from different parts of the world. **Ana Marie Dizon** explained that although this year's event was virtual, it was still bringing people together in the same way: "All the stories, the experiences, and the people talking about their breakthroughs and plans in doing anticipatory action are definitely real."

**Alya Iman** hoped to strengthen resilience in Asia: "As one of the most disaster-prone regions, anticipatory action is one of the most important approaches towards building more resilient communities." Her colleague **Takeshi Komino** added: "Anticipatory action is an increasingly important approach for all of us, and we want to explore how we can scale regionwide." Finally, **Ashraful Haque** shared his expectations for the event: "I am very keen to share and hear all of our experiences from the last year on anticipatory action."



## Speakers:

### **Ana Marie Dizon**

Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network (FOREWARN) coordinator, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) Philippines

### **Alya Iman**

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) Secretariat; MERCY Malaysia

### **Takeshi Komino**

Secretary-general, ADRRN Tokyo Innovation Hub

### **Ashraful Haque**

FOREWARN coordinator, Start Network Bangladesh

## Report:

5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform  
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

# Opening ceremony

Several opening speeches highlighted the urgent need for anticipatory action to reduce the humanitarian impacts of climate change. **H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong** spoke about the new ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, which integrates anticipatory action into three of its five programmes. He also emphasized that the event's focus on climate change could not be timelier: "The Asia-Pacific region, including the ASEAN region, is facing a more complex and challenging disaster-risk landscape. Over the past decades, ASEAN has realized the importance of anticipatory action in facing those complex disaster-risk landscapes."

**Manuel Van Torrevillas** spoke in the name of **Hon. Gov. Reynolds Michael Tan** and noted the exciting developments that have taken place in Samar since 2018, when forecast-based financing (FbF) was first launched in the province: "We have participated in several planning forums for forecast-based financing programmes and I am happy to report that, early this year, a memorandum with the Philippine Red Cross - on how to implement the early action plan when a typhoon hits the province - came into effect."

**Davide Zappa** stressed that the Asia-Pacific region is at the centre of some emerging methods for anticipatory action - with clear results proving that this pays dividends. But despite encouraging signs of success, there is still much to do, and he reminded the participants of the pressing need to expand anticipatory action to address rising global and regional humanitarian needs - especially in the face of climate change, Covid-19, complex crises and conflict situations: "Several opportunities to promote anticipatory action and galvanize a collective push to act ahead of crises, both globally and in Asia-Pacific, are in our calendars in the coming year... recognizing the global impact of climate change and the severity and frequency of crises is essential."



## Speakers:

**H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong**  
Deputy secretary-general,  
Association of Southeast Asian  
Nations (ASEAN)

**Manuel Van Torrevillas**  
Head of office, provincial  
disaster-risk reduction (DRR) and  
management council, province of  
Samar

**Davide Zappa**  
Thematic expert on DRR,  
Directorate-General for European  
Civil Protection and Humanitarian  
Aid Operations (DG ECHO)  
Regional Office for East,  
South East Asia and Pacific Region

**Alexandra R uth**  
Head of department - knowledge  
and innovation, German Red Cross

**Marc Souvignier**  
Head of department - operations  
and National Society cooperation,  
German Red Cross

**Ana Marie Dizon**  
FOREWARN coordinator,  
CARE Philippines

**Raymond Zingg**  
Regional FbF coordinator,  
International Federation of Red  
Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
(IFRC) Asia-Pacific Regional Office

**Hon. Gov. Reynolds Michael Tan**  
Governor's Office – Samar,  
provincial government of Samar





**Alexandra R uth** explained how happy the German Red Cross was to see so many practitioners, government counterparts and partners at the dialogue platform. Meeting virtually allowed more people to participate and exchange knowledge, she noted.

“

New partnerships with local and national governments, but also with intergovernmental organizations such as ASEAN, are vital to move anticipatory action to the next level.

Alexandra R uth, head of department - knowledge and innovation, German Red Cross

”



Finally, **Marc Souvignier** reiterated a common theme: that Asia-Pacific is by far the most disaster-prone area in the world. Scaling up anticipatory action, forming new partnerships and integrating this approach into legislation and disaster risk-management processes are all critical next steps to move the institutionalization process forward: “That [way], we can expand the reach of anticipatory action to as many vulnerable communities as possible. That must be the goal.”

Mongolian RC video on Dzud EAP activation 2021

CERF AA Pilots in Nepal and the Philippines

Get to know the Anticipation Hub!

Last Mile Climate Services

Good Practices on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Risk Mitigation in Anticipatory Action App

Myanmar Red Cross Society FbA Journey

## Parallel sessions #1

### Myanmar Red Cross Society's forecast-based action journey

**Htet Htet Myo** shared some significant milestones for the Myanmar Red Cross Society over the past three years. These include scaling up its information and knowledge on weather patterns and environmental change. Now, the team uses forecasts for environmental requirements as well as technical ones. With this information, they can support and coordinate activities from community to national levels.

### Good practices on gender-based violence risk mitigation in anticipatory approaches

**Pamela Marie Godoy** explained the importance of incorporating gender-based violence risk mitigation into anticipation action interventions: "Gender-based violence is a pervasive human rights violence around the world, with one in three women being affected in their lifetime. This becomes further exacerbated during climate emergencies." **Catherine Jones** then presented the ways in which the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have incorporated mitigation practices into their anticipatory action interventions in the Philippines. These were incorporated into several programme phases, from vulnerability assessment mapping to forecast-based cash distribution.

The speakers also shared relevant resources such as the 'Guidelines for integrating gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian action' <https://gbvguidelines.org/en> and 'How to support survivors of gender-based violence when a GBV actor is not available in your area' <https://gbvguidelines.org/en/pocketguide>.



#### Speakers:

##### **Htet Htet Myo**

Cash and voucher assistance coordinator, Myanmar Red Cross Society

##### **Moe Thida Win**

Deputy director - Disaster Management Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society



#### Speakers:

##### **Pamela Marie Godoy**

Regional emergency gender-based violence coordination specialist - Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

##### **Catherine Jones**

Anticipatory action lead - Asia and the Pacific, FAO

## Last-mile climate services

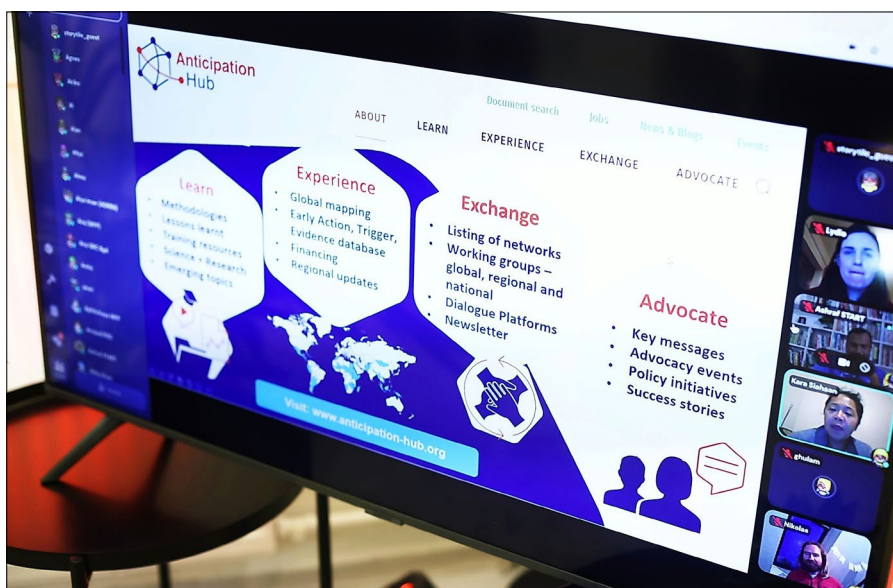
Unlike forecasting, a climate service is the provision of information with the clear purpose of helping organizations and individuals to make decisions. But, as **Katiuscia Fara** explained, information on its own is not enough; it must be produced, translated and transferred for use to those who need it the most. And even when weather and climate information exists at the national level, it is often not readily available to, or understandable by, vulnerable communities.

In several countries, WFP and its partners are working to provide timely, accessible and understandable information that enables communities to be better prepared to manage and mitigate the impacts of different hazards. Key steps in designing a climate service initiative include: (1) scoping; (2) understanding existing needs and capacities; and (3) designing the intervention.

She concluded that we can only get services right when they are done with very strong engagement, and by responding to people's needs as a participatory process: "Information by itself is not going to solve everything. If people cannot act on it... the information cannot be transformational."

## Get to know the Anticipation Hub!

The presenters took participants on a journey through the Anticipation Hub - the "one-stop shop for all things anticipation". This is a space for learning and engagement that brings together scientists, policy-makers and practitioners from across the field of anticipatory action. Launched in 2020, it now boasts over 80 partners from 33 countries, including Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies and United Nations (UN) agencies.



Speaker:

**Katiuscia Fara**

Senior climate and DRR advisor,  
WFP



Speakers:

**Lydia Cumiskey**

Partnerships and policy consultant,  
Anticipation Hub

**Dr Nikolas Scherer**

Policy and advocacy advisor,  
Anticipation Hub

**Kara Siahaan**

Head, Anticipation Hub



The Anticipation Hub is all about jointly learning, innovating and scaling up anticipatory action.

Kara Siahaan, head, Anticipation Hub



Resources available on the Anticipation Hub include a global map of anticipatory action initiatives, and the early action database for peer-to-peer learning to develop early actions. Elsewhere on the platform, working groups facilitate discussions on emerging topics and develop advocacy messages to promote anticipatory action policy.

More partners are getting involved, coming together with one mission: to do more, do it better and do it together. As **Dr Nikolas Scherer** explained: “We want to bring years of experience and knowledge on anticipatory action together across agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).”

## Mongolian Red Cross Society video on the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for dzud activation, 2021

Due to climate change, weather patterns and the severity of disasters are increasingly dangerous for livestock and herders in Mongolia. **B. Enkhbaatar** described the severe winter they faced in 2021, with temperatures reaching as low as -50 degrees Celsius. He explained how, together with the IFRC, the Mongolian Red Cross Society supported 50 herder households in four provinces by providing animal care kits as a forecast-based action: “With such harsh winters, the timely support for our animals from the Mongolian Red Cross Society is critical.”

Participants also heard a member of a herder household describe the challenges of *dzud* winters. Even with little snow, the scarce vegetation makes it difficult for people to feed their animals, but early interventions make a difference: “The vitamins and minerals from the animal care kit I was given were really effective; [the kit] came right on time, when I needed it.”



### Speakers:

#### **B. Enkhbaatar**

Branch manager - Zavkhan,  
Mongolian Red Cross Society

#### **Nyamkhuu Chuluunkhuu**

Officer - Climate and Disaster  
Management Department,  
Mongolian Red Cross Society



## CERF anticipatory action pilots in Nepal and the Philippines

This session provided an overview of the Central Emergency Response Fund’s (CERF) anticipatory action pilot projects in Nepal and the Philippines, which focus on floods and cyclones, respectively. The CERF pilot in Nepal has funding of 6.7 million US dollars and targets 80,000 people in two river basins. The readiness trigger is set for seven days before a flood, based on the Global Flood Awareness System model, while the activation trigger is based on bulletins issued by the government of Nepal’s Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. Key activities include multi-purpose cash distributions and the distribution of hygiene kits, explained **Biplav Pradhan**.

In the Philippines, a probabilistic typhoon prediction model is used for a two-step trigger: first five days (the ‘readiness’ trigger) before a typhoon makes landfall, and then three days (the ‘activation’ trigger). There are five implementing UN partners - FAO, the International Organization for Migration, OCHA, UNFPA and WFP - which work with strategic partners, such as the Philippine Red Cross, the IFRC and the Start Network, to implement the pilot in 24 municipalities across eight provinces. **Manja Vidic** explained that, in total, the CERF aims to reach 270,500 people, with the majority of assistance to be disbursed as cash due to the short timelines involved.



**Speakers:**

**Biplav Pradhan**

Associate humanitarian affairs officer, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia-Pacific

**Manja Vidic**

Head of office, OCHA, Philippines

**OVERVIEW**

**CERF Implementing Partners**

- FAO
- IOM
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- WFP
- OCHA (Coordinator)

**Strategic partners**

- PRC/IFRC
- START NETWORK (INGOs)

**7.5 M USD**  
CERF Funding

**270.5 K**  
Target Beneficiaries

**Typhoon Category level (wind)**

- 1: 119 - 135 km/h
- 2: 136 - 155 km/h
- 3: 156 - 209 km/h
- 4: 209 - 251 km/h
- 5: > 252 km/h

**Typhoon: 118 - 220 km/h**

**Super Typhoon: > 220 km/h**

**Region 5**

**Region 8**

**4 Provinces**

**20 Municipalities**

**1.2 M People at Risk**

**4 Provinces**

**24 Municipalities**

**1 M People at Risk**

5 days before landfall

3 days before landfall



The pilot is nimble; we developed it within six months and will trigger [it] should a category 4 or 5 typhoon be predicted. The main challenge is the intensification, and that the typhoon can change track at the last moment.

Manja Vidic, head of office, OCHA Philippines



# Ignite: disease indicators for early warning systems

**Sanjay Srivastava** provided insights into his work for the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021*, explaining the relationship between disaster, climate and health, which helps in the development of early warning systems for biological hazards such as diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and dengue (during floods), parasitic and vector borne-diseases (cyclones), nutritional and vitamin deficiencies (drought), and cardiovascular, respiratory and skin-related diseases (heat/dust storms).

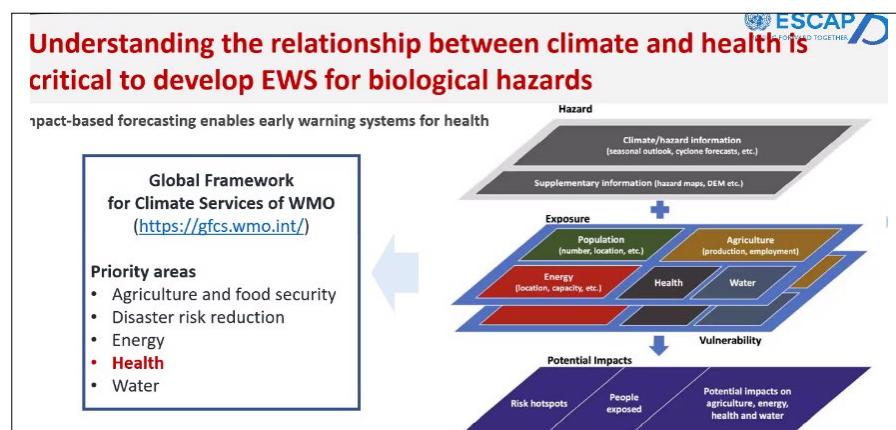
Seasonal forecasts are analysed using hazard-risk maps, the Vegetation Condition Index, water stress and other indicators to identify areas for attention. For example, with this approach it is possible to predict the seasonal impacts of dengue in Bangladesh, India and Nepal three months in advance. Similar methods can be used to predict malaria in the same countries.

He also highlighted the Asia Pacific Risk & Resilience Portal <https://rrp.unescap.org>, a platform to access hazard hotspots, adaptation costs and priorities, decision-support systems and much more to support decision-making.



**Speaker:**

**Sanjay Srivastava**  
Chief of DRR, ESCAP



Once you know the relationship between health and disaster indicators, it is relatively easy to map out the geographical hotspots where the intersection of disaster, health and climate meet.

Sanjay Srivastava, chief of DRR, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



# Parallel sessions #2

## Rethinking anticipatory action in the context of climate change

**Nicolas Bidault** opened by stating that, considering the increasing intensity of extreme events in the context of climate change, there is a need to rethink the design of anticipatory action to address both short- and long-term risks. Speakers from Nepal and Pakistan then shared their experiences of changing climate scenarios and their implications, and how to realign anticipatory action to be responsive and adaptive in nature.



### Speakers:

#### **Nicolas Bidault**

Regional head - research, assessment and monitoring, WFP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

#### **Adam Savelli**

Climate risks specialist, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

#### **Shama Maqbool**

Programme policy officer - livelihoods, recovery and resilience building, WFP Country Office Pakistan

#### **Nitesh Shrestha**

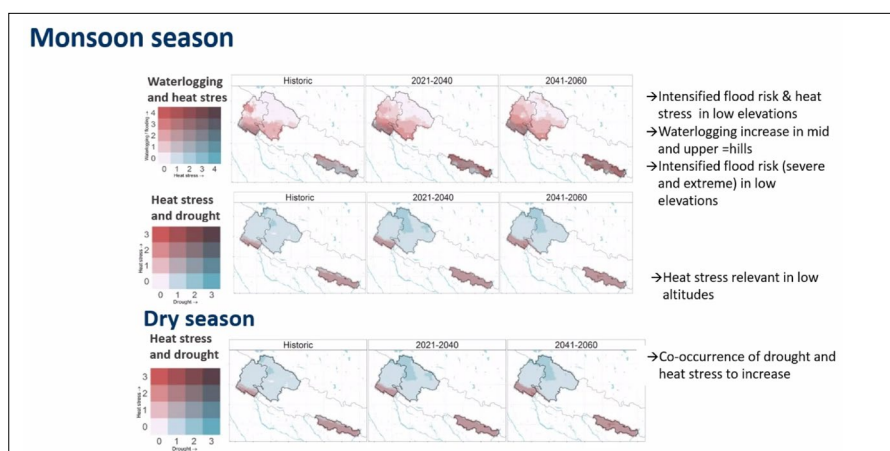
WFP Country Office Nepal

#### **Yasir Hayat**

WFP Pakistan

#### **Shama Maqbool**

WFP Pakistan



**Adam Savelli** emphasized the need for climate-response analysis to understand the different risks associated with climate change scenarios in different livelihood zones, in order to appropriate adaptive measures.

**Shama Maqbool** shared both short-term (e.g., cash-based transfers) and long-term solutions (e.g., sustainable asset creation, diversified livelihoods) for anticipatory action in Pakistan, and how these can contribute to long-term resilience building.

**Nitesh Shrestha** then gave programmatic recommendations for anticipatory adaptation responses - in terms of policy, institution, livelihood, landscape and supply chains - as a way forward for anticipatory action in Nepal.

“

It's very important for us in Pakistan to support longer-term resilience building of communities. The more we invest in [this], the less need for investing during humanitarian crises.

Shama Maqbool, programme policy officer - livelihoods, recovery and resilience building, WFP Country Office Pakistan

”

# Community engagement in anticipatory action – towards further resilience in Asia

In Asia, one of the world’s most disaster-prone regions, community engagement is an integral component towards effective anticipatory action. While scientific data on disasters are vital, local knowledge and community information are also important in the anticipatory action process. For example, the forecasting models used by international NGOs, such as Oxfam and the Start Network’s FOREWARN initiative, incorporate pertinent inputs from local leaders and communities. These provide the models with valuable indigenous knowledge, context and the lived experiences of those coping with disasters.



### Speakers:

#### Manu Gupta

Director, ADRRN; executive committee member, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society, India

#### Rhoda Avila

Humanitarian portfolio manager, Oxfam

#### Ashrafal Haque

FOREWARN coordinator - Bangladesh, Start Network

#### Anila Ajmal

FOREWARN coordinator - Pakistan, Start Network

#### Mayfourth Luneta

Deputy executive director, Center for Disaster Preparedness

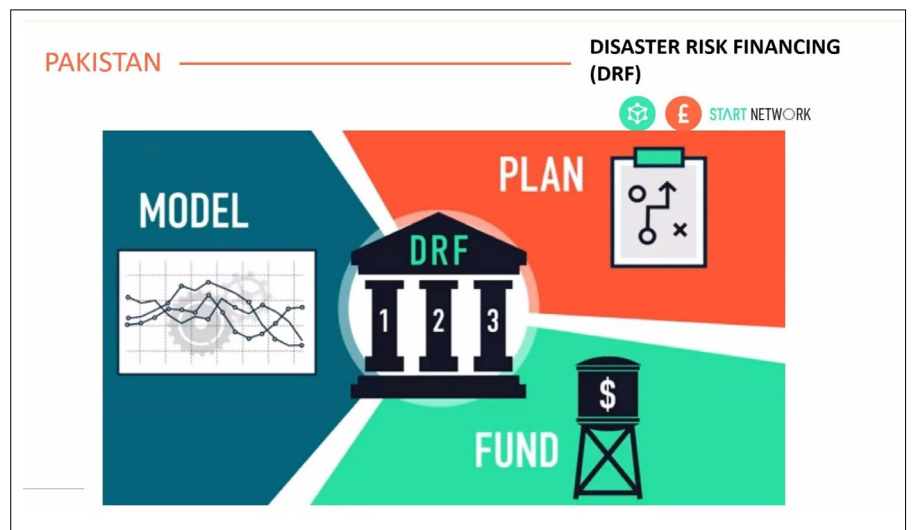
**Lessons gained from our AA programming highlighted the critical role of community engagement and local leadership**

- in the identification of priority risks
- analysis of hazards, shocks and stresses that affects vulnerable households
- identification of hazard triggers and lead time of hazard events
- Baseline analysis of coping mechanisms
- protection needs before, during and after impact of hazard

Strengthening Urban Preparedness through Scaling up of Pre-emptive Action and Emergency Response in the cities of Cotabato and Kidapawan

OXFAM | European Commission | United Nations | OCHA | UNICEF | UN Women | UNDP | UNEP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNWFP | UN Women | UN Women | UN Women

Past work on landslides, floods and typhoons in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the Philippines exemplifies the importance of multi-sectoral, multi-faceted cooperation between local communities and leaders, governmental agencies and NGOs. This ensures the validation of scientific information and puts people at the forefront of efforts to build resilient communities. It also results in greater inclusion, the proper identification of risks and hazards, and appropriate contingency





planning - all of which help to align efforts with communities' needs and realities, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Aside from capacity building and inclusion, engaging diverse communities in anticipatory action planning ensures that traditional and cultural sensitivities are addressed. An often-overlooked factor in effective anticipatory action is the need to build trust and rapport with communities who have lived through disasters. Again, putting people at the centre of the process builds more confident communities and ensures long-lasting, sustainable and effective results.

“

When the communities and local government take an active role in all aspects of anticipatory action, the community takes ownership of the analysis and resulting early action plan. Their involvement allows us to revisit our assumptions, deepen our analysis of risks and identify joint solutions.

Rhoda Avila, humanitarian portfolio manager, Oxfam

”

## Philippines flood early action simulation

**Ruth Georget** described how FAO strengthens the links between anticipatory action and adaptive social protection, which is key to supporting individuals to escape poverty and build resilient livelihoods. She shared some of the lessons learned from a recent joint simulation exercise. For example, data-sharing agreements require time and advanced preparation; data needs to be protected and combined from several sources; and additional validation processes should involve community groups.

**Lorenzo L. Alvina** shared activities from the Bicol Region in the Philippines, where highly vulnerable communities face hazards such as typhoons, floods, drought and volcanic eruptions: “These natural occurrences frequently lead to severe damage to property and infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods in agriculture; about 40 per cent of Bicol Region’s rice areas are affected by flooding, drought and saline intrusion.”



### Speakers:

**Ruth Georget**  
National social protection specialist, FAO

**Lorenzo L. Alvina**  
Provincial Department of Agriculture Office, Camarines Sur, Philippines

**Crisostomo Rivero**  
Environment, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Emergency Response Office, Camarines Sur, Philippines

**Elena Suero Caldevilla**  
FbF delegate, Philippines, German Red Cross

## Background



- Highly vulnerable to typhoons, floods, drought and volcanic eruptions.
- These natural occurrences frequently lead to severe damage of properties, infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods in agriculture.
- Forty percent of Bicol Region's rice area is affected by flooding, drought and saline intrusion.



Protocols have been established to support early action programmes in the Bicol Region, and these will be further developed. For example, work is under way on early actions for agriculture, such as the early harvesting of fish. Challenges encountered include the selection of beneficiaries, accessibility to sites, and intermittent coverage for mobile signals, which could make it difficult to validate the receipt of cash.

## Bangladesh EAP impact evaluation

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society activated its EAP for Floods and EAP for Cyclones in 2020. Afterwards, it carried out an extensive impact evaluation, which looked at the effectiveness and appropriateness of the early actions implemented ahead of the monsoon floods and Cyclone Amphan. This session reflected on these evaluations and those undertaken by the Supporting Flood Forecast-based Action and Learning (SUFAL) consortium and WFP Bangladesh.

Overall, the results were similar: people supported by FbF and forecast-based actions were in a better position, in terms of livelihoods and shelter, than comparison groups. For example, all three evaluations found that the number of people taking out loans to cope with the impacts of floods were far lower than in the comparison groups. As **Clemens Gros** explained: “Fewer FbF beneficiaries (44 per cent) said they had to borrow money to cope with the impacts of floods, [compared to] the comparison group (56 per cent).” WFP also reported that 99 per cent of households ranked cash-based interventions as ‘very useful’ or higher in interviews.

The impacts on other sectors were more varied across the evaluations, however. WFP identified a higher level of food security in their supported group, while the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reported no effect.



### Speakers:

#### **Clemens Gros**

Consulting technical advisor,  
Red Cross Red Crescent  
Climate Centre

#### **Sumaiya Kabir**

SUFAL consortium coordinator,  
CARE Bangladesh

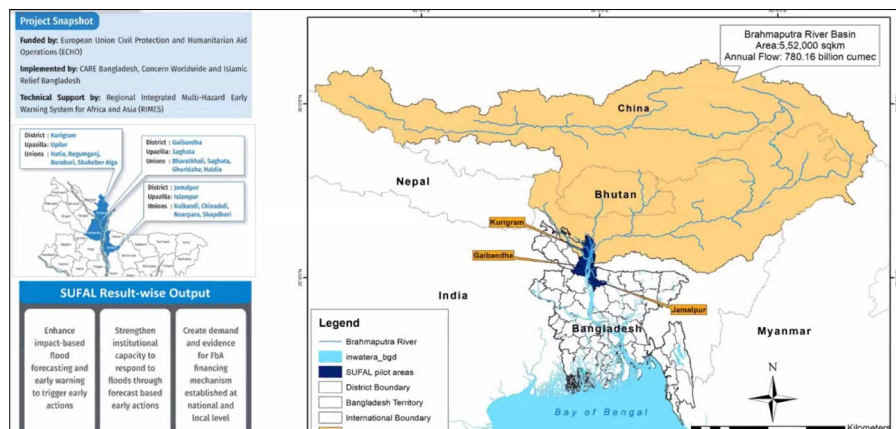
#### **Mohammad Shahjahan**

Assistant director and project  
coordinator - FbF project,  
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

#### **Niger Dilnaha**

WFP Bangladesh

Other lessons learned from the SUFAL project included the need to: harmonize standard operating procedures with EAPs; dedicate funds for FbF; establish longer lead times for preparatory actions; and increase support for the most vulnerable people by linking FbF and early actions to social safety nets.



“

The SUFAL project focuses on local-level capacity building, primarily [with] the local disaster management authorities... with relatively little funding, we were able to reach over 100,000 individuals across three of the most flood-affected districts.

Sumaiya Kabir, SUFAL consortium coordinator, CARE Bangladesh

”

More information about the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society evaluation report on floods can be found on the Anticipation Hub

[https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Evaluations/Quantitative\\_Impact\\_Assessment\\_-\\_BGD\\_Flood\\_EAP\\_BDRCS\\_-\\_DESIGN\\_ed.pdf](https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Evaluations/Quantitative_Impact_Assessment_-_BGD_Flood_EAP_BDRCS_-_DESIGN_ed.pdf)

along with the report on cyclones

[https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Evaluations/Summary\\_Report\\_EAP\\_CYCLONE.pdf](https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Evaluations/Summary_Report_EAP_CYCLONE.pdf)

# Introduction to anticipatory action for beginners

To conclude the first day of the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform, **Madhab Uprety** gave an overview of what anticipatory action is all about. Many humanitarian actions can be implemented in the window between a forecast and a disaster, and the triggers used for anticipatory action are informed by scientific models of forecast impacts. He also outlined some of the advantages. For example, acting early is faster and cheaper, and can reduce losses and suffering before they occur, as well as protecting development gains. Finally, he elaborated on the development of standard operating procedures and EAPs, which require a nine-step implementation process.

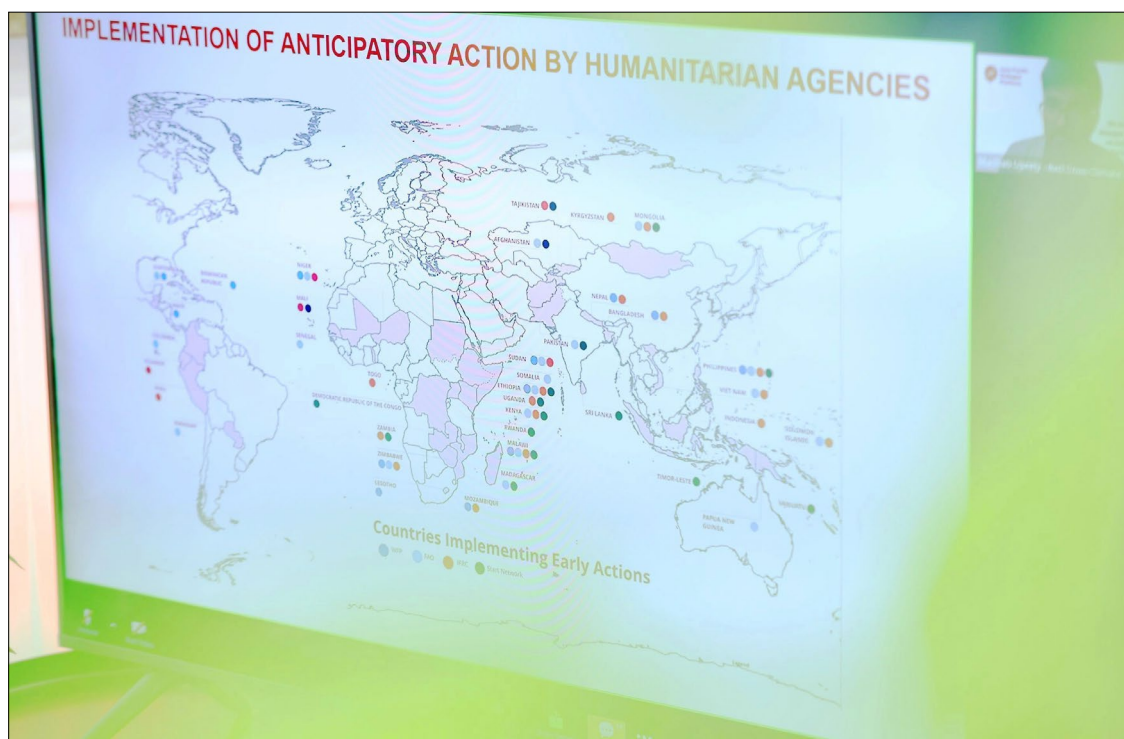
Highlights from day 1 of the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform can be found on the Anticipation Hub's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga0sh0q209Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga0sh0q209Y)



**Speaker:**

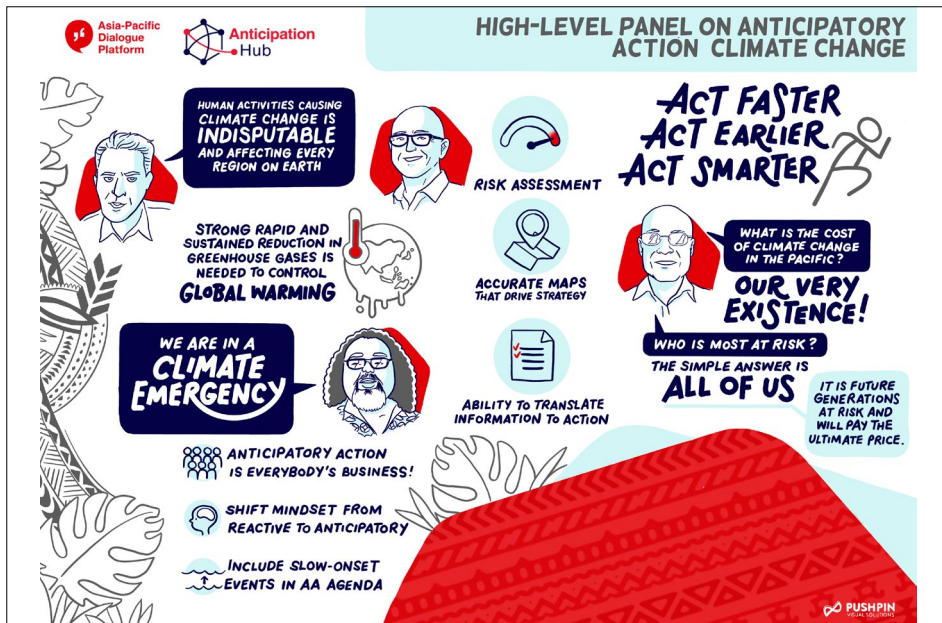
**Madhab Uprety**

Asia-Pacific regional lead/technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform  
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY  
TWO



## High-level panel on anticipatory action and climate change

Day 2 began with a high-level panel on two focus areas for the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform: anticipatory action and climate change. The panellists considered current climate predictions for the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the ways in which anticipatory action can tackle the escalating climate crisis in a timely, effective and cost-efficient manner - while meeting the region's increasing needs.

**Donna Lagdameo** began by highlighting that the climate crisis means we need to act smarter, act faster, more efficiently, and with all hands on deck. Central to the upcoming 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) was finding ways to support countries and communities in understanding risks and developing tangible actions.

“

The science is clear; there is no turning back and we will need to change how we use the science, especially in the short term, to help us humanitarians.

Donna Lagdameo, programme management officer, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

”



### Speakers:

**Donna Lagdameo**  
Programme management officer,  
UNDRR

**Michael Grose**  
Research scientist, Commonwealth  
Scientific and Industrial Research  
Organisation (CSIRO);  
IPCC report author

**Ben Churchill**  
Head, Regional Office for Asia and  
the South-West Pacific, World  
Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**Karlos Moresi**  
Programme advisor - resilient  
development finance, Pacific  
Islands Forum, Fiji

**Tagaloa Cooper-Halo**  
Director of climate change,  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme, Samoa

**Dr Viliamu Iese**  
Senior lecturer in DRM, University  
of the South Pacific, Fiji

**5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform**  
ON ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## High-level Panel on Anticipatory Action & Climate Change

**Wednesday, 20 October 2021 / 10:05 – 10:55 Bangkok / 05:05 – 05:55 CEST**

As the climate crisis deepens, we need to act faster, act earlier, and act smarter. This high-level panel will explore the current climate predictions for the Asia-Pacific region and highlight how anticipatory action can meet some of the challenges of our changing environment.

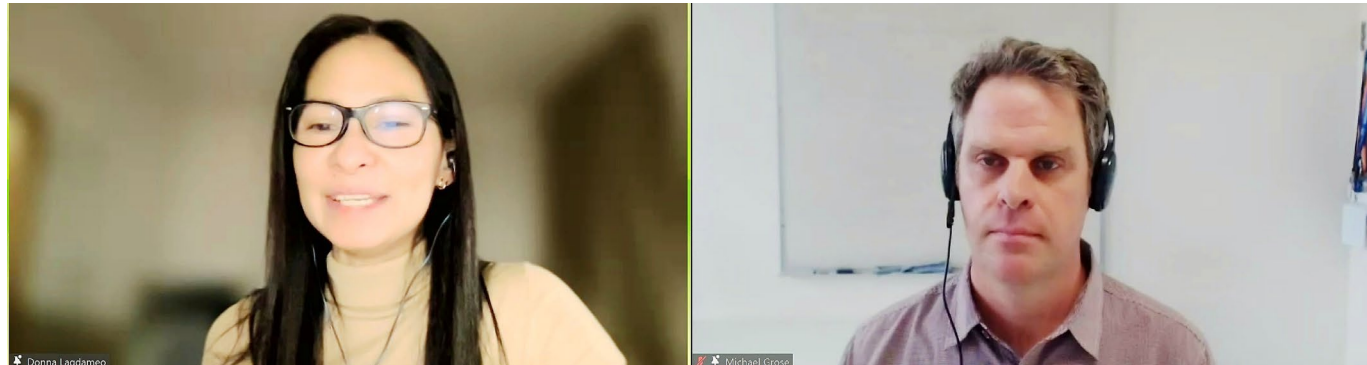
**Speakers**  
**Michael Gros**, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Research Scientist and author of the IPCC report, Australia  
**Ben Churchill**, World Meteorological Organization, Head, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific  
**Karlos Moresi**, The Pacific Islands Forum, Programme Advisor, Resilient Development Finance, Fiji  
**Tagaloa Cooper-Halo**, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Director of Climate Change, Samoa  
**Dr. Vilamu Iese**, University of the South Pacific, Senior Lecture for Disaster Risk Management, Fiji  
**Donna Lagdameo**, UNDRR, Programme Management Officer

**Registration**  
 For registration visit:  
<https://events.anticipation-hub.org/asia-pacific-dialogue-platform-2021/>

**Michael Grose** explained that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) *Sixth Assessment Report* was compiled by over 1,400 technical writers, giving researchers the opportunity not only to assess the science, but also to provide data for decision-makers going to the COP26 negotiations. Many of the report’s conclusions were now more confident, he noted, especially regarding “the indisputable impact of human activities on the climate system, which has caused an unprecedented warming worldwide”.

“Increasing heat and sea rise predictions are now very confident, as are river and fluvial floods, reduction in snow and ice, and increases in marine heat waves affecting coastal and marine ecosystems. The impacts of tropical cyclones are likely to increase in time due to, for instance, the faster arrival on land resulting from higher sea levels, as well as a general increase in their frequency.

Michael Grose, research scientist, CSIRO; IPCC report author



**Ben Churchill** highlighted the socio-economic impacts associated with climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. Four key aspects on which the WMO focuses are: (1) the importance of risk assessments using integrated global and regional datasets; (2) the need for impact-based forecasting (IBF) to support governments to make informed decisions; (3) risk and impact information must be translated into action; and (4) a strong focus on capacity building for local organizations and communities, which WMO is supporting.



“  
Our planet is at a critical point in its history;  
climate-related impacts are becoming more grave.  
Collaboration has never been more important.”

Ben Churchill, head, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, WMO

**Karlos Moresi** provided a regional snapshot of the impacts of climate change, explaining its many layers: the loss of lives, livelihoods, cultural identity, land and traditional knowledge. He mentioned the huge costs of disaster response and recovery, and of development setbacks: during 2010-20, over 2.2 billion US dollars flowed to the Pacific region in the form of climate finance, more than any other flow of development aid. He urged us to not fixate on numbers, though, but rather to understand the complex and multi-layered impacts of climate change: “I could recount the millions that have already been spent, and the millions or billions more that are needed to fully adapt to climate change, but... the cost of climate change to the Pacific, and for all of us, is our own existence.”

“  
Who is most at risk? Of course, we should be  
mindful of the most vulnerable, but the simple  
answer is that it is all of us. Humanity is at risk. It is  
our future generations that are at risk and will pay  
the ultimate price if we do not act now.”

Karlos Moresi, programme advisor - resilient development finance, Pacific Islands Forum, Fiji





The slow creep effect of climate change is best understood through its human impact. As one example, he demonstrated what could happen on a larger scale if climate change goes unaddressed: the financial, emotional and cultural costs to communities forced to relocate. The nuanced and interconnected nature of the world can help us understand these costs, and he urged participants to act now for the sake of humanity.

**Dr Viliamu Iese** pointed out some of the challenges posed by the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards, and the specific risks for Pacific islands: “Communities have been experiencing disasters for a long time, and we are already feeling a lot of losses and damages from climate change. Therefore, we must be quick in accelerating actions to match the urgency of the emergencies.”

Anticipatory action offers support here, because it enhances the capacity to plan, prepare and act: “We need to find the place of anticipatory action in the decision-making process, from the household level to the national level.” One challenge is how to change people’s mindsets, from reactionary and dependent to anticipatory.

Donna Lagdameo concluded by highlighting the need for foresight: to build systems in a more comprehensive manner, in order to address the risks of tomorrow: “This is a process that starts with the capacity to assess, to plan and to act. Science is more certain and understandable than ever before, as is forecasting, so it must be used for planning and actions, and to scale up anticipatory action.”

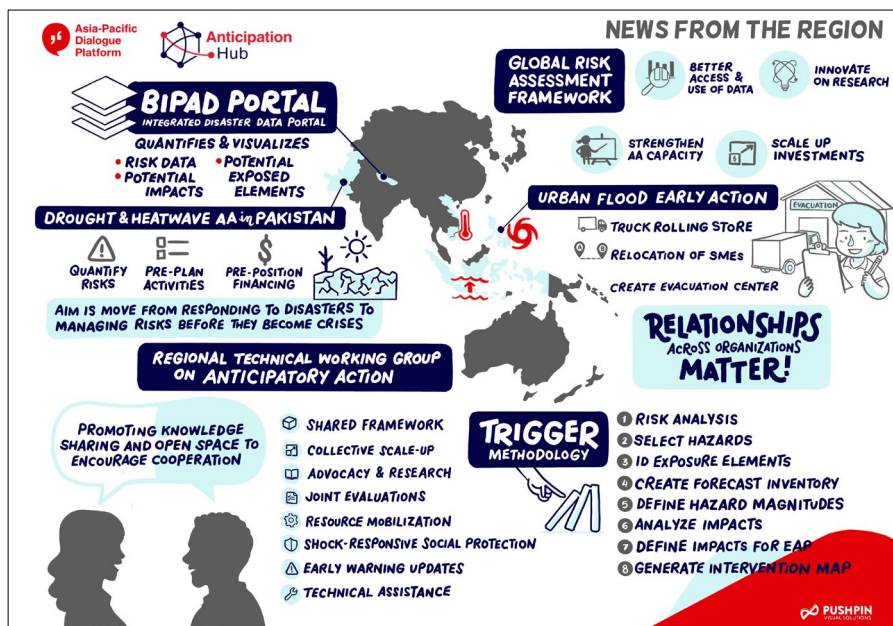
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**Anticipatory action requires resources, including the right technology and traditional knowledge, to provide the information required to anticipate, prepare and address risks. We need to have the capacity to prepare and act.**

Dr Viliamu Iese, senior lecturer in DRM,  
University of the South Pacific, Fiji

”

# Parallel sessions #3



## Developing an IBF dashboard within government’s risk information management system in Nepal

**Reena Bajracharya** presented the Building Information Platform Against Disaster (BIPAD) portal and the IBF dashboard for early action. The portal, developed by the government of Nepal and owned by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Authority, shows real-time monitoring data on flood gauges and flood-risk information. However, the current version does not provide information on anticipated impacts.

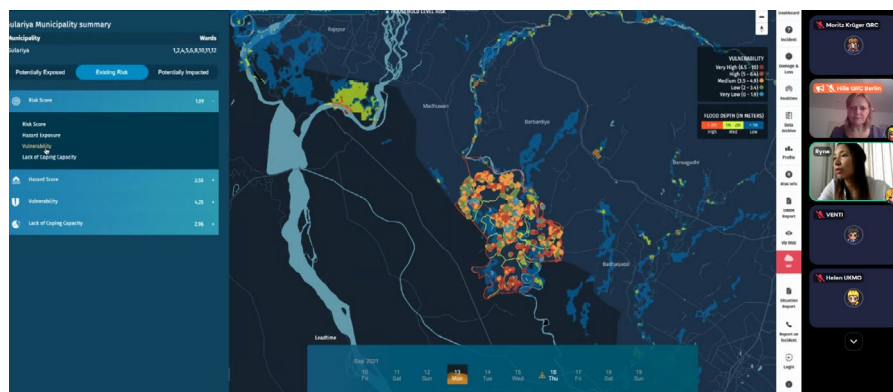
To fill this gap, an IBF dashboard for early action was developed. This quantifies and visualizes the potential impacts of forecast flood events. As she explained: “The IBF dashboard for early action allows you to monitor forecast river-water levels, as well as the associated, potentially exposed, elements and existing risks per municipality. Additional data is available on potential impacts depending on flood depth.”



**Speakers:**

**Reena Bajracharya**  
Youth Innovation Lab, Nepal

**Pradip Khatiwada**  
Youth Innovation Lab, Nepal



## Regional technical working group: tools and mechanisms

**Catherine Jones** and **Raymond Zingg** took participants on a tour of the regional technical working group on anticipatory action. Born out of a rapidly increasing interest in supporting country offices with anticipatory action, the technical working group aims to address gaps in coordination and knowledge by creating a space to facilitate knowledge sharing and the development of technical tools, training materials and advocacy messages relevant to the Asia-Pacific region.

They highlighted its various activities, including a drive to promote consensus and clarity on a shared framework, and efforts to improve coordination and scale up anticipatory action in the region. The group meets once a month and is eager to partner with more organizations working on anticipation across the region.



### Speakers:

#### **Catherine Jones**

Anticipatory action lead - Asia and the Pacific, FAO

#### **Raymond Zingg**

Regional FbF coordinator, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office



“

As anticipatory action has picked up speed and momentum, so has the need to ensure that we are coordinating, we are communicating, and we are collaborating. We try to keep the key ethos of the Anticipation Hub in mind, to make sure that we are working together, streamlining together, so we can grow together.

Catherine Jones, anticipatory action lead - Asia and the Pacific, FAO

”

## GRAF: risk information as linkage between humanitarian action and DRR

**Marcus Elten** shared some of the challenges for DRR - and how the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) aims to address these: “When engaging with stakeholders, we identified challenges such as a lack of dynamic hazard data; limited government capacity to manage data; slow-onset hazards and systematic risks; granularity of seasonal forecasts; automatism in anticipatory action mechanisms; and the nexus between development actors investing in risk-data systems and humanitarian anticipatory action actors.”





### Speaker:

#### **Marcus Elten**

Programme management officer, UNDRR GRAF

**GRAF Focus & Objectives**

- help partners access and better apply risk data and analytics, including hazard, vulnerability and exposure analytics relating to complex climate futures
- deploy innovative approaches to understanding risk across thematic areas, enhancing analysis of cascading and systemic risks, and contributing to enhanced prevention and anticipatory action
- strengthen the capacity of national and sub-national partners to integrate risk information and complex climate futures into their decision-making, investment and development planning
- scale-up and incentivize investment in risk reduction through outreach, advocacy and partnerships for collective action.






**GRAF Pillar 1: Strengthening data collation, access, analysis & visualization**

**Objective 1:**  
*Increased access to hazard, vulnerability, exposure and climate data and analysis.*

**Help countries better access and use existing data**

- Aggregating & making data more accessible (e.g., SPC in Fiji)
- Ensuring access to models/ existing analytics
- Linking climate change projections to vulnerability & exposure data
- Combining currently siloed data sets
- Encouraging data standardization
- Key product is an improved country risk profile and *National Risk Information Portal (NRIP)* to inform development & humanitarian programming

Currently implemented in Bangladesh, Fiji, Somalia and Sudan, the GRAF is supporting countries: (1) to better access and use risk information; (2) to help decision-makers at national and sub-national levels to address gaps in risk knowledge; (3) to support actors to strengthen their understanding to effectively manage risk; and (4) for advocacy, financing and partnerships for systematic risk reduction.

## Analysis of trigger methodologies and use cases in ASEAN

**Carlyne Yu** presented a breakdown of the trigger methodologies used by IFRC, with specific case studies including triggers for floods in Indonesia, typhoons in the Philippines, and heat waves in Viet Nam. Triggers are highly contextual and complex, considering not only the magnitude of a hazard but also the track of an event. She shared research insights that indicate there is room for further development in forecasts, especially where they are not suitable in terms of spatial resolution, lead time and skill. She concluded by proposing a regional trigger repository – and that everyone should contribute to it.



**Speaker:**

**Carlyne Yu**

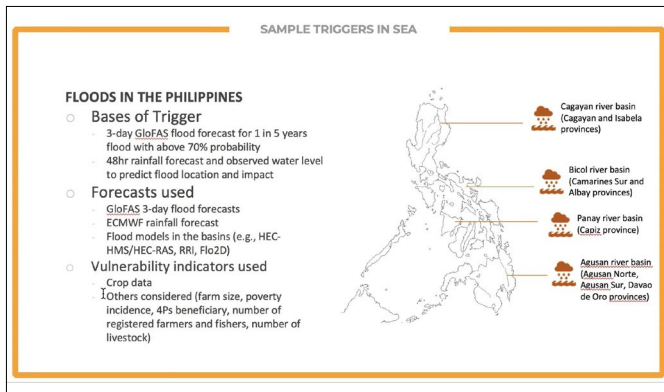
Climate risk management specialist, RIMES

“

We see generally that forecasts for different timescales are available, from daily to monthly forecasts, but there are many areas with hydrological and flood hazards where forecasts are needed but not available. Where a forecast is available, it might not be compatible with the resolution needed for action.

Carlyne Yu, climate risk management specialist, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

”



TRIGGERS & GOVERNMENT DANGER LEVELS			
Country	Weather	Climate	Water
Cambodia	Heat wave: temperature indicator	Drought: SPI	Water level and flood forecasts up to 3 days in select rivers and locations of Mekong, Pursat basins
Indonesia		Drought: SPI	Monthly and 3-month flood potential maps based on rainfall
Lao PDR	Tropical cyclone: 3-day forecast	Drought: EDI	Water level and flood forecasts up to 3 days in Mekong, Sebangfai, Sebanghieng river basins
Myanmar	Cyclone: 3-day forecast	Drought monitoring	Water level and flood forecasts up to 3 days in Ayeyarwady, Sittong River and Chindwin rivers
Philippines	Storms: 72hr lead time with about 70% probability	Drought monitoring	Water level and flood forecasts in select rivers basins (e.g., Pasig-Marikina, Binga-Ambuklao-San Roque)
Thailand		Drought monitoring	Water level and flood forecasts up to 3 days
Vietnam	Storms: up to 5-day forecast		Water level and flood forecasts up to 5 days in major rivers basins

## Forecast-based heat waves and drought anticipatory response activations under a disaster risk-financing programme in Pakistan

The vulnerability of a population has to be considered in heat response models, stated **Sumera Javed**. For example, in certain regions of Pakistan, 60 per cent of the population are vulnerable to heat waves: “There is a need to use local knowledge by monitoring the seasons to be more precise in the heat wave response.”



**Speakers:**

**Sumera Javed**

Executive manager, Health and Nutrition Development Society, Pakistan

**Anila Ajmal**

FOREWARN coordinator, Pakistan

## Bolstering Butuan’s small and medium enterprises: urban livelihood early actions in the Philippines

**Arielle Tozier de la Poterie** and **Elena Suero Caldevilla** described a simulation exercise for early action for urban floods - the temporary relocation of vulnerable businesses in Butuan, Philippines - and the lessons learned. With a four-day lead time, pre-selected low-income and vulnerable traders, especially those selling essential commodities, were moved with their goods to evacuation centres. This was done with the help of hired workers and volunteers, who packed the goods and loaded them onto trucks, known as 'rolling stores'.



**Speakers:**

**Arielle Tozier de la Poterie**

Global advisor - early action and research, German Red Cross

**Elena Suero Caldevilla**

FbF delegate, Philippines, German Red Cross

This early action not only protects assets by allowing businesses to operate during the flood, but also makes the goods more accessible to other flood-affected residents at the evacuation centres, and at reasonable prices.



We have many lessons learned... such as to start with the more engaged communities, validate beneficiary lists regularly, and how important it is to repeat training with volunteers and the community.

Arielle Tozier de la Poterie, global advisor - early action and research, German Red Cross





# Ignite sessions

**Damien Riquet** started this session by describing a new three-year FAO regional project funded by DG ECHO: the Pilot Programmatic Partnership, which covers Bangladesh, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Pakistan, the Philippines and Viet Nam. These five countries all have different contexts: two have substantial experience in anticipatory action (Bangladesh, Philippines), while Lao People’s Democratic Republic only recently started its journey in anticipatory action.

The project’s early results included the importance of: (1) establishing anticipatory action protocols to be tested and documented; (2) exploring how social protection systems can be adapted to anticipate crises; (3) enhancing the FAO-ECHO partnership so that multi-risk anticipatory actions are implemented; and (4) gathering evidence, learning and advocacy on the effectiveness of anticipating crises.



### Speakers:

**Damien Riquet**  
Regional anticipatory action specialist, FAO

**Andrea Rossi**  
Regional advisor for social policy and economic analysis, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)

**Ashraful Haque**  
FOREWARN coordinator - Bangladesh, Start Network

**Aphitchaya Nguanbanchong (Pom)**  
Programme policy - social protection, WFP Regional Office Bangkok

### From “Buckets” to “Pipes” enhancing the sustainability of Soc.Prot. response

- We need to link the lesson learned with shocks, disasters, hazards and crisis into the development of social protection financing system
- Humanitarian action and financing very important, but funding usually runs alongside government systems
- A national risk financing strategy can enable governments to protect households and livelihoods, especially children, from shocks and disasters

Analytical Framework – UNICEF Regional landscape analysis on Risk Financing for Shock Responsive Social Protection in South East Asia

Source: Authors, adapted from P. Ris, 2020

The Covid-19 emergency challenged the hidden assumptions about government social protection in emergency response, with regard to speed, size and financing. To connect the dots, **Andrea Rossi** argued that anticipatory action actors need to link the lessons learned from shocks, disasters and crises with the development of social protection financing systems. Humanitarian action and financing are very important, but funding usually runs alongside government systems, which can be challenging because of bureaucratic delays. By contrast, a national risk-financing strategy can enable governments to protect households and livelihoods, especially children, from shocks and disasters - if it is well coordinated.

UNICEF has developed a layered approach to the development of risk-financing tools, one that highlights key enablers such as risk analytics and disaster risk-financing strategies. On the financing side, it is critical to split financial instruments between risk retention and risk transfer, and between pre-arranged and rapidly available funding - while ensuring short- and longer-term fiscal sustainability. UNICEF is now calling for peer reviewers to scale up analysis of the regional landscape for disaster risk financing for shock-responsive social protection in South-East Asia.

“

Through the Pilot Programmatic Partnership, we will ensure that methods are standardized when it comes to developing anticipatory action protocols and harmonizing the trigger methodologies, and that evidence is generated and that we are linking with the other actors in the respective countries.

Damien Riquet, regional anticipatory action specialist, FAO

”

“

Taking shock-responsive social protection to scale means channelling existing resources towards existing public delivery systems.

Andrea Rossi, regional advisor for social policy and economic analysis, UNICEF

”

# Parallel sessions #4

## Urban FbF for heat waves – lessons from the megacity of Dhaka, Bangladesh

In 2021, the Asia-Pacific region had its hottest summer on record. By 2050, up to 700 million people could be exposed to extreme heat, with cities being at the epicentre of heat-related health risks. This session kick-started with **Mohammad Shahjahan** sharing the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society’s work on heat waves, such as the heat wave simulation in 2021. Heat waves have negative impacts not only on crops, but also on human health. For example, rickshaw pullers are at risk of dying from heat stroke. The early actions tested in a simulation exercise included awareness raising about the risks through the distribution of leaflets, and multi-purpose cash distributions to avoid income losses due to reduced working hours. The evaluation showed that people spent this money on food and household items, but also on cooling equipment such as fans.

**Dr Abdul Mannan** shared insights on the trigger-development process and stressed that forecasting heat waves - particularly the ‘heat island’ effect - is a challenge, despite having used time-series data ranging from 1950-2020. He elaborated on the importance of science, technology and management in the process of developing an EAP: “Forecasting is a very challenging job for the meteorological community, [one] that includes rigour analysis. There needs to be more community awareness and stronger partnerships between meteorological departments and the humanitarian sector.”

The session concluded with further insights from **Md. Towhid Kasem Eram**, who explained the importance of including the community and volunteers in the process. Without community awareness and adequate training for volunteers, projects and efforts like developing an EAP for Heat Waves in Dhaka cannot be achieved.



### Speakers:

#### Mohammad Shahjahan

Assistant director and FbF project coordinator, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

#### Dr Abdul Mannan

Bangladesh Meteorological Department

#### Md. Towhid Kasem Eram

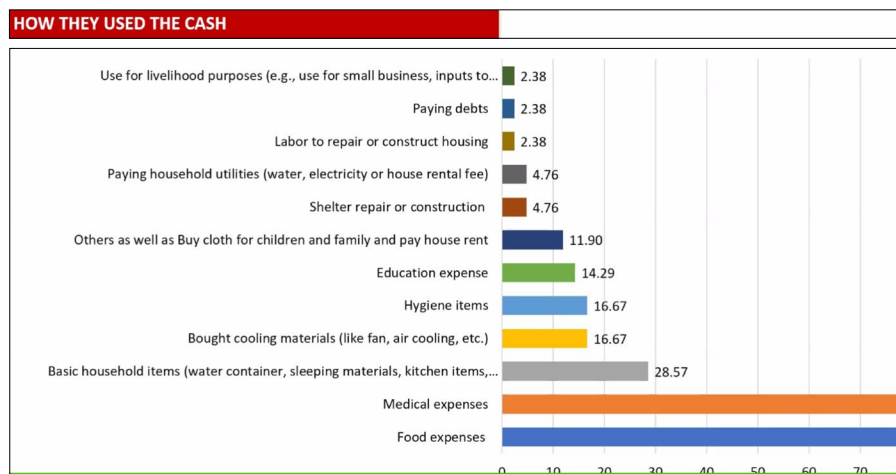
Senior Red Crescent Youth, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

#### Dr Ahmadul Hassan

FbF technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Dr Hanifi

Scientist (population science), facilitator and acting head, Initiative for Climate Change and Environment, Health Systems and Population Studies Division





## Applying anticipatory action in conflict contexts

The anticipatory action approach has largely been developed to prevent or mitigate the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards during peace times, but there is a clear need to explore the value of anticipatory action approaches in conflict settings. In this session, four conflict experts debated different aspects of this topic - starting with the theory behind it.

**Catalina Jaime** provided an overview of how anticipatory action can work in conflict contexts, and the challenges it presents. She highlighted the importance of increasing investment in these areas due to the high number of people at risk. Next, **Sally James** stated the importance of bringing a displacement and migration angle to this work, and provided clear steps on ways to achieve this: “We have almost 10 million people who are forcibly displaced in the [Asia Pacific] region. We really need to be able to take this into account when we’re working in anticipatory action. We know that large-scale displacement – particularly as a result of conflict – is a huge driver of food crises, a huge disrupter of food systems, and it devastates agricultural livelihoods. This is both for those who are forced to migrate, but also for those who are left beyond.”



Artist: Peter Kuper

The second part showcased country-specific lessons and experiences. **Fahad Abbasi** argued for the importance of conflict-sensitive programming, particularly in South-East Asia. Finally, **Kaustubh Devale** highlighted how, in 2020, FAO implemented anticipatory actions ahead of drought induced by La Niña. He warned that recent events, alongside a

new prediction of La Niña for the end of 2021 and into 2022, could compound existing vulnerabilities: “We are staring at another La Nina that will hit Afghanistan, translating into the second back-to-back drought [and] a third drought in four to five years. We know this, and we know that conflict is going to perhaps intensify in a different way at a certain granularity across many parts of the country.”

There is a need, therefore, to translate this knowledge into robust impact analysis – how this will affect the food security and agricultural livelihoods, for example – and to put in place anticipatory actions, all while Afghanistan is facing a banking crisis: “This is something that is perhaps leading us to a ‘perfect storm’ of severe food insecurity and potentially, going into 2022, with the drivers of civil unrest.”



### Speakers:

#### **Catalina Jaime**

Manager - conflict and climate,  
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate  
Centre

#### **Sally James**

Forced migration and protracted  
crisis specialist, FAO

#### **Fahad Abbasi**

Interim project director -  
preparedness for protection in  
Southeast Asia, International  
Rescue Committee

#### **Kaustubh Devale**

International DRM and resilience  
expert, FAO

## Advocating for anticipatory action – capturing lessons learned from Asia-Pacific

There has been progress in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of anticipatory action – but there is still a lot of advocacy work needed to inform others. This session presented some of the advocacy actions already under way. The first example came from the Philippines and focused on the need to use different approaches to bring in different stakeholders, and to convince them of the benefits of anticipatory action. For example, there are technical working groups for anticipatory action at the national and regional level in the Philippines, which act as an outlet for advocacy and also a space to listen to the challenges and gaps people are experiencing.

The discussion then moved on to lessons learned from advocacy actions so far in the Philippines. These include the fact that anticipatory action often focuses on a single risk, rather than the layers of risk people experience. This can be a challenge for affected communities who live with a number of risks – for example, typhoons, conflict, Covid-19 – at the same time. There is a need to create trust and understanding among communities in particular, as **Maria Quilla** described: “In the Philippines, there is a challenge to get everyone on board with anticipatory action. Our approach is to look at it from different angles and at different levels, to get a range of stakeholders on board.”

The focus then switched to Bangladesh, focusing first on advocacy at the government level. Here, there is a need to build strong partnerships and again, working groups are an effective tool for this. At the community level, a key lesson from the SUFAL project was the need to make early actions specific to each community - especially marginalized groups.

The final example came from Kyrgyzstan, where challenges include a lack of data about hazards, and even differing perceptions on what constitutes a hazard. Early advocacy work here involved bringing diverse stakeholders to meetings and dialogues, to increase their awareness of anticipatory action. These included communities as well as project and government officials, so that they could all understand how early actions can be effective.

Participants were invited to share their own experiences of advocating for anticipatory action, both challenges and lessons learned. One issue is the lack of official policy for anticipatory action in the Philippines. To address this, FAO and partners are writing a position paper to advocate for a shift in disaster financing to anticipatory approaches. Reflecting on the examples raised, **Raymond Zingg** highlighted how the Asia-Pacific regional technical working group brings together a lot of actors who coordinate on these issues, while also liaising with government counterparts to advocate for anticipatory action in the region.



### Speakers:

#### **Maria Quilla**

National project development and coordination specialist, FAO

#### **Raymond Zingg**

Regional FbF coordinator, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office

#### **Ana Marie Dizon**

FOREWARN coordinator - Philippines, CARE Philippines

#### **Siddiqui-Islam Khan**

WFP Bangladesh

#### **Sumaiya Kabir**

CARE Bangladesh

#### **Shavkat Abdujabarov**

FbF project coordinator - Kyrgyzstan, German Red Cross Central Asia Office

## Early observations and triggers/thresholds

This session showcased the power and beauty of earth observation in anticipatory action, focusing on three major elements. Firstly, **Peeranan Towashiraporn** presented the SERVIR-Mekong project, conducted jointly with the United States Agency for International Development and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He explained how it tackles flooding in the Lower Mekong basin, with the Rainstorms Tracker and the HYDRAFloods model <https://servir-mekong.github.io/hydra-floods> using satellite data to provide potential parameters to be used as flood triggers.

**Jothiganesh Shanmugasundaram** presented the PRISM platform <https://innovation.wfp.org/project/prism> and how it can provide further data on flood risks, vulnerability and exposure, as well as beneficiary households: “Earth observations play a major role in understanding the vulnerabilities and overall risks in a given country. At WFP, we are using the PRISM platform for impact and situation monitoring to enhance decision support.” A significant advancement here is that PRISM uses inputs from other tools, such as the HYDRAFloods model.

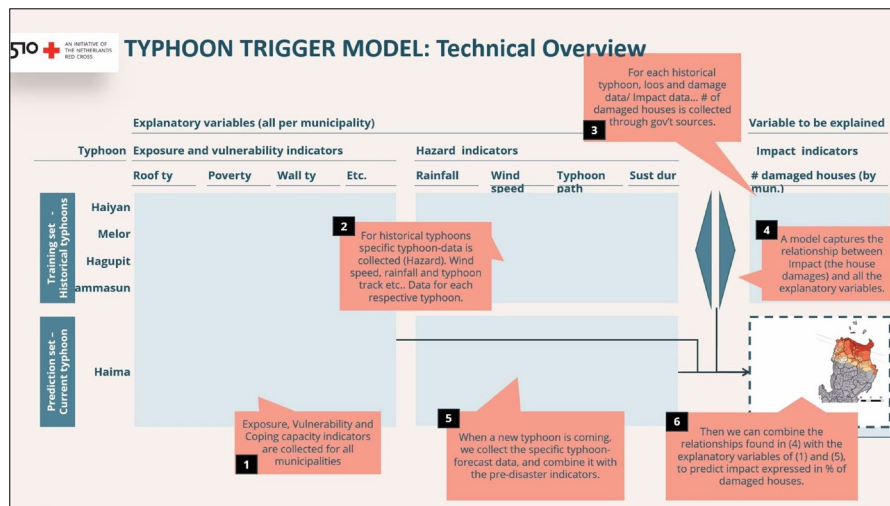


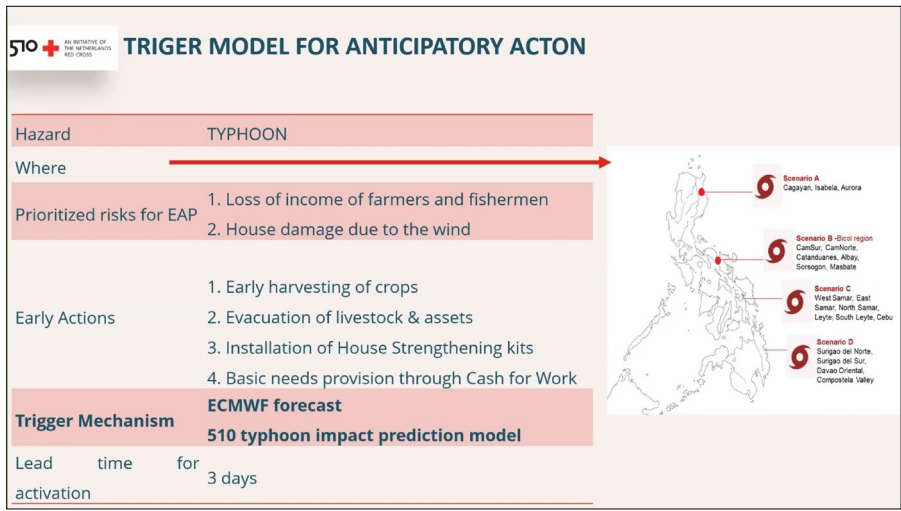
### Speakers:

**Peeranan Towashiraporn**  
Director - geospatial information,  
Asian Disaster Preparedness  
Center

**Jothiganesh  
Shanmugasundaram**  
Regional technical lead, WFP

**Aklilu Dinkneh Teklesadik**  
Impact hazard analyst and  
technical project coordinator,  
The Netherlands Red Cross  
510 Data Team





**Aklilu Dinkneh Teklesadik** presented the trigger model and IBF portal used in the Philippines. The trigger model is based on a typhoon impact-prediction model, which uses exposure and vulnerability indicators, combined with the forecast typhoon data, to predict the damage to housing structures. He continued with the IBF portal on dengue and malaria outbreaks. In future, this could potentially be combined with the dashboards currently used for floods and cyclones into one single dashboard.

**Adaptive social protection – making the systems work in anticipation and response to climate shocks**

There are challenges and opportunities when working with social protection systems in anticipation of climate-related and other shocks. **Federico Spano** explained why we are seeing an increased focus on using social protection instruments to manage covariate risks. The gap between humanitarian needs and funding is larger than ever – estimated at 22 billion US dollars in the 2021 *Global Humanitarian Overview*. However, many traditional social protection systems do not cover the impacts of climate extremes. Following examples of how social protection systems could be adapted to prepare for and respond to shocks, he mentioned two new resources: a paper focusing on social protection and anticipation from the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership, and a paper by FAO on managing climate risk through social protection.

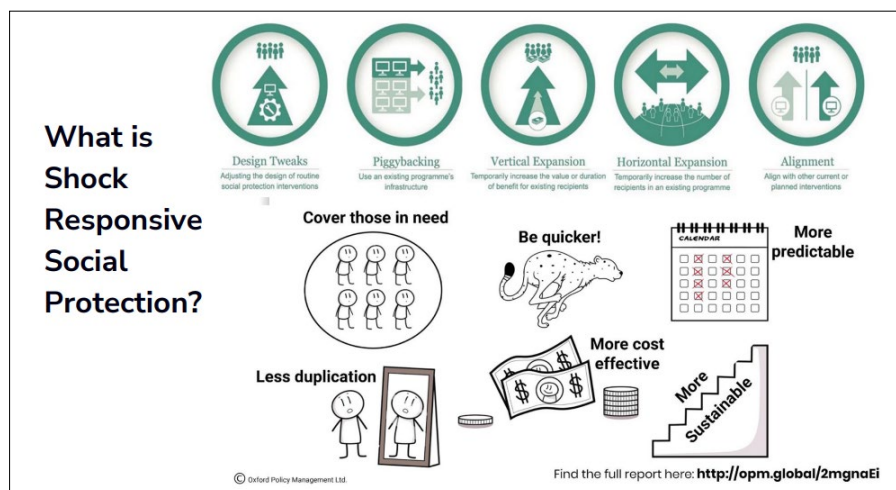


- Speakers:**
- Federico Spano**  
Social protection and resilience officer, FAO
  - Sayanti Sengupta**  
Social protection advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
  - Hemanta Prasad Dangal**  
Senior social protection officer, Danish Red Cross - Nepal

“  
 The main objective of social protection is to keep people above the poverty line; however, often where the risk is the highest, the social protection coverage is the lowest.  
 ”

Federico Spano, social protection and resilience officer, FAO

**Sayanti Sengupta** then walked participants through the ECHO-funded project with the Nepal Red Cross Society, supported by the Danish Red Cross. Among other objectives, this seeks to develop and test forecast-based actions and shock-responsive social protection. She explained: “If you have a developed or mature social protection system already in place, it is quicker to scale up and support people when it comes to shocks.” Lessons learned from the project include a suite of recommendations to follow before, during and after shocks, such as the need to have risk and vulnerability data to complement national identification databases.



**Hemanta Prasad Dangal** zoomed in on this process by exploring shock-responsive social protection in Nepal, from workshops with key stakeholders to simulations and pilots of activities with municipalities. This included how a social protection cash ‘top-up’ could be delivered to vulnerable individuals, and how potential pilots hope to test the use of cash cards and text messages.

**4. SSA early action cash ‘top-up’ – showing officials the process**

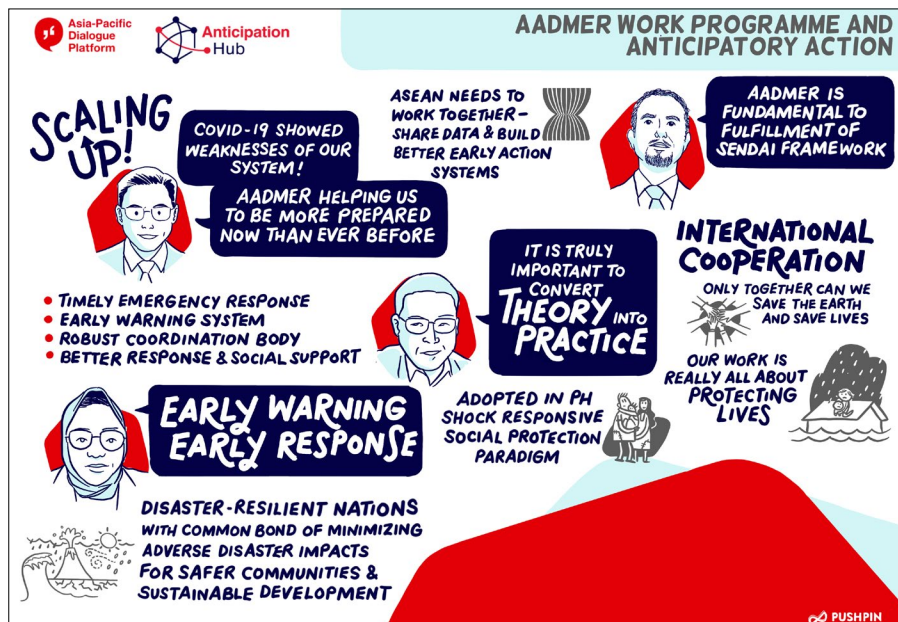
1. Project proposal submitted to municipalities – minus 10 days
2. Readiness trigger: Approval decision and operational update 1 (readiness activities) – minus 7 days
3. Operational update 2 (distribution) – minus 3 days
4. Shock arrives: Operational update 3 (post-distribution monitoring report) – +1 days

Highlights from day 2 of the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform can be found on the Anticipation Hub’s YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-1vD1PoDEo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-1vD1PoDEo)

5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform  
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY  
THREE

# High-level panel: AADMER work programme and anticipatory action



Day 3 began with representatives from regional and national government bodies discussing how anticipatory action frameworks can facilitate the institutionalization of this approach at the national level in ASEAN member states.

**H.E. Boros Samheng** presented the work being done in Cambodia - and the long way still to go to have a functional, timely response to future disasters. He highlighted that anticipatory action has to be understood at all governmental levels to ensure its effectiveness and provide resilience to disasters. Cambodia is in the early stages of implementing anticipatory responses, but he has already seen strong commitment to continue this journey.

“

All different governmental levels have to come together and understand what an anticipatory response has to look like, and how to prepare for it.

H.E Boros Samheng, secretary of state, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia

”



## Speakers:

### H.E Boros Samheng

Secretary of state, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia

### Tecson John Lim

Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines

### Dr Riyanti Jalante

Head, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division and assistant director, Sustainable Development Directorate, ASEAN

### Marco Toscano-Rivalta

Chief, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNDRR

### Hang Thi Thanh Pham

Senior resilience officer, FAO Bangkok

### Raymond Zingg

Regional FbF coordinator, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office

### Catherine Jones

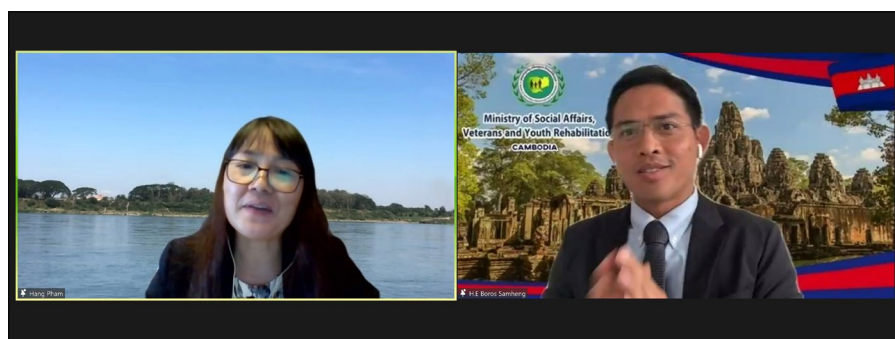
Anticipatory action lead - Asia and the Pacific, FAO

### Doan Thi Tuyet Nga

Director, Department of Technology and International Cooperation, Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority

**Tecson John Lim** declared that “we need to think bigger”, highlighting the importance of dialogue via the quarterly national anticipatory action committee meetings in the Philippines, and of integrating shock-responsive social protection into anticipatory action. One way to do this is via electronic cash transfers, which have the potential to reach millions more people in the short three-day lead times seen ahead of tropical storms.

**Dr Riyanti Jalante** outlined how anticipatory action has been integrated into the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, particularly the relevant ASEAN declarations and guidelines that are helping them to move from reactive to proactive approaches to managing disasters in the region. She emphasized a commitment to work with the anticipatory action community to strengthen this approach within the AADMER Work Programme, with many ASEAN Member States already planning to adopt it.



“ A recent simulation with the Philippine Red Cross and FAO tested two anticipatory early actions: fishpond harvesting and the use of cash transfers via our 4Ps social protection programme. Important lessons were learned and showed us that it is possible to reach vulnerable populations ahead of disasters, and the potential [is there] to integrate into government programmes.

Tecson John Lim, director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines

“ Anticipatory action has been integrated into the AADMER Work Programme and is gaining more momentum. We are ready to work with the anticipatory action network so we can introduce, reiterate and strengthen the anticipatory action approach within the AADMER Work Programme.

Dr Riyanti Jalante, head, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division and assistant director, Sustainable Development Directorate, ASEAN





**Marco Toscano-Rivalta** noted the importance of localization in the ASEAN region, particularly in efforts to scale up anticipatory action. Risk information must be used at - and for - the local level, and tailored to those in need. This cannot be achieved alone, however; international cooperation and joint efforts are critical in the ASEAN region.

The focus in the ASEAN region will be on scaling up anticipatory action and creating evidence for this approach. Furthermore, addressing the continuous need to protect lives and livelihoods is only possible if done in a cooperative way. It is also imperative to change the enabling environment, for which ‘institutionalization’ is the key word.

“

International cooperation is critical, as we will be facing a situation in the next years whereby there is no way we can face that alone; therefore I deeply appreciate the leadership we see here in ASEAN.

Marco Toscano-Rivalta, chief, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

”

# Parallel sessions #5

## What's new? Learning from the latest global innovations to improve the way we manage disasters

Traditionally, delivering payments to people - a popular form of early action - has taken place through banking infrastructure that is often difficult and complex to use, and which sometimes exceeds the capacity of certain stakeholders (e.g., local actors, smaller civil society organizations, NGOs). **Sandra Uwantege Hart** explained how the use of blockchain for financial transactions (e.g., Bitcoin) is enabling peer-to-peer, borderless transactions that are being executed automatically around the world - and how this could support anticipatory action.

In the Pacific Islands, for example, making tiny payments is very expensive. Using blockchain technology would provide a decentralized network that mimics the geography of the islands, meaning that it would be possible for small vendors and isolated communities to be part of a payment network. This would allow people to participate collaboratively in their recovery from disasters.

## Institutionalizing anticipatory action

The anticipatory action technical working group in the Philippines, formed in 2016, brings together humanitarian actors and national government agencies responsible for hazard forecasting, warning, preparedness and response. Its members bring in the technical expertise of their respective organizations to address gaps in operationalizing anticipatory action in the Philippines. As such, the working group serves as a platform to advocate for the implementation of this approach, at both national and local levels. The biggest milestone to date is the adoption of the Adaptive and Shock Responsive Social Protection Roadmap in the Philippines.

One of the complexities is communicating anticipatory action to the various national government agencies and local government units. **Cheryl Leal** discussed how the Office of the Civil Defense included anticipatory action as one of the priority strategies in the updated National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan: “[It] is not a new mechanism; we just need to come up with an umbrella project where all initiatives will be mutually reinforcing.”

Next, **Maria Quilla** mentioned the need for an enabling policy environment to overcome the challenges of putting anticipatory action into operation in the Philippines - and to make it work: “Policy issuances and legislations that can aid in implementing anticipatory action need to be pursued.” Evidence also plays a key role in advancing anticipatory



### Speakers:

#### **Sandra Uwantege Hart**

Chief executive officer, Emerging Impact

#### **Toby Behrmann**

Innovation and partnerships lead, Global Parametrics

#### **Amra Lee**

Programme coordinator, WFP Pacific

#### **Krishnan Narasimhan**

Team leader - inclusive insurance, UN Capital Development Fund



### Speakers:

#### **Cheryl Leal**

Acting chief, Disaster Risk Governance Division of the Policy Development and Planning Service, Office of the Civil Defense, Philippines

#### **Maria Quilla**

National project development and coordination specialist, FAO

#### **Ana Marie Dizon**

FOREWARN coordinator, CARE Philippines

#### **Mark Cervantes**

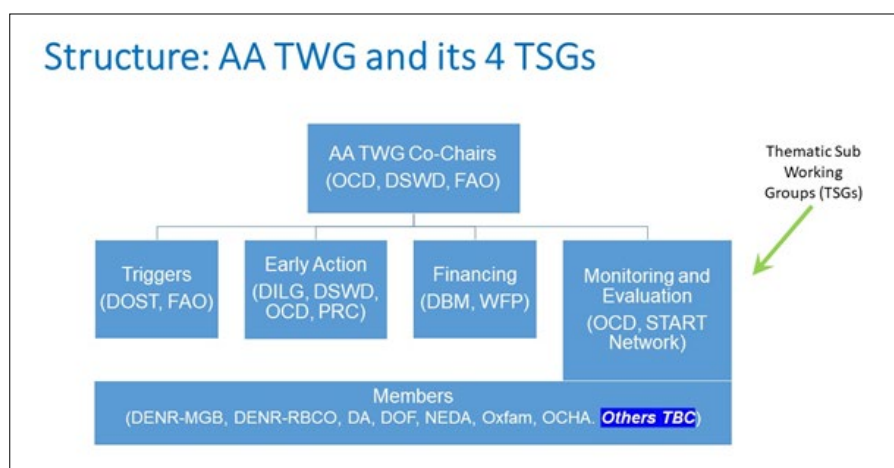
Programme policy officer, WFP

#### **Clifford Riveral**

Director, Disaster Response Management Bureau, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines

action in the country. **Ana Marie Dizon** zoomed in on the critical role that local government units play here, such as passing data and information both up and down: whether evidence of the effectiveness of anticipatory action from local government units, or the appreciation and understanding among government units about what it is and its benefits. This point was supported by **Mark Cervantes**, who noted the importance of strengthening partnerships with local government units.

**Clifford Rival** discussed strategic directions to make the technical working group better and stronger in the coming years, such as the co-chairs - the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Office of the Civil Defense - working together to create a unified approach, and bringing DRR principles and social protection together. Another key direction was to take the experiences of humanitarian actors and participate in joint simulation exercises: “[This will] help all of us understand the roles, challenges and implications of a full-scale anticipatory action approach, so that when the time comes and an activation is made, both government and humanitarian actors will be ready.”



## Blue sky thinking: anticipatory action roadblocks and milestones

The conversation here reflected the theme for the whole event: anticipatory action to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. **Raymond Zingg** underscored some achievements so far and echoed the need for continued engagement among actors. Expressing his gratitude to the session contributors, he noted: “We are feeling the need for working together, so we look forward to interacting with you in the course of time – we do not need to wait for the next platform; we can start the discussions now!”

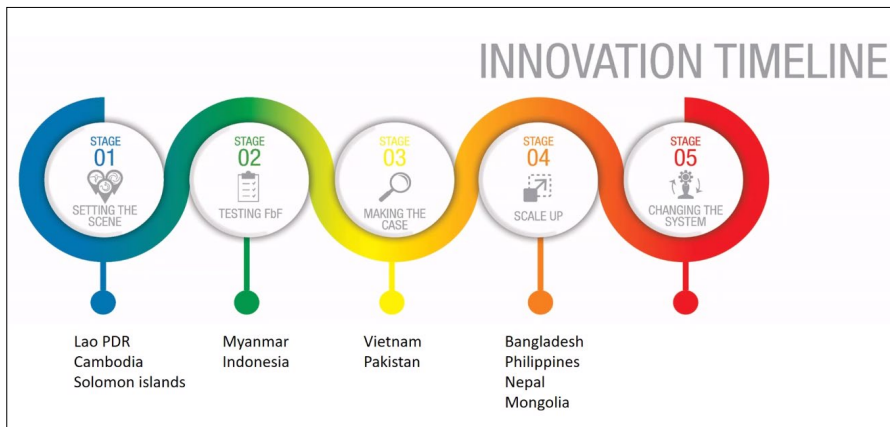
**Damien Riquet** put forward some key questions regarding the future of anticipatory action in the region, such as where and how to access or share lessons on the various triggers being tested successfully, and how to make sure that anticipatory action is feasible: “More and more studies are available on the added value brought by anticipatory action; documentation is available on the Anticipation Hub website.”



### Speakers:

**Raymond Zingg**  
Regional FbF coordinator, IFRC  
Asia-Pacific Regional Office

**Damien Riquet**  
Regional anticipatory action specialist, FAO



“The main progress so far has been that more and more hazards are being addressed with anticipatory action protocols: typhoons, cyclones, floods, drought, heat waves, landslides, epidemics and cold waves... These protocols have been tested, while others are undergoing testing.”

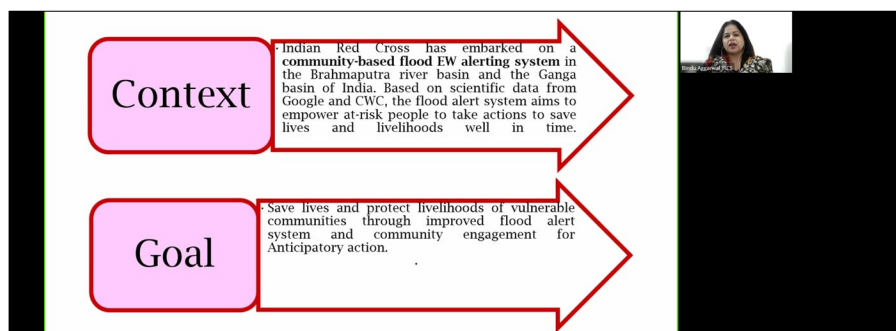
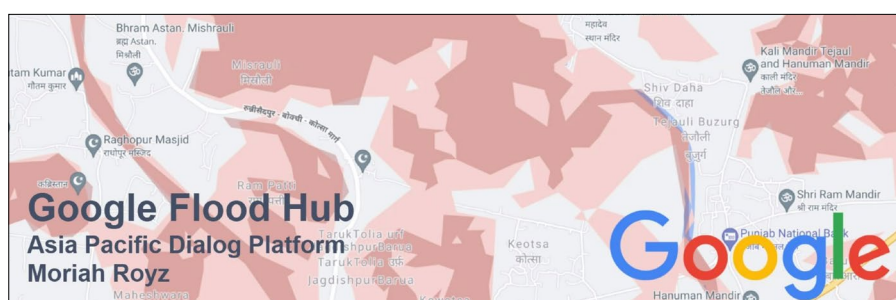
Damien Riquet, regional anticipatory action specialist, FAO

## Integration of community early warning systems and FbF/anticipatory action: linking local and national risk management structures

How can existing community early warning systems and anticipatory action approaches strengthen local and national risk-management structures? **Mohammad Shahjahan** presented the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, which disseminates forecast information from technical authorities (e.g., the Bangladesh Meteorological Department) down to the community level. In the case of an activation, community volunteers with training on cyclone preparedness are contacted and provide evacuation support for people and livestock, as well as first aid.

**Bindu Aggarwal** shared experiences from India's flood early warning system, which is run in cooperation with Google. The Indian Red Cross Society has embarked on a community-based flood-alerting system in the Brahmaputra and Ganga river basins, based on scientific data from Google and the Central Water Commission. Public flood alerts are shared by Google in different languages. Community members and Red Cross volunteers are then informed about these alerts and can start their response actions. Google provides real-time image representation of the flooding situation on Google Maps, including an 48-hour-forecast that is easily visualized. The alerts and forecasts are accurate and helpful for communities.

However, even the best technology is worthless if communities do not trust it. Luckily, the accuracy of recent alerts has increased this trust. The Indian Red Cross Society expects improved preparedness for the flood impacts from monsoons in 2022, including for hard-to-reach communities.



### Speakers:

#### Mohammad Shahjahan

Assistant director and FbF project coordinator, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

#### Bindu Aggarwal

Project manager - flood early warning, Indian Red Cross Society

#### Moriah Royz

Product manager, Google

#### Colin Fernandez

Regional preparedness advisor, American Red Cross



The best technology is useless if there is no acceptance within communities. We have to build up the culture that they will share this information and that they will trust us to support them.

Bindu Aggarwal, project manager - flood early warning, Indian Red Cross Society



## Hydromet investment and national shift to impact-based forecasting service for scaling up anticipatory action

Speakers from global meteorological institutes, donor agencies and regional institutes discussed their efforts towards building the capacity of national hydrological and meteorological services on IBF. **Jenni Latikka** and **Sumit Dugar** highlighted the importance of long-term capacity building, as stakeholders have varying understandings of forecasts and risk. There is a need to ensure that everyone understands the concepts and makes informed choices based on the data available. It is especially important that people learn how to use the data - and this requires long-term investment.

**Dr Ahmadul Hassan** pointed to the ownership of impact-based forecasts: we can only create a sustainable system if we explain why we are doing something and what the benefits are. This needs additional national financing to operate and maintain IBF systems and ensure their sustainability. **Dr Abdul Manan** then shared experiences of engaging stakeholders in the development of bilingual forecasts for communities, emphasizing their commitment to generating information on “what the weather will do, rather than what the weather will be”. He highlighted the importance of clarity in the terminology around IBF, along with the need to increase access to training for forecasters and operators to address uncertainty and assess impacts.

**Dr Archana Shrestha** shared lessons from implementing an IBF pilot programme in four districts of Nepal. This is still a new approach in the country and she noted the value of ensuring an inclusive approach: working closely with stakeholders at the central level with technical expertise and formal mandates, and in parallel with communities and local actors to build their awareness and ownership of IBF.

Challenges include communicating the uncertainty of forecasts, building long-term institutional capacity, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and influencing public behaviour when forecasts are disseminated during religious festivals. Dr Shrestha also emphasized the importance of continuous learning and being open about “the power of knowing what you don’t know”.



When we engaged the local people from the village and town municipalities, they felt like they were responsible for issuing that forecast to their community. They won't ignore our forecast.

Dr Archana Shrestha, deputy director-general, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal



### Speakers:

#### **Jenni Latikka**

Project manager, Finnish Meteorological Institute

#### **Sumit Dugar**

Disaster resilience advisor, Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office; disaster resilience advisor, Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate

#### **Dr Ahmadul Hassan**

Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### **Dr Abdul Manan**

Bangladesh Meteorological Department

#### **Dr Archana Shrestha**

Deputy director-general, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal

# Roundtable: disaster risk financing

This roundtable explored how innovative risk-financing models allow humanitarian actors and governments to become proactive risk managers and strengthen the anticipatory action approach. **Davide Zappa** shared two key lessons that DG ECHO learned through partner operations in the Asia-Pacific region. First, while the evidence base in the region is expanding, more must be done collectively to enhance the comparability of metrics and methodologies, and to reduce fragmentation of our narrative.

Secondly, as anticipatory action expands at the country level, it is important to focus on what works and what doesn't. This means coordinating effectively to support its uptake by national governments, and that nationally owned approaches are embedded in national risk-governance and DRM frameworks, policies and legislation. With limited humanitarian financing, it is crucial to focus on innovation and reaching the most vulnerable people: "We know that those most vulnerable are often the least prepared. That is why being better prepared and acting early, including conflict and fragile situations, as well as urban contexts, represent the global priorities for the DG ECHO disaster preparedness budget line for 2021-2024, alongside the changing climate."

**Joseph Intsiful** outlined the Green Climate Fund's key investments in the Asia-Pacific region and how it uses financial instruments, such as grants to encourage innovation, loans for the private sector and the provision of guarantees. Over 3.2 billion US dollars have been provided to build resilience for over 500 million people globally, but this has not been without challenges: "Barriers [come] from the lack of an enabling environment, insufficient infrastructure, uncoordinated and limited government financing, as well as market barriers for the private sector to participate."

Despite these, there has been a paradigm shift towards more systematic anticipatory action, achieved through predictable investment and both short- and long-term interventions. The Green Climate Fund sees



## Speakers:

### **Davide Zappa**

Thematic expert - DRR, DG ECHO  
Regional Office for East, South East  
Asia and Pacific region

### **Joseph Intsiful**

Senior climate information and early  
warning systems specialist, Green  
Climate Fund

### **Sumati Rajput**

Financial sector specialist, World  
Bank

### **Catherine Jones**

Anticipatory action lead - Asia and  
the Pacific, FAO

### **Raymond Zingg**

Regional FbF coordinator, IFRC  
Asia-Pacific Regional Office



many critical drivers behind this, such as investments in early warning communication and coordination mechanisms among actors, and the mobilization of additional funds and insurance schemes.

**Sumati Rajput** explained how the World Bank assists in designing, developing and executing disaster risk-financing instruments and strategies. There is no single financial solution, so the World Bank helps countries through its different support services, striking a balance between retaining financial risks arising from a potential disaster (e.g., contingency funds) and transferring risk (e.g., insurance). In Jamaica, for example, it has supported the development of a catastrophe bond that will provide the government with financial protection.

The World Bank brings together risk reduction and risk financing. Working alongside the DRM community, risk-reduction principles are also applied to social protection and infrastructure systems, for example a 90 million US dollar project in Mozambique which has two DRR pillars and two risk-financing pillars (contingency funds and insurance).

To highlight how the World Bank approaches financial planning for anticipatory shocks and crises, she highlighted its support for the Start Financing Facility. It is also conducting a joint feasibility study with the IFRC to explore insuring the Philippine Red Cross through the Southeast Asian Disaster Risk Insurance Facility, a regional risk pool set up by South-East Asian countries with support from the World Bank.

The linking risk financing to anticipatory action sectoral community also explores this theme: [www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/working-groups/linking-risk-financing-to-anticipatory-action](http://www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/working-groups/linking-risk-financing-to-anticipatory-action)

“

We need to upscale anticipatory action approaches and invest in capacity efforts to ensure the approach is streamlined into humanitarian processes and, where possible, national government plans.

Catherine Jones, anticipatory action lead - Asia and the Pacific, FAO

”



# Closing ceremony

The closing remarks for the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform reiterated the central role that governments play, both in adopting the anticipatory action approach and embedding it into national policies and frameworks to ensure its long-term sustainability. The need to exchange knowledge, build partnerships and continuously learn from each other was also highlighted.

**Mohammad Mohsin** shared how Bangladesh has shown leadership to embed anticipatory action into national policies and coordination mechanisms, such as the Standing Orders on Disasters and the Task Force on Forecast-based Action: “We are trying to expand forecast-based action and forecast-based financing initiatives, from the policy level to effective implementation of the allocated resources at the field level.” He also emphasized the need to create more evidence to demonstrate the benefits of anticipatory action, “so that the value becomes more obvious to the wider humanitarian community - and to the world”.



Bangladesh is leading the global effort of the anticipatory action agenda... with no doubt that early action with quality forecasts can reduce humanitarian needs after extreme weather events.

Mohammad Mohsin, secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh



**Robert Kasca** highlighted how critical it is for anticipatory action to be scaled up and how government participation is critical for sustainability. Past interventions in Nepal, such as cash transfers in 2020/21, built the foundations for this work, but further work is needed, such as a critical review of triggers. Anticipatory action is critical, as seen in the monsoon season in Nepal and following floods. Forecast-based actions were activated despite the short lead time, including cash transfers. He ended by thanking the participants at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform, benefiting from new ideas and potential partnerships shared in this forum.



## Speakers:

### **Mohammad Mohsin**

Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh

### **Robert Kasca**

Country director Nepal, WFP

### **Alexander Matheou**

Regional director, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office

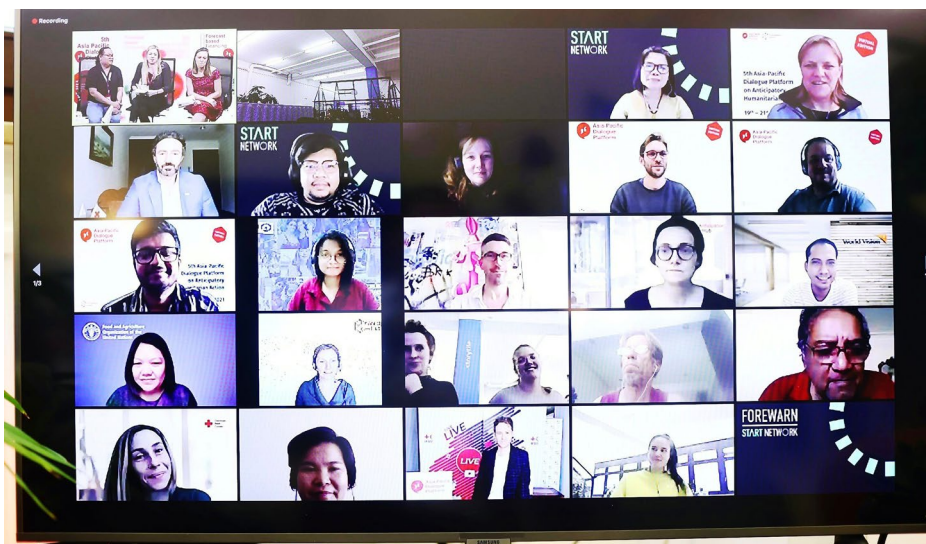
“ We have been working closely with the government of Nepal to implement anticipatory action, and now focus on how to scale up, and [the] critical, eventual handover to the government.

Robert Kasca, country director Nepal, WFP

“ **Alexander Matheou** emphasized the growing availability of data and scientific information, and the impressive work by partners to enable anticipatory action. He encouraged participants to use this growing momentum to scale up the anticipatory action approach, and ensure links with health, displacement and conflict, as well as climate change.

“ It’s encouraging to see the engagement and innovation in this space as we gear up to COP26. Many sessions have captured that momentum and highlighted that anticipatory action approaches contribute to climate change impact reduction in Asia-Pacific.

Alexander Matheou, regional director, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office

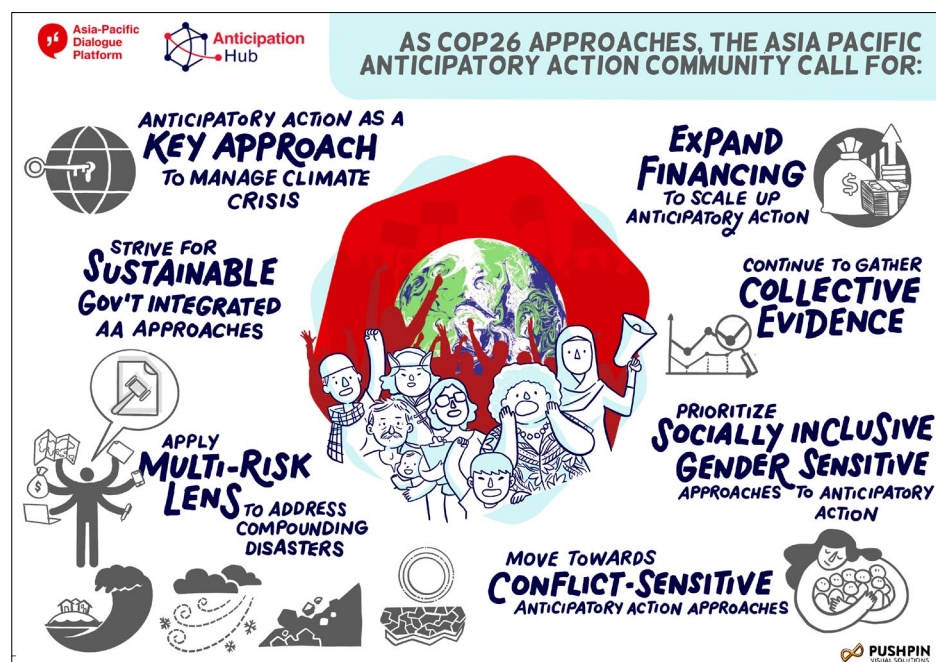


Highlights from day 3 of the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform can be found on the Anticipation Hub’s YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4kuDIGuDO8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4kuDIGuDO8)

## The Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform call for action

Participants at the 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform co-produced a call for action ahead of COP26. These seven actions highlight the urgent need for the anticipatory action community to scale up, work collectively, and ensure that anticipatory action is at the forefront of humanitarian and climate-resilience efforts.

1. Addressing anticipatory action is a key approach to manage the climate crisis.
2. Strive for sustainable and government-integrated anticipatory action approaches.
3. Apply a multi-risk lens to address compounding disasters.
4. Expand flexible, coordinated and predictable financing to scale up anticipatory action.
5. Continue to gather collective evidence as to how anticipatory action meets the challenges of the climate crisis.
6. Prioritize a socially inclusive and gender-sensitive approach to anticipatory action.
7. Move towards conflict-sensitive anticipatory action approaches.



# Links

Highlights from day 1: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga0sh0q209Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga0sh0q209Y)

Highlights from day 2: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-1vD1PoDEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-1vD1PoDEo)

Highlights from day 3: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4kuDIGuDO8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4kuDIGuDO8)

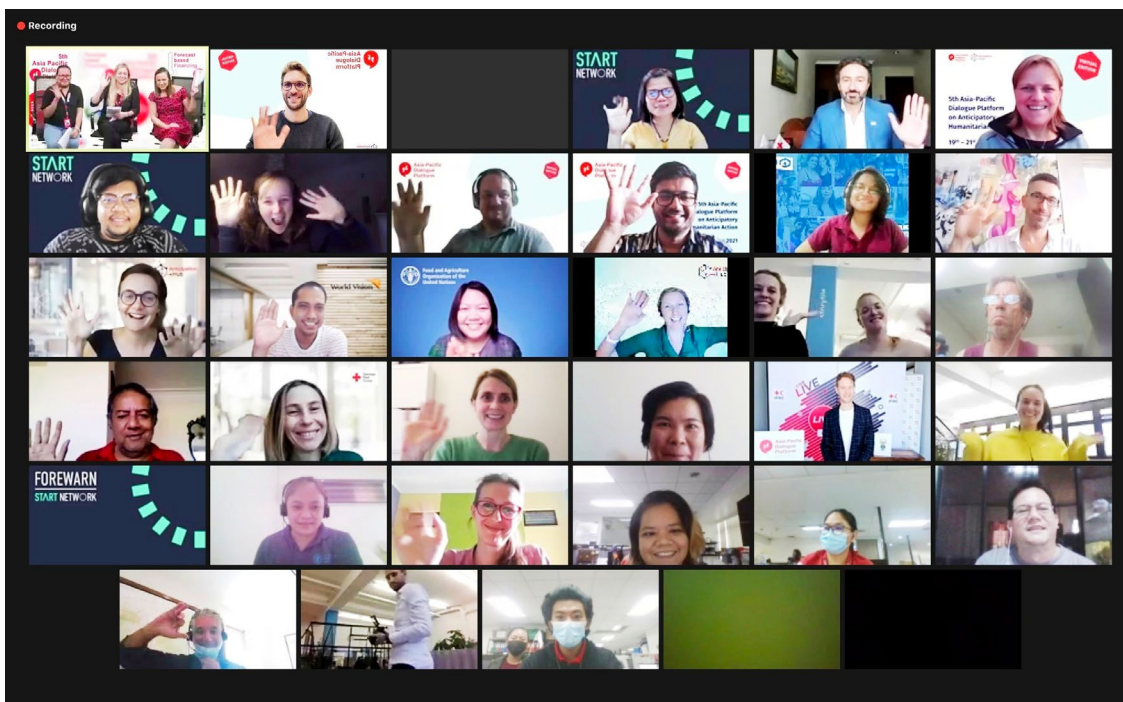
5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform 2021 - event highlights: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MDotAG1K18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MDotAG1K18)

'What is forecast-based financing?' video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-VuSGW\\_e5Ak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-VuSGW_e5Ak)

The 5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform was exciting and inspiring. We want to thank you all for your great contributions - see you at the next Dialogue Platform!

The live blog for the event, on which this report is based, can be viewed here: <https://events.anticipation-hub.org/asia-pacific-dialogue-platform-2021/>

More information about the Anticipation Hub, its strategy, mission, vision and partners can be found here: [www.anticipation-hub.org](http://www.anticipation-hub.org)



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