



REPORT

from the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Anticipatory action: building bridges for a
stronger disaster risk management system

1 to 3 November 2022



Partners:



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of:



Supported by:



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4 Reflections from the organizing team
	5 Highlights from the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform
DAY ONE	8 Shaping expectations and outputs
	10 Building a bridge: anticipatory action in disaster risk management systems
	11 An anticipatory action roadmap for Asia-Pacific: part 1
DAY TWO	13 Battle of the partnerships
	14 Simulation exercise
	15 Thematic sessions
DAY THREE	22 Turning the tables: ex-ante financing
	25 An anticipatory action roadmap for Asia-Pacific: part 2
	27 Filling in the anticipatory action gaps
	29 Closing ceremony
	31 Reflections on the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	33



Further details about the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform, including the full agenda, speakers and participant list, are available on the event website. Registered participants can also watch many of the sessions from the event here: bit.ly/3LOLUi0

Acronyms and abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere; formerly Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
DRM	disaster risk management
DRR	disaster risk reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FOREWARN	Forecast-based, Warning, Analysis, and Response Network
GESI	gender equality and social inclusion
H.E.	His Excellency
IBF	impact-based forecasting
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
TWGAA	Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action
WFP	World Food Programme

Reflections from the organizing team

This year's Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform proved to be different to the earlier ones – including the virtual conferences held at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was different because we are no longer asking 'Why do we need to do anticipatory action', but instead now looking more closely at its various elements and asking 'How can we do it better, how can we understand it better, and are we doing things right?'

Such was the energy and engagement of colleagues in this space that it seemed we were echoing Aristotle when he said: "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know". This is testament to how much we have 'moved the needle' in our collective experimenting with, advocacy for and implementation of anticipatory action in the Asia-Pacific region.

Yet some sessions offered a sobering reminder of the complex work that we need to continue in accommodating uncertainty in the design and mechanics of our work. This was a reminder that anticipatory action, and our technical models, are no 'silver bullet'. There was a realization that our risk analytics and data monitoring can go wrong, due to any number of reasons: limitations in the accuracy of feed data; the scale and granularity of data; data errors; and the limitations with current modelling and scientific capabilities.

But discussing these challenges can only lead to a better understanding of the work ahead, and this Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform reiterated that:

- science is a process in which something comes to be known over time
- data and models are useful, but all will be wrong to some degree – and it is important to design anticipatory systems that recognize this
- sometimes, our models do not capture everything.

The overall message is that we must not let 'the perfect be the enemy of the good'; investment in data doesn't come without real-world consequences in near time. But it is important to remember that globally, our various anticipatory action systems are still at a young stage; as time goes by, they will only improve. Calibration and further technological developments over the next few years will keep us moving forward and learning how to achieve the best possible outcomes.

There was also a chance for collective reflection at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform: how do we ensure that anticipatory action is inclusive when it comes to gender empowerment, diversity and social inclusion? How can we better understand the relationship between cash and anticipatory action? How can practitioners in different countries in the region learn from and support each other when advocating for and implementing anticipatory action systems, so that they provide more timely, more efficient and more dignified assistance to communities at risk? Coming together each year as a community helps us to keep these issues in focus and work together to find the answers.



Ana Marie Dizon
Forecast-based, Warning, Analysis and Response
Network (FOREWARN) coordinator, Start Network

Highlights from the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform

Clear priorities for the next two years

During the opening session, all participants were asked to avoid using jargon and clichés. Instead, the focus this year was on delivering clear, practical outcomes that will guide ambitions – regionally and nationally – for the next two years. During two working group sessions, participants first plotted which stage their country was at in terms of: (1) triggers, forecasting and risk-mapping; (2) financing; and (3) generating evidence and advocacy. Next, they put their heads together to agree on four priorities. These are not intended to replace existing longer-term ambitions, but instead provide a clear plan for how to move towards achieving these.

Critical themes in the spotlight

Anticipatory action is a rapidly developing field, and the session organizers were asked not to repeat the themes of past events; no more ‘Same same’, as Thai people might say. Instead, each parallel session sought to ‘move the conversation forward’, which led to a diverse and engaging agenda. For example, there were discussions about how anticipatory action could be applied to new hazards, particularly landslides. The spotlight also fell on themes that have perhaps been under-represented in the past, such as gender equality and social inclusion in anticipatory action.

New countries join the conversation

During the plenary sessions dedicated to national partnerships, countries from across the Asia-Pacific region visualized their national networks for anticipatory action and where the strengths lie within these. Representatives from each country also outlined the next steps needed to ensure these networks – and the partnerships within them – can deliver more and better anticipatory action. This was a very informative exercise, not just for countries starting out in the use of this approach, such as Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Timor-Leste, but also for the ‘old hands’ such as Bangladesh and the Philippines.



Participants at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform in Bangkok.

“

I don’t think we have talked about landslides at past dialogue platforms, so that is really exciting.

Madhab Uprety, Red Cross
Red Crescent Climate Centre

”

A local flavour

After two years of virtual events, practitioners from across the region were finally able to meet again as a community. The hybrid event, livestreamed from Bangkok, provided a taste of Thailand through mango-based refreshments and Thai-inspired decorations. With hybrid events set to continue in the coming years, the challenge will be to ensure that online participants also experience the local flavour of each event.



A decorative Thai fish.

6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY
ONE

→ After two years of virtual events, this year's Asia-Dialogue Platform was fully hybrid. A total of 190 participants from 26 countries gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, and 182 people from 81 countries tuned in over three days via the event website.

Shaping expectations and outputs

To begin proceedings, the participants set out their expectations for the three days. What were the priority themes to tackle? What did we want to achieve together? Which concrete steps could be agreed during the event? Each table of participants, including the virtual tables, put forward their ideas:

“

We want to have good networking... we should keep the contacts, not just at this meeting, but for cooperation in the future.

”

“

The disasters are collaborating better than we are!

”

“

Every country has different experiences and different policies. We [Lao People's Democratic Republic] are very new [in anticipatory action]... we hope we can get solutions that will contribute to our country.

”

“

Our expectation [in Myanmar] is to improve the evidence base for anticipatory action and to share what our difficult situations are.

”

Following ideas from the floor, the German ambassador to Thailand, **H.E. Georg Schmidt**, shared his thoughts on why anticipatory approach is so relevant to the Asia-Pacific region, drawing on the current situation in the event's host country. "Many parts of Thailand are still flooded... people's houses, their fields. How can we warn them about these events? It is our job to do anything we can to prevent this. [And] it's a collective effort, not by governments alone; they need the support of others. You [humanitarians] have access to areas where diplomats cannot go."

"We've heard this before..."

Before the second session began, the day's moderators, **Raymond Zingg**, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and **Catherine Jones**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presented an unusual list: the things that we don't want to hear! "'We need to align better', 'we need to collaborate'... we've heard this before and it's too broad! What we need are new ideas and details about what to do."

Warming to this theme, the participants provided further phrases and terms that should be off limits: "Let's reach for the 'low-hanging fruit'", "We need better coordination" and "Anticipatory action is a new approach". To guide the conversation towards more concrete outcomes, there were also some suggestions:

- Keep discussions focused and provide details.
- Don't use jargon; we don't all know the internal language from your organization or project.
- We don't just want to hear about success; we want to hear about your challenges as well.



Collaborative work at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

Building a bridge: anticipatory action in disaster risk management systems

The venue was decorated with a series of designs and icons that drew from Thai culture. Fish, for instance, are used as a metaphor for swimming upstream, a concept that reflects the need to keep moving towards more unified systems for disaster risk management (DRM) and anticipatory action. Bridges, meanwhile, represent connecting different elements to make them more purposeful.

Drawing on this imagery, **Raymond Zingg** and **Catherine Jones** invited the participants to think about the three pillars of anticipatory action: (1) risk information, forecasting and early warning systems; (2) planning, operations and delivery; and (3) prearranged finance. How can we make sure that these pillars are connected to DRM and do not become separate silos? The participants shared a range of ideas, including:

- more advocacy with governments, such as sharing lessons about what works
- build capacities, including among community organizations
- communicate these three pillars so that people – including those who are supported by this approach – understand the value of anticipatory action
- stronger links between operations and finance.

“

Anticipatory action should be considered as an integral part of disaster management; it should be included explicitly in legal documents.

Luna Khadka, online session chat

”



An anticipatory action roadmap for Asia-Pacific: part 1

A growing number of countries in Asia-Pacific are working on anticipatory action, but they are at different stages of implementing this approach. This increases the need to share the knowledge being accumulated on what works and what doesn't, and to harmonize the approaches as far as possible. Are there triggers that can be used in more than one context? What evidence is there for the benefits of this approach, which others can use to advocate in their own countries?

During this session, the in-person participants split into different working groups to look at: (1) triggers, forecasting and risk-mapping; (2) financing; and (3) generating evidence and advocacy. For each theme, they plotted where their country is along the anticipatory action timeline: setting the scene, testing, making the case, scaling up or changing the system.

This collaborative task enabled representatives of the countries present to reflect on where they are, what their objectives are, and the challenges ahead in the next two years. “We are all at different parts of the journey, for every hazard we are looking into,” concluded **Gaurav Ray**, German Red Cross. “But [this exercise has shown that] every country has managed to work with local people and with governments, which is a very encouraging sign.”

“

Welcome to the
anticipatory action
community!

Damien Riquet, FAO

”



Countries present their vision for anticipatory action.

6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY
TWO

→ The second day started with a round of thematic sessions before moving on to three hands-on activities.

Battle of the partnerships

'Partnerships' is a common term in the anticipatory action sector, but what does this really mean in practice? Which partnerships exist in the Asia-Pacific countries and what do they look like? Breaking once more into country-focused groups, participants in the venue and online worked together to map out the partnerships in their country.

There was another task to complete: each country needed to 'sell' its partnership to others by outlining the factors that make it special, the five-year national vision, the challenges to achieving this, and the support needed to make partnerships grow. These ideas were captured as posters, through which each country could champion its partnerships as the best. Let battle commence!

“

In Bangladesh, we have a policy in place [the Standing Order on Disasters], a task force, a technical working group... We are also collaborating with the Disaster Management Committee... so that we can bring up the evidence from the ground. Our motto is: 'To save not only lives, but livelihoods'.

Mohammad Ashraful Haque, FOREWARN Bangladesh

”

The motto from Lao People's Democratic Republic was 'Can know, can do anticipatory action', while Nepal opted for the 3As approach: 'Anticipatory action for all'. Thailand set out a five-year vision that included translations, books, a TV series or documentary, and for anticipatory action to be included in the national curriculum. Cambodia, meanwhile, listed national sensitization, a position paper, a task force, continuing pilots, and a national roadmap.

“

The Philippines is the heart of anticipatory action! Our five-year vision is that the most vulnerable and exposed communities can anticipate and be resilient in the face of risk.

Nissi Abigail Buenaobra, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines

”

There was, of course, a serious purpose behind the game. Establishing a better understanding of our partnerships, and what makes them work, will provide clear guidance for others on how to strengthen their own national networks for anticipatory action.

Simulation exercise

Risk, hazard, sector, financing... these terms are familiar to everyone who works in the anticipatory action sector, and they also formed the basis for the simulation exercise, or 'SIMEX', that took place after lunch on day two. Each group turned over a set of playing cards to reveal a risk or hazard, a series of different anticipatory actions, and a source of financing. The task was to discuss a series of questions for each card (Table 1).

Table 1. Questions used in the SIMEX

Risk or hazard	Anticipatory actions	Financing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which information sources would you use to predict this? • What would be your indicators? • What do you think your lead time would look like? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is your sector often affected by the hazard? • Which anticipatory actions can be considered? • Do they do no harm? Can they be done through a 'no regrets' approach? Can they be accessed/transported? Are they gender and socially inclusive? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this funding easily obtained? • What is needed to access it? • Is the funding sustainable? • What are the options/challenges with this funding source?

Reflecting the realities of real-world hazards, there was little time to discuss the options; groups needed to make swift decisions. The scenarios presented by each group – what they would do to implement anticipatory action – demonstrated an audience well versed in this approach, but also one aware of where the challenges and pitfalls lie, and how these might be avoided. Thinking, discussing and learning from each other: that's what the dialogue platforms are all about.



During the afternoon, several organizations presented the latest outcomes from their anticipatory action projects through posters. At the same time, an interactive theatre session, led by the Future Leaders Network, took place in the main event room.



Participants examine the case studies presented at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

Thematic sessions

→ In a region as diverse as Asia-Pacific, there is much to discuss about how we can act ahead of hazards. Through 15 thematic sessions, the participants tackled a wide range of themes, from government perspectives on anticipatory action to what can be done when a model misfires.



The 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform was the first in three years at which the various stakeholders active in the field of anticipatory action could meet in person. Several parallel sessions capitalized on this opportunity to reconnect with colleagues by holding in-person workshops. Meanwhile, half of the sessions were held in a hybrid format and open to both online and in-person participants; several of these hybrid sessions can be watched again on the event website. bit.ly/3LOLUi0

Let's get real, let's get sustainable: government perspectives on anticipatory action

How do we make anticipatory action sustainable? This has been a question for many years, but now is the time to accelerate our thinking. This session presented government perspectives on how we can achieve this, igniting a discussion between agencies on how to support this vision.

Anticipatory action: linking national preparedness and DRR interventions in Asia-Pacific

Preparedness and anticipatory action are two sides of the same coin. Reducing disaster risk is fundamental to reducing humanitarian needs and achieving sustainable development. At the same time, anticipatory action can promote collaboration with humanitarian and development actors, limiting the negative impacts of these events by addressing the underlying drivers of risk and building the capacity of people exposed to hazards to anticipate, adapt and recover. This session explored

how anticipatory action can be promoted in Asia-Pacific under broader preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, and how broad-based funding opportunities can complement proactive government- and community-led actions.

Whatever the weather: are traditional forecasts good enough for triggering anticipatory action?

Traditional weather forecasts tell us what the weather will be like in a particular place, and with a level of certainty, but is this good enough to trigger anticipatory action? Which forecasts are already available at national, regional and global levels? Could we be using them better? Can we agree what is 'good enough' when it comes to trigger-based forecasts? Can the production of forecast data be improved, or do humanitarians just need to use it better? This session brought together national hydrometeorological services, disaster management departments and implementing agencies to look at how we can improve the production of forecast data for anticipatory action, with a particular focus on application by the sector's users.

Reality check! Evidence sharing from the field – simulations and no-activations; what have we learnt?

This session invited participants to join a dynamic dialogue in which different actors openly shared the evidence gathered from the challenges and lessons learnt. Topics included lessons from the non-activation for Typhoon Odette in the Philippines, experiences with non-activations in Bangladesh, lessons from a joint simulation exercise in the Philippines, and the tools used to evaluate the impacts of anticipatory action in Bangladesh and Nepal.

The social protection game: you won't regret it!

Social protection needs to connect better to early warning systems and climate data. It also needs a more humanitarian approach to be able to activate and respond in a timely manner, and to reach the right people at the right time. Anticipatory action can, in turn, benefit from the outreach of social protection programmes and structures to assist populations in a more scalable and sustainable way. By connecting them both, climate risks can be proactively managed to reduce humanitarian needs. In this session, government representatives and practitioners explained how social protection systems can be better supported to enable anticipatory action, sharing lessons learnt to date and presenting their vision for shock-responsive social protection.

Learn how to use open-source tools and OpenStreetMap data for anticipatory action

This session introduced some of the free and open-source mapping tools that can support anticipatory action. Participants used open-source mapping tools to gain practical experience in using these tools, in particular scenarios to map out the potential impacts of a disaster.



Data should not be monopolized by a single organization; we need to give local people the right to collect and provide their own information to really meet their needs.

Harry Mahardika Machmud, Open Mapping Hub Asia-Pacific



Another day, another dollar: let's chat about cash and anticipatory action!

This session addressed four questions: (1) What is the relationship between cash and anticipatory action? (2) How and when do households spend the cash received in anticipation of a rapid-onset hazard? (3) How did cash help households to mitigate the impacts of the hazard? (4) What are the recommendations for practical actions moving forward? By discussing these, practitioners were able to better understand what cash can do in a rapid-onset situation and gather more evidence about this.

Risk contextualization and analytics for anticipatory action

The contextualization of risk requires information at different spatial scales, and from various sources, to interpret and guide anticipatory action. This session showcased examples from the region of how to contextualize risk efficiently, using sophisticated analytical tools and approaches that use information from global (i.e., Earth observation) to local levels. It provided practical examples of how government agencies, especially national disaster management agencies, utilize data and tools that help contextualize risk, and institutionalize the process to establish stronger DRM systems. Risk contextualization from a community perspective was also discussed, as these groups are at the 'last mile' for perceiving risks and taking action.

Localizing anticipatory action: challenges and solutions to locally led anticipatory action

We often hear about risk mapping, risk models and thresholds as a prerequisite for anticipatory action, but this is perhaps a top-down approach. To create evidence of successful anticipatory action, many humanitarian actors are doing pilot projects in different locations, and for different hazards. This session reviewed the challenges from these and explored solutions that could be mainstreamed through local actors in a systematic way.

Gender equality and social inclusion on anticipatory action in Viet Nam, the Philippines and Nepal

The objective here was to share, discuss and promote gender equality and inclusion in anticipatory action, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable groups – such as women, young adolescent girls, and people with disabilities – in the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Work Programme 2021-2025, the *ASEAN Guidelines on Disaster Responsive Social Protection* and the *ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management*. By sharing best practices from Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam, this session: (1) showcased voices from those ‘on the frontline’ about the importance of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in anticipatory action; (2) shared opportunities, lessons learnt, best practices and regional collaborations on gender equality, disability and social inclusion in DRR plans; (3) promoted the training module on GESI-responsive anticipatory action; and (4) brainstormed concrete actions for improving inclusiveness in anticipatory action interventions.

What triggers our anticipatory action? Analysing risk data and forecasts to anticipate the timing and location of disaster impacts

Any anticipatory action plan needs to clearly define when and where early actions should take place, and who and what are likely to be impacted. For this reason, the impact-based forecasting (IBF) approach is the basis of the anticipatory action triggers that are developed based on detailed risk analysis of relevant natural hazards. This includes impact assessments of past disaster events, analysis of exposure and vulnerability data, and their integration with hazard forecasts. This interactive learning session investigated what is actually needed to develop triggers for anticipatory action, including soft and hard approaches for trigger models. It drew on lessons from existing IBF models and trigger-development approaches for implementing

anticipatory action in the Asia-Pacific region, and possible pathways to institutionalize triggers for implementing anticipatory action at scale.

Are we in or out? Bringing anticipatory action closer to the children, women and people with disabilities in Asia-Pacific

World Vision is scaling up anticipatory action in Asia, with pilot projects in six countries for various hazards and contexts. Some countries are in fragile situations, such as Myanmar (conflict), Sri Lanka (economic crisis) and Bangladesh (refugees and host communities). Mongolia has specific hazards, such as *dzud*; Indonesia is introducing anticipatory action in urban and cyclone-affected areas; while in the Philippines, World Vision is scaling up anticipatory action to new areas. Within these various contexts, it is important to plan for the participation of children, women and people with disabilities to ensure that they benefit, are protected and are not left behind. This session discussed how to facilitate the meaningful participation of these groups, from setting up and implementing a project through to its evaluation.

Are anticipatory actions for landslides even possible?

Most of the anticipatory action approaches, tools and policies being developed focus on using forecasts more effectively to trigger suitable actions that protect lives and livelihoods. This needs to be contextualized differently for landslides, however, and with a stronger link to DRM systems. This session focused on the complex topic of landslide forecasting and anticipatory action, building on the practical experience and lessons learnt from the field. It provided an overview of what the thresholds should be, and the trigger modalities and early actions that can be applied for this hazard. Importantly, it also considered how anticipatory action should be integrated into national DRM systems.

Let's work on an early action plan for fragile and conflict-affected regions

In Tumerington, a (made-up) country far, far away, there is a great anticipatory action system in place for riverine flooding. Historically, floods have wreaked havoc here, but the system currently does not cover the province of Eucerus – a region plagued by instability in recent decades. In this session, participants worked with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure the anticipatory action system for riverine floods also covered people in Eucerus. This scenario exercise enabled

the audience to experience decision-making processes and jointly develop solutions and adaptations to implement conflict-sensitive and effective anticipatory action.

What happens when the model misfires? Basis risk in disaster risk financing and anticipatory action: dealing with the technical aspects of risk finance models, accountability and how to manage uncertainties

Risk finance systems rely on basic pillars: the impact forecast model, contingency plans and prepositioned funding. When a hazard is forecast, it is expected that at-risk communities can rely on the model to trigger the release of predictable funding to implement anticipatory action plans. But what happens when the models are not able to capture the uncertainties in the natural environment, and those brought about by climate change? This session tackled four questions to interrogate the nature of disaster-risk-financing systems: (1) Are these systems able to anticipate basic risks and uncertainties? (2) How do we communicate the technical basis of models, the human processes and decisions involved, and possible misinterpretations of what a disaster-risk-financing system can do? (3) How do we ensure accountability in these systems? (4) Do all disaster-risk-financing systems include financial layered resources – and why/why not?



Full abstracts for each session, including all the speakers and moderators, are available on the event website:
bit.ly/3VLqCWY



Group work at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY THREE



Participants collaborate at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

Turning the tables: ex-ante financing

“We always ask donors questions – often about more money – but they also have questions for us”, said **Madhab Uprety**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, as he introduced the first plenary of the final day, for which a panel of donors had submitted questions. “It’s really important to reflect on these issues together,” agreed **Davide Zappa**, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). After these opening thoughts, the online and in-person participants set about answering the questions submitted.

Q1. Anticipatory action: who, what, how, why, when?

The participants tackled the ‘why’ first, explaining how anticipatory action reduces the cost of humanitarian responses, making investments more cost-efficient. It also reduces impacts on households and builds long-term resilience.

With respect to ‘how’, countries need donors to provide funds for the technical aspects of this approach, as well as for approaches being implemented by local communities. Practitioners are already working to act ahead of hazards, and financing can support this further. Another reflection on the ‘how’ came from **Mark Cervantes**, World Food Programme (WFP): “We can fill in the gaps and complement existing disaster management systems and frameworks, and [thus] avoid confusing the existing work.”



“

I think on the ‘why’, there has been a lot of talk on anticipatory action for high-frequency versus low-frequency/extreme events. Being clear about that is very important.

Karimi Gitonga, session chat

”

Q2. What are the three main areas where climate funds should focus their investments in anticipatory action?



Asked by:

Joseph Intsiful
Green Climate Fund

Anticipate, don't wait! The first appeal from the participants was for climate funds to commit to anticipatory action in their work, and not to see it as separate to adaptation and mitigation.

Another table of participants suggested risk models as an area where climate funds could be applied. Some countries are developing IBF models, but these might take a while to come online. There are existing risk models out there and funds such as the Green Climate Fund could invest in making these models usable for anticipatory action, so they can fill the gap until IBF models are fully operational. Other suggestions for investment included support for preparedness actions to be able to activate anticipatory action, and capacity building for local civil society organizations and communities.

“

Many hazards are increasingly recurring, such as floods in Bangladesh. So, we need more funding! Also, our models have thresholds, but these thresholds are increasingly uncertain due to climate change. Investment for models that directly address this uncertainty are a priority.

Mohammad Ashraful Haque, FOREWARN Bangladesh

”

Q3. Has there been much discussion with the insurance industry regarding the potential use of insurance to help smooth the cost of anticipatory action over time? If so, what has been the reaction of the insurance industry?



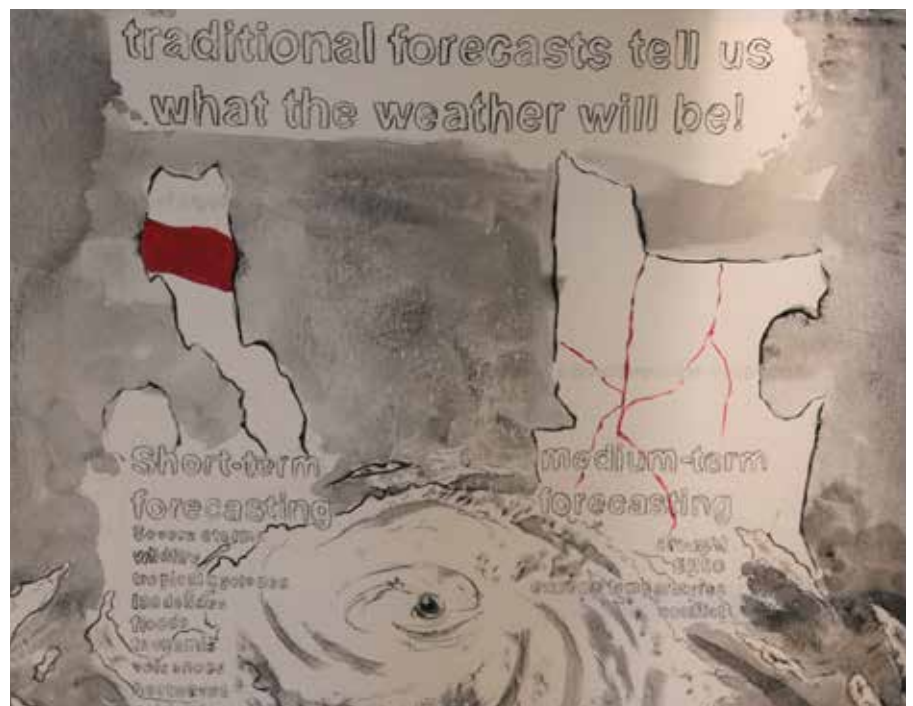
Asked by:
Asian Development Bank

The participants were unanimous that there needs to be more sensitization with insurance companies, alongside evidence of how anticipatory action can be beneficial. There has been work on insurance in the Philippines, for example, where weather-based insurance for farmers has been trialled, but feedback from the insurance company involved was that they need evidence of a demand for such products. **Rhoda Avila**, Oxfam Philippines, noted: “For insurance to work with anticipatory action, we need to build the evidence that a payout can be made on a forecast.”

One issue is that hazard-based insurance can be expensive; floods and cyclones, for example, are very uncertain. How can the industry design insurance products that are affordable? One suggestion for taking discussions about insurance and anticipatory action to the next level was a safety-net programme, with the implication being that government support would play a role.



The IFRC Regional Office will use the responses to develop a report for donors, which will guide their work in financing anticipatory action in the future.



Artwork at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

An anticipatory action roadmap for Asia-Pacific: part 2

Building on the progress made on day one, this second session dedicated to developing a roadmap for the Asia-Pacific region asked: how can countries establish a strategic vision for anticipatory action? Which three to four priorities can be implemented in the near term to scale up anticipatory action? “Let’s start with a focus on the next two years and see where we go,” suggested **Damien Riquet**, FAO. “And let us know if there is anything you need from the region: technical support, or support from a neighbouring country.”

Given the diversity across the region, in terms of the hazards faced, national capacity and experience to date, it’s unsurprising that the priorities identified varied by country. For example, Pakistan noted the need to: (1) integrate anticipatory action into existing DRM policies and management systems; (2) establish and strengthen national and provincial technical working groups; (3) promote public–private partnerships to provide sustainable financing for anticipatory action; and (4) strengthen IBF approaches, which have started as a pilot in two districts but need to be promoted and strengthened further. Pakistan also needs regional support in terms of transboundary data-sharing; for example, many of its rivers start in neighbouring countries and data from those countries is needed for better forecasting.



Discussions about national priorities for anticipatory action.

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic is not as advanced as Pakistan in implementing the anticipatory action approach. Here, the identified priorities were the need for an action plan and standard operating procedures for IBF. The country’s draft trigger for anticipatory action ahead of drought also needs to be developed further, and there is work needed to integrate the approach within central and local disaster plans and strategies. Encouragingly, the country also wants to develop community-level protocols for anticipatory action, as well as communications and advocacy materials to promote this approach.

The Philippines is at an advanced stage in terms of implementing anticipatory action, and so had different priorities. These included: (1) a stocktake of all risk models and triggers used to enhance IBF models; (2) multisector partnerships with science and academia, which need to be more involved in discussions (e.g., about contingency plans and sharing best practices); and (3) a push at the policy level for a declaration of a ‘state of impending disaster’ within the national DRR council, which will open up public financing for anticipatory action.

“

Perhaps the stocktaking exercise in the Philippines will be useful for others, such as the Pacific region.

Damien Riquet, FAO

”

In Bangladesh, another country where the anticipatory approach is well established, there are national-level triggers for many hazards. There remains, though, a need for localized triggers that better capture the most significant information about a forecast hazard. Another task is to create a standardized training module for local-level actors. Many partners currently deliver such training, but it would be helpful to make this more consistent and collate all the relevant resources in one place.



The priorities and requests for support from each country will be fed into the regional roadmap. Work on this will start in the coming months and there will be a draft ready to share at the 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

Filling in the anticipatory action gaps

“We’ve heard what your priorities are,” said **Raymond Zingg**, IFRC, as he began the final plenary. “Now, we want to tell you what we can offer at the regional level – and we want to hear from you how we can make this more effective.”

Initiatives underway include the recently launched *ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management*, which identifies three building blocks to help practitioners talk about how anticipatory action works, and its flows and processes. Another development to support practitioners is a new research paper on cash assistance as a form of anticipatory action. Developed by the Regional Cash Working Group and the Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (TWGAA), this can guide countries looking to use this approach.

There has been confusion about the different, overlapping approaches and terminology – such as forecast-based financing, anticipatory action, early warning early action – so the forthcoming technical standards from the TWGAA will be a marker for what each of these means, as well as a useful tool for explaining to governments, partners and everyone in between about what it is that we’re all talking about!

The TWGAA is also developing basic standards for triggers in the coming months, which will help to make these critical components of the anticipatory action approach more flexible and resilient. “This will require inputs from all of you,” noted **Madhab Uprety**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and members of the TWGAA will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to review the standards and share the results.

Standardized, regional-level training was another gap noted during discussions at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform. **Manish Tewani**, American Red Cross, explained that work to address this is only just starting, but is being trialed, for example in the use of cash as an anticipatory action in Myanmar. The speakers asked for input from those in the room and online to help develop this curriculum further, before it is trialed in other countries in the region.

“

For thousands of years, people have been using early warnings; we are just trying to find a way to scale this up.

Catherine Jones, FAO

”



Learning materials at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platforms.

So, what did the participants think about the range of regional initiatives under way? Some noted that there are several existing training materials which could be incorporated into curricula, such as the GESI training module developed by ASEAN. Others noted specific needs, such as standardized data-collection frameworks for large numbers of households.

There were also specific requests for support. For example, there will be training for the national task force in Bangladesh on trigger development in December 2022. Experts working at the regional level were invited to attend and support this foundational training – and instantly received offers of support! This demonstrated a powerful feature of the dialogue platforms: putting people in direct contact so they can collaborate with each other's projects, strengthen them and create avenues to share expertise and experience.



During this session, national dialogue platforms for 2023 were announced by delegates from Nepal and Pakistan, in addition to those planned in Bangladesh, the Philippines and the Pacific states. Yet more evidence that anticipatory action is scaling up!

Closing ceremony

“This event has been three months in the making,” said **Raymond Zingg**, IFRC, in the closing ceremony. “And did you enjoy it? Our expectations were to learn, to meet and have fun. Did we manage this?”

“

This is my first dialogue platform, and I learned a lot. All the partners being inclusive is so nice... I hope I can join you again!

Thelma Cinco, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

”

“

I picked up three things. I will “massage” new ideas into my work in Bangladesh. Second, we have to portray a nice picture of anticipatory action. And the last one? The anticipatory attitude is important. Let’s keep that attitude!

Gaurav Ray, German Red Cross

”

“

It was great to have governments, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and others in the room together. This will serve us well in the future.

Bipul Neupane, Nepal Red Cross Society

”

“

There is a challenge in my heart: I wish I could bring it more to my community. I am very happy and hopeful that we can anticipate any disaster with anticipatory action. Thank you for sharing your brains and your hearts.

Victor Rescober, Philippine Blind Society

”

“

I was wondering if this was the right platform for us to go to... I am pleased to confirm it was! Everyone is here: not just governments and humanitarians, but also the donors. It is great if we can continue this collaboration.

Hilke David, WFP in Kyrgyzstan

”



Conversations by the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok.



In-person participants at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

Reflections on the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform

“

Many thanks for the conference. Looking forward to collaborating with all the partners globally.

Niroj Sapkota, Start Fund Nepal, session chat

”

“

I really liked that the dialogue platform was led by a variety of different facilitators. This made the participants feel more active.

Wannobon Khuan-arch, CARE Asia Regional Management Unit, Thailand, blog post

”

“

Significant strides in anticipatory action partnerships and frank conversations on the challenges ahead.

Ana Dizon, Start Network, Twitter

”

“

It would have been great if you could broadcast all the sessions; [we] missed learning from some of the sessions. It was great to learn from other countries' experience.

Kazi Rabeya Ame, CARE Bangladesh, session chat

”

“

Joining this event was the most enthusiastic experience for those who are implementing anticipatory action. I got to explore the new ideas and concepts that I was yearning for, and also made new connections with anticipatory action practitioners across the Asia-Pacific region.

Phetvilay Panyada, FAO, Lao People's Democratic Republic, blog post

”

“

Thank you for the amazing organizing committee @AnticipationHub @WFPAsiaPacific @FAOAsiaPacific @StartNetwork @IFRCAsiaPacific – the #APdialogueplatform methodology was excellent which helps make the three days super productive! #anticipatoryaction #networking #Partnership

Vanda Lengkong, Plan International, Twitter

”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all our partners for their support with the 6th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



Supported by



Thanks to Storytile (event platform).



Publisher

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.

German Red Cross National Headquarters
International Cooperation Department

Carstennstraße 58
12205 Berlin, Germany

www.drk.de

Writing and editing

Samantha Moreno Jiminez
Tim Woods

Layout and typesetting

STÜRMER & DRÄNGER GmbH
www.stuermer-draenger.de

Photos

Calum Stokes, IFRC
Tim Woods, Anticipation Hub

Cover artwork

Jonathan Scott
www.jjscottillustration.co.uk



#APDialoguePlatform