



REPORT

on the 9th Global Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action -
Meeting the challenges of future crises: protecting
lives and livelihoods with anticipatory action

7 - 9 December 2021

Contents

INTRODUCTION	4 The 9th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action
DAY ONE	6 Opening
	7 Opening speeches
	9 Opening remarks by the regional platforms
	10 Opening panel
	12 Looking back: 2021 in cartoons
	13 Keynote speech: Anticipatory action and food security + climate change
	14 Panel: Anticipatory action – an accelerator for climate action?
	16 How can proactive and integrated early approaches help to prevent food crises?
DAY TWO	19 Parallel sessions #1
	26 Parallel sessions #2
	32 Panel: When climate, conflict and migration collide - the role of anticipatory action
	34 Plenary: Tales from Madeupsville - what can go wrong with anticipatory action?
	35 Parallel sessions #3
	41 Parallel sessions #4
DAY THREE	47 Parallel sessions #5
	52 Parallel sessions #6
	57 Plenary: Igniting partnerships between national meteorological services and humanitarian actors - launch of the WMO guidelines on multi-hazard impact-based forecast and warning services
	58 Panel: What do you need from us? An open discussion between local NGOs and anticipatory action agencies on how we can better work together to scale locally led anticipatory action
	60 Panel: Welcoming the experiences and perspectives of new actors in anticipatory action
	61 Parallel sessions #7
	66 Closing statements
	67 Closing party: sounds from around the world
	68 Links

Acronyms and abbreviations

ARC	African Risk Capacity	GIS	geographic information system
B-READY	Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster-Ready Communities	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
COP26	26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Covid-19	coronavirus	M&E	monitoring and evaluation
DEEP	Data Entry & Exploration Platform	MENA	Middle East and North Africa
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
DREF	Disaster Emergency Relief Fund	NGO	non-governmental organization
DRF	disaster risk financing	OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DRR	disaster risk reduction	REAP	Risk-informed Early Action Partnership
EAP	early action protocol	SOP	standard operating procedure
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation	UK	United Kingdom
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UN	United Nations
FbF	forecast-based financing	UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
FOREWARN	Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network	UNFPA	UN Population Fund
G7	Group of Seven	WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office	WFP	World Food Programme
		WMO	World Meteorological Organization

The 9th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

→ 2021 was full of major developments and challenges for anticipatory action, but it also proved how important it is to take more proactive measures to address predictable crises. There are over 155 million acutely hungry people in the world, more than in previous years. Over 41 million are now at risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions. The rural population is especially threatened by food insecurity, which makes protecting livelihoods key to preventing food crises.

The 9th Global Dialogue Platform, held virtually from 7-9 December 2021, was dedicated to these topics. This year's theme was 'Meeting the challenges of future crises: protecting lives and livelihoods with anticipatory action' and focused on three areas in particular:

- Meeting the challenges of the future
- Improving the anticipatory action approach through different technologies and methodologies
- Discussing innovative modalities of engagement with different stakeholders, and ways to address sustainability

The event was streamed live from studios in Rome and Johannesburg. It was hosted by the Anticipation Hub and co-organized by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the Start Network. All this was possible thanks to the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO).

A total of 1,120 participants from 131 countries took part, coming from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the United Nations (UN), the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, governments and scientific organizations. The three days offered different panel discussions, sessions and keynote talks, bringing together stakeholders, experts, scientists and others to share their knowledge and find new solutions. There was also a virtual party as the Anticipation Hub celebrated its first birthday.

The platform was actively used by **1,120 participants** who came from **131 different countries**

9th Global Dialogue Platform
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DAY ONE

Opening

“I can’t believe I am actually here,” said **Jesse Mason** as he opened the conference. “The first edition of the Global Dialogue Platform is still a vivid memory – now it’s already the 9th edition.” **Niccolò Lombardi** joined in, welcoming everyone from the live studio at FAO in Rome and giving an overview of the conference: “Themes like protecting livelihoods and agriculture will be an important part of many sessions of this dialogue platform. It is crucial to protect the most vulnerable people, who will otherwise feel the impact.”



Kara Siahaan explained that the Anticipation Hub now brings together more than 80 partners: “What started with a small workshop has grown so much. We are glad that the virtual edition of the platform is now more accessible than ever before, with 1,400 people being registered as of this morning.”

The moderators from the live studio in Johannesburg also shared some welcoming remarks. **Siphokazi Moloinyane** said they were happy to be co-hosting along with Rome, and explained how excited she was about the sessions to come, which were strengthening the collaboration with Africa. All the moderators in Africa were happy to see so many familiar faces at the platform.



Speakers:

Jesse Mason

Global coordinator - anticipatory actions, WFP

Niccolò Lombardi

Emergency and rehabilitation officer,
Office of Emergencies and Resilience, FAO

Kara Siahaan

Head of the Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross

Siphokazi Moloinyane

Early warning and anticipatory action support officer, FAO

Quraishia Merzouk

Early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

Anna Lena Huhn

Regional project delegate - southern Africa, German Red Cross

Jurg Wilbrink

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and forecast-based financing (FbF) advisor, IFRC

Opening speeches

Dr Qu Dongyu noted that it had been a big year for anticipatory action. From the G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact to the High-Level Pledging Event, and the High-Level Brussels Dialogue to the recently concluded 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), anticipatory action was high on the agenda. He also pointed out the growing realization that we can – and must – do more to protect people against predictable shocks. The interaction between climate change, migration, displacement and food insecurity calls for coordinated and complementary efforts by all actors and stakeholders.

On meeting the challenges of future crises, he underlined: “Advancing the interaction between science and policy will be a crucial precondition to make anticipatory action work at scale, to anticipate food crises and make agri-food systems more resilient.” The Global Dialogue Platform presents an opportunity for collective knowledge exchange and learning, and he emphasized how pleased he was to be part of this tradition, and amid the growing community.

Valerie Guarnieri explained that the three days would offer a space to focus on how all participants can work together to better anticipate and reduce the impact of shocks for the most vulnerable populations: “This couldn’t be more urgent: the number of unprotected people in a food crisis or emergency is higher than ever. Vulnerabilities are increasing further still due to climate-, conflict- and Covid-19-related economic stress, and rising food prices.”

WFP wanted to send a strong message about the urgency of adopting anticipatory action at scale to prevent further food crises, she added: “This global platform provides us all with a space to discuss how to do this together. I hope this week’s open dialogue inspires you to learn from each other – from your successes as well as your setbacks. When collaboration and partnership thrive, anticipatory action will be able to meet human needs more effectively and with dignity.” Previous dialogue platforms have proven this and her biggest hope was that the next three days would continue to cement this critical collaboration.

Susanne Fries-Gaier looked back at the huge successes the platform had already had, especially after this exciting – as well as challenging – year. Anticipatory pilots in more than 60 countries worldwide saved lives, reduced suffering and provided important evidence that anticipation works. She also noted how more than 80 partners now collaborate in the Anticipation Hub: “This is extremely encouraging. The Anticipation Hub has become a place to exchange and learn from each other.”



Speakers:

Dr Qu Dongyu
Director-general, FAO

Valerie Guarnieri
Assistant executive director, WFP

Susanne Fries-Gaier
Director for humanitarian
assistance, GFFO

Nena Stoiljkovic
Under-secretary general for
global relationships, humanitarian
diplomacy and digitalization, IFRC

Christof Johnen
Director of international
cooperation, German Red Cross



Looking ahead, there are a record number of humanitarian needs, which underlines the importance of anticipatory action. The German presidency of the G7 next year will be used, along with the G7 partners, to provide a cohesive message of support and to galvanize further collective and mainstreamed anticipatory action: “I am convinced that this platform will help bring forward the discussion with important examples from the field. Let me thank all the partners assembled here today for their hard work organizing this important conference in these challenging times.”



Being part of this year’s Global Dialogue Platform made **Nena Stoiljkovic** proud: “I am pleased to see the progress we have achieved. Anticipatory action is now reaching more people and covering more countries than ever before. True collaboration on research and innovation helps us learn about anticipatory approaches for more hazards and across diverse contexts.”

Today, more governments support anticipatory action, but the focus needs to remain on the people vulnerable to climate and crisis shocks. In 2022, she hoped that even more efforts could be put into action, underscoring the value of local capacity: “We cannot rely on a growing international system; communities and local governments need to be in the lead. They are at the forefront of anticipating and responding to crises, they know what is needed and what works to translate early warning into anticipatory action, while understanding their priorities, their experiences and their expertise.” Investing in local capacities and putting people at the centre are key to mainstreaming and upscaling anticipatory action, she added, as are knowledge exchange and learning through the Anticipation Hub and collaborating with partners. She hoped that the anticipatory community will work on bold solutions for the challenges of future crises.



Opening remarks by the regional platforms

Three regional platforms were held in 2021, in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific, plus a further event in southern Africa. Regional representatives shared the success of their respective platforms. **Mathieu Destrooper** talked about the importance of exchanging experiences and seeing where everybody stands – and the fun of getting together again. He emphasized: “Only here can we really make a difference for the families that face these hazards.” There is a growing community of practice, with even more participants now working at the international level and pushing anticipation from all sides: “We created a momentum, and now we have to grab this momentum and turn it into action.”

Phoebe Shikuku explained how the Africa Dialogue Platform brought together practitioners, policy-makers, scientists and academics to debate how to build and strengthen systems to support anticipatory action. The platform explored different options on how to scale up and sustainably implement anticipatory action in Africa. Discussions and stories informed the platform – and she was already looking forward to next year’s event.

Anna Lena Huhn said that it was the first time that southern Africa came together as an anticipatory community: “We developed some great outcomes, which helped to draft the regional strategy for forecast-based financing and anticipatory humanitarian action in southern Africa.” She was looking forward to the global event and especially moving towards further commitments as one community, in the face of a future of climate change and increasingly extreme events.

Samuel Clendon was happy about the great success of the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform, which in 2021 doubled the number of participants, while **Raymond Zingg** emphasized that it helped to move one step further towards institutionalization, with anticipatory action becoming a key activity in the coming years. Interactive sessions at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform helped people to meet and exchange virtually: “Not only numbers, but also outcomes made the platform a success – with a promising future for our region.” And all the speakers agreed: anticipatory action is up and running, everyone is on track – and ready to do more, to do it better and to do it together.

You can watch a video of these remarks here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl4XO9eoWyA



Speakers:

Mathieu Destrooper

Regional anticipation advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, German Red Cross

Phoebe Shikuku

DRR and FbF advisor - Africa region, IFRC

Anna Lena Huhn

Regional project delegate - southern Africa, German Red Cross

Samuel Clendon

Regional programme officer, WFP

Raymond Zingg

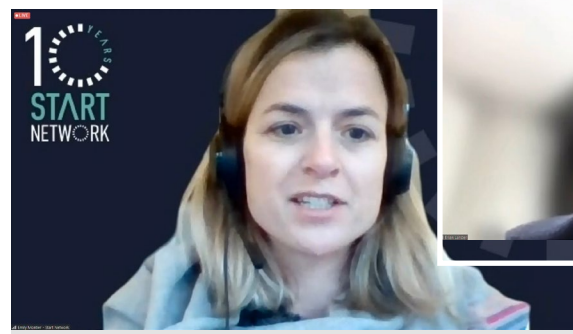
Regional FbF coordinator for Asia-Pacific, IFRC



Opening panel

Kicking off the opening panel, **Emily Montier** highlighted the importance of data in complex scenarios, noting that Covid-19 has changed a lot of things in the last two years: “We don’t need a one-size-fits-all model, but we need different types of approach that can be applied to different situations.” Understanding crises better was one of her hopes for next year, to explore the links and connections between them – and to improve anticipatory action.

Brian Lander talked about the problems pushing people to the edge: “At the moment, we have 45 million people in 35 countries on the verge of famine. These trends can be limited, and they can even be reversed by anticipatory action.” Of course, protecting more people needs the right financing. WFP and other organizations need to become more efficient in their funding: “But all of this isn’t enough. Together with our partners, we committed to making one billion people safer from disasters by 2025. In 2022, we hope to finalize our own corporate funding window for anticipatory action to provide prearranged finance for life-saving activities when early warning predicts risks. [...] Our goal should be to make anticipatory action an integral part of humanitarian action.”



Speakers:

Emily Montier

Head of crisis anticipation and risk financing, Start Network

Brian Lander

Deputy director - emergency operations, WFP

Dr Maarten van Aalst

Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Heli Uusikyla

Director for humanitarian financing and resource mobilization, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Rein Paulsen

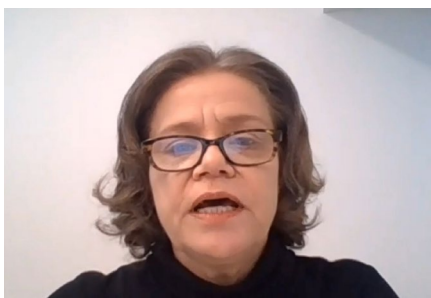
Director office of emergencies and resilience, FAO



Dr Maarten van Aalst emphasized that a lot has happened, but the progress is still happening too slowly: “We are not yet there.” Not only in terms of reaching the most vulnerable people, but also using the most efficient tools: “We have to get out of our silos, and for that we must see anticipatory action as an important part of humanitarian action. We have to reach the ‘last mile’ and we have to use the data and information we have for our further work.” Connecting local communities and their agendas helps to identify the real problems.



The goal has to be anticipatory action delivered at scale, and not as symbolic acts. The more that can be done locally, the better the outcomes will be.



Heli Uusikyla focused on the progress to date. More efficient use of data sources is crucial, but the impact of the programme has to be shown and documented, too. “The partners are doing a fantastic job,” she emphasized, “[and] working together can help us make everything more efficient

and to learn from each other.” Her hopes for 2022 were collaboration, coordination and deeper, lasting partnerships.

Rein Paulsen agreed with his fellow speakers, noting that reacting earlier helps people – especially the most vulnerable – keep their dignity. Many people are at the edge of famine right now, which concerns us all. For 2022, he hoped that anticipatory action becomes the norm and that we start taking more steps in the direction of institutionalization. Political will is important here: “It is fundamental to create structures of working anticipatory action, wherever needed and possible.”

“

It is encouraging to see that anticipatory action is increasingly embedded in the humanitarian system. Anticipatory action programmes are an important component of our strategic plan, ensuring that people can better meet their food needs, have improved sustainable livelihoods and have access to national programmes and systems.

Brian Lander, deputy director - emergencies operations, WFP

”

Looking back: 2021 in cartoons

What was distressing in 2021 – and what were the delights? What will stay in our memories, in a positive or a negative way? **Irene Amuron** and **Bettina Kölle** took a look at what happened over the last year by sharing some cartoons. They started with a rant: 90 seconds to let everything out, everything that made people angry in 2021. The participants shared their frustrations: Zoom meetings, locusts, weight gain and the loss of hope. Covid-19, of course, has affected (nearly) everything, adding more problems to existing ones. The question is: how can this cycle be stopped?



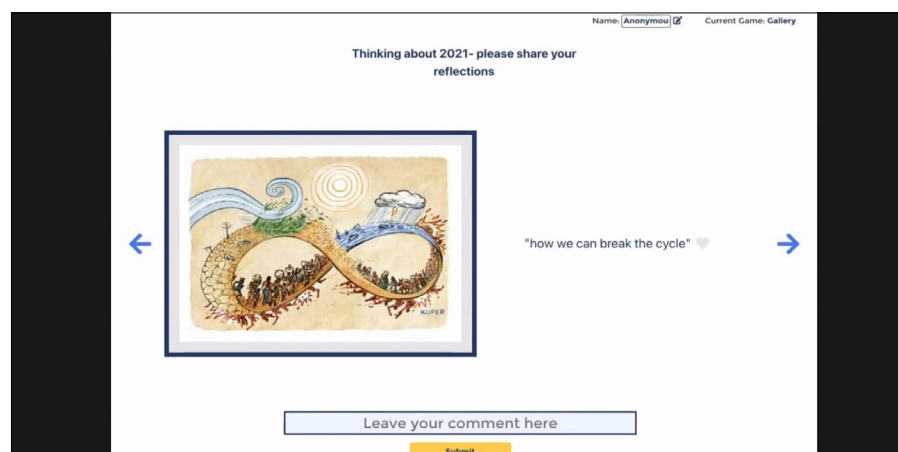
Speakers:

Irene Amuron

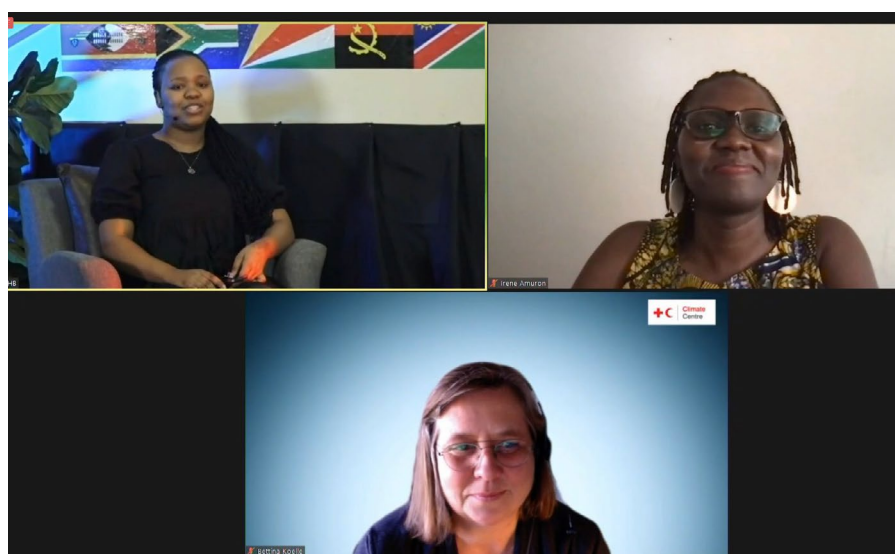
Manager - anticipatory action,
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate
Centre

Bettina Kölle

Senior learning specialist,
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate
Centre



In one cartoon, an anticipatory action ‘pot luck’ brought everyone together, sharing recipes and exchanging ideas – a better way to see the challenges of current times. “We are already taking these steps,” said Irene Amuron, “a lot is happening right now.” Participants added their reflections, suggesting that it would be better if we thought outside the box, or that focusing on reality is an important step. The year 2021 wasn’t easy, but there are many possibilities for the future.



Keynote speech:

Anticipatory action and food security + climate change

Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez and **Dr Selma Lendelvo** focused on the challenges of anticipatory action and food security against the backdrop of climate change – a topic that is also crucial for **Quraishia Merzouk** and her work, as she emphasized when introducing the keynote speakers.

They addressed myth-busting and let the participants guess what was true and what was just a myth. For example, the highest levels of malnutrition happen during the ‘lean season’, when access to food is lowest: truth or myth? Most participants guessed right: it is a myth. New research shows that there are two peaks of malnutrition in many regions, for example across the Sahel. The first, which is the largest, happens at the end of the dry season, while the smaller peak happens at the end of the lean season.

Another possible myth: women and men benefit equally from ecosystem-based adaptations to climate change. The participants guessed correctly again: a myth. Dr Selma Lendelvo explained that men and women still don’t have the same access to the same chances, and are therefore affected differently by climate change – a gap that is currently widening.

The speakers then asked another question: the famine in Madagascar could mainly be attributed to climate change – truth or myth? Many in the audience thought that was true, but the answer is much more complex. The impact of climate change has actually been quite small; the problem, as the speakers explained, is the high vulnerability of the affected people. Covid-19 had made this worse, and it also increased the complexity of dealing with droughts.

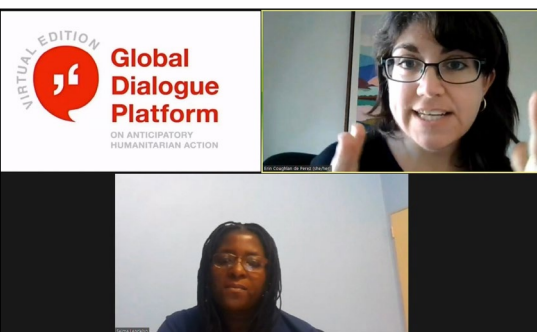


Speakers:

Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez
Associate professor,
Tufts University; senior technical
advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent
Climate Centre

Dr Selma Lendelvo
Director, Centre for Grants
Management and Resource
Mobilisation, University of Namibia

Quraishia Merzouk
Early warning and anticipatory
action specialist, FAO



You always have to see the whole picture; only that can help to find the right solutions.

Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez, associate professor, Tufts University; senior technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



Panel:

Anticipatory action – an accelerator for climate action?

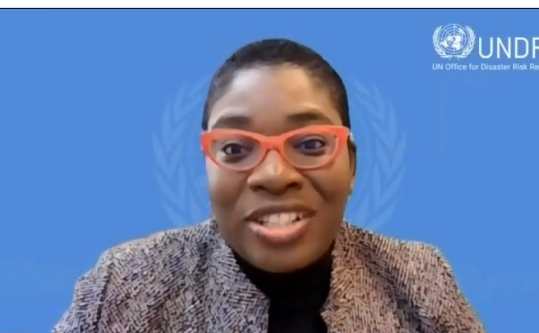
Dirk-Jan Omtzigt started this panel by stating that “the climate emergency is a threat multiplier to many parts of our humanitarian work”. Learning from each other’s experience is key to finding ways to do better in each emergency and with every shock. That, of course, means more challenges: “How can we make anticipatory action



work in ongoing protracted emergencies? For example in Somalia, where the rainfall season failed in three consecutive years.” More flexible financing is needed, with more global attention and more resources – and as soon as possible: “I hope this platform will help us make progress – like it always does.”

But what has already been achieved? **Ben Webster** emphasized the increasing profile and growing recognition of anticipatory action, but to go further, aspects such as common terminology among stakeholders must be clear, and more incentives to invest (e.g., in insurance) must be in place: “That is always easy to say, but to do that in practice requires patience and a lot of coordination. We need to respond to a rapidly escalating global crisis, and we need to break the cycle and respond to an emergency and work on anticipatory action at the same time.”

Toni-Shae Freckleton agreed that anticipatory action has become more accepted, not least because it is faster, more efficient and more dignified for vulnerable people.



But only 50 cents out of every 100 dollars go into anticipatory action – and that is not enough. “Addressing the root causes of crises, and the gaps in financing, is still hard,” she said. “We need a shared understanding of climate change and its effects on conflict contexts to find new solutions.”



Speakers:

Dirk-Jan Omtzigt

Chief economist and head of humanitarian financing strategy and analysis, OCHA

Ben Webster

Head of secretariat, Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

Toni-Shae Freckleton

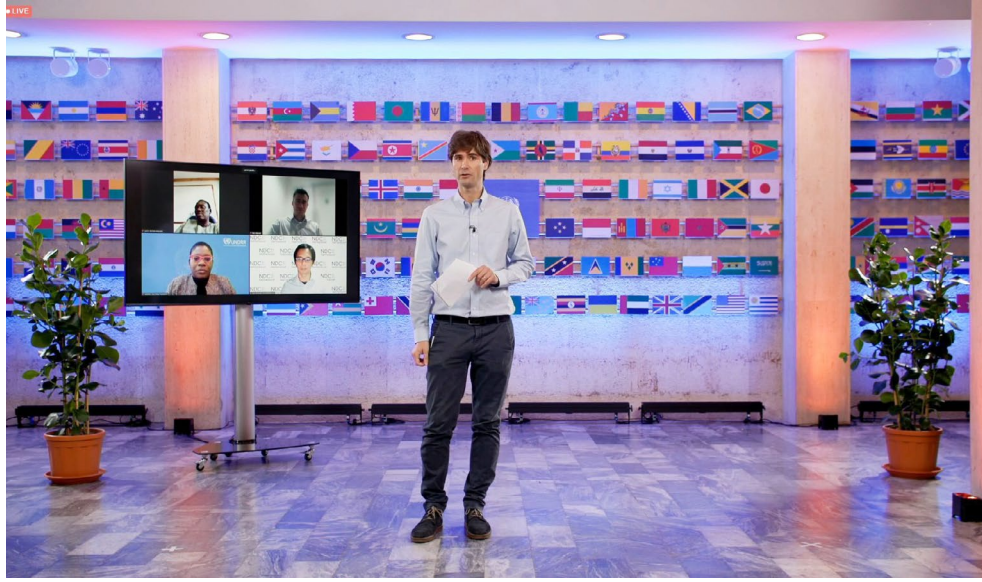
Head of New York Liaison Office, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Deo Gabinete

Regional manager - Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe, NDC Partnership

Lucy Mtilatila

Deputy director, Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, Malawi



Deo Gabinete was also enthusiastic: “We are really seeing an increasing focus on anticipatory action. Mitigating the effects of climate change is crucial, especially for smaller countries, and anticipatory mechanisms can contribute well here.” The information and data used by all actors is a huge step forward, although he noted that while a lack of talent is not a problem, the lack of people is.

Lucy Mtilatila focused on experiences and challenges in Malawi. There are not enough standardized procedures in place to scale up anticipatory action, she said, and more resources and more institutions need to take responsibility in anticipation. Awareness on these problems at the national level is very important here. What about the future? What has to be done, and what are the opportunities? There is a lot of interest by people, she noted, but coordination between institutions is often complicated. Pilot projects can provide lessons here, as does every success story.

“

We need to learn from pilot projects and adapt the solutions of other success stories, so that we can do more.

”

Lucy Mtilatila, deputy director,
Department of Climate Change and
Meteorological Services, Malawi



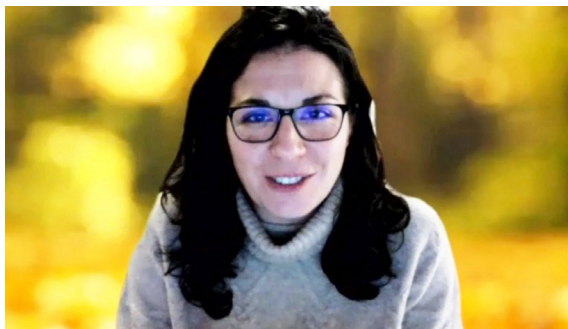
How can proactive and integrated early approaches help to prevent food crises?

Why is this topic more important than ever? **Rebecca Richards** shared some facts and figures. The *Global Report on Food Crises 2021* showed that 155 million people across 55 countries are in acute food insecurity – and the number is rising. She recommended building evidence through early warning and food security analysis, and streamlining anticipatory action in national frameworks, strategies and policies. Furthermore, coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened to streamline programmes according to the needs of the affected populations: “The task is difficult – but it can be done.”

Next, **Chiara Mellucci** talked about engaging development colleagues. Long-term resilience is important here, but there is also political momentum: anticipatory action is increasingly becoming part of political work.

A panel discussion followed the first two speeches. **Wolde Wesa** explained that in his region of Kenya, protecting livelihoods is the ultimate challenge as they are threatened by drought. However, droughts are predictable to some extent, as they happen every year. “It is important to learn the lessons here,” he said, “but the biggest challenge is to develop a drought-response system while you are just experiencing one.” That makes it much more complicated to find a working solution, despite good support.

Innovative solutions are crucial, argued **Daniel Stadtmüller**. Financing is also key: you cannot only start looking for the money when it is already desperately needed. He recommended a trigger-based approach with special funds which can be accessed quickly: “This is a chance for the private sector, because there is a huge interest.” Efficient data should be the base to create an anticipatory action plan. But there is still an institutional issue: there are too many silos with too many systems. A common language and an understanding of the complexity of the topic is needed.



Social protection is a much-needed link, said **Cecilia Costella**. Its potential lies in the possibility to reduce the vulnerability of people, but real experience is still missing. Many



Speakers:

Rebecca Richards
WFP chief of policy and
programme, Global Network
Against Food Crises

Chiara Mellucci
Team leader - prevention and
preparedness in humanitarian aid,
Directorate-General for European
Civil Protection and Humanitarian
Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

Wolde Wesa
Deputy county secretary, County
Government of Marsabit, Kenya

Daniel Stadtmüller
Team lead and senior policy
advisor, InsuResilience

Cecilia Costella
Social protection and climate
specialist, independent consultant/
University of Twente/Red Cross
Red Crescent Climate Centre

Ahmed Amdihum
Programme coordinator - disaster
risk management, IGAD Climate
Prediction and Applications Centre



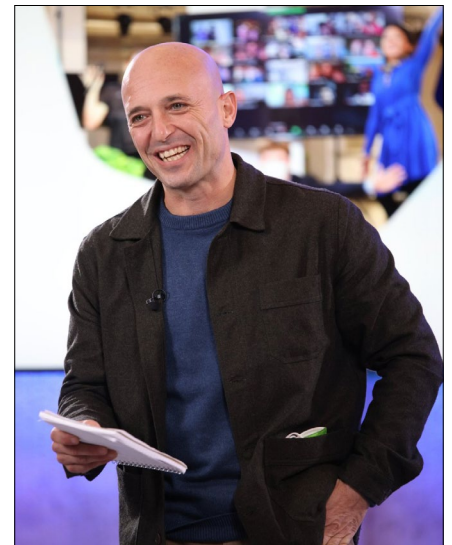
[In every country] it is important to find the right links from social protection [...] to anticipatory action, and to find the right translation for every need and for the different sides.

Cecilia Costella, social protection and climate specialist, independent consultant/University of Twente/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



countries are still working on connecting social protection to individual needs – and these can look different in every country.

For **Ahmed Amdihum** it is not only important to establish early anticipation systems, but also to find the right responses. The strategies are often in place, but the actions behind them are limited. A lot of money has already been spent, which saved a lot of lives – but the financing has to be more sustainable. Trying new approaches in smaller communities, so as to later adapt them to a bigger scale, can be one solution.



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DAY TWO

Parallel sessions #1

Triggers: interagency adoption and launch of the trigger database

This session highlighted the speakers' shared understanding of the importance of hosting all information about current and upcoming triggers for anticipatory action in one location. **Dr Kiswendsida Guigma** started the session by launching the Anticipation Hub's new trigger database. He elaborated on how this will allow collaborators and organizations to easily identify who is working on what and where. Moving into breakout rooms, **Marijke Panis, Phuoc Phùng, Bouke Ottow, Aklilu Teklesadik** and **Monica Turner** explained how triggers operate, and the limitations faced, for different hazards: drought, heavy rainfall, flood, *dzud* and severe tropical storms. Demonstrations were followed with questions to the panellists, who shared their insights, such as the need to avoid 'reinventing the wheel' and how to improve interagency collaborations.

Leonardo Milano stated a need to push forward with collaborations, but also to include and provide peer feedback to collectively improve the work. This was echoed by **Jurg Wilbrink**, who noted the need for available and shared data among the collaborators working on trigger models. As the Anticipation Hub's focal point for the working group for South Africa, he emphasized the importance of having a regional role to guide the conversation on the methodologies, terminology and advocacy around anticipatory action within organizations: "Not only should we work together on triggers, but we need to be sure that our actions align."

Liz Stephens noted that organizations are unlikely to use exactly the same triggers, but that there needs to be collaboration on the trigger model itself. This can be achieved through the feedback loops that Leonardo Milano mentioned, in addition to creating interagency



Using forecast information, anticipatory action systems for severe tropical storms have been implemented in the Philippines, Mozambique and Bangladesh, and are currently under development in Central America and Viet Nam.

Monica Turner, senior data scientist, Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA



Speakers:

Dr Kiswendsida Guigma

Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Marijke Panis

Hazard and impact analyst, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross

Phuoc Phùng

Geographic information system (GIS) and remote sensing analyst, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross

Bouke Ottow

GIS and remote sensing analyst, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross

Aklilu Teklesadik

Hazard and impact analyst, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross

Monica Turner

Senior data scientist, Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA

Leonardo Milano

Predictive analytics team lead, Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA

Jurg Wilbrink

DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC

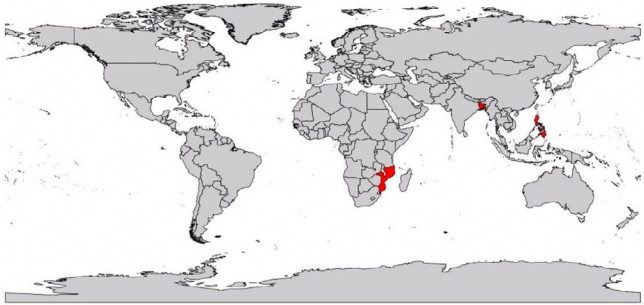
Liz Stephens

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre/University of Reading

Stefania Giardini

Operational lead, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross

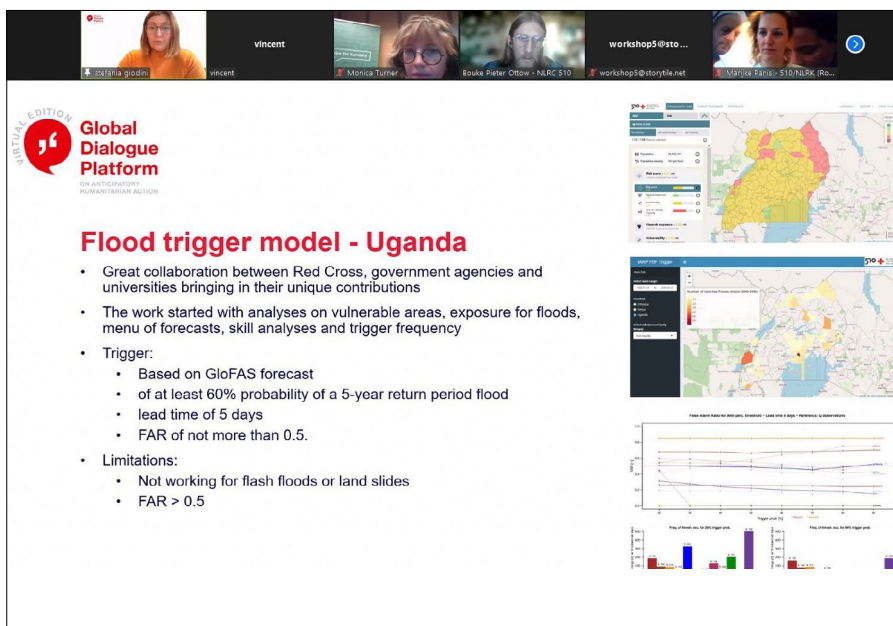
Cyclone/Typhoon



Example of **Mozambique**. The cyclone EAP is triggered based on forecast information distributed 72 hours before the event indicating a category 3 cyclone with a speed of 120 km/h or more making landfall. The trigger of early actions will depend on the released forecast and an official announcement made by the Technical Committee for Disaster Management (CTGC) to activate actions.

Forecast source: National: National Meteorological Institute ([INAM](#)) and International: Regional Specialized Meteorological Center ([RSMC La](#))

consistency when coordinating with forecasting centres and governmental stakeholders. The consensus from the session was to avoid duplicating efforts, and find long-term collaborations that can be improved by collective learning.



Flood trigger model - Uganda

- Great collaboration between Red Cross, government agencies and universities bringing in their unique contributions
- The work started with analyses on vulnerable areas, exposure for floods, menu of forecasts, skill analyses and trigger frequency
- Trigger:
 - Based on GloFAS forecast
 - of at least 60% probability of a 5-year return period flood
 - lead time of 5 days
 - FAR of not more than 0.5.
- Limitations:
 - Not working for flash floods or land slides
 - FAR > 0.5

Social protection and anticipatory action: what gains have we made and where do we need to go?

This session looked at how national social protection systems can be used to implement anticipatory action, with examples from Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines. First, **Emma Flaherty** discussed how social protection and anticipatory action can mutually reinforce one another. She also presented a new report from REAP, *Linking Social Protection and Early Action - A Game Changer for People centred Climate Action?: www.early-action-reap.org/linking-social-protection-and-early-action-game-changer-people-centred-climate-action*

Ruth Honculada-Georget shared insights from the past five years in the Philippines. She highlighted the importance of harmonizing different data sources, presenting the case of a joint simulation in flood-prone areas to provide households with cash transfers in anticipation of floods. Next, **Anne-Sophie Pétri** and **Mark James Johnson** presented an ongoing project in Nepal to build an anticipatory mechanism for floods and cold waves linked to the social protection system, and a pilot intervention to collaborate with the financial service provider for Nepal's social security allowance, in order to distribute cash to non-beneficiaries in response to the 2021 floods.

Bhavani Vaidyanathan focused on the situation in Bangladesh, especially the momentum generated by the National Social Security



Speakers:

Emma Flaherty

Implementation lead, REAP

Ruth Honculada-Georget

Social protection specialist, FAO Philippines

Anne-Sophie Pétri

ECHO programme manager, Danish Red Cross

Mark James Johnson

Shock responsive social protection advisor, Danish Red Cross

Bhavani Vaidyanathan

Poverty and social protection specialist, FAO Bangladesh

Damien Riquet

Regional anticipatory action specialist, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Federico Spano

Social protection and resilience officer, FAO

“

Social safety nets programmes are there [in Bangladesh]. The rest is an opportunity to increase risk management and undertake risk-reduction activities.

Bhavani Vaidyanathan, poverty and social protection specialist, FAO Bangladesh

”



Global Dialogue Platform
ON ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Opportunities for regional coordination under the FAO-ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership

- The regional TWG on AA may be used to discuss the alignment of methodologies between agencies;
- FAO is working with ODI on a scoping paper on Social Protection and Anticipatory Action in support of agricultural livelihoods in the Asia and Pacific region.

Global Dialogue Platform
ON ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION

FAO-ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (Year 1)

Strategy Action Plan for 2021-2025. Finally, **Damien Riquet** presented a new ECHO-FAO partnership that has been launched in five countries in Asia, discussing the entry points for fostering collaborative approaches. Coordination among state and non-state actors, developing communities of practice, and integrating existing systems and mechanisms to enhance local ownership are all crucial to the effective integration of social protection and anticipatory action, he explained.

Weather, water and climate services: enablers for anticipatory action

The value of weather, water and climate services is recognized globally. In practice, however, it may be challenging to build a bridge between meteorological services (as the natural producers of these services) and end-users. While this challenge persists in developed countries, developing countries struggle with additional constraints around power, resources and capacity.

Co-production has emerged as a key element. While this may appear a hopeless ambition in certain conditions, it actually has considerable



Speakers:

Helen Ticehurst

International development manager, United Kingdom (UK) Met Office

Boris Orlovsky

Programme director - Tajikistan, Caritas Switzerland

Jenni Latikka

Project manager, Finnish Meteorological Institute

Megan Lilley

Regional disaster preparedness delegate (early warning, early action) - Asia Pacific, Finnish Red Cross

Oscar Rojas

Natural resource officer, FAO

Irene Amuron

Manager - anticipatory action, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



We are going to continue to ensure that the end-users – the humanitarian users, the communities and local decision-makers, and most importantly those people that are needing to make decisions about their life based on risk information – are involved in the whole process.



Megan Lilley, regional disaster preparedness delegate
(early warning, early action) - Asia Pacific, Finnish Red Cross



potential. In Tajikistan, Caritas Switzerland has started to involve end-users in the collection of weather data – the lack of which had previously prevented decent forecasts or user-tailored services. Low-cost and low-maintenance weather stations are combined with citizen observations and transmitted to meteorological service, which provides end-users with vital services.

Co-design is also at the centre of a collaboration between meteorological services and Red Cross Societies in Finland and Nepal. Giving an explicit voice to remote Nepalese communities resulted in a suite of weather, water and climate services that met their true needs. Combined with co-produced response mechanisms, these communities are now better prepared for upcoming events.

Name: Current Game: Gallery

What are the challenges around co-production of Weather and Climate Services?

"give enough time" ♥

"People involved in co-production often forget that effective communication of the end product is as important as the design of the weather information product itself" ♥

"Everyone seems to agree coproduction is a good idea in principle but when it comes to trying to do it, it's harder to break down the siloes " ♥

← [] →

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Financing disaster risks: how can different risk-financing instruments reduce vulnerabilities to and impacts of shocks?

Insurance is one of a variety of disaster risk-financing instruments that can protect people against extreme events. Policies have been developed on a micro-level that pay out directly to farmers, or on a macro-level that target the most affected people nationally. **Niclas Benni** introduced agricultural insurance for farmers and other small-scale agricultural actors. There are two approaches: either the policy can pay out once the negative effects of drought are felt, or an index-based insurance model can pay out a fixed amount based on agreed indicators



and specific thresholds being met. This can create a financial buffer for farmers, leading to innovation and adaptations to farming practices, as well as positive mental health outcomes. Advocacy to governments and communities is required to promote this approach.

Anna Farina and **Mathieu Dubreuil** discussed the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica programme <https://startnetwork.org/arc-replica>, a macro-insurance product offered by ARC Limited to humanitarian agencies (Start Network and WFP) to complement the drought-insurance policies purchased by African Union member states. These policies cover the rarest events, but contingency funds should be put in place to cover more moderate events as part of a more holistic disaster risk financing (DRF) approach at the country level. In Zimbabwe, a joint policy between the government, the Start Network and WFP is being put in place to protect over 800,000 people. So far, ARC Replica partners have protected 3.5 million people in six countries, who have received 18 million US dollars to avoid food insecurity during the lean season.

What have we learnt so far?

- We cannot do Anticipatory Action **without flexible finances** – it is at the heart of the approach and needs to be scaled up
- Need to **ambitiously work together as a community** to move from reactive to proactive funding sources with evidence
- We need to consider how AA initiatives fit within the wider **disaster risk management and adaptation financing landscape**
- Break down what the financing looks like – **preparedness, readiness and action** – need all three!
- There are various methods...and one of these is via **climate risk insurance**





Speakers:

Niclas Benni
Rural finance specialist, FAO

Anna Farina
Crisis anticipation and disaster risk finance operations lead, Start Network

Mathieu Dubreuil
Senior programme advisor for climate risk insurance, WFP

Catherine Jones
Anticipatory action lead for Asia and the Pacific, FAO



Even if agricultural insurance is not a feasible option at present in many developing countries, it is possible to work on strengthening a range of enabling elements, for example regulation, infrastructure, awareness, that can make insurance a feasible proposition in [...] a few years.

Niclas Benni, rural finance specialist, FAO



Learning to scale: what GFFO and REAP learned in 2021 about scaling and embedding early action

Scaling is important – but how can we do it well? **Marie Wagner** introduced the Global Public Policy Institute’s work with GFFO. One critical recommendation that emerged was the need for GFFO to support the harmonization of triggers and thresholds between different implementing actors: “If you strengthen the capacity within the GFFO to efficiently accompany the scale up of anticipatory action, a lot about cooperation and learning can be improved.” For funding, flexibility is especially helpful; another recommendation was to make funding for anticipatory action publicly available and internationally comparable.

Ben Webster emphasized the importance of learning in REAP’s recommendations: “What are the collective learnings we can really take up to save more people when disasters strike?” REAP’s analysis also calls for increased collaboration, coherence and understanding between the key actors and communities involved in the early action agenda, to reduce silos and achieve greater collective impact. Knowledge exchange between countries is crucial, noted **Emma Flaherty**: “A government-to-government dialogue is very practical and helpful.” This can help everybody get access to the latest good practice and draw on collective learning.

It is also important to support the international community to strengthen coordination and reduce complexity, making it simpler for countries to access financial support and technical assistance when needed. “The culture of honest feedback is one of the reasons we actually advanced in the last years,” concluded **Matthias Amling**.



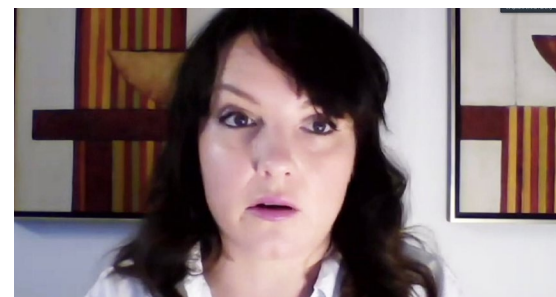
Speakers:

Marie Wagner
Research associate,
Global Public Policy Institute

Ben Webster
Head of secretariat, REAP

Emma Flaherty
Implementation lead, REAP

Matthias Amling
Senior desk officer -
humanitarian assistance, GFFO



“

The overarching recommendation is to encourage dialogue and the exchange of information.

Emma Flaherty, implementation lead, REAP

”

2. Enabling Country Level Leadership

- **Emerging Recommendations**
 - Support the international community to strengthen coordination and reduce complexity, thereby making it simpler for countries and governments to access financial support and technical assistance where required.
 - Continue to promote Locally Led Adaptation and people-centred approaches that build on local and national capacity of relevant actors.
 - Promote knowledge exchange between countries to ensure they have access to the latest good practice and are able to draw on collective learning from different contexts and regions.

Drivers of Change

REAP Risk-informed Early Action Partnership



Parallel sessions #2

Experiencing early action planning in conflict contexts: what would you have done if an anticipatory action system was in place?

In this interactive session, participants joined forces to address key humanitarian impacts in the fictional district of Mazrawe. Winter storms have wreaked havoc, with thousands displaced and extensive damage from flooding, heavy snowfall and strong winds. But this is not an easy place to work: multiple armed groups are active and extremist attacks occur frequently, even though there is a ceasefire in place.

In three groups, participants developed a plan for early action. Proposed actions to address the health impacts of winter storms included awareness campaigns, the provision of winterization items, safe stoves and heated shelters. For food security and livelihoods, key actions were protecting livestock through early relocation and multi-purpose cash transfers. However, participants highlighted their concerns regarding the conflict: some of these actions might increase social tensions and access would need to be negotiated in advance.



Speakers:

Tesse de Boer

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

Catalina Jaime

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

Kaustubh Devale

Head of emergency and resilience unit - Afghanistan, FAO



Storm disaster impacts: FSL and WASH

- **Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL):** Crops severely affected, particularly greenhouses and open fields. This greatly affected the cash crop season. Significant damages also affected the livestock sector with an estimated 20,250 chickens reported to have perished from the storm.
- **WASH:** extensive damage to water and sewage infrastructure with several facilities overflowing.

This exercise offered a glimpse into the complexities of anticipatory action in conflict settings. Armed groups also play a crucial role in the feasibility of actions, and the simulation showed that convincing stakeholders is not an easy task. Overall, participants reflected on the importance of understanding the context and recognizing the potential consequences of their actions.



“ There is a strong overlay between climate vulnerability and armed conflict, as 46 out of 60 highly vulnerable countries are in fragile or extremely fragile contexts. Climate change is a threat multiplier and can contribute to conflict dynamics. Conflict does severely increase vulnerability to climate change and variability. ”

Tesse de Boer, advisor - climate and conflict, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Advancing anticipatory action at the national level: a roadmap for government and partners working together in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is seventh in the list of countries most affected by extreme weather events (2000-2019) and the government has been working with others to develop tools to be better prepared. **Md. Moshin** highlighted how the government has been trying to integrate anticipatory action into its disaster-management system and expanding FbF from the policy level to operationalization in the field.

Niger Dil Nahar then shared WFP's experience of implementing FbF in the country, highlighting the importance of working with partners. Its projects have validated proof of concept for FbF, allowing this innovative approach to be mainstreamed into disaster risk management and aligned with the government's response mechanism: "Not everything was perfect in the beginning [...] but we overcame those challenges and kept the experiences in mind while further developing our programme."

Kazi Shahidur Rahman highlighted how anticipatory action is incorporated to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness. Cooperating with the government in the right way is essential here: "We see cooperation with the government as a two-way relationship."



Speakers:

Md. Mohsin
Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Niger Dil Nahar
Programme policy officer, WFP Bangladesh

Kazi Shahidur Rahman
Humanitarian affairs specialist, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Bangladesh

Ashraful Haque
Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network (FOREWARN) coordinator, Start Network Bangladesh

Piet Vochten
Deputy country director, WFP Bangladesh



Ashraful Haque highlighted the important role that local communities and their special knowledge play in designing and implementing anticipatory action. Engaging communities in the early-warning systems also gives them more confidence and trust in the system, so that they act early

when a trigger is activated. The session ended with **Piet Vochten** emphasizing how operationalizing and advancing anticipatory action in Bangladesh is a work in progress and a dynamic journey for everyone involved.



We always have to consult with the local communities first before starting any anticipatory intervention. They are the experts for their own area.

Ashraful Haque, FOREWARN coordinator, Start Network Bangladesh



Global Dialogue Platform
ON ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION

What makes a difference

- Governance and coordination with other stakeholders (FbF working group, Financial Service Provider)
- Proof of concept
- Advocacy with Government (Standing Orders on Disasters, FbF Taskforce)




Epidemic forecasting and anticipatory action

Anticipatory action for epidemics is still relatively new, but many opportunities are being explored and tested. **Monica Rull Villa** explained how Médecins Sans Frontières is using its collective experience in humanitarian health emergencies for anticipatory action. For example, it includes environmental factors such as rain or temperature in anticipatory actions for malaria. One challenge is that most countries don't have incentives to detect early outbreaks, and weak health systems mean gaps in detecting small outbreaks in remote areas.

Even acting on false alarms might be a good investment. **Tinka Valentijn** explained how triggers are developed for plague in Madagascar, and for cholera in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique. Models do not focus on the 'case zero', but use case data as a part of their input: "With epidemic modelling, we have the unique opportunity to use the case data as part of the input, so it is different compared to drought, for example."



Speakers:

Monica Rull Villa
Medical director, Médecins Sans Frontières

Tinka Valentijn
Data scientist, OCHA

Tilly Alcayna
Senior technical advisor - climate and health, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Thuy-Binh Nguyen
Technical advisor - DRR and climate change adaptation, French Red Cross

The main challenge is that observation data are often only available several weeks later. How can this be sped up? **Tilly Alcayna** presented a dengue prediction model that uses temperature and rainfall data, and observed cases. A lead time of three months is possible; for example, a hot and dry period followed by a wet period has a high risk of a dengue outbreak. This approach can also be used for other climate-sensitive infectious diseases, such as cholera.

Thuy-Binh Nguyen described how FbF for epidemics is developed, using a case study from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The measles epidemic there has huge humanitarian impacts, but is neglected in the media and receives little funding. Preventive measures exist but are not fully deployed. The French Red Cross started with risk analysis, using key indicators that make the population more vulnerable to measles. Subsequently, routine and community-based epidemiological surveillance detected the early onset of epidemics and directed early actions. However, it is important to work closely with health authorities to interconnect systems and facilitate communication. Triggering early actions before an outbreak occurs also requires ‘fear management’ and community engagement.



“
Sometimes we are obsessed with thresholds, and oftentimes when the threshold is met, it is already too late. [...] Maybe we need to do more anticipatory action and then go back and see if it worked.”

Monica Rull Villa, medical director,
Médecins Sans Frontières

Anticipatory action research: your questions answered

This debate was started by **Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez**, who discussed the aims and objectives of the project, focusing on the research questions of the initiative: ‘what works’ and ‘who benefited’ from anticipatory action interventions? This research will provide real-time evaluation to provide the evidence base for anticipatory action. An academic mock debate was conducted on whether quantitative is a better approach over qualitative research on anticipatory action, while discussing the areas of inquiries. The team advocating quantitative methods emphasized the need to limit bias, capture different dimensions of vulnerable groups (e.g. demography) and ascertain patterns and relationships between data sets. Quantitative research was posited as capable of creating conclusive, descriptive data and assimilations, in addition to being described as ideal, since they become effective and efficient in contexts where there are resource and time constraints.

On the other hand, the qualitative team asserted that we might lose the ‘context’ and the powerful stories of change, failures and struggles if we are to rely solely on quantitative methods. Instead, the team recommended the use of qualitative approaches, as real impacts cannot be captured by oversimplifying information into models and without meaningful conversations with the community members themselves, which necessitates ‘walking in the shoes’ of those affected. The qualitative team asserted a need to provide a venue for the participants, humanitarian actors and researchers to learn from each other. In the end, the two approaches were deemed complementary to each other. The session ended in breakout rooms on disaster risk financing, social protection and vulnerability to enable connecting and establishing networks.



Quantitative data helps to eliminate biases that could arise regarding affected communities. It is also effective for costs and resource management, especially in regards to the timing of events where sometimes there isn’t enough time to plan and execute interventions. Finally, our disasters are changing, therefore we need quantitative approaches to provide more projections of the future so that we can prepare better.

Dr Shampa, assistant professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology



Speakers:

Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez

Associate professor, Tufts University; senior technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Dr Kristoffer B. Berse

Associate professor and director for research and creative work, University of the Philippines

Luis Artur

Professor, Eduardo Mondlane University

Dr Selma Lendelvo

Director, Centre for Grants Management and Resource Mobilisation, University of Namibia

Mashfiqus Salehin

Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Dr Shampa

Assistant professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Mojaki Relebohile

Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Lesotho

Joalane Marunye

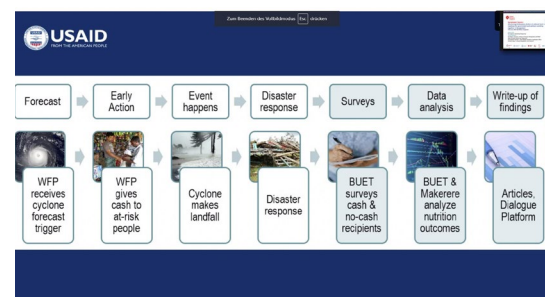
Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Lesotho

Makoala V. Marake

Associate professor, National University of Lesotho

Rogério Francisco Sitole

Researcher, Eduardo Mondlane University



Act early as one: a roadmap and its innovative synergies for anticipatory action in southern Africa

The regional anticipatory action working group was created as an inter-agency platform to align the pillars of anticipatory action in southern Africa – anticipatory actions, triggers, financing and advocacy – between the region’s main actors. “The vision,” explained **Jurg Wilbrink**, “was to make the anticipation of disasters an integral part of the disaster risk management cycle from the very beginning”.

Under this framework and momentum, the idea is to scale up anticipatory action in southern Africa and generate joint operational evidence of its impact. **Anna Lena Huhn** talked about the Southern Africa Dialogue Platform and its goals, such as finding the weak points and symptoms of unaligned action: “There is still a lot of hesitation around the use and mobilization of funds for anticipation action; there is not a large evidence base, thus donors hesitate to invest.”

The mission, as **Quraishia Merzouk** explained, is to establish robust, harmonized multi-agency and multi-sectoral anticipatory protocols to anticipate the range of extreme events in southern Africa. **Erlich-Honest Zauisomue** then discussed how science can support anticipatory action. The Academic Alliance for Anticipatory Action is one example; it aims to provide the scientific evidence for anticipatory action, such as which impacts, vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms exist when a drought happens. But can local and traditional knowledge also play a role in early warnings and developing anticipatory action protocols? He shared an example from Namibia in which community elders look at the number of insects to determine if a drought will come. This knowledge can produce new actions, tailored to specific local contexts.



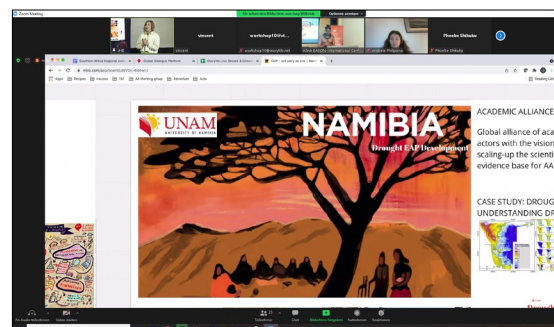
Speakers:

Jurg Wilbrink
DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC

Anna Lena Huhn
Regional project delegate - southern Africa, German Red Cross

Quraishia Merzouk
Early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

Erlich-Honest Zauisomue
Researcher, University of Namibia



“ We have to go there and we need people to translate scientific and local knowledge. Then we must record it, thus storing the knowledge and getting important content.

Erlich-Honest Zauisomue, researcher, University of Namibia

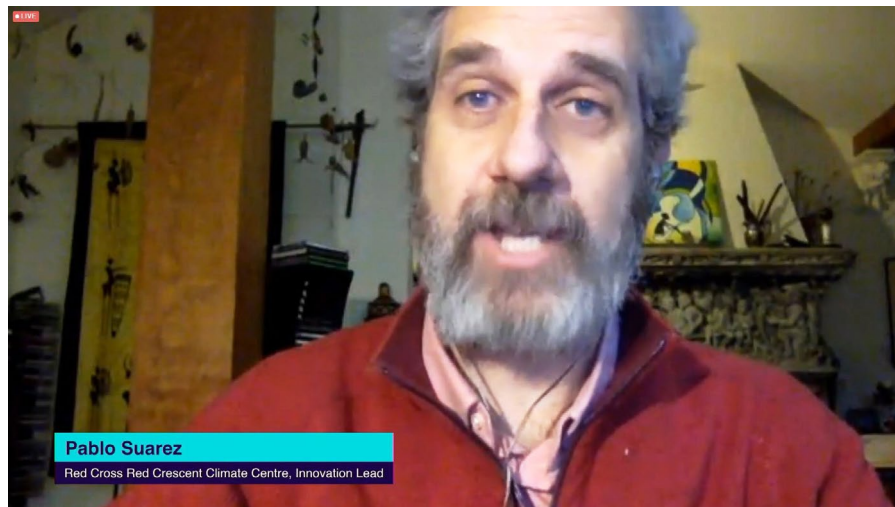


Panel:

When climate, conflict and migration collide - the role of anticipatory action

Catalina Jaime introduced the topic – when climate, conflict and migration collide – as well as the process. Cartoons are a good way to introduce people to anticipatory action, she explained; what do you feel when you see them? Emotions are something we often don't talk about, and this session was a place to share them. One cartoon reminded **Abdallah Togola** of Somalia, where crowd resistance is a feature of life: "We try to think with the population."

Next, **Pablo Suarez** told a story from his own work. He had written down some instructions - but felt bored, so asked: how could instructions and advice be more interesting and easier to remember? His wife recommended the poet **Regie Gibson** as someone who could help: "People always remember rhymes best and keep [that] information, because lyrics are easier to remember."



Speakers:

Catalina Jaime

Climate and conflict manager,
Red Cross Red Crescent
Climate Centre

Abdallah Togola

EcoSec coordinator, rapid
deployment standing team,
International Committee of the
Red Cross (ICRC)

Pablo Suarez

Innovation lead, Red Cross
Red Crescent Climate Centre

Regie Gibson

Poet, songwriter, author,
workshop facilitator and educator

Mark Weegmann

Crisis anticipation and risk
financing officer, Start Network

Tesse de Boer

Advisor for climate and conflict,
Red Cross Red Crescent
Climate Centre



Be playful, be creative and imagine the music you love while you are creating!

Pablo Suarez, innovation lead, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



K.I.S.S.

Keep It So Simple...

You Don't Have To Explain It.

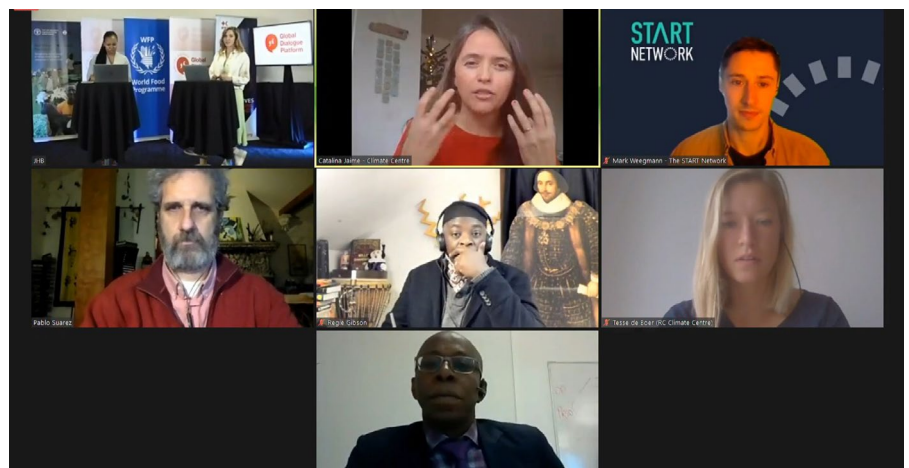
An Average 6 Year-Old Could Repeat It.

Anyone Could Get The Theme Without Your Telling Them.



Using the song 'Should I stay or should I go' as inspiration, participants then used a lyric-generator tool to co-create a song about migration and conflict. As participants contributed words, Regie Gibson added further encouragement: "Think of small details that have moved you, think of your senses: what did you feel and see and hear? That is how artists think. Think about failures and successes, about your vision... what would you accomplish if you had all the possibilities?"

Words such as 'migration', 'conflict' and 'climate' were added and verses were created from these. More than 130 verses were added, such as "We cannot be strangers to other people's dangers" or "Stuck in the middle with hope". "Research never works alone," concluded Pablo Suarez. "Research needs other things, like art, to really get to the people."



Plenary:

Tales from Madeupsville - what can go wrong with anticipatory action?

Madeupsville is a charming, fictional town – but it shares lessons that can be turned into lessons. This session tied up one from 2019, sharing stories about triumphs and challenges in anticipatory action. “Once upon a time in Madeupsville,” began **Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez**, “there was a technical advisor. He met a colleague who asked him about the ongoing anticipatory action project; how could it be that there was a flood in this region?”

“

Unforeseen events can quietly kill people, because people are not prepared for them, while anticipatory action could have helped; that is what the stories from Madeupsville show so clearly.

Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez, associate professor, Tufts University; senior technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

”

Participants then shared their stories from Madeupsville. One was about a humanitarian project that was looking for easy and simple triggers: “But then something unexpected happened – three disasters at the same time. In the end, the project had to react, and they did – but not to the expected drought or food crisis. That is how priorities may shift – and [why] operational flexibility is needed.”

Dorothy Heinrich shared another story. People in a project in Madeupsville were trained, when suddenly another agency offered information about anticipatory action. This, of course, was confusing for the community.

More stories about Madeupsville came in, such as the typhoon that hit a region that no one expected to be hit, or the preparations for a drought in an area that was affected by a flood. But there was a recurring message from the stories: anticipatory action helps and, in the end, saves lives.



Speakers:

Dr Erin Coughlan de Perez

Associate professor, Tufts University; senior technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Dorothy Heinrich

Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Kara Siahaan

Head of the Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross



Parallel sessions #3

Strengthening coordination on extreme heat - gaps, opportunities and priorities: an American Red Cross and Risk-informed Early Action Partnership convened dialogue

Why is heat such an important topic? **Emma Flaherty** started by sharing some statistics. For example, more than one third of all heat-related deaths around the world can be attributed to human-induced global heating, while the number of humidity and heat events doubled between 1979 and 2017, in terms of their frequency and intensity.



Speakers:

Emma Flaherty
Implementation lead, REAP

Omar Abou Samra
Director, Preparedness Services
and Global Disaster Preparedness
Center, American Red Cross

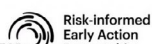
Collaborative Action is needed to:

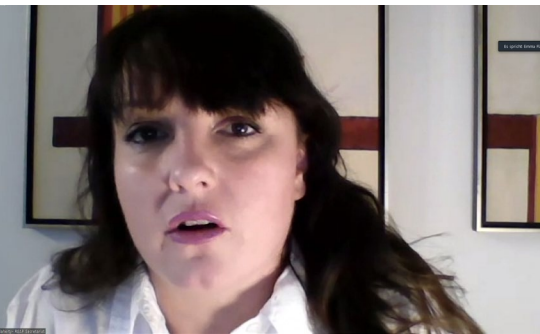
- Strengthen collaboration, coordination and information sharing between the different science and forecasting communities that work on extreme heat
- Significantly increase global, national and local capacity for generation of heat EW
- Concurrent efforts on dissemination of heat EW to decision makers from the community to governments
- Create of stronger, more consistent and impactful linkages between science-policy-action
- Concerted and multifaceted push to ensure that extreme heat is on to policy agendas at all levels, in all sectors



But while many actors and disciplines are involved in extreme heat research and responses, there is not enough coordination, collaboration and information-sharing between them. REAP brings all these people together to scale up anticipatory action. As one participant emphasized: “There is a huge knowledge gap, because heat is such a silent killer, but also because it differentiates for every region.”

Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 4
50 countries have reviewed and integrated their crisis/disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws, policies and/or plans to ensure that they <u>reduce climate change impacts</u> and exposure on people and the environment.	1 billion more people are covered by financing and delivery mechanisms connected to <u>effective early action plans</u> , ensuring they can act ahead of predicted disasters and crises.	\$500 million invested in early warning system infrastructure and institutions to target early action in <u>‘last/first mile’</u> communities, building on existing initiatives.	1 billion more people are covered by new or improved early warning systems, including heatwave early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems, and supported by effective risk communication and public stakeholder dialogue to prompt informed action.





“ We want to understand what gaps people have in their networks and their work around heat. We can use these chats to learn what is needed, so that REAP and the Red Cross can convene more conversations and support your work.

Emma Flaherty, implementation lead, REAP

”

Next, the speakers focused on their vision of a heat networking event, bringing everybody together in one place. They asked participants what they would want from such an event: what information is missing? Responses included information about how to interest donors to invest in early actions, or where to find best practices and neutral evidence. Finding data was also an issue, as was the lack of exchange to create more awareness about the harm of heat waves. The speakers promised to consider these needs and demands in their planning.

Applying disaster-loss data for enhanced early warning and early action: reaching quality and scale

Marc van den Homberg kicked off the session by introducing a joint project by UNDRR, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross and Data Friendly Space. Its objective is to support DRR stakeholders in Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to increase the collection and application of disaster-loss data for early warning and early action. This includes analysis of data quality and gaps, as well as multi and single country workshops and training. Next, **Katarina Mouakkid Soltesova** showcased the work of DesInventar, stressing the importance of not only collecting data, but also utilizing data as much as possible by making it available to other stakeholders.



Speakers:

Marc van den Homberg
Scientific lead, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross

Katarina Mouakkid Soltesova
Regional coordinator - Nairobi, UNDRR

Wirya Khim
Resilience officer and DRR lead, FAO

Lenganji Sikaona
Department director - disaster management and mitigation unit, Zambia

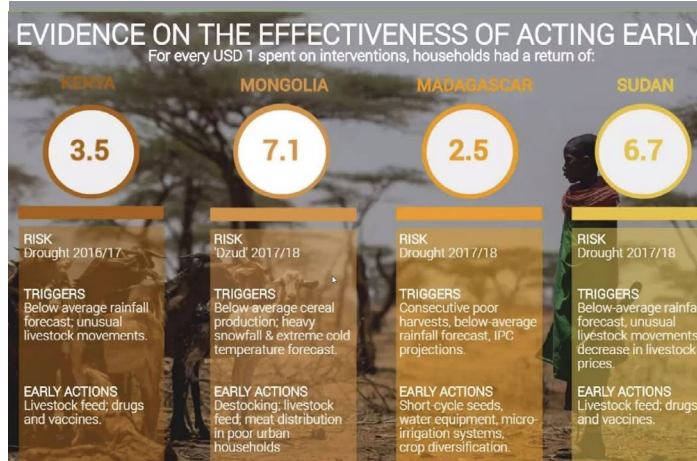
Arielle de Tozier de la Poterie
Global early action and research advisor - Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross

Cecilia Utas
Data Entry & Exploration Platform (DEEP) project manager, Danish Refugee Council



Wirya Khim zoomed into agricultural losses, at both the global and country levels. She pointed out that, during 2008-2018, damage and loss in agriculture (as a share of total damage) was more than 25 per cent, resulting in total losses of 108 billion US dollars! Together with UNDRR, and under the

umbrella of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, FAO has developed a methodology to assess these damages and losses in agriculture.



Lenganji Sikaona introduced the disaster damage and loss database for Zambia, which was created as a one-stop shop for stakeholders. He reflected on the different achievements, such as enhanced risk knowledge and increased collaboration. There were also some challenges, though, including the fragmentation of data and the varying formats and standards.

Arielle Tozier de la Poterie discussed the combination of qualitative and quantitative data in a Red Cross project in Mozambique. To inform the trigger development and early actions, qualitative data was collected first. This gave the team a good overview, but they ran into challenges when combining this data with available quantitative data. Sometimes, the quantitative data needed was not available, due to spatial or temporal resolutions. The last presentation by **Cecilia Utas** provided a potential solution. DEEP is a qualitative data analysis tool that supports the delivery of timely, credible situational and risk analysis for crises and contexts, and can support both structured and unstructured data.

Getting ahead of floods: forecast-based action for different types of flooding - case studies and discussions

How do we use forecast-based action to address the huge variety in the types of flooding experienced throughout the world? This interactive session, moderated by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, brought together experts from across the anticipatory action community to discuss these nuances and offer innovative ideas to address the different manifestations of this hazard.

Dr Liz Stephens helped the audience untangle the different types of flooding: what are the key differences between them, and why does this matter? Floods occur at different speeds, have different causes and different manifestations. This matters for anticipatory action programmes for a variety of reasons: the differences have implications for the science (e.g., different levels of predictability) and the appropriateness of different early actions (based on lead time, the type of impacts and scale).

“
Data is the key starting point to design and implement policies, and make informed decisions to strengthen resilience.
”

Wirya Khim, resilience officer and DRR lead, FAO



Speakers:

Dr Liz Stephens
Associate professor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and University of Reading

Andrew Kruczkiewicz
Science advisor, Columbia University Climate School/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Kiswendsida Guima
Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Abraham Tesfaye
Programme coordinator, Ethiopian Red Cross Society

Emmanuel Ntale
Early warning early action advisor, Uganda Red Cross Society

Neville Rushagisha
FbF focal person, Burundi Red Cross



We should address the elephant in the room: multi-hazards. Many countries face them – the dangers of different hazards coming together. This leads to questions like what must be prioritized in such a case. We have not dealt enough with that kind of multi-hazard risk yet, but it is important to break the silos.

Dr Liz Stephens, associate professor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and University of Reading



Next, presenters and participants were asked to offer their expertise to a fictional country called Madeupsville. People there wanted to implement forecast-based financing for floods, but experienced so many different types of flooding that they were unsure where to start. The audience offered their thoughts to this metaphorical problem.

Acción anticipatoria y protección social en América Latina y el Caribe: Potencialidades y oportunidades de articulación

This discussion, held in Spanish, provided perspectives from FAO and WFP on generating evidence, at the regional and country levels, to increase confidence in anticipatory action mechanisms. **Miguel Ángel Puig** offered insights into linking disaster risk management structures and social protection systems to develop resilient food systems among vulnerable communities. In Cuba, this is based on four elements: effective risk information systems; effective early-warning systems with frequent monitoring of data; planning based on risk information; and early-warning systems and capacity development for farmers and government. Improved evidence is increasing confidence for effective disaster management, including anticipatory action.

Marion Khamis then presented a methodological approach to better integrate social protection and early-warning systems for anticipatory action mechanisms to support livelihoods and food security for vulnerable rural households. This mixed quantitative-qualitative method includes field research for a bottom-up perspective – or ‘reality check’ – on the pertinence of existing state-led alert systems, emergency assistance, risk management and social protection schemes.

This approach is being tested across multiple countries in the region, including Colombia, and **Maria Consuelo Vergara** demonstrated how it is being applied in selected territories affected by drought in the northern regions. The results will feed into FAO’s own programmes



Speakers:

Miguel Ángel Puig

Programme officer, WFP Cuba

Marion Khamis

Resilience and DRR specialist, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Maria Consuelo Vergara

DRR specialist, FAO Colombia

Lena Schubmann

Resilience programme officer, WFP Guatemala

Krishna Krishnamurthy

Regional climate services and FbF advisor, WFP

Raquel Peña

Emergencies and resilience specialist, FAO

and inform a policy dialogue and capacity-building processes to link the disaster risk management and the social protection sectors.

To wrap up the session, **Lena Schubmann** presented the links between climate risk management using financial instruments (e.g., micro-insurance) and anticipatory action, highlighting the crucial role of private sector entities. A key element in Guatemala is engaging a wide variety of actors through sub-national agricultural roundtables – from national meteorological institutions and research organizations to government stakeholders and the private sector. This engagement ensures complementarity between skills, as well as financial and human resources.

Anticipatory action and social protection have a lot of interests in common and can be combined. To organize a scheme, a lot of information is required... This includes information to understand the entry points in each context.

Marion Khamis, resilience and DRR specialist, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Objetivo Metodología

Tres niveles de análisis con aproximación metodológica mixta cuantitativa y cualitativa

Enfoque cualitativo
Territorios rurales y personas en situación de vulnerabilidad, cuyos medios de vida y SAN dependen de la actividad agrícola y cuentan con sus propias dinámicas de afrontamiento de amenazas y de relacionamiento con los SAT y la PS.

Enfoque cuantitativo (encuestas y análisis de bases de datos)
Políticas nacionales, legislación y financiación que habilitan la existencia y adecuada articulación entre el SAT del sector agrícola y la PS.

Enfoque interseccional
Programas, sistemas de entrega y arreglos de coordinación mediante los cuales se despliega o implementa la operación cotidiana de los SAT del sector agrícola y la PS.

Considera de forma transversal a los tres niveles un enfoque interseccional

Objetivo
Guiar la realización de un análisis de viabilidad para la articulación de los SAT con la Protección Social, para desplegar AA orientadas a mitigar impactos adversos de desastres y choques en medios de vida agrícolas y en la SAN desde un enfoque interseccional.

Objetivo
Generar evidencia para elaborar una hoja de ruta para fortalecer la articulación de los SAT del sector agrícola y la PS para desplegar AA

Global Dialogue Platform

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

La Ruta para la puesta en marcha de la Metodología

1. Determinación de existencia de SAT para dicha amenaza
2. Selección de amenazas con impacto en actividades agrícolas
3. Selección de localidades rurales para análisis desde el territorio considerando afectación por amenazas, otros choques e interseccionalidad
4. Acercamiento a las localidades seleccionadas para CLPI y preparación investigación
5. Mapeo de las políticas, legislación, financiación, programas, sistemas de entrega, coordinación y actores del SAT y de la PS para atender amenazas y a la población rural
6. Levantamiento de información en territorio para análisis de necesidades, resiliencia, llegada y pertinencia de políticas y programas (punto 5)
7. Análisis de viabilidad de articulación del SAT y la PS para habilitar AAs considerando dimensiones técnica, social político-institucional y financiera con un enfoque sensible al género y a categorías étnico-raciales en el país analizado
8. Hoja de Ruta con orientaciones y recomendaciones para una articulación robusta del SAT y la PS para desplegar AA

Sistemas de Alerta Temprana pertinentes a población rural

Acciones anticipatorias (AA) para mitigar los riesgos e impactos sobre los medios de vida agrícola y SAN generados por amenazas y choques

Programas de Protección Social con cobertura rural e impactos positivos en la resiliencia ante choques diversos

Global Dialogue Platform

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

Advancements and challenges of anticipatory action in conflict settings

Markus Geisser offered reflections on how the ICRC is working on anticipatory action in conflict settings. Participants were treated to a practical example of setting up an anticipatory action system in Afghanistan, and ongoing efforts to revise the *Red Cross Red Crescent Forecast-based Financing Practitioners Manual* www.anticipation-hub.org/learn/methodology/red-cross-red-crescent-fbf-practitioner-manual/ through a conflict lens. **Marcel Goyeneche** elaborated on how this manual can support conflict-sensitive anticipatory action programming, which includes drawing on the ICRC Safer Access Framework <https://saferaccess.icrc.org/>. The session continued with two break-out rooms: in one, participants offered constructive recommendations for revising the manual, while participants in the other room discussed and shared examples of how anticipatory action can – whether intended or not – impact on both conflict and peace drivers. These discussions will feed into upcoming efforts to refine and add tools to better implement anticipatory action in and on conflict.

A perspective from Afghanistan

The Project: Goals, Methodology and Triggers

- Objective: To mitigate the impacts of shocks (drought & COVID-19) on the vulnerable food insecure households in rural parts of Afghanistan
- Multiple AAs of varying short durations (6-12 months) → assistance to HHs from IPC 3+ areas → emergency agricultural livelihoods protection and cash assistance packages
- Underpinned by time-criticality, seasonality (transhumance & crop cultivation), early warnings / forecasts, needs-based and conflict-sensitive design, vulnerability-based targeting, AAP, and protection consideration/mainstreaming
- Early warning/forecasted shocks overlaid with IPC analysis, crisis timelines, forward-looking impact analytics, and vulnerability-based triggers → inform activation & financing of these AAs



Conflict has become an important part of anticipatory action because of its potential to increase the magnitude of vulnerability among communities. For us to implement anticipatory action, we have to expand our knowledge to include a climate-conflict setting, where – for instance – climate data can be used to anticipate and address hazards in conflict areas.

Markus Geisser, senior humanitarian policy advisor, ICRC



Speakers:

Markus Geisser

Senior humanitarian policy advisor, ICRC

Marcel Goyeneche

Independent consultant

Kaustubh Devale

Emergency and rehabilitation officer, and head of emergency and resilience unit - Afghanistan, FAO

Tesse de Boer

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

Kim Karina Kaagaard Kristensen

Conflict-sensitive programming specialist - anticipatory action, FAO

Catalina Jaime

Climate and conflict manager, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



Parallel sessions #4

Forecast-based financing and disaster displacement

Ezekiel Simperingham introduced the critical issue of disaster displacement: situations where people are forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster, or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard. Next, **Atle Solberg** highlighted that around 30 million people were displaced in 2020 in the context of disasters. Some hazards are predictable, and in this sense, prevention, preparedness and forecasting are often possible and can prevent displacement or make the movement safe.

Lisa Thalheimer showed how research can identify opportunities and challenges to use FbF to support anticipatory humanitarian action in the context of disaster displacement. Key recommendations included the importance of assessing and analysing risks, protecting against arbitrary displacement, preparing and responding to displacement, and designing durable solutions for displaced communities through cooperation, partnerships and dialogues.



Speakers:

Ezekiel Simperingham

Global migration and displacement lead, IFRC

Atle Solberg

Head of the secretariat, Platform on Disaster Displacement

Lisa Thalheimer

Postdoctoral research associate, Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, Princeton University

Alexei Castro Davila

Secretary general, Honduran Red Cross

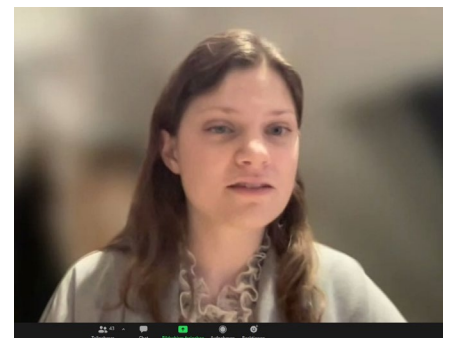
Nouhoum Maiga

Secretary general, Mali Red Cross

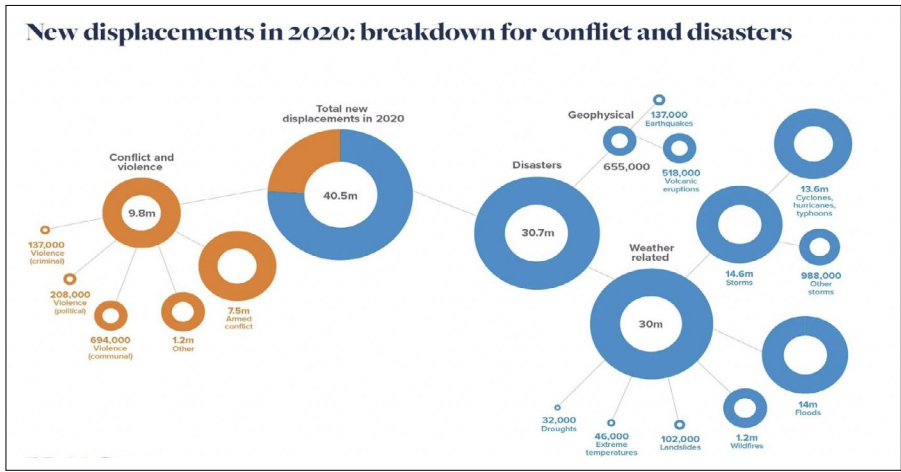


When it comes to durable solutions for displaced communities, we actually see that FbF kind of falls outside the framework – and the scope – to really form durable solutions. However, what we can do is cooperate with partners, have constant dialogues, include host communities from the very beginning and really bring these two worlds – of disaster displacement and humanitarian actors with those who are actually at risk of displacement – together.

Lisa Thalheimer, postdoctoral research associate, Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, Princeton University



Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have a key role in implementing FbF as a tool to protect communities from climate displacement. **Alexei Castro Davila** shared the multiple challenges faced in Honduras and the Central America region, including disasters, migration and urban violence. The Honduran Red Cross uses anticipatory action as a tool to protect communities from the combined effects of these multi-layered challenges, involving



communities and their knowledge in the processes. **Nouhoum Maiga** noted the importance of having a holistic approach, sharing how it can be used as a tool to protect populations from conflict, disasters and food insecurity, and supporting both the displaced and the host communities in Mali.

Building a strong foundation: tips and tools for preparedness capacities and anticipatory action feasibility

In this session, the focus was advice and tools for preparedness capacities and anticipation action feasibility. **Karla Lienhart** introduced the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) Partnership and its services in capacity strengthening for preparedness. It developed an innovative digital tool to assess national and local capacities to manage response and recovery, and to identify integrated solutions to manage multi-dimensional disaster and climate risks. This assists countries to operationalize their national DRR strategies, inform multi-sectoral preparedness and early action plans, and integrate risk-reduction measures in humanitarian response plans by identifying priority areas for investment across socio-economic sectors.



Speakers:

Karla Lienhart
Preparedness analyst,
CADRI Partnership

Yolanda Clatworthy
Expert advisor in anticipatory
action, German Red Cross

Ruben Vargas
Programme specialist, CADRI
Secretariat

A common UN-IFRC methodology since 2014

<https://www.cadri.net/en/cadri-tool>

- Tested in 30+ countries
- Humanitarian & Development angle
- Government-led
- Multi-hazard
- Multi-sectoral

CADRI Partners' ambition

- Leaving No One Behind
- Integrating CC & DRR
- Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity
- Multi Hazard approach Multi dimensional risk

Yolanda Clatworthy then served up best practices and emerging trends for anticipatory action feasibility studies. These findings built on a review of what works and what doesn't in light of Covid-19-induced virtual support feasibility studies. Best practices included: maximize collaboration and complementarity with other stakeholders; produce studies that are shareable; build peer-to-peer relationships; tailor studies to the hazard(s) you are looking at; make actionable recommendations; and recognize the value and co-benefits that the process of undertaking the study can bring.



Braving the barriers: spotting opportunities for further uptake of seasonal prediction

During this session, scientists and practitioners discussed the challenges and opportunities of seasonal forecasting. Interestingly, too much data and information – as opposed to not enough – can present a challenge. Common questions that emerge include: what should be used, what can be trusted, and when it should be used? As **Andrew Kruczkiewicz** emphasized: “When we work in areas with poor data, it is instinctual to look for more. In other cases, there is in effect a multitude of different data sources which are perceived to be reputable. However, this does not necessarily translate into better decision-making.” In summary, we’re making good progress, but much still needs to be done to ensure our seasonal forecasting science can truly communicate with the anticipatory action arena.

Along with advice on what are the most skillful forecasts to use in a particular situation, more thinking is required from forecasters on the human side of the equation. Namely, it is critical to make forecasts user-friendly, to ensure that the most skillful forecasts are actually employed by users.

Gavin Iley, seconded expert, WMO



The CADRI Partnership offers capacity development services to interested governments and partners, for instance capacity diagnostics and disaster risk-related planning tools to strengthen preparedness.

Karla Lienhart, preparedness analyst, CADRI Partnership



Speakers:

Andrew Kruczkiewicz

Science advisor, Columbia University Climate School/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Katherine Marsden

Climate science advisor, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Richard Ewbank

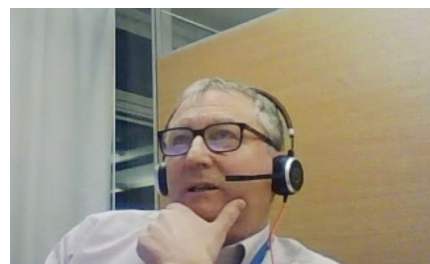
Global climate advisor, Christian Aid

Gavin Iley

Seconded expert, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Louisa Medhurst

Humanitarian advisor, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office



Slow-onset events: windows of opportunity for anticipatory action along the crisis timeline

Droughts are slow-onset events, a characteristic that may allow for early anticipatory action. In four short ‘impulse’ talks, speakers presented different viewpoints on this topic. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre introduced how different triggers are used across the world; triggers might include rainfall and soil-moisture projections, remotely-sensed vegetation indices or more complicated products, such as crop yield predictions. Building on this, FAO presented their crisis timeline. Since different actions are only possible at different times, this is a powerful tool that can essentially match which triggers are useful for each action.

The Colorado State University followed with a case study about user engagement in Guatemala, showing the importance of collaboration between users and data providers early in the development cycle, in order to fulfil all users’ needs. Finally, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry shared an outlook on next-generation artificial intelligence approaches to drought forecasting, in which impacts on forest, pastoral and agricultural lands can be forecast at a highly localized scale, essentially giving household-level information.



Speakers:

Luca Parodi

Early warning early action regional specialist, FAO

Dorothy Heinrich

Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Kiswendsida Guigma

Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Joshua Ngaina

Anticipatory action agro-meteorologist, FAO

Diego Pons

Assistant professor, Colorado State University

Christian Requena-Mesa

Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry

Markus Reichstein

Director, Biogeochemical Integration Department, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry



“ Because of the slow-onset nature of droughts, it makes anticipatory action a little bit more complex [compared with sudden-onset disasters]. ”

Joshua Ngaina, anticipatory action agro-meteorologist, FAO



Ways of working with the insurance sector to scale anticipatory action and disaster risk finance

How can we utilize the insurance sector to scale up anticipatory action? This session addressed this question by looking at two specific opportunities: IFRC's Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) and Start Network's Start Ready. **Dr Nikolas Scherer** explored the participants' knowledge around insurance and experiences across sectors, and then **Lea Sarah Kulick** introduced the sectoral community linking risk financing and anticipatory action, a working group bringing together the development and humanitarian sectors. Its goal is to create a common language, foster innovations and exchange ideas on how to facilitate financing for anticipatory action.

Simon Meldrum and **Emma Karhan** highlighted the role insurance can play in scaling up the IFRC's DREF and expanding its funding capacity. An insurance product would be one promising possibility to address this challenge. **Clare Harris** and **Stuart Fraser** then introduced Start Ready, a new facility based on three components: risk models, pre-agreed plans and pre-positioned financing. The innovation here is that various risks are pooled; usually, different pots of money are pre-positioned for crises that sit around unused. Start Ready tackles this problem by integrating various financing instruments (from national reserves to insurance) into one pooled financing mechanism. Through one entry point, donors can tackle a diversity of risks spanning multiple countries.



Speakers:

Dr Nikolas Scherer

Manager for policy and advocacy on anticipation and DRF, German Red Cross

Lea Sarah Kulick

Advisor, InsuResilience Secretariat, InsuResilience Global Partnership

Simon Meldrum

Innovative finance, IFRC

Emma Karhan

Head of public private partnerships, Aon

Clare Harris

Technical lead for crisis anticipation and risk financing, Start Network

Stuart Fraser

Disaster risk consultant, Insurance Development Forum

COP26: NEW INSURANCE SECTOR AND NGO PARTNERSHIP WILL PROTECT WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE FROM CLIMATE RISKS

Start Network, a coalition of over 50 humanitarian charities, and the **Insurance Development Forum (IDF)** are today announcing a new partnership to support the development of a new global financial service for the humanitarian sector, which will help communities to get ahead of escalating climate risks.

AXA Group and Insurance Development Forum Chairman Denis Duverne, said:

"As an industry we have consistently recognised that climate change is the biggest challenge of our time. A fundamental pillar of addressing it will be greater access to climate risk information, tools and standards, as well as benchmark metrics that will shed light on the climate risks of today and on future impacts. We are proud to work with Start Network, to drive a major step-change in the effort to open up access to climate risk understanding. This announcement is a testament to the power that collective action can have in the effort to build resilience to climate change."

Locally designed risk analysis, regional work, world class modelling and risk transfer expertise

Accessing Risk transfer markets for extreme risks and reinsurance

Technical support, Capital risk, financial modelling

Seed funding and visibility

START NETWORK EARLY ACTION INTERVENTIONS TO DATE

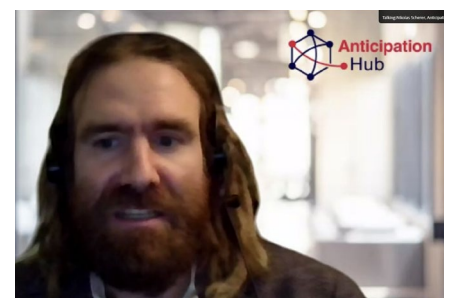
Legend:

- Potential Start Ready countries*
- Start Fund (anticipation alerts)
- Heatwaves
- Landslides/River Bank Crosses
- Cold snap
- Refugees/Forced IDP returns
- Cholera
- Volcanic eruption
- Flood/drought
- Disease/Dengue/COVID outbreak
- Deaf
- Livelihood/food insecurity
- Hurricanes/Severe winds
- Topical Storms



We need to have more exchanges like this – there is a lot of terminology and concepts that need to be unpacked, and, yes, the details matter. These cross-sectoral conversations will be exhausting but I am convinced they are worth it.

Dr Nikolas Scherer, manager for policy and advocacy on anticipation and DRF, German Red Cross



9th Global Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action -
Meeting the challenges of future crises: protecting
lives and livelihoods with anticipatory action

DAY THREE

Parallel sessions #5

Getting it right from the get-go: sustaining inclusive anticipatory action

Practitioners from the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) and the Start Network discussed the basics needed to ensure sustainable and inclusive anticipatory action.

Sumaiya Kabir kickstarted the discussion by providing examples of how anticipatory action can build the resilience of communities and reduce the impacts of crises through engaging with vulnerable groups ahead of time. **Maria Rosario Felizco** explained that with innovations in forecasting for predictable crises, there is no longer any need to wait for impacts to extend support, and early actions such as pre-emptive cash distribution have allowed them to respond in a more dignified and effective way.

The panellists discussed the importance of national policy frameworks in institutionalizing anticipatory action, as these provide the basis and clarity for accessing government funds. These must go hand-in-hand with building the capacity of local governments and communities.

Amadou Diallo discussed how sustaining anticipatory action requires substantial investment in research and capacity building, which is a challenge in countries where there is a scarcity of resources. There is still resistance to anticipatory action due to adherence to the more traditional approach of emergency response.

In integrating inclusivity in anticipatory action, **Susan Njambi-Szlapka** shared a study on how DRF has gendered aspects across the board – in risk analytics, contingency planning, governance and more. DRF must meet the differential needs of different groups of people, but obtaining disaggregated data and qualitative knowledge is still a challenge in many contexts.



A few things are important: the participation and partnerships with governments and communities, new innovative financing ways, and [the most important part is] a system which captures the evidence. When we ask governments for money, they ask if our project will really work out, because evidence is so crucial.

Maria Rosario Felizco, country director, Oxfam Philippines



Speakers:

Sumaiya Kabir

Consortium coordinator, CARE International in Bangladesh

Maria Rosario Felizco

Country director, Oxfam Philippines

Amadou Diallo

DRF regional coordinator, Start Network

Susan Njambi-Szlapka

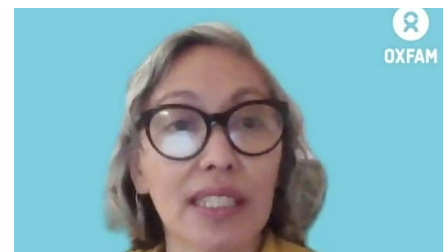
Learning advisor, Start Network

Arvin Caro

DRF coordinator - Philippines, Start Network

Katrin von der Dellen

Desk officer - South East Asia, CARE Deutschland, e.V.



Anticipation in urban area

In Butuan City, Philippines, **Elena Suero's** team has supported small urban enterprises in a test relocation before a flood. She explained: "Early actions are focused on early harvest, livestock evacuation and the relocation of small enterprises. The latter is particularly important in urban areas and supporting urban markets, as it helps them not only to continue their economic activity, but also ensures that affected people have access to basic necessities."

“

Crucial factors for successful FbF that we learned from Dhaka, Bangladesh, are joint monitoring of forecasts, the collaboration with city administration and a strong volunteer base as a prerequisite. Some of our key learnings are around cash support to increase immediate survival capacity, where it is important that we target the most vulnerable communities.

María Huerta Urías, consultant, SIA Desarrollo

”

The panellists identified other factors to look out for when starting an anticipatory project in an urban context: a strong volunteer base, joint monitoring and of course collaboration with city authorities. Urbanists like **Dr Natasha Aruri** have the long-term perspective in mind and can show how our languages/terminologies align, even if we have a different perspective. Anticipation can mean to design the built architecture in a way that will be conscious of the needs of a population and environment before, during and after a disaster event.



Speakers:

Elena Suero

FbF project delegate, German Red Cross

Dr Natasha Aruri

Post-doctoral researcher, Technical University of Berlin

Thomas Smarczyk

Coordinator - pilot projects urban, German Red Cross

Eddie W. Jjemba

Urban resilience advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

María Huerta Urías

Consultant, SIA Desarrollo

Shavkat Abdujabarov

Regional project coordinator, German Red Cross

Khairul Sheikh

FbF project delegate, German Red Cross

Small Enterprises Relocation

OUR ROLE:
Aims to reduce loss of income of entrepreneurs by:

- Relocating their assets in safe markets
- Facilitating Rolling Stores (store in truck/vehicle to circulate around temporal shelter)

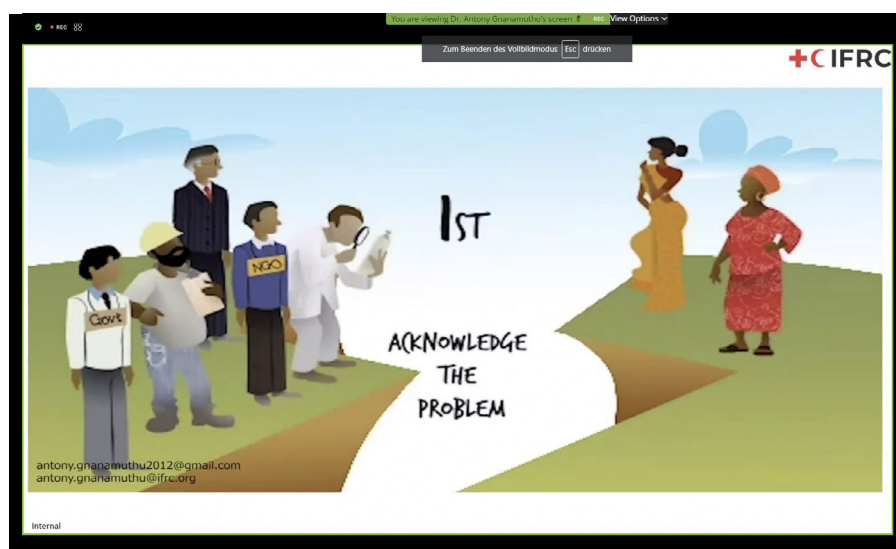
Reimagining anticipatory action - closing the science and technology gap

Technological advancements and innovation are creating new opportunities for acting earlier to ensure information reaches those who need it the most. This session highlighted different technological advancements supporting anticipatory action. **Karin Metz** explained how emergency alerts are often sent out without guidance on what to do, or the information is inconsistent or too technical. The Common Alerting Protocol bridges this gap by working across broadcasting and dissemination channels to quickly disseminate alerts over multiple alerting methods. It is also interoperable and can be easily implemented and integrated into many systems.



Md. Arifuzzaman Bhuyan and **Md. Shahjahan** explained how the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Bangladesh is providing flood forecast information and supporting community-level warnings via

push notifications to smart phones, with support from mobile phone operators and Google. The information includes forecast river depths, the expected rise or fall in river depth and an inundation map visualized in Google Maps. Warning information is also disseminated from the national level to the village level through text messages, WhatsApp and social media. When information is received, village disaster management committees take early actions, including disseminating warnings to communities, preparing food for distribution, and coordination with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on evacuation alerts.



Speakers:

Karin Metz

IFRC Alert Hub project
management consultant, IFRC

Md. Arifuzzaman Bhuyan

Executive engineer, Bangladesh
Water Development Board

Md. Shahjahan

FbF project coordinator,
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

Dr Antony Gnanamuthu

Operation manager - South Asia
Country Cluster Delegation, IFRC

Moriah Royz

Product manager, Google



With artificial intelligence, Google is developing an inundation model which is more accurate than our forecast... now we can provide a community-level forecast four days earlier through a push notification via smart phones.

Md. Arifuzzaman Bhuyan, executive engineer, Bangladesh Water Development Board



“So you want me to do what because some computer model predicts what?” Challenges and good practices in youth and community engagement and accountability in anticipatory action

How can we ensure communities are involved in all stages of anticipatory action, from the planning and design of early action protocols (EAPs) to its activation and monitoring - while also addressing the scepticism that exists around science and forecasting? Participants shared their frustrations around community engagement in anticipatory action: constraints with time and budgets to build relationships; understanding the needs of diverse communities; jargon and miscommunication; little attention being given to community benefits and cultural sensitivity; and not closing the feedback loop.

Next, the session facilitators encouraged participants to contribute and add their good practice examples for community engagement in anticipatory action. This was supported by four presentations. **Dr Jonathon Paul** shared his work on citizen science in Nepal and a programme encouraging schoolchildren to monitor rainfall in their communities www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frwa.2020.581375/full. **Ashrafal Haque** talked about river bank erosion in Bangladesh and the importance of having community discussions in the initial stages of anticipatory action: “Communities know exactly the context in which river bank erosion takes place and can therefore contribute in building lead-time knowledge.”



In our vulnerability analysis, we aim for equal participation by engaging the elderly, disabled, women, men, youth and other minority groups to design early actions. We believe without their participation, the sustainable anticipatory action system cannot be built.

Ashrafal Haque, FOREWARN coordinator, Start Network Bangladesh



Muluken Samuel discussed the flood early action simulation in Ethiopia, during which warning messages and triggers were translated to encourage communities to test the early actions – from cash for work for clearing drainage to practising the evacuation of their household belongings and livestock. And **Erlich-Honest Zauisomue** introduced the participatory Namibia regional drought scoping study, in which community participants were split into different groups and



Speakers:

Dr Jonathon Paul

Lecturer in Earth science,
University of London

Ashrafal Haque

FOREWARN coordinator, Start
Network Bangladesh

Muluken Samuel

Community engagement and
accountability coordinator,
Ethiopian Red Cross Society

Erlich-Honest Zauisomue

Researcher, University of Namibia

Sanne Hogesteeger

Programme coordinator, Red Cross
Red Crescent Climate Centre

Amy Crisp

Regional community engagement
and accountability advisor, British
Red Cross

Karen Dall

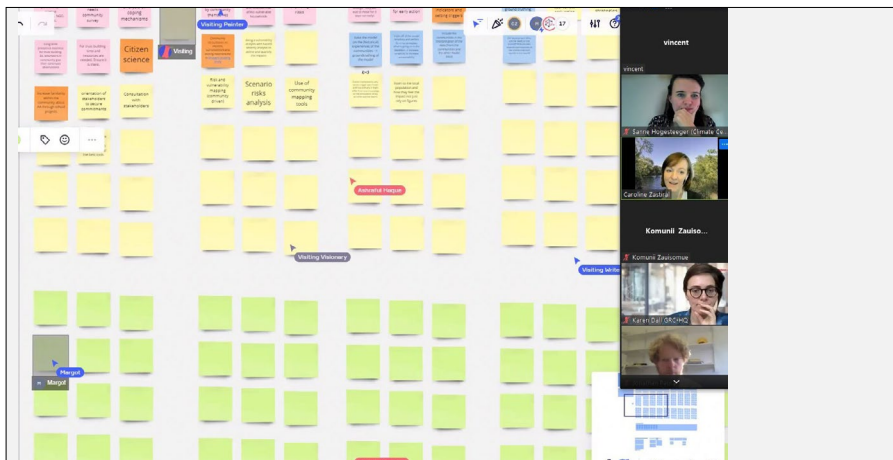
Capacity strengthening manager
for FbF, German Red Cross

Caroline Zastiral

DRR and early action advisor,
British Red Cross



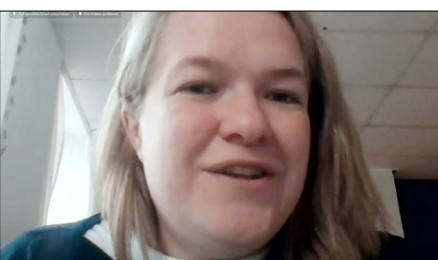
required to create historical profiles on past drought impacts. This enabled information to be gathered on different indicators based on how drought affects different members of the community, offering a more holistic overview.



Human-centred design to inform anticipatory action

Sebongile Hlubi and **Jonath Lijftogt** showed how human-centred design can be used to develop projects that are built on an understanding of the perspectives and experiences of people affected and other key stakeholders (e.g., farmers, aid workers, government members) before, during and after periods of drought. How did they do it? By simply asking the same three open questions:

- Can you tell us what normal life is like?
- How did normal life change because of drought?
- How can the experience be improved?



Using a human-centred design approach, the Lesotho Red Cross Society's FbF team, in collaboration with the German Red Cross and 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross, were able to narrow down their original qualitative survey for a drought scoping study, from over 50 guided sub-questions to these

three open questions. This resulted in more information using fewer questions, helping them understand more about livelihoods and food security, when and how communities feel the impacts of drought, which coping mechanisms they use, their main communication tools, and what their vision is for future needs.



Speakers:

Sebongile Hlubi
FbF project manager, Lesotho
Red Cross Society

Jonath Lijftogt
Digital community engagement and
accountability expert, 510 -
An Initiative of the Netherlands
Red Cross

Orla Canavan
Strategic product design lead, 510
- An Initiative of the Netherlands
Red Cross



I think the goal is always to make sure that the people that you are talking to are as diverse as possible.

Jonath Lijftogt, digital community engagement and accountability expert, 510 - An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross



Parallel sessions #6

The more local, the better!

The Start Network's innovative resource bank, also known as the 'Building Blocks', is supporting civil society to develop DRF systems. The speakers presented a case study from Pakistan, where, since 2020, the building blocks have been applied to develop a national DRF system. **Amjad Ahmad** explained how establishing a locally led governance structure has been at the heart of the programme design. This has been achieved by integrating local actors into various technical working groups, in addition to ensuring that agencies consult communities when developing contingency plans. Since its inception, the programme has helped to protect over 7 million people in Pakistan from heat waves, floods and drought. A video of the recent DRF drought project in southern Sindh can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5RJj3FoTB8



Speakers:

Amjad Ahmad
DRF coordinator, Start Network

Mazen Hussein
Crisis anticipation and DRF country capacity building advisor, Start Network

Anna Farina
Crisis anticipation and DRF operations lead, Start Network

Eleanor Nderitu
Crisis anticipation and DRF country support manager, Start Network

Aydrus Daar
Executive director, Wajir South Development Association, Nexus Platform Somalia



The pool of money has to be ready before the crisis starts. We can't start scratching our heads and wonder where the money will come from – we need the funding ready to go!

Mazen Hussein, crisis anticipation and DRF country capacity building advisor, Start Network

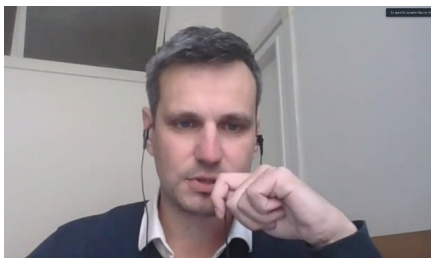


Vulnerability assessments and anticipatory action: current practice and options for common approaches

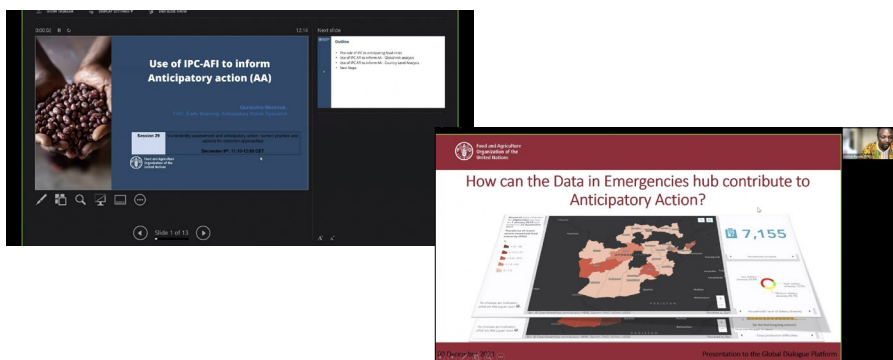
Combining vulnerability information with impact-based forecasts is key to triggering anticipatory action and informing decisions on if, how and where to act – shifting perspectives to pre-emptively act instead of reacting post-disaster. **Quraishia Merzouk** detailed how the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) www.ipcinfo.org/ initiative produces predictive analysis on the severity and magnitude of food crises relevant to anticipatory action specialists. At the country level, for example, it has been used as a basis to trigger anticipatory action in Sudan (2017), Madagascar (2017), Somalia (2020) and Ethiopia (2021). To strengthen the link between IPC and anticipatory action at the country level requires an understanding of the importance of timing and frequency of IPC analysis and the timing of anticipatory action.

Next, **Josselin Gauny** detailed how the FAO data on the Emergencies Hub data-in-emergencies.fao.org/ can inform anticipatory action, for example primary data collected from households and key informants. It also generates relevant and timely primary data that can trigger anticipatory actions, design interventions and activities, and also

feed into IPC analysis. Through a new initiative, a geospatial risk-profiling application will gather different geo layers about historical risk factors and hazards in vulnerable countries, which will further enhance its relevance for anticipatory action.



Junver Arcayna and **Esteban Masagca** presented Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster-Ready Communities (B-READY), an FbF model that builds the capacity of communities and local government units on scientific early-warning systems, pre-emptive cash transfers, and safeguarding and protection programming. Within B-READY, vulnerabilities for anticipatory action are assessed based on the review and updates of municipal risk assessments, contingency plans and historical and parametric forecast data.



Speakers:

Quraishia Merzouk

Early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

Josselin Gauny

Emergency and rehabilitation officer, FAO

Junver Arcayna

Financial inclusion manager, Oxfam Philippines

Esteban Masagca

Executive director, People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network, Inc.

Gabriela Luz

Global communications and knowledge management specialist, Oxfam B-READY project

Neil Marsland

Senior technical officer, Office of Emergencies and Resilience, FAO

Joshua Ngaina

Anticipatory action agro-meteorologist, FAO



Key functionalities of the monitoring system in FAO's data in the Emergencies Hub is its periodicity, predictability, punctuality, comparability, and forward-looking and predictive capacity.

Josselin Gauny, emergency and rehabilitation officer, FAO



How to organize anticipatory action simulations: lessons learned and good practices from Nepal and Mali

In both Mali and Nepal, recent anticipatory action simulations were adapted to various restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mali Red Cross organized a remote ‘table top’ simulation to test EAPs, and the ability of the National Society and IFRC to activate the EAP and standard operating procedures (SOPs). The simulation was organized before the peak monsoon, which gave them time to revise their EAP and SOPs in advance of this event. The team concluded it was important to test the transfer of funds and identify a ‘plan B’ in case of delays. The exercise also gave the team the confidence to activate in real life, if needed.



Speakers:

Manish Dhungel
Programme coordinator, Danish Red Cross

Niru Pradhan
Programme coordinator, Nepal Red Cross Society

Hemanta Dangal
Senior social protection officer, Danish Red Cross

Melanie Ogle
FbF capacity strengthening senior officer, IFRC

The simulation in detail

The desk-based simulation test the National Society and IFRC ability to activate the Early Action Protocol

Injects for the **National Society** tested...

- **Pre activation:** Early warning monitoring system
- **Activation:** Who does What, When
- **Notification:** Related documentation are submitted to release funding
- **Logistics:** Mobilising prepositioned stock for early action
- **Community engagement:** Interview with local radio
- **COVID 19:** Protective measures
- **Delay in fund transfer:** Identify a Plan B
- **Scaling up:** Plan to scale early actions, or scale up for a response

Injects for the **IFRC** tested...

- **Activation:** Who does What, When in collaboration with Mali Red Cross
- **Notification:** Processing documentation in order to activates funding
- **Delay in fund transfer:** Essential that IFRC and Mali Red Cross identify a via Plan B

18

The Nepal Red Cross Society organized a hybrid model simulation, in which participants were physically present while the control team took part remotely. The objective was to test the capacity of the Nepal Red Cross Society and the local government to identify predefined triggers and corresponding early actions. They also tested whether various social protection systems could be used for early actions; specifically whether Nepal’s social security allowance programme and its features – such as the beneficiary list, mobile phone numbers and bank accounts – could be used for targeted early-warning messages, early evacuations, early cash transfers and more. The simulation was helpful in changing stakeholders’ perceptions, from response to acting in anticipation, giving them the confidence to take early actions.

Background on the simulation

1. Integration of SRSP with FbA
2. Testing predefined triggers as injects
3. Two river basins : Karnali and Babai
4. Two municipalities simultaneously
5. Two days: 22 injects
6. Key stakeholders

Inject	Real time Nepal	Simulated date	Simulation time (Kailali)	Simulation time (Bardiya)
1	11:00	17-Sep	T - 15 days	T - 15 days
2	11:30	18-Sep	T - 10 days	T - 10 days
6 - 10	12:30	23-Sep	Minus 7 Days	Minus 4 Days
Day II				
	10:30	28-Sep	Minus 48 HRS	Minus 48 HRS
1 - 7	10:30	29-Sep		
8 - 12	12:00	30-Sep	24 HRS	24 HRS

Integrating child protection and gender-based violence outcomes in anticipatory action

If anticipatory actions ahead of predictable hazards are to be tailored to the needs and abilities of girls, boys, women and men, then a blanket approach is never good enough. Speakers in this session discussed the importance of integrating child protection and gender-based violence outcomes into anticipatory action - at the very minimum, to do no harm, be more inclusive and ensure continuous access to basic services. Speakers from the IFRC, Plan International and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) shared three captivating case studies.

In Bangladesh, for example, partnering with women-led organizations was key to the success of a project. In the Philippines, Plan International focused on capacity building and creating an enabling environment to promote girls', boys' and women's rights for the sustainability of the action. And in El Salvador, Plan International has developed an innovative approach to identify and prevent the risk of girls and boys engaging in social violence, which includes the deployment of early warnings for school dropouts.

The speakers recognized the need to strengthen coordination and build a stronger evidence base for the impact of child protection and gender-based violence in anticipatory action. They invited practitioners to join the new working group on protection, gender and inclusion on the Anticipation Hub www.anticipation-hub.org/learn/emerging-topics/protection-gender-and-inclusion-in-anticipatory-action to collect, share and learn from successful approaches around the world.



Speakers:

Chiara Ambrosino

Environment and resilience advisor,
Plan International UK

Caroline Haar

Gender-based violence in
emergencies specialist -
anticipatory action, UNFPA

Audrey Oettli

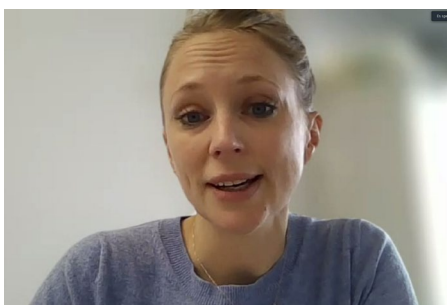
Child protection coordinator, IFRC

Eiko Narita

Representative, UNFPA
Bangladesh

Maria Marvi S. Ogrimen-Bantang

Community development facilitator,
Plan International, Philippines



“ We already know that climate change amplifies existing gender inequalities... Men and boys, women and girls, have different adaptabilities, different vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms when facing a shock.

Caroline Haar, gender-based violence in emergencies specialist - anticipatory action, UNFPA

”

Needs assessment and opportunities for earth observation in anticipatory action

The Anticipation Hub’s working group on Earth observations for humanitarian action presented its needs assessment for identifying opportunities to integrate Earth observation across the anticipatory action cycle. First, **Karen Dall** looked at how the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement’s EAPs could be used to understand gaps and opportunities for Earth observation, including assessing vulnerability and exposure. **Charles Huyck** identified where existing Earth observation platforms could integrate with EAPs to pre-calculate anticipated impacts and assess data needs. **Veronica Bell** then presented the final steps for addressing community needs and improving accessibility, and the intention to present the findings of this needs assessment to the Anticipation Hub in 2022.

Next, the Joint Research Centre team presented the capabilities of the Copernicus Emergency Management Services to support anticipatory action. This system provides geospatial information to all emergency management actors before, during and after a crisis. **Vera Thiemig** presented its flood forecast and monitoring component, which operates globally and provides probabilistic flood forecasts for 30 days, as well as real-time satellite-based flood monitoring. **Jesús San Miguel** showcased the European Forest Fire Information System which supports early action through the provision of fire danger information up to 10 days ahead of an event. And **Emanuele Sapino** introduced its mapping service, which provides a tailored set of products for emergency responses for any natural or anthropogenic disaster. Two service components were highlighted: the on-demand Risk and Recovery Mapping component, which covers preparedness and post-disaster recovery; and the rapid mapping component, which provides a standardized set of products based on Earth observation data, which is delivered within 24 hours for immediate response efforts.



Speakers:

Karen Dall

Manager - capacity strengthening in FbF, German Red Cross

Charles Huyck

Executive vice-president, ImageCat, Inc.

Veronica Bell

International development specialist

Vera Thiemig

Project officer, European Commission Joint Research Centre

Jesús San Miguel

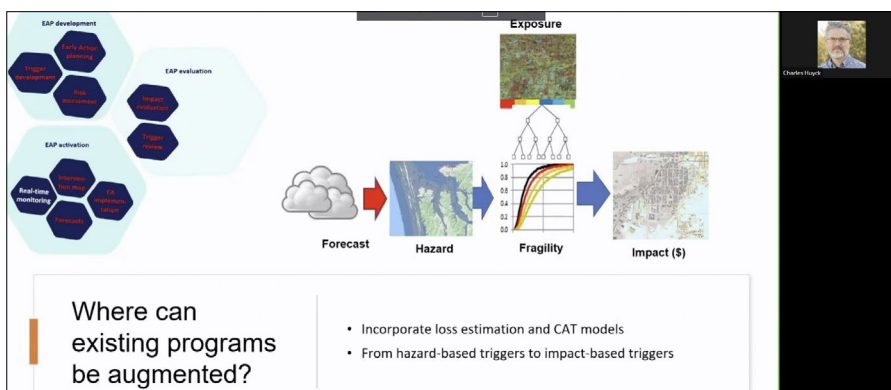
Senior researcher, European Commission Joint Research Centre

Emanuele Sapino

GIS consultant, Copernicus Emergency Mapping Risk and Recovery Service, European Commission Joint Research Centre

Shanna McClain

Manager - global partnerships, and risk reduction and resilience advisor, National Aeronautics and Space Administration



In assessing needs and determining opportunities for Earth observations in anticipatory action, we are asking where existing programmes can be augmented, how to incorporate loss estimation [...] and what research needs to be done.

Charlie Huyck, executive vice-president, ImageCat, Inc.



Plenary:

Igniting partnerships between national meteorological services and humanitarian actors - launch of the WMO guidelines on multi-hazard impact-based forecast and warning services

Launching the WMO's newly expanded *Guidelines on Multi-hazard Impact-based Forecast and Warning Services*, **Professor Celeste Saulo** explained the huge importance of igniting partnerships between national meteorological services and humanitarian actors: "When you have to communicate which impact the weather will have, you have to think of the full complexity; the vulnerability of everyone is different."

The impacts are also always different. For example, heat waves affect older people more severely than others. In her conclusion, she emphasized the importance of working together – only this will help to improve the situation for all.



Speaker:

Professor Celeste Saulo

First vice-president of WMO, director of the Argentinean National Meteorological Service, full professor at the University of Buenos Aires, and research scientist at the Argentinean National Council for Scientific and Technical Research



No one can do this alone. You can have the best weather service or agency – [but] if they don't work together, the population does not get the best of it.

Professor Celeste Saulo, first vice-president of WMO, director of the Argentinean National Meteorological Service, full professor at the University of Buenos Aires, and research scientist at the Argentinean National Council for Scientific and Technical Research





Panel:

What do you need from us? An open discussion between local NGOs and anticipatory action agencies on how we can better work together to scale locally led anticipatory action

“This session will provide an open and honest discussion between local NGOs and anticipatory action agencies on how we can improve working together to scale locally led anticipatory action,” explained **Sarah Klassen**, and the speakers proceeded to share their initial thoughts. **Muhammad Amad** talked about the importance of local communities being integrated into the system: “This is the beauty of the model, and this is how we practice it.”

Building on this, **Emeline Siale Ilolahia** agreed that local people need to be part of this puzzle: “If you want to see success in communities, you must invest in the people.” Traditional knowledge has to be included, she argued, and is an important part of the process. She also urged us to always look at the impacts of climate change: “It is no longer a talk about which actions we take; it is a fight for survival.” In particular, local people’s priorities must be seen, because they feel the impacts the most. Their dignity has to be respected, they have to be heard – and they must get the information they need: “They live these challenges.”



Speakers:

Sarah Klassen

Policy and advocacy advisor, Start Network

Muhammad Amad

Executive director, Initiative for Development and Empowerment Axis

Emeline Siale Ilolahia

Executive director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

Amadou Diallo

DRF regional coordinator, Start Network

Tsitsi Magadza

Anticipatory action coordinator - Zimbabwe, FAO



It will save our money, our resources and our lives when we shift from reaction to action.

Muhammad Amad, executive director, Initiative for Development and Empowerment Axis



Amadou Diallo explained that the Start Network went from a classical system to a more innovative one involving many stakeholders – a radical change. “Collecting data is the base – and it is necessary to do it on a regular basis in the communities.” Data about women, children and other groups is also useful: “What is very important is the institutional aspect, which has to be accepted by the government. When the government accepts the locally invented plan, they will support it.” Rounding off this opening part, **Tsitsi Magadza** explained FAO’s role in anticipatory action: “We are an enabler and a facilitator. Mobile devices help [our work] a lot, like by getting meteorological information, which helps [us] to be prepared for disasters.”

So, how can local anticipatory action really be scaled up? “Most of the pillars that humanitarian action has built up are not receptive to anticipatory work,” noted Amadou Diallo. Tools which were used 20 years ago will not work anymore; instead, new ones are crucial: “We have to look for the best solutions to really improve our work. Communities need to be in the centre, and when we focus on them, we will find new ways.”

Tsitsi Magadza agreed that new solutions must be found – and in the longer term, because this won’t happen overnight: “New technical equipment or new designs can help; we have to close these gaps.” Emeline Siale Ilolahia concurred, noting the huge resilience many countries already have – but that technical innovations can support this and can, together with local knowledge, expand the positive outcomes: “If you see communities as partners, it would help the work. It would be a trigger for change!” Muhammed Amad’s wish for 2022 was a mechanism to mitigate human-made disasters – especially climate change, which is hitting Pakistan hard and in many different ways.

To conclude, Sarah Klassen summarized the problems addressed during the debate, such as the need to take a closer look at the tools we have, changing them – and being willing to change ourselves: “A change in language can help too!”



Panel:

Welcoming the experiences and perspectives of new actors in anticipatory action

The anticipatory action community is growing, with many new stakeholders. To kick off this panel, **Ralf Südhoff** invited people new to the community to talk about their experiences so far – and about their wishes for the future.

Alexander Diaz saw technology as key, explaining that sharing best practice is crucial: “Technology can be an enabler. Data can help to make predictions where the next crisis will strike. To make meaningful progress, partnerships are key.” **Dane Mcqueen** hoped for early-warning signals to go out earlier and funding to come in earlier – and with more flexibility. For **Joseph Intsiful** one of the most important points was that investments by the private sector can also save lives: “Sometimes it is not the problem of the forecast... but that the communication was not right.” On what prompted the Green Climate Fund to join the anticipatory action community, he explained that the evidence of the benefits had accumulated and it simply made sense.

“Save the Children has been working on anticipatory action since 2012,” began **Laura Swift**. “It was so important to predict food crises; we wanted to act earlier, and with early-warning tools and the Household Economy Approach, it was possible to predict who would need help in which region, and for how long.” She also noted how, through pilots, Save the Children has learnt its needs to have local partners on board to improve sustainability. “There are so many vectors”, continued **Monica Rull Villa**, which makes interactions often so complex. Because of that, local people have to be heard to bring in their ideas for new solutions. Rounding off the session, **Mike Weickert** talked about the small-scale anticipatory action work that World Vision has done. He wished for a more coherent approach, more research, and noted that funding is, of course, key to all of this. As Monica Rull Villa said: “Everyone competes for money. I would wish we would sit down and talk honestly about this, but hands are bound for many organizations.”



Local solutions are crucial and you have to keep your eyes and ears open, because the local people have the best solutions.

Monica Rull Villa, medical director, Médecins Sans Frontières



Speakers:

Ralf Südhoff

Director, Centre for Humanitarian Action

Alexander Diaz

Head of crisis response and humanitarian aid, Google

Dane Mcqueen

Senior advisor, Development and Humanitarian Affairs/UN at the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Joseph Intsiful

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

Laura Swift

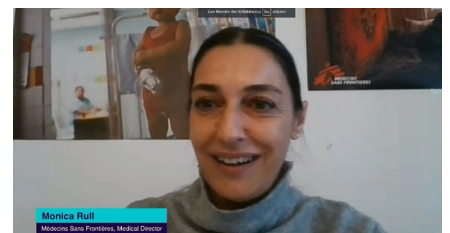
Senior food security and livelihoods technical advisor, Save the Children

Monica Rull Villa

Medical director, Médecins Sans Frontières

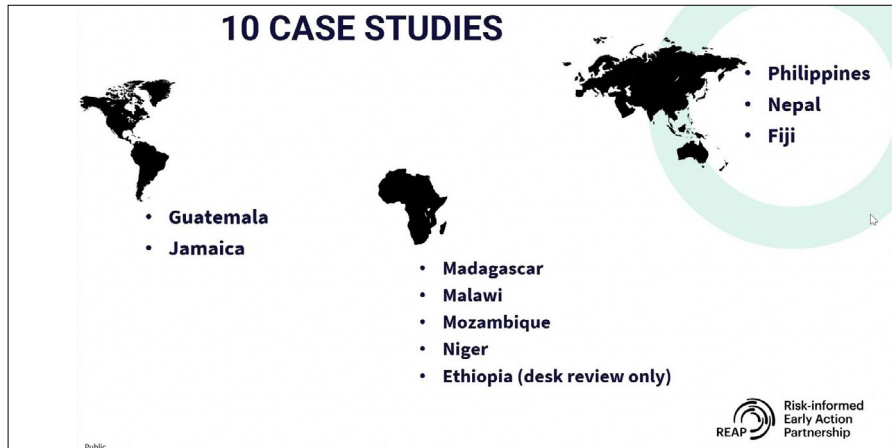
Mike Weickert

Director of preparedness and field readiness, World Vision



Parallel sessions #7

Scaling up: a study of policy-related enablers for early action in ten countries



This session looked at key findings from ten case studies commissioned by the REAP mapping working group in 2021 to explore which national, regional and global legislative frameworks, initiatives, and financing and delivery mechanisms are potential entry points to take early action to scale. The speakers presented the recommendations from the paper, leading into a dialogue around the role of REAP in supporting the scale up of early action and the priority actions in the ten countries. **Quarashia Merzouk** and **Toni Jokinen** highlighted the need to increase technical capacities on the ground. As Quarashia Merzouk put it: “Without tackling these challenges, we will not have the necessary tools and data to generate the right evidence to advocate for why anticipatory action is important – and why it should be the new norm.”

Two countries were compared in more detail: the Philippines and Mozambique. **Emma Flaherty** explained that in the Philippines, early action is more successful than in many other countries because it is included in policy and legislation, which is not surprising, given how climate vulnerable the country is. In Mozambique, however, the existing frameworks for climate change and adaptation, disaster risk financing and collaboration between different stakeholders remain limited.

The full list of case studies can be found here: www.early-action-reap.org/resources



Speakers:

Quarashia Merzouk

Early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

Toni Jokinen

Head of international programmes, Finnish Red Cross

Emma Flaherty

Implementation lead, REAP

Montserrat Barroso

REAP 3Ws working group facilitator, WFP

“
We need information at the appropriate time in order to create a bigger impact at a national level. We also need to tackle the technical challenges, so that we have the necessary tools and data to generate evidence for government action.
”

Quarashia Merzouk, early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

Juntos mejor - alianzas intersectoriales e institucionalización como catalizadores para la acción anticipatoria en América Latina y el Caribe

The German Red Cross, FAO, the government of Paraguay and OCHA shared some experiences related to partnerships and the institutionalization of anticipatory action in Latin America and the Caribbean. **Mathieu Destrooper** offered a detailed vision of efforts to promote anticipatory action in the region, including challenges to work on, such as scaling up at all levels, institutionalization, collaboration and coordination spaces, and the responsibilities of all actors.

Edgar Mayeregger explained how Paraguay migrated from early-warning plans to anticipatory action plans, which meant a cultural change within the Ministry of Agriculture. To incorporate anticipatory action, training different actors in how to develop plans was vital, resulting in an agenda that seeks to institutionalize anticipatory action practices. **Gustavo García** then presented best practices and lessons learnt from the implementation of anticipatory action in Guatemala's 'dry corridor'. It was essential to work with seasonal calendars, prioritize risks and develop territorial intervention strategies with a gender perspective. Interventions are being implemented at the departmental level, generating a work ecosystem with different actors such as the Ministry of Agriculture, municipal and community governments and civil society. As a result, the lives, livelihoods and food security of the most vulnerable households in the dry corridor were protected and people increased their resilience to drought.

Next, **Dario Alvarez** shared his vision for how to institutionalize anticipatory action in Latin America and the Caribbean, where humanitarian needs are increasing in an unprecedented way. Institutionalization means creating a culture in institutions: not only through regulatory frameworks, but also through pilot projects and their scalability. Effective anticipatory action also requires agreements between organizations, he noted: "We must remember that understanding within the organizations must be fostered, discussing the subject and developing joint experiences."



Speakers:

Mathieu Destrooper
International delegate, IFRC

Edgar Mayeregger
Coordinator - risk management unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Paraguay

Gustavo García
National director in anticipatory action, FAO Guatemala

Dario Alvarez
Head of office - Latin America and the Caribbean, OCHA

Anna Ricoy
Disaster risk management officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Shelley Cheatham
Head of office - Latin America and the Caribbean, OCHA



“The three things I have to remember are: to use the tools that exist; use the Anticipation Hub – which seems to be a phenomenal tool – and finally, to contribute so that this tool is strengthened.”

Dario Alvarez, head of office - Latin America and the Caribbean, OCHA

Anticipating the humanitarian impacts of la Niña

The Global El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Analysis Cell identifies the countries at highest risk from ENSO events. This session outlined anticipatory action activities in the East Africa region that followed an early warning related to ENSO, sharing NGO perspectives on using ENSO forecasts. **Andrew Kruczkiewicz** and **Álvaro Pimpao Silva** discussed how La Niña conditions developed in September to October 2021 with prospects of a weak-to-moderate event through to the first quarter of 2022, resulting in rainfall anomalies in the affected region. They described how the multi-criteria process the Global ENSO Analysis Cell uses identified the countries at highest risk.

Wilfran Moufouma Okia then explained how seasonal forecasting information supports humanitarian action through mechanisms and entities working at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels, with the objective of providing hazard-specific services that analyse impact in various sectors. **Brenda Lazarus** provided a regional perspective from the East and Central Africa food security and nutrition working group, highlighting how its early-warning products resulted in an anticipatory action and response plan for pastoral and agropastoral communities in Kenya in 2021 www.fao.org/kenya/news/detail-events/en/c/1418809/. Finally, **Richard Ewbank** expressed the need to better understand how ENSO-based early warnings can be integrated across national to local levels, with a need to put greater emphasis within climate services and impact forecasting to support the most vulnerable.



Speakers:

Andrew Kruczkiewicz

Science advisor, Columbia University Climate School/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Álvaro Pimpao Silva

Geographer and climatologist, WMO

Wilfran Moufouma Okia

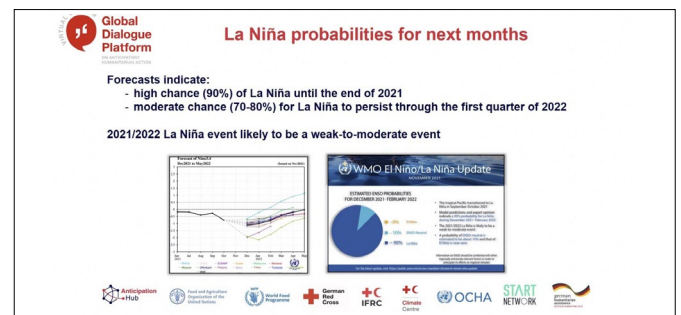
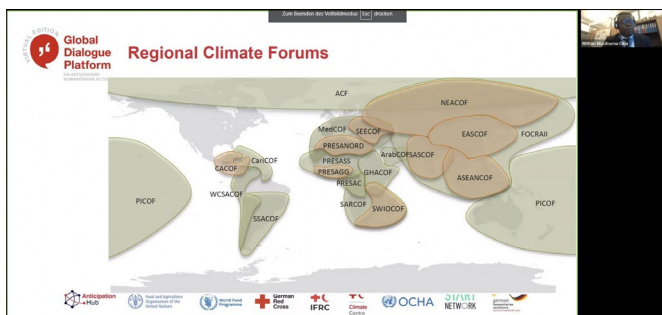
Head of regional climate prediction division, WMO

Brenda Lazarus

Economist, FAO

Richard Ewbank

Global climate advisor, Christian Aid



La Niña conditions developed in September to October 2021 for the second consecutive year. What happens during a La Niña event? Typical rainfall shifted, with some regions likely to become wetter or drier than normal during some months.

Andrew Kruczkiewicz, science advisor, Columbia University Climate School/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



Generating evidence on anticipatory action: how to do it (differently?)

In this session, speakers outlined recent experiences and ideas on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for anticipatory action. **Niccolò Lombardi** provided an overview of common indicators used for food security, outlining the challenges in determining when to measure the effects of early actions on food security. **Anna Lena Huhn** then described the challenges of gathering high-quality data after Cyclone Chalane in Mozambique in early 2021. Despite having a well-developed M&E protocol, the team still faced challenges finding qualified analysts, getting a random sample of beneficiaries, and people to distinguish the impacts from two separate cyclones that happened very close to one another.

Clemens Gros presented a recent review of ‘leaner’ methodologies for gathering evidence. One of these – the success case method – appears to hold particular promise. Like quasi-experimental methods, it compares beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, but also allows for more in-depth exploration of specific cases, including people who were able to act early without receiving anticipatory assistance. Throughout the discussion, participants and panellists reiterated the need for lighter-touch evaluation method, both for ethical reasons and because of resource constraints.



Speakers:

Niccolò Lombardi

Emergency and rehabilitation officer, Office of Emergencies and Resilience, FAO

Anna Lena Huhn

Regional project delegate southern Africa, German Red Cross

Clemens Gros

Senior technical advisor for M&E, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Arielle Tozier de la Poterie

Global early action and research advisor, German Red Cross



The more complex a method is, the more difficult it is to carry it out across different contexts and countries.

Niccolò Lombardi, emergency and rehabilitation officer, Office of Emergencies and Resilience, FAO



Accelerating anticipatory action in the MENA region

Anticipatory action is still nascent in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region; what is needed to advance this? **Oscar Ekdahl** set the scene, explaining that while natural shocks are a major issue in the region, the economy and conflict are also major drivers of vulnerability. **Lena Weingärtner** presented evidence from country- and regional-level programmes and initiatives that are laying the foundations for anticipatory action in the region. Key findings show that there are ongoing efforts to enhance the component parts of anticipatory action, but limited capacities and coordination, and a lack of translating information into early action, are evident.

Asmaa Farooq and **Pierre Marie Goimard** presented an ongoing initiative to address water scarcity and climate change impacts in Iraq,



a country that is facing severe drought and resulting economic losses and food insecurity. The project expands on predictive tools for water scarcity to generate a monthly forecast during the dry months, which predicts and describes the scale of water scarcity. There are possibilities to replicate this in other areas,

they noted. **Maria Selin** concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of collaboration and cooperation for the region.



Speakers:

Oscar Ekdahl

Head of resilience and climate change, MENA Region, WFP

Lena Weingärtner

Research associate global risks and resilience, Overseas Development Institute

Asmaa Farooq

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) head of department - Iraq, Action Against Hunger

Pierre Marie Goimard

WASH regional technical advisor - Iraq, Action Against Hunger

Maria Selin

Head of regional development cooperation - MENA, Embassy of Sweden in Jordan

Hagar Salama

MENA programme assistant, Resilience and Climate Change Unit, WFP



The costs are enormous unless we do anticipatory action. But we see the huge opportunity to learn more, not only about early-warning systems but also risk management.

Maria Selin, head of regional development cooperation - MENA, Embassy of Sweden in Jordan



Closing statements

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The system is at its breaking point, and we together have to think of new solutions, especially how the most vulnerable people can be protected. Their needs are the focus – the task is difficult, but it can be done.

Gernot Laganda, director - climate and DRR programmes, WFP



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You really felt the energy, with all these speakers from all over the world. Experience, lessons learnt; there was so much happening in these three days.

Dominique Burgeon, director - liaison office with the UN in Geneva, FAO



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There is so much knowledge and inspiration in the virtual room, you hardly want to leave it.

Alexandra R uth, head of the knowledge and innovation team, German Red Cross

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You use your head and heart and hands to reduce crises and fighting, and to find new ways to save lives and the environment. Why? Because you don't just stand around. When climate and conflict collide, it is the potential downfall of us all. But lucky for us there are these people like you – who know this rational and act before reaction. You know that it is possible to go somewhere before disasters happen. You dare to be inspired and take on the work of the community, to save human dignity. You are not alone!

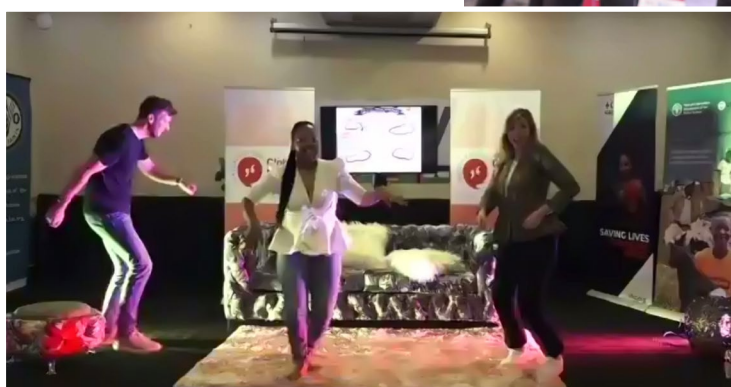
Regie Gibson, poet, songwriter, author, workshop facilitator and educator



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Closing party: sounds from around the world

The theme was serious – how to improve anticipatory action all over the world – but the 9th Global Dialogue Platform was also a time to celebrate the Anticipation Hub's first birthday. A virtual party gave the participants a chance to share some of their other skills: singing, dancing, poetry, playing the guitar and much more. It was important to end on a happy note – a positive outlook for the future.

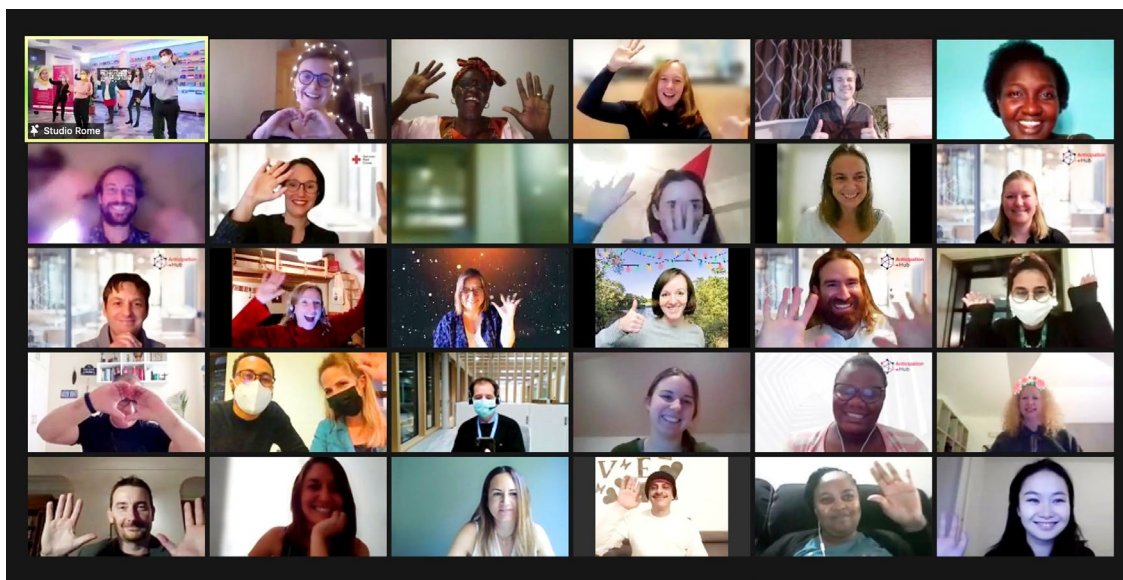


Links

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

More information about the Anticipation Hub, its strategy, mission, vision and partners can be found out here: www.anticipation-hub.org

Videos from the event can be found on a YouTube playlist: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsOZcFW50IM&list=PLDE-X7tHJwWwva9c-dYgVedE03HpDED41m



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